



DANCING DUO: Lois Karmann and Bob Kipler of the Pine Valley Squares were dressed to the nines on Friday at the Legion. The dancers whooped it up at Acton's Stars Thru Squares' fifth anniversary celebration. (Doug Harrison photo)

Software helps out handicapped

BY CRAIG ROSS

The Acton Tanner

Enhanced Interfaces vice-president Russell Galvin, who works on software for the handicapped, has a position where the reward is more than just a paycheque.

The Acton man's programs, used by the Hugh McMillan Rehabilitation Centre in Toronto, enables people with physical disabilities to do more than what their disability has limited them to.

"Our main component is something called WIVIK, (windows visual keyboard) which is an on-screen keyboard," said Galvin. The keyboard is designed to be used with different techniques to help people with physical disabilities.

"By putting the keyboard on-screen, you can do many other things with it rather than just playing keyboard," explains Galvin.

"The keys can change and do anything you want to program into them. You can run a program, draw, or make sounds."

Fraser Shein, co-ordinator of the computer micro applications program and main designer of the programs, has been working with Galvin since he was hired in 1989.

"When I entered the picture, the program was already developed and I've been adding to it," said Galvin.

For now, Galvin develops programs for clients who tell him what they want. "It's like saying I want a bridge over that river; you can build it for me, and the engineer does the design, and that's what I do," says Galvin.

"Hopefully there will be a day when I'll have the financial backing to spend about a year developing software that I can market, and

still have money to support myself for that year, but I'm in a position where I still have to work for a living."

Galvin designed a program for the speech language department distributed by IBM. The program is designed like the Frogger video game, called the Stepping Stones Game.

"A person speaks into a microphone and makes a little guy jump across the river from stone to stone," says Galvin. "It's for people with head injuries to practice speaking, and it gives them some feedback."

The one thing that Galvin feels would make his job complete would to actually see the clients use the programs more often.

"I try to sit (with the clients) as much as I can," said Galvin. "but it's not enough."

Ballantyne opens kids' crisis centre

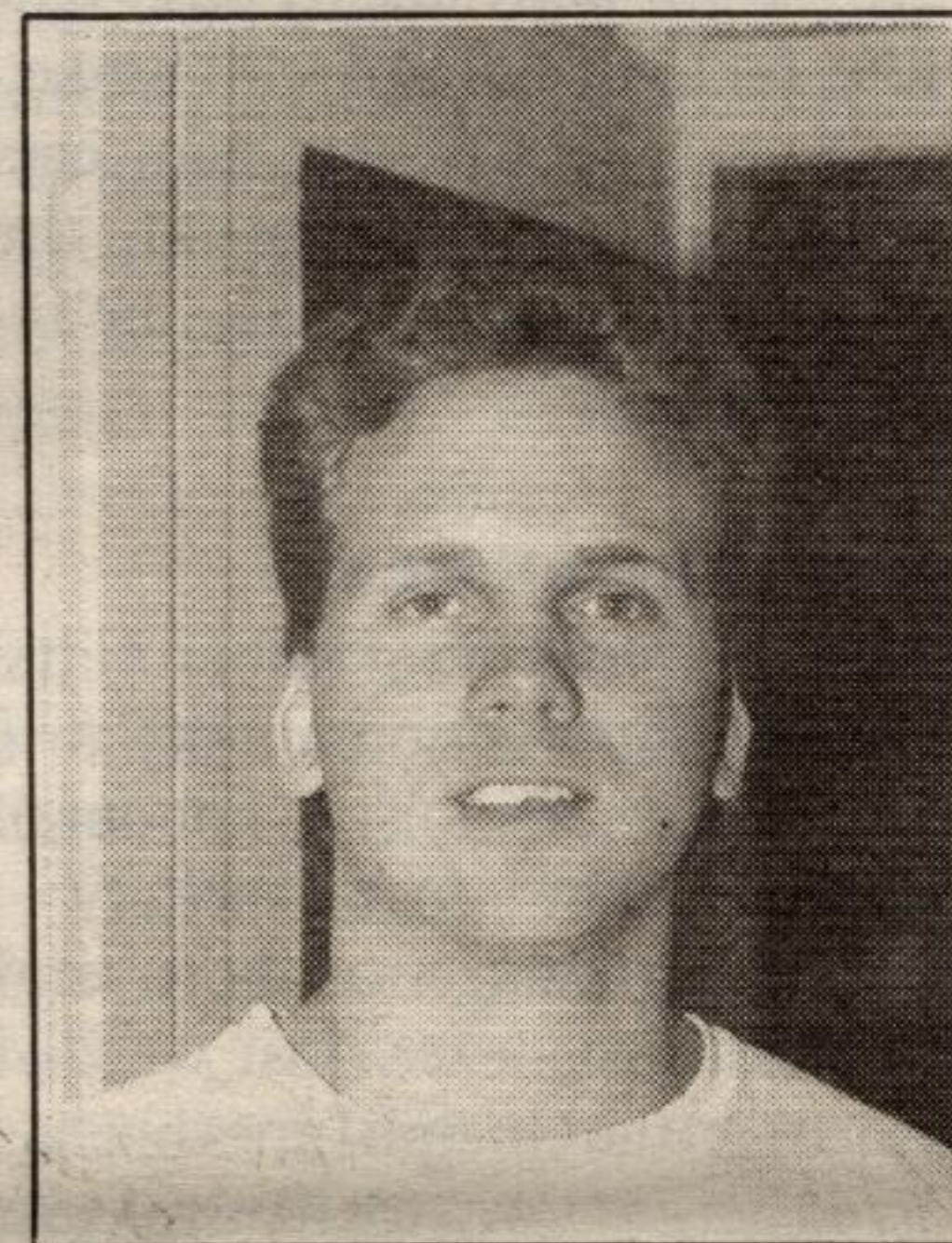
BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Chad Ballantyne wants to give Acton teens something positive to hold on to. And he wants to relieve them of their biggest frustration and problem: boredom in a small town.

