



**CAT'S MEOW:** Judge Elaine Gleason presents Susanne Keith and Mischa with a rosette during the weekend's No Name Cat Show at the Legion. (Tony Rouse photo)

## O'Leary column sparks action

### COUNCIL DIGEST

BY RICK SOUTAR  
The Acton Tanner

Councillor Rick Bonnette introduced at Monday's Council meeting concerns many local residents have over security at the old Beardmore facility. Reports indicate that security guards who currently patrol the plant will be let go sometime in January.

Many feel the industrial complex is a fire and environmental hazard and a target for vagrants and vandals. There is soil contamination with excessive levels of sodium chloride, chromium and PCBs.

The issue was publicly raised by *Acton Tanner* columnist Mike O'Leary in last week's edition.

Mayor Russ Miller told Bonnette that he has discussed the matter with representatives of Maple Leaf Foods, owners of the facility and they have indicated a willingness to meet public safety standards. Town administrator Ray King is currently investigating the issue and will table a report

to Council sometime in the coming weeks.

### Rennie declares war on vandals

Councillor Gerald Rennie asked Council to match a \$500 reward that Acton's BIA is offering for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandal who defaced the "Welcome" sign at Main and Mill Streets.

Rennie told Council on Monday that the BIA (Business Improvement Area) is sick of cleaning up after vandals who have "no regard for the property of others" and they are determined to bring the culprit to justice.

The Welcome sign was defaced during Hell Night, the evening before Halloween, when someone threw black paint over the Plexiglas which covers the sign. Originally it was thought the sign could be cleaned but corrosive agents in the paint have eaten into the Plexiglas, making it necessary to purchase a new cover.

Rennie cited other acts of vandalism, including damage to

flower beds and graffiti on downtown structures "which is too obscene to repeat."

Town Clerk, Janet Lunn Stewart, told council that the Town has allocated \$200 for rewards leading to the arrest of the vandals. Lunn Stewart said she would look into the matter and inform councillor Rennie how the BIA could access the money.

### Elliott asks about parking by-law

Councillor Norm Elliott said he has received complaints from a few Acton residents over the lack of a commercial vehicle parking by-law.

The by-law is currently being investigated along with several other matters pertaining to Acton but Elliott says it should be looked at separately.

Elliott says parking has become a problem in a couple of areas and Council needs to address the issue of commercial vehicles.

"It's something that needs to be dealt with," Elliott told Council Monday.

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## Murphy vying for Junior Citizen of the Year

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Acton resident Sara Murphy has been nominated for the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

The award, sponsored by the Ontario Community Newspapers Association and Bell Canada, has attracted 112 young people aged 6

to 18 this year.

Nominees are recognized for community service, just being a good kid, acts of heroism and overcoming a physical or psychological disability.

The 12 final recipients will be announced on Dec. 3, and will be given their awards in March during the OCNA annual convention.

"It's a challenge," says Sara, a Grade 9 Bishop Reding High School student. "I think I could do

more if I had more time or energy, but sometimes I think I'm doing more than I should."

Sara has been a volunteer in a number of community service activities for many years. They include fund-raising for FoodShare, the Ontario Cancer Society, Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation and many other charities.

She also volunteers at her church, Acton's Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle, as a Sunday

school teacher, Youth Group leader and Nursery volunteer.

"She's sensitive, mature and cares about others. She has a talent to work with younger children and enjoys it," says Sara's mother, Carol.

Sara's most significant recognition came in her Grade 8 year at McKenzie-Smith when she received the Norma Silcock Award, the school's citizenship award. This award is given to a student who has shown leadership skills, an active participation in school activities and fund-raising for community development-support services.

Her school involvement also included being a member of McKenzie-Smith's Student Council Executive, over-seeing the school's recycling program, acting as lunch-hour secretary and giving her time for several other school functions. Sara was also named Most Improved Student.

"Some people don't see the opportunity to help, but she does," says Carol.

