

**FAMILY AFFAIR:** Three generations of the Dills/Hartnagle family helped celebrate 85 years of Scouting in Acton at the 1st Acton Scouts Baden-Powell banquet last Tuesday at Acton High. Beaver leader Kathleen Dills Hartnagle is flanked by son, Cub JD Hartnagle (left), son, Beaver Matthew Hartnagle and father David Dills, who joined Cubs in Acton in 1934. Dills Frances Niblock photo



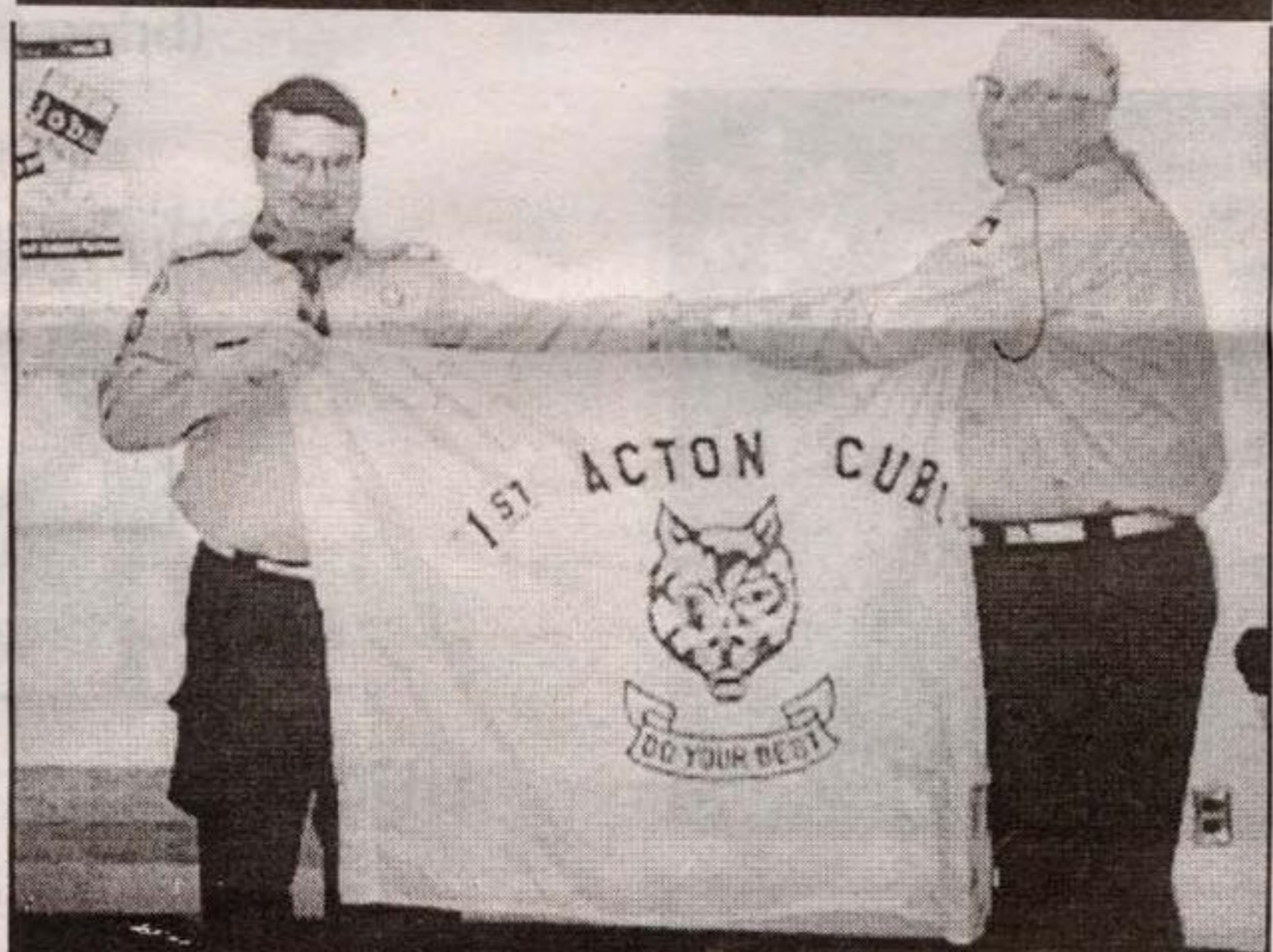
**BADGE EARNERS:** Acton Cub Leader Dave Smelsky (left) looks on proudly as three Acton Cubs, JD Hartnagle, Sean Summers and Alex Roehrig, received their Religion in Life badges from Trinity United Church minister Bob Matton (right), at the 1st Acton Scouts Baden-Powell banquet last Tuesday at Acton High school. - Frances Niblock photo

# Acton celebrates 85 years of scouting

## 1st. troop formed in 1915

This has been Scout/Guide Week which has been marked with activities among the various Scouts, Guides, Venturers, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies and Sparks. It also marks 85 years of Scouting in Acton. There are about 150 boys and girls registered in Acton. The first Scout troop was registered here on October 8, under the auspices of St. Alban's Church (Anglican) Association, eight years after Lord Baden-Powell opened the first Scout camp on Brownsea Island in England, in 1907. A year later the first booklets were written by Baden-Powell and alter incorporated into "Scouting for Boys."

