

# Harold Townsley Citizen of Year

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY  
The New Tanner

Harold Townsley has joined the ranks of Acton's Citizens of the Year for 2000.

Chosen by a committee of former award recipients, Townsley isn't too sure either who nominated him or why he was chosen. Looking at his involvement in Acton however, outsiders might see a good reason to agree with judges.

Recreation has always been important to Townsley. With a father who played semi-pro

hockey, and a long history in minor and later pro hockey in his own right, he spent seven years as a volunteer with the town's parks and recreation committee. Then he became the Acton arena manager in 1967.

When Halton Hills became a regional municipality he remained with the Acton arena until his retirement in 1988.

He also spent 30 years as a volunteer with the Acton (and later Halton Hills) fire department.

An Acton resident for almost 60 years, Townsley and his family came from Newmarket

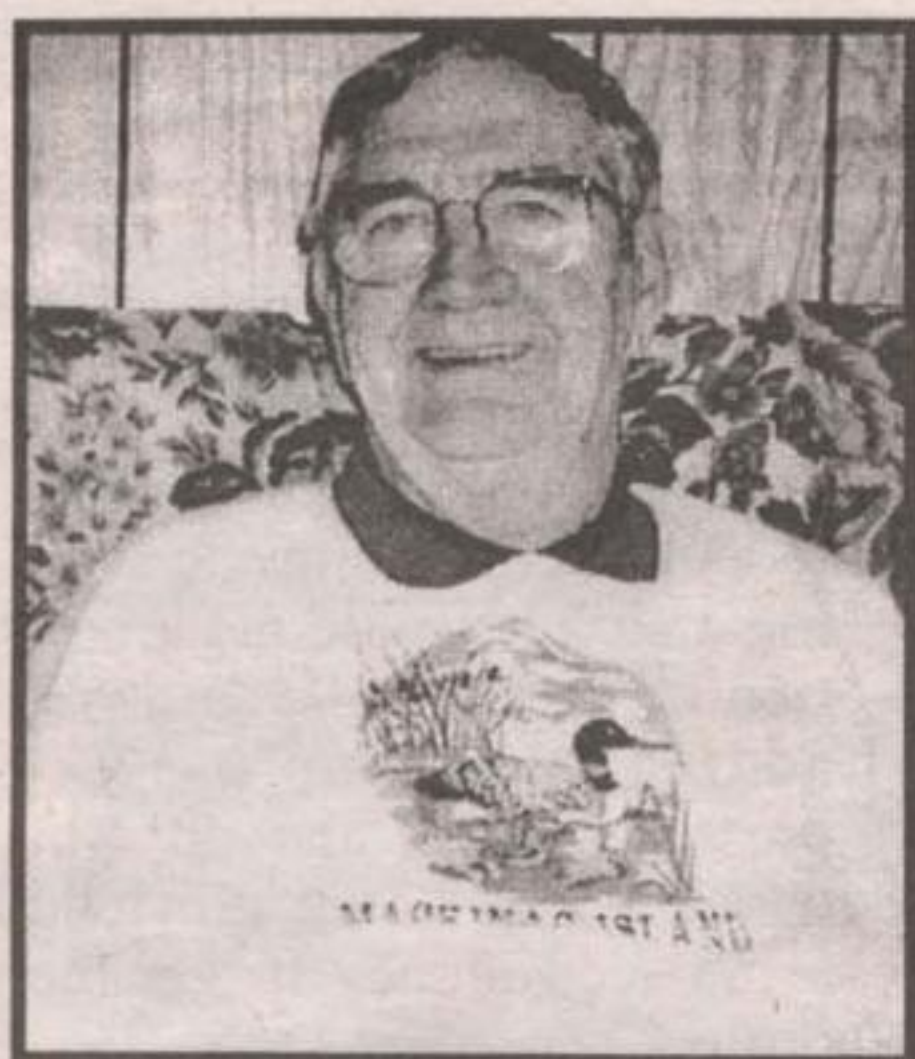
because his father was hired as a glazer at Beardmore's in 1941.

