

HALTON'S PEOPLE

Retirement ends era for 'Ma' Browne

By MAGGIE HANNAH Herald staff writer

Every community has certain people who are known and held dear by countless residents either because of their accomplishments or because of their contributions to the community.

Mrs. Browne came to Acton 23 years ago when she married C.K. Browne. They met at a Woodmen of the World convention in London, Ontario, dated for a year and married on August 5, 1957.

of them are but they all know me."

OVER THE HILL. And she has names for some of them too, like the Halton "over the hills boys" which is what she calls the Halton Regional Police officers.

Mrs. Browne came to Acton 23 years ago when she married C.K. Browne. They met at a Woodmen of the World convention in London, Ontario, dated for a year and married on August 5, 1957.

Mrs. Browne had had no store experience when she married. She had worked in Wonder Bread making pies and cakes. But she got used to it.

Since C.K. had been running the store for many years and was well-known around town many of their customers dropped by to meet his new wife. She's been part of the community ever since.

"Browne used to tell his friends that the minute I set eyes on him I grabbed him and I wouldn't let go," she smiles.

Whether that's true or not she made no attempts to keep him tied to her apron strings after she married him, Mrs. Browne says.

ANOTHER COUPLE

Mr. Browne died in 1971 at the age of 101. She will turn 65 this month. Despite the great age difference she totally agrees with May-December marriages and says she would do it

again if she were in the same circumstances.

"Sure we had our fights," she says, "but we had a great deal in common and I'd recommend that kind of marriage to anyone."

Although she claims to be able to hide her worries she never hid them very well from her husband.

"When we went to a convention I'd always worry a bit about the store," she admits. "I knew the people we had in charge were perfectly capable but I was always afraid they'd be held up, or something, so I'd sneak off and call the store just to check on things. When Browne would come up to bed he'd say 'and how's the store going'. I'd tell him I didn't know but he always knew I'd be worried and call. He was concerned too, but he could put it out of his mind better than I could."

WAS ROBBED

Mrs. Browne had every reason to be concerned over robbery since she has been victimized three times. Although they never got much, one incident gave her cause to fear thieves.

A couple of years ago on a stormy day three boys probably in their early teens entered her store and stood looking around. They decided there was nothing in it they wanted and left. A short time later one of them returned.

He picked up a large bottle of pop, came to the counter and asked for something on one of the shelves behind Mrs. Browne. When she turned to get it he struck her on the back of the head with the bottle.

"My glasses went flying off and for a moment I thought the ceiling had come down," she says. "When I turned around he was coming over the counter at me with his fists doubled up. Well I got mad and I told him in language neither The Herald or any other paper would print exactly where to go and how to get there and what to do when he arrived. I'll never forget the look on his face. He was so shocked, I started screaming and he dropped the pop bottle on the counter and got out. He never did get anything. I expect they thought I'd pass out and they'd have a hay day in the till and when I started swearing he didn't know what to make of it."



Doris Browne passed out cake to numerous customers and friends who stopped at her store at the end of School Lane in Acton on Saturday to wish her a happy retirement. Mrs. Browne began running the store when she married her late husband 23

years ago and has been at it seven days a week, 11 hours a day pretty well ever since. She will turn 65 this month and the landlord is renovating the building so she plans to retire some time through the summer although she isn't saying exactly when.

The police took me to the schools to see if I could identify the boys but I couldn't."

OPERATES STORE

Mrs. Browne operates her store seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and has had little time for hobbies or outside interests although she is a member of the True Blue Lodge in Rockwood and belongs to the women's division of the Orange Lodge and the Crystal Lodge which is a higher division of the women's Orange as the Black Knights is a higher division for the men. She also belongs to the Lake-

side chapter of the I.O.D.E. She enjoys hockey occasionally, and likes country and western music, especially the Tommy Hunter show.

The youngsters have changed since she came into the store, she says, although she can't explain the change.

"A lot of the ones who were kids when I came here are married and have families of their own now."

Maybe that's part of Ma Browne's secret. In a world that's changing the lady who teases many Acton's youngsters is still around to joke with

them as adults and tease their own children. She was given notice by her landlord some time ago that she was to be out by the end of the month but he relented somewhat and she isn't sure exactly when she'll close her doors now. All she says is that it will be this summer.

