THE NEW TANNER THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2010

New businesses open in Acton



GRAND OPENING: As a piper's bagpipes skirled, local politicians helped Carrier-Anne Bennie officially opened her new store – Sweet Molly's, which offers Irish, Scottish and British sweets and treats – on Tuesday. On hand were, from left: piper Elizabeth Day, Mayor Rick Bonnette, Councillor Clark Somerville, owner Bennie, her daughters Renne and Denise and Acton Councillor Jon Hurst.

- Frances Niblock photo



LOVABLE HUGS: Lovable Little Tree Huggers, an online specialty store selling cloth diapers, natural baby care products and slings held a ribbon cutting ceremony recently at Roxy Cafe. On hand to welcome the environmentally friendly business was, from right, Mayor Rick Bonnette, Councillor Mike O'Leary, proprietor of www.lovablelittletreehuggers.com Laura Nunn and Andrew Nunn. – Denise Paulsen photo

No jail time for Acton school vandals

Two young Acton men, who pleaded guilty to the drunken trashing of Robert Little School last January, each received a suspended sentence, probation and 125 hours of community service in an Ontario Superior Court of Justice last Thursday afternoon.

Andrew Tressel and Christopher Wilkinson, both 19 at the time of their vandalism spree, avoided jail time as originally requested by the Crown, in part, based on their willingness to take part in a restorative justice process, suggested by Robert Little Principal Bob Tadman in his victim impact statement.

The court heard the "very intoxicated" teens "tore rooms part...ripping and breaking" everything in their

path through nine classrooms and the library. The Crown taking a "wrong turn" after high school. "I screwed up did not proceed with charges of Break and Enter with Intent of Theft over \$5,000, or cruelty to animals –the death of 11 fish killed when their classroom aquarium was damaged. At an earlier hearing, both Wilkinson and Tressel pleaded guilty to Break and Enter with Intent of Mischief over \$5,000.

They will repay the Halton District School Board for \$22, 243 of repairs – Tressel already put his half in trust and will serve one-year probation. Wilkinson was ordered to serve two years probation to allow him to pay off his share in \$500 monthly instalments.

Asked if he had anything to say to the Court, Tressel, now enrolled at Georgian College in Barrie, said he "apologized to everybody..." and that he'd "learned a lot and is now on a healthier path of life." Wilkinson, who is working, said his life is back to normal after

a lot of stuff," he said.

Pointing to positive pre-sentence reports and a positive report from school principal Bob Tadman about restorative justice, Justice Forsyth, who said restorative justice gets offenders more involved in the "duty to be responsible," told Tressel and Wilkinson to "keep up the good work.'

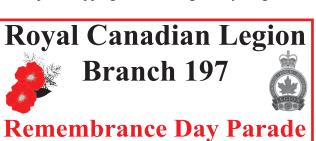
Principal Tadman said he is "impressed" that Wilkinson and Tressel must make restitution, and is looking forward to them meeting with the students for some 'real healing.'

"They did a crime and there is a consequence and that's one piece. The other piece is the community piece - how they reconnect with us and us with them, to build those ties back up again," Tadman said on Friday, adding parents will be informed of an upcoming assembly with Wilkinson and Tressel in a letter home this week.

Tadman said as now envisioned, students, in advance, would tell their teachers what they want to say, or ask Wilkinson and Tressel, who he expects would make "sincere apologies" and be seen by students as human beings, not just "bogeymen."

Tadman said both Wilkinson and Tressel, as part of their community service, have agreed to help restore the school's 60-year-old stage, a permanent and significant



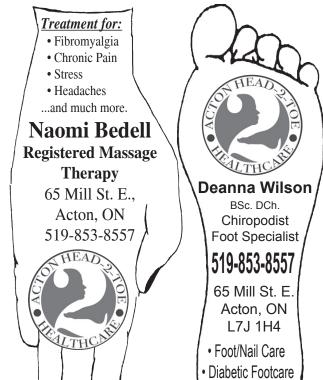


Saturday, November 6, 2010 The parade will muster at the Old Hide House parking lot at 10:15 a.m.

> and the march to the Cenotaph for the service.

> The Veterans Dinner will be served at the Legion starting at 1 p.m.

At the 11th Hour on the 11th Day of the 11th Month, we remember those who risked, and lost, their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today



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