

From the December 1, 2005 pages of The New Tanner.

One year ago, Police Chief Ean Algar – Halton's first chief to work his way up through the ranks to the top job – announced he will retire when his contract expires at the end of 2006. Algar served with Halton police for 38 years.

In other news:

• After almost 32 years delivering mail in Acton, Lloyd

Smallwood retires from Canada Post, just in time

# Back Facts



to miss the "winter weather and Christmas rush."

• Acton High School grad Jeff McEnery won the Tim

Sims Encouragement prize for best new comic, which includes \$3,500 and the chance to make a film for the Comedy Network.

• A 29-year-old Main Street North man was

charged with robbery and weapons dangerous after he held up a teen for \$1 with a 14-inch butcher knife.

From the November 29, 2001 pages of The New Tanner.

Five years ago:

Six Acton High School grads, including Lindsay Almand, Chad Foreman, Tara Hargrave, Laura Kobsa, Kristina Mitchell, and Tiffany Pursoo received "Aiming for the Top" scholarships from the province.

In other news:

• Acton firefighters collect \$5,770 in donations for the New York 9-11 disaster relief fund.

• From crayon scrawled requests for a baby brother to wishes for the latest video games, hundreds of letters to Santa were forwarded to the North Pole by Acton Post Office workers.

• Instead of offering rewards for reporting acts of vandalism Town council votes to budget \$1,000 annually to support the Crime Stoppers program and for public anti-vandalism education.



# Keep Christ in Christmas

## Lawn signs with message an Acton ecumenical project

Lawn signs urging residents to keep "Christ in Christmas" are sprouting up all over the Acton area, one part of an ecumenical initiative to counter a growing tendency to secularize the religious holiday.

Led by the Acton Ministerial Association and all Acton and area churches, the signs will soon be joined by a large billboard on Mill St., proclaiming the same message.

The lawn signs project originated in Oakville where an attempt by the Knights of Columbus to erect a banner proclaiming "Keep Christ

in Christmas" was turned down as "too controversial." The Knights took their cue from a similar Edmonton, Alberta turn down and had lawn signs made and distributed in Oakville.

Jay Raats, a member of the Acton St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus, was impressed by the Oakville initiative and approached St. Joseph's pastor Father Bob Bulbrook about doing something similar in Acton. Bulbrook, in turn broached the idea of an Acton program to a meeting of the Acton Ministerial Association. It was enthusiastically

endorsed and over 300 signs were ordered for the various churches from Oakville.

The idea of conveying the message through a large billboard originated with Rev. Ray Vander Kooij of Bethel Christian Reformed Church. He approached Petro Canada which owns the lot and billboard at the corner of Churchill Rd. and Queen St., beside the church, for permission to rent the next space. Petro-Canada, however said the message was too controversial and refused. There were no objections from those who own the billboards on Mill St. beside the CN railway tracks so the ministerial association procured it.

Meanwhile, Jay Raats, who sparked the project is enthused by the reception the lawn sign project is receiving. He sees it growing, snowballing all over Canada and taken up by all Christian denominations. Raats says an Oakville multi-faith group asked Muslims and Jews and other faiths groups if they would be offended by the lawn signs. There were no objections, in fact some said it was time the Christians stood up for themselves.

*Christmas Prayer Vigil*

**St. Alban Anglican Church, Acton**  
December 8<sup>th</sup> - 8pm to 8am December 9<sup>th</sup>

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