

# Ted Tyler.... (Continued from page 1)

the personality department Tyler received an 0 for Zero from one, all the way to an A plus from another. For pack-ratism, he got an A plus, and an A triple plus for community involvement. A 'D' was given to him for punctuality, and an A for sense of humor. In the tact category, Tyler got a B, with someone else interjecting "Boy, you're generous."

Kidding aside, Sanford told Tyler and the crowd she thought the Chamber made a "fantastic choice" in making him Citizen of the Year.

Chamber secretary Sue Poulsen presented Mrs. Tyler with a bouquet of flowers.

Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy presented Tyler with a certificate and a gift from the municipality.

Not to be outdone by Sanford's good humor, Pomeroy came well prepared with excerpts from Acton council minutes from 1968 to 1970, when Tyler was a councillor.

Firstly, Pomeroy sent regrets from councillor Rick Bonnette, who was vacationing in the Caribbean at the time of the dinner.

Pomeroy said he found out Pierre Trudeau's world peace mission was actually to make sure no bombs were going to be dropped, or earthquakes going to take place before the town hall was completed.

It's all Ted's fault

Pomeroy blames regional government on Tyler. After going through the council minutes, he discovered that in January, 1970, when discussing regionalism, Tyler said it was not all that bad. In March, 1970, a special meeting was held to instruct the province to proceed with regional government. The deputy-reeve (Tyler) was directed to vote for regional government.

"He (Tyler) has caused me the two biggest headaches since I was mayor, regional government and the town hall," Pomeroy noted he had to come all the way from Norval to honor the person who started all his trouble.

Also in the minutes was Tyler requesting council look at the feasibility of renovating the town hall. An architect came back and told them the building was not worth fixing. However, today's mayor said he could not find another resolution saying what they were going to do about it.

Pomeroy also pointed out in one meeting, Tyler and his colleagues voted against an increase in the volunteer firefighters honorarium, but voted in favor of purchasing new chairs and tables.

Tyler was late for his own inaugural meeting, Pomeroy learned.

Pomeroy admitted he had never met a more interesting person than Ted Tyler. He is a dynamic person and a doer, the mayor said. Pomeroy also admitted he was in favor of the restoration of the town hall because it was good way to capture history.

Halton Member of Parliament Otto Jelinek congratulated the Chamber of Commerce for continuing the tradition of Citizen of the Year.

As a free enterpriser himself, Jelinek told the crowd, he realizes Canada offers more opportunities than anywhere in the world. "It is people like Ted Tyler that make this country what it is...they build on the strength of what this country has to offer."

On behalf of the Canadian government, Jelinek presented Tyler with a plaque.

A scroll from Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed will be presented at a later date as Reed was unable to attend the dinner.

Regional Councillor Dave Whiting filled in for chairman Jack Rafitis to present Tyler with a plaque from the region of Halton.

Carl Rosenquist, of the Curling Club, before thoroughly embarrassing Tyler, pointed out "Once in a very rare while, one meets a truly extraordinary person—Ted Tyler is certainly one of these. (Tyler was one of the driving forces in having the Curling Club and the Acton Band Hall built).

Rosenquist asked the crowd how many know Acton almost had the Grey Cup "and that's not a figment of anyone's imagination."

He continued that a delegation, including Tyler, went to the Grey Cup committee "and we came close." They had a field, and were going to set up bleachers, and had other good facilities. "We were 10th. That is one of the things that has memorialized Acton." He presented Tyler with a pen and plaque set from the Curling club.

Acton businessman Les Pellitis changed the tone of the evening for a few minutes when he expressed his deep gratitude to the Tyler family for making him feel welcome in a strange country.

Pellitis, owner of Achilles Motors, told the group that in 1971, he and his wife were new immigrants to Canada from Greece. They were in Toronto with no job and very little money. Tyler picked the newcomers up at the airport, gave him a job and taught him how to live in Canada. Tyler also taught him how to have a good family, just by watching the Tylers.

"He is a great man and I want to thank him in front of Acton," Pellitis pointed out many people know of Tyler's hard work for the town hall and other projects, but few know of his generosity to others. "He helped us stay in this country."

Miserable kid  
The appearance of a strange old man claiming to be Tyler's first school principal brought the house down. The man kept repeating what a miserable kid Tyler was, and the principal had to take an early retirement because of him.

The old man pointed out some other Citizens of the Year left town after receiving the award. He said the Chamber gave Tyler the award this year in hopes he would leave town. He presented him with a set of luggage—two plastic bags, and a pair of suspenders to hold up his pants, and the last of the Acton Centennial flags.

Chamber president Steve Dawkins said he has only known Tyler for six months, but knows he is bright and a very dedicated man.

