


Support the cancer drive Buy a daffodil



Catherine McGillivray is just one of the dozen cancer volunteers who, with the help of Acton Guides and Pathfinders, will be selling daffodils this Friday evening and all day Saturday around town. They have about 500 of the flowers to sell this weekend.

# Should Actario keep going past September?

Should Actario keep running or should it die a natural death at the start of September? That's the question the committee which operates the lottery is asking these days.

They're hoping Actario buyers, merchants who have supplied bonus prizes and service clubs which helped with ticket sales and receive part of the profits will answer the question for them.

And time is running out to make a decision on the fate of Actario. If the lottery is to continue then ticket sales for the new series beginning next September should go on sale no later than June.

Reviewing the history of the birth of Actario, Ted Tyler said the Acton town hall restoration committee was working very hard to raise funds, selling prints and plates and gathering donations, and not getting very far quick.

It was decided a big fund raising effort would be needed, a group of residents interested in seeing the town hall saved got together, and Actario was born.

With money in to cover all the prizes, \$350 a week for 52 weeks and 12 trips, every ticket sold for several months now has been clear profit. Actario's profit is closing in on the \$30,000 mark and total ticket sales are starting to push 650 a good number have been sold this month since the price went down to \$50.

Tyler says the committee isn't sure if it will wind up raising enough funds, combined with the restoration committee's total, to secure all the Wintario, community centre and Heritage fund grants they want, but they'll be pretty close.

He allows the entire town hall might not be

restored right away, a room or two might have to wait until more funds are raised.

Or, it may be completely restored, but Actario could keep on running year after year to fund other special projects, support service club work, minor sports, Leathertown promotion, library improvements etc., just about anything which would improve the social and cultural life of Acton. Maybe a needs committee should be established.

If the lottery keeps running, part of the proceeds could go towards the town hall next year and the rest to service clubs or minor sports, Tyler suggests.

"Do we have a good thing going that shouldn't be dropped? We know all the money raised stays in Acton. And a very high percentage of the prizes are staying here too."

First off the committee wants to hear from the Actario players. Would they subscribe again? Then they want to hear from service clubs. Do they want it kept going? Would they help again and do they have ideas for uses of future profits? The committee thinks selling clubs should get an even bigger piece of the pie next time around.

The merchants downtown must also be heard from. Are they happy with Actario's efforts to draw people downtown on Saturday mornings? One merchant has told the committee it increased his Saturday business 10 per cent. Is that true for most? Will they supply bonus prizes for next year?

Tyler thinks all three groups will answer yes.

Service clubs and other community groups will work their tails off, Tyler observed, on a fund rais-

ing project and come up with say \$700. Then they are right back out there raising more money. He thinks a continual Actario would appeal to them because it has proved to be a great way to raise a substantial sum of money. Anywhere from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

He also thinks the merchants will give a green light. Tyler says he's sure the draw has enticed people downtown, and they've spent money shopping in the stores, even if they are just buying cigarettes.

And he figures most people will buy another ticket. They had lots of fun at the draws and many, many people have won prizes. In addition they've been able to support a worthy project and had a chance to get a return on their investment, not just dig down in their pocket and come up with a donation.

"It would be a shame to throw it (Actario) away. The wrinkles are out now and it is running smoothly.

Changes can be made for next time around. The tickets could be cheaper, and of course the prizes not as expensive either, if that's what players say they want. How many names can be on a ticket and how many times a seller can put his or her name on a ticket sold out of town will be restricted. Any changes can be made, it's all up to the players, merchants, and groups that sold tickets.

"But it is working and working well. It almost runs itself. We've got running Actario down to an art."

What he and other committee members would like to see, if the lottery goes another year, is for

service club members to take turns running the draw each Saturday for a month or two.

There's no question in the minds of the committee that Actario has been a success, though it hasn't reached its goal of \$50,000 to \$60,000 profit, \$35,000 is more likely. Nor were 1,000 tickets sold at \$100 each. Tyler thinks as the months pass though, and the tickets keep going down in price, they'll get closer and closer to selling 1,000 tickets. He expects there will be a lot of \$25 ticket purchasers.

