

Features

Joan Waldie chosen Acton Citizen of the Year

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

Shock and then humility were the first two emotions that Acton resident, Joan Waldie, felt after being told Monday she had been named 1990 Acton Citizen of the Year.

"I never thought I'd be named an Acton Citizen of the Year. In fact I had nominated Acton Village Constable Bill Riddle to be the 1990 Citizen of the Year. He does so much good," said the 53-year Acton resident during an interview Wednesday.

The Acton Lions Club, which sponsors the community service award, decided this past weekend that Ms. Waldie was the most deserving of the seven people nominated for the award, said the Club's Citizen of the Year Committee Chairman, Dave Pyke.

The main reason for Ms. Waldie being chosen as Citizen of the Year was the work she has done to make the Acton Food Bank a success, he said.

Ms. Waldie has been the food bank's coordinator since its inception last October.

As humble as she is, when ask-

ed about her involvement with the food bank, Ms. Waldie quickly deflected attention from herself and attributed the food bank's success to the volunteers and board of directors that contribute to the operation.

"I'm just the coordinator," said the mother of four. Ms. Waldie's children range in age from 24 to 44. Three still live in the Acton area while one lives near Collingwood, she said.

Ms. Waldie said she's been involved in the Acton community since first arriving in Town as a 17-year-old.

"I get involved because I like to get involved. It's my philosophy of life," said Ms. Waldie.

"I enjoy giving a hand wherever needed. The feedback is terrific and I meet so many people," she added.

Mr. Pyke said Ms. Waldie received three separate nominations, the most of any nominated. One nominator described Ms. Waldie "as one in a million. She could stand for Citizen of the Year just on the basis of her daily activities."



Joan Waldie

Another said Ms. Waldie, "has never failed to generously supply her time and effort to the United Way, the Cancer Society, Acton Social Services and Information Centre and other things."

Ms. Waldie's other community activities include working with the Acton Legion and participating in the Acton Horticultural Society. Ms. Waldie was one of the group's founders back in 1989.

It is this group, along with the Acton Business Improvement Areas which is responsible for the beautification program for downtown Acton. The group arranges the flower boxes and baskets that decorate the downtown area streets during the summer months.

"I really enjoy the Horticultural Society," said Ms. Waldie.

Ms. Waldie said she is especially proud of being behind a program to retrain the unemployed in the Acton area that is expected to get underway this fall at Acton High School.

Ms. Waldie said working at the food bank has brought her in contact with several people who lack employable skills. When she asked several of these people if they would be interested in upgrading their skills and found the response positive, that was all

she needed to start the ball rolling.

Ms. Waldie said she contacted Halton Hills Public School trustee Arlene Bruce and then it was only a matter of time before staff at the Halton Board of Education and Acton High School principal, Ozzie Caldarelli, jumped on the bandwagon.

The end result is a skills retraining program that will start this fall. As part of the program, said Ms. Waldie a daycare service will be provided enabling single parents to participate.

"The program is not going to change people's lives but it will help to improve their self-esteem. This is important because in a recession everyone feels bad," said Ms. Waldie.

Ms. Waldie will be officially recognized as the 1990 Acton Citizen of the Year May 24 during an Acton Lion's Club 1990 Citizen of the Year Awards dinner at the Acton Legion with a 6:30 p.m. start time.

Tickets can be obtained from any Acton Lions Club member. For more information call Dave Pyk at 853-3410.

Student Manpower Centre open for business

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

Although there are as many summer jobs available to students this year as last year, students shouldn't expect higher wages, said Chris Fernandes who supervises the Canada Employment Centre for Students at 232 Guelph Street in Georgetown.

"Wages just aren't as high as last year," said Mr. Fernandes. "Students are getting discouraged by the lower wages." He estimated the average wage is five to six dollars an hour a decrease of one dollar from last year.

Despite the economic recession, job vacancies haven't decreased since last year said Mr. Fernandes who admitted he was surprised to find employers actively looking for students to fill summer job vacancies.

Right now, the centre has approximately 50 job openings to fill but with an average of 25 students dropping by the centre daily, he doesn't expect them to be open for long.

The centre, which opened April 22, is a service for students looking for summer employment. Placement officers Shelley Powell of Georgetown and Nancy

Albers of Ballinafad, work with students to determine what their skills and qualifications are to help them find a suitable job.

The centre also actively solicits job vacancies by visiting local businesses and service clubs to make sure employers are aware of the free service.

"We're putting our emphasis on getting jobs because we already have the students coming in," said Mr. Fernandes. The office will be open until sometime in July when job vacancies dry up and most students have already found employment.

