



Walter Barlow, centre, of the Acton Optimist, presented Renata Brillinger and Jay Kitching with Youth Appreciation Week Citations last Tuesday evening during his club's regular meeting.

AHS students are Optimists Youths

Renata Brillinger and Jay Kitching are the recipients of the fourth annual Optimist Youth Appreciation Award.

The two Acton high school students received the award at the Acton club's regular meeting last Tuesday evening at Acton Restaurant.

The award is presented by various Optimist clubs on an annual basis, honoring a boy and girl student at the local secondary school for scholastic, extra-curricular and community achievements. Last year's winners were Blaire Smith and Ron Faber.

Renata and Jay both said they were surprised and honored to be bestowed the award and are very grateful to the Optimist.

The selection of the recipients is not at random, candidates winners must go through a screening process. All this is done by the Optimist and the school, with the potential recipients totally unaware of their consideration for the award.

David Hall, of the local club, explained that the club chairman selects a committee, which draws up the guidelines for the search. The guidelines are approved by the board of directors before the school is contacted.

Once the school is notified, the principal, in Acton's case Betty Moore, conducts her own search and presents several candidates to the Club. The club, he said, then goes through a process of elimination and two names are chosen. The principal is presented the winning names for her approval.

Renata, a 16-year-old grade 12 student, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Brillinger, Park Ave. She teaches swimming at the Acton Indoor Pool and is involved in synchronized swimming.

Her swimming carries over into her school activities as Renata competes on the school swim team. She is also in the Outreach Peer Counselling group and the school band. Her marks, she admits,

"aren't bad."

Renata hopes to join the Total Immersion course next year, before heading out to University. At 16-years-old however, she is not decided whether to enter the teaching field or become a social worker.

Her favorite hobby—swimming of course.

Eighteen-year-old Jay is a grade 13 student. As a RR 1 Moffatt resident, he lives on the boundary line of three different school areas. Had he lived across the road, or next door, he would have found himself going to secondary school in Guelph or Milton. Luckily for Acton, he lived in the right corner.

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Coroner sets December 1 date for drowning inquest

A coroner's inquest into the drowning death of Derek Jones last month will be held on December 1.

An inquest was ordered by coroner Dr. Alistair MacIntosh a few days after the tragic accident, but the date wasn't set until last week.

The inquest will be held at the council

chambers of the Halton Hills administration building on Trafalgar Rd. beginning at 7 p.m.

Three-year-old Derek drowned on October 20 in a pond on the Campbell property on Highway 25 not far from his Kington Rd. home. Derek was the son of Mark and Louis Jones.

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Canada Battery

Blood lead levels drop "significantly"

There has been a "significant" drop in workers' blood lead levels between tests in September and October at Canada Battery.

Company spokesman George Tichbourne said in an interview this week that tests showed lead blood levels "definitely improved" in October, and "overall the levels are down to the August levels."

After three straight months of high worker lead blood level results in 1980 the Ministry of Labor closed Canada Battery for a couple of weeks and

ordered a variety in worker health and safety procedures in the plant.

After the plant reopened lead blood levels steadily dropped until March when they suddenly zoomed up again and then continued to improve through to August. It was discovered there had been a testing error in March.

However, after lead blood levels soared up again for September there were rumors circulating around town that the province would come in and close Canada Battery.

Neither Tichbourne or the ministry, are able to explain the blood lead levels increase for September. "September was either a flash in the pan or a testing error."

According to Tichbourne lead blood levels were still in "the high range" for a few employees, he explained this was due to "sloppy" work habits by the individual workers. They were re-tested and their results will be back soon. However, there was an overall blood lead levels "reduction" through the plant.

Throughout the year Canada Battery has been making improvements in health and safety equipment as well as worker education of lead dangers.

Since the September results there have been further improvements to the plant ventilation system and re-instruction in hygiene programs. Another example of "constant upgrading" for worker health and safety was installation of two new dust collectors Monday.

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Oates' fund over \$1,500

Fund raising for the family of murder victim Colleen Oates zoomed past the \$1,500 mark this week.

Lynda Ruse, who started a fund at the Bank of Nova Scotia for Kevin, Amy and Shane Oates, reports there is now \$1,012.30 in the account, up from \$825.30 last week. Account number 4139089 will remain open one more week. "I'm really, really pleased. I can't believe it," Mrs. Ruse said.

In addition two friends of the family raised \$420 in a canvas of businesses and the Mr. and Mrs. Bowling League \$140.

A total of \$1,572 has been raised for the Oates family so far.



The Cherwonik family of Main St. S. is homeless after fire razed their recently renovated home early Thursday morning. Fire officials estimate there was about \$45,000 damage to the house. Firefighters worked for over two hours in the cold to battle the fire.

Family homeless after fire

A family of six is homeless after fire ravaged their home early Thursday morning.

A house guest, Ruby Rose, alerted Trypheni Cherwonik and four of her five children to the blaze and everyone, including the family pets, escaped the flames unharmed. Brian Cherwonik and the couple's eldest daughter were at the Cher Rest home on Main St. North at the time of the fire.

Shortly after midnight Thursday the fire broke out in the downstairs portion of their 43 Main St. South home. Everyone was upstairs when the fire started.

Four of the children are now staying with friends while Mr. and Mrs. Cherwonik and their oldest child are staying at their rest home. The family lost all their possessions in the fire.

