

Scout and Guide Week



AN AWARD FOR BEING active in the community, school, church, home and scouting was presented by retiring District Commissioner Gord Douglas to Jock Garton of Acton at last week's ceremony.

Awards presented at special meeting

The first of two awards nights to be held this year to honor Halton Hills' area scouts was held last week in the Gordon Alcott Arena Hall, Georgetown. Parents and leaders turned out to watch the 11 awards being presented to those judged deserving.

District Commissioner, Gord Douglas, who will be retiring from scouting in the near future, was honored to be able to present the District Commissioner's Award to Jock Garton of Acton who recently became a scout. He earned the award last year as a wolf cub.

Five Georgetown cubs received their Five Stars at the special ceremony. Jamie Beecker, Michael Darke, Scot Peek and Glen Price of the 1st Georgetown, along with Jim Witmeier of the 4th Georgetown accepted stars from Jack Kent of the Green Acres Region, provincial office.

Ten years of scouting was rewarded with the presentation

of the Queen's Venturer class to David Hannah of the 5th Georgetown. Four years in cubs, three years as a scout and another three years as a venturer enabled David to become a Queen's Venturer. He was also selected to attend the annual scouting Jamboree in Norway last summer.

From Acton, the Pathfinder Award went to Scout Jim Saxon and the 5th Star went to Ricky Dodds and Blake Norton.

Scouts were not the only ones chosen to receive awards. For ten years of faithful and efficient service, two area leaders received 10 year pins. Steve Gemesi of Glen Williams and Fred Giles of the 2nd Georgetown were surprised when the award was presented.

Most of the cubs had been in scouting three years and during that time showed above average interest and dedication to the goals and objectives in scouting.



BLAKE NORTON, Ricky Dodds, Jock Garton and Jim Saxon took four scouting awards for Acton. Jack Kent, assistant provincial commissioner made the presentation.

New hall will reunite groups

by Mark Rowe
The Acton Scout and Guide Associations are by far the luckiest ones for many miles around. Before this year we had the only hall of our own in the district and now we have two halls of our own. What more could a group ask for, except a few more leaders?

On October 28, 1949, Hodenosawnee was officially opened as the "new Scout Home." It was built under the direction of Scoutmaster Wm. Middleton and chairman John Goy. Now the Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides of Acton could meet under one roof.

On February 22, 1976, Hodenosawnee Two will be officially opened by Donald McDonald. The general public are invited to attend the 7:30 p. m. ceremony.

One may ask, "Why the second hall?"

Groups are growing
In the early winter of 1975 it was realized that the Scouting and Guiding families in Acton needed to expand. There was a new Beaver colony, a crowded Cub pack, a growing Scout troop, two bulging Brownie packs and two Guide companies.

A Venturer company was also slated to start the next month. The one Guide company had to meet at the Robert Little School as it was.

Well, the Scout group committee began to put feelers out and found active support of the idea. Then Akela Frank Goulding started the plans moving by acquiring a pre-fab house from Beaver Lumber, kindly

donated. Everyone was hooked on the idea now.

But summer arrived and possible volunteers went off on holidays.

Progress
Finally in late July, thanks to hard work by the committee chairman, the basement was started. Things continued to progress slowly. On September 6, a work bee was held at the hall, which saw the basement tarred, walls and roof trusses go up.

Meanwhile, the third Brownie pack was formed and had to meet at the The work continued every weekend until it was closed in.

We had it licked once the roof was on. Insulation and preliminary panelling came next, along with the electricity. It was decided to heat the room with space heaters.

Untold hours of volunteer labour on weekends and after work began to pay off. The Beaver colony was the first group to use the new hall after the new year. Then the third Brownie pack switched from the school to the more convenient hall. The newly formed Ranger company recently moved in as well. The newest group to begin using it is the Acton "B" Wolf Cub pack.

In the fall, times will be rearranged so that the second Acton Guide company, still meeting at the school, will be able to meet here as well.

Then, once again, the entire Acton Scout and Guide Associations will be under one roof.

Scout, Guide mothers busy

Scout and Guide Mothers... who are they? Interested people!

Mothers: do you know... When you allow your child to join the Scout and Guide movement you automatically become a member of the Scout and Guide Mothers.

The executive is elected each year at a pot luck supper. Members attend monthly meetings, support fund-raising activities and are willing to be phone or lunch conveners.

The Scout and Guide Mothers held several fund-raising functions in 1975, a booth at Acton fair, a dance in October, and a quilt draw.

Funds
They raised funds for uniforms for girl leaders, neckerchiefs for scouts, cubs and beavers, transportation to church parades, purchase of flags, refreshments for special events at the scout hall such as apple and cookie day. They will be supplying lunch for the opening of the

new addition this Sunday. They take care of the annual banquet for the Scout and Guide movement and present gifts to the Scouts and Guides who earn top awards.

"We are only as strong as the members who support us," say the members. Needed are ability, loyalty, sincerity, enthusiasm and co-operation. They are looking forward to "making 1976 the year to learn to lend a hand"

Diamond anniversary of Scouting in Acton

by Mark Rowe

The first Acton Scout troop is now celebrating its 60th year in Acton.

Scouting was incorporated in 1914 in Canada. In October of 1915 Scoutmaster Hammond of Toronto came to speak at St. Alban's. "I've never seen a Scoutmaster so strongly in favor of the organization of a corps of Boy Scouts for Acton."

Well, that sparked off enthusiasm. The Acton Free Press issue of November 11, 1915 said, "A meeting of the Local Council of the Boy Scouts Association was held in the Parish Hall on Monday night. Capt. A. O. T. Beardmore presided. It was decided to start a troop in town - to be known as the Acton Troop - open to all boys in town aged 10 years to 18 years. Rev. C.H.E. Smith, M.A. was appointed Scoutmaster with S. George assistant."

The troop's first task was gathering paper as reported on December 2, 1915, for the war effort.

Honors

The troop brought honors to Acton when, at the Toronto Exhibition, the Duke of Connaught chose them as the best dressed group and gave them the honor of being the color party to lead the Grand Parade.

Many, many years have passed since Scouting's inception in Acton. The town and people in it have changed dramatically. Even the Scout movement has changed. The famous image, uniforms of Scouts, have also been replaced with modern versions. But the lads in those uniforms are the same.

Some psychologists and others may disagree but all leaders will tell you definitely that the ideals and programs as suggested by Lord Baden-Powell in 1910 are just as valid today.

Many members

The numbers of boys and men that can say they were in first Acton Scouts are quite astronomical. The halls changed frequently as well. From St. Alban's and the Knox to Beardmore and finally the golden day when we had our own hall.

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AND MANY OTHERS

The general public are cordially invited to the official opening of the Scout Hall addition on Sunday, February 22nd at 7:30 p.m.

Thank You,
Acton Scout and Guide Associations

SCOUT-GUIDE WEEK

FEBRUARY 15th to 22nd

1st ACTON

"Being Prepared" for over 60 YEARS