



Obituary

Dean Gibbons was 1962 Citizen of Year

A former Citizen of the Year in 1962, Madeleine (Dean) Gibbons died Wednesday, February 11 in the hospital where she trained and served, St. Michael's Toronto.

She was one of the town's best-loved citizens; many this past week have been exchanging stories of how Dean helped them and their children.

Born in Acton, August 7, 1900, Miss Gibbons first worked as a clerk in the Henderson-McLean drug store after graduating from Acton public and continuation schools.

Ambition
She entered St. Michael's Hospital School of Nursing in Toronto in 1926 and fulfilled a life-long ambition by graduating as a registered nurse in June, 1929. One of 10 special award winners in the graduating class, she received the Duncan McDougald prize for efficiency in bedside nursing.

Miss Gibbons spent the next 14 years of her life caring for and comforting the sick at St. Michael's, the hospital she loved. For most of those years she was in charge of the hospital's nursery. Hospital officials estimate that some 15,000 babies came under her care during that time. Persons she aided at birth, their families and relatives were among the many, who called to express their sympathy at her passing last week.

Her full name was Mary Aloysius Madeleine, but to her friends in Acton she was "Dean". Youngsters even called her "Aunt Dean". Doctors and nurses at St. Michael's, however, wouldn't have known who "Dean" was. Around the hospital she was affectionately known as "Gibby".

Returned home
When her mother Mary Jane passed away in 1942, she returned home to Acton to care for her father Thomas. Two years later, she began work as a clerk at Cooper's drug store where she was well known for the advice she passed on to first time mothers, anxious to know if it would hurt their infants to cry too much, what to feed them etc. She gave many of Acton's citizens their first bath.

Miss Gibbons continued as a drug store clerk at the same Mill St. location, where the present Bank of Commerce is situated, first for Ken Elsley, then Harold Morris, after the Cooper business was sold. Most recently she clerked for Bill Yundt at Acton Pharmacy. She complete 30 years as a clerk when she retired in the fall of 1974. Fellow employees honored her with a retirement party at that time.

Acton Fall Fair day was always a "red letter" date on Miss Gibbons' calendar. Each year she would take a couple of hours from a busy Saturday at the drug store to act as a judge at the Fall Fair baby show.

Parishioners at St. Joseph's Catholic Church knew her not only for her faithful attendance at Mass and devotions, but also as a leader, one who could be depended upon to organize church social functions. She served as president of the Catholic Women's League and once sang in the church choir. When wedding breakfasts were common at St. Joseph's during the pastorate of Father Morgan,



she usually took charge of preparing the meals. Although very close to the parish her family had always been part of, Miss Gibbons was a friend of people of all faiths. They came to her for help and were always looked after. She used her nursing experience to good advantage locally to assist the St. John Ambulance in their training program and Red Cross with blood clinics.

She had been hospitalized at St. Michael's for six weeks prior to Christmas for diag-

Can spring be far behind?

Lind Hill Farms on Highway 24 is knee deep in animal babies these days. George Lindblad (above) admires a pair of handsome spotted twin lambs, part of his 50 ewe herd. This bright baby bunny (left) poses for the camera while Tammy the young goat (right) isn't too sure. The piece de resistance at Lind Hill is 4000 hysterical baby chicks swarming like bees at every sight and sound.

With lambing season well under way and balmy temperatures like those we've had recently, can spring be far behind?



Public maintain rinks?

Outdoor skating rinks came under discussion once again at the Acton and Esquimes Recreation Advisory Committee meeting Thursday evening.

Recreation program coordinator John Cooper had asked the group their opinion on whether the town should set up and maintain the rinks, or whether individual groups of people or clubs should take care of them.

Mr. Cooper explained that it takes two or three men one entire day to set up a rink, and it has to be flooded two times a week. He pointed out that the rinks are maintained from the middle of December to the middle of February or March.

Do it themselves
Pam Sheldon was strongly opposed to the town men maintaining the facilities. She said she thought if the "kids want to skate had enough they will do the work themselves."

Mary Ann Barrow did not think the rinks were worth the money and bother, while

Peter Papillon thought Fairy Lake should be put to some use as a skating rink.

Mr. Cooper explained that there could be legal liabilities on the lake. Mrs. Barrow said the townmen would be at Prospect Park anyway, and they could test the ice for thickness, and thus safeness.

Mr. Papillon suggested a recommendation to council that the town men set up the rinks and the people maintain them. All the committee members agreed with this suggestion.

Mr. Cooper pointed out there are two outdoor rinks in Acton, four in Georgetown and one at Pineview school (which is maintained by the school). He explained that such places as Limehouse and Speyside could not have rinks because of the question of water.

