

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Hide House problem

A victim of cross-border shopping, warm weather, and over-expansion, what once was the olde Hide House and now is the Hide House has asked for bankruptcy protection as it liquidates its stock to pay off an estimated \$5.1 million to its creditors.

The company, which has become synonymous with Acton with its widely copied slogan, "It's worth the drive to Acton," is hoping to keep a trimmed down Acton store still going when the liquidation is finished. Reluctantly it will likely close its other two stores in downtown Toronto and Vaughan, the latter which company president John Brison acknowledges played a role in the company's problems.

He told the Toronto Star "Our additional expansion outside of the Acton market this year exacerbated the problem." Brison said, "We have had a downtown Toronto store for several years and then we opened a store in Vaughan at Highway 7 and Weston Rd. this year. In retrospect, that was a poorly timed expansion."

The news that the Hide House was seeking bankruptcy protection hit Acton like a bombshell, not only because many of its 60 some employees live in town and some are likely to lose their jobs, many with 20 years of experience there, but also because the Hide House has become synonymous with Acton.

The stores are known all over North America as the place to buy quality leather goods especially wearing apparel. It's also recognized here that when the Dawkins family and others started this very successful business it lifted the town up by its bootstraps following the closing of the Beardmore Tannery in 1886.

The future of the town looked bleak then even though only 329 employees of the once over 700 who worked at Beardmore were left without a job. That day, June 12 1986, known as "Black Thursday," transformed Acton from an industrial town to a bedroom community. At its peak Beardmore put \$8 million annually into local pay packets and paid \$311,000 in town taxes.

When this new business, the olde Hide House started, and with astute business sense became almost an instant success, it lifted Acton out of the doldrums. Their advertising campaigns put Acton back on the map again and its association with leather earned it the nickname "Canada's Leathertown," an appellation which survives in the town's street signs.

Naturally, the residents of Acton and area, as well as other businesses, are rooting for the Hide House operation here to continue keeping the town on the map and attracting tourists from all over the world.

Go get 'em

The Acton Tanners Midget team and their fans are furious about the OMHA's decision to give their playoff series to Lincoln although the Acton team won it on the ice. The OMHA ruled the Tanners used an ineligible player in the series but the Tanners say it was all due to a clerical error which the Lincoln Blades used to lodge a protest about the series.

The Tanners won the series on the ice at Beamsville in overtime in game five on Saturday, Feb. 23. In an unusual move the Lincoln's OMHA representative notified the Tanners of the OMHA's decision to award the series to Lincoln.

The whole decision reeks of subterfuge. The Tanners are quite right in seeking to know the real reasons for the OMHA's decision to award the series to Lincoln since they (the Tanners) were not represented at the meeting.



FAMILY DAY: the Catholic Women's League at St. Joseph's Church arranged a celebration of Family Day in the church hall for children on that very day. CWL President Janis Braida has her hands full here entertaining two tots. - submitted photo

Fixing our broken thermostat

There has been a lot of talk in Canada lately about the need to develop technological innovations that address global warming. After all, since humans cause global warming by burning too much fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas, as well as destroying natural ecosystems that absorb and store carbon, it's up to us to fix it.

Of course, replacing traditional sources of energy that we've come to rely on so heavily is no easy feat. It requires big effort.

But here's the good part: most of the technologies needed to usher in a clean and sustainable future are already available. Even better, many of these technologies are being developed right here in Canada.

By supporting innovative solutions, we can phase out the older polluting forms of generating energy that contribute to global warming and thus create a cleaner world. These innovations will create new jobs and boost our economy.

For too long the environment



By David Suzuki

and economy have been treated as two separate solitudes. But they aren't. We can protect and conserve the environment and have a vibrant economy.

But first, bear with me for a little climate change 101.

In order to put reasonable, practical solutions in place, we have to understand how global warming works. Not all scientists agree on when certain things will happen, but most scientists agree on the basic mechanism that is warming our planet.

It's really pretty simple.

Heat from the sun comes down through the earth's atmosphere, and some of it bounces back into space. The atmosphere acts like a cozy blanket, thanks to certain atmospheric gases that act as a layer of insulation to hold some of the heat.

But, over the last several centuries, as the Industrial Rev-

olution has taken place, humans are burning more and more fossil fuels to meet our energy needs. Thanks to our cars and factories, we've released more of these heat-trapping gases than the biosphere can reabsorb so they build up and thicken the heat-trapping blanket of insulation around the Earth. Human land use practices, such as the destruction of tropical rainforests, also release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The heat builds up, the globe warms, and the atmospheric balance that keeps the climate stable is disrupted.

Global warming is more about a mechanism that gets destabilized and broken, like a thermostat that goes haywire. It doesn't work the way it should, and this results in extreme weather effects around the globe. As we now know, according to the UN's blue-ribbon panel of scientists who studied global warming, it's happening right now. Ten of the warmest years on record have occurred since 1980.



jacy c. 2008

THE NEW TANNER
PUBLISHING LTD.

373 Queen Street East, Unit 1
Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2
email: thenewtanner@on.aibn.com

(519) 853-0051 Fax: (519) 853-0052

Publisher

Ted Tyler

Editor

Hartley Coles

Editorial Contributors

Mike O'Leary Angela Tyler

Rebecca Ring Matthew Reid Justina Pembleton

Advertising and Circulation

Marie Shadbolt

Composing

Ken Baker Tracey Gardner

Distributed to every home in Acton and area, as well as adjoining communities.

Every effort will be made to see advertising copy, neatly presented, is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertising, but will gladly reprint without charge that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur provided a claim is made within five days of publication.

All articles, advertisements and graphic artwork appearing in The New Tanner is copyrighted. Any usage, reproduction or publication of these items, in whole or in part, without the express written consent of the publisher of The New Tanner is a copyright infringement and subject to legal action.