

Elvis impersonator thrills ladies at annual dinner

This past Saturday, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Acton Legion celebrated with their first Appreciation Dinner of the new Millennium.

The ladies enjoyed a dinner, which was prepared and served by the Legion men. Following dinner, an Elvis Presley impersonator entertained the ladies. This was the second appearance for this Elvis at the Legion as he also performed on New Year's Eve.

Receiving pins for 50 years of service were: Kay James, Joan Ford and Joyce Buchanan. Absent from the

dinner but also receiving pins were Jean Earle with a 50 year pin and Stella Brunelle who was a recipient of the Mother of Pearl pin.

Life Memberships, which are awarded by the Command, were presented to two auxiliary members. Eileen Wedge received Life Mem-

bership for 50 years of service and her volunteer work, as well as Jean Earle.

On behalf of the Acton Branch, Gary Mundy commended the ladies for their endless hours of volunteering and fund raising on behalf of the branch and the community.



WELCOME TO THE CLUB: At their Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, Legion Ladies Auxiliary member, Eileen Wedge, centre, was welcomed as a Life Member by last year's recipients, Gloria Dunne, left, and Eva Cutting, right. - Angela Tyler photo

Town protests decision to close Ag. Ministry offices

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

It will take political will, along with tight planning policies, to fight off the pressures of development on farmland in Halton Hills and Town councillors are worried current provincial policies will not protect local farmers.

In particular, the Town is protesting a decision by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMFRA) to close all of its field offices in the Greater Toronto Area, laying off 70 staff.

In a motion asking the province to reconsider the move and meet with OMAFRA and Town officials to discuss the issue, Acton Councillor Clark Somerville said the closing of the local office in Georgetown will deprive the farm community of an essential government service.

"It's criminal that with the value of agriculture in the GTA there will not be an office for OMAFRA which is forgetting how important agriculture is. It's just absolutely insane," Somerville said after Council endorsed the motion, adding only 10 per cent of farmers have access to the Web, yet that's how OMAFRA suggests farmers can now get the information and help they would have received from the field advisors.

The Halton Region Federation of Agriculture is also protesting the closures, arguing that OMAFRA is an essential tool in Ontario agriculture that shouldn't be further eviscerated by front line cut-backs.

A GTA agricultural economic impact study under-

lines the importance of agriculture to the economy of Halton and the GTA and identified urban sprawl and fragmentation of rural lands as major threats.

Agriculture generates approximately \$126 million in Halton annually and of the 23 municipalities in the GTA, Halton Hills has the highest gross farm receipts, valued at \$65 million.

There appears to be the political will at the Town Council table to protect agri-

cultural land - councillors have said recently they don't want Halton Hills to end up like Brampton with all of the farmland and open space paved over.

The GTA agricultural economic impact study shows between 1976 and 1996, the GTA lost 30 per cent of its farms and 16.5 per cent of its total farm acres. The report supports the protection of "clusters" of farms and agriculture-related industries

DOWNTOWN ACTON
P.O. Box 21, Acton L7J 2M2 853-1031 ext. 274

Valentine's Day

It's coming soon, so here are some great gift ideas from downtown Acton businesses, to remember that special person on the most romantic day of the year! The perennial favourite is fresh cut roses, and these are available at Blue Spring Flowers. Don't forget to cut the stems as soon as you get the flowers home and put them in fresh lukewarm water. Re-cut the stems every few days to keep them looking their best and if the heads start to droop, immerse the complete rose (stem, leaves and head) by laying it flat in a pan of lukewarm water and leave it for a while - this should perk it up! Blooms Away will also have roses, along with the special selection of Valentine giftware. If you're looking for chocolates, The Holland Shop carries imported European chocolate, Wetherby's has a selection of imported British chocolate and Acton Pharmacy carries Laura Secord and Russell Stover boxed chocolates, plus a selection of Valentine Day cards. It's always a treat to go out for a Valentine's Day dinner, but you might want to call ahead to inquire if reservations are needed. The Red Dog Cafe (853-3947), Andy's (853-0300), Tim Bri's (853-5231) and George's Leathertown tavern (853-3754) will be happy to serve you. The Olde Book House carries Valentine frames, books of poetry and red candles, a selection of which can all be wrapped up in their special Valentine's Day giftwrap! And of course, Country Reflections always has a wonderful selection of giftware!

THE NEW TANNER

Hometown news that people read!

Kindermusik

THE PREMIER MUSIC PROGRAM FOR YOUNG CHILDREN
Ages 18 Months to 7 Years

Through the sheer joy of music and movement, Kindermusik encourages early learning and creativity in young children.


Classes starting mid-February 2000
For more information contact Christine de Lestard at 905-877-3975

We can take the worry out of standardized testing.

Attaining better scores on standardized tests may be as simple as improving basic skills. Sylvan offers:

- A comprehensive skills assessment to identify your child's specific needs.
- A personalized programme delivered by certified teachers.

Don't wait. Call Sylvan today.



Sylvan Learning Centre

Success is learned.
Established 1987

27 Woodlawn Rd. W. Guelph

Education Finance Plan Available
From \$125 per month

www.educate.com

• READING • MATH • WRITING • STUDY SKILLS • SCHOOL READINESS • UNIVERSITY PREPARATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PHONE 823-5711 OR 823-5781



ACTON IGA
Homestown Proud!

12 Main St. Acton
853-1960



WFTN

2 TORONTO MAPLE LEAF TICKETS
CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN

PLUS LIMO
TO & FROM GAME

Draw Sat Jan 29 (2 week Draw)

1 ENTRY WITH EACH \$25.00 PURCHASE
ENTER ONCE - ENTER OFTEN

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

Order Your Super Bowl Platters Here