

Jessie Hayes is 1990 Citizen of the Year

By ALAN MACKIE
the Herald

Jessie Hayes, also affectionately known as "mum" by many participants at the annual bantam hockey tournament, has been chosen the Georgetown Citizen of the Year by the Georgetown Lions Club.

When first asked to cook and arrange the foodstuffs for the annual tournament many years ago, Mrs. Hayes said Walter "Red" Asseltine told her it was only for one year and then he could find someone else to do it. She was unsure and told Mr. Asseltine: "I don't think I can do it." Twenty years later she stopped working at the tournament.

This was only one of the many



Jessie Hayes

things Mrs. Hayes has done in her life that convinced the Lions Club to give her the award.

Mrs. Hayes says she wasn't too sure about winning the award when she was first told by Mani Mitera, chairman of the committee to select the citizen of the year that she had won.

"I thought somebody was playing a joke on me," Mrs. Hayes said. She became especially suspicious when she was told to keep the award a secret until it was publicly announced. Mrs. Hayes called another Lions Club member, Simon Fraser, to double-check the award.

Once it was checked she was very excited. "I couldn't get over it," she said. Mrs. Hayes said she

did not sleep the next night.

Mrs. Hayes was born in Scotland in 1922 and grew up in Dangoyne, just outside of Stirling. She married Gear Hayes in 1945 and moved to Canada where Mr. Hayes originally came from. Mr. Hayes was a member of the Lorne Scots during the Second World War when he met her.

Mrs. Hayes lived in Inglewood for about four weeks before moving to Georgetown. She has lived here ever since.

Apart from her own six children Heather, Peter, Sally, Eion, Jack and Ken, she has fostered about seven children who were mainly handicapped or runaways.

The first child that she fostered, Sharon, was blind in one eye. Mrs.

Hayes said one of her more favored memories is the donation someone gave, she never found out who it was, to get Sharon a glass eye.

Mrs. Hayes took in two children from the Mississauga Children's Aid, and the other children she fostered "just wanted somewhere to stay."

She said, "we really like kids," talking not only for herself but for her husband Gear as well. Mr. Hayes is in Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital being treated for severe arthritis, and according to Mrs. Hayes he expects to be out at the end of March.

The couple fostered all these

Continued on Page 5

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Language debate a 'non-issue' in town

By BEN DUMMETT
the Herald

Don't expect Halton Hills to follow in the path of 43 other Ontario municipalities and declare English as its only official language.

A survey of town councillors clearly shows that the language question is a "non-issue."

The town has only dealt with the heated language debate indirectly. It recently received a letter for information from the Canadian Parents for French in Ontario group protesting a resolution passed by Orillia objecting to Ontario's language law - Bill 8. The town did not act on the letter and simply filed it for information.

Under the Language Service Act, Ontario municipalities designated by the province as having a "significant" French population receive provincial government services in Canada's two official languages. Funding for these services is provided by the province. There are currently 23 such areas. The province passed the act in 1986.

The act also allows municipalities to declare themselves bilingual. And it is up to the individual community to decide what services if any will be provided in both French and English. These services must be funded by the municipality.

Except for Mayor Russ Miller, none of the town's elected politicians have received inquiries from their constituents about the language issue.

The telephone calls have been about "dollars and cents," said Mayor Miller.

"People are asking please don't increase our taxes by translating bylaws and town signs," said the mayor. He understands their concerns but says the town would never carry out such an action.

"Translating municipal signs and bills would cost the town thousands of dollars and people are absolutely right in being concerned."

The mayor said Halton Hills' French and English communities get along well.

"Georgetown has been especially receiving and warm in acknowledging the French community," agreed Marcel Blais, a six-year Georgetown resident whose mother tongue is French.

The town has been quick to res-

Continued on Page 5



Hearty chocolates

If chocolates are your delight for Valentine's Day then Debora Ellis has a heart for you - that's a chocolate heart. Debora owns Debora's Confections at Crawford's (Pine Valley Farms) just outside Norval on Highway 7. While Valentine's Day is a busy one for Debora, Easter is

actually her busiest time of the year. This year, chocolate boxes containing even more chocolate has been a hot-selling item at the confectionary. (Herald photo by Brian MacLeod)