

Low numbers mean uncertain future for camp

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Acton could be minus one sports camp next summer.

"My fear is the Halton Board may not continue having camp here," says Bob McKay, supervisor for the 15th annual Acton Sports and Fitness camp, which runs Aug. 8 to 12 and Aug. 15 to 18.

The problem appears to be faltering numbers. McKay had 47 kids aged 6 to 13 attend the camp out of Acton High last year. He says he could survive with between 20 and 22 camp-goers, but that would mean a bleak future to the program.

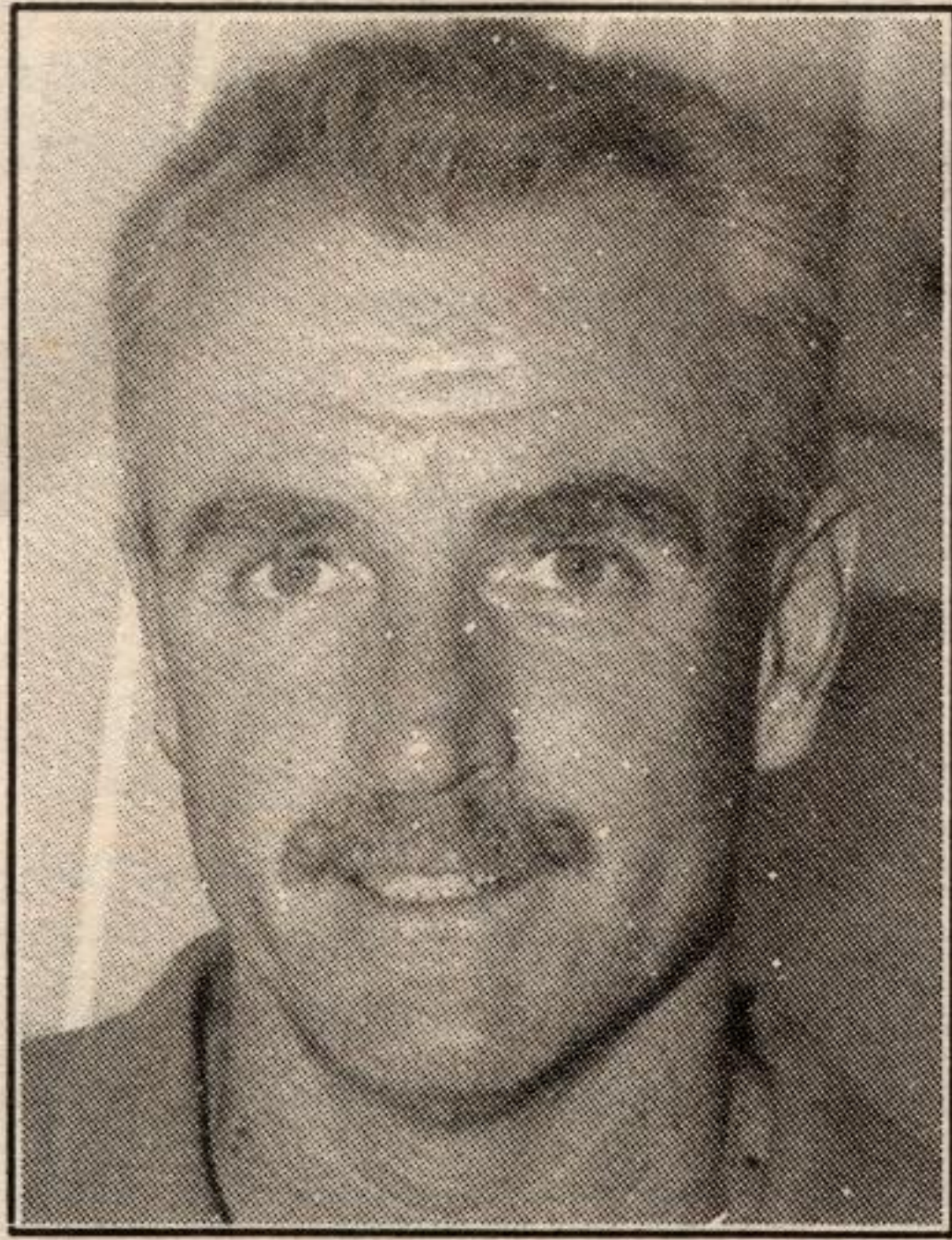
"Acton registration has never been monstrous. It used to be a three-week camp, but due to economics it's now two," says McKay, a Physical and Health Education teacher at Georgetown high school.

"We always get tremendous feedback from the parents and children. It's frustrating; I've put posters around town and advertised in the Recreation and Parks department's brochure. I've never had a negative comment about the camp in its 15 years. I guess people don't have the bucks.

"It may be just our community. The dollar is a tight thing. But I'd hate to give up on it. I like the Acton kids."

Nevertheless, the personable McKay is excited with this year's program, which offers a broad range of activities for everyone.

