

Acton boys waiting for Big Brothers

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

After waiting for four long years to be matched with a Big Brother, Acton's Tim Kirk, 11, took matters into his own hands.

At the last Big Brothers of Halton Christmas party, Kirk button-holed case worker Susan Smith.

"I just got him (Big Brother Bill Vick) after Christmas because I complained to Susan about how long it was taking to find me a Big Brother," Tim explained last Saturday.

"It's good," Tim said of the subsequent matching with Vick of Acton.

"It's like another person

to act like my dad," Tim said, adding that one of his Acton friends has been waiting five years for a Big Brother.

The sad fact that Acton boys face these long waits to be matched with a stable male prompted the Big Brothers of Halton to focus on raising the organization's profile in north Halton. The Association opened a satellite office at McKenzie-Smith Bennett school last year and is hosting an open house at the Bank of Montreal on Mill Street today (Wednesday) from 3 pm until 6 pm.

With three active Big and Little Brother matches in Acton and eight boys waiting for a Big Brother, case

worker Smith said recruitment is a major job.

Big brothers must be at least 18 years old and complete an Association orientation program which includes police and character references. Once accepted into the program the Big Brother is shown two or three profiles of boys waiting to be matched and selects the best fit.

"We tell the boy that we have a potential match and then introduce them," Smith said, adding that that's the "best part of the job."

The Association monitors the relationship's trial period and then continues to make sure all is well with the match.

Smith said that if there was one typical characteristic for a Big brother it would be the desire to be a positive role model and to guide a young boy who is, in Association terms, father-absent.

When Big Brother Bill Vick was growing up in a broken home, he wished that

he had a Big Brother and told himself that he would help a young boy when he got the chance.

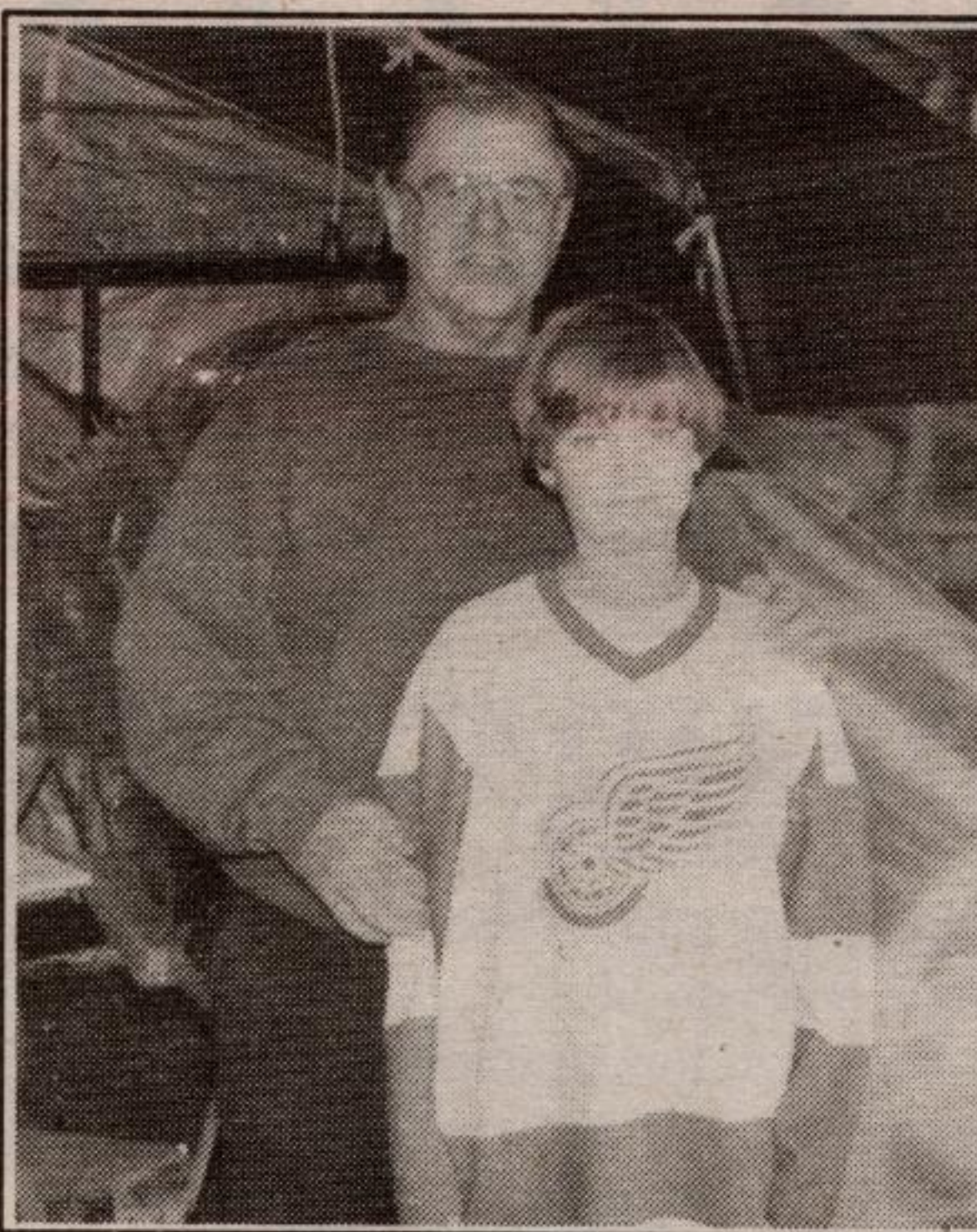
After Vick's wife died several years ago he decided that the time was right and was matched with Tim.

Asked what he gets from the relationship, Vick said that "helping a young fellow is enough for me."

Vick laughed that Tim has also introduced him to the teenage art of "malling" and that they spend time flying, working on Vick's airplane and attending Leafs, Jays and Raptor games.

"I see my relationship with Tim being long term - I'm investing in his future."

The Acton office of Big brothers of Halton is open Wednesdays at MSB school. For details, call 853-5902.



Big Brother Bill Vick with his Little Brother, 11-year-old Tim Kirk.

NEWS SHORTS

Back on the 'chain' gang?

Halton Regional Police were called to investigate the theft of a chainsaw from the box of a pick-up truck last Tuesday.

Police report that a Stihl chainsaw, valued at \$450 was removed from the rear of a 1988 Ford pick-up truck parked at a local supermarket, sometime between 6:30 - 9 pm.

Theft from vehicle

Police were called to a Worden View address on Nov. 5 to investigate the theft of a cellular phone from a vehicle.

A Volkswagen Passat was broken into overnight Nov. 4-5 with a Nokia cellular phone, valued at \$230, taken from the vehicle. There were no signs of forced entry.

Arrest in August crime

Halton Regional Police have made an arrest in connection with a break and enter at a Meadvale Road residence in August. During the break-in, a Trek mountain bike, valued at \$700, was taken.

Police have charged a 15-year-old Acton youth with the crime, and with breach of probation. He cannot be named under the Young Offenders Act.

The bike was recovered.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I'd like to say to you that it's going to be zero tax increase this year, ... but I'm not prepared to say that yet."

Moya Johnson, Town budget committee chair, Page 5

DID YOU KNOW?

William Phelps Eno (1858-1945) originated stop signs, one-way streets and other roadway regulations to earn himself recognition as the "Father of Traffic Safety." He never learned to drive a car.



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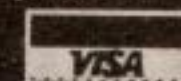
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