

Lions mark 60 years of service here

By JANET BAINE

You don't have to look very far in order to see how the Georgetown Lions Club has contributed to the community over the past 60 years.

The annual Crazy Boat Race, the Citizen of the Year award and the Santa Claus parade are all sponsored by the club.

Over the past 10 years, the Lions furnished the dining room at the Bennett Health Care Centre, helped set up the "talking book" section of the public library and helped pay for an addition to the Fall Fair's Agricultural Hall.

Even the trees which line Maple Ave. were planted by the Lions.

Sixtieth anniversary celebrations will take place tonight, Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Acton Legion Hall — the only place in the vicinity large enough for the event. Cocktails will be at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30. The cost is \$25 per person.

Guest speaker will be Bruce Murray, First International Director

Lions Club of Georgetown

"We Serve"

Club deserves lion's share of credit for key projects



of Lions Clubs. His presentation will be followed by musical entertainment by the Clawhammers.

For more information on tickets, contact Carl Hansen at 458-2615 or Dennis Dorotsik at 877-6407.

The Lions Club of Georgetown was formed by 20 local men on Feb. 6, 1931.

Fund-raising activities in the first year included sponsoring an amateur boxing match and a street dance and a draw for a new Chevrolet "coach". In December, 700 children watched the movie *Huckleberry Finn* in an event sponsored by the Lions and businessmen.

The first Santa Claus parade was held in 1933, when the Lorne Scots Rifles, Lions Boy's Band and the fire

brigade preceded Santa's sleigh to a Christmas tree at Main and Mill Sts. There, 500 bags of candy and oran-

ges were given out to children.

Even in the midst of the Great Depression between 1931 and 1936, the treasurer's report revealed receipts to be \$4,324. This included donations of nearly \$2,000 to activities and \$1,064 for the hospital.

The 1940s saw the Lions Club supporting the British Child War Victim's Fund and raising \$2,500 for the Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto. The Club managed to purchase a lot on Water St. for \$150, which is currently occupied by the vacated Hydro building.

Lions throughout the world became familiar with the Georgetown Girls Pipe Band in 1946, because the band paraded at the international convention held in Philadelphia.

In 1951, the Georgetown club organized Lions in Erin, and local member Don Barrager received an Extension Award for his work.

In 1954, the Lions decided to build an outdoor pool near their clubhouse, and fund-raising got underway the following year. By January, 1956, a total of \$28,177 had been raised for the project, which represented 56 per cent of the funds. On June 21, 1958, the pool opened for business after \$50,000 had been raised.

The new Acton Lions Club came into being in 1960 and was also sponsored by the Georgetown Lions. In the same year, the local club decided to help build the Georgetown hospital and presented \$2,500 to the fund that year. Five years later, the final payment was made.

A Lions parade celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Little NHL in Georgetown started off the year in 1966.

In 1968, the next major local project began: building a park. In 1969, two double tennis courts were built and, by 1972, the park was completed. That year, the first annual Citizen of the Year dinner and dance was held, honoring longtime community volunteer Peggy Treahy.

The club moved to the new Lions Hall beside what had become known as Dick Licata Pool in July, 1975. The total cost of the project was more than \$100,000, but it was paid off in three years.

In 1981, the club voted to spend \$4,000 on a new time clock in the Gordon Alcott Arena. They revived the Saturday Morning Hockey Breakfast to raise the money.

The past 10 years have seen the Lions Club continue to support local projects, like buying "talking books" for the benefit of visually-impaired library users.

Over the years, it has also supported projects outside Georgetown, like Camp Dorset, a summer campground for children with kidney problems, which has 10 dialysis machines.

The local club supports a guide dog training school in Oakville, helped provide group homes for hearing-impaired children who also have other disabilities, started a diabetes organization and sends children to the Foundation for Chronic Skin Diseases.

"The Georgetown Lions Club is one of the most active clubs in the region and even in the province," said member Carl Hansen.

