

# Early Spring? Late Spring? Groundhog is undecided

Did the groundhog see his shadow on Saturday and dive back into his burrow for another six weeks of winter? Or did he fail to see it, stay around, and chase the females of the species, predicting warm spring weather is on its way?

It depends on where you were and when the furry critter got up.

If he was a late riser he probably saw his shadow because the sun broke through early morning mist and shone brightly

later on. If he was an early riser then the critter probably stayed up to relish the thoughts of an early spring.

According to Warton Willie, spring is on its way, but way down in Pennsylvania where Punxatawny Phil presides over Groundhog Day festivities, we can expect lots more cold weather.

Take your pick but the best advice is don't send your cold weather clothes to the cleaner.



**FROSTY FUN:** The kids on Danville Avenue discovered that the huge pile of snow in the cul-de-sac made a great place to toboggan and have lots of outdoor fun on a sunny Saturday. — Angela Tyler photo.

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## What's Inside



Some people have found a new way to shed unwanted boots and shoes — on a tree! See Page 4.



Guess who's got 40 candles on their birthday cake? See photo on Page 7.



Acton's Annual PeeWee hockey tournament on the weekend saw the Acton clubs make it to the finals. See Page 13.

**Citizen of Year**  
There's still time for nominations for Citizen of the Year. They should be sent to the Rotary Club of Acton, Box 22, Acton L7J 2M2 before the end of February.

# Olympic fever ignites pin line-ups

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**  
The New Tanner

What started out as a love of hockey and a great Olympic spirit has turned into a daily social outing for Acton's Melissa Helmig and a dozen other people she now calls friends.

This group have been braving the very early morning cold since mid-January to line up outside the Acton Discount Variety on Mill Street to be one of the first 15 people through the door when the store opens at 6 a.m. to buy a Team Canada, men's hockey pin.

The pins — there are 24 in all — are being sold at local variety stores as part of a Toronto newspaper's marketing scheme. Each enamel pin, worth \$2.49, is shaped like a puck and features the name of each of the players and they are being snapped up like hotcakes. You must have a coupon from each day's paper to be able to buy a pin.

With participating variety stores only receiving 30 of each pin, and instructed to sell only one player's pin daily, lineups began outside the store each day before opening.

Helmig said after a few people butted into line, leaving regulars without a pin, they devised a system where each person gets a number when they arrive and that's the order the pins are sold.

"These guys are here two to three hours before the store opens and this diverse group has become pretty tight-knit over the past few weeks," Helmig said on Monday, adding it's "neat" that pin mania has hit such a small town.

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**PIN PALS:** Acton Discount Variety owner Sue Kim (right) has been met by the smiling faces of these Acton residents every morning for the past two weeks. They've lined up as early as 4 a.m. to buy men's Olympic hockey team souvenir pins. — Frances Niblock photo

## Acton gardener earns heritage award

With typical humility but also great pride, Acton's Max MacSween accepted a prestigious Heritage Community Recognition Award from the Ontario Heritage Foundation at the Council Chambers on Monday.

MacSween, a 12-year member of the Acton Horticultural Society (six as president,) was honoured for spearheading the move — shovel and root mix in hand — to rehabilitate the creek in front of the library to preserve its natural history. The creek is known locally as both Henderson's and School Creek.

Ontario Heritage Foundation execu-

tive director, Marjorie Mercer, said the annual awards are designed to "recognize the people who do the real work and make sure that our history and our heritage is preserved for the future."

She said municipalities are asked to identify individuals and groups who have made a major contribution to heritage preservation, and that "very few" of the awards are presented.

Mayor Kathy Gastle enlisted MacSween, a Master Gardener with the Ontario Horticultural Society, in the highly successful Communities in Bloom competition last summer, and on Mon-

day she said Max has helped make it "Worth the Drive to Acton."

"A lot of those plants and flowers and gardens you see in Acton — Max MacSween is behind it," she said.

"The special project of the stream rehabilitation, Max worked very closely with the Credit Valley Conservation to ensure the proper indigenous species were planted along the stream bed," Gastle said, adding, "We are very proud of you Max, and thank you for all your work."

On Tuesday, MacSween said he was

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