

# The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

Published every Wednesday by Inland Publishing Co. Limited at 59 Wilcox Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. Telephone (519) 853-2010. Subscriptions: Single copies 25c each, \$13.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

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## Hydro office sale \$ must stay in Acton use to fix town hall

If the Acton hydro office is closed and sold, something Halton Hills Hydro Commission is contemplating, then the money should be used in Acton for some local project, possibly town hall restoration.

The building was bought and paid for by Acton hydro customers and the money from the sale should stay here.

Closing the building wouldn't seem to be a big blow to Acton since it isn't used for much other than an office to pay bills.

Another office might not be needed in town for simple bill payment if the commission goes for the idea of customers paying their bills free at banks. However, some guarantee will be needed that a free bill paying at banks program will last many years.

But it will be a blow to the community if the building is sold and that money used to build a new Halton Hill hydro quarters in the

Georgetown area. It will be a blow to whatever good feelings Actonians have developed towards Halton Hills and regional government.

The hydro building might well be useful for other municipal purposes. That's something which should be studied.

Or the money from the sale could be used to refurbish the town hall.

Another option would be to apply the revenue from a new building to reduce hydro bills in Acton.

No matter what commissioners do they shouldn't just use the money for work or a project outside of Acton.

Acton Hydro Commission disappeared into the new Halton Hills Commission without debts and with assets like the building.

Acton paid for the building and the money shouldn't be used outside of Acton.

been inundated with mail from the sunny south. I have received well over 150 letters and brochures, and until the mail strike, they were still coming in strong. One advantage to the strike is those advertising brochures have stopped coming. But the trip was cancelled before the mail even started pouring in. Anyone want a brochure? Prices range from \$67 weekly to \$850 weekly (for a room, not the brochure).

Heard, by the grapevine, the gifts some departing teachers and school staff have received. M.Z. Bennett principal Doug Magwood received a camera bag, a cowboy hat (to match the boots he got out West last year), and a gas barbecue. Naturally he had bought a barbecue the day before the staff and students made their presentation. Luckily he was able to return the one he purchased.

Marlene Tilon who is entering the world of real estate in Kincardine after 13 years on the teaching staff at M.Z. Bennett was presented with a tree—a real live tree. She always said she wanted a tree for her property in Kincardine, so that's what she got. And Joan Williamson, who is leaving the office staff of the high school after ten years was presented with a quilt by her co-workers.

Sorry to hear Flo and Louis Charlebois are moving to St. John, New Brunswick after seven years in Acton. The two have been invaluable in Back to Acton Days organizations, as well as being involved in local service clubs. To lose two people such as this pair is really a kick in the seat to Acton. Community-oriented people are hard to come by and they will be greatly missed.

Flags across the country were lowered to half mast this week in memory of marathon runner Terry Fox. Before we are chastised for not lowering ours, it should be known that in order to reach our flag, someone has to get out on the roof to get it. And all this very hot weather has made our tar roof a little sticky and gooey. But even though the Free Press flag is not at half-mast, our hearts are.

They tell me this column was mentioned on a news program on Channel 13, last week. Apparently someone mentioned one of my items in his television show, and they zeroed in on my picture and heading. My aunt in Collingwood was watching the program but didn't realize it was me until she saw my picture. She was surprised they announced the name right (On the level). Leavell is our maiden name, and very rarely pronounced right.

Some say we should have taken it all, others said we didn't deserve to get as far as we did, but the Free Press water polo team was talented (?) enough to come in second in Sunday's contest. With Debbie Thornhill as what we called squitter, myself as skip and Pat Kenner and June Jansen at the rear, we were victorious in our first match. Two byes (that's sports talk meaning we didn't have to play in those two particular rounds) led us right into the final round against Rotary 2 with Louis Charlebois, Ray Neillis, and Lorne and Sally Smith. It was obvious all afternoon that one end of the set had a definite advantage because of wind direction. We switched ends so each team was stuck with the "rotten end", but lost the coin toss to see who would play the good end for the deciding match. We lost the toss and the match. But we sure had a good time.

Anyone who hasn't played water polo should get out there next summer and give it a try. It's great fun. Thanks go to the firefighters who organized the game.



Bruce Cargill presents Ron with a plaque from Acton Minor Hockey.



Ron McKnight was thrilled when he received a Guy LaFleur hockey stick from Irene McCauley.

