



Michelle Jones

# Two local teens on Katimavik

Two Acton teenagers will be participating in Katimavik '82. Roni Skeffington and Michelle Jones will be spending nine months in various parts of Canada in a national volunteer youth service program.

Three areas are visited in the nine months, doing physical work aimed at protecting or improving the environment; community service work through local organizations; and delving in the cultural and educational aspects of the area.

Specific activities vary with each project and may include environmental clean-up, trail-cutting, reforestation, construction, park maintenance, improvement of recreation facilities, restoration of historical sites, surveys on community energy-consumption, etc.

His first posting is in St. Camille, Quebec, about 60 kilometers east of Sherbrooke. He will be involved in several community projects of physical and social nature, and assist in the landscaping and construction of a park. He will also be working with the elderly and the young, renovating a cemetery, and the completion of a cross-country ski trail.

Christmas will be spent in Watson Lake, in the Yukon. It is a community of 1,200 inhabitants

located in Southern Yukon, not far from the B.C. border. He will be working in the local schools, for the local newspaper and assisting at the recreation centre.

Skeffington's final three months will be in St. Mary's Ontario. He will be developing a trail network, provide assistance with outdoor education programs, painting and refurbishing buildings for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. He will also be helping landscaping the park, working on the craft festival and improving and updating museum exhibits and records, preparing school exhibits and renovating the museum building. Are Industries and the elderly will also benefit by his help.

Michelle Jones will spend her first three months at Bear River, Nova Scotia. Bear River is a town of 2,000 in the Annapolis Valley region. She will be helping them in the preparation of grounds and buildings for the Digby County Exhibition, and in the reconstruction of a concession building. The Exhibition preparation and management will involve animal husbandry, display preparation, dining room management, basic agricultural principles and processes. The local Board of Trade

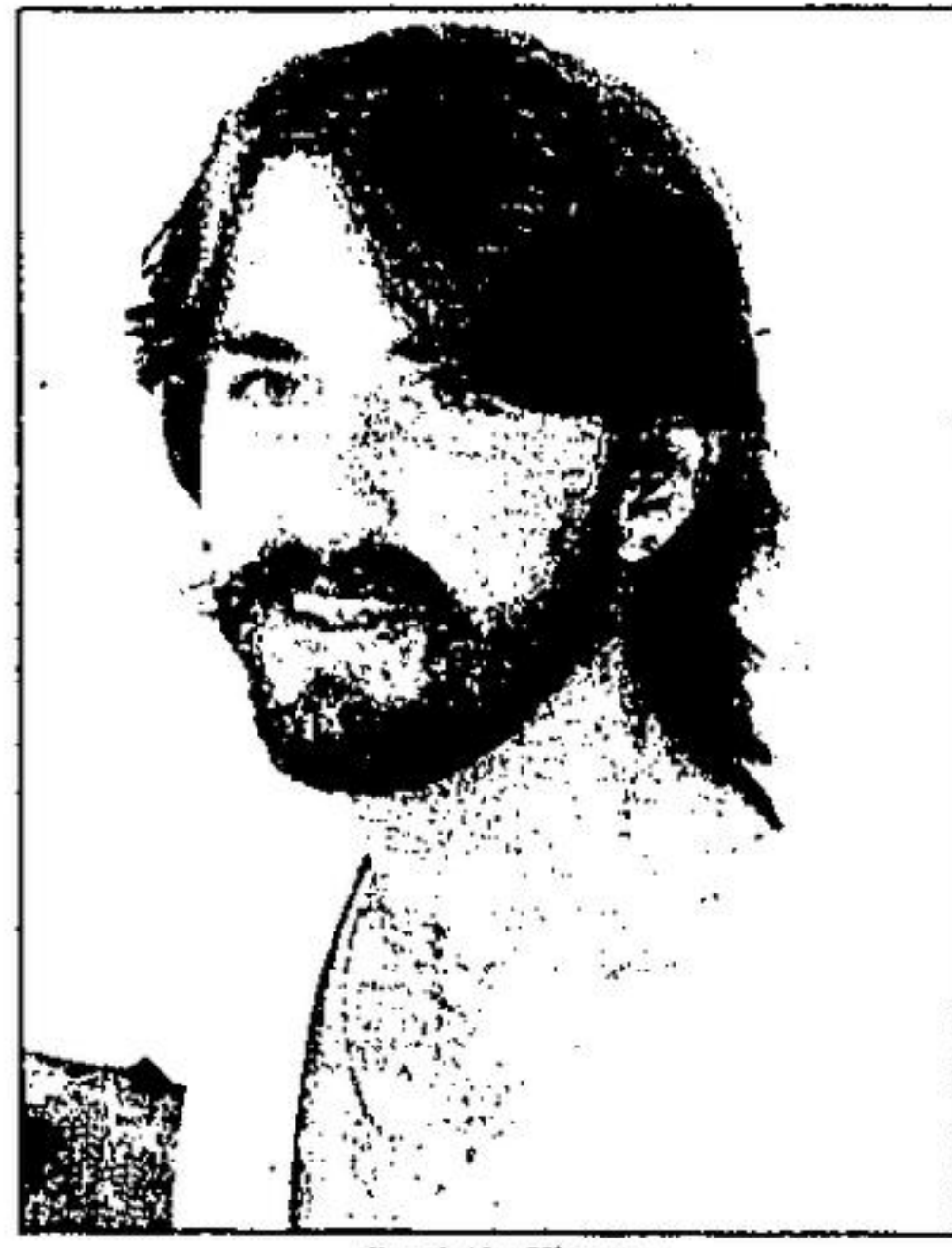
will involve Michelle in a variety of tasks such as restoration of the waterfront, researching the community's history, rebuilding the local band stand and constructing a park.

