



The Color Party of the Georgetown Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 march proudly down the parade route. (Photo by Bob McNeilly)



The Color Party added a touch of pageantry to the opening of the special jubilee showing of We'll Meet Again. The musical was one of the highlights of the Legion's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Georgetown. Everyone was given a chance to remember the war years through the songs of the era. Leading the Color Party seen here is Roy Rodger and (back) Herb Arnold. (Herald photo)

Acton Citizen of the Years

Branch 197 popular choice

A petition of 32 names clinched the Acton Citizen of the Year award for Branch 197 of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Although eight individuals and two groups were nominated for the prestigious Acton Chamber of Commerce award, it was the Legion that won it.

A letter written by Fern Shultis of Acton and signed by 32 people swayed the Chamber's committee of three judges in the Legion's favor, Chamber vice-president Jennie Kuiken said.

"We were looking for outstanding volunteer work," Ms. Kuiken said. "It was not really a tough choice."

A date hasn't been set yet for the traditional banquet the Chamber hosts for its Citizen of the Year. It's anticipated to be late June.

The Legion will be the 27th recipient of the Citizen of the Year award. It is the first time the Legion has been named to receive this annual award. It comes the same year as the Legion is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

"I think they're well worthy of it," Ms. Kuiken said, stressing Legion

members do a lot behind the scenes for the Acton community.

Legion Treasurer Gord McCutcheon said he's been a member of the Acton Legion since 1948 and named a few of the community projects the organization supports.

Right now, Legion members are trying to establish a seniors' residence on Legion property by Fairy Lake. An application for 1986 Ontario Housing Corporation funding was turned down, as were all the rest of Halton's applications.

"The Legion isn't giving up though, and is preparing an application for 1987 funding. There is close to 25 acres of property involved.

For 30 years, the Legion has sponsored house league minor sports in Acton. They also sponsor an annual dinner for seniors. Last year they fed 160 hungry seniors, Mr. McCutcheon said.

"The first year we ran it, many years ago, it caught us by surprise. Everybody was there, seated and ready to go by 8 p.m.," Mr. McCut-

cheon laughed. Organizers had planned for stragglers and a 6:30 p.m. serving. "We got a real charge out of them!"

Two years ago, when the Acton Air Cadets was formed, the Legion began sponsoring them. The air cadets use the Legion hall for their weekly meetings and receiving funding from the Legion as well.

Another annual event hosted by the 600-member Acton Legion is entertaining and feeding Legion seniors who come up from a home in Scarborough for the day. The same is done for a busload of veterans from Sunnybrook General Hospital.

During holiday times, it's the Legion Ladies Auxiliary who pays for the free ice skating and swimming pool times, Mr. McCutcheon said.

Along with providing bursaries for students and loaning crutches and other aids for the handicapped, the Legion also helps out seniors when it comes to red tape. Its members help seniors who have problems making applications for war disability allowance or pensions.

Acton Legion has plans for a seniors residence

The town is going to try and cut through the red tape for the Royal Canadian Legion in Acton.

Last month, two members of the Legion's Branch 197 told council members they want to put up a senior citizens' home next to the Legion.

Turned down by the Ontario Housing Corporation this year, they're applying again, for 1987 now. Their application must be completed before Aug. 1.

"The only applications that received consideration this year were the ones that had the zoning in place," Gord McCutcheon said.

The Legion wants to have a road allowance abutting their Fairy Lake property stopped up, closed and conveyed to them, a necessary step to allow the seniors' building to proceed.

"We'll have to circulate this to the department heads for their comments, and it has to be advertised four weeks in the paper before we

can stop up the road allowance," Acting Clerk Delmar French said.

Legion member John Goy said the Legion recently bought 25 acres of land along the shoreline of the lake and plans to house seniors on 13 of those acres. They can't build on the remaining 12 acres because they're on the high water line.

Mr. Goy said the seniors' housing will be for all over 58 in Halton Hills. Seniors won't need any affiliation with the Legion to qualify for residency there, he reassured.

"We at the Legion can build it, but can never administer it," Mr. Goy said. "It needs a community oriented non-profit group to do so."

There are three stages to the project, he said. First will be seniors' apartments, then accommodation with some care provided such as meals, and finally accommodation with nursing care.

Nearby, Mr. Goy anticipates a seniors' park with garden plots.

Coun. Norm Elliott said the Legion's project makes them worthy of the Citizen of the Year award being bestowed upon them this year by the Acton Chamber of Commerce.

"It's indicative of the work they do in the community that they bring us this matter to consider," Coun. Elliott said.

Vets reunion

The Canadian Women's Army Corps Veterans is holding a reunion September 26 and 27.

The 28th annual reunion for World War Two veterans will take place in Toronto. Friday evening there will be photo viewing, wreath laying ceremony, social time, dancing and fun.

Saturday there will be a reunion luncheon, dinner, dancing and much more.

For more information call 781-2872 or 781-3821.

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