## Tributes, gifts, applause shower Ron McKnight

If Ron McKnight didn't know how loved and respected he is in this community before, he certainly did following Saturday evening's Citizen of the Year dinner at the Acton Curling Club.

He was showered with words of praise, tributes, accolades, plaques, gifts and ten standing ovations during the nearly two hours devoted to honoring the man many speakers described as the best choice for Citizen of the Year in a long time.

There were about 160 family, friends, relatives, dignitaries and residents of Acton on hand to recall Ron's many efforts on behalf of many people in this town and outside Acton. It was an evening of high emotion, there was hardly a dry eye in the house, especially when the Citizen of the Year finally was allowed to speak.

Joining Ron at the head

table were his very proud mother Joan, father Jim and sister Colleen. In the audience were his brother Steve and sister Beverly as well as aunts and uncles and cousins. A special treat was the presence of his uncle Tom from England.

Another tower of the community, John Goy Sr., himself the Citizen of the Year in 1963, reviewed Ron's 32 years of service to Acton.

He said it was hard to introduce a person everyone in town knows and asked how anyone could live in Acton and not have their lives touched by Ron McKnight. To mention Acton it was essential, also mention Ron.

Goy recalled Ron's birth, his family settling on McDonald Blvd., and some humorous tales of the man of the hour's boyhood.

Ron's hallmark for a long time has been his willingness to partici-

participate, his willingness to tackle any task, his habit of never saying no to a job.

His list of accomplishments in sports alone goes on and on. At an early age he became scorekeeper and announcer for Legion minor hockey. And Tri-County too. He's at all the ball tournaments; worked at the bantam hockey tournament in Georgetown; was the founding president and driving force behind the Rams lacrosse team for seven years; was official scorekeeper and announcer for both the Mann and Minto Cups; helps with the Legion masters golf tournament; Rud Whiting tournament; is a Sabres' executive, announcer and scorekeeper; is Acton's representative to the OMHA; manages the Halton Hills Metros etc.

But Ron has served his community in many other ways too. He helps

out at Legion functions all the time. He's held every Acton Rotary office except treasurer. While he was president of the Rotary the club donated the timer to the rink. He's worked with the Chamber of Commerce and has a close association with the Acton Firefighters.

The Rotary Club motto is service above self, Goy said, and Ron McKnight exemplifies that motto. He worked in the Acton municipal office and has carried on his duties with Halton Hills. Goy joked in the old Acton days you could walk down the street and give councillors or town staff what for and get away with it. Now Actonians must travel 10 miles down the road and hope they get away with giving people what for. Ron smooths things over for the politicians and makes "us feel good about Halton Hills."

Pointing to Ron's meetings with Rocket

Richard and visits to the Forum, Goy said McKnight is an Actonian who is at ease with the superstars of sport and other celebrities.

His room is a showcase of his service to the community. The walls are covered with mementos and souvenirs of events and highlights of Ron's life, but after Saturday night it would have to be expanded to accommodate the memories of his biggest night ever.

Ron and his family are true Actonians, shining citizens of their community, and Goy said wherever the Citizen of the Year goes he represents this town well.

Goy concluded his glowing remarks by saying Ron was certainly a popular and deserving choice for the honor. There was none more worthy of being Citizen of the Year. He's a product of Acton and a person who will never stop serving Acton.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy didn't address himself to McKnight right off the bat when he spoke. He had some fun with the people who had been "zinging" him at the dinner and Back to Acton Days. He corrected Goy that it is only a four-and-a-half mile trip from Acton to the municipal building and said goodbye to the Master of Ceremonies, Louis Charlebois, who is moving soon to New Brunswick after seven years in Acton. The arrows at politicians didn't hurt much Pomeroy said, especially since a lot were deserved. "Who does like regional government? It's a mess." He got in a shot at Ted Tyler over the town hall controversy saying it was a job left over from Tyler's days on council that Halton Hills must clean up. He also said he was pleased to see MP Otto Jelinek getting lots of barbs.

Turning to Ron, Pomeroy said he sits across the road from the "little turkey" all day and thought he was a "most appropriate choice" for Citizen of the Year. He said he didn't know Ron very well before he became mayor but they know each other well now. Pomeroy explained he has a habit of using the experience and knowledge of the people around him, and he uses Ron a lot.

