

# King's Dr. Barnett receives award from province

By Bill Rea

Dr. Henry Barnett has received much recognition over the years, both for his work in medicine and conservation.

And the King Township resident received some more last week, from the province.

He was among 21 recipients last Tuesday of Ontario Senior Achievement Awards from Lt.-Gov. James Bartleman and Jim Bradley, minister responsible for seniors.

Barnett, 84, was cited as a world renowned neurologist, physician, researcher and teacher, well-known for conducting clinical trials that showed that aspirin on a regular basis reduces the risk of stroke. He is still active in the medical community, lectures young interns and volunteers his time in the area of heart health research.

He was also noted for putting the "stroke" in the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The prestigious

Henry J.M. Barnett Scholarship, awarded each year by the Foundation, honours his exceptional contributions to stroke research, education and patient care.

But his work as an active environmentalist and a long-time leading volunteer and supporter of the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has drawn much attention in this area over the last couple of years. He has been instrumental in the success of its conservation efforts in the preservation of Happy Valley – the largest intact deciduous forest on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

He was also cited as a dedicated fund-raiser for the project and a careful steward of the land, and was praised for having placed a conservation easement on the family property – a covenant that limits development on the land. The Barnett property became one of the building blocks of protected land in Happy Valley.

He is also a Companion of the Order of Canada and in 1995 was inducted into

the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.

Barnett said he found out about the award about 10 days before the reception at Queen's Park. "I gather the people have been working back and forth about it, including my daughters and some of my old secretaries," he commented later in the week.

He had also heard quite a number of people were nominated, with figures including 350 and 400, so making the top 21 of that group was an accomplishment.

"I feel honoured about it, and pleased," he said, adding he wasn't sure who nominated him. He suspected the Township and mayor might have had something to do with it, or possibly NCC.

"I don't nose around and see how it came about," he remarked, adding he's never determined how his Order of Canada came about either.

As for what comes next, Barnett said there are several items on his agenda. His 80-acre easement in the Happy Valley Forest, which he granted about four years ago, is a big commitment, and he's hoping to persuade some of his neighbours to follow that lead.

"The property remains in private hands," he observed. "That's the secret of it."

He also pointed out how King council was recently persuaded to close the road allowance between the two segments of the 7th Concession running through the forest, and efforts are under way with NCC to create a conservation easement. The land is still owned by the Township, but no one will be able to build there, cut down trees or plant foreign species. "The Township has been very good about this," he said.

He also said they are looking for the best ways to keep motorized vehicles out of the forest, while allowing walkers and horses in. "King Township is a very big place for horses," he observed.

Barnett is hoping these efforts from the municipality will continue.

"The council, I think, are a bit proud of the fact they've got this treasure on their hands," he remarked.



King resident Dr. Henry Barnett received an Ontario Senior Achievement Award last week from provincial Minister Responsible for Seniors Jim Bradley and Lt.-Gov. James Bartleman.

# Santa Claus pays a visit to museum



Santa Claus had a good crowd of young and old out to greet him Sunday when he paid a call on King Township Museum. Caitlyn and Isaiah Campbell came from Aurora to meet the jolly old man. There were other fun things to do at the museum Sunday aside from talking with Santa Claus. Tony Cotroneo of King City was helping his three-year-old daughter Renee with some of the crafts that were set up.



# Blazing Fiddles to perform at St. Andrew's

The Blazing Fiddles trio will be offering a gift of jolly traditional Christmas carols and some toe-tapping feel-good fiddling next Friday (Dec. 8).

They will be performing at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Keele Street in King City, starting at 7:30 p.m.

This is the King Township Historical Society's annual Christmas concert, and there's bound to be a smile on every face as

the audience enjoys the unusually lively program. The Blazing Fiddles ensemble of Adam Poot, Jeff Taylor and Danielle Lennon have a sparkling set of Christmas tunes arranged to please every taste.

Refreshments will be served after the concert.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children under 12, and may be purchased at the door, the King Township Museum or by calling (905) 841-5048.

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# Thank You

Being part of the democratic process during this past election was certainly a challenging, yet rewarding experience. Although the outcome was not in my favour, the hard work, dedication and support from so many of you in the community will not be forgotten. Take pride in the fact that you cast your ballot, and please make sure that your voice will be heard.

A heartfelt thank you to my husband Mark, and my sons for their unfailing support throughout this campaign. A special thank you to my campaign team, for it was truly a privilege to work together with such a dedicated group of people. My congratulations and best wishes to Mayor Margaret Black and the rest of the newly elected council members.

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