

# The 'skinny' on Acton's Citizen of the Year for 1996

BY EVE MARTIN

Special to The Tanner

If you told me 42 years ago that George Henderson would be Acton's Citizen of the Year in 1996, I would probably have gotten a case of the vapours. (Sorry George). Quiet, shy, unassuming and humble are not the normal attributes of a community leader.

The story of George starts when we were 6 and 7 years old. I was raised on the Lindsay farm on Hwy. 7 just outside Georgetown, and George's family farm lived next door. We spent many

happy years with his sisters Laura, Janet and Sheila and my brother Dick romping through corn and hay fields, causing havoc in the barns and making forts out of straw.

As the years went by, all our lives changed. For many years we lost touch except at the odd funeral or community event. Then in the mid '80s I got reacquainted with George, his wife Sharon, children Mark, Beth, Matthew and soon-to-be-born Emily. My sons Lee and Jess wanted to join Scouting. George was the leader of the First Acton Cub Pack and I knew right

away that was the right place. Being calm, patient, understanding and never upset, George helped the Cubs enjoy their Scouting experience to the fullest.

I was constantly amazed at all the activities George was into. This brings us to Friday past and the Acton Citizen of the Year Award.

Don Swackhamer, Janis Fread and Daniel Varanelli from the Acton Agricultural Society told us of George's 13 years on the Fair Board. Don remembered George's first year, when he introduced remote controls speedboat racing on the lake. It was a huge hit until Year 2, when one of Esther Taylor's ducks was run over!

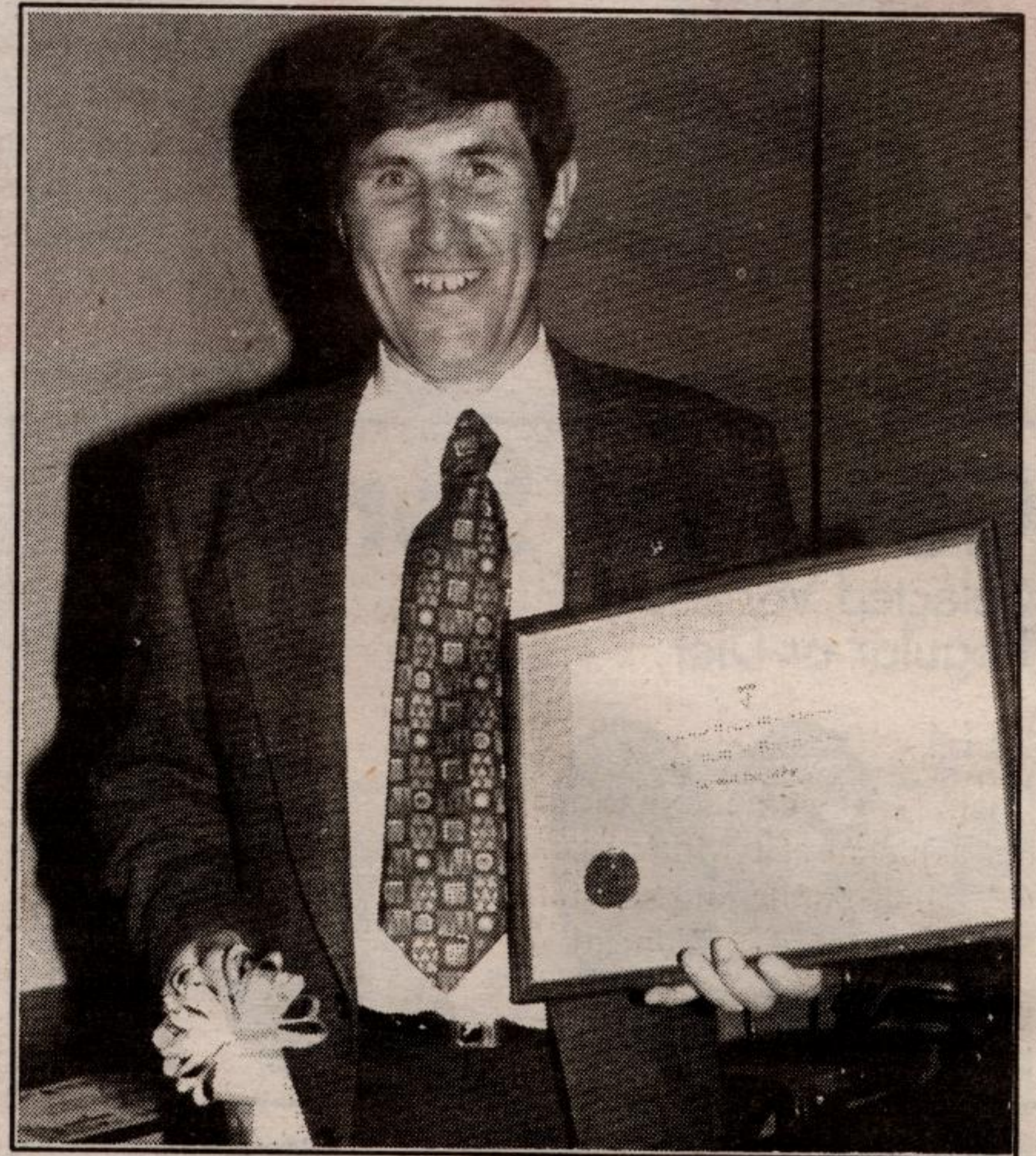
One of George's major achievements was the 18-page constitution he wrote, which has become the envy of fair boards and other organizations far and wide.

