



2004: Here's To A New Year!

from the publisher and staff

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IT'S WORTH THE DRIVE
TO

 2000 WHITE 4-DOOR RANGER
ACTON MOTORS
 853-1280

Cash registers jingle for merchants

LETTER

72 families helped by Hamper Christmas program

To the Editor,

The Acton Christmas Hamper Committee sends sincere and heartfelt thanks to the individuals and groups in Acton and surrounding areas for your generous support of this year's Christmas Hamper Program. Your kindness helped us to provide hampers for 72 families, including 116 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



NEW SKATES: Acton's Haley Keir, 3, tries out her first pair of skates at the Acton arena on Saturday. Helping are her uncle, Chris Peavoy, cousin Kyle Peavoy and aunt, Carolyn Keir. — Frances Niblock photo

Christmas, Boxing Day sales exceed expectations

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
 The New Tanner

Much better than anticipated holiday sales brought huge smiles to the faces of most Acton merchants surveyed after the Christmas and Boxing Day rush.

Pre-Christmas sales were beyond all expectations at the Giant Tiger store in the old IGA plaza, where manager Alec Boyd said there was a lot of last minute shopping all day on December 24.

On Saturday, Boyd said there wasn't a "hot" toy this year, but they had great sales in models, crafts, games and clothing.

"Compared to what we estimated, it (Christmas shopping) was about 15 per cent more than we estimated," Boyd said, adding even though they are expected to "over achieve" in sales at a new store, everyone is smiling at the Acton numbers.

Shena Masroor, manager of Bargains Bazaar in the Main and Mill Street plaza, sounded one sour note, reporting the worst sales in five years.

"We were down since last year almost 30 per cent," Masroor said on Saturday, blaming lagging sales on her new neighbour, Giant Tiger, and the fact they didn't have a full inventory because the downtown store

will close before February when the lease expires.

Masroor said sales at the newer store in the Acton East plaza were "all right" this holiday shopping season.

At Forever Youngsters, the upscale children's clothing store on Mill Street, owner Angie Zampirri was "thrilled" with the volume of sales.

Zampirri, in her fifth year of business, had her best year ever, with a double-digit Christmas sales increase over last year.

"I was surprised. I'm extremely happy with the loyalty I've had from my customers for so long," Zampirri said, adding many of the shoppers that Giant Tiger has brought to downtown Acton are walking and shopping along Mill Street.

Acton resident June Wilson, who was shopping at Forever Youngsters for birthday gifts for three great-grandchildren, said she always tries to shop in her hometown.

"I love this lady," Wilson said looking at Zampirri, *continued on page 2*



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Our Dealership is not the Biggest. Our goal is to be the Best!

Wishing you and your family a Joyful Holiday Season
 and a prosperous New Year from all the staff at
 Achilles Mazda...your hometown dealer.



Happy Holidays

Achilles Pelitis Jr.
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