The 24-year-old former Barrie resident has been hired for the summer by Pastor Tom Cullen and the Acton Baptist Church to become the Mill Street church's youth outreach worker.

His job is to reach out to the community kids — teenagers primarily — and get them more in-



CHAD BALLANTYNE

Ballantyne, who will soon graduate from Briercrest Bible College in Saskatchewan with a degree in Christian Ministries to Youth. "So I've opened up my place as a general crisis centre."

"Kids on the street can come here for shelter, hang-out, play darts and other games, shower or get a bite to eat. You have to reach out to kids. They have to know you're real."

Ballantyne and his wife are both interested in counselling. The former has worked with teens for seven years, so coming to a new town and reaching out to teens in need comes easily to him.

He's been pleasantly surprised by the attitudes of the kids in town. After volunteering at Barrie's Youth Haven crisis centre where "the kids were very much Toronto kids attitude-wise" Ballantyne notes that "In Acton, I'm sitting in front of my apartment and teens will voluntarily say 'hi' to you. It kind of surprises you and sets you back a bit."

"One thing teenagers have today is low self-esteem. In the last five to 10 years the level has dropped," says Ballantyne, a guitarist-singer-songwriter in his spare time. "I don't know if it's the economy or the way the country is going, but I don't think they feel they have a future."

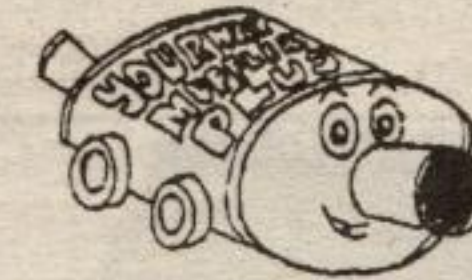
Ballantyne will continue working with the Baptist Church Puppets group at their Tuesday Nights Together bible study. As well, he will soon begin a 10-week series in which young members of the church will view videos and discuss such questions as: Is there absolute truth in this world? Is there sin? and Why am I here?

involved with the church. He also wants to offer them an alternate hang-out to the pool hall with Kick Back.

Ballantyne and his wife Sandra have opened their hearts and the door to their Mill Street apartment to bored teens every Wednesday and Friday night.

