

Wet weather translates into bumper crops

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Area farmers will be smiling all the way to the market thanks to Mother Nature who has provided more than the average amount of rain for this time of year. That rain will translate into higher crop yields and better-than-expected quality.

"The Acton area has been getting about one inch of rain per week since mid-June and that's just great for crop development," explained Ministry of Agriculture, Food and

Rural Affairs soil and crop advisor Bob Hamilton, adding that the 30-year average - the yardstick used by crop experts and farmers - shows this area usually gets about three inches of rain a month.

"The winter wheat crop is in the filling stage so it can still utilize these rains and all of the other crops are in the vegetative growing stage which means they are putting the leaves out and will make maximum use of the moisture," Hamilton said.

When farmers call the Ministry for in-

formation or advice what they want to know is how current conditions stack up against the 30-year averages and this year, the news is good.

"We've had 25 per cent more heat this year than the long term normal and we are almost equal to the amount of heat that we had last year which was a record. The crops are looking very good and it looks like an excellent year for farmers to take off a high yield."

With all of the crops already planted, the muddy fields are not causing problems for

farmers although those trying to make hay may have quality problems.

"The ultimate goal is to cut, rake and bale hay without any rain on it. In some cases, due to the rain, the farmers are having to wait until the cut hay dries and the hay will be a little more brown than green and some of the rain will wash some of the nutrients out of the hay," Hamilton said.

While the local strawberry crop is finished the raspberry and blueberry crops are expected to show above average yields.

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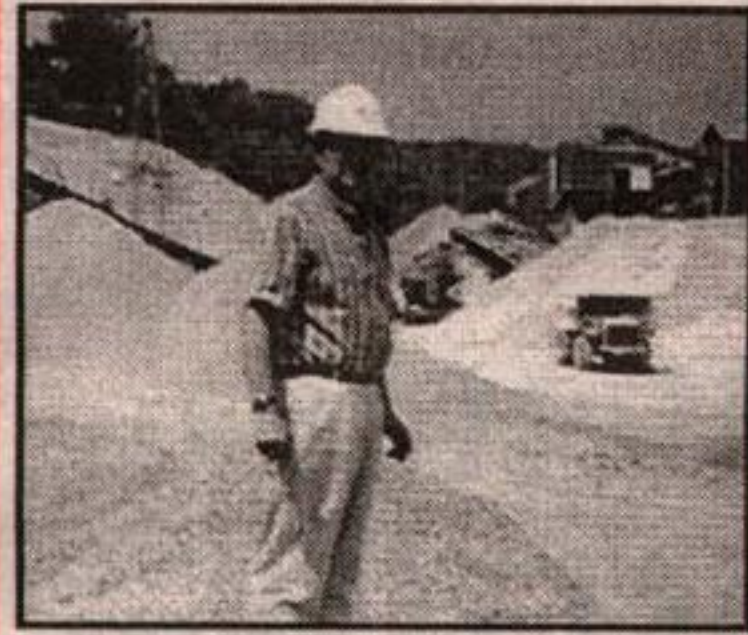
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IT'S WORTH THE DRIVE TO