Charlotte Ironside, a lifelong friend of the family, divulged a few little-known "bare" facts. Charlotte and

her husband George owned a lovely piece of property on 22 Sideroad near the 8th Line. Their pond was a bit of an attraction and was often used for community activities. Charlotte was most surprised, one day, to come home to a heart-shaped, white bottom bobbing around in the pond. Needless to say she didn't recognize who it was until the other end came up for air. George gathered up his abandoned belongings and high-tailed it through the orchard. Up until Friday evening only three people knew about this sinful saga in George's life.

Dennis White, representing the Scouting movement, wondered if there could be a new badge added that had the requirements of skinny dipping built into it!

When George had his turn to speak, he was concerned that way too much praise was bestowed on him, be it true or untrue. George's motto for his success is, "You learn by hands-on and doing." His job as a letter carrier has brought



George Henderson proudly shows his certificate recognizing him as Acton's Citizen of the Year.

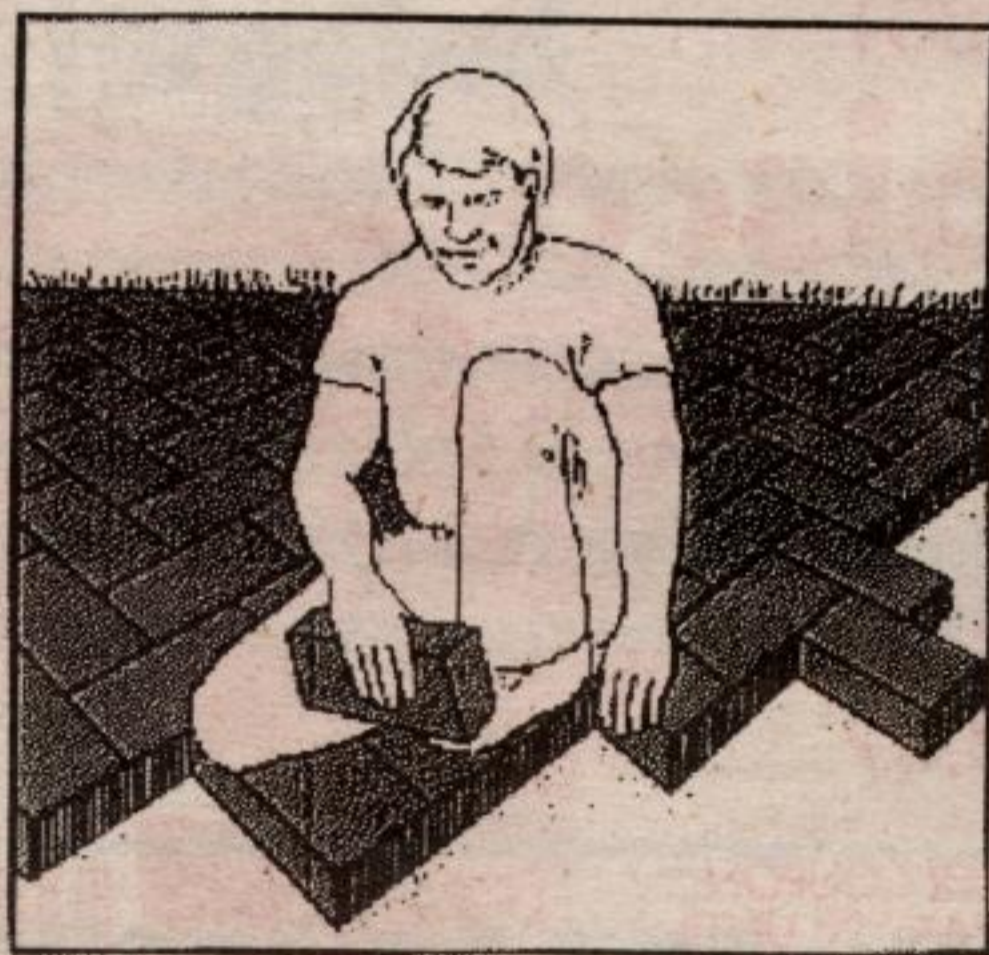
him into contact with many people - they have all made his life a little brighter.

