



CHAMPION HONOURED: Acton's newest Community Champion Max MacSween received a plaque from Mayor Kathy Gastle on Monday, honouring him for his hard work in making Acton a nicer, prettier place to live. The Acton Community Champion program applauds random acts of kindness and selfless hard workers. — Frances Niblock photo

Max MacSween Community Champ

Acton's newest Community Champion has never seen a patch of dirt that he didn't want to plant.

Max MacSween, a Master Gardener and six-year president of the Acton Horticultural Society, was honoured at a Civic Centre ceremony on Monday when he received an Acton Community Champion plaque, pin and gift coupons from Mayor Kathy Gastle.

She credited MacSween's hard work for helping the Town's win at the Provincial level in the recent Communities in Bloom beautification contest, enabling Halton Hills to compete at the national level next year.

Before the presentation, MacSween, a retired

autoworker, said he was a "little shocked, surprised and a little embarrassed," when told he was a Community Champion — someone who selflessly makes Acton a nicer place to live.

MacSween said his fellow Horticultural Society members make him look good and also had high praise for Mayor Gastle.

"Kathy (Gastle) had pride in our community to realize that we were more than what we looked like," MacSween said, adding he feels fortunate to live in a town like Acton.

"The people are all nice, caring and giving, chatty and kind-hearted. I didn't do anything special to deserve this award — there's lots of others

Town user fees increase by 4.75%

From pool rentals to tax statements to burial plots, you can expect to pay 4.75 per cent more for Town services, program and facility and sports field rentals next year with Council's approval of user fee increases.

While most of the increases were approved without question or comment, suggested increases of almost 29 per cent for family swim passes were rejected by councillors. Georgetown Councillor Jane Fogal disagreed with staff's approach to take a number, in this case the same 4.75 per cent maximum increase Council gave staff for a budget guideline, for the user fee increases, adding they should be tied to the cost of the service.

Fogal also questioned why the cost of the summer-only family swim pass was almost

doubling to \$109 from \$68.26, saying she thought they wanted to encourage families to swim.

Acting recreation and parks director Henry Tse explained in past years there was no logical relationship between a single fee and a family pass, but now the cost of all family passes equals the cost of two adult passes.

"That would be across the board, for skating and swimming and everything," Tse said, adding while some of the numbers seem "so large," they made a significant 17.29 per cent cut in the cost, to \$6, for general admission family pool passes.

Fogal asked why anyone would buy a month long pass and have to go swimming 18 times in a month to break even.

"I want these rates to reflect the philosophy where we want

families to be encouraged to come out and use the pools I think that's a value that we have," Fogal said adding increasing the family rates would send out the wrong message.

Councillors approved Fogal's suggestion for a 4.75 per cent increase for family summer swim passes, and a request from Councillor Moya Johnson that increases between 28 and 29 per cent for one, three and six-month

passes also be reduced to 4.75 per cent.

The fee reductions could cost the Town approximately \$7,000 in lost revenue next year.

Municipal rates and fees are reviewed annually as part of the operating budget process and staff said they'd review the user fee rates in 2002 for 2003 with a more comprehensive approach than just adding the annual indexing amount.

Acton Citizens' Band

Invites you to the Annual

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 9th
2:00 pm
at the
Acton Legion
(Wright Ave.)

Admission \$5.00
Children Under 12 ~ FREE
Refreshments

POLICE BEAT

Thermal pain

A Church Street East homeowner told police an unknown object caused a small hole in a picture window at the front of his home last Saturday. Damage to the thermal window is \$1,500.

Window smashed

Late last week someone smashed the front window at the Double Happiness Restaurant at 336 Queen Street. There was no entry and nothing was taken but damage is estimated at \$700.

Property damage

Someone attempted to get into the coin boxes on eight dryers at the laundromat at 21 Main St. South overnight December 1/2.

Police report the covers were removed from the machines but no money was taken and there was no damage.

House fire

An improperly installed woodstove is the suspected

cause of a \$40,000 fire at a house on the Sixth Line in Milton on November 26 at 6:05 p.m.

Acton firefighters found flames coming from the roof of an office/playhouse attached to the main house when they arrived on scene.

in Acton who have done a lot more," he said.

Gastle said MacSween is a tireless worker who never says no and is always there to lend a helping hand.

"When Sheridan Nurseries presented us with flats and flats of Icicle Pansies, Max was on hand to cart them off and plant most of them on his own," Gastle said, adding he also planted over 400 bulbs.

"This is just a small indication of what he does for his community in Acton," she said, leading Council in a hearty round of applause.

Acton Councillor Clark Somerville praised MacSween's decade-long association with the Acton Horticultural Society, and noted they found out that Max works best on a full stomach when he delayed Communities in Bloom meetings until the treats arrived.

"Being a member of the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area), we've always appreciated the efforts that Max has put in, and every member of the Horticultural Society, for helping to keep

the downtown beautiful because the effort and work they put into it, sure pays off..." Somerville said, adding it was true when people called Acton the "pearl" of Halton Hills during the Communities in Bloom competition.

"Max definitely deserves a lot of thanks and I think that he is very worthy of being a Community Champion."

POWER VIDEO ENTERTAINMENT

3rd Annual Toy Drive

Donate a New Toy and
Get a **FREE** Library Rental
No substitutions.

Toy to be minimum \$5 Value.

All Donations will be distributed
in Acton & Surrounding Areas.

Thank you for making a Child's Christmas Merry

14 MAIN ST. N. ACTON, ONT.
853-5603

The Dance Inn

SCHOOL OF DANCE

The Dance Inn Presents

HIP HOP DANCE WORKSHOP

with Guest Teacher
LYNETTE ROBINSON

Sat. Dec. 8th, 2001

"Try it You'll Like it"

2:00-2:45 ~ 8-11 yrs
3:00-3:45 ~ 12-15 yrs
4:00-4:45 ~ Teen/Adult

Wear comfortable clothing & indoor sneakers

New Gymnastics & Hip Hop Sessions begin Jan 7th, 2002

Studio Located at #12 Wallace St., Acton (entrance off Perth St.)

Call 853-8628

YOU'LL FIND A SLEIGHFUL OF SAVINGS

at The Garden Market IGA

Bus Schedule

Monday to Friday
extended until
Friday 14th December
Call for details

GARDEN MARKET IGA

Fresh, Fast & Friendly!
Acton Market Place Plaza
372 Queen St. E. ~ 853-1960
Open 24 Hrs. ~ 7 Days
(except Holidays)