

Former Acton resident turns 90

Former Acton resident Violet Henderson celebrated her 90th birthday with an open house at the Acton Legion Sunday afternoon.

A resident at Fergus' Caressant Care Nursing Home since having a stroke in 1999, Mrs. Henderson still has a good memory and a winning smile although failing eyesight is cutting into her ability to watch her beloved hockey and baseball games on television. She enjoyed reading and gardening as well as sports and kept her own home on Cobblehill Road until illness forced her to give it up.

The eldest of seven children, Mrs. Henderson was born in England and came to Canada with her parents at 11 months of age. The family settled in Wingham and it was there the young Violet Mellor met Price Henderson at a po-

litical rally. They married in September 1934 and raised two children, Rochelle Cunningham and Rick Henderson, both of Acton.

Mr. Henderson served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II and the family moved to various stations with him during the early part of the war, says Mrs. Cunningham.

Meanwhile her grandfather moved the family to Acton to work in the woolcombing. When Mr. Henderson went overseas Mrs. Henderson and her daughter moved home to her parents and the family has been in Acton ever since. Mrs. Henderson was widowed in 1986.

In addition to her son and daughter Mrs. Henderson has five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



LET'S PARTY: Violet Henderson celebrated her 90th birthday Sunday with a party which included most of her family members. Seen helping her celebrate are clockwise from the left great granddaughter Toree McAfee, grandson Michael Cunningham, daughter Rochelle Cunningham, great granddaughter Sarah Cunningham and great grandson Jakob. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Limehouse receives grants to save kilns

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

A \$20,000 provincial grant may have come just in time to help save part of the early history of Limehouse. The money will be used to help preserve some of 15 lime kilns and a powder house in the village.

"The state of the kilns has just kind of gone down, real rapidly," lamented Limehouse Kiln Society member Susan Cox last Thursday, adding the deterioration over the winter caused some concern.

The grant from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation will allow the Society to hire an expert to determine how best to promote and preserve the historical significance of the kilns.

The majority of kilns are on Credit Valley Conservation Area land and parts of the Bruce Trail, and both groups are partners in the project. Several kilns are also located on Blue Circle Aggregates quarry property.

The Society sent out a request for proposals to professional heritage consultants on Monday, looking for an expert who will determine which kilns can be saved - through restoration or recreation - how to improve access to the kilns and educate the public about their significance.

"We're a very dedicated group of community volunteers, but we don't have the historical background to know which kilns should be preserved, restored or even re-created," Cox said.

The lime industry was a central part of life in Limehouse in the mid-1850s. The kilns were used to burn the limestone from area quarries to extract the lime, which was used with sand for mortar in pre-concrete days.

Cox said Heritage Halton Hills has applied to have the kilns designated as a heritage site, a move that could lead to more grants. As well, heritage conservation students at the Perth campus of Algonquin College have made a working lime kiln.

"Further down the road, perhaps, who knows, maybe

we could use some of their students and they could help us out."

The Society hopes to have the proposal call close at the end of May so work can begin this summer.

"That would give us a chance to at least try to get some grants in place over the summer, so once we have their report, we can have some work done before the snow flies in December," Cox said, refusing to guess how much it would cost to preserve the heritage of the kilns.



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