



Elizabeth O'Rourke still remembers her homeland with fondness even though she left it more than 70 years ago. Although she's not as mobile as she once was, Mrs. O'Rourke, 98, still enjoys writing poetry and reads voraciously.

## Ireland is still in Mrs. O'Rourke's thoughts

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY  
The New Tanner

Elizabeth O'Rourke has been an Acton resident since 1924.

Born in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland on Sept. 13, 1901, Mrs. O'Rourke was one of 11 children born to an Irish farmer named Daly. She met her husband, Tom, at a dance in their home community.

They eloped to Canada in 1924 and married in Grimsby, then came to Acton a short time later.

"We knew several people who came before us," she says.

One of the biggest shocks was encountering her cousin, Dr. Bill Kenny. She didn't *The Harp and the Shamrock*

I wear two lovely emblems; I wear them on my breast. A harp entwining with shamrock

Is the emblem I love best. They are dear to every Irish man

No matter where they roam. Good men are always true to

Emblems of their home. It's the harp and the shamrock of Ireland

The harp and the shamrock for me. And while I've strength to raise my voice

I'll sing in praise of the harp and the shamrock of Ireland.

When I see a bunch of shamrocks

I think of Patrick's Day. When I hear a band strike up a tune

It makes my heart feel gay. My spirit overcomes me. I begin to shout and bawl. Just touch the harp of Ireland.

It will give you Tara's Hall. Now I'd like to see old Ireland's sons

United heart and hand. To aggravate this prejudice which

Spoils our native land. Let's smother party feeling And let the whole world see

We love our native emblem And can live in Unity.

By Elizabeth O'Rourke

## Irish came here in 1800's

Continued from Page 8

munity. One prominent Irish family was the Moores. One, T.A. Moore became a moderator of the United Church. Another, H.P. Moore, was publisher and editor of The Acton Free Press, considered one of the most elegant weekly newspapers in all of Ontario.

The Kenny family was another, and, of course, the scion of the family, physician Dr. William Kenny, a name still recalled with fondness and gratitude in the days when doctor's house calls were common.

While the church was the centre for Irish Catholics, the Orange Lodge was the meeting place for these Scots-Irish from Ulster. The Orange Lodge 12<sup>th</sup> of July celebration were often a highlight of the year in Acton with parades that drew thousands to celebrate the Battle of the Boyne.

Emnity existed but the excess which marked the celebration elsewhere never seemed to have been part of Acton's history. The Catholic Irish were excluded from public posts and many of the brightest found better opportunities elsewhere.

The Orange Lodge lost its lustre in this part of Ontario after World War 2 as Irish of both faiths returned from the battlegrounds of Europe where old quarrels were forgotten in the common cause. The last lodge in the area, located in Crewsons Corners, sat little used for years, was abandoned and the days of the "Glorious Twelfth" are gone.

Recently, a plaque recalling the settlement of Irish in this area was unveiled in St. Joseph's Cemetery or the Dublin Line at the behest of Brendan Aherne and Tom Blake. It traces the graves in the old burial ground, many of which were unknown until Ray Arbic and Aherne unearthed them in parish records.

know he lived in Acton and thought her father had sent him to bring her home.

The couple lived in Acton and rural Acton as they raised their six children, then bought their home on Rockwood's Main Street in 1967, about the time Tom retired from Beardmore's. Mrs. O'Rourke remained in that home until a few weeks ago when ill health forced her to move in with her granddaughter, Judy Scott, in Acton.

At 98 plus, only three of her (younger) sisters are still living says her daughter Sheilah Fleming. Longevity runs in the Daly family. Her grandfather too, lived into his 90s.

Writing has always been a pastime. She wrote a lot of poems for Bannockburn Women's Institute when she was a member. Her most recent effort of course, connects with Ireland's patron saint, Patrick, but her poems cover all types of topics.

