

PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



Most Acton residents know Garnet "Pat" McKenzie as a councillor, retired school principal and a name on the new McKenzie-Smith Middle School.

However, for nearly 40 years, Pat has been so active in the Y's Men he was elected international president in 1963.

Working on local, national and world-wide levels for this well-known off-shoot organization of the YMCA has given Pat and his wife Mary a chance to see a great deal of the world.

The McKenzies have been to Europe three times covering most continental countries and Pat says he's been to every state in the U.S. and every province of Canada. Visitors from many lands have relaxed in the Jeffrey St. residence of the McKenzies. Local visitors are able to enjoy the many artifacts and presentations from other countries displayed in the McKenzie home.

Local President in '51
It all started when Pat came to Acton as principal of Robert Little School, then simply known as Acton Public, in 1939 and joined the Y's Men shortly thereafter. The Acton Y's Men received their charter in 1940.

By 1951, the Y's Men of Acton had built to 39 members, where it was held by means of a waiting list. Pat was also elected president that year.

He was sent to the International convention of the YMCA and Y's Men in Cleveland Ohio, "thoroughly enjoyed" himself and got involved.

By '54 he was made district governor representing central Ontario. In '57 he became regional director for Ontario and was on the International Board at the convention in Santa Monica, California.

Following this Pat was elected area vice president in charge of Eastern America and all of South America, getting his communications translated into Spanish as a matter of course.

By 1963, Pat was elected International President at a convention in Buffalo, New York, at which 20 Actonites attended. At that time he was responsible for Y's Men's clubs in 44 countries. Now the Y's Men—and the "Y" have spread to 50 countries.

Two years later, Pat was in Tanganyika and met the General Secretary of the YMCA who just happened to have a brother studying at the University of Guelph. What followed was a valuable friendship between people half a world apart.

During his tenure as president, Pat had the dubious task of writing condolences to Mrs. John Kennedy after the President was assassinated. He also had the great pleasure of desegregating the Y's Men's Clubs in the southern States by changing constitutional clauses and chartering the first all Black Y's Men club in Dallas, Texas.

Many local accomplishments
Pat is particularly proud of the accomplishments of the Y's Men in Acton since they were the first service club in the forties and fifties till today when they are one of several such organizations in a growing town.

The Y's Men sold Christmas trees supplied by Mansel Nellis for several years. They have been in charge of Halloween UNICEF collections and have rarely given less than a \$1000 per year to the charity organization.

The Y's Men built a portable dance floor for the arena and Pat has sore memories of lugging the heavy floor pieces into place.

For 30 years the club has held an auction and hosted many Halloween parties for youngsters in the arena. Swimming classes were transported to Guelph before the Acton Pool was built. The swimming area at the park was created courtesy of the Y's Men.

Support for the YMCA is the top priority of the Y's Men and this they do locally very well.

Social activities include Ladies' Nights, "fun and fellowship", and organizing groups to attend Regional and District conferences and conventions. Bridge tournaments are held competing for their own trophy, the "Bean Pot".

For his own contribution to the organization, Pat has twice been awarded with a coveted world award for contribution to the Y's Men. Only five of these awards are issued all over the world yearly.

The 50th anniversary edition of the International Y's Men's Club newsmagazine honors Pat as one of the builders of the organization.

A lifetime shared
A lifetime of experience around the world has been shared by Pat McKenzie. Mary accompanied him on trips whenever possible—on the seven week drive to California, during the long trips around Europe.

She chuckles when she remembers being escorted around Norway by two men who spoke little English and who were quite unknown to her.

She says she always takes her knitting on these trips but never gets much knitting accomplished—for some strange reason.

Daughter Kathy has had an education by proxy from every corner of the world, and now the McKenzie grandchildren will be able to enjoy the stories.

Pat is currently working on the Y's Men scholarship fund as Canadian Director and a trustee. He hopes to attend the international convention in Stockholm in 1980 and Korea in '82.

