



Sam and Lila Tennant were presented with gifts by Alf Duby, Frank Morette, Mayor Peter Pomeroy and Kelvin Smiley at the retirement dinner honoring Sam Friday night at Acton Legion.

Tennant honored 26 years service

Sam Tennant, who gave over a quarter of a century of dedicated service first to Acton and later Halton Hills as a works department employee, was honored Friday night at a testimonial dinner by about 100 friends, fellow Legion members, Acton Firefighters, co-workers and family members.

Tennant officially retired from work November 21 after 26 years. Earlier this year he retired after 35 years service with the Acton Volunteer Firefighters.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy told the gathering at the Acton Legion that volunteers like Tennant are a "real plus

to the community." He thanked Tennant for his dedicated service to old Acton as well as Halton Hills. To a chorus of agreeing cheers Pomeroy said there will always be an Acton.

"Ya," Sam answered. A works department official, Alf Duby, praised Tennant as a "faithful" employee who made many friends in the town.

Master of ceremonies and another colleague from the works department, Ron McKnight urged Sam not to be a stranger and drop by the works yard from time to time. He expressed the hope Sam enjoys his retirement as (Continued on page B6)



Chris Tennant and Lila were pretty proud of Sam Friday night when he was honored on his retirement from the works department after 26 years' service.

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The Actario float was one of five to win prizes in Saturday's Santa Claus parade. Large crowds lined the streets to see the parade, larger than last year. Pictured here is just part of the cast of characters who were on the Actario Float. More parade pics on pages B1 and B7.

Photo by GORD MURRAY

Santa ushers in Christmas season with his own parade

by Helen Murray

Good old St. Nick ushered in the Christmas season Saturday during the annual Santa Claus Parade down Mill St. while hundreds looked on. The snow flurries and cold winds hampering the Actario draw earlier that day all but vanished for the parade organized by the Acton Y's Men's Club.

The town of Halton Hills won first prize for the best overall float. Robert Little School was tops for schools, the Acton Lions Club took first for the best service club float. Indusmin was first for

best commercial float and Actario was tops in the "other" category. Judges were Arlene Bruce and Arlie White.

Other floats were entered by Speyside School, Acton High School, Acton Y's Men's Club, Acton Agricultural Society, (featuring Miss Acton Fall fair Lisa McGrath and her runners up Kym Lakin and Gwyneth Gibb), Honey Pot Nursery School, Georgetown Agricultural Society featuring Little Miss Halton Hills, Robert Little School, Acton Firefighters, Acton Lions Club, Acton Salvation Army, and the Georgetown Lionsesses.

Other groups in the parade included the Acton Citizens Band, Halton Hills Elkettes, Georgetown Legion Pipe Band, Red Cross Marching Groups, Guelph Salvation Army band, and of course Santa Claus, assisted by Ron Douglas and Bert Robertson.

Halton Regional Police were in charge of traffic control, and the firefighters were parade marshals.

Plans are already in the offing for next year's parade, according to parade chairman Jim Rivett for the last Saturday in November.

New school open in 1982

By the fall of 1982, or possibly sooner, Acton's separate school students will be attending a brand new St. Joseph's School.

Thursday the Ontario Ministry of Education allocated \$1 million for a new separate school in Acton for 1982.

Last month the province approved a grant of \$80,000 for the Halton Separate School Board to purchase the new school site on Mill St. West.

The surprise announcement of funding ended a long battle by parents to have a new school built here.

News of the allocation came to retiring Halton Hills Trustee Hartley Sherk through Minister of Transportation and Communications Jim Snow.

Sherk was delighted with the news of the allocation. "I thought I might be leaving the scene without seeing this project realized, although I felt the allocation for funds for the site purchase recently showed a definite commitment by the ministry," Sher said.

"We are pleased and very thankful," St. Joseph's parents' association president Vince Whelan, who spearheaded the drive by parents to get a new school, said. Parents were surprised, he said they hadn't expected any word until next year.

He noted parents last week visited a modular school in Erin and have looked at pictures of some very modern modular schools. It has been suggested that the new Acton school might be a modular type, with a permanent core building and modular classrooms added to the building as needed.

Whelan said the board plans to meet with Acton separate school parents early in 1981 to discuss the new school. "We will have considerable input into the type of building it is. We haven't made any decisions yet, but will be indicating our preferences," Whelan explained.

He predicted construction on the new school will begin next summer or fall with an opening possibly in early 1982 and certainly by the fall of 1982.

New Halton Hills trustee Irene McCauley said the board's property and planning committee, of which she hopes to be a member, will hold its first meeting of the new term December 8 and the new school in Acton will be the number one topic on the agenda. That committee, when it completes its work, will recommend to the board what type of building should be built. She said the province hasn't said the new facility must be a modular school.

