

## Seems every job needs a supervisor

Every year, I take a week's vacation following Thanksgiving weekend— it's down time I treat myself to before the cold of winter sets in.

Most years, I fill that vacation with day trips, maybe read a bit, or just kick back and relax.

This year was unique—I became productive.

The kitchen floor has been in a bad state of repair for some time, so I decided to replace it.

After researching various types and colours of laminated flooring, I brought home some samples, asking family members for input.

In the end, the cat voted for the red oak.

I figure she's closest to the floor, so why shouldn't she have some say in the matter?

In a moment of weakness I decided I'd tackle this job alone. Well, me and the cat, that is.

I'm rarely intimidated by such projects. I do think it's tougher to get motivated to tear things apart, rather than get into the actual job itself.

On the other hand, one could become apprehensive taking on a big floor alone, but the sales guy assured me that this flooring was a "piece of cake", and I'd have no problems whatsoever.

Besides, the cat assured me she'd help out.

Since I also decided to replace the floor in the hall leading in to the kitchen, (a paltry 4 by 10 feet,) I figured it would be my 'training ground.'

The tongue and groove flooring comes in 51-inch lengths, and snaps together when tapped with a hammer, using a special tool to drive it together without marking or chipping the edge.

And I tell ya, when that stuff snaps together, it ain't never comin' apart...

Saturday, I installed the hall floor without incident. The cat watched, taking mental notes.

And with the exception of a little tightness in my thigh muscles, that hall floor was a piece of cake. (The cat claimed she had no stiffness at all.)

Armed with incentive and cocky as hell, I jumped headfirst into the kitchen floor job, first thing Tuesday morning. After all, the hall went so well, so how could I fail with the kitchen?

The cat agreed— said she'd supervise. I'm a firm believer every job needs a supervisor.

**A  
TED  
BIT**



**Ted Brown**

At 10 a.m., I placed the first board in position, beginning my trek across the 16 by 20 foot floor.

The cat passed through for inspection a few times, tracking bits of sawdust out to the den.

She meowed, gave motivational purrs and the odd constructive criticism, to keep me focused.

I'd moved the appliances to the opposite side of the kitchen, and as I lay the flooring, I eventually made it to the fridge, later that afternoon.

I considered my options to move it. It couldn't be dragged across the new floor, cuz it might chip or break the fragile groove on the exposed edge of the flooring. It had to be lifted.

I looked to the cat, snoozing in the chair.

"You're on your own with that one, Ted," she purred, eyes half closed, "I don't do fridges."

She stretched, rolled over, and dozed off.

Being a bit impatient, I couldn't wait for a strong nephew to swing by to help lift the fridge.

I lifted it by myself— silly me.

As I put down the final rows of flooring, the pain in my lower back bordered on intolerable.

I finished it, and by the end of the week, I was once again able to walk without grimacing.

And the floor looks pretty good, (if I say so myself). All who drop by compliment me on a job well done. Everyone, that is, 'cept the cat.

Says she's a bit miffed— seems her claws click on the floor now...



Area scouts and girl guides are getting ready for the 12th Annual Scout/Guide Food Drive set for Saturday, November 2. Area residents are asked to fill with food the paper bags included in today's edition of *The Independent & Free Press* and set them out on their front step next Saturday so the scouts and guides can pick them up. Helping out at the food drive will be from back left; Corey Cleve, Brian Thoms, Andrew Thorn, Alison Keenan and from front left Madison Phipps, Nathan Cawte, Samantha Cleve, Taylr Cawte and Vicki Thoms.

Photo by Ted Brown

## Scout/Guide food drive goes door-to-door Nov. 2

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Items most needed at both food banks are peanut butter, jam, cheese spread, breakfast cereals, pasta sauce, rice, canned pasta, canned fish and meat, canned vegetables and fruit and canned stews. Georgetown Bread Basket also needs pasta and canned soups.

Darlene Moss, the Georgetown co-ordinator for the food drive, said last year's drive brought in 37,000 lbs. of food.

"That was our best year ever," said Moss. "Our goal would be the same as last year and anything over that is just a real bonus."

The food drive usually provides

the Acton food bank with 8,500 lbs. of food.

Residents who do not have any food on hand to donate can give the youths who come to the door a monetary donation.

Moss said organizers are thankful to all the groups who help out with the food drive and the community for being so generous.

Volunteers are needed in Georgetown to help sort and pack the food as it arrives at St. Andrew's United Church on Mountainview Rd. Anyone interested in helping should show up at the church anytime after 10 a.m. or call 905-873-3368 in advance.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

## Sidewalk added to 2003 budget discussions

Halton Hills council has referred a request from an Acton resident asking for two sidewalks to the 2003 budget discussions.

Ann Hamilton of Acton says a sidewalk should be constructed on the south side of Queen St. from Young St. to Tim Horton's

and on the north side from Queen's Tire to the Acton Arena. Hamilton said these are heavily traveled routes often used by children and seniors.

With increased traffic, and poor footing for walkers, it's creating a "needlessly dangerous situation," she said.

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**Saturday, Nov. 16th, 1:00 p.m.**

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at 519-853-2924

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