

Looking back at highlights of 2003

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public response when tougher no smoking rules come into place on July 1. It bans smoking in public and work places until after 9 p.m.

Kentucky Fried Chicken announces it will relocate from its location in the old IGA plaza to the new Acton East plaza.

The Town agrees to set up an ad hoc citizen committee to review operations at its cemeteries after staff, for the second time, remove personal effects from graves at Fairview Cemetery, without prior notice.



Acton High School Reunion

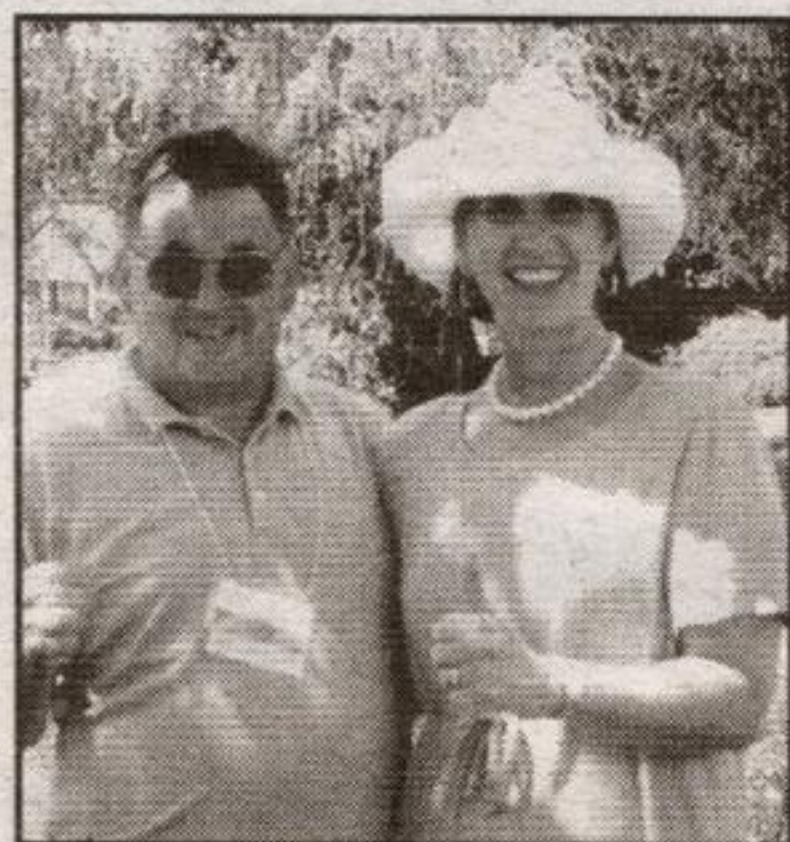
JULY

One or both beaches in Prospect Park are deemed unsafe for swimming because of high levels of bacteria throughout the month of July.

Drunken vandals tore down hanging flower baskets, left beer bottles in planters and knocked over garbage bins in the downtown core.

Several Prospect Park area residents manage to pull Hornby resident Doug Neary from Fairy Lake after he floundered while trying to swim across it. Neary later dies in hospital.

Good news for youth services and the drop-in in Acton - Halton Community Support and Information announces it received a three-year Trillium grant, guarantee-



ing the centre, and one in Georgetown, will remain open.

Master Gardener Max MacSween, with Mayor Kathy Gastle, proudly predicts Halton Hills will again do very well in the annual Communities in Bloom judging.

AUGUST

Acton's downtown is jammed with people celebrating at the annual Leathertown Festival.

Acton resident Mary

Beth Robertson heads to Africa on a two-year mission with the Habitat for Humanity program.

Acton High School student Kaitlyn Andrews wins three Gold medals - discuss, shot put and javelin - at an Ontario Track and Field Association championship.



A Toronto woman wins \$100,000 for life after purchasing a lottery ticket at Lucy's Jug City on Mill Street.

Police report that two registered sex offenders live in Acton - but that's all the information that can

be released from the Ontario Sex Offender Registry.

Acton residents and businesses cope with a massive power outage by reducing and conserving energy. Local stores are quickly sold out of flashlights, batteries, ice and some food items when the lights go out - and stay out.

SEPTEMBER

One hundred and twenty people walk, jog and ride around the track at Acton High School, helping to raise \$26,500 in the annual Terry Fox Run for cancer research.

