

Honor Charlie Thomson's long service to minor sport Saturday night

The citation for Citizen of the Year Charlie Thomson, read at the annual Citizen of the Year dinner and dance Saturday evening, at the music centre:

It was an honor for me to be asked to prepare and deliver the citation for the Citizen of the Year, Charlie Thomson.

It has been my pleasure to be associated with Charlie in many ventures over the years. Much of the credit that was his is finally starting to catch up with him.

The good work he has done has been the type which the children of the town and district see and appreciate but is hidden from some adults. Children often see the obvious while we adults must have it brought to our attention.

It is difficult to think of Charlie without thinking of the Acton Community Centre or the softball diamonds at the same time. He is almost a permanent fixture at these places and sports in Acton has come to depend or actually lean on him.

If there is any type of job to be done—ask Charlie—he'll do it! We need a goal judge—ask Charlie. He'll do it. Who's going to keep score? Ask Charlie. He'll do it.

After several years of that kind of service naturally the minor sports circles depend on him to do hundreds of little jobs in addition to administration work for various leagues, which entails long hours of paper work.

Sometimes we think we are hard done by when we have to walk a few blocks to a store. Think of Charlie. He often hoofs it in from his R. R. 2, Acton home, a distance of four or five miles, depending on which way you travel, so he can help out with some organization like the retarded children or the opportunity classes at the schools.

Not many people know about this side of Charlie Thomson and he's too modest to mention it.

Charlie was born in Scotland—Langham, Dumfriesshire, in the year 1897, scion of an old Scottish family. He was preceded in this country by his great grandfather who was the first white settler in Scarborough township. There's a high school in Scarborough named after his grandparents.

Charlie's father and mother came to Canada while he was still a babe in arms and settled in Collingwood where the father operated a grocery store. The family lived there until Charlie was eight years old, moving to Toronto where he attended public and high school. Naturally he was learning the grocery and butcher business at the same time.

Along came the First World War and Charlie enlisted with the Governor General's Horse Guards as a drummer. He went overseas in 1916, serving in Great Britain until 1917 when his unit returned

to Canada. Then he went back into the grocery business.

In 1921—a banner year for Charlie Thomson—he joined the Canadian Pacific Railway as an office clerk and married Alice Schuster in a Toronto Presbyterian church. Charlie retired from the railway in 1964 after 44 years' service. He is still logging time with his charming wife and she in turn is keeping him on the right track.

Charlie worked for the C.P.R. at the Simcoe St. freight offices in Toronto, raising a family of four children. Then war clouds started to gather. In 1939 and veteran Charlie enlisted in the 48th Highlanders' permanent force after being with the militia for several years. When war was declared on September 3, he was on guard duty at the Exhibition grounds.

When the first Canadian troops left for overseas on the converted fruit ship Delorino Pacific, Charlie was on board. That was in October. He still remembers the loneliness of his first Christmas overseas in London, England.

Charlie was with the 48th when they moved into France to assist the Allied

forces as they retreated from Dunkirk. He remembers the hurried advance and the equally quick retreat.

When Allied forces invaded Sicily, Charlie was in the vanguard with the 48th. It was during the Italian campaign he lost

his hearing. His platoon was moving up when a land mine exploded. Three of his buddies were killed. He was wounded and lost his hearing as well.

After a few days in base hospital he was flown to England to a military hospital to

recover. Afterwards he spent some time as a fire warden in a hospital in Northern England. Later, unable to rejoin his unit, he was a recreation director for troops in the south of England.

Back in Canada in 1945 he was demobbed and went back with the CPK. In 1946 Charlie realized a lifelong dream by moving to the Acton area and a country home.

Burnt out in 1957 he rebuilt the home and continued to commute to work in Toronto. It was about this time he started to get involved in sports in Acton and as a member of the Acton branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

He retired from the railway in 1964 and used the extra time this gave him to become more involved in minor sports. He is or has been at some time over the years actively associated with Legion minor hockey and softball, girls' softball, Tri-County Hockey, Industrial League hockey, and softball, minor soccer, go kart racing, stock car racing, bowling,

intermediate hockey and teaching hockey and skating and softball to the Opportunity classes of the schools.

