

The Acton Free Press

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Divide and Conquer sensible way to save

Apparently most of Acton isn't interested in Halton Hills saving money and reducing their taxes, or at least the amount they go up annually.

Only a little over 10 per cent of Acton households participated in Divide and Conquer, Halton Hills garbage recycling program, in its first year of operation.

Yet, Divide and Conquer takes only a few minutes of time each week and results in money saved three ways.

First off, for every ton of garbage the town dumps at the rapidly filling Oakville landfill site Halton Hills pays \$13. In the 12 months Divide and Conquer has operated here 114 tons of garbage from ward one was recycled, not taken to the dump, for a saving on Acton garbage alone of almost \$1,500. Add in Georgetown's recycled garbage and the town's saving goes up to over \$7,000.

A second way Divide and Conquer saves us all money is in trucking costs. The cost per hour to feed a thirsty garbage packer has soared \$2.79 in just two years. Because of Divide and Conquer a pile of trips to the Oakville dump weren't made.

Thirdly Divide and Conquer saves because every ton of glass, paper and tin brings the town revenue from recycling purchases. Figures haven't been finalized yet, but a town official says it was a good year financially for the recycling program.

The cynic, with a heap of justification, will say there's not much point in helping the town save money because taxes just keep soaring.

That's very true. Up this year about \$70 on the average Acton home.

But the finger of blame for that shouldn't be pointed at Halton Hills. The region's the number one culprit, the school board second.

Garbage collected, for Divide and Conquer and regular disposal, is an urban service and so an additional charge on your regular taxes to pay to keep local government running.

Even if everyone participated in Divide and Conquer taxes might not be reduced.

But Halton Hills would be able to spend on other things, like recreation and roads, instead of just marking time and keeping present programs running as has been the case the last few years.

If we didn't live in this free society, considering the garbage crisis Halton faces and the rising costs of disposal of refuse, source separation for recycling would likely be mandatory, with stiff penalties the result of non-compliance.

Fortunately our free society gives us all the chance to make the sensible economical choice, Dividing and Conquering, on our own.

Gary Dawkins, Sam Tennant sorely missed volunteers

Be a Thum-Buddy! Volunteer! That's the motto for this week. It's volunteer week in Halton Hills, a week in which our thoughts should turn fondly to all those people who work for charities, community organizations, service clubs and recreation programs and make this a much better place to live.

There's a lot of these people. But there's not enough either. Virtually every group could use more members and workers.

It always seems the same small group of people are carrying four or five organizations.

It is appropriate that this week is volunteer week because last week our thoughts were about two departed volunteers.

One is Sam Tennant and the other Gary Dawkins.

Both of them were highly regarded in this community for their outstanding service, above and beyond the call of duty, they gave to their chosen occupations, Mr. Dawkins as a teacher and principal and Mr. Tennant as a member of the town's works force, going out at all hours to plow streets etc.

In this day and age of a dying work ethic giving 110 per cent to one's job alone would make him

an exemplary citizen.