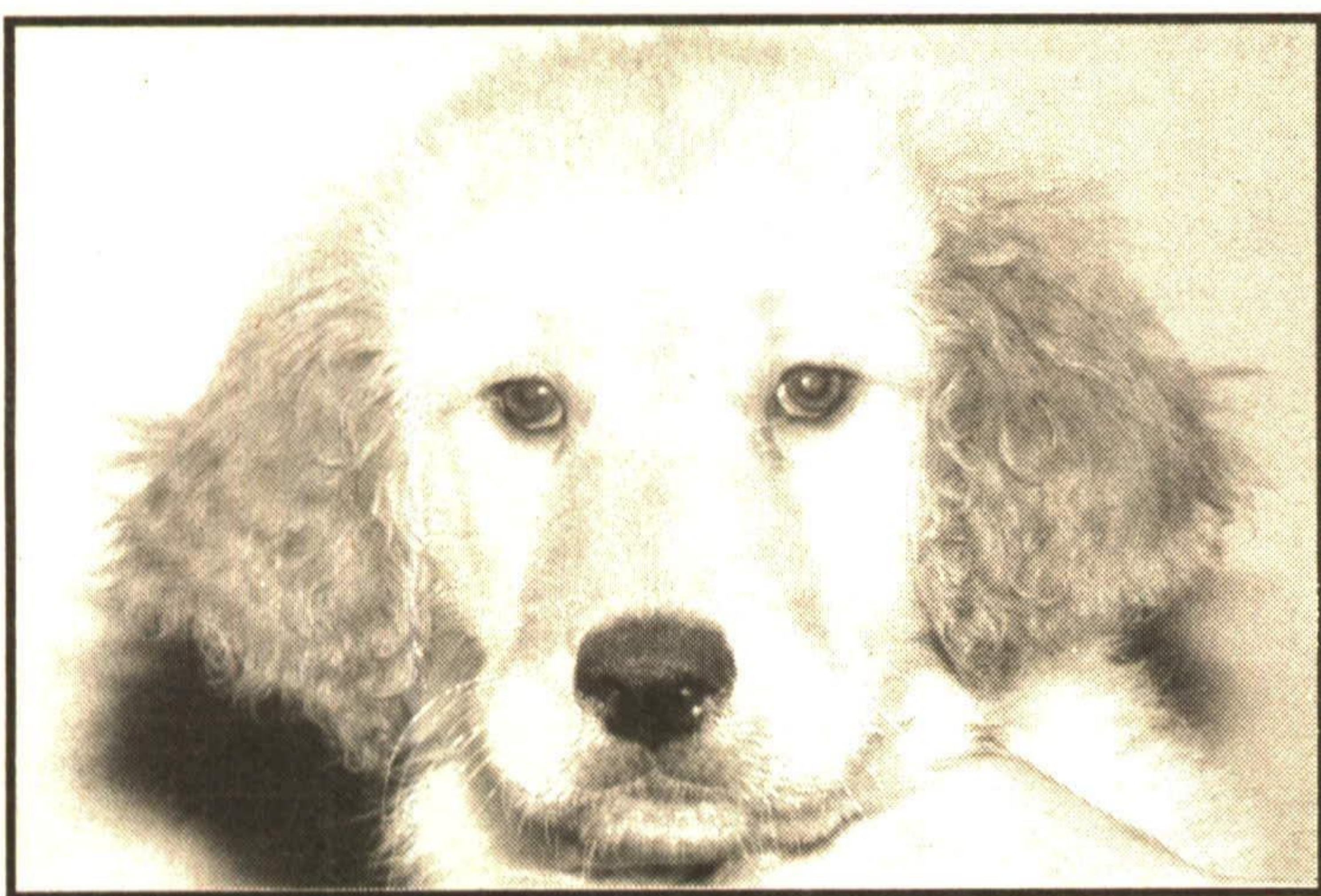
He credits this with the good mixture of members, who come from all walks of life. Hansen said members join the club because they want to contribute to their community.

Hansen said he hopes that along with Georgetown's 50 Lions and their family members, past members who have moved away and the general public will take part in the celebration. Ticket sales are expected to reach 250.

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- To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.
- To take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.
- To unite the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.
- To provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest: provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.
- To encourage service-minded men to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

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