



75 YEARS YOUNG: Acton's Del Hickling was treated to a surprise 75th birthday party at the Acton Curling Club last Saturday. Here Del is surrounded by photos taken during his life, including one when he was one-year-old. (Karen Wetmore photo)

Kinsmen and Kinettes preparing to sign charter

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner
It's full speed ahead for organizers of both the proposed Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs of Acton.

After a very successful membership drive last month, with 15 future Kinettes and 20 Kinsmen ready to join, organizers are aiming for a Sept. 29 charter meeting, featuring the national president and other dignitaries.

"Momentum is building. We had 60 people at our last dinner meeting," prospective Acton Kinette member Jan Trendell explained Thursday.

Even without official charters, members of the proposed clubs are hard at work doing what Kinsmen and Kinettes do - helping their community. The Kinsmen will hold a meeting on July 30 to work

on their plans for the Leathertown Festival at which the Kinsmen plan to run a Battle Of The Bands contest and operate a bus-turned-English pub at Weth-erby's.

Trendell said future Kinettes aren't sure what they will do, but they hope to run some type of children's activity at the Leathertown Festival. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31 to finalize their plans.

"The people who we are getting out to our membership meetings are so dynamic and are really excited about doing something for Acton.

"They're coming up with projects and we aren't even officially chartered yet, but they've got great ideas to help make Acton a better place to live," Trendell said.

For more on the Kinsmen or Kinettes call Glenn or Jan Trendell at 853-4082.

Crop concerns plague Acton farmers

A late, wet and cooler than usual spring is to blame for a host of crop problems for Acton area farmers, who had to plant late and now are hoping and praying for a late frost.

"It's been a frantic spring with lots of crop problems due to the rain," Richard Hendry, a soil and crop advisor with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs said on Monday.

The Ontario Climate Centre reported 123 mL of rain in May and 109 mL in June, both well over the usual amounts of 68 mL and 73 mL respectively. Some farmers are calling it the wettest spring since the 1960s. All the rain in April and May meant that

crops went in late including soya beans, which this year had one of the latest plantings ever in Halton Hills.

Farmers have been slower getting the hay off because of the rain and Ministry spokesperson Marie McNabb in Georgetown said the rain also delayed spraying, so weed growth is now a problem.

"The quality of hay has decreased because it hasn't been harvested as early as normal. It gets to a point where the quality and feeding value drops and that's what has happened here," McNabb explained Monday.

"In the fields, when we did get to the hay, it went to waste because of rain damage - it basically rotted in the rows -

so quality is an issue."

Area farmers are also paying 30 to 40 per cent more for grain - soya bean, corn, oats and barley - so feed costs are up substantially.

"It's a global thing. Soya bean stocks are at their lowest ever in the United States and the demand is driving up the price of what's coming off the fields," McNabb said.

Last year in Halton Hills the crop yield was average but prices were what McNabb described as "phenomenal."

"This year we're not even sure if we will get average yields - it will depend on how the summer goes and how late we get a frost."

Gross crop production in Halton was worth \$120 mil-

lion last year with \$30 to 35 million coming from Halton Hills crops. Roughly 40,000 acres of land in Halton Hills is cropped each year, a large portion of it in rural Acton.

McNabb said farmers who planted beans last week were still happy with the warm light rain on Sunday night.

"Although the weather is a concern, it's amazing how optimistic some farmers can be. If they weren't, they would drive themselves around the bend."



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