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'It's Worth the Drive to Acton!'

Billy Middleton marks 90 years

One of Acton's most popular and beloved citizens celebrated his 90th birthday on the weekend with a giant bash put on by the Acton Legion.

Billy Middleton, a staunch supporter of Acton and the local branch, was the centre of attention Saturday at an open house at the Legion. Over 100 people turned out to wish him well, enjoy a lunch and birthday cake made by the Ladies' Auxiliary and sing Happy Birthday to him.

Billy was born on May 6, 1894, in Brantford and was the son of Gavin and Marie Middleton. He was one of six children.

Serving in Belgium, Holland and France with the Tenth Signals Brigade during World War I, Billy recalls being wounded on September 1, 1918. Today he jokes about being hurt so close to the end of the war just two months short of the end, after being overseas for five years.

After the war, Billy married his wife Helen on October 11, 1920 in Stratford. The couple moved to Acton in May, 1923, and here he worked as an operator for the CN station. They liked the community and its people so much, Billy says, they adopted it as their home town. A few years after their arrival here, they bought their present home on Mill St. E. where the Union Jack and the Canadian flag proudly flies every day the weather is good.

In 1934, Billy went to work at the Canada Customs and Excise office, a job he held until his retirement in 1959. In the meantime, he was very active in various projects throughout the town.

For several years Billy was secretary-treasurer of the Acton School Board. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge. When World War II broke out, Billy was instrumental in the formation of the Acton War Services League, which about three times a year would send a parcel of various sundries to Acton people serving overseas. Once a month a carton of cigarettes was sent to everyone also. John Goy Sr., recalls the packages as being a welcome gift from home, and much appreciated.

After the war, Billy was on the hard-working crew who built the Scout Hall, Goy points out. "Billy is the type of person who was always helping out," Goy notes. "You just had to bring it up to him and he was there."

Billy says the biggest mistake Acton ever made was when the post office was torn down. "It was a beautiful building," he recalls. He has so many other memories of Acton he refuses to start talking about them for time reasons.

But he loves the town. "This is Acton, A-C-T-O-N." He spells it out. "Not Halton Hills,

Happy 90th Birthday Billy
TO AN OLD SWEAT... FROM ALL THE YOUNG SWEATS

The sign at Billy's birthday bash says it all.

but Acton, and I'll love it forever."

Billy sings praises of the Legion also. He defies anyone to find a better "bunch of people" than those at Branch 197.

And the members of Branch 197 think just as highly of Billy.

Goy points out the branch has only three members who are World War I vets: Billy, Jimmy Ingles and Jack Coates (who transferred from Toronto.)

At the open house held in Billy's honor Saturday, local president Len Shone presented Billy with a book, Canada the Beautiful. Pat Waldie presented Mrs. Middleton with flowers and Vic Patrick made a presentation on behalf of Dominion Command. Halton Hills mayor Russ Miller presented Billy with plaques from the town, and the province of Ontario, and a letter from the leader of the Provincial Opposition, David Peterson.

For both Billy and the Acton Legion, his 90th birthday will be a celebration not easily forgotten.



Billy Middleton.

Acton ambulance...

(Continued from page 1)

was taken. Concerns about response time may be a case of people in a crisis situation feeling that the time is dragging on when in fact much less time than they think actually passed.

Acton may find some concerns solved by the new central dispatch out of Mississauga which will be born in November.

A local concern has been that ambulance drivers can get lost in the rural area. However, with central dispatch will come radio link between the ambulance and a person calling for an ambulance, they'll be able to talk a driver to his destination. Also the computers will have been programmed to pinpoint locations of just about any sized community, even by former local names. Another interesting point, Whiting said,

was that to the government Georgetown and Guelph hospitals are regarded as fairly equal as far as a facility to take someone to by ambulance, since they have the same hours of operations, etc. The provincial view is that serious cases go to Toronto and Hamilton, the rest to the nearest hospital.

Name LACAC

Eramosa township council recently appointed members to the LACAC Committee for 1984. Members are Betty Lou Clark, Don DeLaporte, Jim Goring, Don Hiltz, Betty Marshall, John Shaw, Beth Hindley, Barry Dryden, Burton Hill, Jean Hortop, Mary Rogers and Peter Varty.

Council also agreed to grant the committee \$400 for the purchase of slides of the historically interesting schools of the township.

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