

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Max - a - million!

Judges couldn't have made a more popular or suitable choice in selecting Max MacSween as Citizen of the Year for 2003.

The enthusiasm and energy Max MacSween has put into spearheading horticulture in Acton and Halton Hills over the last few years, not counting the endless days and hours, should surely put him at the head of the class for the last decade, let alone a single year. As one of the judges has said it has made Acton a "more pleasant and beautiful spot for all to enjoy."

Max matter-of-factly refers to Acton as "the jewel of Halton Hills" and his determination to fulfil his expectations has been contagious. The Acton Horticultural Society of which he has been president for several years, has been one of the most active organizations in town and area. As Max is quick to point out it's a group effort there's a lot of work and volunteer hours involved, wife Diane has also given him lots of support.

Among the many things Max and the society have done in the community is the Laura Dietrich Memory Garden at the corner of River St. and Main St. N. It has been a showpiece, not only providing an oasis of tranquility beside busy Highway 7 but adding a setting for the Acton branch of Halton Hills Library.

Not so observable but as important is the naturalized section of the School Creek with its native plants alongside the library. Across the highway the new Rotary Park entrance on Main N., a work still in progress, is transforming what was a weed strewn right-of-way into another Max creation with a vista of Fairy Lake crowning the park.

Although Max was diagnosed with leukemia last Spring and has been undergoing intensive treatment at a Hamilton hospital, he hasn't lost his enthusiasm and desire to transform the town into a virtual garden, not unlike his own garden which is a showpiece on its own.

Max will be honoured at a Citizen of the Year dinner later on in the Spring. It should be a sell-out.

Change for change's sake

Actonians who oppose the renaming of three historic Acton streets should be at the special council meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion on Monday, March 29.

Halton Hills Council wants more public input on the issue before they come up with a solution to duplicate street names, a "problem" created with the 1974 amalgamation of Acton, Georgetown and Esquesing Township into the Town of Halton Hills.

For almost 30 years there never seemed to be a problem but now the Bell Emergency Response Service says duplicate street names in Halton Hills could delay emergency responses and must be changed. Sort of like the tail wagging the dog. Anyway Council struck a committee to investigate and suggest a solution.

Bell Canada suggested changing the names of Park Avenue, Main Streets North and South and George Street in Acton and Arthur and Mary Sts. in Norval. Fire chief Bill Meads has said the duplicate addresses have the potential for confusion in emergency response and makes the selective routing feature of the 9-1-1 automatic location identification ineffective. It looks like a case of technology taking over and Georgetown escaping unscathed.

Of course there's strong opposition to changing Acton street

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GOOD SAMARITANS: Rotarian Rev. Emrys Jenkins has a friendly talk with villagers in India where he and fellow Rotarian Rob Charette, Rob's son Jason and Any Yateman, went recently to administer oral polio vaccine to Indian children. The quartet came away with many strong memories of India. -Submitted photo.

Screech owl survey needs help

The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas has just launched the Ontario Eastern Screech-owl Survey and needs volunteers to help. The survey starts in March 2004 and volunteers are needed to spend one evening in March or April searching for Eastern Screech-owls.

The Eastern Screech-owl is a small bird that frequents both urban and rural woodland areas throughout southern Ontario. Although the Screech-owl is fairly common in southern Ontario, it is very secretive. It stays well hidden during the day, and is only active at night. For these reasons, biologists know very little about its population trends, breeding ecology and distribution.

The Ontario Eastern Screech-owl survey was initiated this year 80 gaps in knowledge can be filled.

Surveyors will be asked to play a standard playback CD containing the call of an Eastern Screech-owl at 10 stops in a designated 10-km square during



a single evening in March or April and then record the owls that respond. The survey takes less than three hours to complete. Beginners are welcome; we will provide training materials, and maps are provided for all participants. The only prerequisite is a keen interest in owls and the enthusiasm to venture out in the dark on one night this year to survey owls.

Participants must provide their own vehicle, CD player/portable stereo, and flashlight.

Volunteers are needed to complete surveys within the

known range of the Eastern Screech-owl, which is throughout southern Ontario, north to Orillia, Peterborough and Ottawa, and around Sault Ste Marie. Results of the survey will be posted shortly on the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project's web page. To volunteer, please visit our website: www.birdsontario.org/atlas/atlasmain.html or contact Tel: 519-826-2092, Toll free: 1-866-900-7100, email: atlas@uoguelph.ca. There is no fee to participate and surveying owls can be quite a hoot!

The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project is a five year volunteer-based project aimed at producing up-to-date maps of the distribution and relative abundance of bird species that breed in Ontario. The project is sponsored by Bird Studies Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Nature-Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and the Ontario Field Ornithologists.



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