Dawkins noted the community can be very proud of Tyler. "He is an exceptional man," he said before presenting him with a plaque from the Chamber of Commerce.

In his rebuttal to the charges laid against him Saturday, Tyler emphasized it should be he thanking the town of Acton, not the other way around. Anything he put into the town, he said, was just a way of paying rent for letting him live in and grow up in the town.

Tyler recalled his boyhood years, including his principals Cameron Stewart and Ted (dy Bear) Hansen. He reminisced about learning music and poetry in Acton, and sitting between his father's knees and really thinking he was driving "that truck". Tyler recalled V-E Day, and his father and Bill Coon celebrating with a special bottle of Scotch, and he remembered the Acton Tanager's hockey team, and Perry Watson's restaurant where he used to go to after school for a milkshake. "That's when the town had spirit," he noted.

Tyler concluded his remarks by pointing out that his mother Gwyn, wife Dolores and daughters Tracey and Angela are part of the Citizen of the Year award also.



Les Pellitis publicly thanked Ted Tyler and his family for all the assistance they gave him and his wife when they came to Canada.



Halton MP Otto Jelinek made a presentation to Ted Tyler.



Mayor Peter Pomeroy presents Ted Tyler with mementos from Halton Hills.



Kathy Sanford roasted Ted Tyler.



Dolores and Ted laugh it up with his school principal, who was portrayed by local personality Jack Carpenter.



Ted Tyler receives the Citizen of the Year plaque from Steve Dawkins.



Dolores Tyler received flowers.

