

## Mother uncovers son's theft *Acton's economic picture...*

Wellington OPP have charged a youth, aged 17, with theft under \$5,000 after admitting to his mother he stole an iPod from an unlocked parked auto in Hillsburgh on Saturday, Dec. 13 about

1:55am. The mother phoned police.

The mother told police she was asleep upstairs in her home when she was awakened by the sound of voices. She went downstairs to investigate and

found her teenage son had come in with a couple of teen friends. She went to his room to speak to her son about being out that late at night and discovered an iPod. The son admitted he had stolen it from an auto parked on Mill St., Hillsburgh.

The youth and his mother are to appear in Guelph Court on Jan. 21, 2009.

Meanwhile the OPP are concerned about the number of cars, vans and trucks left unlocked in Hillsburgh. "Please lock your vehicle, even at home," officers cautioned.

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and safe in their purchases and where they will get a welcome smile and value for their money," she said, adding the recent Shop Local campaign really helped to keep shopping dollars in Acton.

"We all realize that when we shop local we are putting food on a merchant's table - I'm not putting it on Mr. Wal-Mart's table. Everybody I've spoken to is looking forward and holding our own," Wilkes said.

At Country Reflections, the Mill Street gift shop that has a Christmas room, business has been going "extremely well" according to manager Debbie Mongiat.

"This Christmas will be as good, or better, than last Christmas which was great. We've been busy since the end of September," Mongiat said, adding they are seeing lots of local shoppers and well as those from surrounding communities who received their catalogues.

It's too soon to tell what kinds of a year its been at

Dollar Stretcher Daze, where co-owner Linda Ann Hush expects a rush in the last few days before Christmas with people buying wrapping paper and gift bags.

"We started selling Christmas items a lot earlier this year - right after Hallowe'en customers were looking for tree decorations and Christmas items, but I won't know what kind of a year we've had until after the holiday season is over. We're lucky though. We have sales every day and we're still here five years after we opened so that says something."

BIA manager Josey Bonnette said there was a lot of optimistic talk at the last BIA meeting and a lot of enthusiasm from the local merchants for the Shop Local campaign.

"I was surprised at how many merchants got into the campaign, and it was nice to hear that Nancy (Wilkes) at Acton Optical had her best month ever and that the numbers were as good as last year for Alex (Boyd) at Giant Tiger," Bonnette said.

In his annual address to the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Rick Bonnette said the Town is in good shape to face the economic storm.

"No doubt we're in for a rough ride...I believe your council has managed the financial resources of the Town in a prudent and fiscally responsible way over the past number of years," Bonnette said, adding the Town will be able to achieve a balanced budget and maintain current service levels and undertake a significant infrastructure program next year with a "reasonable" tax increase.

Bonnette said he will continue to pursue the three themes that he has championed since being elected mayor five years ago including maintaining a small town atmosphere, balanced with strong economic growth, a strong, business community and Town fiscal responsibility.

Bonnette also listed some of the bright spots on the economic front, including the application by First Gulf Applied to build a 340,000 square foot building in the 401-407 Gateway industrial park, Acton's Dover Flour adding another silo and updating their flour mill, Sensient Flavours occupying 110,000 square feet on Steeles Avenue, Purity Life expanding its Acton headquarters and North Halton Tool and Die opening an Acton office.

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