

Acton staged 1st V.E. Day parade, says bandmaster

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

May 8, 1945 marked the dawn of a new era in Acton and all other towns and cities in Canada. Nazi Germany surrendered to the Allies, bringing to a close the battles and bloodshed of the Second World War.

On Sunday, Wetherby's on Church Street hosted a party to mark the 50th anniversary of V.E. (Victory in Europe) Day. Along with special V.E. Day souvenirs, refreshments and cake, the Acton Citizens' Band — led by bandmaster George Elliott — dropped by to play old army marches to commemorate the end of the war.

It's a day the lifelong Acton resident remembers vividly, and not just because of its world-wide significance. Elliott claims Acton held the first post-war parade.

The Acton high school cadet corps' commanding officer at the time, Elliott had gathered with the boys' and two girls' platoons at Prospect Park for the annual cadet inspection.

After the exercise, Elliott saluted the inspecting officer and delivered his speech. Moments later, the tannery whistle began to blow, as it did four times daily. But this particular whistle, at about 11 am, carried a special meaning.

"I remember the inspecting officer shouting, 'What's that?' when it went off," recalls Elliott. "And then I said, 'I think, sir, the war is over.'"

Elliott immediately gathered the corps and in 10 minutes they had marched out of Prospect Park and up Mill Street to where the old Ajax building sits.

When band leader Charlie Ma-

V.E. Day parade evokes gratitude

LEGION NEWS

BY JOYCE BUCHANAN
Branch 197 P.R.O.

We were back to three tables of bridge on Wednesday, with winners Kathy Tulk, Marj Chase and Mary Irwin.

There were 16 tables of euchre on Thursday. First place winner was Doll Tournour, second was Bridget Murphy, third went to Lillian Bonfield and fourth was Everett Van Norman and Doreen Barfoot. Hidden score winners were Jean McPhail and Maymie.

Early bird winners at Saturday's meat draw were Alison Wilmott and Lily Higgins. Regular winners were: A. Gordon, Barb Leech, Barb Andrews, Paula Stuckey, Coline Dunlop, Gus Jeffrey, Cornelia Turpin, Jim McArthur, Debbie Lindsay, G. Flinders, Dot Norton and Kent Tocher. Winner of the big draw was Cathy Munday.

As I write I am watching the V.E. Day parade, and it makes you realize just how lucky we are. I know the auxiliary colours are parading in Mississauga.

June 4 is Decoration Day and once again, we will plant flowers on the graves at Fairview Cemetery. Ab Irwin could use your help to prepare by digging holes.

We need meat draw tickets by or before this Saturday. Better still, bring them in and join the fun!



V.E. DAY IN ACTON! Left, Girl Cadets march past the old Ajax Engineers building on V.E. Day back in 1945. Frances Chew, Shirley Ralston and Norma Kentner are shown in this photo. Right, the Boys' Band marches. They are led by Bud MacDonald, Billy Middleton and A.C. Stuart, the high school principal at the time. (Photos submitted by Dr. George Elliott)

son, who was at Mason Knitting (where the Hide House now sits), got wind of the news, he instructed Elliott and Co. to change into their band uniforms and meet at the old Town Hall for a parade at 1 pm.

Later in the day there was a community service at the old Trinity United Church and a dance at the Town Hall in the evening.

"I was wondering at the time how appropriate it was having a

dance," Elliott says, still uncomfortable at the thought. "It was all right to have all the names of the local people who sacrificed their lives on the cenotaph, but they weren't coming back and we were

having a dance?"

Indeed, V.E. Day is remembered by all with mixed emotions. Those bittersweet celebrations of 50 years ago, though, got off to an early start right here in Acton.



ELECTION PROCLAMATION

Of which all persons are asked to take notice and to govern themselves accordingly. In obedience to Her Majesty's writs of election, directed by me to the Returning Officer in each electoral district, for the purpose of electing persons to represent the voters in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, public notice is hereby given of the following in each electoral district.

CAN YOU VOTE?

Those persons who on Election Day are 18 years of age or older, are Canadian citizens, and have resided in Ontario for the 6 months preceding Election Day are eligible to vote. To vote, their names must be on the NEW LIST of VOTERS or on CERTIFICATES TO VOTE issued by the Electoral District Returning Officer. In rural areas, they may be vouched for on Election Day.

Door to door enumeration begins May 11th, 1995.

OFFICIAL NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES CLOSES

in the Returning Office of each Electoral District
Thursday, May 25th, 2 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO THE NEW LIST OF VOTERS

must be made before
8 p.m. of Wednesday, June 7th
Eligible voters missed during the Enumeration who wish to make sure of their vote must visit their Electoral District Returning Office to obtain a Certificate to Vote.
Monday to Saturday inclusive
10 a.m. to 8 p.m. beginning May 18th

The phone numbers for Electoral District Returning Offices are available from Directory Assistance. If you require information specific to your Electoral District, ask for "Elections Ontario" and then the Electoral District by name.

If you have friends or relatives who have difficulty reading, please make them aware of the information in this notice.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Given under my hand, at Toronto, Ontario
Warren R. Bailie, CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

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ADVANCE POLLS

Voting Hours 11 a.m. until 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SATURDAY, MONDAY
June 1st, 3rd and 5th

at locations chosen for ease of access, or at the Office of the Electoral District Returning Officer from **Saturday, May 27th to Tuesday, June 6th**, Sundays excluded.

Advance Poll locations will be advertised at a later date.

ELECTION DAY

Thursday
JUNE 8th, 1995
Voting Hours 9 a.m. until 8 p.m.
In the Electoral Districts of Kenora and Rainy River
Voting Hours 8 a.m. until 7 p.m.

FOR GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION, CALL:
TORONTO AREA 416-754-VOTE (8683)
OUTSIDE TORONTO 1-800-668-2727



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