There have been many ups and downs for the movement over the 85 years which was associated with St. Alban's until 1948 when the community sponsored Scouting, a bond existed until 1961 when the Acton Rotary Club became sponsors.

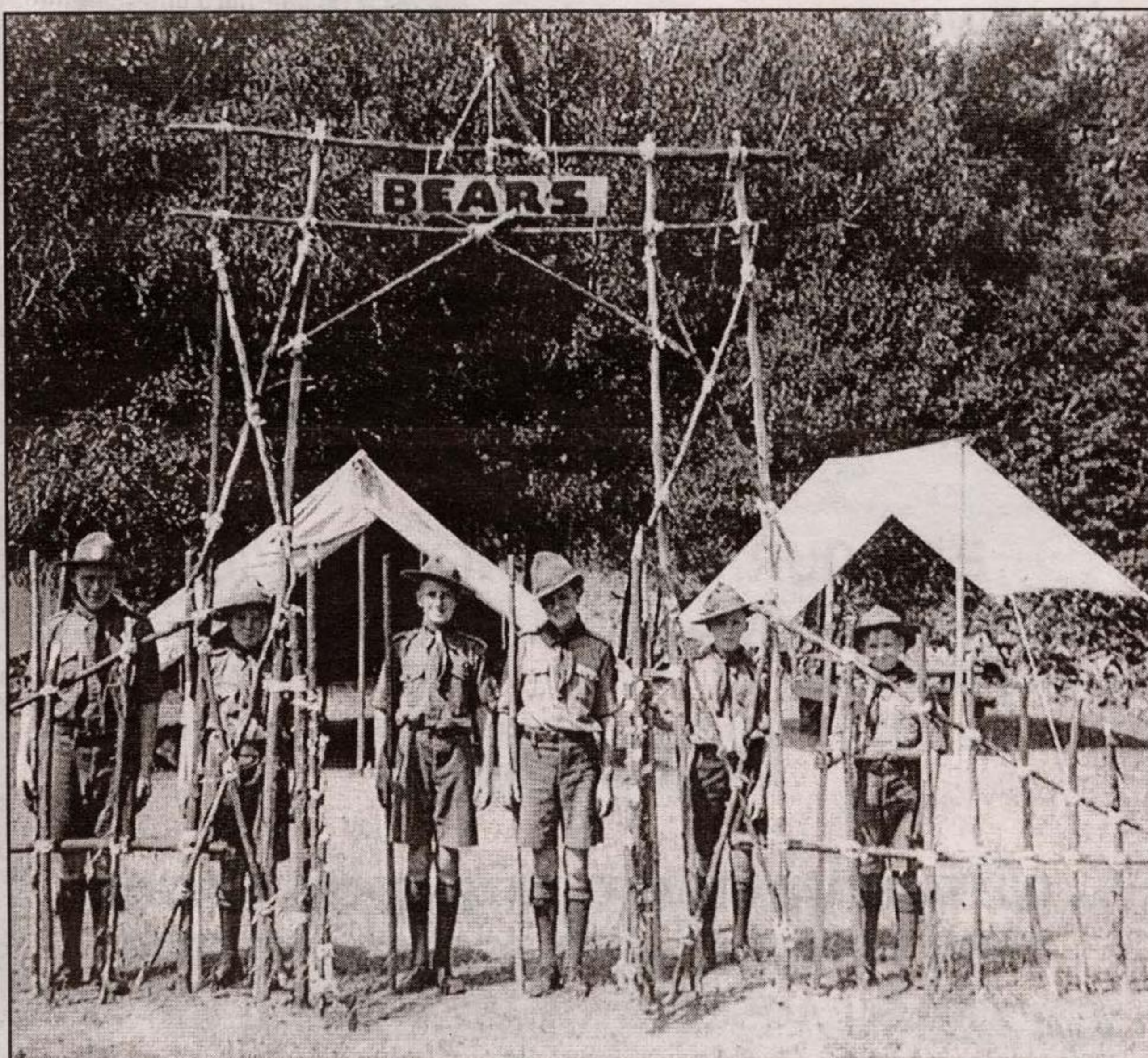


**DO YOUR BEST:** Acton Scouts have resumed using the name 1st Acton after being known as 3rd<sup>d</sup> Acton for numerous years, and at last week's Baden-Powell banquet Acton Cub leader Dave Smelsky (left) gratefully accepted an original 1st Acton Cub flag from former Cub leader John Deblauw. - Frances Niblock

In 1914 St. Alban's Boys' Club meeting in the parish hall decided they would call themselves Boy Scouts. A year later they were registered in the Scout movement under St. Alban's and in 1916 Wilfrid Coles, a veteran of the South African War and WWI became Scoutmaster of the group known as the 1<sup>st</sup> Acton.



Sponsorship by St. Alban's is still recognized in the neckerchief Badge which shows England's patron saint, St. George, mounted on his black charger, ready to challenge the dragon which was ready to devour a king's daughter, so the ideas of honour and chivalry are represented in the 1<sup>st</sup>. Acton badge.



Before World War 2 the Boy Scouts in Acton were very active, camping out at Blue Springs Scout Reserve under Scoutmaster George Mason. Photo left shows morning inspection and top Scouts Gord Bilton, Tom Watson, Gord Gibbins, W. Gordon, Bruce Pargeter and Ken Hassard pose inside their patrol palisade.