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Acton Lions scrambling to keep their club alive

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK The Acton Tanner

At a time when the Acton Lions Club ought to be celebrating its 35th anniversary, the few remaining active members are scrambling to keep the club alive.

With just seven paid-up members, one short of the necessary number for a quorum to do business, the Acton club is in danger of folding.

Although there were 14 paidup members last year, there has not been an official club meeting in a year because of a lack of few members. A lot of people don't

attendance.

"In order to survive we need more people," said Lions President Claude Morissette in an interview on Sunday, "and if we don't get them, the club will go under — we would have no choice."

For the past few months only two members have attended the regular Lions meetings. Morissette said they are unable to do more than handle emergency situations and pay some bills.

"I have no idea why we have so

seem to have an interest.

"I guess some people join and help us for a few months and then they get busy somewhere else," Morissette explained.

Although the Lions' annual Citizen of the Year program is on hold, Morissette said the annual baseball tournament in Prospect Park will take place in June, even if he has to recruit his own family members to pull it off.

Money raised from that tournament and other Lions fund-raisers has been given to a number of groups including Acton's Food-Share, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the two library branches in Halton Hills and to Camp Dorsett, a family camp for dialysis patients.

Lions executive member Dave Pyke, who is now unable to attend most meetings because of his job, is also unsure why the club is floundering.

"I guess jobs and families come first, but I am really sad to see the drop in membership," Pyke said in an interview on Saturday.

"In the past few years we've had 16 to 19 active members, which is a good group for the size of Acton.

"If we don't get any more members, it could be a serious problem," Pyke said. Morissette, who plans to seek

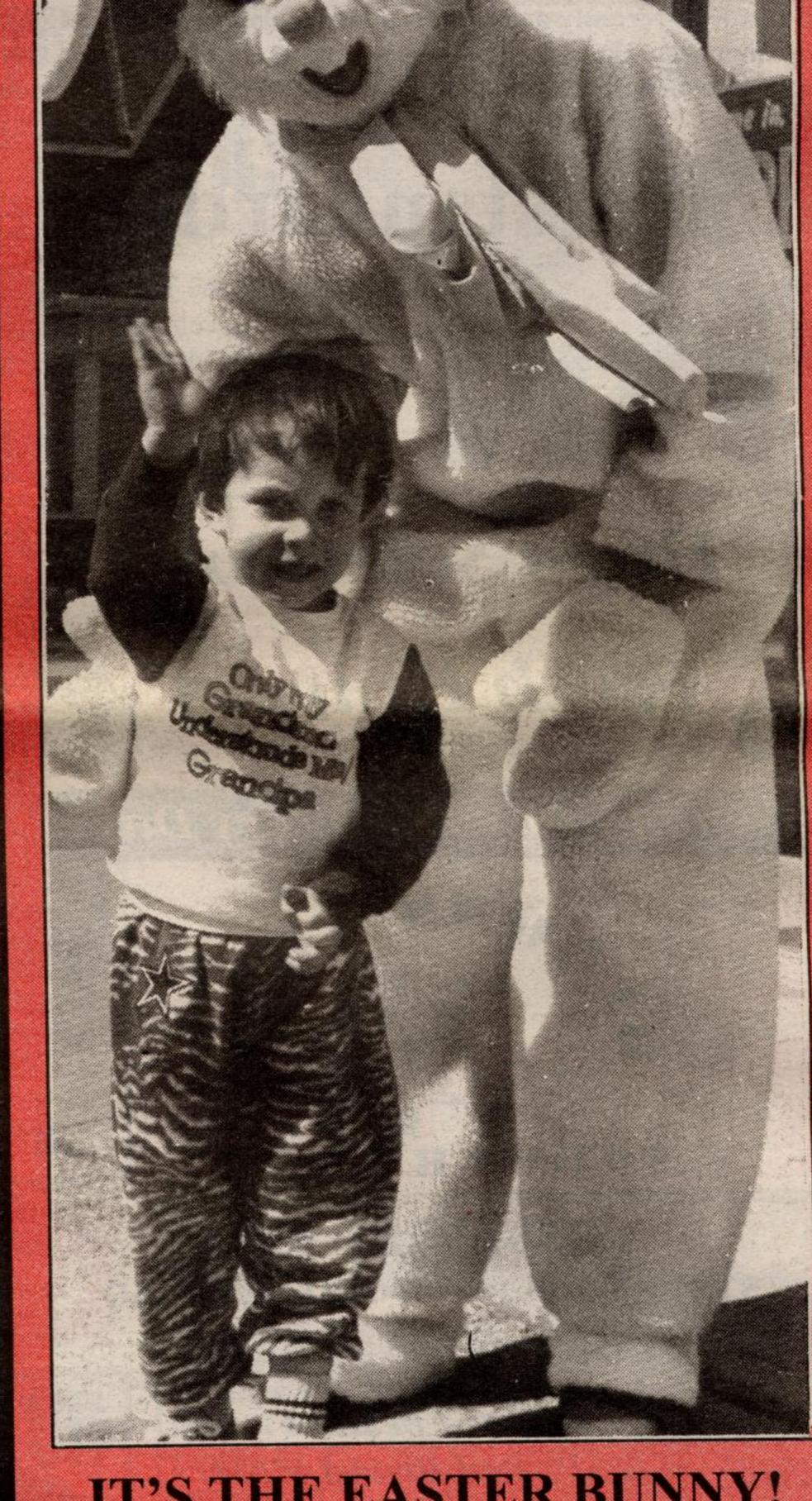
another year as president when his term is up in July, plans to advertise for new members.

"We need people who are willing to donate some of their time and energy to help their neighbours and others."

With a yearly membership fee of \$60, Lions clubs are open to men and women of all ages.

For more information about the Acton Lions Club, call Claude Morissette at 853-1045.





IT'S THE EASTER BUNNY!

Young Ryan Kelloway, 3, caught up with his best friend (last weekend at least!) outside Acton Foodland on Saturday afternoon. (Paul Nolan photo)

Halton won't appeal Acton severance

Town and Regional planning staff may find themselves squaring off ance in rural Acton.

At issue is a request by Acton resident Linda Taras to sever a lot from her property on the east side of Townline Road so her daughter can build a home.

The Region's Land Division Committee (LDC) approved the application but Halton Hills staff and Council are not in favour of it. They have launched an appeal of the LDC decision at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

At a Halton Council meeting last month, Council voted not to appeal the LDC decision and in effect, approved the application.

A frustrated Linda Taras, who swayed some compassionate votes with a story of illness, bankruptcy and her history in the rural community, said last week that she would make another attempt to get the Town to drop its appeal.

"I think it would be a big waste of money for the Town to go ahead at an Ontario Municipal Board with an appeal after the Region hearing over a proposed sever- has decided not to appeal," Taras explained.

"I will personally go back to the Town and I have already written a letter for our MPP with a copy to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

"I think the Town made an abnormal and unrealistic decision and now I'm stuck in a quagmire of municipal governments which can't agree on this application."

Town planner Arvin Prasad described the history of the proposal as "unusual," noting that the Town and Region's planning policies are normally quite consistent.

"What you have with the Taras proposal is one set of policies with two interpretations," Prasad said.

"Town Council voted to appeal the Land Division Committee's decision based on planning policies that are to protect the rural character and prevent urban sprawl."

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