



SCOUTING SUPPORTERS: Members of the Insurance Brokers Association of Halton Hills (in suits) delivered a \$500 cheque to the Acton Scouting movement last week at the Scout Hall. On hand were, back: Paul Armstrong, Beaver leaders Craig Parker and Mike Summers, Scouting committee chair Jan Inns, Barry Dunlop, Harold Denny, Norm Freethy and Brenda Schrempf. Front: Beavers Dylan Jubinville, Jesse Ricketts and Jonathan Porty. — Frances Niblock photo

Indoor leisure facility study to determine town needs

The Town of Halton Hills has initiated a study, referred to as the "Major Indoor Facility Study" to determine if leisure facilities meet the community's needs for spaces to socialize, learn and recreate now and in the future. The consulting firm dmA Planning & Management Services has been hired by the Town to assist the Parks and Recreation Department to investigate possible options for future facility development and to make realistic recommendations that can be implemented with the available community resources and supported by the community, council and staff. The study will conduct a household telephone survey during November, meet and survey with facility user groups and key stakeholders including the business community and health services

agencies.

There are a number of ways for citizens to get involved and help to meet the public's needs and interests, says Joy Thompson of Parks and Recreation:

1. If your name gets chosen for the telephone survey take the time to answer the survey, your comments are important.

2. Watch newspapers for ads in the new year inviting you to public meetings or community forums.

3. Fill in a comment card at any town facility.

If you have questions don't hesitate to call at 873-2601, ext. 264. Ask for Paul

Stover.

"Whether you're a lifetime resident of Halton Hills or a new resident to our community, it's easy to see that we're growing. That growth and the many other changes in society meant that the services and facilities that may have met our needs so well in the past need to be looked at in new ways. Leisure services are part of the fabric of our community and we need to take a fresh look at the buildings that house these valued activities to ensure they continue to meet the leisure and social needs of Halton Hills residents," says Joy Thompson.

George will long be remembered

Maybe you saw the death notice for George Beatty in the Oct. 29 issue of The New Tanner. George, a character in Acton for a good part of his life, died of a massive heart attack at his adopted home of L'Arche Daybreak in Richmond Hill. George was in his early 70's. On his last trip to hometown Acton he was enjoying the Fall Fair, meeting the many people he knew.

I talked to George there. He was his usual good natured self, accusing me of taking his picture last year in Richmond Hill. It was someone else but George thought it was me and I wasn't about to try to change his mind. After all, he had so many friends in so many places. One of them, Ralph Pohlman, a Markham psychiatrist who writes for The Toronto Sun, devoted his column of Nov. 13 to the impact George had on the world.

Pohlman wrote, "Big George, six-foot-two, 230 pounds, age 71. George with the L.A. Dodgers' cap, the Montreal Canadianes' sweater and the perpetual goofy smile.

...You see, George lived

a fantasy life. He was a modern day Don Quixote, who saw the world differently than we do and in that view he gave us all a gift... in George's mind he had been on intimate terms with the great athletes of the past. He had been Whipper Billy Watson's coach, a friend of Angelo Mosca, of Sol Maglie, Don Drysdale... the world was his own version of Oz, a magical land of sports figures and heroes.... Almost everything about him was massive: his size, his enthusiasm, his greetings, his loyalties... He struggled as he got older, what with his arthritis and artificial hips. But even when he had to use a walker, he was a familiar figure on Yonge Street in downtown Richmond Hill."

He was a familiar figure in Acton, too, until 1981 when he moved to Richmond Hill. He loved spots and although he may have not been the best student at the old Acton Public School, he could give you all the details of the NHL standings, the top point getters and who was wielding the big bats in major league baseball as well as their averages.

One can still visualize George, a stogie in his jaws, standing with his pal Jack (Dang) Kentner somewhere along the main drag, trading good-natured banter with everyone that passed by, telling the latest sports scores to the uninformed.

And George didn't just live a fantasy life with the great athletes of the past. He had met many of them. George's father, Wes, president of Beardmore, often took him on safaris to Montreal where George was introduced to big names in the sports world.

When the "Rocket," Maurice Richard, visited Acton to referee a minor hockey night one sparkling cold night, he already knew

one Actonian - George Beatty. He had been introduced to George and met him several times at the Forum. George also met the footballers, the ball players with the old Montreal Royals, later the Expos, of the National Baseball League, and the wrestlers who toiled under the Forum lights.

George looked fine when he visited the Fall Fair this year. Ralph Pohlman said George succeeded in turning Richmond Hill into a small town where everybody knew his name. It was the same in Acton where he was a familiar figure at sports events and walking around town.

-Hartley Coles

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