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## Droves of past, present Junior Farmers attend 60th anniversary

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

The Halton Junior Farmers recently celebrated their 60th anniversary as 250 past and present members crammed the Lions Hall in Milton for a reunion.

Among the many on hand was Ruth Ford, the organization's second president in 1935.

"I've been to a lot of reunions where there was a majority of peo-

ple from one era, decade or year, but there were members from the 30s, 40s and 50s. There was a good cross-section," says Acton's George Henderson, who was president of the Halton Junior Farmers in 1973.

"I was surprised at how many past members still live in the area — most live within an hour's drive."

The evening was celebrated with a talent festival with singing from a trio and mixed quartet, along with a solo guitar performance.

Some people looked through scrapbooks and re-lived memories, while others took part in a talent auction (auctioning off crafts and baked pies) run by the present 21 Halton members.

Acton's Mac Sprowl, who was Halton Junior Farmer president in 1950-51 and 1951-52, says membership province-wide has dropped to 2,200 from 8,000 when he was a member from 1947 to 1960.

Sprowl says the decrease in

members is unfortunate "because the self-development of the members through Junior Farmer training was tremendous.

Some of the members went on to be prominent citizens in various fields."

Acton had its own Junior Farmers group, Actondale U.F.Y.P.O., that started in 1925 and was organized at Hugh McCutcheon's residence. There was dialogue, musical numbers and solos.

They soon conducted meetings at the Old Parish Hall, the same site where the existing hall sits, and proceeded to move to Lorne Hall until 1949. After a few years, the boys and girls met separately at farm homes and then had a joint meeting, where there was a speaker of note and then lunch, Sprowl recalls.

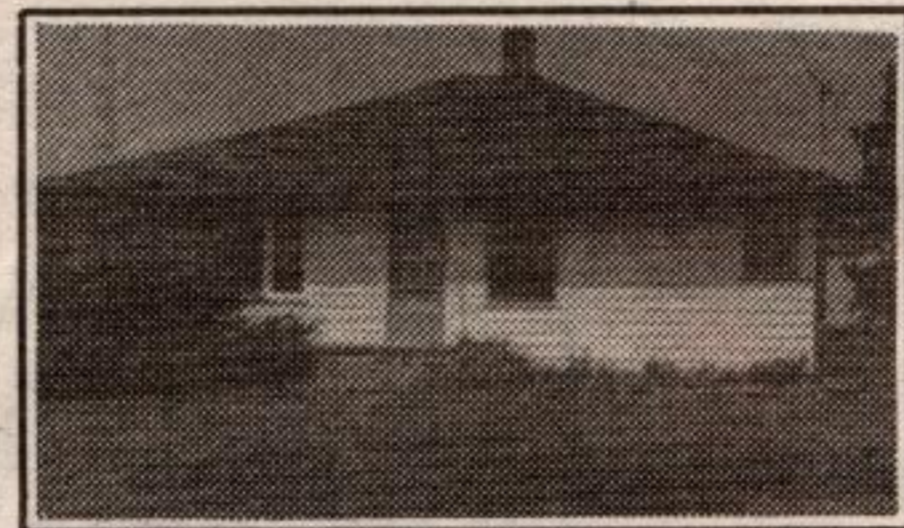
In 1938-39, the Actondale U.F.Y.P.O. became known as the Acton Junior Farmers and in 1943-44, boys and girls had their separate executives and the name switched to the Acton Junior Farmers and Acton Junior Institute.

Over the years, the Acton group involved itself in many exchanges, sports activities and self-development programs such as public speaking, debating and recreation workshops.

They also had interclub drama competitions — making it to the provincial finals in 1971-72 — and participated in livestock judging competitions.

Due to declining membership, however, Acton shut down operations of their group in 1978 and later amalgamated with the Halton Junior Farmers in the early 1980s. "It was a fact of life. Agricultural farms were declining more and more. There weren't as many farms in Acton and there didn't seem to be a need to have two clubs," remembers Henderson, whose wife Sharon was Acton president in 1972.

On the weekend of Aug. 14 and 15, the Halton Junior Farmers are hosting the 50th anniversary of the Ontario Junior Farmers. The Agricultural Museum in Milton will be the site of the Provincial Summer Games and the reunion goes on the Sunday.



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## CONSTABLE RIDDLE'S CORNER

WITH VILLAGE CONSTABLE  
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## Meet Constable Turner

Last week I wrote about the change in policing in Acton and that there are now two Village Constables. The new Village Constable is Jim Turner. Jim has been a police officer for approximately 22 years in Halton, and two years with Metro Toronto Police where we worked together in 23 Division.

Jim has been married for about 22 years and has one daughter. He has always liked working in Acton and when this new position was opened he quickly volunteered.

In the 22 years that Constable Turner has been with the Halton Regional Police Service he has had a varied career. His service includes time spent in the following branches of the Police Service: uniform patrol, Drugs and Morality, Mobile Surveillance, Criminal Investigation Bureau and four years as an undercover officer throughout southern Ontario. This experience will be a welcome asset to the policing of Acton and I welcome Jim as my new partner and as the second Village Constable for Acton.



Constable Riddle's Corner is a weekly feature brought to you by the community-minded businesses surrounding this column. We urge you to strengthen local industry and trade by supporting these businesses.

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