"Teenagers who are runaways or have been kicked out of their house have always been sent to Georgetown or Guelph," begins

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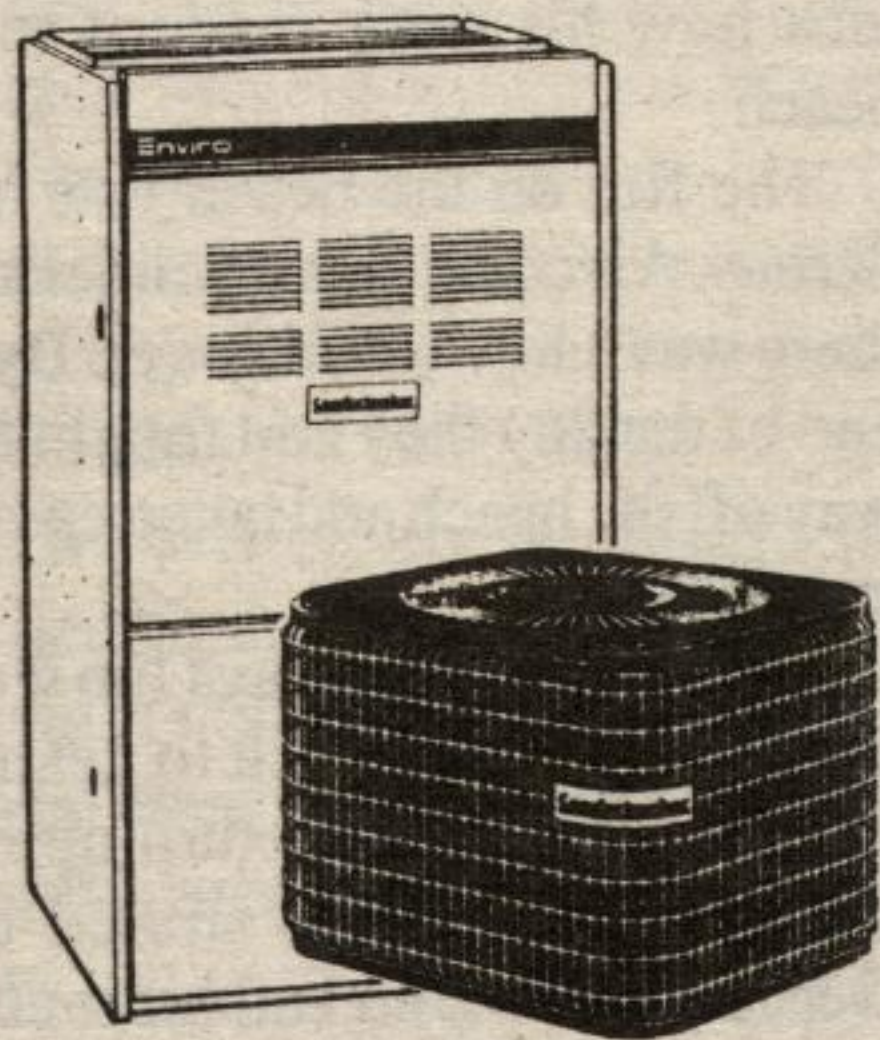
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**PIONEER
DAY
JUNE 11**

FRIDAY JUNE 10

Open Air Jazz Event - Performance by Jazzarus
Sponsored by Rockwood & District Lions Club
Waterside Park, 7:30 pm

SATURDAY JUNE 11

10 am Rubber Duck Race - Waterside Park
11:30 am Parade Forms at Rockmosa Park to leave by noon
12:30 pm Parade Arrives at Lloyd Dyer Park
1 - 4 pm Displays, Games, Penny Table, Races, Draws, Dunking Booth, Demonstrations, Concert (Guelph Concert Band) plus MUCH MUCH MORE!
4:30 - 5:30 pm Baseball Game
Township vs. No-Stars!
7:30 pm - 1 am Outdoor Dance - ALL AGES WELCOME

SUNDAY JUNE 12

Rockwood's 145th Reunion, Rockmosa Park 9 am
Food Available - Bring Lawn Chair

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