

Good News

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FREE



Blah busters

Milton Chamber of Commerce started spreading the good news last May when it launched the Milton Advantage Business of the Week program. The reward for making Milton a better place to live has been received by many including (from left) Autogenics Auto Service owner Raz Arcaro; Cheryl Sellors and partners of Gunning, O'Gorman and

Sellors CGA's; (at right) Scott Schlotzhauer owner of M&M Meat Shops. Equipped with apathy fighting gloves is Chamber president Carol McDonald. See the list of winners on page 11.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

More Good News . . .

War has been declared in Campbellville. A War Cabinet is mounting a defence against the recession. Find out how to enlist on Page 3.

THE
RECESSION
STOPS
HERE



Just 25 of the many ways in which Milton is marvelous are listed on Page 9. Add your own ideas and submit them to our special publication in May.

Winter can be wonderful but it's always good to know spring's around the corner. Only 23 more days 'till spring.



Retailers on road to recovery

Increased sales have sparked their optimism

By KAREN SMITH
News Reporter

The local economy is starting to shape up, say the managers of Milton Mall and the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area.

Mall merchants have indicated they are "seeing the brighter side" when it comes to cash register receipts, according to mall manager Penny Karas.

"Some tenants in the mall have had surprisingly good increases in sales over the last two months," she said. "The increases have come unexpectedly, and it's not just one (merchant)."

Meanwhile, downtown merchants are starting to see the economy turn around as well, said Sandy Martin, executive director of the Milton DBIA.

"Business is starting to come back," she said. "There are still fears, but let's face it, 90 per cent of our workers (in Canada) are still employed."

The optimistic Ms Martin said more businesses have opened downtown than closed since the beginning of last year — the core of the recession.

While four merchants shut their doors permanently and

two relocated elsewhere in town, 14 new businesses joined the community.

"That's probably about three to one," she added.

The future of downtown business looks bright as well. Three new stores are expected to open by June.

More and more, the downtown is gaining a reputation as a centre for shopping, said Ms Martin. Of businesses named "Milton Advantage Business of the Week" by the Milton Chamber of Commerce, 70 per cent are located downtown.

As a result of DBIA-run events such as the farmers' market, Moonlight Magic, and Kids' Day Downtown, the area is attracting more shoppers, she maintained.

Miltonians can expect more of the same festivities downtown this year, but at a higher calibre. The market will be expanded with more produce stands, and a bed race up Main Street will be added to the Moonlight Magic event.

Further beautification of the downtown will continue with half-barrel planters being added along Main and Mill streets, and in the Mill Street parking lot, said Ms Martin.

Future improvements planned by the Town of Milton at the Mill Pond and Rotary Park will bring more people downtown as well, she said.