### Register Now for MOORE PLACE SUMMER PROGRAM 877-9314



Program offered at

Moore Place Day Care, 83 Main Street N. (Hwy. 7) and Sacre Coeur Parish Hall, 39 Guelph Street Georgetown

8 Week Program - July 4 - August 25

Enrolment on a daily basis

Monday - Friday 6:45 am to 6:00 pm

Ages 6 through 12 years of age as of December 2000

#### ACTIVITIES

Arts, Crafts, Dance, Dramatic, Science, Indoor/Outdoor Games and Sports, Local Mini Trips & Swimming.

Full Day Trips Weekly.

#### REGISTRATION

at Georgetown Marketplace near Food Court on Tuesday March 21, 2000 - 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

or at the Moore Place Day Care anytime

877-9314

83 Main Street N. (Hwy. 7 & Moore Park Crescent) Georgetown

# The late Cathy McGillivray left a legacy of caring

Dear Editor,

Last September the Acton Branch of the Cancer Society lost a dear friend - Cathy McGillivray. She had been a member for over 25 years and held almost every position including president.

Cathy was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Her family was most important to her but she still found time to be involved in her community. She was a tireless volunteer.

Our Cancer Society group was very dear to Cathy and she was it go through many changes both at the provincial and the local grassroots levels. She continually kept herself knowledgeable and up to date with the latest discoveries and statistics. - we always knew who to call for the latest info. Her past position was that of Community Outreach Coordinator and she spent many hours, especially during the summer, educating children and their parents about how to protect themselves from the harmful rays of the sun and the importance of eating a healthy diet and leading a healthy lifestyle.

She was involved in every fund raiser we had. We could always count on her to come up with unique ideas for projects for our group to consider. She sold daffodils, drove patients, canvassed

and always guided our meetings gently with her wise words and wonderful sense of humour.

Even after her own diagnosis she took on the job of organizing the food for our first Antique Show and of course our "snack bar" was a huge success.

Cathy also worked tirelessly for her church - Trinity United. Her fine leadership skills were very much appreciated there and again she was involved in every aspect of church life. She has left quite a legacy which can be acknowledged in the many

banners she helped to design and work on. They hang very proudly in the sanctuary.

When she wasn't volunteering, Cathy taught kindergarten and Grade 1 at Harrison Public School. She was an exemplary educator who was highly respected by her administrators, peers and the community.

Cathy fought her battle with cancer courageously and with dignity. She touched many lives in a very positive way. She made a difference! We miss her very much.

The Acton Branch of the Cancer Society

## dublin improvements



kitchens & baths and so much more!!!

FREE ESTIMATES

Dave Dawkins 853-2887

isn't it time for a change?



## Halton Hills Minor Lacrosse Association

### SECOND REGISTRATOIN

SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2000

9 AM - 11 AM • ACTON ARENA

12 PM - 3 PM • CHICO'S HOT DOG STAND

(Canadian Tire, Georgetown)

CLINIC / TRYOUT TIMES MEMORIAL ARENA

CLINICS - FREE

TRYOUTS \$2 / PLAYER / SESSION

#### SATURDAY APRIL 8

8:00 am - Peanut Clinic  
9:30 am - Tyke Clinic  
11:00 am - Novice Clinic  
12:30 pm - Bantam Tryout  
2:00 pm - Pee wee Clinic  
3:30 pm - Midget Tryout

#### TUESDAY APRIL 11

6:00 pm - Tyke Tryout  
7:00 pm - Novice Tryout

#### WEDNESDAY APRIL 12

6:00 pm - Pee wee Tryout  
7:00 pm - Bantam Tryout  
8:00 pm - Midget Tryout

#### SUNDAY APRIL 9

8:00 am - Peanut Clinic  
9:30 am - Tyke Tryout  
11:00 am - Novice Tryout  
12:30 pm - Pee wee Tryout

#### THURSDAY APRIL 13

6:00 pm - Bantam Tryout  
7:00 pm - Midget Tryout

#### MONDAY APRIL 10

6:00 pm - Tyke Tryout  
7:00 pm - Novice Tryout  
8:00 pm - Pee wee Tryout

For more information please call:

Gord Lyons 905-873-4801

Don Hanzelka 905-873-7781

Scott Gibson 519-856-4644