

CONCENTRATE! Jim Warrington takes his chili seriously during the judging of the second annual "Great Chili Contest." Winner in the "mild" category was Jody Watson, with top "hot" honours going to Renata Georgeff. (Karen Wetmore photo)

Workers, businesses nominated

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Acton businesses and employees have been nominated for four awards at the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce 1995 Business Achievement Awards dinner, to be held tomorrow (Thursday) at the North Halton Golf and Country Club in Georgetown.

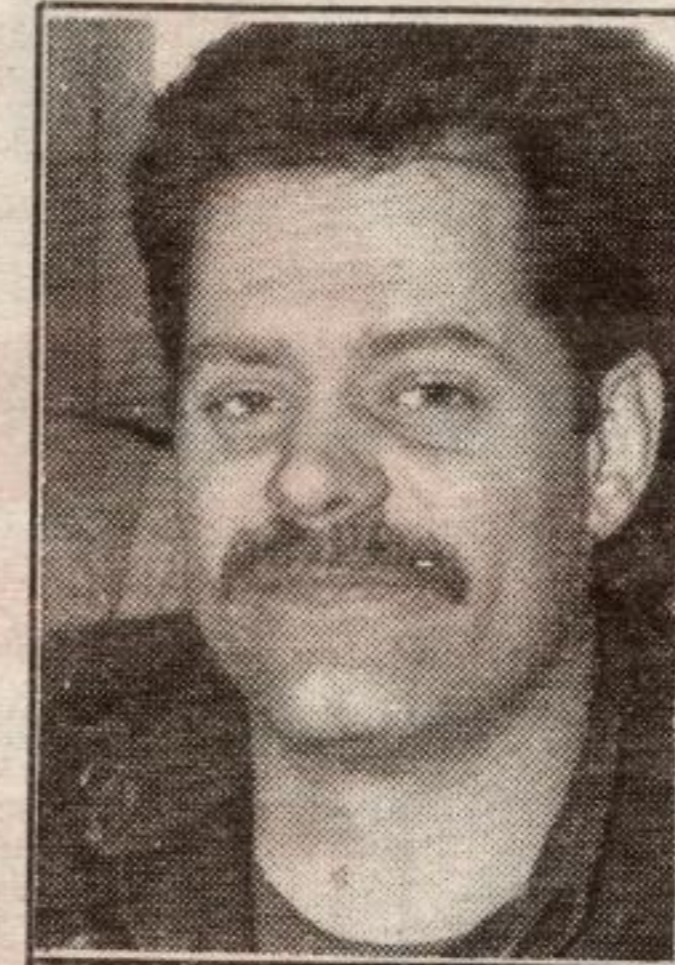
Red Dog Café and *The Acton Tanner* are up for Entrepreneur of the Year honours, while Connie Bath of *IGA* and *Halton Flour Milling's* Al Becker are Acton Employee of the Year nominees.

"I thought it was a joke," Becker, 32, recalls from a phone call he received recently from Walt Dixon, who runs Park Lincoln Mercury in Georgetown. In a more serious tone the Acton resident offers, "It's an honour. But team work is more important to me than someone saying I should be nominated as employee of the year."

"I'm here to do a job, that's it. You do it to the best of your ability wherever you are."

A father of two and five-year volunteer with the Halton Hills Fire Department, Becker is an industrial mechanic and millwright who does the purchasing and inventories for the Flour Mill's maintenance department. He was nominated by Flour Mill president Brian Dolotowicz.

Acton IGA management says Connie Bath is one of its excep-



AL BECKER

tional employees. Now Deli Manager, Bath was born and raised in Acton. She learned the business in Halifax for over five years before returning in 1989 to work at the *IGA* as a cashier and part-time deli hostess. She was promoted to deli manager and with this challenge *IGA* reports increased sales yearly because of her "dedication and guidance."

Bath also canvasses for the Cancer Society as well as the Heart and Stroke Society.

Considered one of the best deli managers in the *IGA* chain of retail grocery stores, Bath is always looking for new ideas to challenge her artistic and managerial skills.

Meanwhile, the *Red Dog Café* is one of Acton's newest and most popular licensed dining businesses having opened in September 1994.

It's unique character evolved over several years as the Victorian structure on Mill Street was converted into a charming, yet unpretentious café.