Deputy fire chief Bob Hyde blames "an im-

properly installed wood-burning appliance" for the blaze which caused an estimated \$45,000 in damages, and slightly injured one firefighter.

"There were no smoke detectors in the house," Hyde said, "They were very fortunate someone was awake or we could have had a five fatality fire."

Hyde explained the recently installed fireplace had been shoved in a cut away portion of a wall between two rooms. The fire box actually was in two rooms. When fire broke out it quickly extended up the interior walls igniting both downstairs rooms and upstairs rooms.

The family had left a fire burning in the fireplace when they went to bed, which is common practice with today's high energy prices. This is perfectly safe, the deputy chief said, if the fireplace is properly installed.

Firefighters had difficulty fighting the blaze as flames kept erupting in various parts of the house. One firefighter explained it had been believed one of the children was still in the house and firefighters felt their way through the house in the dense smoke to find the child. Men were in one of the bedrooms as flames broke out there.

Firefighters were called at 12:14 a.m. and remained on the scene until 2:30 a.m., Hyde said. A portion of Main St. was blocked off to traffic from Church St. to Brock St. during the fire. It was reopened about 1:30 a.m.

The Halton Health Unit stepped in to aid the family, and with the help of the Acton Community Services Centre, were able to acquire a bale of clothing, donated by the Trinity United Church.



Five generations of Newmans gathered Saturday to help Norman and Mabel Newman (centre) celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. Left to right, standing, is their son, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Newman, their grandson, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Newman, their great grandson, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Newman, their great great grand children Karen and Jeffrey. Seated are great granddaughter Mrs. Kathy Connor and great granddaughter Kimberly Newman.

Astonishing 70 years of marriage are celebrated

Working side by side for 70 years has been the key to the long marriage of Norman and Mabel Newman, who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Saturday.

The Newmans, of RR 1, Acton, moved to the 17th Sideroad about seven years ago, from Streetsville. There they had a fruit farm since the start of their marriage. They worked all day together helping and sharing the workload. No one can remember them arguing or disagreeing in all these years.

The couple were married November 14, 1911 in Galt. They had two sons, John, who died a few years ago, and Walter, who lives at RR 4, Acton. They have nine great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren, the youngest being six-months-old. The entire family lives within a

mile of each other in the Speyside area.

About 110 guests came from as far away as Parry Sound, Alliston, Kitchener and Toronto to help the couple mark the special day at an open house at the home of their son, Walter. Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed presented the Newmans with a plaque from Ontario Premier, Bill Davis. Another special guest was Mrs. Newman's sister Mrs. Ruby Trueman, of Oakville.

Even though the family lived in Streetsville until recently, the Newmans had many ties to this area. They purchased land almost 40 years ago in the Speyside area, and gradually their grandson and his son moved to the area. One by one the family came, until they all settled in the area.

Wintario draw show tickets on sale at 23 retail outlets

Tickets for the upcoming Wintario draw at Acton High School went on sale at numerous Acton retail outlets.

Doors open for the show at the AHS gym at 7 p.m. and from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a lively variety show featuring the Robert Little School Choirs, MPP Julian Reed and former resident and Peel Chairman Frank Bean on the banjo and piano respectively and the Acton Citizen's Band. An Actario early bird draw is also planned.

Final Wintario show preparations will take place between 8:30 and 9 p.m. and then the one hour live show will delight the audience. Acton residents in the audience will push the buttons to start the winning ticket number balls tumbling. Television viewers will learn about Acton through a brief slide and commentary presentation broadcast on Global Television.

Following the program Wintario officials will host a small reception at Acton Curling Club for the crew and invited dignitaries.

inside

Halton's MP says unemployment will be 10 per cent by the end of this year. Details on page 5.

Monday's BIA annual meeting was pretty lively. Turn to page 2.

Lorne Doberthien wants to talk to Jim Snow about handicapped parking. Turn to page 6.

Halton region is working to restore our confidence and faith. See page 5.

Tickets for the show are \$3 each and include a Wintario ticket at the door for that night's draw. Proceeds from the evening will go towards Leathertown Association projects like the walking history tour displays.

Sales are brisk, there are just 775 tickets for sale. They may be purchased at Acton IGA, AB Foodland, Ed's in'N Out, Jug City, Halton Hills Fur-

niture, Taxi stand, Family Cleaners downtown and in the Becker's Plaza, Stedman's, Bank of Commerce, Bank of Nova Scotia, Bank of Montreal, Toronto Dominion Bank, Halton Community Credit Union, Acton Free Press, North American Figgy-back, Profile Beauty Salon, Village Variety, Acton Travel, Hide House, Corrie's, Gientea Drugs, and BlueSprings Flower Shop.

Baptist pastor is pioneer in Acton and in church

by Helen Murray

Pioneering is not a new challenge for Jean Stairs. The new Acton Baptist Church pastor is not only the first woman minister in the history of the town and at 26 perhaps the youngest but she is also one of only six women ministers in the history of the Baptist Church in Ontario and Quebec.

Pastor Stairs has now marked two church services in her new and first full-time posting. But she is not totally unfamiliar to the congregation. In fact, she guest-preached in the Acton church in May and was asked to come back and lead the congregation.

Born and raised in Ottawa, it wasn't until Pastor Stairs was on an eight month training

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Jean Stairs