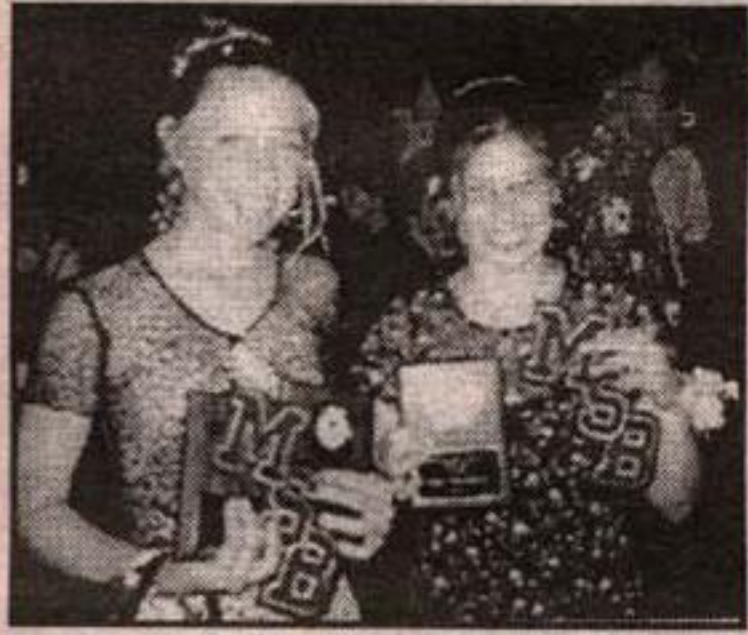


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What's Inside



Reporter Frances Niblock toured Blue Circle quarries with land manager Malcolm Barr to find out the future of rehabilitation. See Page 6.



MSB held its graduation exercises at Acton Legion June 30. Katherine Hopkins and Emily Henderson were among those getting awards. See Page 3.



Don't forget the fireworks this Sunday at Prospect Park. Acton firefighters were forced to cancel the show on Canada Day because of adverse weather conditions. More in Grapevine on Page 5.

