



Jim Higgins of the Acton Legion Choralliers is looking for more singing members of the popular group. His friend Maggie is looking for a cookie.

Sing in the shower? Choralliers want you

by Jennifer Barr

Do you sing in the shower - or yodel while driving - or hum to the radio? If so, the Acton Legion Choralliers are looking for you.

Without more members this 15 year old group that sang at Expo '77 will be folding up.

Past president Jim Higgins explains interested youngsters don't have to be Legion members although the group is founded at the Legion.

Neophytes don't have to be good singers, Jim continues. Leader Ted Hansen teaches new members how to carry notes, harmony and a bag full of music.

The Choralliers' repertoire features old favourites and popular classics such as the Happy Wanderer, My Bonnie Lassie, and Abide With Me, but they also sing musical comedy selections from My Fair Lady and Oklahoma.

Thirty at Expo

The group was started in '64 in affiliation with the Georgetown Glee Club. George Musselle of Acton was asked to be the leader. When the Acton fans eventually went their own way to become the Choralliers, George stayed with them to lead them in many successful appearances.

Then 30 strong, the Choralliers applied as amateur singers to entertain at Expo and were accepted. Months of fund raising provided them with money for the travel. Ted Tyler bused the group to Montreal for a minimum fee. They

sang on the banks of the river between Australia and India (their pavilions, that is) on the very day the Queen was attending the exposition. Although she was unable to attend their show, thousands did and made the three day trip well worth it for the gold-coated canaries.

The Choralliers have made an estimated 250 singing appearances during their 15 year history. These include regular visits to the Milton Manor seniors home; St. Joseph's Hospital Chronic Ward; the Elliot Home, many Golden Age Clubs; Sunnybrook Hospital; and churches all over the area as far away as Tilsonburg.

Their fame spreads by word of mouth, according to Jim, and they are always inundated with requests to sing, specially at Christmas.

"A lot of people will be disappointed if we close," says Jim referring to the dwindling membership. "It's a pleasure to see the faces when you sing." Voices and Pianist needed.

The group needs at least 16 voices to provide four for each harmony section, bass, baritone, tenor, and second tenor. At the moment they have trouble raising 15 voices and only eight or nine show up to meetings.

Jim explains the group has suffered from people moving away or retiring. New interest is needed to revive the Choralliers.

Uniform blazers are

supplied by the group who fund raise at the famous St. Patrick's night activities at the Legion.

Transportation to and from appearances is provided by private car or hired charter bus if they plan to have too good a time to drive themselves home. At some of the Legion events out of town liquor is served and Jim says he feels it safer to hire a driver.

A deciding meeting will be held Sunday November 18 at 7:30 in the Legion. Jim hopes any hopeful singers will show up to support this Acton institution and also encourages enthusiasts to phone him, Jim Higgins at 853-2906 or Ted Hansen at 853-2957.

The Legion Choralliers need not only voices but a pianist as well!

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November 11, 1979.

I remember V.E. Day. I was three years old and my Union Jack flag fell out of the window. I was told the fires and booms would now be over. We could sleep in our Coventry beds for a whole night. I wouldn't have to wear my scarey Mickey Mouse gas mask again (I've always hated Mickey Mouse!) Mummy and Daddy could put away their tin warden hats. But I cried. My flag had fallen out of the window.

Remembrance Day is a time of peace not war, we are told. It's a time for youngsters to be reminded of the horrors of war.

In every Canadian community, veterans of both world wars gather with civilians to pay homage to the dead.

Many of the young generation feel Remembrance Day is becoming obsolete as World War Two creeps further into history. Having spent my first years of life surrounded by bombing in Coventry, I'd just as soon forget the whole thing.

But one Acton resident who feels Remembrance Day is a very large part of the education of the young is Billy Middleton, veteran of the war to end all wars - World War I.

At "85 plus" years, he is emphatic about the need to prepare today's children for the horrors of a war that may yet come if they aren't on guard.

As a member of the Royal Canadian Legion in Acton he has been active in the Remembrance Day ceremonies and displays.

He has assisted with the Legion display window in Acton Home Furnishings since its innovation. On Sunday last he raised and lowered the flags at the cenotaph ceremonies as he has done for years.

As one of the five or six WWI vets left in Acton he has a special place at those Remembrance ceremonies.

"Let us go home"

Billy enlisted in 1915 as a green youngster wet behind the ears. "We were a bunch of young kids" he says looking at the picture of the 71st battalion. They were, too - smiling youthful faces with close clipped haircuts - so optimistic.

In 1916 he was shipped to France where he did his best to stay alive for two years and two months till he got hit with shrapnel and he could be shipped home.

Chamber Happenings

by Janet Fleming

Once again the fall season has arrived and with it the time for renewed efforts and involvement with the clubs and service groups of Acton. As our town continues to grow and make changes, so must our energies and support.

The Acton Chamber of Commerce is committed to working with and for the businesses and citizens of Acton for the benefit of the town as a whole. Our activities over the past years are one indication of this commitment.

Just a few examples: organization and chairmanship of public forums on important issues; sponsorship of the annual Citizen of the Year Award; organization and chairmanship of the Meet the Candidates evenings; preparation and publishing of the map and directory for the Acton area;

direct involvement with the Back to Acton Days celebration; general public relations and information source on Acton; initiation of a group benefit package available to Chamber members consisting of life insurance, disability income and dental package;

cooperation and involvement with the Acton BIA as it works for the health and beauty of our downtown;

discussion and cooperation with our Halton Regional Police Force. In an attempt to improve communication with our members and the community as a whole, we have established our Newsletter, the Chamber of Commerce Community Calendar and the Chamber Happenings column in the Acton Free Press. We welcome new businesses to Acton and salute our members for their support.

In order to continue to keep pace with our town, it is essential that the Acton Chamber of Commerce has widespread representation and support of the community. Our businesses, industries and residents all provide valuable input to our work and success. As a non-profit organization we depend on our membership and its fees for the bulk of our operating capital.

Please consider what the Chamber can do for you and for the town of Acton. If you require further information call John Allison (853-3164) or Dave Swetman (853-2110).

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LDC denies plan

A district man who wanted to share land with his family had his hopes dashed last week by Halton's Land Division Committee (LDC).

LDC turned down the application from Dean and Socorro De Paoli regarding property in the West Half of Lot 15, on the Sixth Line.

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New job for Jelinek

Being named a parliamentary secretary means a lot more than simply being handed a political plum under the new Conservative government, says Otto Jelinek.

Jelinek, MP for Halton, was recently named parliamentary secretary to Transport Minister Don Mazankowski.

Traditionally, the parliamentary secretary has only been expected to quibble for the Minister during question period, but Otto said Conservative reforms in Parliament are going to make the job much more demanding.

Otto will be responsible for advising the Minister on all aspects of operation and expansion of airports in Canada, on all urban transit matters and for monitoring federal transportation operations in Ontario.

"Airports alone are quite a responsibility in our area," he said. "This is quite a challenge and it's going to change my life quite a bit."

Rather than 10-hour days it's going to mean a lot of 12 and 16-hour days.

While the new appointment overshadows some of my disappointment at not being chosen for the cabinet, Jelinek stressed his constituency responsibilities are still going to come first.

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