Chef-manager Carol Brunelle says the business hosts some 30

indoor seats and can accommodate an additional 60 people on its adjoining patio.

A qualified chef, Brunelle — a recipient of the Dean's Award in her graduating class at Toronto's George Brown College — was raised in Acton, and always wanted to give something back to her hometown.

Michelle Perry, a lifelong Actonite, has partnered Carol since the inception of the *Red Dog Café*.

Feeling there were many local residents who were tired of receiving newspapers without real news content, *Acton Tanner* publisher and editor Paul Nolan launched the first edition on May 26, 1992.

He adds, "From the beginning, our 'neighbourhood news' was embraced by its readers, and I consider our overwhelming community support to be our greatest asset."

Employing 10 of 11 Actonites, *The Tanner* was recognized outside of the community last year, finishing second-place among all "General Excellence" nominees in the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's Better Newspapers competition.

The Tanner strives to attain individual and team excellence by adopting a philosophy of every day improvement and values communication, teamwork, quality, care and attention to detail.

Shepard resignation still unclear

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

There were no glowing tributes — just a short statement from the mayor to mark the end of Tom Shepard's 16-year career as the Town's Director of Recreation and Parks.

Town Council accepted Shepard's resignation on Monday night — a resignation so sudden and unexpected that some Town staff and a large number of the general public are asking what happened.

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson praised the Recreation and Parks department, saying it had a lot of respect.

Serjeantson also said, "he (Shepard) will be missed and we wish him a lot of success."

Outside of council chambers, Serjeantson said they were not sure if the vacant position of Director of Recreation and Parks would be filled. She did not know if the Town would hold a retirement party for Shepard, as done when the last director retired.

In an interview on Thursday Shepard said his decision to resign was made in light of serious health problems within his family and because of a pension program change allowing him to retire 10 years earlier than expected.

Asked if he is bothered by the rumours and innuendoes surrounding his resignation Shepard said, "I haven't heard any of the rumours that you have. If I do I will act on them."

Shepard did deny one popular story circulating, that he had been escorted from his office at the Civic Centre.

"That just didn't happen," Shepard said.

Services to keep up during strike

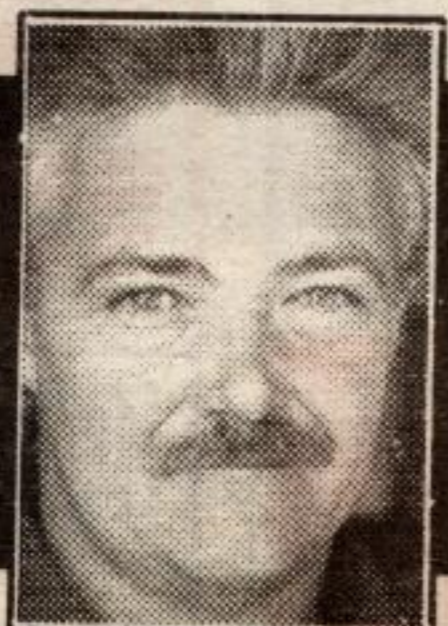
The Ontario government will continue to provide services even though Ontario Public Services Employees Union (OPSEU) members have gone on strike, said Ted Chudleigh, Halton North MPP on Monday.

"It will not be business as usual and people will be inconvenienced but the government has taken all the necessary steps to ensure essential services will be maintained during the strike."

He added the Tories' offer on the table is fair to both employees and taxpayers.

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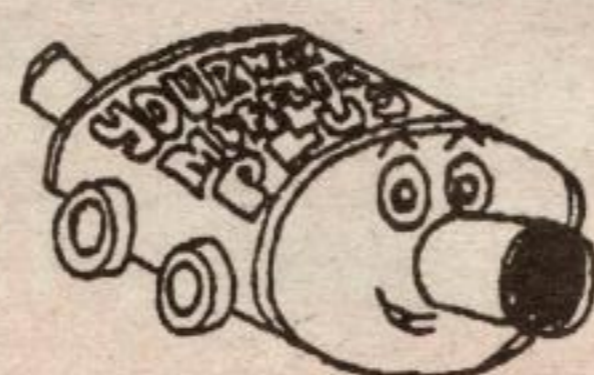
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