During the later part of the summer, the centre follows up on

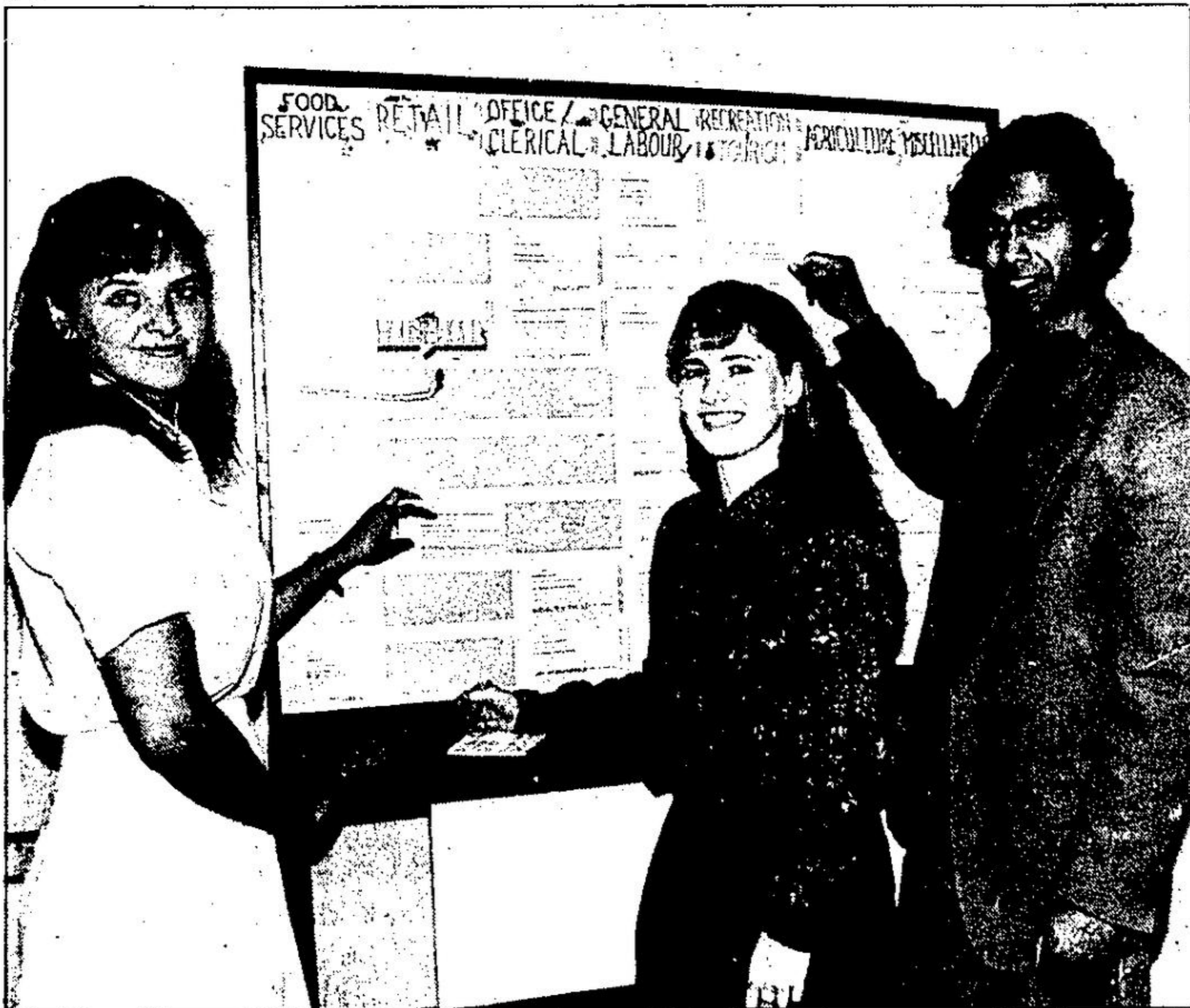
job placement with employers.

Students making use of the centre can go in just to take a look at the job screen board where a job description, wage and employers name is listed, to get a lead on what is available in the Halton Hills community. They can also make use of the counselling service which teaches students job search techniques, how to prepare resumes and how to prepare for an interview.

This summer's job pickings include recreational openings, restaurant positions and general labor openings.

On Wednesday, the board listed job vacancies for dishwashers, kitchen helpers, bartenders, house cleaners, muffler installers, concrete repairers, camp counsellors, cashiers and babysitters with wages ranging from minimum wage (\$4.55 for under 18, \$5.40 for over 18) for the kitchen helper up to \$10 per hour for the camp counsellor.

Students interested in making use of the centre's job screen or speaking with the placement officers can visit the centre anytime between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Placing new job descriptions on the job screening board at the Canada Employment Centre for Students at 232 Guelph Street are (left to right) Nancy Albers, Shelley Powell, both student placement

officers, and Chris Fernandes, the centre's supervisor. Students are welcome to drop by anytime between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to get help finding a summer job.

(Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

Special ceremony at Glen Hall

On Queen Victoria's birthday, May 24, 1871, the villagers of Glen Williams gathered in their new town hall to listen to a concert. Since that day, the Glen Williams Town Hall has played a significant role in the history of Glen Williams.

In that same spirit, the villagers past and present are invited to join the Glen Williams Town Hall Board as they mark the 120th anniversary of the opening of the hall. The garden of Mrs. Marie Beaumont will be the spot to convene on Sunday, May 26, 1991. A band concert will be given under the trees beginning at 2 p.m.

After a ribbon cutting ceremony, tea and cake will be served in the town hall. Everyone will have ample time to greet neighbors and renew friendships. It is an event which should not be missed.

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