

# Jack Carpenter is top citizen

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Back in February of 1993, Jack Carpenter didn't give a second thought to enticing Actonites to line the streets for a good time, complete with red foam noses.

Last spring he had no doubts about introducing a weekly community trunk sale in the Hide House parking lot.

And he was excited about the rousing reception given last November to two famous rope jumping teams he brought to town for an exhibition.

But Carpenter has likely become the most reluctant recipient of the Acton Citizen of the Year award, says Acton Rotary Club member Doug Fread.

Fread, part of the three-member committee who took over this year's judging from the Acton Lions Club, made the official announcement on Monday.

"They've done a lifetime of service here and no one ever recognizes them."

Carpenter, who entertained Allied troops during wartime in Britain, continued to downplay his role in the community, saying he doesn't work, own a business or belong to any association in town.

In fact, the normally enthusiastic Carpenter initially wrote a letter to the Rotary Club declining his nomination. At that point, the judges reconvened, but quickly decided Carpenter's comments were null and void.

"Jack is a great ambassador for Acton and promoter of the town," Fread lauded. "He may not work in town, but he creates his own organizations here."

A broadcaster for 40 years with CFCA radio and CFTO-TV, Car-

penter is proud of the success and energy his creative ideas — such as Action for Acton's trunk sale and *Lighten Up, Canada!* day — have brought to town.

In past years, the Elizabeth Drive resident worked with the Y's Men taking young boys swimming and was part of a group that brought a popular minstrel show to the Acton arena.

Some 25 years ago Carpenter was an organizer — along with Hartley Coles, Paul Nielsen, Harold Townsley and Ted Tyler — of a publicity stunt aimed at bringing the Grey Cup game to Acton.

"The Trunk Sale creates a focal point and interest and is an opportunity for the town to do something with it," says Carpenter.

"If you recognize opportunity, things grow from it."



## LEGION LADIES HONOURED!

Legion Ladies Auxiliary member Lucy Synnott, left, presents a 45-year pin to Joan Ford, while Fern Shultis, right, pins a 45-year medal on Joyce Buchanan at the Legion recently. Kay James and Jean Earle also received 45-year pins, but were absent. Each lady also received a yellow rose to mark the occasion. (Submitted photo)



JACK CARPENTER

"He was a reluctant candidate and it took us a while to convince him," commented Fread on Monday, noting Carpenter will be honoured at a sit-down dinner in early September. He added that Carpenter, in a humorous tone, "said we were scraping the bottom of the barrel of candidates."

"There were quite a number of nominations (10 to 12) all worthy of the honour, but the overwhelming response was for Jack. He had a lot going for his *Lighten Up, Canada!* day and his radio character of Robert Biddle."

When contacted on Monday, Carpenter seemed almost embarrassed that he was the 1994 recipient of the annual award.

"There are so many people in town who are better qualified than I am," claimed Carpenter, who has lived in Acton, with his wife Joyce, for the past 40 years.

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