

Chamber honors Citizen of the Year Dave Dills

The Acton Free Press,
Wednesday, May 3, 1972

Acton Chamber of Commerce has been naming a Citizen of the Year each spring for 14 years now, and for the first time repeated a family name. The initial recipient of the C. of C. honor was G. Arlof Dills, and this year the traditional gold engraved plaque was presented to his older son David.

The annual Chamber of Commerce week highlight was held in the music centre Saturday evening attended by a full house of 140.

The buffet dinner included Chinese food as well as salads and cold cuts, followed by pastries and cakes.

The program was brisk and dancing began about 9.30 to the popular and lively Shaynes.

In charge of arrangements for the gala evening were Allan and Betty Eastwood and Kevin Conroy.

A friend since schooldays, Free Press editor Hartley Coles read the traditional citation, pinch hitting for Billy Middleton, who was unable to attend. Mr. Coles had humorous personal references as well as his outline of groups and projects Dave has been associated with.

Mr. Coles recalled the first Citizen of the Year and observed that Dave Dills apparently inherited the tendencies of his father which were dedicated to community betterment.

Joining Boy Scouts at 12, Dave became a King's scout at 15 and troop leader at 16; and after a stint in the navy during World War II, he became scoutmaster and district



ANGLICAN CHURCH Women president Penny Bristow congratulates Citizen of the Year Dave Dills. She presented one of St. Alban's centennial spoons to Kay Dills. The engraved spoons read "St. Alban's Acton 1872-1972". (Photo by D. Gibbons)

commissioner. He was awarded the Medal of Merit for Services to scouting. He's presently on the Blue Springs advisory committee of the Ontario Scouts.

He was one of the driving forces behind

the scout hall, the community centre and artificial ice project and the centennial library.

He has been director and president of the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association

and chairman of the executive committee of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association, representing weekly newspapers at armed services bases in the States, Germany and France.

He's a past director of the Chamber of Commerce and Y board. He's a 32nd degree Mason, member of Walker Lodge, Guelph City Lodge of Perfection, Guelph chapter Rose Croix and the Moore Sovereign Consistory in Hamilton.

"As a printer's devil," declared Mr. Coles, "it was apparent Dave was a flop. He knew too much." He acquired a taste for the printing and publishing business early in life, as Mr. Dills Sr.'s children were always welcomed in the plant and challenged with an opportunity to be useful.

Although Dave has a flair for journalism, he prefers the practical side of the printing business where his inherent mechanical aptitude stands him in good stead in an increasingly complex field. His mother and brother Jim are associated with him in the family business.

Dave is publisher of the Free Press and president of Dills Printing and Publishing Co.

After a standing ovation, Dave was presented with the engraved plaque given each Citizen of the Year by the Chamber. Ella Nielsen presented the plaque while Betty Eastwood gave a dozen large red roses to Kay Dills.

Dave thanked the Chamber, saying he felt, in the things he had done, that he actually gained more than he gave.

"The work at the Free Press has been something I have enjoyed tremendously but only because of the excellent people working with us and the co-operation of the whole community."

He said that without the fine relationship with his brother Jim (at the Milton end of the business) and the encouragement they both received from their parents, work would have been less pleasant.

On behalf of the Anglican Church Women, their president Penny Bristow presented Kay Dills with one of the attractive silver spoons which commemorate the centennial year of St. Alban's church.

Chairman Paul Nielsen read telegrams and letters of congratulation from Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister of University Affairs George Kerr, M. P. Rud Whiting, the president of the Canadian Community Newspapers Association, Jack Parry of Rimby, Alberta; president of the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association Chuck McKnight of Tilsonburg; and Kitchener television and radio stations.

M.P. Rud Whiting, who attended with his wife Ann, spoke briefly. Mayor Les Duby also added words of personal congratulations.

Mr. Nielsen introduced past Citizens of the Year present, Fred Wright who said Grace, John Goy and Ted Tyler Sr.

Chamber president Roy Goodwin and his wife arrived late, after a wedding. First vice-president Mr. Nielsen substituted as program chairman.

Recreation

At the regular monthly meeting, Thursday, April 20, Acton Parks and Recreation Committee:

— Approved pay increases of \$7 per week for arena manager Harold Townsley, \$8 per week for parks employee Don Price and \$3 per week for parks employee Bob Price.

— Councillor Peter Marks said he would like to see a survey taken this summer to determine the ratio of resident to non-resident use of the park and its facilities.

Decoration day committee named

Decoration Day committee members were elected at a meeting in the library Wednesday of last week. President is Jack Campbell, who represents the I.O.O.F.; secretary Helen Jacque of Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E.; and treasurer David Hunter.

Everything is being arranged for Decoration Day on Sunday, June 4. On June 1 each organization participating is being asked to send someone to dig the holes for the geraniums at the cemeteries.

The next meeting is May 17 at 8 p.m. in the library.

Explain pilot plan

Halton home care project

Over 100 people attended a meeting in Oakville Friday to hear details about a new home care program for Halton County. Those attending were told by government officials the county had been chosen for a pilot project because of the urban-

rural nature of the county. The department of health has offered groups interested in operating a home care program in Halton the opportunity of making a proposal. Home care exists in 28 counties and Halton was about to embark on a

program of its own until the province decided to take over. A three year contract to operate the program in Halton (except for Burlington) will be awarded July 31.

Cheaper

The basic idea behind home care is to allow patients to leave the hospital and receive medical care in their home rather than stay in hospitals. Home care is estimated to cost about \$8 to \$10 per day while hospital care generally runs about \$50 to \$60 per day.

The only function the county Board of Health is apt to have is that of a monitoring body. In that role the board would make checks to be certain operators are meeting criteria set down by the department.



GOLFERS were out in good numbers on the weekend.

SLIGHT sprinkles of rain have laid the dust and nudged up the rhubarb.

NEW lines have been painted on both highways 25 and 7 recently.

THE spring flowers in bloom at the high school are charming.

THE old brick yards at Cheltenham are to be turned into a park.

TWO Free Press regulars wrote their columns while they were sick in bed this week, Gloria Brown and Wendy Thomson. They've got "the show must go on" spirit!

PUSLINCH township will appeal its 1972 levy from Wellington county board of education on the grounds that it is too high. Puslinch's levy was up by \$74,000 and a jump of 15 mills.

TOWN workmen have been busy painting crosswalks in Acton this week.

Charge juvenile stolen cheques

An out-of-town juvenile was summonsed for theft of under \$50, for possession of goods under the value of \$50 and uttering a forged document, in connection with cheques stolen from an Acton church. Charges were laid by Acton O.P.P.

Two local men who threw stones through a window were charged with wilful damage.

APPOINTMENTS are being made for family photographs for St. Alban's centennial picture book, this week.

bargain insurance.

When you buy quality auto insurance these days, it costs more. More than you'd like to pay. Except, if you compare it with everything else you buy now, you just might call it . . . a bargain.

Really. It's gone up a lot less than your suit or your cigarettes or your bus fare or your dry cleaning. A lot less!

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