

# Assessment of old arena in progress

Many people have been inquiring what has been happening with the old Acton arena. Since the initial meeting that called for volunteers to help the committee the group has addressed council, had three meetings and thanks to a local company, there is an assessment report in progress on the arena.

Local businessman, David Chapman of Purity Life approached the Heritage Acton old arena restoration committee about helping the group's cause. Chapman is paying for a consultant to assess the building in regards to restoration and demolition costs.

On Tuesday, August 18, committee members Bruce Cargill, Mac Sprowl and Ted

Tyler joined David Chapman and Gerry McMonagle, a consultant with 40 years experience in the construction business, for a meeting.

McMonagle was faxed the Town of Halton Hills report prior to the meeting and after viewing the building he said, "I was surprised when I saw the condition of the building because it wasn't

consistent with what I read in the report and what I expected."

John Archibald, manager of the new Acton arena cooperatively escorted McMonagle during the viewing. After the inspection, McMonagle concluded, "After viewing the building my first thought was to renovate rather than demolish."

Yesterday, the inspection continued with McMonagle and a group of six specialists that included engineers, steel consultants, electrical engineers, and demolition experts. Included in the crew were Mark Bailey, professional engineer; Daryl Briscoe, Vixmans; Mike Batvich, Shannon Steel; Lews Kyte, Buxton and Dawe Electrical; Scott McLean, Bailey Mechanical; Patrick Cogan, Lions Demolition. Their task is to assess the building with cost of renovation or demolition.

Currently, the Mean Catalogue (a construction guide) estimates the cost of replacing a similar type country arena building of 24,000 square feet at \$1.9 million plus the costs of demolishing the old building.

During yesterday's inspection, it was noted by one in attendance that it they want to tear this (the old arena) one down, there are about 30 more in Ontario that should come down before this one.

McMonagle's report is expected Tuesday, Sept. 1.

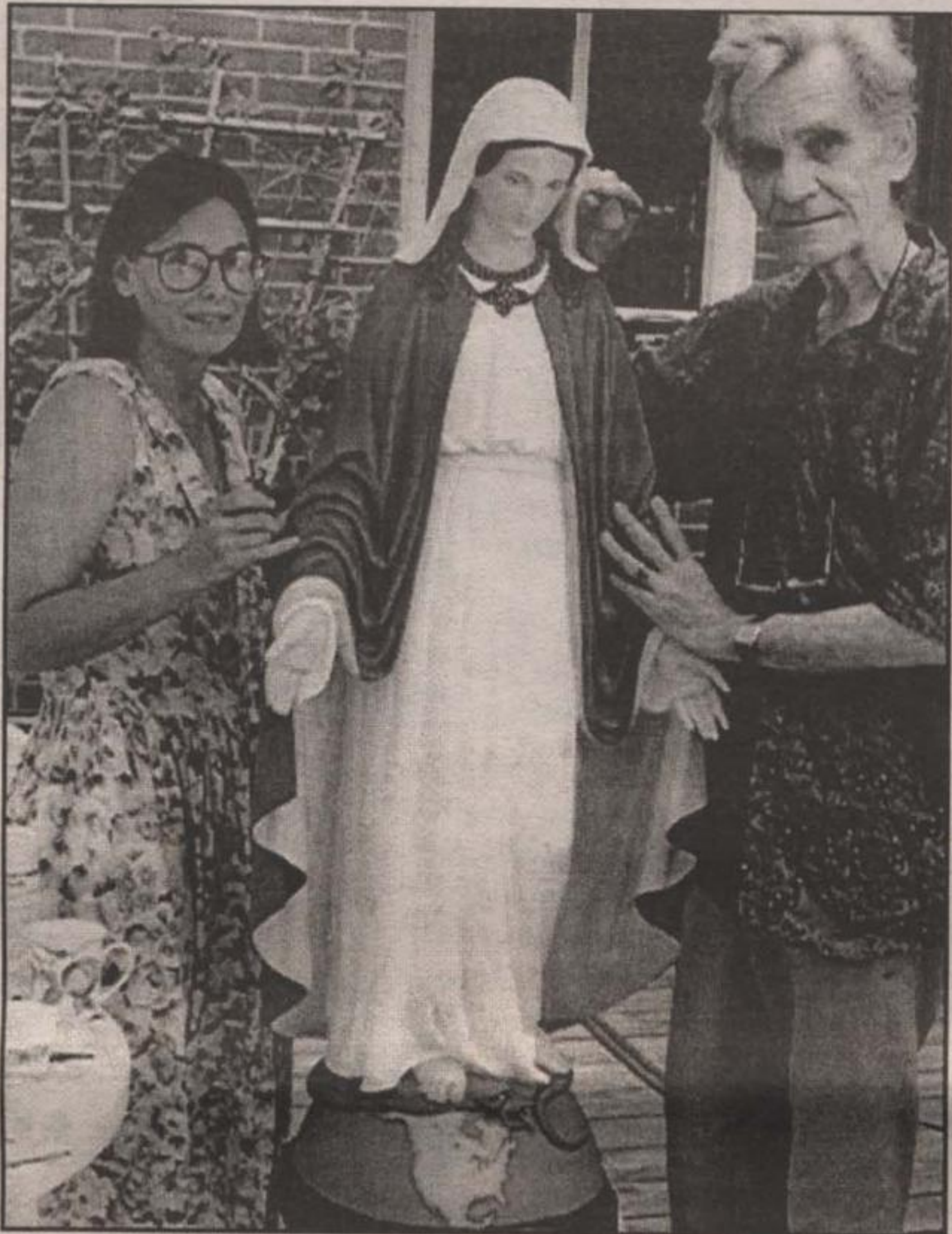
# Famous artist restores statue of Virgin Mary

