

Colborne orator and trophy reunited

It's been 69 years since
Nick Aziz won the award

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By Bob Owen
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Nicholas Aziz was acknowledged as one of the best high school orators in the province. He won the Colborne High School Trophy for Oratory, defeating speakers from south-central Ontario in 1934.

This month, 69 years later, Nick was reunited with his trophy. An unlikely set of circumstances that began over a year ago led to the rediscovery of his silver award - proudly displayed at the Cramahe Museum in the Old Registry Office on King Street East.

You have to go back some to pick up the story.

Nicholas' younger brother Lou moved recently to Markham after spending 40 years in Trenton. He suffered a stroke which led to speech therapy. At one of his weekly therapy sessions at Markham Stouffville Hospital Lou was approached by one of the social workers, The woman remarked on his unusual last name. She recalled seeing the same name on a trophy when she

had stopped to visit the Colborne Museum. She wondered if Lou might be related to the person who's name was on the trophy.

Lou took the information down and passed it on to his brother, Nick, who was 85 at the time. Nick had long forgotten the trophy, assuming it had probably been thrown away years ago.

Curious, last year Nick and his best friend Yvonne Dandy made the trip from Toronto to Colborne, only to find the museum closed and no one available to open it. Nick could see his trophy only a few feet away through the barred windows of the former County Registry Office.

A year later they were back. The orator and the trophy were together again.

Holding the trophy and some of the memorabilia in the museum brought back a string of memories for the octogenarian.

"Oratory was a big thing in my days of high school. Everyone tried to excel at public speaking," says Nicholas.



Nick Aziz poses proudly at the Cramahe Museum with the trophy he won in 1934.

Photo by Bob Owen

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Castleton may get liquor store

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If all goes well, Castleton may have a new liquor outlet by the end of the year. That's the goal, if everything falls into place for Keith Olan's application to the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

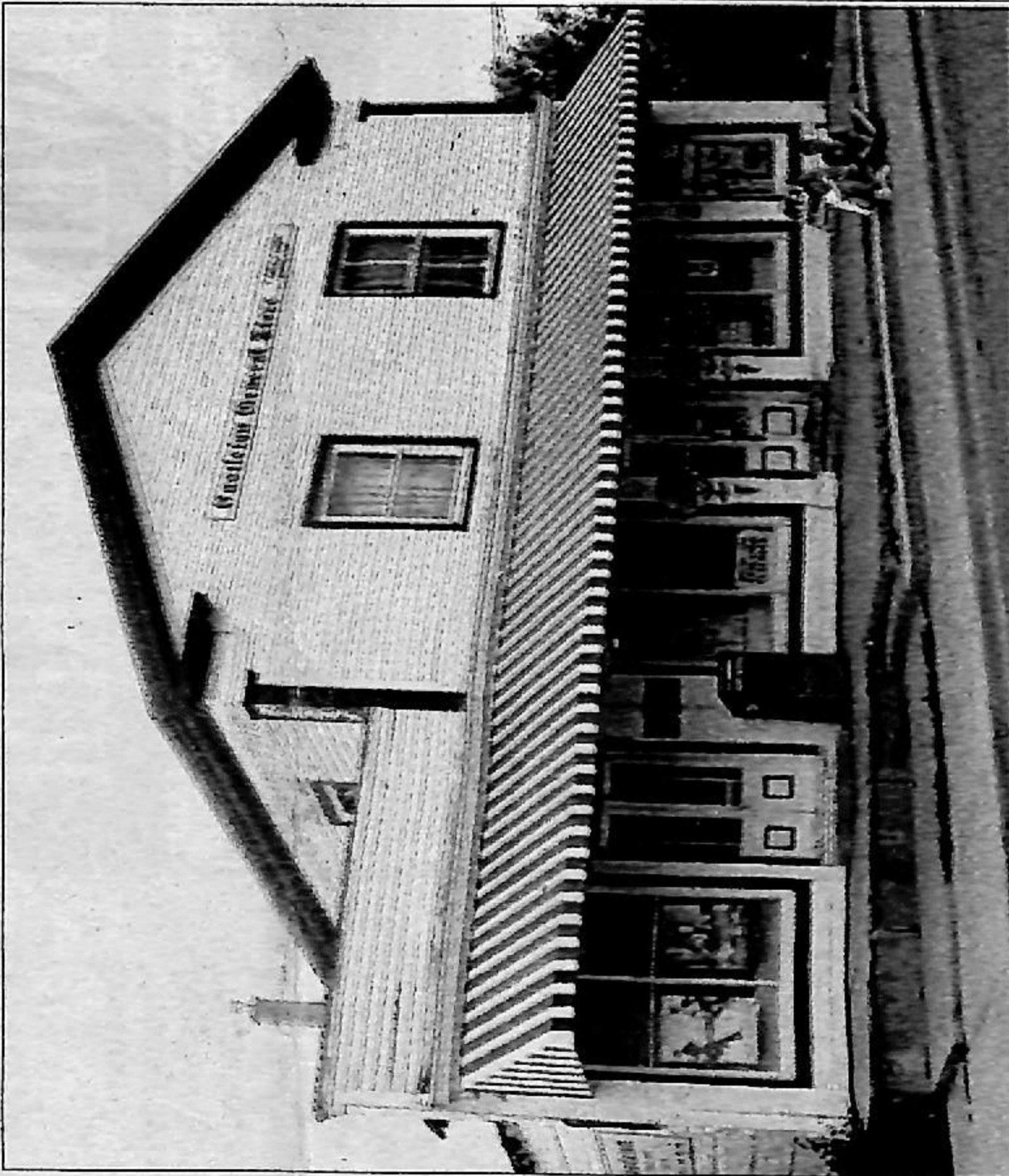
The owner of the Castleton General Store had until this Tuesday to have his application in the hands of the board. Once the board receives the paperwork and if it's all complete there is a maximum 180-day waiting period while the LCBO inspectors consider the request.

At some point during that period they will come to his store and videotape it. Their criterion will include location, type of services offered and appearance.

Coincidentally, this was the summer he planned to repaint the exterior of the store. He has been having difficulty finding a contractor to do the work. He's hoping to get that in hand soon.

Mr. Olan commented that the paperwork for the application was extensive. It included a non-refundable fee of \$100, a personal history, and a map of the proposed outlet as well as other details about the current operation.

If his plans are accepted Mr. Olan will allocate 550 sq. ft. of retail space and refrigeration to the expansion. That's 50 per cent more than required. He has a contractor working on the details but has no idea of the cost yet.



Does anyone come out of the Castleton General Store these days without ice cream? Jordan Stirling and Jesse Curran arrived with Jesse's papa - and came out with cones.

PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

He decided to make the application after visiting three other outlets, talking to the owners and staff, and giving it a lot of thought. In the end he decided that the people of the community deserved it.

To qualify for an outlet an applicant must be operating an existing retail business. The LCBO prefers a grocery store, general store or tourist operation.

The LCBO sees customer service as a primary objective. It expects the owner to have a plan in place and training done to prevent sales to minors and intoxicated customers. There must be one staff member over age 18 on duty at all times. Mr. Olan was quick to state that this would not mean a cutback in his younger staff, a group he clearly values.

If the deal goes through he will sell liquor and domestic beers. He will also take in returns.

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