

# EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

## A place for Acton's sports memorabilia

Although the hockey trophies and skating costumes consigned to the scrap heap by the demolition of Acton's old arena were moldy and broken, it disturbed many Actonians to learn of the cavalier fashion in which they were destroyed. Angela Tyler's column last week recorded exactly what she saw as the arena came down. It was a dismal picture.

Only prompt action by Doug Fread saved the \$8,000 arena time clock, which the Rotary Club had donated. Unfortunately, some of the trophies donated by business and individuals were in poor condition and, according to The New Tanner's information, not worth saving. Skating costumes, moldy and disfigured by conditions in the arena, had been relegated to the scrap heap by the skating club, which saved all their trophies, now stored in the park boat house.

Perhaps the dismay at the destruction of so much sports history points out the need for a place to enshrine this memorabilia, other than a Town of Halton Hills arena. There are some noteworthy events which will end up on the scrap heap of time if some local effort is not made to find a suitable place for them.

Not only are there Ontario championships to enshrine but lots of local sports lore. Photos, press clippings and trophies show the prominent part Acton played in the province's hockey, baseball and lacrosse history. There's even a Canadian title in tug-of-war competition, a popular sport in the early years of the century.

Perhaps many people aren't aware an Acton team captured the Ontario field lacrosse championship almost a century ago, in 1899, winning the final game against a Galt (Cambridge) team considered to be the class of the field.

Maybe you also aren't aware the Acton Tanners won the Ontario intermediate 'B' hockey championship in 1939, when amateur hockey was in full bloom with skill levels that would reach into professional hockey today.

And, of course, you knew an Acton baseball club won the championship of Ontario in 1949, long before the Blue Jays brought the sport back to prominence. And we have had minor lacrosse titles here as well. Back in the 1920s, the Beardmore tug-of-war team ruled the sport in the CNE competitions in Toronto; no one could match their pull.

Surely we should have some place where these feats are recognized.

Trophies, photos and press clippings of these events and many more are scattered all over town, many of them family legacies. They could be lost to posterity unless some place is found to show place them, not a dusty museum, but some place where there is plenty of pedestrian traffic.

The new arena, yes, if it were a strictly Acton and district home - but we visualize another trophy disaster. Maybe it would kindle more interest in the new building the Fair Board contemplates if part were reserved for our history, including sports. It would be a place to display a distinguished and proud heritage as well as giving a financial campaign an expanded boost.

### Salvation Army thanks supporters

Dear Editor:  
The Salvation Army, Acton Family Services together with the Lakeside Chapter of the IODE, Acton Rotary Club and St. Vincent de Paul, would like to express heartfelt thanks to the citizens of Acton, Rockwood and the surrounding areas for your generous support of this year's Christmas Hamper Program. Without your kindness, we could not fulfill our goal of helping those in need. This year's program saw

68 families helped, including 85 children. These people had a much better Christmas because of your help.

We express thanks as well to the many volunteers who helped make this year's program a huge success.

Thank you once again and may God bless you in 1999.

Sincerely,  
Larry Jennings,  
Corps Officer,

The Salvation Army, Acton Corps



**CHRISTMAS MEETING:** The homecraft division of the Acton Agricultural Society was formed in 1960. This photo of the group, often called the Ladies Fair Board, was taken at their Christmas meeting in the early 1960s. Shown standing from the left are: Emily Wallace, Erma McEnery, Mary Matthews, Laura Dennis, Jessie Madill, Mary Archibald, Gladys Robinson, Evelyn Aitkens and Eleanor Thompson. Seated are: Elva Pearen, Reina Morrison, Ruth Linham, Ida Matthews, Isabel McDonald, Margaret Davidson and Mabel Van Fleet. - photo supplied



## Editor's Notebook



By Hartley Coles

In the event readers are confused about the nature of their submissions to The New Tanner, we should differentiate between a news article and an advertisement. News is an event, often already past, while advertising is an event yet to come, with exceptions, of course.

The New Tanner has received a spate of faxes and letters advertising an event or a program in the past week requesting admission into Grapevine or Mark Your Calendar. Some of them can be accepted, but most are plain advertising. If they were all accepted as freebies then this newspaper wouldn't last two weeks. It is the advertising which drives the newspaper and enough free stuff can soon put it out of business.

If you want to make sure your event is promoted in these pages, then an advertisement is the only way to go. Depending on Grapevine or Mark Your Calendar to promote an event or business is just not feasible. The latter only appears when all advertising and news is already included in the pages. And it is usually crowded out.

Grapevine by its very nature is a "news" column and while sometimes a new business or non-profit fund raising event is featured, it is not a vehicle for advertising.

So please don't ask us to turn your important event down. Our advertising rates are reasonable and The New Tanner goes to over 6,000 homes in Acton, Rockwood and districts. It is well read and advertising in The New Tanner's pages pays.



There also seems to be some con-

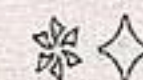
fusion about letters to the editor. We accept all letters provided they are signed by the writer and include his or her phone number so they can be contacted in the event we are unsure about identity.

This week the publisher received a letter signed "Anon" which can't be used because the writer obviously preferred to remain anonymous. He or she may come into the office at 59 Willow St. N. and sign it if they want the letter published or send us a note with their name and phone number identifying them as the writer. In limited cases, a pseudonym can be used when it is reasonable to assume the letter 's publication would jeopardize their safety or embarrass them. But in most cases we ask writers to stand behind their opinion with their own name.

It really is beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Homes and businesses are sparkling with lights of all description, lights that were probably out the earliest in history. Some of the displays are downright dazzling while other consist of only a few bulbs and decorations. All welcome in this joyous and festive season.

Yes, I know, we don't yet have snow. Maybe you are dreaming about a white Christmas but unless the weather patterns change, it is possible Santa Claus will have to use his pick-up truck instead of the traditional sleigh.

Old timers used to say that a green Christmas and New Year often meant a full graveyard while a white and cold season killed the bugs which bear us to the grave. Obviously they based their finding on experience, downgraded now because of its lack of scientific background but often true.



Those crazy geese on Fairy Lake. The incredibly warm weather has meant they are either bamboozled by the warmth or just delaying their trip south until real cold sets in. They are arriving in the hundreds each day and taking shelter on Fairy Lake, flying by night in the light of the bright autumn moon.

The geese aren't the only ones whose patterns are upset by the warmth. Theresa Matheson, a resident at the Elizabeth Drive seniors' apartments, reports the caretakers were cutting the grass there on Monday, Dec. 14. And you put your lawn mower away?



Neighbour told me this Christmas, he got a new car for his wife.... Now that's some trade !!!

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*Distributed to every home  
in Acton and area as well as  
adjoining communities.*

#### ADVERTISING POLICY

Every effort will be made to see advertising copy, neatly presented, is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertising, but will gladly reprint without charge that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur provided a claim is made within five days of publication.