Actario has been a success because it worked so well and raised such a large amount of money. The only problem may have been the profit goal and ticket sales mark were too high but, Tyler asks, who really knew what a realistic goal was at the start. The market wasn't analyzed like it should have been, it had never been tried here before and besides there wasn't the time. When the first year is over though they'll sit down and see how many tickets were sold where and for how much.

"But we raised a lot of money without asking for donations and the people had fun. I can't think of another fund raising project in Acton, except maybe the Lions pool, which raised as much in a year."

Now the committee is waiting for feedback. If its going to keep going they have to act soon, tickets should be on sale for the second year's series within two months.

Tyler, Jake Kulken, Kathy Sanford, Kay Dills, Yvonne Rosenquist, Alma Sweetman, Stella Brunelle and Tracey Tyler are waiting for Acton's verdict on Actario.

# The Acton Free Press

An Inland Community Newspaper

One Hundred and Sixth Year—No. 38

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1981

Twenty Pages—Twenty-Five Cents

## Town taxes rise \$17.46

The Town's share of taxes are up \$17.46 in Acton and \$15.51 in Esquesing on an average assessed home. The 1981 budget for town purposes only was approved by Halton Hills general committee, Monday night.

But that is not the total tax hike, the education tax went up \$22.75 in Esquesing and \$21.93 in Acton on an average assessed home.

### Tax scoreboard

	Increase	1980	1981
ACTON			
Town purposes	up \$17.46	\$220.01	\$237.47
education	up \$21.92	\$344.08	\$366.00
Total so far	up \$39.38	\$564.09	\$603.47
ESQUESING			
Town purposes	up \$15.51	\$185.17	\$200.68
education	up \$22.75	\$348.79	\$371.54
Total so far	up \$38.26	\$533.96	\$572.22

In addition the regional tax hike has yet to be added, but is expected around \$35, making an estimated total tax hike on an average house of \$75.

Using an average assessment of \$4,457 in Acton and \$4,596 in Esquesing the town tax alone is \$237.47 in Acton, and \$200.68 in Esquesing. In percentages, the town hike comes to 8 in Acton and 8.4 in Esquesing.

The Town residential mill rate is up 3.63 in Acton to 52.99, and up 3.10 to 43.39 in Esquesing. Finance Chairman Harry Levy explained the increase had been 7.7% in the urban areas and 7.7% in Esquesing until the tenders for equipment for parks maintenance came in much higher, so the percentages were raised by .7%.

Levy emphasized this budget is the only one controlled by the Town, and noted the education tax hike of over \$20 over the Town and an estimated \$35 jump in regional taxes, not yet finalized, would mean a probable \$75 increase for an average home.

He termed the Town budget "realistic" in light of the other two budgets, and warned the Town is maintaining the present level of services but cannot improve services as much as they would like. Levy noted a surplus from last year of \$475,000 helped to keep the increase to 8 per cent despite an actual gross increase of 10.7 per cent. An assessment increase of 2.4 percent helped keep the tax hike down, as well.

Levy praised the Treasury department for wise

(Continued on page 7)



Holiday Hi-lites

Ready for the Acton Figure Skating Club's annual ice carnival, Holiday Hi-lites and senior citizens. The revue features popular resort spots in the world, with two performances Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Tickets are available in advance and cost \$3 for adults, \$2 for high school students and \$1 for public school students

photo by DIANA WALTMANN

## AHS student probes life of cystic fibrosis victims

by Diana Waltmann

Life goes on at the 10th floor of Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto, despite recent, tragic events. And as one Acton student is finding out, life goes



Ulrike (Ricky) Thiel

on for cystic fibrosis victims, either as patients in the CF wing at Sick Children's or while coping with the disease at home.

Ulrike Thiel, 17, a grades 11 and 12 student at AHS is studying in depth the respiratory disease cystic fibrosis or CF for short, as part of a combined school and community project.