Elk Point, Alberta, north east of Edmonton is next on the agenda. Michelle will be busy in the construction of a creative playground of bleachers for the ball park, and ravine beautification. She will also be involved in fencing of the garbage disposal site and maintenance of the cemetery, as well as helping in the local schools.

Michelle's final posting is in Hawkesbury, Ontario, a French-speaking town with 10,000 residents. It is on the Ottawa River, not far from the Quebec border. For the municipality, she will be doing construction work, landscaping and renovations towards improving the developing park system. She will also be involved in renovating an old school to turn it into a community centre as well as working in the setting up of an outdoor recreation centre.

Both participants leave July 14 and will return home in the spring.

Living conditions at each project are different, but most are simple and basic.



Roni Skeffington

# The Acton Free Press

A Metroland Community Newspaper



One Hundred and Seventh Year—Issue 50

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 1982

14 Pages—Thirty Cents

## Mini-bike crackdown parents face fines

Mini-bikes riders and their parents are risking facing stiff fines and penalties if they don't operate the machines properly.

Halton Regional Police, in announcing a crackdown on mini-bike riding in problem areas around Acton, also released a listing of the offenses and fines drivers and owners face. Police say they will be laying charges for offenses.

If a mini-bike driver is operating his machine on the highway (that's any street or road under the law), and that includes sidewalks, boulevards, ditches, etc., there are four different offenses he or she can be charged with. Driving without a licence carries a fine, settled out of court, of \$28. Failure to wear a helmet carries a fine of \$28 as does operating a mini-bike without a proper licence plate. Driving a mini-bike without an insurance card results in an out of court fine of \$13. If you're caught by the police a driver can face one or up to all four charges so it's a \$97 price to pay for all four. These laws apply even if the offender isn't the owner.

Operating a mini-bike anywhere, such as parks, farm land, and all other private property can result in a conviction under Trespass laws. An out of court conviction carries a fine of \$33 for trespassing. And if the mini-bike driver does any damage such as tearing up grass in a park or ruining a farmer's field he or she can face further criminal code charges of mischief/willful damage.

A parent can't just buy a child a mini-bike and let the youngsters go off and ride it either. If the child is caught operating the bike on the road and has broken any law the parent too is held responsible. Permitting a juvenile to operate a bike without a licence carries a \$23 out of court fine. Allowing a

juvenile to operate an unlicensed mini-bike also results in a \$28 fine for the parent. And the biggy, if a parent allows his or her child to drive an uninsured mini-bike it costs \$503 out of court and possible suspension of the parent's driver's licence for a year.

In his release Crime Prevention Officer Constable Scott Pringle noted "from past experience the riders of trail bikes have been known to ride off when the police attempt to stop them. Under the new Section 189a of the Highway Traffic Act such persons are now liable to penalties of a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$2,000 or to imprisonment of six months, or to both. There is a further penalty of a mandatory suspension from driving for a period of three years. This section does not only apply to vehicles operated on a highway."

