

TOWN DIGEST

Chudleigh on Eves

"Kinder and gentler doesn't mean that everyone is going to get what they need, ah - get what they want," according to Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh, who was in Acton on Friday for the Citizen of the Year dinner.

Asked about the tone and attitude at Queen's Park with a new leader and the many demands for money, Chudleigh said "there isn't enough money in the world to satisfy some elements of our society," but he's encouraged that Premier Eves's "modus operandi" with groups looking for money, appears to be "sitting down and talking, rather than yelling at each other."

Last month, Eves appointed Chudleigh as Parliamentary Assistant to Janet Ecker, Minister of Finance.

New rec & parks boss

Nice timing for Terry Alyman, the Town's new director of recreation and parks - just weeks on the job and the Town receives \$3-million from the Federal and Provincial governments to help build the \$11.3-million Georgetown South leisure centre, the largest project in the Town's history.

Alyman (the y is silent) resigned as Hamilton's manager of strategic planning and community development, and acting director of culture and recreation (for four months) to accept the Halton Hills position, left vacant when Bryan Shynal resigned as the Town's top recreation and parks boss to become Hamilton's director of parks.

Before his year with Hamilton, Alyman was manager of facilities and sport development in Burlington. He said Halton Hills was attractive because of the leisure centre project and the opportunities in a "great community that has a lot to offer in terms of quality of life."

Alyman said he'd review proposals for a skateboard



Terry Alyman

park and sports fields in Acton, adding an important issue is emerging in planning for structured youth activities.

"Decisions must be made whether you do a number of smaller parks, or do you concentrate on enlarging, or adding more features and amenities to an existing park? That's an on-going struggle that planners and youth have," Alyman said.

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Gary Barton then and now.

Acton honours Gary Barton

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Interesting revelations, heartfelt thanks and good-natured ribbing livened the ceremony as Gary Barton was officially honoured as the Acton Citizen of the Year on Friday at Blue Springs Golf Club.

Surrounded by a large contingent of proud family members, politicians, local business people, past Citizen of the Year award recipients and well-wishers, Barton, an Acton pharmacist for 33 years, was honoured for his many contributions to the community in an award that

was initiated in 1958 by the Acton Chamber of Commerce and is now a Rotary Club of Acton tradition.

Barton's quiet help in the community - everything from supplying formula to needy babies, sponsorships of sports teams, foot-care clinics for seniors - were highlighted by several guest speakers including Acton Aqua Duck Swim Club founder Gerry Ockenden, who passed around a late 1980s photo of the team in deck coats, purchased for the team by Barton.

"I had to argue with him to allow me to put the (Glenlea) crest on the coats because he didn't want any recognition whatsoever for what he'd done," Ockenden said, adding all of the kids that have gone through the club in the past 15 years

"know who Gary is and are very appreciate of everything he's done."

Step-daughter Leslie Parsons recalled how her mother Heather had gone to Glenlea in a panic 25 years ago after she'd swallowed a bottle of her sister's perfume.

Later, Barton hired Heather and then, when she was old enough, Parsons, who said Barton showed a "great deal of good humour, and in an age of performance and professional, a human touch that makes Gary so special."

Recalling how Barton calmed her mother after she drank the perfume, Parson laughed that the circle is now complete, recounting how after her son

recently swallowed some old raw cookie dough, Barton told her to place the boy on a heating pad, set to medium temperature, for about 20 minutes.

"I asked if that was supposed to kill the germs and he said, 'No, but it will sure be cool to see if he passes that cookie,' and so, the story continues," Parsons said.

Heather Barton praised her husband's sometimes off-beat sense of humour, cooking skills, genuine care for the community and then introduced Gary's mother, 88-year-old Beatrice Patterson, thanking her for "sharing your wonderful son with us."

"His humour and compassionate and giving nature is due in part to your

guidance and influence," Heather Barton said, before telling her husband that he deserves the award, adding, "Captain Marvel, I love you."

After receiving thanks and plaques from the Federal and Provincial governments, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Halton Region and the Town, Barton, a die-hard Toronto Argos fan, was treated to some cheers by some gender bending "cheerleaders."

They delivered a poster signed by Pinball Clemons and an autographed album with Argo team photos and histories.

While most in the crowd knew of Barton's compassion, good cheer, quiet hard work and calm caring manner, he had to explain the Captain Marvel moniker, telling the crowd his daughter was small, he used a lipstick to draw a "M" on his chest and told his daughter that when she was asleep he was a super hero who saved the world.

"I thought that was end of the story, except that she went to school and told everybody and for weeks their parents kidded me about being Captain Marvel," Barton laughed.

Barton, who confessed to being nervous before the ceremony, said he was humbled to be honoured and thanked his family and friends for their love and support.



Gary in his youth

ENJOY YOUR LONG WEEKEND!

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until
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