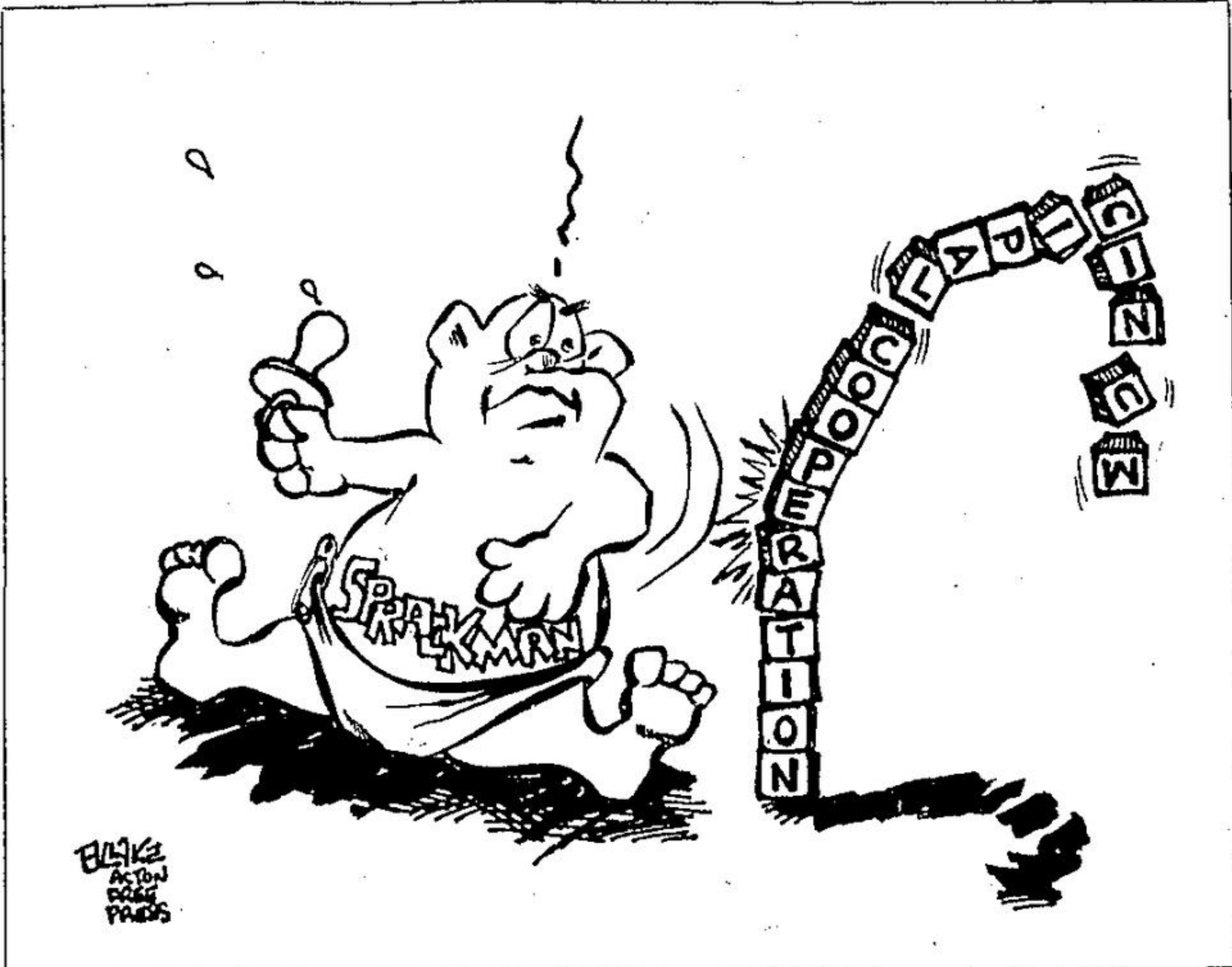
But Mr. Dawkins and Mr. Tennant gave much more to Acton.

In Mr. Tennant's case it was over 30 years service to the volunteer firefighters and Branch 197, the Acton Legion. There are some who will say the Legion is just a private club, that working around and for the Branch isn't really volunteering in the truest sense of the word. But Branch 197 has a long, long record of outstanding community service to people outside the organization and Sam Tennant played a vital role in that community service.

Mr. Dawkins was an active Rotarian and member of the Progressive Conservative Party. Some might also think working for the party isn't community work.

But, just ask yourself, where our society would be without the hundreds of people involved in grass roots politics in this country? It's the party workers who keep democracy flourishing in Canada. And we would be in sorry shape indeed without people like Mr. Dawkins offering themselves as candidates for free elections.

The loss of both these volunteers has been a blow to the quality of life in Acton.



Birthdays go out to Councillor Ross Knechtel, who turned 70 on Saturday. He spent the day participating in a bowl-athon in Georgetown to raise funds for the library-cultural centre.

At 70, Ross is Halton Hills' oldest statesman. Acton also boasts the youngest with Dave Whiting, at 32.

A surprise birthday cake, supplied by Mayor Peter Pomeroy, was enjoyed by the bowlers. Acton councillors Knechtel, Whiting and Terry Grubbe took part, as well as Pomeroy. Young Kevin Grubbe, Terry's son pinched for the scheduled Georgetown councillors who were last minute no-shows, even though it was for a Georgetown (oops, sorry, Ward 2 and 3) cause.

The Halton Hills councillors' team was challenged by the Acton Rotary club team, and beat them two games to none. A third exhibition game, termed a "grudge" match, was won by the Rotary.

Roll out the welcome mat for Eva Knox, formerly of Sarnia, who recently moved to town to live with her daughter Sally Smith and husband Lorne.

Mrs. Knox has already settled into her new home and is meeting new friends.

One of Acton's favorite residents Ernie Marks is in Guelph General Hospital. He's been a bit under the weather lately and checked in last Thursday. He's expected home by the end of the week.