Pringle explained the various laws police want youngsters and parents to be aware of "apply to a normal mini-bike complaint and do not exclude any others arising out of special circumstances such as impaired driving, dangerous driving, careless driving, etc."

The long list of laws and penalties clearly show "you can't just buy your kid a mini-bike and think it doesn't mean you are responsible. There are pretty serious consequences.

Because of increasing complaints from residents about mini-bike riding police are treating this as a serious problem. Pringle noted the police will be spot checking the problem around town using a cruiser as well as officers riding a mini-bike themselves. There are three areas which will receive particular attention: Prospect Park; vacant lands adjacent to Lakeview area and the Three Sisters area south-east of town.



Acton Library held a series of Teddy Bear Picnics the past few Wednesdays. Many of the participating youngsters brought along their teddies, but all of them brought something to munch on. In the centre are Melanie Adshad and

Pamela Goy. In the semi-circle, left to right are Sarah Brownell, Anne Ginn, Matthew Brownell, Kim de Blauer, Michael Douglas, Kathy Jerrard, Kelly Hooten, Jeffrey Garrett and Elizabeth Coles.

## Legion member is Dominion President

A life member of the Acton Legion and a Georgetown resident is the new Dominion president of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Dave Capperault, 42 McGillivray Crescent, was acclaimed to the Legion's high post last week at the national convention in Quebec City. He has been a member of the Legion for 25 years, and held various positions for 23 years.

While he has no plans for any drastic changes in the Legion system, Capperault revealed that at a meeting of officers during the convention, it was decided to allow wives, widows and widowers of Legion members to join as associate members.

Capperault came to Canada from Scotland in 1949, and lived in East York, where he played semi-pro soccer for the Toronto Scottish team. In 1957 he moved to Georgetown, continuing his athletic career only a short time afterward. He joined the East York legion just before moving to Georgetown and transferred his membership.

In 1966, Capperault took his first official seat—that of president of the Georgetown branch. After two years in that post, he went on to become zone and district commander. He transferred to the Acton branch about 10 years ago. From zone he went the route in Ontario, becoming third vice-president of the province, then second, third and finally in 1975 he was elected Ontario president.

Following his two year stint in that major



Dave Capperault

position, he was elected second vice president of the Dominion command, then first vice president. Each position, including Dominion president is for two

years.

The election process at the conventions is similar to a political convention. Ballots are cast and by a process of elimination, a winner is chosen. Capperault, fortunately, missed the election as he was acclaimed.

Being Dominion president is not a full time job. In fact, officers are only paid expenses and a per diem wage. Employers must be understanding. In Capperault's case he has the blessing of his bosses at Marshall Steel in Mississauga.

In the next two years he will find himself making monthly trips to Ottawa, and frequent trips across the country, mainly on the weekends. Coming up during his term of office is the British Commonwealth Ex-services League conference in England, and the World Veteran Federation in Nice, France. He will also be going on any tours the Minister of Veterans Affairs invites him on.

Capperault will be representing almost 500,000 life, ordinary and associate voting and associate non-voting members, as well as Fraternal Affiliates. He explains an ordinary member is a veteran who has been honored by his branch with a life membership. Capperault received this status last month in Acton. An associate member is son, daughter, or wife, widow or widower of a veteran, and an associate non-voting is a member of the Legion in another country who has not taken out his or her Canadian Citizenship. A Fraternal Affiliate is a person whom the individual branches deem worthy of being taken into the fold, but would not be eligible, such as someone who has worked many hours for the Poppy Fund. This person is a non-voting member, and his affiliation comes up for renewal every year.

Of the over 3,000 people at the convention were Jim Higgins, Gord McCutcheon, Len Shone, Pat Waldie and Fred Allen from the Acton branch.



Retiring fire chief Mick Holmes looks at the Citizens of the Year plaque presented to him and the local volunteers in 1978.

## Trades pager for pension

by Helen Murray

Mick Holmes isn't very good with dates, but July 2, 1982 is one he is sure to remember for many years to come.

That is the day the Halton Hills' fire chief hands in his pager after 35 years of fighting fires.

The road to chief was a long one, Holmes recalls, starting out in 1947 as a volunteer in Acton. He was working for Mackenzie Lumber when his boss, Ken Mackenzie decided he was too busy to run a business and be on 24-hour alert for the fire bell. Mackenzie handed his gear over to Holmes and asked him to take his place.