Feel worn out? Well, in addition to that hive of activity, he gave full scope to a lifelong love of music by singing in various minstrel and western shows produced in Acton as well as in church choirs. Last year he walked with the high school students in their annual cancer walk.

Charlie also has found time to act as a part time sports reporter for the Free Press and he played a large part in the Acton paper's sports award this year.

Charlie still lives at his R. R. 2, home, often walking into town to help out. His family, Vernon, Richmond Hill, Ken, daughter, Sally (Mrs. Peter Bowman) and Arthur, all of R. R. 2 are all here to honor their father and of course, his wife, and two sisters from Toronto.

It is my privilege at this time, ladies and gentlemen, to present you Charlie Thomson, a man who has made Acton a much pleasanter place to live.



THE THOMSON FAMILY HELPS CHARLIE CELEBRATE

OBITUARY

Minnie Somerville spent entire life in district

The only life member of Dublin Women's Institute, Minnie Agnes Somerville, 43 Brock St., passed away in Guelph General Hospital on April 27. She had been ill the past three weeks, and in hospital just five days before her death.

Born March 7, 1885, in Nassagaweya township near Eden Mills, she was a daughter of Efen Somerville and Margaret Jane Cook. When a young girl she moved with the family to the home on No. 25 Sideroad,

Letters to the Editor

COUNCIL DOESN'T SET PLANNERS' SALARIES

Dear Sir:

About a week ago I wrote to the editors of the Acton Free Press and The Milton Champion criticizing Nassagaweya Council for giving an exorbitant raise in pay to the members of the township planning board.

This morning (Apr. 24) I received a phone call from the township clerk informing me that I was in error, i.e., "Council does not set wages for the planning board members."

I learned the extraordinary fact that the planning board sets its own wage scale. I wonder how many of the people who foot the bill for planning board have this same privilege? I offer no apologies. This latest revelation doesn't let our council off the hook. Council is elected to serve the taxpayers' best interests, and signing a blank cheque to any person or persons is not in the best interest of the taxpayers.

If council has nothing to do with planning board's salaries they should have publicly censured the board members for giving themselves an increase which amounts to 250 and 300 per cent over the board's salaries for last year. Are these people aware of the plight of many of our retired taxpayers? In the very near future taxpayers who retire and have their homes paid for will have to let their homes go, as they will not be able to pay their taxes due to spiralling township costs.

No, sir, I don't apologize, I cry shame.

William A. Johnson, R. R. 2, Rockwood.

Record set

Last Saturday's euchre winners at the L.O.L. hall, Crescens Corner, Ladies' high, Florence E. Till; ladies' low, Grace Barker; men's high, Vivian Shaw; men's low, Norman McCord.

Lone hands, F. E. Till (Record of 11); door prize, Ed Trite; ladies' travelling, F. E. Till; men's travelling, D. Swackhammer.

Students learn work of C.N.I.B.

Public school students learned more about the work of the C.N.I.B. at school this week.

On Tuesday Lions Club members and a CNIB representative handed out pamphlets and showed a film at the M. Z. Bennett school. The same program will be presented today (Wednesday) at the Robert Little school.

John Griefeneder new Lion Chief

John Griefeneder was elected to head Acton Lions Club at the annual nomination night Monday. He succeeds the present Lion Chief Ray Evelan in the post, taking office in July.

Other officers elected to office were Neil Miller, first vice president; Art Gordon, second vice president; Steven Wolfe, third vice president; Eppie Mulder, secretary; Bob Hall, treasurer; Art Jones, lion tamer and nominated for tail twister is

John Trotter.

Six names have been submitted for the four directors' posts including Lions Vic Bristow, Dave Hunter, Tom Manes, Ivan Kilby, Peter Papillon and Hartley Coles.

C.N.I.B. representative Bill Lawson addressed the meeting and showed a film on "You and Your Eyes" which will be shown at both public schools in Acton this week.

ADRIAN DOBBIE BURIED AT LIMEHOUSE

Adrian (Osbum) Dobbie, died Thursday at Guelph General Hospital. He was in his 73rd year. Mr. Dobbie was born in Rockwood and had lived in Guelph for the past 25 years. He had been employed at the Guelph Co-Op.

