

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles



Bridge of many sighs

Poor Eden Mills. Our picturesque neighbouring hamlet, situated on the banks of the crystal clear Eramosa River is split in two. One part is on the west side of the old Bowline Bridge, the other on the east side. There's no vehicular traffic between the two sides because the bowstring Bridge is closed - and has been for months.

Residents who want to go to the other side of the hamlet must either walk or take the trail which follows the river north as far as the Indian Trail, and follow it west to County Road 29. Then one must go south to the hamlet's westerly limits before turning east at the Presbyterian Church to enter the built-up part of Eden Mills. Or vice versa from the other end. It's a distance of several kilometres and a bloody nuisance.

Traffic must skirt the hamlet because it is a dead end from either side. And it is all because of the Bowstring Bridge.

Some residents want the bridge, considered to be a significant structure by Heritage Ontario, to be rehabilitated rather than destroyed. Eramosa Township Council, however, wants to demolish the bridge and replace it with a wider, more modern structure and widen the road through the hamlet.

A fight over the bridge has been brewing for decades but it became really serious when the township council completely closed it, splitting Eden Mills in two, citing safety concerns as one good reason.

For those who would prefer Eden Mills to remain as closed to through traffic and open only to locals, it has been a boon. For others it has been a headache.

In any case the whole issue has now gone to the courts for a ruling on whether the bridge, which most Eden Mills seem to like, stays or gives way for something more modern but without its heritage designation. Both sides in the controversy have been duelling in the daily press latterly in the Toronto Star letters page and by T. Sher Singh, a Guelph lawyer and Star columnist. Both sides have also been lining up allies in their fight to either preserve or destroy the structure which spans one of two streams which bisect the hamlet. We suspect there may be another less visible minority who would like to see the matter settled soon, no matter which side gets the court's nod.

Being split is nothing new for residents of Eden Mills. Only a few years ago part of the hamlet was in Halton County, the other half in Wellington. Halton ceded its part of Eden Mills to Wellington during the regional government shuffle of the '70s, so political fences made more sense.

Actually there are two bridges on the hamlet's main street, the Bowstring Bridge which spans one half of the Eramosa River and the other, which bridges the main current flowing from the dam holding back the mill pond. The other bridge is a nondescript span with no significant features.

One has to acknowledge the Bowstring Bridge is an unusual feature. It is part of the hamlet's heritage. The Friends of the Eden Mills, the group anxious to preserve the heritage of the hamlet, maintains the township council has been in contravention of the Ontario Heritage Act and its own Official Plan (and therefore of the Ontario Planning Act) and of the township's commitment to the

See BRIDGE, Page 5



FUTURE GROWTH? Jack Carpenter tries to sell Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson a crystal ball at Saturday's Trunk Sale but the mayor is more interested in a copy of *The New Tanner*. - Ted Tyler photo



An open letter to Acton:

Acton Scouting reviews year

To the Editor:

As another year of Scouting draws to a close, we would like to thank all the people who have given their time, effort, enthusiasm and patience to make this another great year for all the children.

BEAVERS - Boys 5-7 years
Many thanks to our eight wonderful leaders: Steve Bingeman, Jamie Campbell, Dave Colvin, Bill Curry, Kathleen Dills-Hartnagle, Craig Parker, Mary Querques and Sean Saunders.

The Beavers had a great program this year. They visited the new Acton arena and spent many fun nights at the Blue Springs Scout Reserve. They also did lots of interesting crafts and played challenging games at their regular Wednesday night meetings. Their skit, performed by all the Beavers and leaders at our Parents and Children's Banquet in February was fantastic! It reflected a lot of time, effort and fun.

CUBS - Boys 7-10 years
Thank you to our four great leaders: Jim Garrett, Dalton Pinkerton, Lisa Tunney and David Smelsky (Akela). With much work on the part of the boys and leaders, all the boys were able to earn their Blue and Tawny Stars this year. They had two fun outings to the Milton Leisure Centre, a night hike at Blue Springs Scout Reserve and attended the Kub Kar Rally. This year they had a very interesting Resource Day where they got to meet a fireman, a race car driver, a Canada Customs dog and learn about wolves in Canada. They also attended Conservation Day where they learned about the environment at Terra Cotta. This month some of the Cubs will be attending the 3rd year Cub camp at Blue Springs.

We are sad to say goodbye to Lisa Tunney. We wish Lisa and her family all the very best in their new loca-

tion.

SCOUTS - Boys 10-13 years
Thank you to our two leaders Dave Loewen and Dennis (Joe) Hickey. Both Dave and Joe were new leaders this year and took on the program, which was quite a challenge! The boys had a great year which included a Firearms Safety Course, a fall camp, with two more camps coming up this month. They handcrafted their own bows and some of the boys made leather moccasins.

VENTURERS - Boys/Girls 13-17
We would like to thank our Advisor Scott Inns. The Venturer Company kept themselves busy most of the winter building a pole barn. Many weekends, lots of hard work, but in the end definitely a great accomplishment. They did manage to find some spare time for a few camps, some movie nights, scuba diving, playing pool, bowling and the Adventure Show, along with their regular meetings.

A special thank you to Dave, John and Philip Eddolls for organizing the Soap Box Derby this year. Everyone had a good time (they even managed to organize good weather for us this year.) The Acton boys brought home a few trophies for the fastest cars. A special thank you to United Aggregates for letting us use the "hill" for our Derby again this year. To Constable Riddle, our "Radar Man" at the Derby, a special thanks. (We will pay those tickets soon.)

To those of you on the group committee a very big thank you - vice-chair George Henderson, secretary Diana McPherson, treasurer Debbie Kirby and district liaison Gerry Rivers. Without all of you doing the "paperwork" Acton Scouting wouldn't pay the bills and make all those important decisions.

We also thank our sponsors,

Acton Rotary Club, for their kind support.

Above all we must recognize the support we receive from local businesses and encourage the "Scouting families" of Acton and others to support these hometown businesses with your patronage and be sure to thank them for their support: Acton IGA, Acton Home Hardware, Tuitman's Garden Centre, Leathertown Lumber, Sheridan Farm Outlet, Scotiabank and Peter Schmuki Construction.

The upkeep of the Scout Hall would suffer greatly if we did not have the support of Acton Mobile AA and Art Hawes (Firearms Safety Course). Your support is greatly appreciated.

With much gratitude we thank the citizens of Acton for their constant and generous support of Acton Scouting. Your generosity for the food drive, popcorn fundraiser, Apple Day, Scout trees and the sports ticket raffle helped make our Scouting year a great success.

Finally we would like to thank *The Tanner*. We are so pleased that you have returned to business. It is such a pleasure to read *The Tanner* and find all the news about Acton. Your support of Acton Scouting is greatly appreciated.

We have had another fun and exciting year of Scouting and the children have many wonderful memories to carry with them, thanks to all of you involved.

We look forward to seeing all of the Scouting families at our family barbecue on June 3 and welcoming you back for registration night on Sept. 14 at the Scout Hall from 7-8 p.m.

If you would like any information on Boy Scouts of Canada or how to join, please call me.

Jan Inns, 853-5222



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