

## Acton YMCA is still offering services

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald

Even though the Acton YMCA building on Mill St. is being boarded up and locked tight, the YMCA will still be offering a wide variety of services in Town.

The YMCA actually stopped using the historic downtown building for programs in March 1990, and when the Halton Regional Police vacated the building in November they decided to close it for safety reasons.

Margaret Fraser, the Manager of Community Programs for the Western Region of the YMCA can rhyme off the reasons why the building is no longer usable.

"There's no heat in the building since our aged oil furnace no longer works," she says. "It also needs a new roof. It's been leaking badly

and because of this, patches of the ceiling and walls are falling down."

Clearly, the building is no longer safe for children and adults who make use of YMCA's many community programs ranging from fitness courses and sports, to child-care and day camps.

Since vacating the building in March, Acton YMCA has been offering its programs in local schools and churches and plan to continue to do so until a soon-to-be-formed committee decides how the YMCA can best function in the community.

Ms. Fraser explains, "the YMCA doesn't know what they want to do. We don't know if we want to fix the building up, find a new base or continue operating as we have."

"We want it to be a community decision."

She said YMCA administration

plans to hold an open meeting sometime in January - (they haven't scheduled a date yet) - during which goals can be set and hopefully, a committee also be formed comprised of local residents to deal with the issue.

Meanwhile, Ms. Fraser says the YMCA is hoping to expand its program base in Acton. Currently, the YMCA operates a licenced child-care centre, summer day camp, adult fitness classes, babysitter training courses and a youth employment service. It hopes to offer a youth basketball league to start mid-January if there is sufficient community interest.

For more information on the committee and the future of the YMCA in Acton, call Margaret Fraser at (416) 897-9622.

"The YMCA is an independant

association of volunteers and professionals whose purpose is to offer people opportunities for personal growth and service to others.

In pursuit of this goal, the Association provides quality programs that promote self-

improvement and self-reliance through spiritual, mental and physical development.

The programs offered by YMCA are open to everyone regardless of race, sex, creed or economic circumstance.

## Kinsmen clubs "Proud to be Canadian"

On January 1, in Victoria, B.C. and the following day in Carleton Place, Ont., Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs of Canada launched the "Proud to be Canadian" tour as a celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Confederation. This six month project will directly involve 600 Canadian communities by encouraging a minimum of 1.25 million children under the voting age to sign specially designed Canadian flags as a show of hope and love for the country.

Led by flags which have flown atop the Peace Tower, two processions will visit over 250 communities and meet at the Terry Fox Memorial in Thunder Bay on June 20, 1992. An additional 350 Canadian communities that have a Kinsmen or Kinette club will take part in the Proud to be Canadian project by staging flag signing ceremonies in their local community.

As the largest all-Canadian service club, Kinsmen and Kinettes hope to focus the attention of the country on the positive aspects of being Canadian and to develop an appreciation of the quality of life, freedoms and rights that we en-

joy as Canadians, but seem to take for granted.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Governor General of Canada has agreed to become the Honorary Chairperson of the Proud to be Canadian tour.

National Kinsmen President Dave Robinson of Port Perry, Ont. and National Kinette President Gail Malcolm of Ingersoll, Ont., in a joint statement, declared: "The future of our country is our children and this project will focus the attention of today's youth on the pride and heritage that is an integral part of being a Canadian. Hopefully, a renewed enthusiasm in our past

will assist our youth in meeting the challenges of tomorrow."

Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs of Canada's Proud to be Canadian tour is one of the five national projects sanctioned by the Canada 125 Corporation at a recent news conference.

Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs of Canada is an organization of approximately 16,000 young men and women between the ages of 21 and 45 gathered together in 1,000 clubs in 600 Canadian communities for the purposes of performing community service work and to enjoy social activities. In 1990/91, Kinsmen and Kinettes raised in excess of \$28 million for the people of Canada.

## Education is Ageless

Georgetown residents should be pleased to know that 3 new courses will be offered at Georgetown District High School this Winter. Crafts and Silk Flower Arranging, Financial Planning and Investments, and Hatha Yoga will be a nice addition to the computer and language courses already offered. In addition, a Saturday workshop, How to Buy a Computer, will be held on Saturday, February 15, from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., at the cost of \$26.54 per person. You will find more information on these and other courses in your "Education is Ageless" program guide, or call 333-3499/878-1240.



Scout gathering

(Left to right) Sandy Booth, Past President Georgetown Optimist Club; Jim Blain, National Chief Executive of Scouts Canada; and Dennis White, President at District Council Scouts Canada met during a recent dinner held at Bayrischer-Hof Restuarant, Milton with 62 guests in honor of Mr. Blain's official visit to the Central Escarpment Region. (Photo submitted)

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