

Do you want your food to be labelled as to whether it has been genetically altered? Norman Foote of Acton wrote the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food to find out the federal government's position on the matter. Here's the reply he received:

Dear Mr. Foote:

Thank you for your letter on August 18, 2001, regarding the labelling of biotechnology-derived foods. I am pleased to have this opportunity to provide you with the following in-

### Feds support volunteer labelling

formation.

I fully support the work being done by the Canadian General Standards Board and the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors in establishing a national standard for the use of a voluntary food labelling option. It is my hope that this process will provide further guidance for food companies and manufacturers. By devel-

oping meaningful and consistent criteria for positive or negative ("does" or "does not contain") labelling options, this process supports consumer access to meaningful, verifiable, and truthful information as it relates to biotechnology and food. I am confident that the work of the committee tasked with developing the standard will achieve these objectives in an open and constructive manner.

Yours sincerely,  
Lyle Vanclief.



## Restart deficit financing?

Dear editor,

The Toronto Star reported on October 31 that Ontario Finance Minister Jim Flaherty would consider breaking the law passed by his own government and restart deficit financing.

The Harris team made the right economic move, at a time when the economy was good. It took six years of sacrifices to balance the budget, but did the PC cabinet really believe a balanced budget is the right economic policy for Ontario? It does not seem so.

Now, when times are tougher, a \$2 billion deficit is considered "possible." Before the balanced-budget policy could make a real dent on the \$110 billion Ontario debt, one stroke of Mr. Flaherty's pen would turn the clock back six years.

How is overspending going to improve the economy in the short term? Or in the long term? In fact, just the comments of Mr. Flaherty might have already helped the Canadian dollar reach its lowest value ever.

The law passed by the PCs

should avoid exactly this type of offhand "exception to the rule," not only during this government mandate, but for governments to come.

If a law is not worth the hard drive it is stored in, why do we pay the MPPs to go through the time-consuming committee song and parliament three-step dance?

Why would Ontarians trust any government?

Giuseppe Gorio  
Leader, Family Coalition  
Party of Ontario  
RR#4, Acton

## Peter Zions revitalized housing

Dear editor,

I am writing in support of Peter Zions. While it is easy to denigrate of his firm, let us not forget that while the bankruptcy is a nasty thing and adversely affects many individuals and other companies, Peter Zions has always been a valuable contributing member of this community. His hard work and support of Acton is not negated by the ill fated demise of Zions Construction.

Peter went against conventional thinking and revitalized housing areas where no others would. He maintained high standards, eventually discovering that the profit margin for such attention is minimal at best.

Each year he made a point of distributing awards for excellent students at his old Alma Mater, Acton High School. When a charity needed a donation or support, Peter generously contributed. Local amateur sports teams received sponsorship from his firm.

Zions Construction did not build cheap cookie cutter houses; they constructed attractive, unique high quality dwellings meeting strict R2000 standards. He leaves behind many satisfied owners of these dwellings.

If his company, employees and reputation suffers, so does he personally. Let us realize that in these times of recession and economic global uncertainty, it is easy to angrily react and report the negative side of this story. I, for one, wish to stand up and

recognize this man and his achievements along with affirming that there are two sides to this and every story. Peter, my thoughts are with you, your family, employees and customers during this unfortunate turn of events.

Olga Kratyk-Kobsa

## Zions work is superior

Dear editor,

When my wife and I bought our house in Halton Hills in 1997, Peter Zions was recommended to us by about four different people because of his reputation as a good builder. We had his construction firm do renovations on our house in 1998 and subsequent additional renovations and follow-up service.

We have never regretted our choice. From the outset, they have always been extremely reliable, courteous and very satisfying to deal with, coordinator of the projects and all workmen included. And, bottom line, all work done was of highest quality.

It was with deep regret that we learned that Zions Construction was in financial difficulty, especially after Peter received an award two years ago as businessman of 1999. We believe, along with pre-

vious letter writers, that it is time to give him our support. He has contributed a lot to the community over the years, and we hope that they can restructure successfully and get back to continuing their good work.

Sincerely,  
Ben Salvatore.

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The handsome entrance is flanked by pillars and the front door is enhanced by sidelights which flood the foyer with natural light. The entrance is covered to protect arriving visitors from any inclement weather.

This is a basement-entry plan, so the foyer leads immediately to stairs to the living floor above.

The top of the staircase connects to a delightful open sitting area with built-in bookshelves and a view to the floor below. This bonus space could be put to good use as a computer area or simply as the place to relax with a book or the newspaper.

Bedroom No. 3, next door, also faces the front and is a generous size with corner windows. Bedroom No. 2 is slightly smaller and the two rooms share the main, three-piece bathroom.

The master suite is privately placed at the rear of the house, with a three-piece en suite bathroom and a walk-in closet. A windowsill is an added feature and an inviting spot for a seat overlooking the garden.

The kitchen, dining and family area are also situated at the rear of the house and combine to make one open, informal great room, where the family is sure to enjoy getting together for meals and leisure activities.

The kitchen is designed to make sure the cook is not cut off from the rest of the family while preparing lunch or dinner. An angled eating bar is the place for quick snacks or a coffee.

A generous-sized pantry and plenty of cupboard and counter space all help to streamline the preparation of meals.

The dining area has a built-in area to accommodate a buffet and is quite large enough to

entertain with ease.

The great room itself has a corner fireplace to add a cosy feeling during the winter months. Sliding glass doors between the great room and dining area lead on to a large sundeck with stairs down to the back garden.

The basement area downstairs has been planned for two future bedrooms with the necessary roughed-in plumbing for a bathroom. A large rec-room space opens out to a covered patio.

A walk-in cupboard off the foyer offers plenty of storage room for coats and other outerwear.

