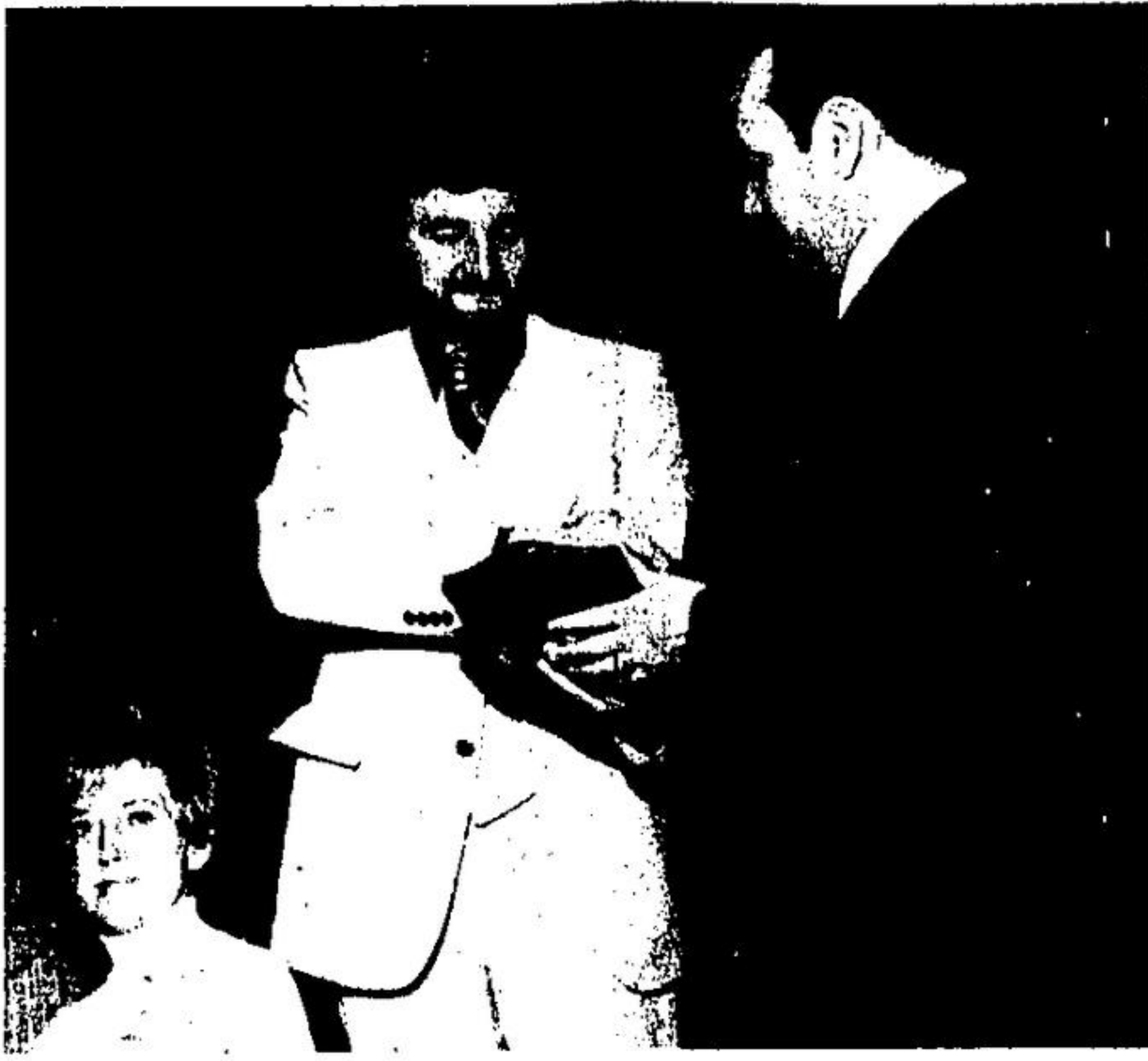




CITIZENS OF THE year for 1975 are the Ontario Provincial Police detachment. Photo, top left. Chamber of Commerce president Mike Worthington, deputy commissioner of Ontario J. L. Erskine and superintendent Eric Code took part in honoring the force. Front, Mrs. Helen Ma-



son also received a plaque; her husband was in charge of the O.P.P. here for many years. Right, Corp. Bob Arbour. Centre photo. Accepting Chamber of Commerce plaque is Corp. Bob Arbour. Chamber of Commerce president Mike Worthington makes the presentation. Right photo.



Special plaque honoring the late Corp. Ray Mason is accepted by Helen Mason at the Citizen of the Year dinner Saturday. Mike Worthington, Chamber president, makes the presentation.

### The Magnificent Seven

## Entire police force lauded

Acton's entire O.P.P. detachment accepted the thanks of a grateful community Saturday at the annual Citizen of the Year dinner. When Les Doby finished his address to the honored guest, 150 people rose their feet in spontaneous applause.

