

Profiles

with Jennifer Barr



A very surprised Rotarian of the Year grinned, shrugged and commented, "I still don't know what it's all about."

For the first time a Rotarian of the Year award has been bestowed in Acton and John Arnold is the recipient. He's "flabbergasted!"

An extremely interesting man, John is very modest about his contribution to Acton's Rotary Club. He's a past president of the 24 man organization and very active in Rotary community service such as the skate-a-thon and annual steer draw.

"I don't know what I did," he comments, adding that he may "bitch a little" and chivy other members along with their commitments. "I may be kicking up more of a stink."

Fellow Rotarians agree John is an organizer and an outspoken analyzer of ideas.

But John would rather talk about the club and his co-workers.

"One of the best Rotarians we ever had was Gary Dawkins," he says sadly remembering the school principal who died suddenly a couple of years ago.

John's enthusiastic about this year's projects and an executive (on which he is a director) headed by Dave Manes. "We're going gung ho again!" he grins.

John lists many of the organization's yearly accomplishments, taking care of the arthritis fund raising campaign, supplying braces and wheelchairs to those in need, along with many other services rarely publicized. Funds are raised through an annual steer draw at the Fall Fair and a winter skate-a-thon, the proceeds from which the Rotary Club splits 50/50 with school students for their projects.

Originally a businessmen's club, Rotary is still fairly exclusive in its membership. Prospective members are invited to join and are expected to work hard for community betterment. According to John business pressures are no excuse for missing the weekly dinner meeting. An all male club, Rotary is blessed with a female auxiliary named, appropriately, the Rotary-Anns.

When he's not running around in a rotating circle, John enjoys golfing and fishing. In fact his friends call him "Grey Fisher"—a take-off on television's fisherman, Red Fisher.

"I just love fishing" John chuckles which is probably the understatement of the year. He's in his element now that it's possible to fish year round—open water between March and December and ice fishing when it freezes.

The biggest fish John ever caught is a 23 1/2 pound salmon in Lake Ontario which immortalized him by netting him a front page story and picture (all for posterity) in the Acton Free Press some years ago.

In his work time John evicts people from their homes! He's a sheriff's officer for Halton County and usually acts as a process server delivering subpoenas. Quite a change for a former businessman in manufacturing.

John enjoys his job and is quick to point out he's a peace officer trying to help people with a difficult time in their lives. When it becomes necessary to serve papers requesting residents vacate their homes, John explains, it is done with utmost care and sympathy.

"I've had no major problems... 99.9 per cent of the people are just like you and me... but they're victims of circumstance, laid off, and your heart bleeds," he says.

Although evictions are only a small part of a sheriff's officer's job, John says he has noticed a marked increase in evictions, probably because of rising interest rates.

For 13 years John, his wife Anna, daughter Cindy and dog Gigi have made their home in Acton and seem to enjoy life immensely. John has a reputation for getting the most out of his leisure time and believes in putting back into a community what is received—which is probably why he is Rotarian of the Year.



John "Grey Fisher" Arnold

Actario winners

Larry McNamara of Toronto was the winner of the weekly Actario draw for \$350.

Connelly took home vouchers from Neilsen's, Acton Family Restaurant, Family Cleaners, and Acton Bakery and Deli. Jean Lelshman won vouchers from Acton IGA, Acton Pharmacy, Acton Jolliffe Shoes, Acton Family Cleaners and Acton Bakery and Deli. Leo Smith, Longfield Rd., won bonus merchant vouchers from Acton IGA, Acton Pharmacy, Acton Jolliffe Shoes, Acton Family Cleaners and Acton Bakery and Deli. Vouchers from AB Foodland, J&T Sports and Acton Photo and Camera were won by Elma Bralda while Tell and Family Cleaners.

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Second and third place winners in the summer Sports Camp bike decorating contest last week were, left to right, Jeff Fuller and Steve Shamaoun, in second place and Chris Paterson and Darryl Bartlett in third.



There was a tie for first place in the Summer Sports Camp bike decorating contest last Friday. Partners on one winning bike were Jason Bogart and Jean-Paul Cowan, and Gillian Martel on her bike.

Foam insulation tests free

Acton and area residents with Urea formaldehyde foam insulation in their walls, can have their homes checked for gas fumes free of charge regional councillor Dave Whiting says.

He noted since the region's health department started the checks a few weeks ago there have been no requests for inspections in Acton. The inspections are free, the region receives \$3 for each test back from the province, and can be arranged by simply calling the local health unit.

A sample of insulation is taken in a test tube and sent away to be checked for gas.

However, don't rush right out and call for a test Whiting advises because the province has run out of the test tubes it sends the region for the tests.

There have been numerous tests carried out in south Halton and gas has been detected in a few homes, he noted. Halton decided to do the testing after regional Medical Officer or Health Dr. Peter Cole received a call from another physician who complained of feeling ill and noted the symptoms associated with the urea formaldehyde gas.

Whiting said he doesn't know what a homeowner is supposed

to do if gas is found in their home since it is extremely costly to remove the foam insulation.

He noted property owners and real estate sales people are required by law to advise a prospective buyer that the home does have urea formaldehyde foam insulation.

Since starting to look into this matter Whiting said he was told by a reliable source that the

federal government had a report from the United States showing that the foam insulation was a health hazard a full year before it was banned in this country.

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Sparks from box

Sparks from an electrical box at Beardmore were mistaken for a fire last Thursday, sending Acton Firefighters rushing to the scene.

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Three Acton homes not on sewer system

Three Acton homeowners who aren't now on the municipal sewer system may be forced to hook-up.

Regional councillor Dave Whiting reports the region is looking at enforcing a bylaw, with court action if necessary, which would require all homes to be hooked up to the sewer system if the pipe goes passed their residence.

There are a number of cases of homes not being hooked up around Halton, two Oakville regional councillors aren't hooked in, but only three homes in Acton. The names and addresses of these

residents aren't being released. There are over 300 cases in Oakville and Burlington.

Not only are there Halton homeowners who aren't hooked into the sewer system who could be, but they have applied for an exemption from paying the sewer surcharge on water bills.

Currently these people only pay the minimum sewage charge since they aren't putting any effluent into the system. The entire matter will continue to sit in limbo until the regional council makes a final decision of which level of government, the municipally, will control sewers. A staff report recommends sewers be retained by the region, a position Halton Hills councillors favor. Whiting says he expects the region will wind up retaining sewers.

He also expects the bylaw will be enforced and the region will take property owners to court.

Settle contract

A three year contract, retroactive to September 8, 1980 to June 30, 1983, for Office Association personnel was approved Thursday evening by the Halton Board of Education.

Vacations, benefits, sick leave, retirement gratuity, statutory holidays and wages were all part of the package.

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