



**SOLD OUT:** The shelves were temporarily bare after Christmas at Dollar Stretcher Daze where co-owner Linda Ann Hush enjoyed record sales. — Frances Niblock photo



**GREAT DEALS:** Acton's Teri Villard, a regular customer, found great deals and lots of stock during Boxing Day shopping at Country Reflections. — Frances Niblock photo

## Those register bells were ringing for Yule season

By Frances Niblock

Shearling and shovels didn't sell, but just about everything else did as many Acton merchants report great — in one case, record — sales this holiday season.

While the warm weather sidelined sales of almost anything to do with snow, it made conditions great for shoppers to get out and about.

At Dollar Stretcher Daze, now Acton's only dollar store, Linda Ann Hush is confident the year-end figures will show their fourth year was their best ever.

"We had an awesome Christmas, and even in December we bought more for Christmas because we were selling out, and that

all sold too," Hush said last Thursday as she prepared to restock the bare store with items for Valentine's and St. Patrick Day.

Hush, whose business partner is Heather Wedlake, said they sold several hundred stockings, couldn't keep cookie tins in stock, and there was a steady run on wrapping paper and stocking stuffers.

"We're happy. It was our best Christmas ever...we're excited to be doing so well," Hush said, thanking their loyal customers, noting they go shopping next week for their Christmas 2007 stock.

**"Very pleased"**

At Giant Tiger, general manager Alec Boyd reports

### Merchants report 'great' sales

they are "very pleased" with sales that are "very comparable" to last year, which was the best ever year for the store, now open for four years.

"I think the (warm) weather this year kind of took the wind out of our sails, but overall, it was still a very good season," Boyd said, adding they saw a lot of regular customers, but also some new faces.

"We actually did a postal code survey a little while ago because things have changed in town and there's a lot of competition around town," he said, adding it showed a loyal local customer base with a growing number of shoppers from Georgetown, Milton and Guelph.

#### First Christmas

Jennifer and Tim Youmans were not sure what to expect for their first Christmas at their Country Korner that they opened just two weeks ago on the southwest corner of Main Street and Mill Street just two weeks ago.

Tim Youmans said sales were "excellent."

"Business was good, and a lot of people know about the store now, so we've been noticing a lot of the same people coming back," Tim Youmans said, adding "it got crazy" just before Christmas with last-minute shoppers.

Despite slower sales, a layoff and some recent vandalism, it wasn't a bad year at Acton Motors, according to owner Norm Paulsen.

"We probably didn't sell as many cars as we did the year before, we laid one man off...but, in general, it was a very good year," Paulsen said.

#### "Awesome year"

Business just keeps getting better at Country Reflections on Mill Street where owner Judy MacDonald had her best year ever — her 11th in Acton.

"I had such an awesome year — last year was my best ever and this one was just that much better — quite a bit better — it was a great year," MacDonald said, adding

she was passing her good fortune along to customers with a half-price sale on everything in the store.

MacDonald said the store remains for sale, and while several deals have come close, she is confident when it is right, it will happen.

At the olde Hide House, where the annual coat sale was in full swing, manager Cathy Coles said the warm

weather hurt and helped sales.

"We've experienced some problems with the cold weather items — they are a little slower than last year, things like shearling coats and boots, but the all-weather leather (sales) take up some of what we lose," Coles said, adding they are "happy" with sales that are comparable to past years.

She said surprisingly, furniture sales, normally down this time of year, had been strong, possibly because of all of the new homes in Acton.

BRANCH  
No. 197

LEGION NEWS  
By James Hayes  
P.R.O.

Comrades,

By now we should have recovered from the indulgences of Christmas and New Year's Eve partying. We wish at this time to say a sincere thank you to bus driver Pat for ensuring her charges arrived home safe and sound after the New Year's Eve party. The T.T.C. really is "the better way."

I hope not too many of you were stricken with the flu-like sickness that was going around, and could not be blamed on over-indulgence.

On January 1, at the President's Levee, Ronnie & The Corvairs played for our pleasure and Joyce and Gloria set out a very appetizing table for our culinary delight.

The afternoon was rounded off by President Wes Kutasienski announcing the names of the three early-bird winners, names drawn by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bob Service, and confirmed by membership chairman Kathleen Bevan. Comrades:

Hank Earle, Diane Aplin and James Porter will all have their 2008 membership dues paid by the Branch.

A gentle reminder about the Progressive Euchre Tournament being organized for Sunday, January 21. Why not drop by the Branch for all the details? It should be a fun time for those who enjoy a good afternoon of cards.

Sports. The fun day curling is on Jan. 13.

A date for your diary: Branch General meeting, January 8, 2007.

*Yours in comradeship,  
Jim Hayes, Branch  
PRO.*

**Ladies' Auxiliary News**  
I hope everyone had a happy holiday season.

Our next L.A. meeting is tonight, Thursday, January 4, at 7:30 p.m.

My best wishes to everyone for a healthy, happy new year.

*Yours in comradeship,  
Annmarie Lowin,  
L.A. President.*

### Attention Seniors

To alleviate the high cost of heating for 2007  
Branch 197 of the  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Will provide a **one time** grant to Seniors.  
*From the Poppy Fund*  
**To be eligible you must provide**

- Proof of Residence in the Town of Acton
- Copy of recent existing heating charges for that residence
- Be a recipient and have proof of **GIS** from the Federal Government
- You may be renting, but are paying heating costs and provide proof thereof
- You may be married or single
- You must be over 65 Years of age

**At apply send your name and address to:**

**Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197  
15 Wright Ave.**

**Box 69  
Acton ON  
L7J 2M2**

**Attn. David Crook**

**Chairman Veterans & Seniors**

Branch 853-0910, Home telephone 853-0275

*All replies will be held in the strictest of confidence.  
No applications accepted after Jan. 31/07*

*"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."  
St. John 4:23 KJV*

*Mount Zion Full Gospel Deliverance Ministries Inc.*

Pastor Andrew Paton  
Mount Zion Full Gospel Deliverance Ministries  
Sunday at 11:00am • Counseling available  
Preaching the Kingdom of God, the Doctrine of Jesus Christ, and God's plan for your life.

**Our Church is located at the Ballinafad Community Center, Downstairs  
For more information call  
519-853-5657**