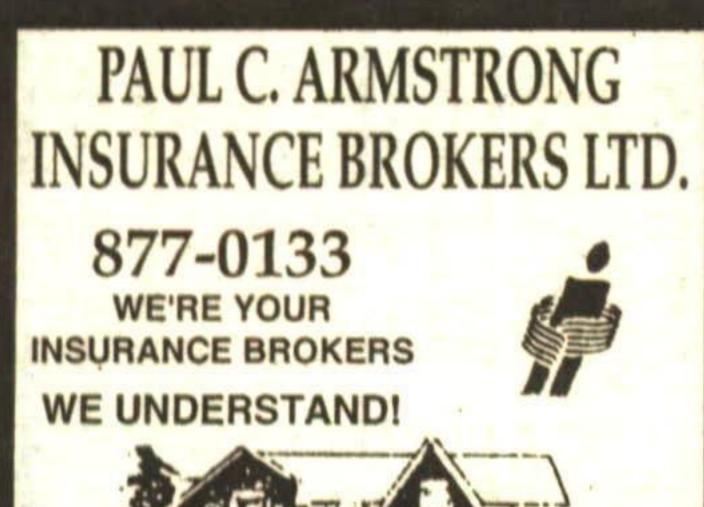
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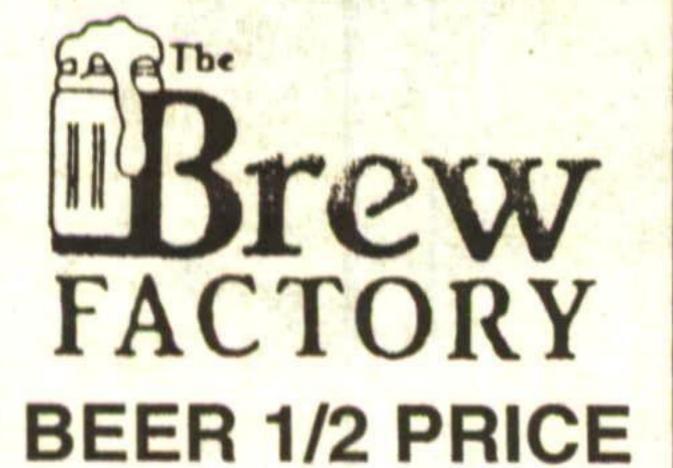


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# NE SALUTE OUR VOLUNEEES

Small but active

# Rotary clubs continue to raise funds for community

By JANET BAINE

Staff writer

The Rotary Clubs in Acton and Georgetown are both small but active and looking for new members.

"I was attracted because it was a small group. It's a good, easy group of people to spend an evening with and a good way to get to know the community, too," says the president of the Acton Rotary Club, Guenter Haessler.

"The best thing is you know you're putting something back into the community," Bill Reid, president of the Georgetown club says. Both the presidents are relative newcomers to their clubs, having joined within the

past two or three years. There are 13 members in both the Georgetown and

Acton clubs. Reid notes that they have put about \$1,000 per person back into the community annually through their fundraising efforts.

The Rotary Club was formed in 1905 by Paul Harris in Chicago, when he persuaded a wine merchant, a coal dealer and a tailor to form the first club. To prevent competition within the group, only one member was admitted from each occupation, a practice

still adhered to today. But groups have found a way around this, by adding subcategories, like corporate banker, retail banker and commercial banker.

"We're trying hard to get more gals in our club," Reid says. There are currently two women, Jo Phenix, a writer, and Sarah Cornett, an engineer. In the past the wives of Rotarians were called Rotary Annes, but now the spouses are called Friends of Rotary and people of both sexes can become Rotarians. There are no women in the Acton Rotary Club.

Currently there are nearly 21,000 clubs around the world. Each club meets weekly and members improve business acquaintance, make friends and do work in the community, including lots of fundraising.

The Acton Rotary Club dates back to 1948, while the Georgetown Club was formed seven years later.

The Acton club meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. for dinner at The Meeting Place, while the Georgetown club meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at The Chateau Restaurant.

The clubs carry out lots of fundraising activities, and are always looking for new ones. In Acton the annual steer draw which is held in conjunction with the the Acton Fall Fair raises about \$4,000. In May a gala dinner and auction is held, and this nets about \$7,500.

The Georgetown Club holds a golf tournament annually, and this raises about \$4,500 which goes to Georgetown and District Hospital for the mammogra-

phy unit. Renting out a 30 ft. by 50 ft. tent owned by the club brings in about \$5,000 annually. At Christmas hams are sold and at Easter coloring books.

Both clubs sponsor a dinner for over 200 seniors in the community each year, which is free of charge and features entertainment. The Georgetown club supports Georgetown Hospital while the Acton club is helping complete Rotary Park at Fairy Lake. Both sponsor scholar-

ships at the high schools, help with international projects like sending money to flood victims in Missouri this past summer.

Assistance is given to people in the community on an individual basis as well. A family with a sick child may be given some financial help or a student may be sponsored to go on a program.

An average size for a Rotary Club is 30 to 40, but there's one in Guelph with 185 members, and one in Toronto with 450 members. Both the local clubs need new members.

Reid hopes the Georgetown club will someday be large enough to participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange, and will send a local youth overseas for a year, while at the same time hosting someone from another country to come Jeffrey L. Eason, BA., G.G.B. BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

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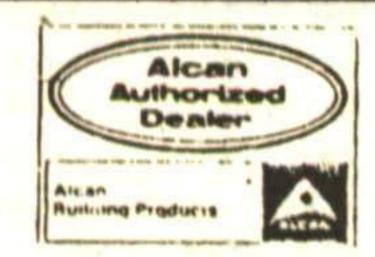
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