

Always something happening at the Y

Since 1934, Acton residents have been able to enjoy a little fun, a little fitness and a little fellowship at the local YMCA building on Mill Street.

Today, some 55 years later, the YMCA is still thriving in Acton and now under the umbrella of the North Halton YMCA, services have expanded to include Georgetown and Milton.

Geri Reed, officer manager for both the Acton and Georgetown Ys, says she remembers coming to the Acton YMCA in the Murray Memorial Building on Mill Street when she was just a kid. Today, you'll still find Reed at the Y although her role there has evolved from one of participating to one of leading.

"I really love it here, it's my cup of tea," enthuses Reed.

While fitness programs and parent and tot programs are run right out of the Acton building, most of the local Y programs are operated out of various facilities in Halton Hills. A successful daycare program uses space at Acton's M.Z. Bennett public school, as well as a First Base program (school aged children who come for activities and fun, after school.)

In Georgetown, St. Andrew's is home to a new "Cookie Monster" program, where youngsters are

taught the rudiments of basic cooking. A pre-school play school is also conducted at St. Andrew's.

Fitness classes, Tai Chi and youth programs run out of the Murray Memorial Building while Reed says the Y is currently setting up more fitness classes to be conducted in local Georgetown school gymnasiums.

"There's always something happening," she says. "It's constantly on my mind to come up with new programs."

On the backburner is a possible expansion of the current First Base program which Reed would like to see enlarged to include Robert Little school. At the moment, Robert Little students involved in the after school sessions are bussed to Bennett.

One new program which Reed feels will help meet the needs of a larger teenage population, is called Teens in Action. Currently operating out of the Acton building and using its title as a play on the town name, 25 students are taking part right now with upwards of 30 hoping to become involved in the regular 10-week sessions. The program includes several events such as trips to Blue Jay games, air band competitions, live theatre and sports.

At the other end of the scale, Ac-

ton's parent and tot program is constantly one of the Y's busiest. "It's an excellent program," said Reed. "We see hundreds of families a week. There's activities with kids, crafts, bazaars and also it's a chance for moms and dads to sit down with other moms and dads."

Other important YMCA activities in the Halton Hills community which promise to expand as the town grows include the Futures youth employment program, Youth Employment Service (YES) and the ever-popular Summer Day Camp programs.

Proud of its place in the development of Halton Hills, the local Y will continue to offer the same friendly, caring service it has for over 50 years.



Gerri Reed, office manager of the Georgetown and Acton YMCAs, says Halton Hills residents can have a ball at the local Y which offers a myriad of sporting, fitness, health, family and social activities.

Fortamix grew from "small beginnings"

By MICHELLE ROUILLARD
Herald Special

Fortamix Chemicals Ltd. was founded in 1968 to manufacture vitamin and mineral pre-mixes for use in poultry and livestock feeds.

The company was founded by experienced feed people with a strong technical background in animal nutrition. In the beginning of operations, Fortamix had a staff of only three people in a 5,000 square foot building. Now, in 1989, they have grown to 26 people in a 38,000 square foot office-warehouse complex, located at 80 Todd Road in Georgetown. This shows the substantial growth over the years from "small beginnings" into a major operation in terms of buildings, equipment and personnel.

In 1982, Fortamix was purchased by BASF, one of the largest manufacturers of vitamins in the world. BASF is also known for their production of audio and video recording material, crop chemicals, plastics, fertilizers and paints.

The manager of the Georgetown plant is Don Constant, who started with Fortamix in 1979 as controller. He became manager in 1986, and has over 30 years

business experience in the industry.

The Fortamix management team also consists of: Dr. Tony Costain, director of nutrition; Dan Walker, manager of purchasing, safety and ecology; Al Johnston, plant manager of production; Bryan Harper, production foreman. The balance of the team consists of dedicated personnel in the six key areas of administration, technical services, sales, production, quality control and warehousing operations.

As the business has grown, it has tried to instill the attitude of "productivity and service" in all staff so that it may become "better" as well as "bigger," said Mr. Walker. It has been said that there exist limitless opportunities in every industry, and where there is an open mind, there will always be a new frontier. The pre-mix business is no exception, he said.