"I don't know it but I suspect this store will go," she says. "I suspect he's going to renovate, it and make a different store out of it."

When she casually mentioned to a friend that she was thinking of going to the Orange

Lodge convention at Niagara-on-the-Lake over the 12th of July her friend had to break down and tell her that there was an open store planned for that weekend to celebrate her retirement.

"I'd have liked to go to the convention but I guess I can go another time," she says with a shrug.

And where does Mrs. Browne intend to go when she retires? Visiting a bit but mostly just waiting for the senior citizens residence to get finished so she can move in.

Community service program

Katimavik tour for Acton girls

By LOHI TAYLOR Herald staff writer

Two young women from Acton has been selected to participate in a nine-month-long government project called Katimavik.

Lynda Shadbolt, 18, and Kathryn Beaton, 19, left last night (Tuesday) for their first placements in the project. They will be living with 10 other students and a group leader in three different communities across Canada, and working on community service projects.

Lynda and Kathryn will be in two separate groups, with six different placements in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and British Columbia. They will spend three months in each placement, with the first eleven days of their first placement concentrating on training.

Katimavik is an Inuvik word meaning meeting place, and part of one of the objectives of the program is to learn about getting along with people. Each region has a group of 33 people which is divided into three groups of eleven. These groups of eleven will be living together for the duration of the project in conditions ranging from tents to cabins.

MAJOR PURPOSE The major purpose of the program is to be of service to the community. The group members will be working 32 to 35 hours a week on various community service projects, related mainly to the environment and conservation. The groups will receive room and board, and wages of \$1 a day. If they complete the nine-month program, they will receive a lump sum of \$1,000.

The program also has a military option for students interested in working with the armed forces for nine months. The program is open to young men and women aged 17 to 22.



Kathryn Beaton

Kathryn will be working in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Port Neuf, Quebec and Gran Cache, Alberta. Among the community service projects she will be working on are solar greenhouses, an environmental resources campground, a co-op garage, and maintenance of outdoor ski trails. The groups will also be working at a local cable television station, doing repairs and maintenance work at a hospital and arching skating.

Lynda will be staying at St. Anne Des Monts in Quebec, South River in Ontario and Smithers, British Columbia. She will be helping

cabin, construct a solar cooker, oven and dryer, working on field trips with young children and conducting a survey of migratory birds. The students will also be assisting with instruction on canoeing, kayaking, sailing and camping.

RANDOM SELECTION The students taking part in the program were selected at random by a computer. The object of the program is to get as much of a cross-section of people as possible.

Students are French or English, of rural or urban backgrounds, financially well-to-do or from a low-income family. Applicants must have a medical examination before their application can be accepted.

Each group receives cultural money during their placements, which they can use as they see fit, in addition to their daily allowance. Group members are given two weekends off during each three-month placement, and will be able to come home for Christmas, but the trip will be at their own expense.

Both women applied for the program because they were "tired of school."

"I wanted to see Canada," Lynda said. "I wanted to travel and I didn't want to go to school, or to work. I don't know what I want to do. I just want the experience of meeting people."

"Whenever you work with a group on a project, it makes you feel important, like you're accomplishing something worthwhile," Kathryn added.

"Sometimes you just have to get away," Lynda said. "We've lived in Acton all our lives, and it's time we saw more of Canada."

"It's a really good opportunity, and this is the best time to do it," Kathryn said. "Our parents think it'll be a good experience."

North Halton hosts 32 Danish scouts as Iran conflict ends Jamboree plans

By MAGGIE HANNAH Herald staff writer

Cultural exchanges aren't limited to sports groups as the arrival of 32 Danish Scouts in the North Halton District over the weekend points out.

The political problems in Iran in recent months forced Scouts around the world to make alternate arrangements for what was to have been the World Jamboree in that country this year. Since the jamborees are held every four years with arrangements made long in advance there was no possibility of simply choosing a new site and proceeding with the original plans. Scouts planning to attend the jamboree simply looked around for a new destination and made their own alternative plans through their leaders.

