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Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays

Halton Hills Hydro Inc. Management and Staff would like to take this time to wish you and yours a very safe and happy

Holiday Season

Our office will be closed from 12:00 p.m. on December 24th, 2001 and will re-open for regular business on Wednesday, January 2nd, 2002



43 Alice Street,
Acton, Ontario
L7J 2A9

Should BIA be extended East?

The opening of the new IGA store and the scheduled January opening of both PharmaPlus drug store and a physiotherapist in the new Acton East plaza, has generated talk of expanding membership of the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) beyond the downtown.

Membership in the BIA, established by the municipality under provincial legislation, is mandatory for businesses within a certain geographic area, in this case, the downtown areas of Mill and Street and Eastern Avenue.

The BIA has a two-fold mandate to improve, beautify and maintain public lands and

buildings within the BIA, and to promote the area as a business and shopping area.

This is done with a budget approved by Town Council which then adds a special tax levy on all industrial and commercial properties within the BIA boundary. The levy is determined proportionately for each property based on its assessed value. The approved BIA budget this year is \$47,000.

Acton BIA general manager Josey Bonnette said the board of directors have briefly discussed expansion to include the businesses in Acton East, and the issue will be studied closely in the New Year.

Council can't pass a proposed BIA expansion bylaw if it receives a petition signed by at least one-third of the affected property owners.

Chairman of the BIA board of directors, John McNabb of McNabb Graphics on Mill Street, said they would investigate the apparent interest of businesses wishing to see the BIA expanded to include them.

"It's another way of working together to better their

business. As far as the downtown business, it (the plaza development) is a blow at this point because there's nothing to fill the hole in the old IGA store, but if the BIA can help keep people shopping in town, then that's good for us all."

Herb Dodds, co-owner of Royal Jug City variety store, said they'd like to talk about being part of a possible BIA expansion. Dodds said a number of years ago they attempted to include their business name in a BIA booklet but were refused because "we're on the wrong side of the tracks."

"As long as they can strike a happy medium - anything that's good for the east end is going to be good for the whole town, I think," Dodds said.

Val Manes, co-owner of Home Hardware, which was a BIA member when it was located on Mill Street until two years ago, said she'd be willing to discuss BIA expansion plans.

"Sure, we'd be interested in what they have to propose, if things go that far," Manes said on Saturday.

"I think we can all work together to make Acton a better place to shop."

Kerry Kowbel, PharmaPlus store manager, is ready, willing and hopefully able to join the BIA if there is an expansion.

"The benefit is working together as a whole as a community," Kowbel said on Friday.

"Right now, I think Acton is a prime example - it's almost uptown versus downtown because of the new expansion - and I don't believe it should be viewed as so," Kowbel said, adding PharmaPlus will remain a BIA member because the downtown pharmacy, which is a member, will remain open.

"We can all pool our heads together as businesses and work together to make the whole town work, not just a part."

BIA member, Judy Macdonald who owns Country Reflections gifts on Mill Street, said the development in Acton East will benefit everyone by keeping local shopping dollars in town.

Acknowledging that the Acton East stores will be a major force in the local economy, MacDonald said if businesses in the east end want to join the BIA, they should be able to because "I think there's room for all of us."

Mike Manes, owner of the new IGA store and a member of the downtown BIA by ownership of the downtown store, thinks the BIA should, for now, concentrate on the downtown.

"The BIA does a great job downtown, but as far as this side of town, I don't think it's necessary, as of yet, to come out this far to the east end of town," Manes said, adding larger levies from bigger stores in the east end could hurt downtown BIA members.

Senior lifestyle...

Continued from Page 3.

details of the development that should be ready for occupancy this time next year. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer.

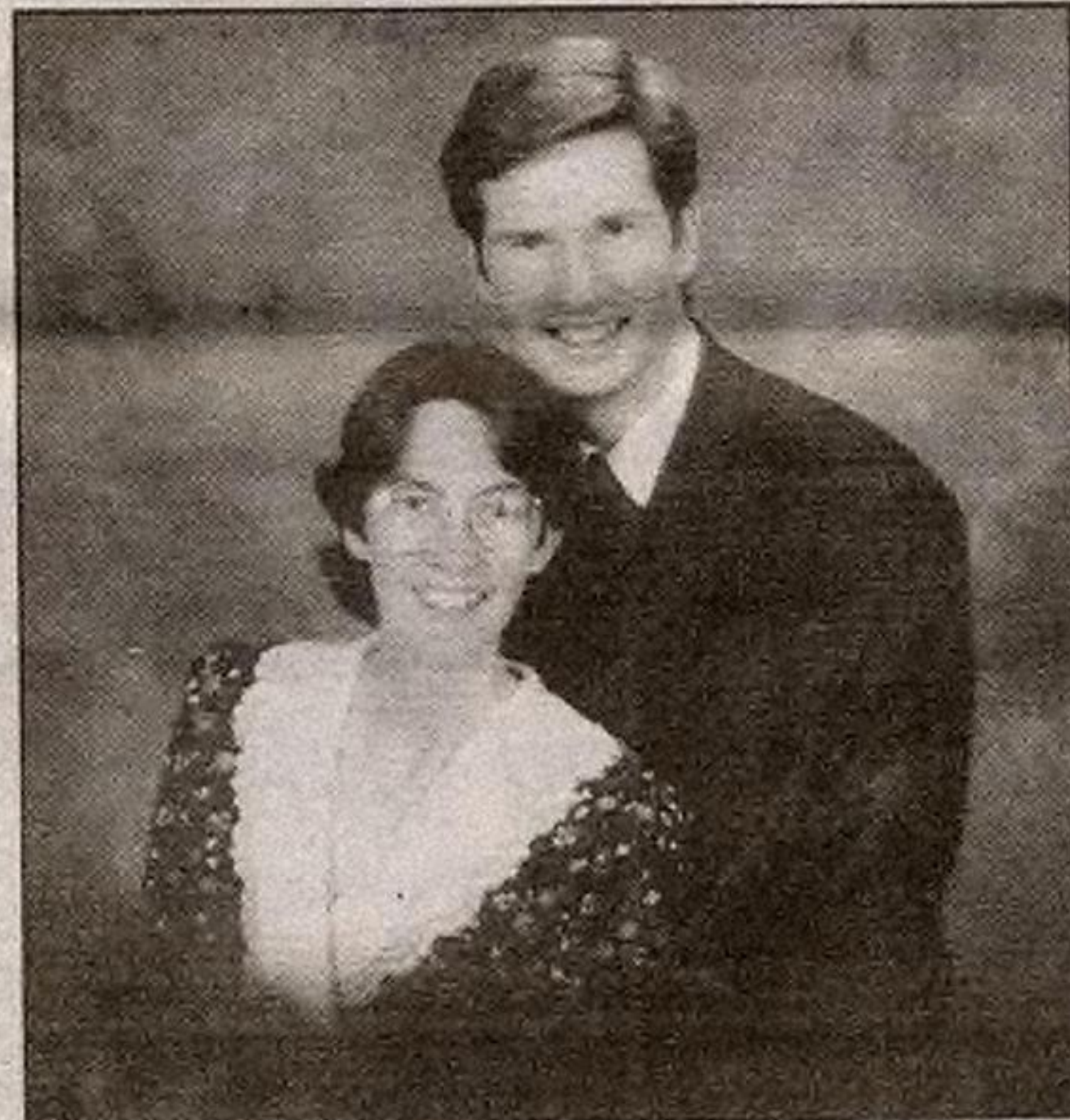
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