

Feds studying gasoline, diesel fuel

Actonian Norman Foote wrote the federal government concerned over escalating fuel prices and received the following letter from the federal Minister of Industry, Brian Tobin:

Dear Mr. Foote:

The Honourable David Collenette's office has forwarded to me a copy of your letter of October 1, 2000, concerning the rise in fuel prices.

The federal departments of natural Resources Canada and Industry Canada are co-sponsoring a comprehensive Conference Board of Canada study on gasoline and diesel markets, in an effort to address concerns regarding the functioning of these markets in Canada. A key objective of the study is to build a better understanding among all parties - the industry, governments and consumers - with respect to how gasoline and diesel markets work.

The Conference Board is examining:

- the relationship between the price of crude oil and the prices of retail and wholesale gasoline and diesel fuel, including input costs, price volatility and the speed of price adjustment;

- the relationship between prices, supply and demand issues; and,
- the conduct, structure and performance of gasoline and diesel markets in Canada, and a comparison with gasoline markets in the United States.

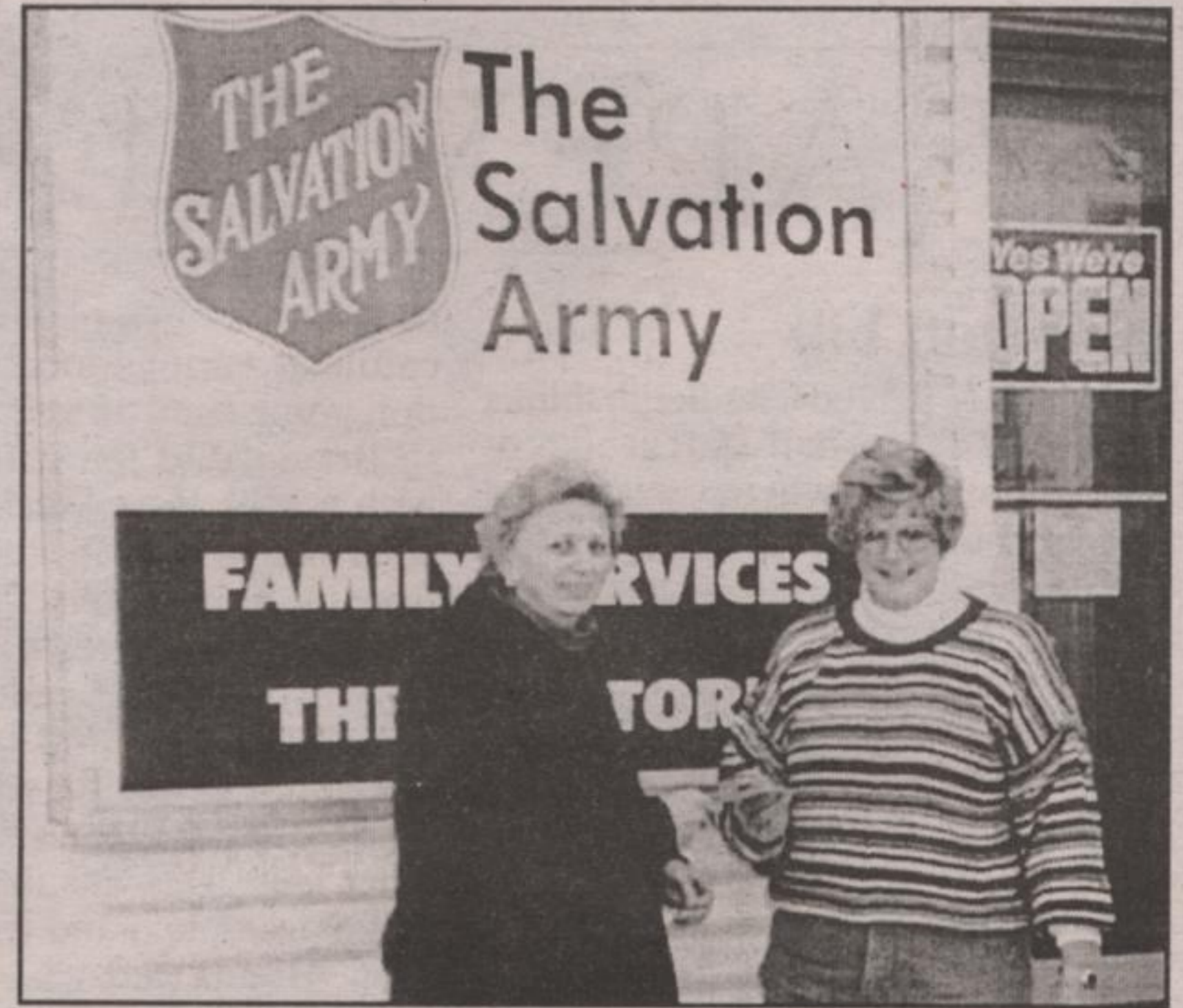
A unique feature of this study is the public consultation component, begun this October, which uses the preliminary results of the research and analysis as a starting point for discussion. The objectives of the consultations that interested individuals from all stakeholder groups were invited to by the Conference Board, were to create an environment for diverse interests to share their concerns and to start to develop a common understanding of the issues; to develop a regional perspective (the consultations were held in five different cities) on these issues; and to validate