Her preliminary studies took Thiel to Sick Children's Thursday to learn first-hand what CF victims are up against and how it affects their life. Later at home she will simulate the life of a CF victim, practicing the routines and diet similar to those who have been stricken with the disease.

The purpose of the project, said Thiel is to make her classmates at AHS more aware of cystic fibrosis and the problems patients must face.

She will be keeping a journal, she said, to record her day-to-day feelings and experiences and then make a presentation to the school before the annual Bump for Life danceathon, an event sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Georgetown with proceeds to their charity, CF.

Thiel said before she started the project last week she knew very little of CF. "Bill Taylor (a teacher at AHS) asked me if I was interested in doing this project. It came as a surprise. I wasn't expecting anything," she said.

Bob Malcolmson of the Georgetown Kinsmen said they were looking for new ways to bring the plight of CF to students.

Right now he said, they have a film and one of the members give a little talk on CF when they make a presentation. But with Thiel's project, said Malcolmson, they will not only have a slide show, but someone the same age as students to give first hand accounts on CF.

Thiel will also use the project as part of an English assignment next semester.

She said one of the assignments is to do something, anything, you have always wanted to do or don't know very much about and to make a class presentation.

(Continued on page 10)

## 50 Golden Years for Branch 197

by Jennifer Barr

"The Golden Years", a book presented to Legionnaires this past weekend at 50th anniversary celebrations contains a comprehensive history of Branch 197, Royal Canadian Legion, of Acton.

Written by Joe Hurst with help from John Goy Sr. the book details activities and building programs of the Legion since 1931.

The Royal Canadian Legion came into being in 1925 when veterans' associations banded together after World War I.

Inauguration of Branch 197 took place March 27, 1931 and it boasted 51 members by year's end. First club headquarters were located in the former arena clubhouse owned and donated by Beardmore.



Bob Angell holds the microphone while charter Acton Legion member Jack Milne offers words of praise on Branch 197's 50th anniversary.

Two surviving charter members are Jack Milne and Fred Wright.

Activities for that first year included establishing a poppy fund and throwing the first of 50 Christmas parties. A clubhouse room was donated to the IODE Scouts and Guides, the start of a half century of community relationships.

During the first eight years of operation, the Legion set up committees for assistance of war veterans including those in Nassagaweya and Rockwood, established the color party and set up the Legion minor hockey leagues.

During the war years of World War II 85 per cent of veterans sons and daughters reported for active service. Legion members and families started raising money to send supply boxes overseas to our fighting forces. R.W. Lowrie, then a retired horseman, spent his days driving a horse and democrat around town picking up newspapers, metal salvage and resalable goods for "the cause". By war's end \$17,295.49 had been collected by the Service League for overseas parcels.

Setting up a pension and rehabilitation program after the war, Legion members met 167 returning veterans in Acton.

By then Legion members had a new home. Outgrowing their original clubhouse they were able to purchase the Lantz building across from the IGA for \$500. It was the Legion home for 30 years.

The Ladies' Auxiliary was formed in 1945 and catering duties were undertaken. What with bingo nights and banquets being organized, Legion life was busy and profitable. Sports involvement was increased to include ball sponsorship. The cenotaph memorial in front of Trinity United Church was expanded to include names of W.W. II dead. A memorial service was held in 1952 for King George and a parcel league was set up during the Korean war. Decoration Day was inaugurated.

The little Legion grew and grew until it over-

flowed it's new building. An addition was built in 1952 but by 1955 it was apparent a major addition had to be undertaken.

Twenty feet were added to the first floor and the second story was expanded to cover the whole ground floor. Included in these plans was a new kitchen and auditorium. Improved facilities led to increased revenue allowing Legion members to pay off their mortgage in 1967.

A grand 25th anniversary was celebrated in 1956 with 235 members. Four classes from Robert Little School occupied the Legion building at one time after the school suffered fire damage.

The Burns property on Willow Street was purchased for additional parking.

(Continued on page 7)



A charter member of Branch 197, Fred Wright, greets the audience at Saturday's Golden Anniversary banquet.