Iva and Ross Knechtel returned home Wednesday after four days on a photo workshop tour of spring flowers of California and a six day vacation. While there, the Acton couple attended a ranch-style barbecue at a 10,000 acre ranch in Los Alamos. The adjoining ranch belonged to none other than U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Such places as Yosemite, Santa Barbara, Napa Valley and San Francisco

were visited. While in San Francisco they witnessed earthquake evacuation drills, including fire drills and rescuing people from high buildings.

Don't forget Monte Carlo night this Friday. Games of chance will be the main event, and great door prizes and a dance are sure to attract a big crowd. It might be best to get your tickets ahead of time. I hear they are selling like hot cakes. There might not be any left at the door.

Plans are in the making for Decoration Day June 7. This is one day of the year set aside for the memory of a loved one, and the clean up of a grave site. A parade will form at the post office at 2 p.m. and proceed to Fairview Cemetery.

Well, Ted Tyler's so-called "positive" proof about the location of Frank Prouse's GM dealership hasn't materialized yet. The answer to that lingering question of where his garage was located is, for Ted's sake, in the mail, somewhere between here and Sault Ste. Marie.

Of all the marks on the calendar, make sure you don't forget or ignore, the mark on May 10—Mother's Day. If you can't be there, remember her with a phone call, a card, anything to show her how much she means to you.

Hubby Gord thought I was foolishly nervous when I attended the annual Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association convention in March. In light of the recent fatal hotel fires, I was terribly uneasy to have a room on the 28th floor of the Westin Hotel (formerly Hotel Toronto). When we checked in I immediately located the nearest stairwells, located the fire alarms and hose, and checked the room out for fire hazards. A few days before I had read in a newspaper article what to do in case of a hotel fire, and practically memorized it. But Gord's it-would-never-happen-to-us attitude finally convinced me maybe I was being silly, and to relax and have a good time.

Well, my fears were eventually justified, as fire broke out on the 22nd floor of that same hotel earlier this week. Several floors were evacuated as thick smoke made breathing almost impossible. Everyone above the 24th floor were told to stay in their room, while firefighters attempted to contain the blaze.

Although there were no serious injuries, I still find it extremely unnerving that just a few weeks ago, I was looking out at the Toronto skyline, fearing only the worst. Being a person of modest means and tastes, I much prefer those one or two level motels, where if a fire does break out in someone's room, you have an excellent chance of escaping unscathed.

We stayed in a hotel/motel type place in Florida once, before hotel fires became almost common occurrences. About three o'clock in the morning the fire alarm went off. However, it sounded just like the alarm on my clock radio, and I fumbled around in the dark trying to shut it off. When the realization came what it was I quickly got dressed, and grabbed my essentials—my glasses and my good white suit. There was no answer at the desk when called, so we headed for the stairs. Luckily it was an open air type place, where there are no corridors, your door faces outside to one long balcony which is used as the hallway. We got downstairs and were told it was a false alarm. Meanwhile the fire trucks had roared up to the building and firemen were running around trying to find out what was going on.

It was very difficult to get back to sleep that night. The next day, the very high, very swanky and very expensive hotel up the street had the fire trucks there twice.

Ever since then, I have been leery of these fancy places. It's been my experience the cheaper and tackler a motel is, the safer it is against fires.

With colleges and universities winding up the school year, students must be coming back to Acton in droves to spend the summer at home with mom and pop. Let me know what you're up to, if it is printable. Maybe, through this column, you can renew some old acquaintances and friendships.

No, I haven't changed my name to Barb, in spite of Dorsen (Dobbie) Frizzell's insistence. Gord and I somehow ended up at head table at the Legion Cribbage and Dart League banquet Saturday night. Dobbie introduced me as Barb Murray. The fact he's known me for seven years didn't seem to matter. He even had a cue card with my proper name written on it!

In all fairness to Hank—sorry, I mean Dobbie, he hadn't expected to get up in front of all those people and speak. The ironic part was, as he was introducing Gord, he called him Gord "Forgetful" Murray. (It's an inside joke).

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, April 28, 1971
At the Legion Minor Hockey windup banquet, the new Scott Post award was won by Doug Johnson. Tim McIntyre won the Byng award. Terry Webster was most outstanding goalie. Improved players were Bruce Lawrence, Steve Van Der Eyken, John Scoyne, Don Hamilton, John Jordan. Scoring champions were Gary Scoyne, Ron Kuker, Charlie McRae, Bob Krul, Dave Haverly. Kerwin McPhail presented special awards to St. John Ambulance Brigade members Kay Hart, Marie Hargrave and George Hargrave.
Acton School of Dance Springtime Show also featured Georgetown Barbershoppers. Jack Carpenter was M.C. and joined in a number with Rhythm Girls Cathy Ashley, Bonnie Bristow, Diane Bousfield, Karen Hillman, Barbara Pratt and Marianne Coles.
The municipal works department will be moved from Main S. to the Industrial park.