the research and identify gaps.

The Conference Board was asked to undertake this comprehensive research and public consultation program because it has the capacity to do independent research at arm's length from both the government and from the petroleum industry. Without this independence, there will continue to be misconceptions and claims of unbalanced analysis that currently plague issues relating to gasoline prices. The Conference Board's web site (<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/>) provides details on these consultations and the results of the various research phases will be posted. I invite you to visit the site frequently.

Thank you for providing your views on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Brian Tobin



BRUNCH BREAD - Mary Ann Austin presents Susan Kuechler of the Salvation Army with a cheque for \$250 for Christmas hampers. The money was raised at the Community Brunch. - submitted photo.



Acton Hamper Committee says thanks for generosity

Dear Editor,

The Acton Christmas Hamper Committee sends sincere and heartfelt thanks to the individuals and groups in Acton, Rockwood, Limehouse and surrounding areas for your generous support of this year's Christmas hamper Program. Your kindness helped us to provide hampers for 52 families, including 71 children. Christmas was much happier for these people because of your thoughtfulness. Thanks also to the many volunteers who

gave their time to help make this year's program such a success. The spirit of caring and sharing is indeed alive and well here.

Thanks again, we wish you God's blessings now and in the year ahead.

Sincerely,
Acton Rotary Club,
Lakeside Chapter IODE,
Salvation Army Acton Family Services,
St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph's Church

Dance/food drive successful at AHS

Dear Editor,

Once again the students of Acton High School needed help and I'm proud to say that once again members of the community stepped up when they were needed.

After our successful Hallowe'en dance, the Acton High School student council decided that a Christmas dance would be a good way to celebrate the upcoming vacation. We also felt that, being the festive season, it would be a nice gesture to use this dance as a food drive for the Salvation Army. Again we were faced with the dilemma of having adequate adult supervision, in order to have a dance we would require five adult chaperones.

So I would like to thank personally

ally and on behalf of the entire student body of AHS, Mr. Banks, M. Geis, Ms. Jeffries, and Mr. and Mrs. Hendry, who donated something very valuable, their time. The dance wouldn't have happened without them and they all did a wonderful job.

I would also like to thank the students of AHS (and their parents) who showed their generosity by donating approximately 200 nonperishable food items for those less fortunate. When that total was added to that of the in-school drive, AHS student council was able to donate an impressive 1414 items for the Salvation Army! When compared to the population of that school that total works out to approximately 2.5 items per student. Special thanks go to the students of Mrs. Cook's and Madell Thomson's classes who, collectively brought in approximately 800 items!

In this day and age we are constantly exposed to the opinion that people today are selfish and that all young people are self-centred and lazy. That isn't my outlook and I think that this letter proves me right. People are still willing to donate their time and young people are willing and eager to help others.

Again if anyone thinks they would like to help a future dance, please call me at 853-2920.

Sincerely,
Becky Chapman



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LEGION NEWS

Joyce Buchanan
Br. 197 secretary

Happy New Year to all. Well, I did write a small column for last week, but space didn't allow for it. Didn't have much to say anyway. I would like to reach those of you who didn't bring your children to see Santa. Their gifts are at the Legion. We would appreciate it if you could pick them up right away.

Hope you all had a good New Year's. I stayed home with grandchildren and we had our own party. I did make it to the Levee on January 1 and met a host of people. The turnout was good. Many thanks to those who gave their time to prepare food for

all the people. Also those who worked New Year's night for that party.

Thanks a lot to all of you. Also to Kent for his music and entertainment on Levee day. Also, our Branch entertainers. We do have a lot of hidden talent; thank you all for making it a good day.

Sorry Kerwin McPhail had to miss all the holidays with us and his family. Perhaps after today he will have some good news. Hope to see you soon Kerwin. Take care. And to the rest of you who are ill, we wish a speedy recovery. See you all soon.

Bridge and euchres will be returning with the new year.

See you at the Branch.

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