Like his father, Townsley loved hockey. He began playing as a youngster and played both juvenile and junior hockey in Acton. Also like his father, he was nick-named Sonny when he played in Milton and Georgetown.

At 14 he played hockey in Erin because there was no ice in the Acton arena.

"That was the year the arena was full of wool," Townsley recalls, "so Dad took us to Erin to play."

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HAROLD TOWNSLEY

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## What's Inside



Students at McKenzie-Smith Bennett school collected over 1,000 T-shirts for the Sudanese. See photo on Page 4.



Downtown business got another boost with the opening of the Needle Gnome last weekend. See Page 7.



Achievers at Acton High are recognized with awards. See Page 12.

## WEEKLY CHUCKLE

Judge to Casey in Court: "Have you ever been up before me?" Casey said: "I don't know. What time do you get up?"

Hal Roach.

# Leisure Centre, arena over budget

## Council approves extra \$2.1 million

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner



**ROYAL FELINES:** Micha, left with Tish Lewis and Orange Sherbert with Kathy Walshe, are just two of the regal creatures who rule the private cat sanctuary, Acts Anonymous, near Orton. Since they both consider themselves to be the boss, they really aren't best friends. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo See story on Page 8.

# Fun and fellowship on menu at Acton community brunch

By Frances Niblock  
The New Tanner

Great food and friendship are on the menu for the first Acton Community Brunch - a millennium project designed to foster a sense of community in Acton.

Modeled on a community brunch held in a small community near Simcoe, the idea of bringing the brunch to Acton came from Mary Ann Austin, who attended a

brunch with her mother and thought it would make a great project for Acton.

"It's a place to get together to visit and see other people. For people who are furiously working all week, here's an hour when you can go and meet 20 or 30 other people to have a chat with," Austin said on Monday.

"We're not all that concerned with raising money - we hope we do - but I just see it as sort of a good thing

to do for Acton," Austin said, adding she bounced the idea off Lloyd McIntyre of Acton, and then pulled together a small group of volunteers.

The whole idea of community is very important to McIntyre who likes being stopped on the street or in the food store to talk with friends.

"I don't want to come across as being nosy, but I'm very much more comfortable when I have a sense of

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The largest capital projects ever undertaken by the Town - construction of a recreation centre in Georgetown South and the twinning of Alcott arena - are \$2.1 million over budget before a shovel is even in the ground.

The revised costs would mean a taxpayer with a property valued at \$185,000 would pay an extra \$35 in Town taxes - a 5 per cent increase - for the next 10 years until the debt is paid. Annual net operating costs are estimated at \$150,000 for both facilities.

Councillors were briefed on the revised costs and all but Acton Councillor Clark Somerville approved the plans at a special meeting on Monday. Both Acton Councillors Norm Elliott and Rick Bonnette expressed some concerns but voted in favor of the revised costs and plans.

The cost to twin the arena, build a new lobby and give the existing lobby a face-lift is now \$4 million - up from the preliminary budget of \$3.7 million. Staff's preferred option, which was approved by councillors, added \$560,000 for a new lobby but removed \$529,000 to repair the existing parking lot and for new parking - items which will be included in next year's budget requests.

The recreation centre budget is now \$8.1 million (up from \$6.3 million) and includes a six-lane by 25m. pool, a separate leisure pool, hot tub, sauna and a multi-purpose area with a banquet facility and café.

Treasurer Ed DeSousa

stressed that 60 per cent of the total cost will be paid out of development charges. He suggested the additional \$2.1 million could come from the sale of Town-owned land, an anticipated surplus from the restructuring of Halton Hills Hydro, the \$1 million 1999 surplus new user fees, reductions on other capital projects, increased taxes or partnerships.

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson urged councillors not to go with anything less than the revised plans, saying to go with anything less would be a big mistake and the community expects the Town to do a good job it can be proud of.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott, who supported the revised plans, said he was "nervous" and "extremely concerned" about the suggestion to use the hydro restructuring surplus to offset the additional costs but couldn't convince his fellow councillors to remove that option.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette, who also ended up supporting the plan, said he was "leery" about the "extremely vague" supplementary financing plans and said Town owned land beside the Civic Centre should be sold to cover the additional costs.

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