20 years ago

Thursday, April 27, 1961
Bill Coon was taken completely by surprise when his name was revealed as Acton's Citizen of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce Civic Night dinner in St. Alban's parish hall. Mr. Coon is general manager of Ajax Engineering and Marley of Canada Acton plant. He served on council and county council, was active in the construction of the scout hall and Luxton Memorial Hall, on sports executives and is a member of the high school board.
Special honors also went to the fire department under Chief Jack Newton, and especially Hilliard "Did" Price.
Approximately 120 Dads and Lads attended the annual Father and Son banquet sponsored by the Y's Men's club. Past president Earl Masales was toastmaster. A toast to the sons was given by Don Ryder and Dave Ryder responded.
Knex Sunday School room was filled for another popular fashion show sponsored by the Heather Club with clothes from the Cameo Shoppe. Commentator was Mrs. Charles Kirkness. Mrs. Hugh O'Rourke thanked the store and guests. Mrs. Mel McCullough played the piano. Mrs. Alex Mann, store owner, was given a bouquet of flowers.

50 years ago

Thursday, April 30, 1911
The Municipal Council tendered a banquet and dance in recognition of the achievements of the Acton Intermediate Hockey Team and the Tug-of-War team in the parish hall. The hockey team will be in-tact for next year with some added strength. Mr. Terry of Gait, Russell Salmon told how the team started in 1929. John Greer always accommodating with goals or speeches, thanked everyone. Mr. Eccleshall, trainer of both teams, replied to the toasts. The Tug-of-War team was organized in 1926 and has captured four Industrial and two Dominion trophies. Councillor Hansen proposed a toast to the fans. For the fans' reply, toastmaster Amos Mason singled out three of the most rabid, G.A. Dilis, J.W. Jones and W. Middleton.
The millionth Ford car manufactured in Canada came to Acton and was on display in Norton Motors showrooms.
Georgetown Lions club received its charter.
Armistice Day will be known as Remembrance Day hereafter.

75 years ago

Thursday, April 28, 1906
A bylaw was passed for the construction of new permanent pavements, on the new basis of half the cost being assessed to adjacent property owners.
Mr. M. Crewson has completed his season's cutting in his saw and shingle mill at Crewson's Corners.
Mr. A. Secord has learned that his nephew is safe, but has lost everything, in the terrible earthquake and conflagration at San Francisco.
The roller flour machinery is likely to be removed from the Beardmore Mill on Mill St., and the mill be rebuilt for chopping purposes only.
Esquing clerk was instructed to insert the amount of each Person's assessment in the voters' lists, to give the ratepayers an opportunity of seeing the rate is equalized.

100 years ago

Thursday, April 28, 1881
The saw mills and stave and heading factories, which have been closed during the winter months, have resumed operation. Messrs. Brown and Hall started their saw mill about a week ago. Mr. J.B. Coates his factory on the 15th, Messrs. S. Moore and Co. on Monday, and Messrs. Speight and Son have been running their sawmill a week or more. There are now few idle men or boys in town.
Carpenters are now engaged in building an addition to Storey and Son.
John Waidie, John Watson and Adam Winslow have gone to Manitoba prospecting.
Prejudice should be thrown aside, and every citizen vote in favor of a new town hall Monday.
Small bon fires in every corner of the village indicate the destruction of rubbish.

Our readers write

Thank Acton Legion's help with cancer daffodil drive

Dear Sir:
On behalf of the Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 197, with our daffodil campaign.
Our daffodils must be kept at a certain temperature to preserve them for the three day campaign. Each year, the Legion has kindly allowed us to use their cooler for this purpose and their facilities for wrapping bouquets. Without their cooperation, we could not have raised \$1,943.91 towards our campaign goal of \$15,000 and brought this symbol of hope and renewed life to Acton.
Sincerely,
Catherine McGillivray
Daffodil Convener



Acton councillors Terry Grubbe, Dave Whiting and Ross Knechtel joined Mayor Peter Pomeroy, an Esquing resident, on the Halton Hills entry in the Georgetown Rotary bowl-a-thon in aid of the Library-Cultural Centre being built in Georgetown. Afterwards the town's oldest statesman, Knechtel, was presented with a birthday cake. Grubbe's son Kevin pinch hit for another councillor who wasn't able to attend at the last minute.