

Eileen Dix

# Acton's hard-working problem-solver

Eileen Dix has never been one to ignore a problem. When she saw a need for affordable housing, she worked on the committee to establish the Cobblehill Co-op housing development.

When one of her pet peeves—litter—became a problem, she joined Street Smarts and Friends of Fairy Lake to help combat it.

But one problem hasn't gone away and likely won't despite the efforts of Dix and a group of dedicated volunteers. Dix has been volunteering her time at Acton Foodshare for eight years, since retiring from Acton Social Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) where she was a community support worker.

"I knew the need was there and because of my own upbringing," said Dix, explaining why she became involved.

"I came from a large family in the U.K. I can't say I know what it's like to go without food but I do know what it's like for my mom to give me a note to go to a relative's."

Dix knows not everyone has family to turn to, though.

The Acton Foodshare, was established in 1990 and serves approximately 60 families. Dix, and fellow volunteers Arlene Humphreys, Bruce Green, Martha Kelly and Wyman Little each put in about eight hours a week at the Foodshare.

Although Dix believes it's unlikely there will ever be a day the Foodshare is not needed, she is not discouraged from giving her time to the cause.

"Just knowing that I'm helping children and families and to set an example of



Eileen Dix has been volunteering at Acton Foodshare for eight years but has also been an advocate for affordable housing and helped battle a litter problem. Photo by Herb Garbutt

caring for fellow human beings," she said of her reasons to continue.

Dix grew up in Wales and moved to Canada in 1968, settling in Malton.

She moved to the Acton area in 1978 and has lived here since.

"It takes me forever to walk anywhere now because I'm always stopping to talk to people," she said. "Hopefully I'll be here for the rest of my days."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



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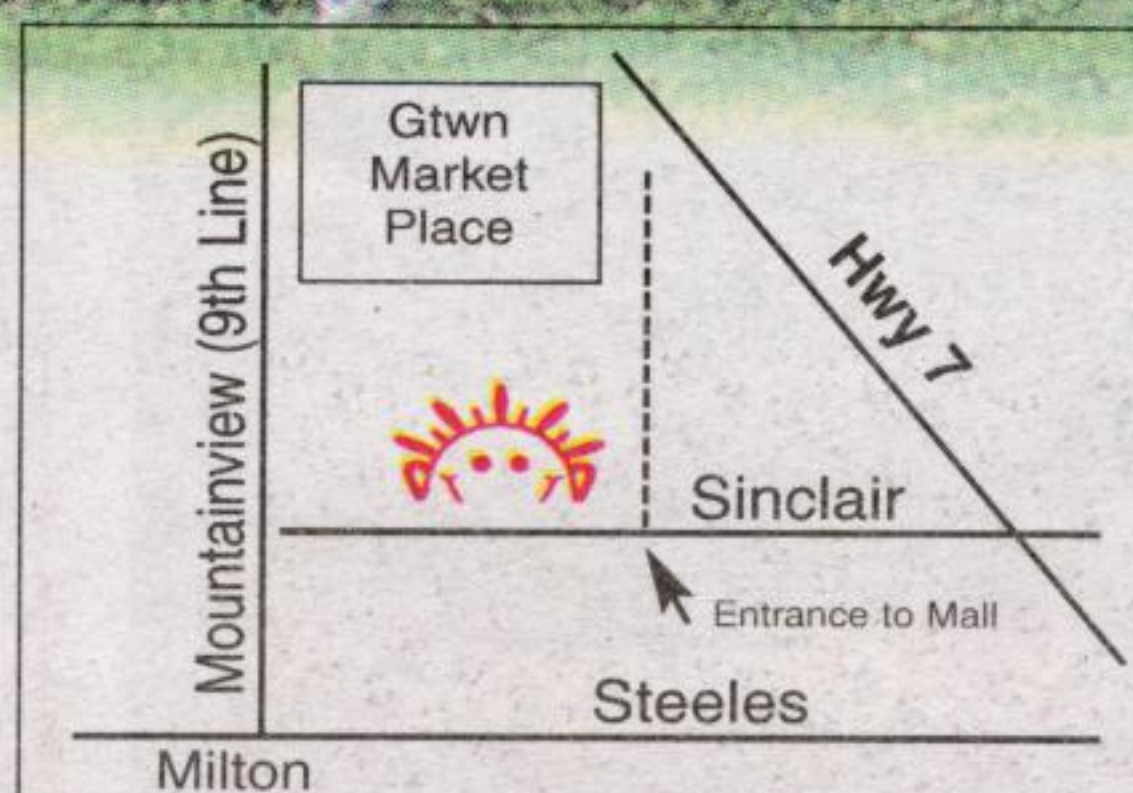
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