The police were chosen as this year's Joint Citizens of the Year and each man on the force was ceremoniously presented with a specially engraved plaque. The O.P.P. have been stationed here since 1949, but they will leave the end of August when Halton Regional Police are due to take over duties in Acton.

The seven tall, impressive men of the force with their wives and friends filled almost all the entire head table Saturday.

**Presentations**  
Chamber of Commerce president Mike Worthington presented the usual Citizen of the Year plaque to Corp. Bob Arbour who in turn genially introduced all his force and gave each man an individual plaque—Cons. Bruce McArthur, Dave Boyes, Murray McCrace, Ron Barrett, Bob Wilcott and Duncan McAleese. "The Magnificent Seven," Mr. Worthington called them.

Another plaque was also struck and this was presented as a happy surprise to Helen Mason, widow of the late Corp. Ray Mason who was in charge of the O.P.P. here from 1950 until his death in August 1971. Mr. and Mrs. Mason have two sons who are police officers. Mrs. Mason accepted the plaque honoring her husband.

"This is a real uplift to the detachment," said Corp.

Arbour. "I echo the thoughts of the officers... everybody's sad about leaving, but if you're on the force you've got to move on."

**Guests**  
Distinguished guests were the Deputy Commissioner of the O.P.P. J. L. Erskine, with his wife, and Superintendent Eric Code of O.P.P. district 3, Burlington.

Deputy Commissioner Erskine said the local force has brought great honor on the O.P.P.

Superintendent Code made a surprise presentation of the John Davy Memorial award for the best pistol shots in the district. This huge silver trophy comes to Acton for the second year in a row. "They told me we'd never get it back!" gloated Corp. Arbour.

Previous winners are Burlington, Oakville and Milton. All the men of each detachment compete twice a year.

**Predecessors**  
Two men who policed Acton before the O.P.P. came were present, Grant Allan, Lake Ave., and Cec Gibbons, who is now Staff Sergeant with the O.P.P. at Owen Sound.

Also here was Art Forester, superintendent of the O.P.P. at Chatham, who was one of the original O.P.P. stationed here. With him was his wife, the former Kay Robertson.

Councillor Les Doby expressed the best wishes of mayor Tom Hill who was out of the country.

**M.P. remarks**  
M.P. Dr. Frank Philbrook read a telegram of congratulations from the Prime Minister and brought his personal greetings. He and his wife Midge left before the dancing to attend another event in Oakville, although he

admitted he'd like to have heard the Question Marx—since there are so many of them in Ottawa.

This is a great country, Dr. Philbrook said, with its traditions of law and order. He had practised medicine in countries in Asia where the police were much feared. Calling the police was a last resort.

The police are fully professional alongside other professions, he said.

**Life member**  
Roy Goodwin presented an honorary life membership in the Chamber to long-time member Fred Wright. Mr. Wright, who had been hiking that morning on the Bruce Trail, usually says the Grace at Chamber dinners and Saturday was no exception. He is still in business although over 80 years of age.

Bert Hinton praised Betty Eastwood's energy and interest and presented her with a certificate of appreciation. He also added thanks to Allan Eastwood who helped his wife a great deal while she was secretary and then president of the Chamber. They now live in Rockwood.

A telegram of regrets was read from M.P.P. George Kerr.

The hall was decorated with police mementos—letters from school children and pictures of past events. A one and only trophy struck especially for the Acton detachment—a beer bottle mounted in cement by pranksters—was decorated with carnations for the occasion.

The plaque given to Corp. Arbour will go to Burlington district headquarters, where there is a display case, when the detachment moves out of Acton at the end of August.

# The Acton Free Press

One Hundredth Year — No. 44 ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1975 Thirty Pages — Fifteen Cents.

New grants could save us \$200,000

A change in grant structure could drop the cost of the new Georgetown pool and arena, and repairs to Acton arena roof, by as much as \$200,000.

Under the old grants, the maximum the province would pay toward the arena, under the Community Centres Act, was \$20,000. Under the new system, the town is now eligible for \$150,000.

The total cost of the arena when everything is included, is close to \$900,000.

The pool may have its grant upped from \$15,000 to \$75,000. The total cost of the pool is approximately \$550,000.

Repairs to the roof of Acton arena may now be eligible for a \$17,000 grant. The total cost is \$70,000.

Tennis courts would also come under the new grant structure and would be eligible for a 27 percent grant.

Recreation Director Collison termed a meeting last week at Queen's Park with E. Belfrey, Executive Officer of the Community Centres Section of the Ministry of Social Services, was "well worthwhile".

The application for the increased grants has yet to be approved.

## Work begins Fri. new arena roof

Gaping holes appear this week on the arena as Welton Construction, Guelph, begins the weeks-long task of replacing the whole roof.

Work actually began Friday, and it's expected to be finished in July. There had been a slight delay waiting for materials.

The workmen work on one section at a time.

The old tin roofing is removed and new two by 12

boards are laid against the old ones in the roof. Insulation will be laid out in big rolls before the new steel roofing goes on.

The workmen don't want to leave too much exposed at once.