Last but not least, a big hug for his wife Sharon who

has always been supportive, patient and caring.

Now I know why George was given this honour and I totally concur.

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## Friends start up fund for York House

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Acton Tanner

Friends of the late Marjorie Hughes have opened a bank account in her name in hopes of raising enough money to help her family keep York House open.

Mrs. Hughes, who died suddenly two weeks ago, owned and operated York House with her husband. York House is a 14-bed rest

home for ex-psychiatric patients.

Mae Viavods, a colleague (with the Halton Work Program) and a friend of Hughes, said Marjorie's death not only saddened her friends, but also reaffirmed their commitment to York House.

"York House has applied for a subsidy from Halton Region but the Hughes family has been operating this

wonderful home on less than a break-even basis since it opened 14 months ago," Viavods explained last week.

"Marj Hughes has done a lot to support folks who otherwise would not have stable housing and would have a lot of difficulties in the community, surviving and managing. In her memory we want to keep York House alive."

Daughter Gail Hughes,

who worked alongside her mother for many years, said she is stepping in to help her father run York House.

"We will get by the best we can," Gail Hughes said last week. "York House was my mother's dream and now it's mine to keep alive."

Contributions can be made to the Acton branch of the C.I.B.C. on behalf of Marjorie Hughes and York House.

# PLUG IN

## Energy Savings by Design

Planting a tree, shrub or vine can provide benefits greatly outweighing the cost. Well-planned landscaping can not only provide energy savings, but also can increase the beauty and value of your home.

Planting trees that lose their leaves on the southern and western sides of your home provides summer shading to cool your home, lowering summer cooling costs. In winter these same trees will allow the sun to shine in to provide natural light and warmth into your home.

Planting evergreen shrubs and trees on the northern and western sides of your home creates a natural winter wind-break, cutting winter heating costs. Shading your air conditioning unit not only saves energy, but helps lengthen the life of the unit. The shade pro-

vided by a tree or shrub cases the strain on an air conditioner unit. Just be sure not to block the air circulation necessary to run the machine efficiently.

Vines are another quick and beautiful energy saver. Deciduous vines provide quick-growing shade on the walls of your home. Consult a professional landscaper to help you choose the right vine. Studies show landscaping can also improve the resale value of your home and reduce noise pollution.

Remember, before beginning a landscaping project, call us to find out if there are underground lines running through it, avoid, Also, don't plant tall growing trees under power lines.

For energy savings, beauty and noise reduction, nothing from your meter beats landscaping.

3. LANDSCAPE WITH CARE

• Call before you dig. Your utility can tell you the location of any underground lines.

• Don't plant tall-growing trees under power lines. If you have a tree with power lines running through it, don't climb it or build anything in it. Call if the tree needs trimming.

• Keep bushy shrubs away from your meter.

# ALTON HILLS HYDRO

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN AN ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY

⚡ If someone receives an electric shock from **LIVE INDOOR ELECTRICITY**, shut off the power if possible. If not possible, use a dry wooden stick, dry rope, or dry clothing to move the victim away from the power source.

⚡ If someone is in contact with a **LIVE OUTDOOR POWER LINE**, the only safe thing to do is to call your electric utility and have them turn the power off! Call an ambulance immediately! **DO NOT** attempt to move any outdoor electrical equipment or the victim.

⚡ In case of an **ELECTRICAL FIRE** unplug the appliance when possible. If smoke comes from wires or electric motors, turn the power off. If a fire is small, use a fire extinguisher rated specifically for electrical fires or plain baking soda to put it out. **NEVER** use water to put out an electrical fire. In doubt? Call the fire department! Be sure to give your name, address, and tell them it's an electrical fire. If a fire is too big, get everyone out of the house immediately!

⚡ If a **POWER LINE OR BROKE WIRE** is down near your house, **DO NOT** touch it! **NEVER** assume the wire is dead. Be sure to contact us so we can make necessary repairs.