Pat McKenzie, councillor, teacher, mason, church elder and ambassador bringing Acton to the world and the world to Acton through the Y's Men—a truly Wise man.



An overturned Superior Propane truck and a ditched LynLine Gravel Truck caused one lane of Highway 25 north of Speyside to be closed for a while on Monday morning. The Propane Truck, driven by Bruce Thomason, of Guelph, was apparently making a left hand turn from the north bound lane when a second vehicle, a Datsun driven

by John Ahearne, Meadvale Rd., Acton attempted to pass. The third vehicle, the gravel truck driven by Henry Cuffy of Scarborough was in collision with the Propane Truck. An estimate \$25,000 damage was done to the Propane truck and \$13,000 to the Lynline vehicle. No one was seriously injured in the mishap.

Board after vandals

Halton's Board of Education plans to cash in on a seldom used section of the Criminal Code while deterring vandalism.

Criminal Code section 553 is entitled "Compensation for loss of property" and Halton hopes to use it to pay the approximately \$120,000 vandalism, bill each year.

The law was brought to the board's attention by Milton Trustee Ivan Armstrong who learned of its use in Peel Region. There the cost of vandalism in the school is in the \$200,000 range.

"I think this will act as a deterrent to more vandalism," Armstrong told trustees. It will also recover some of the money.

Halton Business Superintendent Bruce Lindley said the administration is aware of the law and will implement it where possible. The problem with the application of the law, he said, is that when a judgement is delivered someone, possibly a solicitor, would have to attend to ask for such a judgement.

Under Section 553 the victim must apply at the time of sentencing to have the guilty person pay for the loss of or damage to property. One version of the Peel Region approach would have a restitution order stand against the guilty party until full payment.

is made and would permit garnishees and other recovery actions. Halton police commission Glen Magnuson welcomes the school board's

action. "I certainly agree with exploring this avenue as a deterrent, not only for schools but other places."

Change speeds livestock claims

Halton Hills general committee have accepted a recommendation that the claims submitted under the Dog Licensing Livestock and Poultry Protection Act be processed by staff and not brought individually to council. Council will only be notified when the budgetted amount is nearing.

The act makes council responsible for paying set fees where livestock or poultry have been killed or injured by dogs or wolves.

Councillor Patterson referred to the system as inept when it comes to prosecution of those not paying the dog taxes. "Some people honestly pay the dog taxes and others just laugh at the Animal Control. Everyone with a dog should have to pay," he said.

In response to Patterson's statement, Ray King, town Treasurer, said he agreed the system of prosecution has certain flaws but he wouldn't call it inept. "We have found the number of licenses in 1979 is greater than '78 and the same from '77.

Truck found

Halton Regional Police have located a 1977 black Ford Truck which was stolen last Tuesday, October 9.

The truck was reported stolen at 10.15 a.m. from Main St. It was later recovered by police with no apparent damage.

OMB rezones Park

Leishman Park is no more. The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) approved a Halton Hills bylaw which rezones the Mill St. E. property to residential from its traditional open space category.

Acton Councillor Ross Knechtel, who represented a group of 45 families at the OMB hearing August 29, said residents were disappointed with the board's decision. "But we have to accept the decision. We think the policy on this piece of property, is very short sighted."

Residents wanted to keep the acre of land, at

the corner of Mill St. and Acton Blvd., for parkland.

Halton Hills, on the other hand, presented evidence and testimony from its planning, recreation and engineering departments which indicated the rezoning to residential class would have Leishman Park fit its surroundings.

The Leishman Park area residents argued through lawyer Bruce Payne that the land is needed for recreation use. School grounds near by, which are used for recreation, could be withdrawn at the whim of the school board, they argued. The OMB was

also asked to consider the weight the intention of the gift of the land that it be known as Leishman Park.

Halton Hills countered with the argument that the neighborhood's recreation needs are met by the western portion of Bovis Park, north of Leishman property.