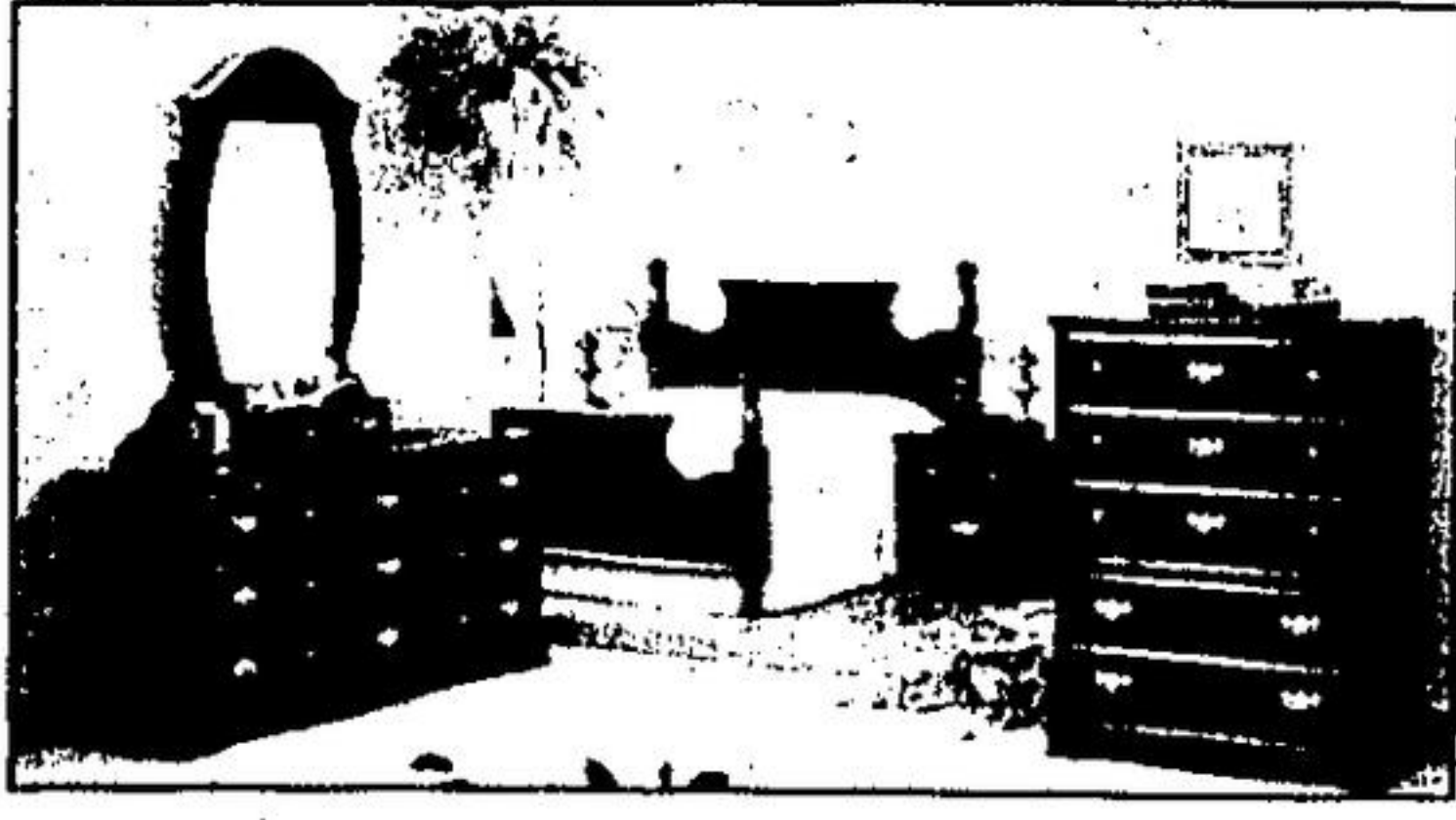


Ted Tyler wonders what they'll say about him next.

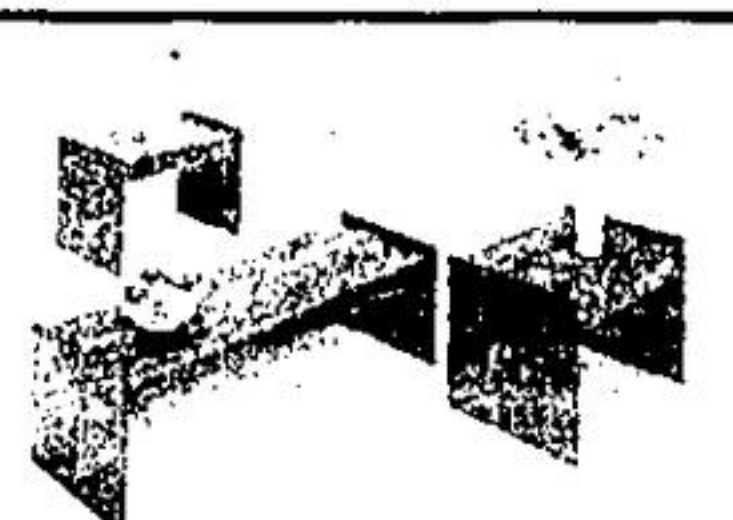
This week thru the lens

Citizen of the Year 1982

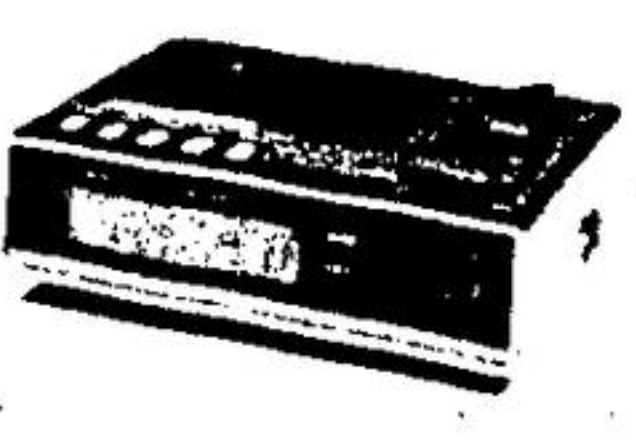
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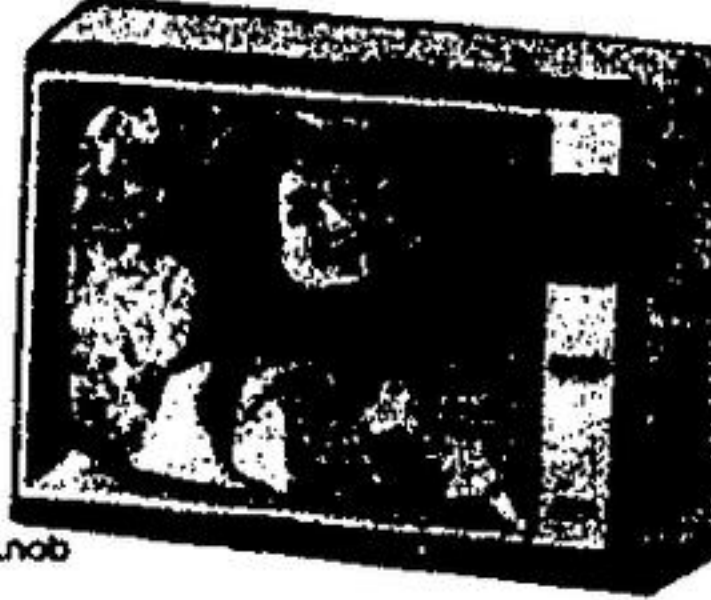


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