To create an overview of the operation, Fortamix produces two types of pre-mixes called "micro" and "macro." Fortamix's weekly production is 120 metric tonnes on average and if this figure is converted to complete feed, it represents 30,000 to 40,000 tonnes per week.



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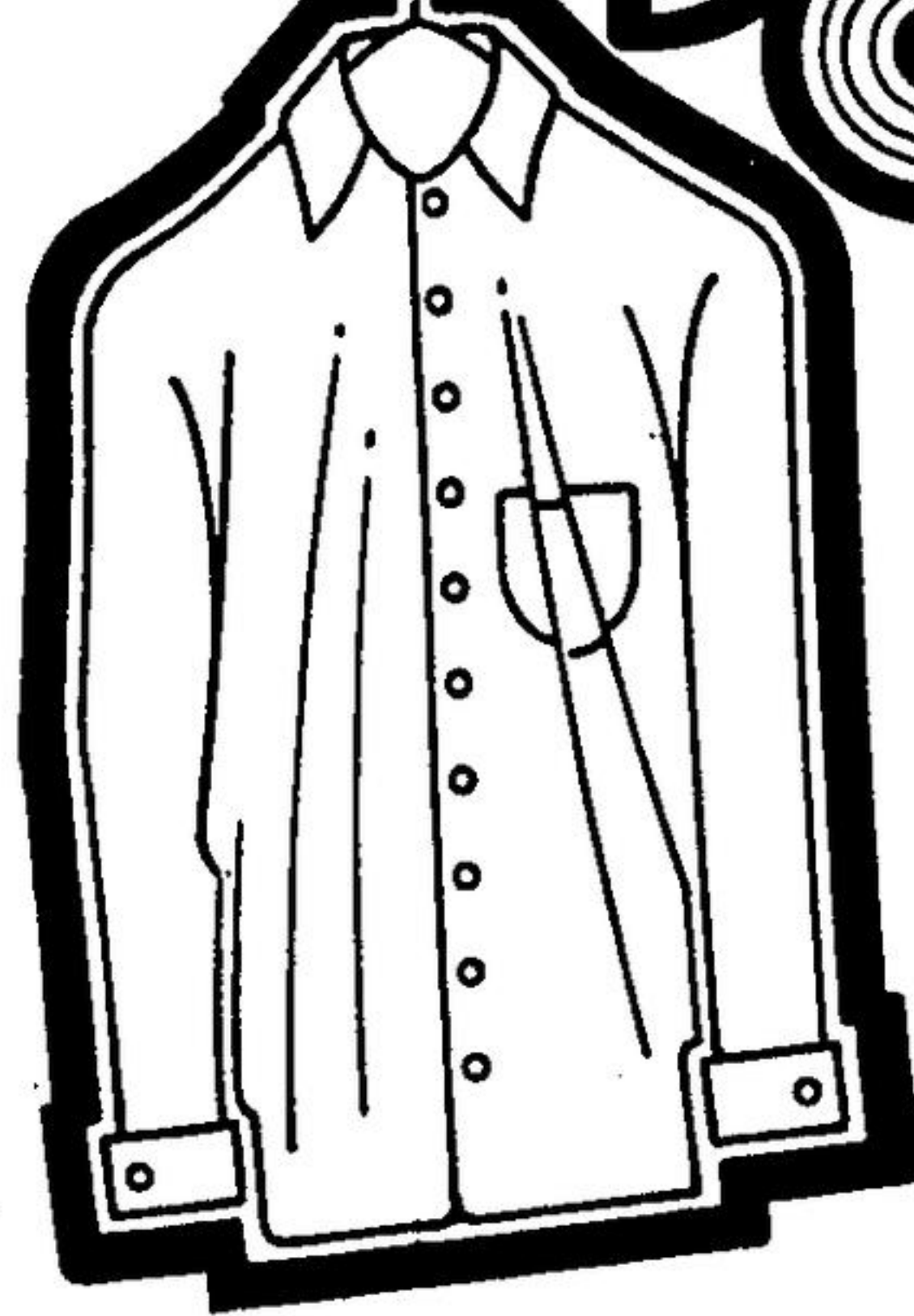
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