

# Kith & Kin



PHOTO BY: DEBORAH QAILE

## Happy 50th

At a big birthday bash at the Eden Mills Community Hall in February, Barbara Marshall's friends and family gathered to wish her a fabulous fiftieth - and many more! In a celebration of song, Debbie Tilson, left on piano, Rodney Bell, and Barb led an old-fashioned sing-along. Well-wishers were also entertained by a selection of people who honoured Barb in song and dance.



PHOTO BY: BRENDA MATHIES

## Halton Hills Volunteers Earn Queen's Jubilee Medals

By: Brenda Mathies

A special celebration was held in Halton Hills this past Valentine's Day. Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh (center) presented the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal to four members of the Halton Hills community who have exemplified the volunteer spirit. For more than 50 years, Jessie Milton (left) has been actively involved with the Georgetown Agricultural Society, and the Acton Agricultural Society has benefited from the volunteer efforts of Clarence Harding (right). William Mainprize, who has sung with The Knox Presbyterian Church since 1952, and Ronald Lyle Scott of the Royal Regiment of Canada were also recognized for their volunteer efforts at this celebration.

## COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE

BY DONNA DANIELLI

## Blanche Hinton

If you have done any volunteer work in the Town of Milton over the last two decades, you've probably met Blanche Hinton. Blanche has been involved with the Public Library Board, the Halton Social Planning Council and Halton Recovery House. She also helped found Milton's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee and the highly successful Milton Concert series. She has served as Chairwoman of the Toronto Philharmonic Board, and sat on the Board of Directors for the Toronto Operetta Theatre and Opera Mississauga. "There are things that need to be done and I enjoy doing them," Blanche explains. This attitude, no doubt, has contributed to her recent nomination of Milton Citizen of the Year.

This former Milton councillor has had a different mission over the past few years. In 1990, Blanche became one of the first female members of the Rotary Club, an international organization dedicated to "Service above self." The Rotary Club is well known for its student exchange programs, and Blanche used her expertise and experience in working with the deaf to initiate the first student exchange for deaf students. "As a

teacher, the youth exchange interested me, and I wondered if my deaf kids could get involved and so I started the deaf youth exchange," she explains. "To the best of my knowledge, it's the only one of its kind."

Blanche's perspective took a different turn in 1996 when she hosted 23-year-old exchange student, Claudine Umubyeyi, from Rwanda. Claudine attended the adult continuing education program at E.C. Drury while living with Blanche. "She is like a daughter to me," states Blanche. When Blanche travelled to Claudine's homeland in March 1999, she was appalled at the condition of the schools for the deaf that she visited in Rwanda. "There's nothing in the classrooms anywhere. There are a handful of books and a few toys. All of the schools are surviving with an absolute minimum of materials, and the teachers are untrained in working with the deaf."

After meeting with the Minister of Education in Rwanda, Blanche returned to her home in Milton determined to do something for the schools in Rwanda. "Something is either right or it isn't right," she declares. "If it's not right, we have a moral obligation to do what we can to fix it."

Blanche began to ask for help wherever she could find it. Local Rotary clubs, Vision of Hope and E.C. Drury School all threw their support behind her quest: They began gathering books, toys, bedding, other essential supplies and even two Apple computers with elementary

school programs to send to Rwanda. "My friends run when they see me coming," Blanche laughs. "They know I'm going to ask them to do something or volunteer for something." After two years, enough items were gathered to fill a 20-foot storage container. It was shipped to Rwanda in late January. According to Blanche, the container itself will probably serve as a home for someone once it is emptied. "Every bit of anything gets used for something. They can turn nothing into something there, simply because they have to."

Although born and raised in England, Blanche was drawn to Canada. She immigrated to Toronto and then moved to Milton in 1974 with her three sons: Andrew, Raymond and Eric. Blanche taught at E.C. Drury School for the Deaf for 26 years. She is fluent in American Sign Language, German, French and Italian; and she is currently working on improving her fluency in Spanish. Blanche travels the world now as a tour guide and is currently organizing a special trip to Tuscany with 38 of the deaf students who she still teaches part time at E.C. Drury. "I enjoy languages, and I enjoy the kids, and it's wonderful to be able to be a part of making this trip happen."