It's the first time Ron Booker has painted and refurbished a statue of the Virgin Mary, but he's a world renowned expert in dimensional doll painting. When Ellie Snels, who owns the Doll Emporium on Mill Street, Acton, commissioned Mr. Booker to paint the "Victorian Madonna" style statue from St. Joseph's it was a challenge.

"I'm not Catholic but I've always had an interest in the Virgin Mary since I saw the film, The Song of Bernadette" in my youth with Linda Darnell in the leading role." Her face was an inspiration, he recalls, as he makes the finishing touches on the statue which has been in St. Joseph's Church for a century. He said the statue was typical of Victorian Madonnas.

Booker, once the head artist at Madame Tussaud's wax museum in London, England, and at various other Tussaud's expositions around the world, said the statue was badly in need of refurbishing. Earlier attempts to restore it had some success but it was obvious his brush had given the statue a new dimension.

Booker teaches dimensional doll painting all over



INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN artist Ron Booker, right, works on the statue of the Virgin Mary from St. Joseph's Church, assisted by Eliane Snels, left.

the world and at the Doll Emporium in Acton. His work has a three dimensional look which is vividly expressed in the eyes, a technique he perfected. Ellie Snels commissioned him to do the statues of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph for St. Joseph's Church. A parishioner, she chose to do it as a gift to the parish.

When the statues are completed they will be returned to St. Joseph's Church on either side of the altar.

## Obituary

### Jack Waterhouse

Jack (John) Waterhouse passed away at his Main Street, Acton home on Aug. 24, 1998 after a brief illness.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. James Waterhouse of Campbellwell E., London, England, Mr. Waterhouse was born June 22, 1915 in Bracebridge and moved to Acton with his family when Beardmore transferred its Bracebridge operation here. He received his schooling in Acton.

Mr. Waterhouse worked at the Storey Glove factory before World War 2. He enlisted in the army in 1941 and was stationed in the Maritimes where he served as a small arms instructor. He rose to the rank of sergeant before being honourably discharged in 1945.

He worked for MacKenzie Lumber for many years, retiring as manager at the

Acton location in 1981.

Mr. Waterhouse was an infielder on the Acton hardball team which took the provincial championship in the late 1940s. He also loved hunting and fishing and took his beagles out regularly, often accompanied by his brothers Fred and Jim.

Mr. Waterhouse is survived by his wife of 40 years, Ruby Mae Smith, and sisters May Hoare, of Acton, and Nora Tucker of Georgetown.

He was predeceased by his sisters Charlotte Dron and Rose Anderson, and his brothers James, Fred, Harry, William and Charles.

In keeping with Mr. Waterhouse's wishes for simplicity, his remains were cremated and will be buried at Fairview Cemetery. A memorial service was held at the Blue Springs Funeral Home on Aug. 25.

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## Happy 85th Birthday

to

### Phyllis (Tyler) Huffman

Hope you have a wonderful day  
golfing with your friends  
on Thursday!

Ted

