

'Generous' volunteers

LEGION NEWS

BY MIKE MANUEL
Branch 197 P.R.O.

Comrade Gary Munday would like to thank everyone who helped out with the Fall Fair activities, the parade group and the kitchen help. Without these generous volunteers, a large number of our activities would never be held.

While we're on the topic of volunteers, please keep in mind

Comrade Frank Spielvogel will be looking for assistance with this year's poppy drive.

The Men's Industrial Cribbage League, which starts on Oct. 12, is looking for new members. You need not be a Legion member to join in on the fun. Contact Comrade Dobbie Frizzell.

Monkey golf dinner and dance is slated for Oct. 14. Tickets are \$22 per person. Should be lots of fun!

Miller is Toastmasters' governor

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

It was 17 years ago when Chris Miller sat sheepishly behind a friend, among 35 strangers at his first Toastmasters Club meeting in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

"They were doing table topics (one-minute impromptu speeches) and I was quivering in my boots. I thought - what am I getting myself into?" he recalled recently.

However, it didn't take long for the 49-year-old Miller to overcome his nervousness as he found himself on the executive as a program organizer. Three years later he was president.

And now, after moving to Canada some nine years ago, the six-year Acton resident finds himself in the area governor's chair, overseeing the work of three clubs in Brampton, one in Milton and the Halton Hills Toastmasters Club, of which he is also past-president.

"It has built up my confidence. It's a hobby and it's good for business," said the sales representative for NCC promotions, a Mississauga advertising company.

Designed to improve communication and self-confidence and develop leadership skills, Toastmasters is the largest organization of its kind, with thousands of clubs in 25 countries, including Australia, New Zealand and Britain.

Locally, the Halton Hills Toastmasters meet every second Monday at Glen Williams Town Hall.

As area governor, Miller is also responsible for planning and implementing speech contests with each club, visiting each club and

compiling report card-like information to report to other area governors at a meeting held every two months.

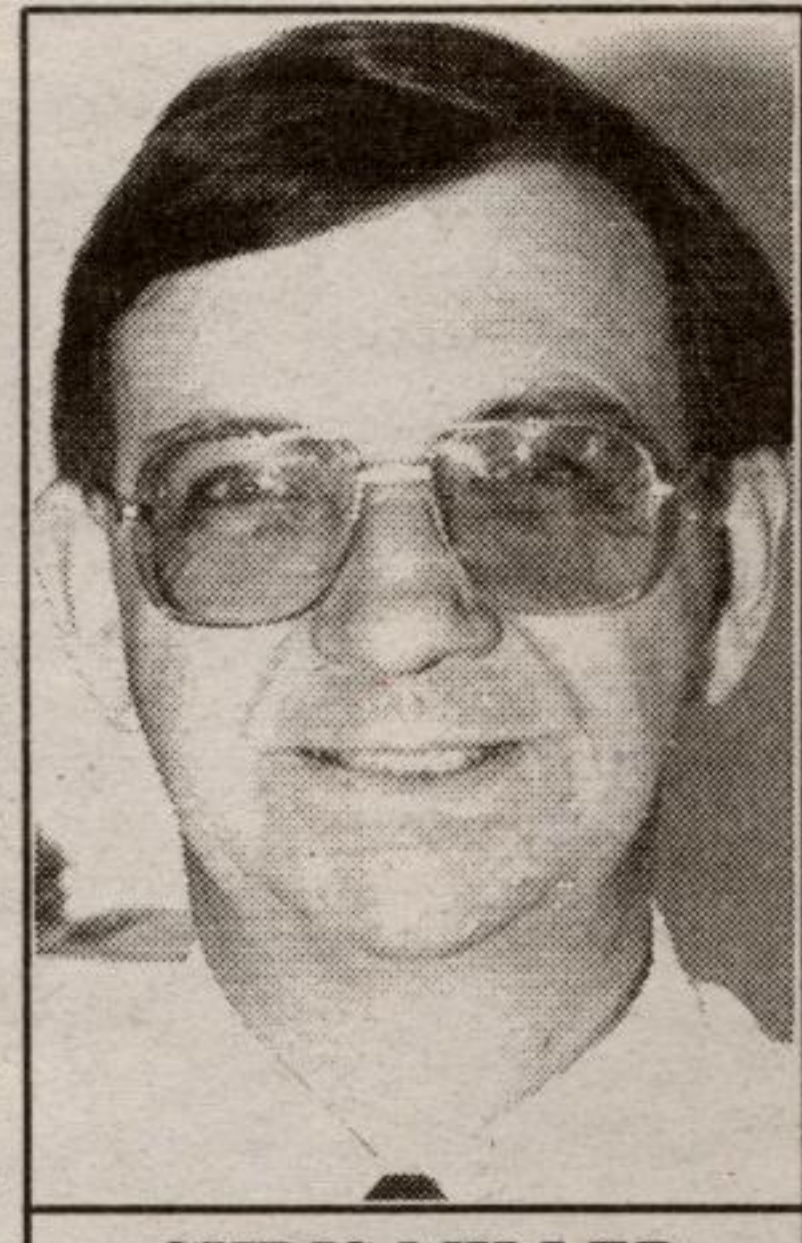
While Miller said most members get tired and leave the club after three to five years, he sees no reason to leave.

"I like helping people and watching them grow and develop," Miller explained. "I also like the people and I've got great friends with the club."

"I've seen a lot of them start as shy people and then take off."

For Miller, he can never have enough people staring him down at a podium. He enjoys being an emcee for charity events and weddings. Over the years, he's even entertained thoughts of becoming a radio announcer.

Toastmasters is open to people from all walks of life, but can be



CHRIS MILLER

especially helpful to entrepreneurs and those in sales.

Meetings consist of delivering five to seven-minute speeches. Each person, who learns by working through a manual, is evaluated by a club member.

After 10 speeches, members receive a badge and are considered a competent toastmaster. Then

they choose three of 10 manuals, each with five speeches. When they are finished those, they are termed an advanced toastmaster.

Another three manuals are then chosen. You're awarded your advanced toaster bronze following completion.

"I call the first speech the easiest and most difficult, because you're talking about yourself, but you're shaking in your boots," Miller explained.

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A "Beginner Folk Art" program is being offered this fall at Acton High by the Town's Recreation and Parks Department.

You will create three projects including a scissor holder, coat rack and CD-holder by the end

of the six-week program.

Classes begin on Thursday, Oct. 5 and run from 7 to 9 pm. The fee is \$96.50 and includes all supplies (prepared wood pieces, paint, brushes and other materials).

For registration information call the Rec Program Hotline at 873-2600, ext. 275.

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