The mayor described Ron as a "tremendous person" and one of the "finest people" he's ever met in his life. He read a letter of congratulations to McKnight from the staff of Halton Hills, presented him with a plaque from the

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Acton Rotary Club president Ken Grubbe presents Ron with a coat from the olde Hide House while another Rotarian Louis Charlebois shares a laugh with the pair.



Terry Grubbe and Mayor Peter Pomeroy presented the Citizen of the Year with a blazer with the municipal coat of arms on the pocket.

## Back issues

10 years ago

June 30, 1971

The names of three Ontario scholars were announced by Acton District High School this morning.

All girls in grade 13, they are Christine Brunelle, with 82 per cent, Bonnie Garvin with 80.4 per cent and Jacqueline Lemon with 80.1 per cent.

In a surprise announcement at Sunday morning's Masses, Father V.J. Morgan told parishioners he would be retiring as pastor of St. Joseph's Church at the end of August.

Regional Government has been a long time coming to Halton County and if Nassagaweya Township has anything to say about it, it will be a lot longer before it comes. Members of the township council reaffirmed their earlier feelings against regional government at their Monday night meeting when they received a resolution from Georgetown council asking that the TEOO committee studying regional government be reactivated.

20 years ago

Thursday, June 29, 1951

Jan Rubes, radio star, and his wife, TV star Susan Douglas, headed for the Community Night program in the park Saturday evening. A large crowd enjoyed the entertainment.

The Scottish Dance Club, assisted by other organizations raised over \$400 for the new retarded children's school.

Taking part in the mortgage burning ceremony for Lutton Memorial Hall were Frank Van Wyck, Tom Jones, Gus Clifford, Sam Snow and Rev. H.B. Stokreef. Following presentations to Stanley Park, Erin, for their annual picnic.

Bob Bruce is on the Halton all-star ball lineup. Fifty-two golfers participated in the Acton Open, with Rev. A.H. McKeele the low scorer of the day, Julian Zajac second, Murray Scoyne, Andy Nolan and Hughie Smith next.

50 years ago

Thursday, July 2, 1931

Between 400 and 500 attended the Legion church parade in the arena Sunday afternoon. Poppies were placed at the cenotaph by Col. Brown, Mr. Charles Landsborough played The Last Post. Rev. Sawyer was in charge. Rev. H.L. Bernie gave a splendid address.

Rev. Father McBride and the congregation of St. Joseph's Church have been making improvements and alterations to the vestibule. A new altar has been added and a new fence erected on the south side.

In the rowing regatta at Hanlan's Point Mr. Eugene MacPherson was a member of the winning crew. Chief MacPherson was down to see his son take part. Eugene rows with the Argonaut club. Jim Ross, another former Acton boy, was also a winner.

Bertha Nephew was married to Dr. Allan J. Buchanan at Kincardine. On their return from the Kawartha Lakes they will be at home to their friends in Acton.

75 years ago

Thursday, June 29, 1906

On Tuesday of this week Mr. and Mrs. Robert Agnew of Park Ave. celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. It was the intention of these worthy citizens to entertain a host their most intimate friends on this auspicious occasion, but due to the fact that Mr. Agnew is in very poor health at present this plan was postponed. Mr. and Mrs. Agnew have been parents of nine children—five sons and four daughters. Of these but four survive; Mrs. Hynds, wife of ex-Reeve Hynds, John at Hartney, Man. and George and Joseph in Acton.

Dr. Claude Freeman, son of Mr. E. Freeman, of this village resident physician of the great hospital at Chung King, China has just brought honor to his country and flag. At Chung King they have sports, the great feature of which is "Race of the Nation." It's a long distance and Dr. Freeman won. This proud honor Dr. Freeman strove for with all his might, and was witnessed by thousands.

100 years ago

June 30, 1881

Mr. Charles T. Scott of this town has been appointed to the Stoney Creek Circuit of the Methodist Church.

The volunteers arrived home last Friday evening after spending twelve days in camp. The faces of the majority of them expressed a different color from that possessed by them when they went to camp. Speeches were made by Col. Allan, Rev. W.J. Pigott, and Messrs. W.H. Storey, D. Henderson, R. Little and Capt. Shaw, all complimenting the men on their creditable manoeuvring, excellent appearances and good behaviour while at camp. Our citizens will no doubt be proud to learn that the 20th Battalion, Halton Rifles, received the highest compliment from Major-General Denison for the creditable manner in which they responded to all the commands during the inspection.