Blanche will be returning to Rwanda in the fall. It should be noted that volunteers from the Rotary Club, like Blanche, pay all of their expenses out of their own pocket. "The airline ticket is about \$2,600, but it's important that I go back," explains Blanche, who marvels at the resilience of the people of Rwanda. "They have nothing and yet they survive," she says. "It just goes to show you that there are two choices in life. Either you survive or you go under. There are no other choices." Fortunately for the world, there are people like Blanche Hinton who help make that survival a little bit easier.



Blanche Hinton

PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

**Shoebbox Missing Names:** Please note that there were several names missing from the February 2003 Shoebbox Memories in the Edinburgh Castle photo. The men are Art Cooper, Finlay McCallum, Sam Harrop, Don Deming, and Joe Wilson.

### FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

The Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society Regular Meeting will be held at Chinguacousy Branch Library, Lower Level, 150 Central Park Drive, Bramalea on Sunday Mar. 23, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker: Rick Roberts of Global Genealogy

Topic: Genealogy on the Internet

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

## WANTED

### A Few Good Men

Brookville Men's Masters Slo-Pitch League

No Experience Required

### Registration

Mohawk Inn, 2-4 p.m.

Sat. March 22

Sat. March 29

Contacts:

John Molody 519-833-0681

Tom Charron 905-854-0558

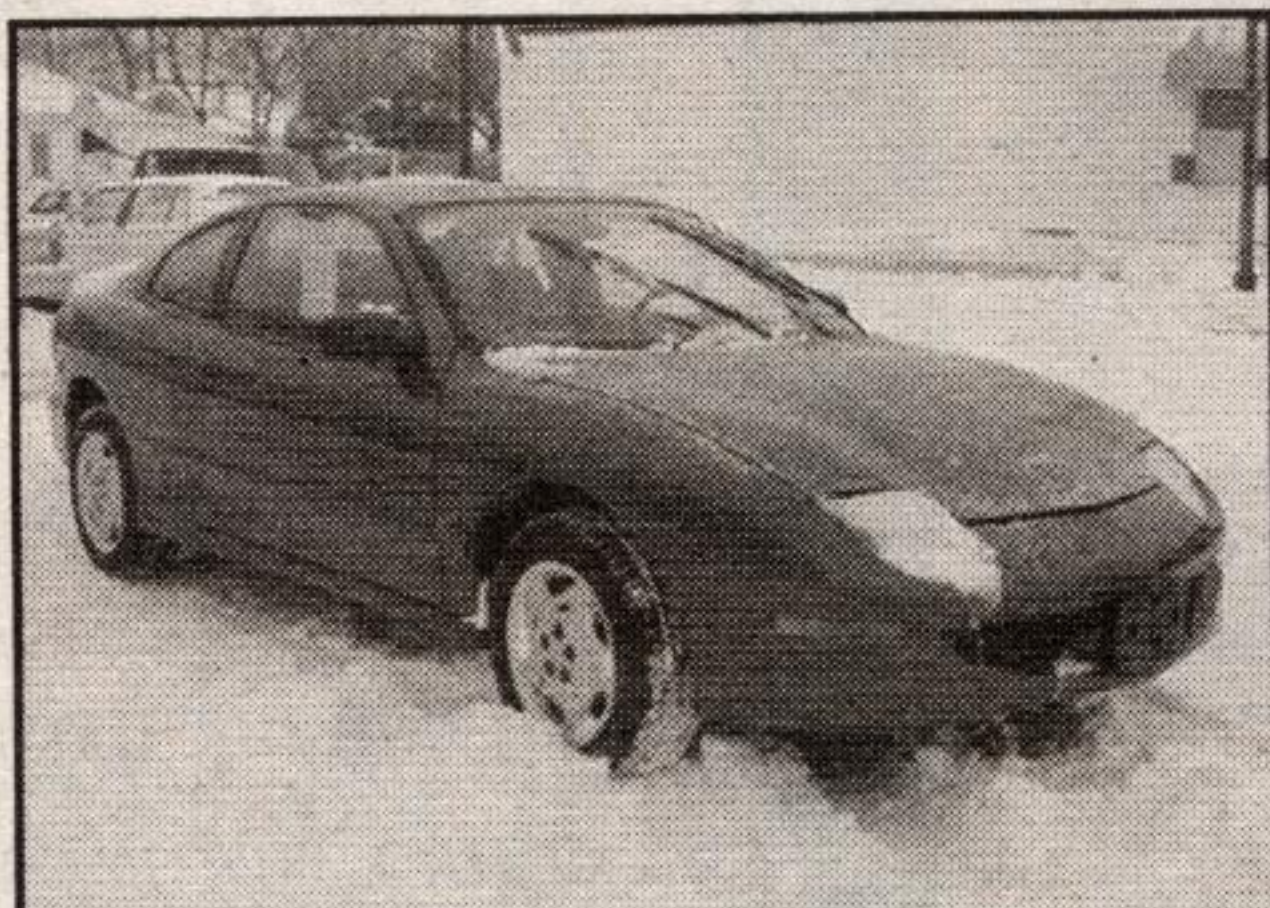
Early Registration \$130



SUBMITTED PHOTO

### Catch of the Day

The North Halton Compass would like to congratulate Kurtis Andrews. Kurtis is shown here with his catch of the day, new wife Lara Tanner, whom he married on the beach in Bimini, Bahamas during a recent trip.

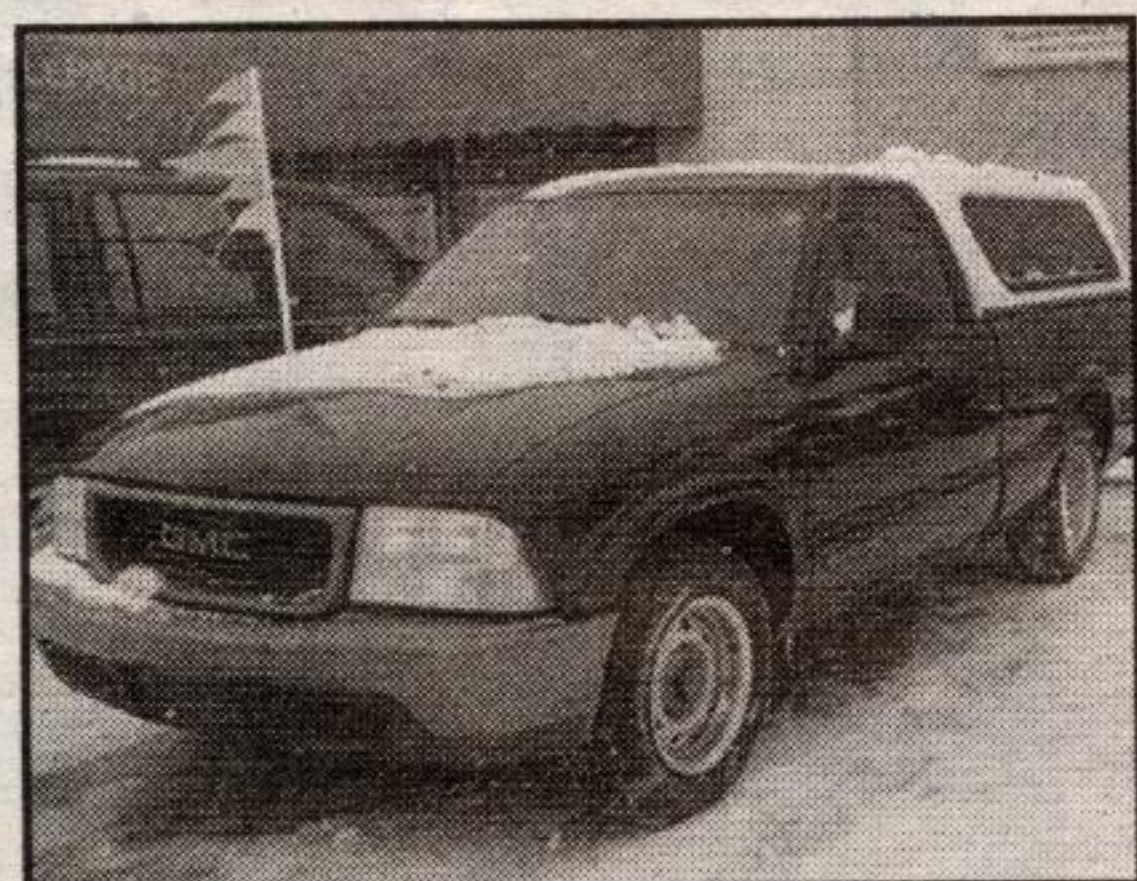


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- \$ 6895**

### '98 GMC Sonoma

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- \$ 8995**



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