Mr. Cooper said \$30,000 was spent last year on the six rinks, making it \$5,000 each to set up and maintain.

Mrs. Sheldon suggested making the rinks available

and giving the people a choice of whether they want to shovel the snow themselves or pay 35 cents and go to the arena. She pointed out that if the town wants to cut back on money this is a good place to do so.

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February

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All Welcome

Gordon Sinclair praises

In his radio news broadcast on CFRB Thursday Gordon Sinclair spoke of Dean Gibbons. Surprised Acton listeners were happy to hear her praises sung by this distinguished broadcaster.

Here is what Mr. Sinclair said, courtesy of CFRB: News - 10 to 12—February 12, 1976.

"A nurse who handled literally thousands of new born babies during her 15 years as Head of the nursery at St. Michael's Hospital has died at that hospital."

Madeline Gibbons retired from the hospital to Acton when her mother died about 30 years ago.

"I don't know what ailment she suffered but she was brought into St. Michael's Tuesday and didn't make it."

On Madeline's return to Acton she was hailed there as woman of the year."

Obituary

Harvey Palmer dies

After a lengthy illness, Harvey Wilfred Palmer died in Guelph General Hospital

Obituary

Ainley Croft dies



Ainley Croft

At the remarkable age of 94 years and seven months, Richard Ainley Croft passed away Feb. 6 at the Wellington Terrace, Elora. He had only been confined to bed for four days before his death.

Mr. Croft was born at R.R.1, Rockwood, on Nov. 23, 1880. He was a farmer and after retiring from the farm worked as a laborer for the Department of Highways. He had been at Wellington Terrace for the past two and a half years and before that lived on Station St. in Rockwood.

He was married in 1908 to Mary Baynton, who predeceased him in 1948.

Survivors
He is survived by daughter Agnes (Mrs. Wm. Blacklock) Guelph; brother Stanley, Toronto and sisters Laura (Mrs. W. A. Couling) Guelph; Lillian (Mrs. Roy Alan) Guelph; Ethel (Mrs. Thos. Mitchell) Campbellville and Ida Croft, Guelph. He was

predeceased by brothers Alfred and Ernest.

Funeral services were Feb. 9 at the Wall chapel, Guelph, conducted by the Rev. Garfield Rees. Interment was in Rockwood cemetery. Pallbearers were five nephews and one grandson, George Mitchell, Rockwood; Charles Mitchell, Campbellville; Don Croft, Rockwood; Leslie Alan, Guelph; John Blacklock, Guelph and Jack Baynton, Campbellville.

Obituary

Former Acton man dies in Bracebridge

A Highland lament played on the bagpipes was the final tribute to the late George Brownlee, played by his son, Glen, at the funeral service last Friday morning in Knox Presbyterian Church, Bracebridge.

Monday February 2, George Robert Brownlee died at South Muskoka Memorial Hospital, following a short illness.

Born near Acton, the son of the late Robert and Letitia Storey Brownlee, George went with his family to Toronto as a boy, and there was educated, including his degree and teacher's training at the University of Toronto. He also later qualified for the degree B. Ed., in his long and rich career in the public school system of the Borough of York.

Career
Mr. Brownlee was a teacher for 30 years, 27 of them as principal. This included shorter terms at Harwood, Roseland George Syme schools, and for some time as principal of Silverthorne Public School.

Sports were always one of his great interests, and he coached baseball and basketball teams in the schools. He also coached minor hockey teams, during the years he lived in Woodbridge, and was the manager of the Silverthorne Ladies' Softball team.

He had served as a director of the Northwest Y.M.C.A.; was a past president of the York Township Business and Professional Men's Association, and an elder in the Woodbridge-Presbyterian Church.

It was in 1941 that he met and married Norma McLellan, of Westmount, Quebec, who survives him, with their two sons, Glen, of Richmond Hill and Warren of Toronto. He is also survived by one sis-

ter, Frances, Mrs. George McAllister, of Bracebridge. After retirement, the Brownlees lived in Thornhill for five years before moving to Bracebridge.

Service
The Rev. James Thomson conducted the funeral service at Knox Church on Friday morning, and the interment, Friday afternoon, was at the Nassagaweya Presbyterian church cemetery, near Guelph.

The pall bearers were Major G. Edward McLellan, of Montreal, Harold Royce, of

Guelph and Archie McLellan of Arthur, all relatives; Keith McLellan of Bracebridge and longtime friend from Woodbridge, Lionel Davis and Victor Mills, associates in the Senior Citizens' Club.

Affectionate tribute was made to Mr. Brownlee by his many friends in the Senior Citizens' Club, at a memorial service, on Thursday afternoon in Bracebridge.

Mr. Brownlee had been busily engaged with the work of the club, and other activities, right up until he was taken ill.

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