To the delight of local shoppers who love good deals, Giant Tiger opens its newest store in the old IGA plaza.

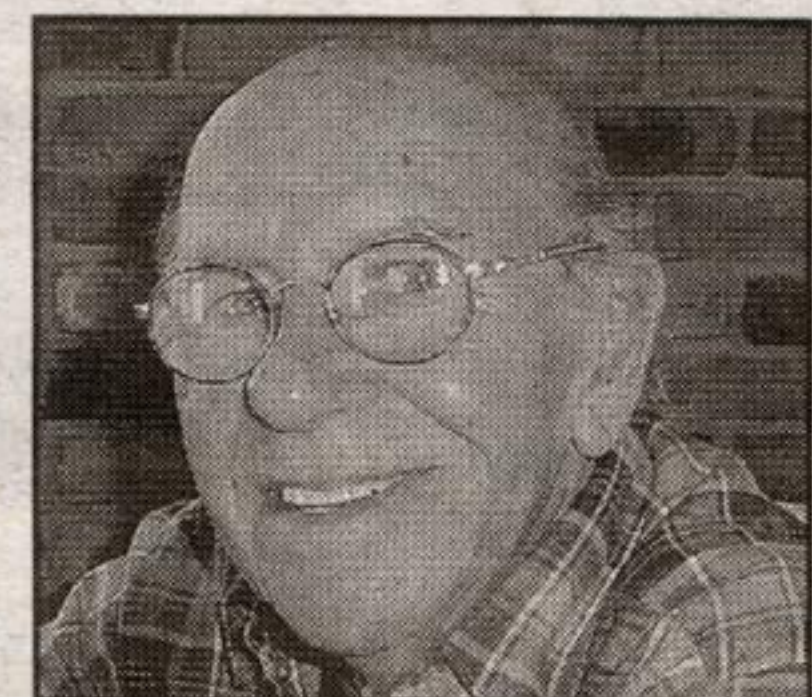
Angela Schrempf is crowned Miss Acton in the 41st Miss Acton pageant at the Acton Fall Fair.

at least one Town councillor who makes it clear the rules are to be followed by everyone.

NOVEMBER

Veteran Acton politician Rick Bonnette easily defeats Mayor Kathy Gastle to become the sixth mayor of Halton Hills - the first from Acton.

Retired Acton resident Neil Charette wins \$1-million in the Princess Margaret Hospital's early bird draw.



After almost a quarter-century, the Dawkins family of Acton ends its association with the old Hide House - the company it built - as it is sold to a new partnership that includes several former company officials.

Willow Lane Natural Foods celebrates its 25th anniversary in Acton - albeit without the original owners.

The float entered by St. Joseph Catholic School in the Acton Santa Claus parade takes overall first place honours. The McKenzie-Smith Bennett float wins first prize in the school category.

DECEMBER

Purity Life advertises for 120 Acton people willing to help fight the common cold by taking part in a research study to determine if a natural supplement called Moducare prevents and/or lessens the severity of the common cold.

With all the pomp and circumstance of a coronation, Mayor Rick Bonnette and his new council are sworn into office for a three-year term.

Police look for witnesses to a double fatality on Highway 25, north of Acton, that claimed the life of a Peterborough father and son, and slightly injured Acton IGA owner Mike Manes.

Acton continues to have the most acute need for additional general practitioners in the Region, despite recruitment efforts which have seen at least a dozen doctors tour the town and its medical facility.



High winds and wet weather wash out Education Day at the fair, but the weather improves and the fair grounds are jammed with people for the rest of the weekend.

Plans are finalized for a 15,00-square-foot expansion of the IGA store in the Acton East plaza. The larger store will include a pharmacy.

An Acton mother and her boyfriend are charged with physically abusing a pre-school girl whose bruises raised suspicions with a citizen who called police.

OCTOBER

Costumed guides led people on historical walking tours in Acton to raise money for Halton Hills Community Support and Information and the United Way of Halton Hills.

While his Tory party goes down to defeat, Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh easily hangs on to his Halton seat.

The Town opens its first leash-free zone in Prospect Park, much to the delight of local dogs and their owners who flock to the park to let their pets run free.

Halton's new \$600,000 ambulance station in Acton opens on Churchill Road, south of the fire station.

Reports of illegal smoking at the Acton Legion - before 9 p.m. - rile

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A special thank you to all the sponsors of my weekly column.

I really appreciate your help.

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