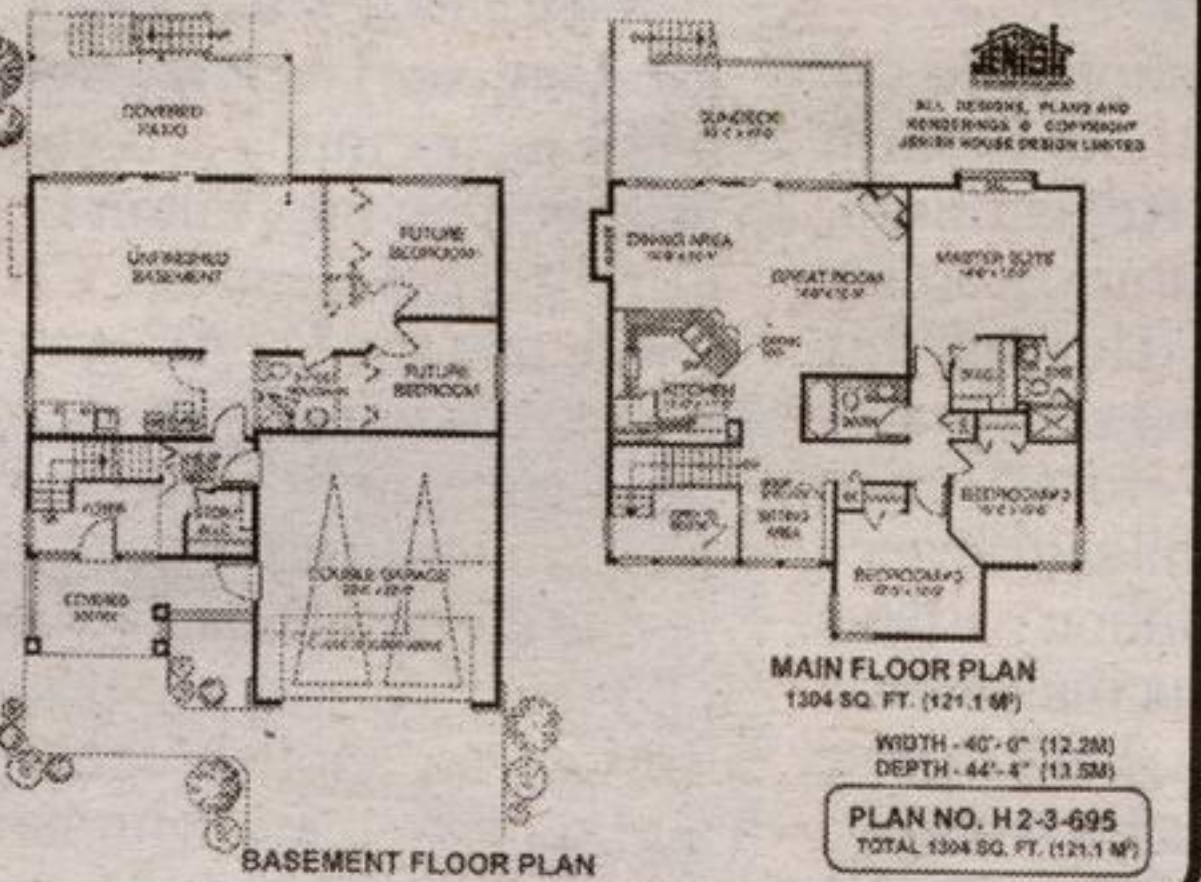
The double garage has direct entry into the house and a second door off the small porch at the front.

Feature windows and horizontal siding add to the appeal of the exterior.

The house is 40 feet wide and 44 feet, 4 inches deep with 1,304 square feet of living space and the unfinished basement.

Plans for design H2-3-695 are available for \$356 (set of 5), \$422 (set of 8), and \$464 for a super set of 10. Add \$25.00 for Priority courier charges. Please also add 7% G.S.T. or 15% H.S.T. (where applicable) to both the plan price and postage charges.

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**ACTON CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2001**  
Applications for Christmas Hampers will be accepted at

The Salvation Army Family Services Office  
120 Mill Street East, Acton

On the following Dates and Times

Tuesday, November 20	9:00am-12noon
Thursday, November 22	9:00am-12noon
Tuesday, November 27	9:00am-12noon
Thursday, November 29	9:00am-12noon
Tuesday, December 4	9:00am-12noon
Thursday, December 6	9:00am-12noon
Saturday, December 8	10:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday, December 11	9:00am-12noon
Thursday, December 13	9:00am-12noon

The final Day for Applying is Thursday, December 13  
Applications must be completed in person.  
Applicants are requested to bring Identification.

The Salvation Army Family Services  
Acton Rotary Club  
Lakeside Chapter IODE  
St. Vincent de Paul Society

### Hi again,

Once more we had a very successful Remembrance Day. I commend all the Veterans who came out; it was a beautiful crisp day at the Cenotaph and the attendance was very inspiring. Thank you to the public for your support, to the town merchants for their support and allowing us to put Poppy boxes in their place of business, also to our members who did the door-to-door canvass. Thanks also to the Ladies' Auxiliary who cooked and served dinner to over 100 guests.

It seems Saturday is not a bad day to hold our service. My apologies to the Veterans who turned out for their Sunday Service. I was with a colour party of eight Ladies' Auxiliary and Branch members who attended the Churchill Community Church for their Remembrance service. I hear you had a good turnout. I am sorry to have missed it this year.

Tickets for the '50s-'60s Dance on November 24 are now available at the Branch for \$5.

Most of the tickets for the Seniors' Dinner on November 27 have been picked up; you might check for any returns.

Too late now to check the Children's Christmas Party list as it is on its way to Santa. The party is December 16 at