

PROFILES

with

Jennifer Barr



Lloyd Masales

Lloyd Masales has got to be one of Acton's most enthusiastic ball fans. He's nearing 80 now but watches avidly minor league games in Prospect Park—the same park he smashed curve balls in 60 years ago.

The first of his family to play ball, Lloyd had the joy of seeing a younger brother, Tinny, son Owen and grandsons Terry and Gary become just as good players and fans as himself.

Youngsters played ball as a matter of course in the early 1900's—hard ball then, not soft ball as now.

"Never could stand softball" says Lloyd. Boys organized their own teams, bought their own gloves for \$1.50, saving their nickels and dimes or "sticking their family for it," and learned the game at Prospect Park.

For those with a little extra talent the chance to star with the Acton Ball Club became a reality at age 17 or so.

Lloyd, then called "Honey" for reasons he could never figure (the late Art Anderson hung that moniker on him), led the Halton County League with his batting average one year when he played for Acton.

Those were the days when sports took up a much larger part of Actonians' lives. Without

other forms of entertainment, Acton youth expended their energy supporting their teams. Being a member of a representative team was quite a social coup.

"We had some good players and played some fine teams," Lloyd remembers.

Halton County League included Oakville, Georgetown, Milton, Limehouse, Brookville, Campbellville.

"You'd be surprised," Lloyd comments, "Limehouse had a wonderful team, so did Brookville and Campbellville."

But the team Lloyd recalls with greatest enthusiasm is nearby Rockwood team.

"They were our biggest opposition and best", he says.

He remembers a game at Rockwood Ball Park, May 24, 1924 when Players found themselves playing in knee-deep snow by games end. "I was so-o-cold" shivers Lloyd. He also remembers fondly the drink that warmed him up.

Roads weren't paved and the team bounced from game to game in the back of an old truck, sometimes falling out enroute.

Dusty roads led to more than one escapade by exuberant lads. Joe Swackhammer had a motorcycle, Lloyd explains, recalling the time the two rode the machine home from a Brookville game. Entering Acton, the pair saw the Chief of Police standing roadside.

The devil got into Joe as he stepped on the gas covering the Chief with a cloud of dust.

"There was dust everywhere," Lloyd laughs "I was so scared, we were going that fast—but the Chief never caught us and couldn't see who it was."

The Acton team won the league cup several times during those early years of hard ball but Lloyd is vague about years. He doesn't think hard ball survived much into the 30's in Acton.

Three major rally days were held in Acton in the 20's supported by the Acton Ball Association and the Acton Band on Dominion Day, August 1 Civic holiday, and fall fair time. Lloyd would head the decoration committee to transform Acton into a bower of cedar and bunting. Tree boughs would be collected for days ahead of time and carefully woven all around the wooden street poles and over the top. Flags and colored paper completed the array.

"If you asked anybody to do that for nothing today it would be a different story," he says.

Despite weekly games and a tannery job at Beardmore since age 12 Lloyd found time to coach many youngsters' teams.

In 1924, he left Acton for a year, the only time he didn't reside in town for his 80 year lifespan. He managed a Dominion store at 985 Dovercourt in Toronto following Ted Hillier of Acton into the business. However, it was a "poor store" and although Lloyd said he was able to bring profits up to an acceptable level, the company closed it down after a major robbery occurred.

Back Lloyd came to Acton. By now he had a

wife, Elva, and infant son Owen. A stint at Hewittson Shoe Company was followed by a job "behind the taps" at Dominion Hotel. However, coming from a "leather family" Lloyd says he couldn't resist the call of the tannery and spent his remaining 32 years of working life at Beardmore, retiring in 1960.

To make ends meet Lloyd and Elva moonlighted for 20 years, at R.L. Gregory's movie theatre.

Lloyd has seen many changes in Acton from his childhood days on the Crescent to his young adulthood on Bower Avenue.

"I've lived near everywhere downtown", he adds.

He now lives alone in the new seniors' apartments on Elizabeth Drive. He loves his bright new apartment especially it's view of Prospect

Park and the ball diamond. Lloyd hasn't far to walk to league games and he's usually found cheering from the bleachers. If the weather's cold, like Monday, he'll watch his favorite Blue Jays on television. He and brother Tinny attend the Jay games frequently and follow the team although Tinny is an avowed Cleveland Indians fan.

"I haven't as much patience now," remarks Lloyd, "I think the games (on television) are too long with too much advertising."

Even though he doesn't care for softball he feels many of today's youngsters are good players, although they wear too much expensive equipment, he says.

"Baseball is my game" says Lloyd Masales who started an Acton legend of ball-playing Masales.



Acton Ball Club 1919. Shown here are: back row, left to right, Tommy Savage, Ely Masters, Hank Kennedy, Roy Brown, ? McKinnon, Boyd Clark, George Anderson; middle row, Joe Kennedy, Eddie Ryder, "Beets" Hynes, Lloyd Masales; front row, unknown, Frank McIntosh, Bob Scott, Bill Arnold, Bill Storey, Nell McNabb, Charlie McLeod.

Photo courtesy of Lloyd Masales.

Did town lose industry? Mayor Pomeroy says no

Did foot dragging by Halton Hills lose Acton an industry which would have employed 400 people?

A Toronto lawyer claims that's what happened, but Mayor Peter Pomeroy says it isn't true.

In a letter received by Halton Hills planning board Monday night Roger Elliott, representing Alteo Construction, wrote "as I know certain members of council are aware, my client lost a major industrial interest last year because there appeared to be no movement in planning approval for this site. I am told that the employment prospects from that interest approximated 400 persons. That industrial concern has since located outside the province.

Early last year an Official Plan amendment was approved to allow industrial development of property west of High-

way 25 and north of Highway 7, adjacent to the present industrial park.

However, the region, while in support of the official plan change has held it up pending determination if the property can be serviced.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy said he was aware Rubbermaid was interested in location in Acton some time ago, not last year, but that firm went to Guelph because there was cheap land. As far as Pomeroy, other councillors or staff knew there was no industry which was going to come here and then didn't because the town wasn't moving ahead with the amendment on the Alteo land.

Pomeroy said the only problem with the site is it can't be completely serviced because of limits on the sewage plant and questions regarding if there is any capacity left for growth and development in Acton.

He described Elliott's claims as "completely

not true. It makes me upset that a solicitor with no interest in Halton Hills would send a letter like this and include it as a public document. I would suggest any industry go across the road where there is serviced industrial land if it really interested in locating an industry. This upsets me, especially when it's a lie."

Elliott urged the town implement its amendment for the 85 to 90 per cent of the site which is within the urban servicing boundary. He said Alteo would agree to not take out building permits or try to register its plan until servicing of the land is confirmed. Or the issue could be sent to the Ontario Municipal Board with a final decision not being made until servicing of the land is confirmed.

Clerk-administrator said the solicitor reported agreement with Alteo not to build until servicing is confirmed wouldn't be binding on a subsequent owner of the land and if the second alternative was followed the town would be asked to seek final approval of the amendment at the first hint of an industry wanting to locate on the site regardless if there was servicing. He urged the town not implement the amendment until the

servicing question is answered and planning board agreed.

Police budget up 21%, errors made

When Halton region finance and administration committee ended its meeting Thursday they thought they had nailed the Halton Regional Police budget down to a reasonable 15.7 per cent increase.

However, after the meeting, staff and a few councillors found errors

had been made and the increase is really about 21 per cent.

Acton regional councillor Dave Whiting said they discovered auditors had used the wrong base figures and hadn't included \$240,000 in interest on debentures for new police buildings which must be paid in 1981.

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