

New Acton business owners eye more expansion

By Frances Niblock

Al and Lois Fraser's business forays in Acton were done with handshakes, just the way the Ballinafad couple like to operate.

Six years ago, the Frasers – she with a long family history in the customs brokerage/book distribution business, and he, the former owner of the Georgetown Shoppers Drug Mart – joined forces to handle other people's goods.

What developed, with the recent purchase of Acton Terminal Warehouse, is a three-pronged company including Fraser Direct Transportation (local cart-

age), Fraser Direct Logistics (customs brokerage and international movement of freight), and Fraser Direct Distribution Services (picking, packing and shipping goods.)

"We have one-stop shopping for people who require logistics. In the old days, we called it trucking and warehousing. Today, it's called logistics, but it means we can pick up freight anywhere in the world, either by truck, air or by ocean, import it into Canada and then pick, pack and ship it," Fraser said, adding that they ship Canada wide.

Their cartage and customs brokerage clients are people in the Toronto area, in Georgetown, Acton and Guelph. Their distribution clients are primarily Americans, but their Canadian client list is growing.

Annually, the company handles 2,600 international truck and container shipments, processes 500,000 small parcel orders and deposits more than 90-million mailing pieces with Canada Post. The company handles a variety of products, everything from gym equipment, to books, to clothing and advertising materials.

Fraser said when they ran out of space at their warehouse on Armstrong Avenue in Georgetown several years ago, their warehouse manager, Janet Goy, who was married to the late John Goy Jr., one of three Goy brothers from Acton who managed Acton Terminal Warehouse, suggested they lease space at ATW on Highway 7.

"We were initially a tenant in their warehouse and as we grew we rented most of their space at ATW. Then the Goys approached us to purchase their custom brokerage business," Fraser said.

When the Frasers went

looking for more space to lease at ATW, they were told they couldn't have any more space because the company was for sale.

"Before you knew it, we had arranged to buy the property. It was all very informal – our conversations with Steve, John and Jeff Goy ended with handshakes. There was total co-operation between our two companies, and they offered to continue to run their transport division (Goy Cartage) until very recently, when we purchased that as well," Fraser said.

"We're very excited about owning the property on Hwy. 7. It was good fortune that the Goy family were looking to sell just when we were interested in expanding.

Jeff and Steve Goy continue to work at the Acton facility, and we really appreciate their hard work and advice. John Goy was also a huge help to us, and we will always be grateful that we were able to work with him," Fraser said.

Fraser said during the first few years, things were

"rough" at times, but there was no looking back and they now have a staff of approximately 100 people, with more than 20 people from Acton working in their Georgetown facility.

"Acton has been an excellent source of labour for us – many of our managers are from Acton and we've made it very clear, that if our company continues to be successful, we would really like to build in Acton. Hiring people from Acton makes that decision even easier."

The Frasers are well known for their community support, giving their time and talents to various community projects including the Georgetown Children's Chorus, the Georgetown Hospital Foundation and an annual charity book sale.

The Frasers also generously donated to the Acton skateboard park, a teen peer outreach program operating in Acton, and they plan to support the Acton Agricultural Society's project to replace its building in Prospect Park.

This Just In!

This Rockwood Team shed' over 180lbs with

Herbal Magic
WEIGHT LOSS & NUTRITION CENTRES



Before

In just 8 months this team of 3 have acquired confidence, a new lifestyle and fabulous new bodies. We had the privilege of sitting down with this mother, daughter team to ask a few questions.

How did you find the Acton Herbal Magic staff to be?

Friendly, helpful, supportive, excellent!

What are the biggest changes you've experienced in your life as a direct result of losing weight on the Herbal Magic program?

"More confidence, happier, I'm laughing again!"

What was the best part of the program for you?

"Flexibility! The plan was tailored to my schedule. Herbal Magic gave me my life back. I feel like I have been given a second change to go out and enjoy life!"



After

Herbal Magic
WEIGHT LOSS & NUTRITION CENTRES

Acton Market Plaza
372 Queen St. Acton
519-853-8123



We held our last meeting, before taking the summer months off, in the beautiful sunroom at Birchway Place. We celebrated our potluck picnic meeting with many friends who have helped our group with its annual bazaar over the years. All enjoyed a variety of dishes and desserts.

We celebrated over 100 years of service with Rosealea Dawkins being awarded her 25 year service pin and Kathleen Harding her 10 year pin. June McHugh, who was unable to attend, was awarded her 50 year pin, Gladys Davidson, also unable to attend, was awarded her 25 year pin. Congratulations to all.

Patrick Byrne, a student the IODE sponsored for his travels with Canadian World Youth Exchange gave us an informed talk of his travels to Haliburton and Kenya. He expressed his thanks and said his experience was one



A surprised Rosealea Dawkins, left, is presented with her 25 year membership pin by IODE membership secretary Jane McAllister.

of a lifetime. The IODE wish Patrick well in whatever the future holds for him.

IODE has made \$500 donation to McKenzie-Smith Bennett School for their new playground equipment and wish them great success in their fundraising activities for this worthwhile cause.

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer and hope to see some new faces and old in September.

Frome & Kyle Nap invite you to the
25th Anniversary Open House
of their Parents Bert & Renate at their home on
Saturday June 24, 2006
from 2-5pm
Best wishes only.