A total of 72 Danish Scouts including their leaders arrived in Toronto International Airport June 29 and spent the past week camping at a Scout reserve in Haliburton. The North Halton District offered home hospitality to 32 of the group including eight girl scouts and four female leaders.

The Herald discussed the similarities and differences between Danish and Canadian Scouting with two of the girls and their leaders at a barbecue near Limehouse Sunday evening.

Anneglethe Staechl, one of the leaders, says that girls would not have been allowed to go to the world jamboree because Iran wouldn't have permitted it. In Denmark both girls and boys belong to the Scout troops and activities are shared regardless of sex. When Scouts were making trips to other countries instead of Iran the girls were then told they could be included in the overseas trip.

There is no Beaver level in

the Danish Scouting movement. Cubs is open to 8-year-olds and girls enter Brownies at the same age. Both groups move up to mixed Scout troops or all-girl troops around the age of 11, and Venturers start at approximately 15.

Astrid Neilsen, a 15-year-old from the village of Srybnagle in eastern Denmark, says she was 10 before she entered the Scouting movement. Only mixed groups are available in her village, she says. They are run by the YMCA. In other towns however, the YWCA may run Scouting and if that is the case the troops will be open only to girls.

"The YWCA wants only girls," she says, "but the YMCA will take both boys and girls."

Although Astrid conveys the impression the all-girl troops sit around doing needlework and ignore the more active things like camping which the mixed troops undertake, Miss Staechl says that a group's activities will depend on the leader. If the leaders are only interested in staid pursuits like fancy-work and singing then that's what the girls will do. If the leaders are involved in hiking, canoeing, camping and the other activities like the mixed groups, then the girl troops will be engaged in those things too.

"It all depends on the leaders," she nods, "just as I understand it is here."

The girls found Canadian cars much bigger than what they are used to and comment-

ed on the lack of mopeds on the roads. Bicycles are also used extensively for travelling short distances. Trains and buses are for long distance. Many families do have cars but usually just one.

Canadians who are complaining about high prices don't know how lucky they are. Miss Staechl notes that gasoline which Canadians pay 20 cents a litre for costs \$1 a litre in Denmark. Food and rent are also higher priced than their Canadian counterparts.

The question of whether women have equal career opportunities with men in Denmark raised considerably controversy among the girls. Astrid Nielsen feels that women are allowed to work if they wish, especially if they have a good

education while Miss Staechl, herself a teacher, shook her head and says that while things have improved there is still room for more improvement. Most women work as store clerks and waitresses and while those with professional training may get jobs easier than those without it, a man is still preferred to a woman if other qualifications for a job are equal.

GOOD ENGLISH Miss Staechl speaks very good English, and explains students begin learning English at about the age of 11. The schools start teaching German at about the age 12. Danish children enter school at seven and take nine of 10 years in the system. There is no equivalent to high school. Students never fall because they can't do all the work prescribed for a year.

The Sharples family on the Fourth Line held a campfire get together Saturday evening for the Danish Scouts and their hosts. The group left Monday for the United States where they will visit Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo and New York before returning home.

The Danish visitors are the first of three groups of foreign Scouts slated to visit North Halton this summer. The problems in Iran which necessitated new plans for Scouts scheduled to go to the World Jamboree has resulted in arrangement for visits from English and Bermudan scouts.

North Halton boys will also be making trips out of the area during July. One group goes the Greater Toronto Region jamboree near Brantford. A second group heads for the Manitoba Jamboree near Winnipeg and a Glen Williams boy slated to attend the World Jamboree in Iran, is now in Sweden at another jamboree instead.



Two girl scouts and two leaders from a group of 32 Danish Scouts compared Danish and Canadian scouting for the Herald this weekend. Among the group of visitors were from the left: Birthe Nielsen, 15, of Tystrup, Astrid Nielsen, 15, of Sorbyngagle, and leaders Lone Sorensen, of

Tystrup and Anneglethe Staechl of Bilkeled. The girls would not have been allowed into Iran to attend the World Scout Jamboree this year but could come when an alternate trip to Canada was arranged. (Herald photo)



Lynda Shadbolt