



MUSICAL INSPIRATION: The combined choirs of Acton churches raised their voices in joyous song at the 9th annual Acton Ecumenical Worship Service at the Legion on Sunday. — Frances Niblock photo

Acton Christians pray together

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

Over 900 crowd into Legion for unity service

A record crowd of 905 people from Acton's churches joined in prayer and fellowship on Sunday at the 9th annual Acton Ecumenical Worship Service at the Legion.

Led by members of the Acton Ministerial Association, the joint congregation took part in a moving service

that celebrated Christ and inaugurated a scholarship for local High school students. Looking out over the "amazing and staggering" crowd, the Reverend Pieter Van of Knox Church, joked that faced with such a group, Presbyterians have two choices,

preach or take a collection — and he intended to do both.

In his message, Rev. Van Harten urged the joint congregation to help rebuild and revitalize the church in the Acton community, not by focusing on their differences, but welcoming people into

the church as they would welcome a new family member, because "those who claim Christ as their Savior, share a father."

"I would hope our excitement for the Lord would be greater than our shared interest in anything else," he said, adding they share a common foundation of Jesus Christ, a common aim, a common goal and a common hope for the future.

The Reverend Bob Matton of Trinity United Church announced the Acton Minister Memorial Scholarship, in memory of Acton teens, Rory Dick, Mark Everson and Travis Toth, killed tragically in a car-train crash outside town this Fall.

It is our hope and our prayer that such a scholarship will acknowledge worthy recipients each year. Beginning this fall in 2001," Rev. Matton said, adding the scholarship will be open to students at both Acton High and E.C. Drury High Schools. The offering from service was \$1,280.

Fighting crime in Acton focus of new police brass

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
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Replacing Acton's Village Constable Bill Riddle, a "fixture" in local policing, is one of the priorities for the beefed up Halton Police Service command team in 1 District — Acton, Georgetown and Milton.

Superintendent Mike Kingston and Inspector Bill Ford — all spit and polish — introduced themselves to Town Council recently to detail their plans for fighting crime, reducing injury accidents and replacing Constable Riddle, who retires next month.

"He's been a police officer for 34 years and we're actively searching for an officer who will be able to take his place," Supt. Kingston said last Monday, adding they're reviewing the village constable program in Georgetown.

Crime statistics until the end of November, Supt. Kingston said they were able to "make a dent" in break-and-enters, robberies, auto thefts and other property crimes in 1 District, although there's been an increase in assaults across Halton.

After the meeting, Supt. Kingston provided detailed data (year-to-date-figures until the end of November) for Acton showing there have been 20 fewer collisions so far this year, (from 52 to 32) but, personal injury accidents have more than doubled to 17 from eight, a "very concerning set of statistics," Supt. Kingston said, since seatbelt compliance is very strong and the condition of vehicles on the road is generally good.

"It probably comes down to aggressive driving — people not paying enough attention," adding later that he's "dismayed" with the increase in speed on rural roads.

Acton assaults jumped by 15 per cent — from 69 assaults this year compared with 58 last year, a "bump" Supt. Kingston said is indicative of Halton-wide results and can be partially attributed to changes in reporting domestic violence.

In Acton, the number of car thefts dropped to two compared with 16 for the same period last year. Theft from autos and property damage — two youth related areas of crime — were up a "fair bit" Supt. Kingston said, with theft from autos more than doubling to 56 from 26. Property damage occurrences in Acton were up 42 per cent, to 108 from 62, during the first 11 months of the year.

Supt. Kingston said two projects, including one in Acton and the rural area, resulted in a 20 per cent in the number of break-and-enters.

As well, during the recent reconstruction of Trafalgar Road and Highway 7, police targeted the side roads for extra enforcement, laying 160 speeding tickets.

Supt. Kingston said since traffic issues have the most affect on quality of life, 1 District will go "full bore" on those problems with motorcycles, 14 officers trained to ride bicycles, high-tech laser radar guns and unmarked cars.

Supt. Kingston said as part of the command restructuring they hope to increase community contact by moving the high school liaison officers to the district office from the

Oakville headquarters.

Noting that a number of Halton Police goals involve increasing efficiency — the top two goals are reducing the crime rate and number of motor vehicle collisions by one per cent from last year — Supt. Kingston said the young Police Service faces a challenge of keeping its officers on the street, not doing paperwork.

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NOTICE

ANNUAL MEETING

Acton Agricultural Society

Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, January 27, 2001 at Knox Presbyterian Church Hall, Acton commencing at 10:00am for the purpose of receiving the Financial Statements for 2000 and for the election of Officers and Directors.

Daniel Varanelli CGA, CFP
Treasurer

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