The condition of the Bovis Park was questioned by the citizens at the OMB hearing. "I hope the town intends to carry out its promise regarding Bovis Park," commented Councillor Knechtel. "The town has indicated it wants to make Bovis Park into a park. It's just vacant space at the moment. If it's going to be called a park it needs considerable development."

The OMB decision clears the way for Halton Hills to carry out an exchange of land with the Rugby Construction Company of Cooksville.

The town owns the Leishman Park lands, which the company would like: while Rugby owns acreage near Fairy Lake, off Elizabeth Drive, which the town can put to recreational use.

The OMB concluded the extent of development on Bovis Park for recreation use, and just when that takes place is none of its business. The board, states its decision, is satisfied that the potential is there for such development if it is needed and funds are available.

Lawson advises sponsors

Halton School Board vice-chairman Bill Lawson gave some free advice to groups planning to help the Boat People.

"Groups should be prepared to put up volunteers to help them (Vietnamese) assimilate into the system," Lawson said during Thursday's board meeting at Burlington.

The vice-chairman's advice came after his praise for the manner in which Milton's W.I. Dick school has provided for the two Vietnamese children in attendance there.

"I'm impressed with the way the school provides for the children. They've a paraprofessional for a half-day," said the trustee.

Lawson went on to say that if sponsoring groups have education committees; it is hoped volunteers would accompany the children.

Halton expects about 34 Vietnamese families.

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Acton residents given awards

Several Acton people were honored last Wednesday evening at a special Red Cross Blood Donors Awards night in Georgetown.

G. Hargrave received recognition for having made 50 blood donations, and D.E. Hall and H. Kleindieders for 35 donations.

Volunteer pins were presented to Mrs. Anne Arnold, Mrs. Courtney, Ric Devlin, Mrs. Fitzer, Mrs. Helen Gardner, Mrs. Pat Garton, Mrs. Marie Hargrave, Ben Jongsma, Miss Mary Kroes, Mrs. Ann Looyenga, Mrs. Helen McLean, Mrs. Brenda Ramsden, Mrs. Alice Schreiber, Miss Sandra Splinter, and Mrs. Charles Townsley.

Appreciation awards were given to Joan Ford and Lorne Masales, both of Acton. Both were given spoons. Other appreciation awards went to Dorothy Baskin, Dorothy

Bodnar, Shirley Chaplin, Jo Clark, Dina Clendening, Audrey Duff, Blanche Goudekting, Alice Maybanks, Marilyn Mitton, Jessie Shortill, Irene Simpson, Darlene Virag, Janet Wickens, and Tina Yaremy, of the Georgetown area.

Certificates of merit went to Betty Armstrong, Alice Greenaway and Noreen Miehme. J.B. Cormack received a citation, and Gall Doucet received a pin and crest.

Jane Beach, Michelle Miehme and Kathryn Cutler were presented with crests.



New spring bonnet or fancy swimming chapeau? Mary McDonald, of RR 4 Acton, tries on an article for sale at St. Andrews United Church Women Rummage Sale Saturday. A half hour after the sale started most items were sold.

Santa Claus parade is on drawing board

The Acton Y's Men's Club is again this year organizing and sponsoring the Santa Claus Parade, to be held on Saturday November 24, at 1:30

p.m. The theme will be "Christmas Carols". All local schools, churches, businesses, service clubs, children's and citizens' groups, and community organizations are invited to participate.

Prizes are to be awarded in the various categories, with a trophy presented to the best overall entry. No advertising is allowed with any entry, as the parade is presented for children.

Further information can be obtained by phoning parade chairman Ken Hurren at 853-0787.

Money stolen

A total of \$180 was stolen from a Maria St. residence last Wednesday evening, Halton Regional Police say.



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Court date set

Halton Regional Police officer Ayodhya Prasad appeared in court Monday, October 15, to set a court date for the charge of assault which was laid against him by an Acton resident, September 26. Date for the trial is January 2.

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