For nine years, Holmes served Acton with his round-the-clock watch. He was then made deputy chief under Jack Newton, a post he held for five years. But when the chief retired, it was Holmes who got the job, a volunteer position he held for 13 years, while still working for Mackenzie Lumber.

With the formation of regional government in 1974, Holmes found himself being made full time chief of Acton. A few years later (he can't remember exactly when), Georgetown Chief Ken Buikema retired and Holmes became chief of Halton Hills.

Over the past 35 years, the chief has seen many changes. When he joined, Acton only had one truck. Later, he says, the townships of Nassagaweya, Evesham, and Erin pooled their

finances and bought Acton the No. 3 truck which is still in use. Acton protected the surrounding townships on a charge-back system agreement.

While his dates remain fuzzy in his mind, Holmes believes the next truck was purchased in 1970, and one more in 1975. The original vehicle was sold, giving Acton three trucks. In 1979 a rescue van was acquired, and a tanker bought just this year.

And while the size of fleet has changed, so too has the type of call.

Holmes blames the energy crisis for a marked increase in chimney fires. Mistake of woodburning stoves, or dirty chimneys have escalated that type of fire.

Today's firefighters are facing dangers now that were non-existent just a few years ago, Holmes claims. He explains that when entering a home they must watch for dangerous plastics and chemicals which can be deadly. Industries, too, have chemicals which can be fatal or explosive when heated.

But, by the same standard, the chief says, firefighting equipment is more sophisticated, and the volunteers are highly trained in their jobs.

Like all other communities in Canada, arson is a problem in Halton Hills, Holmes reveals. "Sometimes it (arson) is for gain, sometimes for spite and sometimes just plain vandalism," he says.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Olde Hide House unveils plans to open a crafts mall

The olde Hide House is launching another major expansion, a huge craft mall where shoppers can even see artisans at work.

This new venture, which will complete development of the Eastern Ave. complex, is slated to open this fall.

Hide House management announced the new project at a media night held last Wednesday at Jack Tanner's Table. Representatives of newspapers, radio and television stations attended the evening, which included a fashion show demonstrating leather and suede aren't just a winter garment. The media night is sure to produce stories and features on the Hide House and Jack Tanner's in Metro Toronto, Kitchener, Hamilton and throughout the rest of the Golden Horseshoe areas making those businesses and Acton as Leathertown even better known to tourists.

General manager, Don Dawkins said "the new craft mall will not only provide artists and craftspeople with appropriate studios and a commercial outlet for their products, but it will round out and complete the olde Hide House project, making it a unique and exciting place to visit."

He sees the new craft centre as the cornerstone for a promising and much needed tourist industry for the town of Acton.

Plans call for the complete renovation of the remaining 10,000 square feet of the 1899 brick and beam tannery warehouse into a studio mall concept where talented craftspeople will be able to produce and exhibit their work for the public.

Leathercraft, pottery, glassblowing, weaving, quilting, and stained glass making are some of the crafts likely to be featured.

In addition to the craft studios, the expansion is also expected to include a deli-bar, a bakery, a butcher and cheese shop, and a general store, to add to the rustic, country atmosphere of the project.

The new artisan and craft mall, along with the 30,000 square feet devoted to leather garments and accessories, the Fur Loft, gift shop and Jack Tanner's Restaurant will put the olde Hide House in the forefront as one of Ontario's most unique shopping excursion destinations.

### Area man dies following crash

An Acton area man died in Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto following a two vehicle crash on Highway 25 north of 401 last Tuesday.

Francis Ward, 50, RR 3 Acton, died of internal injuries sustained after his car crossed the centre line of Highway 25, at 9:27 a.m. and plowed head on into a tractor trailer unit driven by Stafford Atkins 38, of Weston.

Both men were taken to Milton District Hospital with internal injuries, and Ward with a complicated leg fracture. Ward was transferred to Sunnybrook, where he died several hours later.

**inside**

Acton High School remembers teacher. See Page 2.

Successful blood donor clinic, and dance recital. Turn to Page 3.

For all the Legion happenings, check Page 5.

Julie Pierce and Don Anderson graduate. See Page 6.

More rest home controversy Page 6.

Speyside has circus. See Page 7.

District News is on Page B3.

**RR2**

Packaging is getting so expensive we'll be forced to eat fresh food soon.