He is survived by one brother, Cameron Dobbie of Grimby, and one sister, Mrs. Gordon Hastings of Knox

Presbyterian Church, Guelph, conducted the funeral service on Saturday at the George Wall Funeral Home, Guelph.

Pallbearers were Murray Reed, Clifford Reed, Robert Mann, Robert Hill, Edgar Lasby and Bert Lindsay.

Burial was in Limehouse Cemetery.



HOLY COW someone muttered when Rev. Harry Dawson had the winning ticket for a much-prized steer skin at the Citizen of the Year dinner. Beardmore and Co. donated the skin to the Chamber of Commerce and company president Norm Braida supervised the draw. —(Staff Photo)

Free Press Local News Items

MUNCH SOME Girl Guide cookies Saturday?

SUNDAY'S SUDDEN heat was a treat. One Actonian caught his thermometer at 85 degrees.

FORMER ACTONIAN Peter Dunham had a part in the Guelph Little Theatre presentation The Making of Moo.

MAPS AND information on the Walkathon May 10 for the Hearing Handicapped were handed out at the Robert Little Open House Monday.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS were taken at the public schools. They'll be contributions for some "Pages from the Past" feature half a century from now!

CANCER CANVASS is winding up this week. Most people have been contacted by now by the volunteers.

LETTERS HAVE been sent to the CBC from this district, protesting the cancellation of the Don Messer show. Dublin W.I. urged letters be written and included the address - CBC, Box 500, Terminal A, Toronto - in last week's write-up of their meeting. One of those from the district who joined the protest is Wellington M.P. Alfred Hales. He wrote that he spoke for thousands of people in his constituency. There's no way of estimating just how many letters have been sent from this district, though.

THOSE WHO have been following the implications of regional government will be interested in what the Minister of Municipal Affairs said in Burlington: "I do not believe the county of Halton can be reformed alone to create an enduring region. If development in the region is to be co-ordinated through a regional plan that provides for adequate roads, sewers, recreational facilities and other services adequate to support the anticipated growth, it is imperative that the political decision making process include all communities with a vital interest in the growth."

THE AVERAGE age of Royal Canadian Legion members at the present time is 53 years.

JUST WHAT'S going on in Halton schools? Parents received copies of the first issue of Halton board's own small newspaper last week to help them understand some of the changes.

THE M. Z. Bennett school auditorium nears completion. Flooring, drapes and air vent system are still to be installed before the school addition's official opening in June.

GLOBE AND Mail columnist Bruce West wrote a nostalgic column on weeks recently. A Miltonian wrote to say where some could be found growing in the area, and Mr. and Mrs. West came out for a visit last week.

OBITUARY

John J. Mellon was foreman

After a lengthy illness, John Joseph Mellon of 151 Mill St., Acton, passed away suddenly in Guelph General Hospital on April 23. Mr. Mellon was warehouse foreman at Beardmore and Co. He was 56 years of age.

A lifetime resident of Acton, Mr. Mellon was born here July 12, 1912, son of the late John Mellon and Agnes Leatham.

In 1941 at Eden Mills he married Ina Barden, who survives him. He also leaves two sons, Ronald and David and a daughter Sharon of Acton, and one grandchild Barbara; a sister Mrs. Beatrice Chew and brother Basil Mellon, Acton.

Funeral mass at St. Joseph's church Saturday morning was conducted by the Rev. V. J. Morgan.

Pallbearers were brothers-in-law Ross Campbell, Edna Mills, Ted Barden, Eden Mills; Allan Barden, Guelph; James McElroy, Guelph and nephews Larry Nolan, Acton and Andy Nolan, Acton. Interment was in Fairview cemetery.

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<p>PEPSODENT</p> <h2>TOOTH PASTE 2</h2> <p>Reg. 65c OR 33c ea.</p>	<p>WEST OATS</p> <h2>ICE CREAM 2</h2> <p>Reg. 35c OR 17c BRICK</p>
<p>FIRST QUALITY</p> <h2>NYLONS</h2> <p>Reg. 3/\$1.00</p> <h3>19c PR.</h3>	<p>COLGATE</p> <h2>TOOTH PASTE</h2> <p>Reg. \$1.25</p> <h3>63c</h3>
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