Each day at the high school



BOB MCKAY

to play. Some of the activities include lacrosse, volleyball, basketball, football and soccer.

And speaking of soccer, with World Cup fever invading the nation, McKay has landed Guelph resident Ken Castledine to demonstrate the fundamentals of the game at a one-hour soccer clinic in each of the one-week sessions.

"Once kids get into the activities they think it's the cat's meow. It's a highly structured camp and we're always changing activities," assures the 17-year Actonite.

Not only do the kids have fun

and meet new friends, but they leave the camp in great physical condition.

"I think the hidden agenda is improving the kids' fitness level. We certainly keep them active through the day and the parents appreciate it. The kids go home and they're dead-tired."

"I love to see the kids have fun. When they're smiling you know you're doing something right."

The camp costs \$80 for one child and \$75 for each one thereafter. If you have questions about the camp, call McKay at 853-3596.

includes 7½ hours of supervised activity, skill instruction in a variety of team activities chosen by students, a daily swim (at McKenzie-Smith), a lunch with movies and participation in a mini-Olympics to be held between Acton, Georgetown and Milton camps.

When registering, kids aged 6 to 8 are asked to choose four of soccer, T-ball, European handball, ball hockey, off-ice hockey and rhythmic to participate in.

With the youngsters, McKay says he and his staff of three or four volunteers (depending on number of registrants) focus on developing the participant's hand-eye co-ordination with the various games. He adds that European handball and ball hockey have been popular activities in the past.

Camp-goers in the 9 to 12-year-old bracket are taught more skills than the youngsters and specific skills to make the games more fun

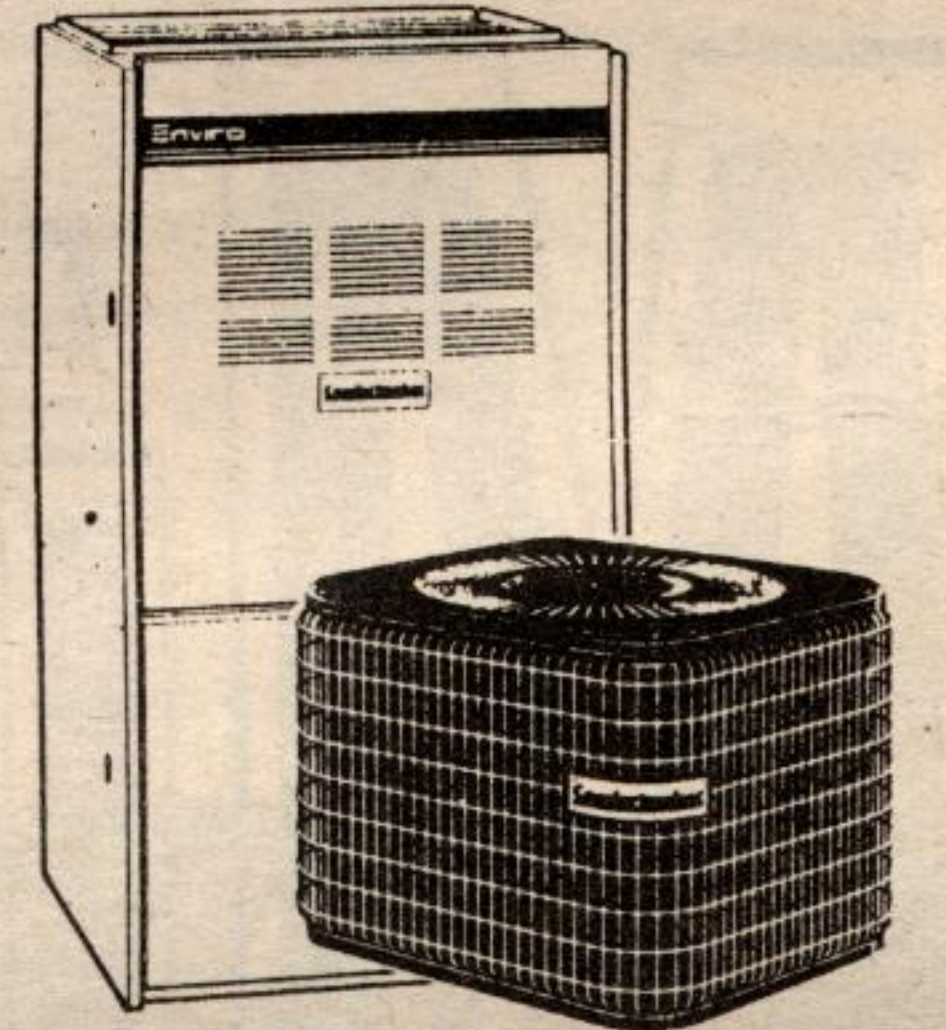


MOORE HOUSE: Acton builder Peter Zions poses inside the renovated Thomas Moore House with Arlene Bruce at a recent open house. The house was built in the early 1890s by the respected resident. It's one of the few remaining original wood-sided homes in town. (Brad Hammond photo)

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