Bonnette wants better taxi service

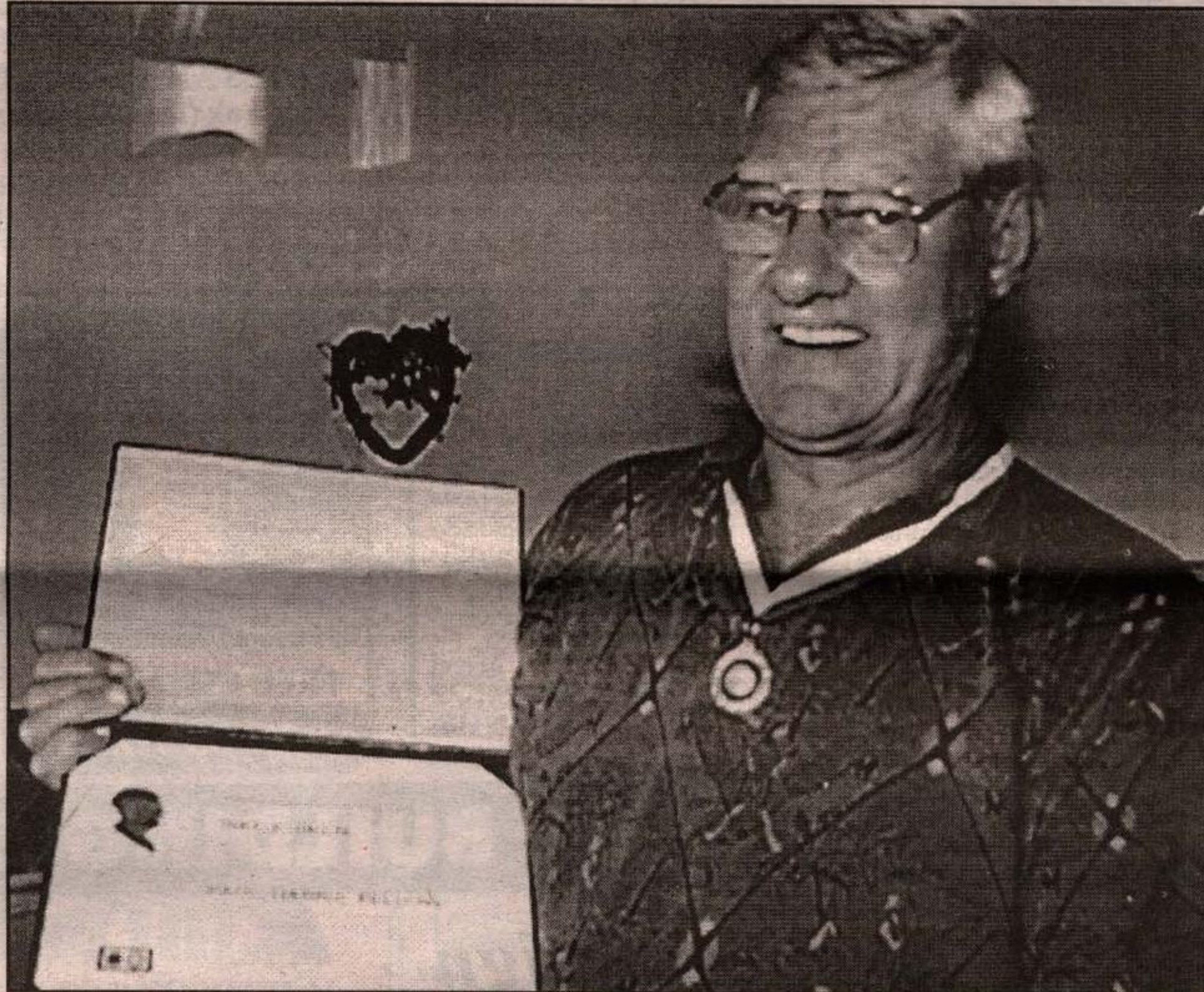
Bannockburn development

Looks like there could be some action on a 17-lot rural subdivision on the north west corner of Highway 7 and Fourth Line. The manager for the landowners, Woodchris Properties and Sabrina Estates Ltd., told the Town that a deal to sell the property to a developer and builder closes next month.

In a letter to the Town asking that it support a request to Halton Region to extend draft subdivision approval for one year, Yvonne Christie of Christie & Woods Real Estate, said the new owner intends to "start developing the property as soon as the sale is completed by August 23, 1999, or sooner."

The development, known as Acton Holdings Ltd., was draft approved on July 23, 1991, for a three-year period. Five one-year extensions to draft approval have been granted so far with the cur-

Cont. on Pg. 2



HIGH HONOURS: Acton Rotarian Jake Kuiken was recently presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship by his fellow club members. The fellowship, named after Rotary's founder, is the highest honour available to members. Clubs usually nominate recipients for many years of dedicated service to the organization. - Angela Tyler photo

Elderly residents stranded

Complaints from Acton area residents - many of them seniors - that they still can't get a taxi when they need one has prompted Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette, who first raised the issue of inadequate cab service four months ago, to ask staff to set up a meeting with the taxi industry.

Bonnette also suggested that if the industry isn't going to provide the service required, the Town could look at its taxi bylaw, which in its current form, doesn't require a taxi company to accept a call for service.

"Hopefully it could be a successful meeting and you know, if not, we will have to look at the bylaw..." Bonnette said, noting that the taxi bylaw covers the entire town and doesn't distinguish between Georgetown, Acton and the rural area.

The Town's bylaw says if a broker has four or more cabs it must offer 24-hour service and must inform a caller how long it will take to get a taxi.

Georgetown Taxi, which advertises an Acton phone number, dispatches one cab from Acton and its owner, who identified himself only as Wani, said his one car couldn't be in two places at once.

"If I get a call to take somebody to Mississauga then I can't be there to take

Cont. on Pg. 2

Limehouse bridge to be closed

Area drivers who use Regional Road 43 through Limehouse will have to find a new route for the summer. CN Rail will begin rehabilitating the Limehouse bridge at the end of this month and it will be closed until the end of September.

The bridge, built in 1912, has deteriorated in the past three years to the point that heavy vehicles, including farm equipment and school buses, have been banned as the load limit was dropped to 6 tonne from 10 tonne. Once the repairs are complete, gravel trucks which used the bridge before the load

limit reduction, will be banned.

While CN initially refused to rehabilitate the bridge, Halton Region appealed to the Canadian Transportation Agency and it ordered CN to do the work which will include a new steel span and beams at the east end, three new beams at the west end, a new timber deck, new handrails and new braces.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette said it was nice to win a fight against "the big guys."

"The load limit reduction has been a real inconvenience to the Limehouse area because farm equipment has to

make a long trip around the bridge and the school buses also had to detour around the bridge," Bonnette said on Monday.

"We've been assured that the bridge will be rebuilt in its exact location so there's no chance that gravel trucks will be able to use it and that was a major concern of Limehouse residents."

When the bridge is closed for repair pedestrians will still be able to cross via a temporary pedestrian walkway. Motorists will have to detour using the Fifth Line North, Highway 7 and Fourth Line.

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