Liz Hopkins, from the Children's Assessment and Treatment Centre in Milton, and Sara's family therapist, echoes these sentiments.

"One of the most memorable statements Sara made to me this past year was 'I'd love to have 48 hours in a day, so I could do more for others,'" says Hopkins. "Sara is an inspiration to her peers and the adults in her life."



Sara Murphy is presented with her Junior Citizen certificate by *Tanner* publisher Paul Nolan last Wednesday. Sara's mom Carol and sister Lisa were also on hand. (Doug Harrison photo)

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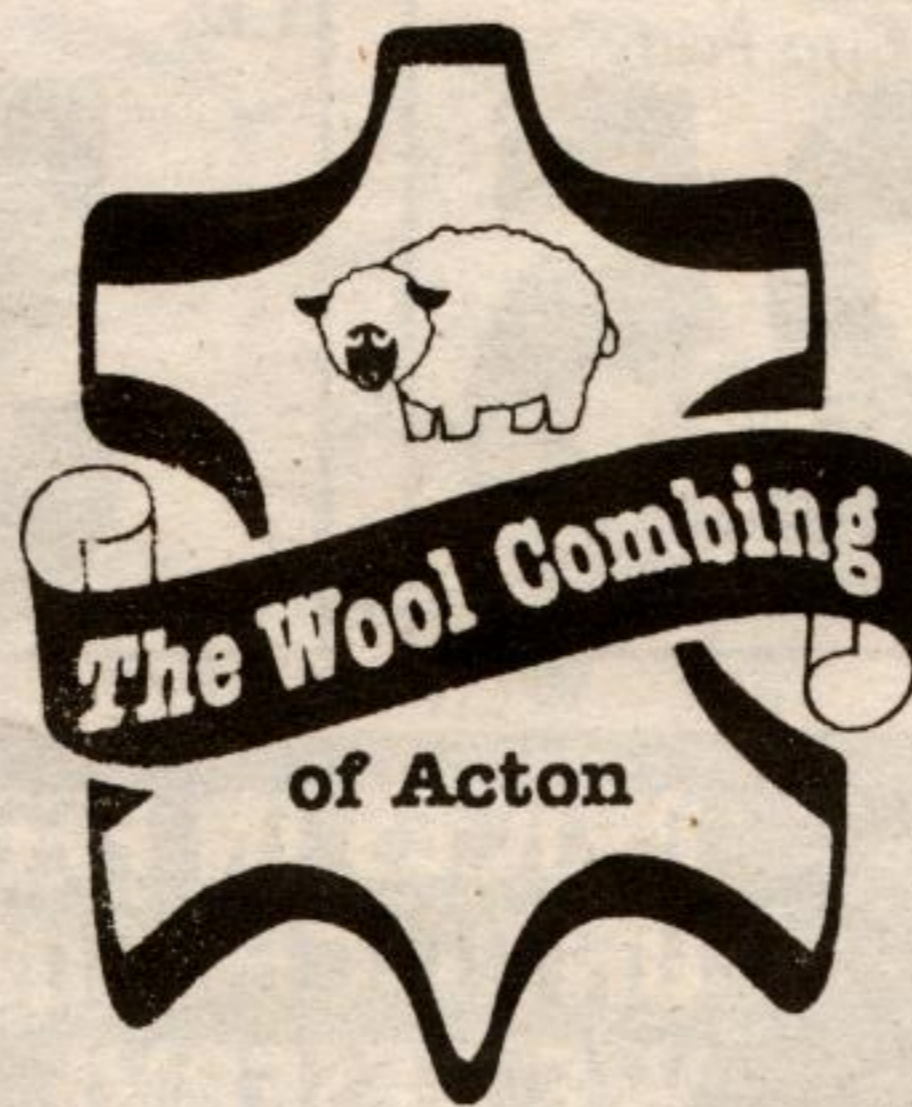
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