

# EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

## New medical facilities

If plans for a new medical centre and improvements to the existing one in Acton come to fruition it should do a lot to brighten the medical picture in the town and area. Acton has a critical need for doctors and as The New Tanner story last week noted the Town would look a lot more attractive to family practitioners with better facilities.

The proposed plan for a new medical centre on the vacant block bounded by Mill St., Eastern Ave., Church and Fellows Streets calls for six second floor offices and a pharmacy on the ground floor as well as a coffee shop. The second floor would have six clinic suites along with a doctor's lounge, doctor's residence and an area for a nurse practitioner and lab.

The present medical centre building, built in the mid-1970s has its limitations. New owner Sylvain Carle told The New Tanner he intends to renovate and expand the facility with an elevator, larger pharmacy and more space for physicians – "a totally renewed facility."

Carle says he's not concerned that Dr. Nather Alshakarji, a tenant in the present building, is the mover behind plans for a new medical centre, suggesting market forces will determine if a new facility is needed. However, patients who have had to climb stairs in the present building and have seen it squeezed over the years obviously would like to see a modern medical building to cut down on the visits to other centres which have them. It is especially difficult for elderly people.

The present building has served the community well, making excellent use of available space but it is shopworn in places. Obviously a total expansion, as Mr. Carle envisions, would be much more patient-friendly. However, the idea of a new modern facility for one-stop treatment will also appeal to many people who use the Acton medical facilities. They come from a large rural area as well as nearby places such as Rockwood, Eden Mills, Everton, Ballinafad and Limehouse to mention a few.

Acton has been fortunate in having such a dedicated medical staff who have put in long hours to compensate for the shortage of doctors. The start of an after-hours clinic, now three nights a week, has also helped to allay the wait-time for family practitioners, as well as having a nurse practitioner on board.

We would hope that plans in both facilities get a green light so Acton and area can receive the same kind of care available in other towns and cities.

## Rash of kitchen fires

The staff at Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services is rightly concerned about the rash of kitchen fires in the Town recently.

One kitchen fire caused an estimated \$50,000 in damages and made the home inhabitable. Two others were also the result of leaving cooking unattended. They were put out before much damage was done but could have escalated into something far more serious.

It's especially disconcerting for the crew at Fire Protection and Prevention Services since they have just packed up an exhibition at the Georgetown Marketplace which highlighted the dangers of kitchen fires.

"So much emphasis is placed on kitchen safety fires as they continue to be one of the three leading causes of fires in the home," says Chief of Prevention and Public Education Olivieri. "The fire service is constantly promoting safe cooking themes as we know they are preventable fires."

In one of the fires a tenant tried to carry a pot of burning oil from the kitchen to a window where he threw the contents out into the parking lot. Before reaching the window flames had spread onto the floor, the carpet and furniture. In another incident a pot on the stove boiled dry activating the alarm.

"These fires could have escalated in such a short period of time causing insurmountable damage to the homes," said John Martin, chief of operations, not mentioning the burns one person could have suffered while carrying a pot of burning oil.

The incidents should cause us all to ponder the risks of leaving cooking unattended.



**TOTAL RECALL:** Plans have been moved ahead so reconstruction of Main St. in Acton can proceed this year (2007). The last time Acton's Main St. went through reconstruction in the mid-1970's Jack Carpenter took this photo of the Mill/Main corner and it's obvious there have been many changes. The IGA foodstore in the photo has been completely renovated with a dollar store down and a fitness place where the five pin bowling alley conducted a busy business. The building was extended on the north side to house more businesses. Cheek to jowl with IGA is the Dominion Hotel, long since vanished after a horrendous fire, and replaced by a plaza housing Giant Tiger and Subway. The building on the corner housed a Donut shop which also was demolished to make way for what eventually became the picturesque parkette.

## Angela has 10 Wonders of the World

There are many mysteries in the world. There are the seven wonders of the world. Some things like Stonehenge can make anybody stare in wonderment. However there are some things that are more dumbfounding and they really make me stand up and say "whoa, how is that done?"

However, I think I now realize that there are more amazing things so we need to add to the list. Number eight is something sort of new. I am in awe of the Mr. Clean Eraser. I was a skeptic at first. I had a friend tell me how it erased grime from her life, even ink. Maybe I was hesitant about the price more than anything. I mean, cripes three bucks for two little sponge-like pads. How ridiculous was that? Then I tried one.

Step one. Wet. Step two. Erase. It seemed too easy. Then before I knew it, I was erasing everything. I



By  
Angela Tyler

erased the Dude's greasy mechanic finger prints from the refrigerator. I was erasing the dogs drool that hits the wall when he shakes his head. It is one of the downfalls of having a St. Bernard...you never know when drool will hit or where it will land. It erased everything. I was cleaning walls, bathrooms, appliances; heck if the dog or the Dude stood still long enough I would have Mr. Cleaned-erased them, too. I am a Mr. Clean Eraser fanatic. I love those things. I don't know what's in those things but they are AMAZING!

One of the other things that amaze me is a classic, yet it is still worthy of number nine. There has

been endless advertising about it. Maybe it is one of those things that seem easy for some, but truly, after analysing all the possibilities, have you ever wondered, really, how do they get the caramilk in the caramilk bar? I think part of the fun is not only enjoying the chocolate bar but wondering how did they do it. It's kind of like that commercial for the laundry soap in the 70's... "ancient Chinese secret."

Another mystery that probably will never be solved (and many have inquired about it over the years) but I still don't know how it happens. It justly deserves to be number 10. When you do the laundry, why is there always a sock that never has a pair? Where do the socks go? It never fails for me. Every time I do the wash there is a sock that has no mate. And for some unknown reason it always

*Continued on page 7*



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