

Misses Titanic berth, now celebrates 90

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Almost 90 years ago, an infant illness saved Christine Davies' life.

The rural Acton resident, who celebrates her 90th birthday on October 3, had a ticket on the Titanic, but she was sick and officials wouldn't let her, along with her mother and older brother, board the ill-fated ship.

"That illness saved my life," Davies said on Monday after a birthday luncheon at the Acton Seniors' Centre.

"If I'd been on the Titanic as a babe-in-arms I don't think I would have lived. I don't know if it made me live my life any differently, but I do think it has a great deal to do with the fact that I love life."

Davies, born Christine Anderson, left England a few months after the Titanic disaster and settled with her family in Toronto. As a five-year-old, her mother enrolled her in dance class and that training took her to the stage in New York and Toronto.

"I danced in New York for a few years - it was show dancing and we did four acts a night. When I returned to Toronto I taught dancing for a few years and then got married."

Davies said she's not sure how long she was married to Frederick Davies, who died over 20 years ago, but they had three children, Frank,

Kay and John. She also has 16 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

The Davies moved to the Milton area where they started a dog breeding kennel, which she operated until four years ago. She still has four Toy Poodles who she describes as "spoiled and obedient."

When asked how she's managed to live 90 years, Davies said she thinks that God "must have had a reason for having me live this long," but she doesn't know what that is yet.

"Excepting the fact that I've had a lot of people in my life that I've been able to help out, physically and mentally,"

Davies said, adding her longevity is also due to her continuing to exercise her mind and her body.

Davies, who moves with the fluid grace of someone decades younger, does daily stretching and balancing exercises.

"I'm a real crank when I'm trying to get young people to start to exercise. I have arthritis, but I still do bending and stretching," Davies said, adding that fortified with a Scotch, she danced at a surprise family birthday party on Saturday at the Acton Curling Club.

Looking back over nine decades, Davies said she has no regrets, and is most proud of her relationships with her family and loved ones.



NINETY AND COUNTING: Rural Acton resident Christine Davies' zest for life was evident as she celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends with two parties on the weekend. - Frances Niblock photo

500 tonnes of dirt cheap compost

Halton is giving away 500 tonnes of compost, dirt cheap.

The free give-away runs from September 22 through 29, excluding Sunday, September 23, at Halton's Waste Management Site on Bronte Road in Milton.

As part of the region's strategy to divert waste away from landfill, residential yard waste picked up from curbsides is recycled into garden-friendly compost. Twice a year, Halton residents are invited to collect the finished product for use in their gardens.

"This event is always very popular among Halton residents," said Halton Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline, "and it is a great example of the Region's commitment to the diversion of waste from landfill through the three 'R's' - reducing, reusing and recycling."

Residents must bring their own bags or containers (maximum seven per household) and their own shov-

els, as residents are responsible for bagging their own compost. Residents are asked to bring a donation of a non-perishable food item for local food banks.

Halton's Waste Management Site is located on 5400 Bronte Road/Regional Road 25, 7 km north of Highway 5 in Milton. The site is open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Two badly hurt... Continued from Page 1.

Street South, who remains in Guelph Hospital in stable condition with minor injuries, has been charged with two counts of impaired driving causing bodily harm and one count of driving with over 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood. He appears in a Guelph court on October 26.

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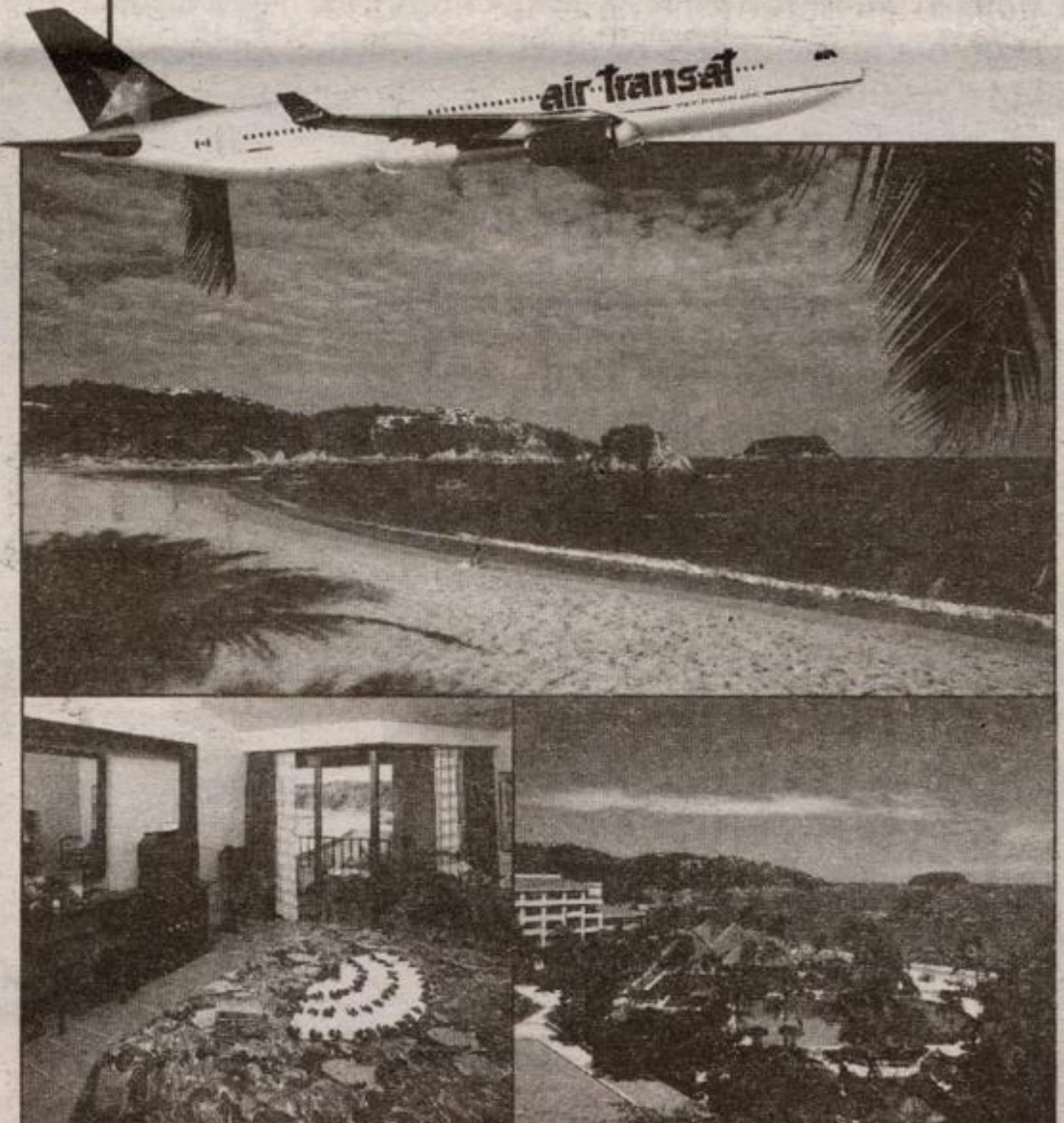
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The Management and Staff of Acton IGA would like to send their sincere condolences to all the citizens of the United States affected by the terrorist atrocities of September 11, 2001. In this time of adversity may our two nations stand together in unity against the perpetrators of these terrible acts.



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