**Cancelled**  
There are no programs in the arena until the new roof is on. Roller skating, dances, gun shows and wrestling are all forgotten. Lacrosse games

and practices are being held in Georgetown.

One gun show which would have been in the arena was held at the Legion hall.

Acton council first initiated the roof project several years ago but other priorities took precedence. Halton Hills council then took over.

## To contact dog owners

Acton is on the list for door-to-door calls from the dog control officer, George Herrington and his assistant Joe Curley contacted dog owners door-to-door in Georgetown last year, and this year they are doing the same thing in Esqueping. All dogs are required to have tags.

Acton is next, Mr. Herrington thinks.

He says the response of dog owners purchasing tags is good.

## All invited to sign book

All those present at the Citizen of the Year dinner Saturday signed the blank pages at the back of the booklet presented to Corp. Bob Arbour. The first of the book contains the citation read by last year's Citizen of the Year, former mayor Les Doby.

Since many others in town might also like to express their appreciation to the O.P.P. in some way, this booklet will remain in the town office on Mill St. until May 9. Everyone will be welcome to drop in and sign.

## Men away — no mice

When the cat's away, the mice will play? It didn't happen in town Saturday night, anyway, when all the members of the police force were off duty at once. They were guests of honor at the Citizen of the Year dinner at the golf course.

Substitute "cats" had been sent in from Burlington and the three out-of-town men worked two shifts here.

The night was "quiet" with only one call that "didn't amount to much."

## All those ducks are loose again

All the ducks kept penned during the past weeks are now gone, according to arena manager Harold Townsley. The hybrid ducks have been culled from the flock, and the wild ducks have been let loose at several locations including Bronte and Guelph.

Several hundred ducks had been wintering at the dam on Fairy Lake over Beardmore's water intake. Some 70 or so were trapped and kept in a barn in hopes of improving the quality of Beardmore water.

## Town gives blessing to Acton Tennis Club

The Acton Tennis Club got the go-ahead from Halton Hills administration committee to operate on the same basis as the Georgetown Tennis Club.

Councillor Les Doby said the club wanted to start playing right away, since the courts are completed.

Recreation Director Doug Collison said the club wants council's approval of their constitution and rates, just as they do with the Georgetown club.

He advised a condition be included in case the club folds, where any money in the treasury be returned to the town to be held in trust for three years before being incorporated in general funds. "This is to give a new

club starting up again some funds to go on.

Collison said he was working with the Acton club to draw up time schedules, and by-laws.

"I hope the courts are available to people outside of Acton," said Councillor Roy Booth.

Collison said it would be Acton and district club just as Georgetown has members from the surrounding area.

He recommended the voting age for members be raised from the proposed 14 to 18, pointing out it is conceivable there would be many more juniors than seniors.

Collison stressed there would be junior members on the executive, the same as the Georgetown club.

## Music festival

Spring is music festival time for the public schools and this year's festival will be at the M. Z. Bennett school, Acton on Wednesday, May 7. Adjudicator will be Elaine Mason of the North York board of education.

Schools entered are M. Z. Bennett and Robert Little of Acton; Wrigglesworth of Georgetown; Martin St., Robert Bakwin of Milton; Brookville, Glen Williams, Limehouse, Stewarttown, Fairview and Percy Merry schools.

M. Z. Bennett student Karen Glenn will introduce the adjudicator and board of education trustee Tom Watson will bring the board's greetings.

Visitors are welcome to come and listen to the festival which begins at 9 a.m. and lasts a full day.

Classes include triple duet, triple trio, primary, intermediate, junior and senior choirs and boys' choir.

## No one shows — meeting cancelled

For the second time in a row, the Acton Recreation Advisory Committee meeting was cancelled due to poor attendance.

The meeting was to be held at Stewarttown Hall last Thursday evening but no one showed up except John Cooper, recreation coordinator, and the Free Press reporter.

Pete Papillon and Ed Wood had previously informed Mr. Cooper they could not make the meeting. Mr. Wood was on the night shift where he works, and Mr. Papillon was out of town.

Diane Spielvogel made phone calls on the night of the meeting and discovered that only Pam Sheldon and herself were going to make the meeting. Mrs. Spielvogel then

got in touch with Mr. Cooper, who by this time was at Stewarttown, via a messenger to say there was no use holding the meeting with only two present.

Mrs. Spielvogel also suggested a meeting be held tomorrow night (Thursday) to make up for the two cancelled ones.

## Application for rest home

Plans are still underway to locate a rest home in the former Legion hall. An application to extend the existing residential zoning is going before the Committee of Adjustment.



SMOKE COULD BE SEEN from the Lakeview subdivision (background) as Acton Volunteer Firefighters fought a grass fire on the First Line, Acton yesterday (Tuesday) at suppertime. It

was the fourth grass fire in a week. While firefighters were at this fire, another call was made by remaining firefighters to the home of Danny Arbic. He had a chimney fire.



NEW LIFE member of Acton Chamber of Commerce Fred Wright chats with Betty Eastwood who received a certificate of appreciation.