She said the board hasn't determined how many students the new school will house or projected an enrolment, but it is expected that the enrolment will be considerably higher than the slightly over 200 pupils currently attending St. Joseph's.

The board had requested \$1.4 million, however \$250,000 of that was for purchase of the site which would be substantially less, \$80,000, so really the board was looking for \$1,150,000 for construction of the school and would just \$150,000 short of its request. "Really we got just about all we wanted," McCauley said.

"We think we'll have a pretty respectable looking school for \$1 million," Whelan stated.

The news from Snow indicated the board had received approximately \$1 million, but McCauley said the letter outgoing board chairman Robert O'Brien received from the ministry said the board will get "exactly" \$1 million.

She noted the board wants to get started on planning the new school right away so construction can start as soon as possible. She said the new school (Continued on page B6)

Expansion bid of old hotel site

Plans for the development of the Dominion Hotel site are taking a step towards expansion following a recent Halton Land Division Committee (LDC) decision.

The decision to grant a severance to David H. Lindsay, Park Ave., clears the way for a merger of the hotel's land with Lindsay's adjoining property.

There have been talks between Lindsay and the new owners of the hotel property and they "have apparently negotiated a merging of their respective properties," according to a letter from Halton Hills planning department.

"There is one thing not settled and that's price," Lindsay's lawyer Gord Chapman told committee.

With the granting of the separation there is only one purchaser, according to LDC member Joe Willmott. Also the Lindsay right-of-way across the hotel property disappears. It is the only registered right-of-way, said Chapman.

The Lindsay property is at the rear of the hotel's land which fronts on Main St. N.

Doug Fread and Roman Kussian bought the hotel land for \$88,000 during the public auction in October. Plans for the land have been kept under wraps.

IGA building owner Bob Heatley expressed concern to LDC members about how close a new building could be erected to his property to the south of the hotel land.

"All I am interested in with the separation is keeping the garden for the rest of my life and for my sisters," Lindsay told LDC members. "I've been approached three times by buyers."

Protection better now

Chief tired Acton 'bellyaching'

The people of Acton are getting better police protection now and Chief James Harding is tired of hearing complaints levelled at his men and the force from the people of Acton, he said in response to a letter from Lorne Doberthien from L&L Ford Mercury Sales.

"Mr. Doberthien has every right to be concerned over the damage of his property and I share his concern, but if they turn back the pages of time and look they'll see the police protection is a damn sight

better now. I'm sick of the Acton people belly-aching about police protection," the Chief said.

The Chief said since the printing of the letter in the Acton Free Press he has had calls from people living in Acton who also share his sentiment.

"I take offence at Mr. Doberthien's statements about the officers not living and not taking part in the community—he's wrong. Many of our officers give of their own time working with the community, working with sick kids, mentally retarded and

physically handicapped children. Many of our officers, their families and friends of officers have taken offence at Mr. Doberthien's letter," Harding said.

He said he had not been approached by Mr. Doberthien before he received the letter. "We are now preparing to make arrangements to meet with Mr. Doberthien, and will contact him personally and not through the media," the Chief added.

inside

Mayor Peter Pomeroy and councillors were sworn in Monday night. Turn to pages 2 and B7.

Acton-Equestrian trustee Betty Fisher who will represent Georgetown starting tomorrow night is after the chairman's job at Halton Board of Education. More on page 7.

The olde Hide House held its grand opening last Wednesday night and a fashion show was the highlight of the evening. See photos on page 5.

Lorne Doberthien has lots of support from fellow Actonians who share his unfavorable view of Halton Regional Police. Turn to page 3.

Welcome Christmas door contest deadline Dec. 17

Acton residents have just 14 days left to decorate their front doors so it's the "most welcoming door at Christmas."

The newly formed Acton Beautification Committee (ABC) unveiled details of their most welcoming door at Christmas contest, their first project, this week.

Judges will be looking for originality and expression of the spirit of Christmas when they go out and judge entries December 18, 19 and 20. Deadline for entering your front door or the front door of a friend or neighbor living in town is December 17. ABC Chairman Bill Coats said the contest is open

to owners or tenants of any residential building, single family homes, semis, town houses and apartments.

"Everyone, from our senior citizens to our younger citizens, is encouraged to get involved and decorate a door this Christmas.

The door, Coats said, should be an exterior door facing a street or an apartment door facing the hallway.

Anyone wishing to have their door judged should drop off their name or address at either of the two Acton Family Cleaners outlets, 13 Mill St. East or (Continued on page B6)



To Georgetown with season's greetings! Four Actonians will entertain Georgetown residents Saturday at the Georgetown library. The foursome will play seasonal music. Dr. George Elliott will play the organ with accompaniment by Dave Sale on oboe, Nancy Patterson on bassoon and Marlon Patterson on the flute.