

The Gem watches the watchers as CFTO hits town

BY TIMOTHY VON
BOETTICHER

The Georgetown Gemini

In what is fast becoming a familiar scene, downtown Georgetown was again the focus of national media attention as a television crew rolled into town to turn an eye on our citizens.

CFTO's Dave Humiski of the television show Eye On Toronto rolled into town Aug. 9, video camera in hand, to preview Georgetown's first annual "Arts in the Afternoon", which take place until Aug. 23-24 on Main St.

Humiski produced the preview with the participation of artists from Revision Unlimited, the Credit Valley Artisans, and the Palette and Pencil Club, gathering video footage to create a promotional television spot to be aired sometime this week on Eye On Toronto. The staged event, attended by local passersby, will be edited to look like the real thing.

In keeping with the spirit of the process, Humiski agreed to be the focus of a story about himself in the process of covering a story. "People say 'I never see you on TV. Well, I'm the guy that puts everyone else on TV'."

As he approaches a table set up by the Forge Gallery of Terra Cotta, the exhibitor says, "No way. We're not ready". Humiski moves on to the next table. Participants want to take the time to make things look perfect and Humiski is willing to accommodate them.

After shooting the next display table, Humiski turns abruptly and nearly hits a certain photographer that is taking his picture. "A videographer is blind in a semi-circle around one side," he offers in apology.

Humiski draws a great deal of attention from those who have gathered to watch him create the news but does not show an attitude. He readily complies when asked by local shopkeepers Nathalie Ramackers and Doreen Bergsma for a look through the camera: "We want to see what it looks like". "Sure",

he says.

Humiski then sets up to tape artist Dawn Schertzl of Revision Unlimited who is working on a painting. He describes the process while offering light-handed direction to Schertzl and son LJ. "I will tilt up the camera from the finished product to the artist." Humiski muses as he works offering snippets of wisdom gleaned through his years in the television industry.

"I read this thing once about a Super Photographer who was asked about the key to his success. 'Whenever I saw someone doing something neat - I asked them to do it again'." Humiski then asks artists Laura Kinsbury and George Murray to turn their works so that he can get a second shot.

For the next sequence, Humiski asks people to walk into the shot aimed at the Main Mart to fill in the story. Residents assemble themselves and await the cue. The proceedings resemble production of a motion picture on a more diminutive level with Humiski as the writer, director, and cameraman. This would not be the first time within this last year that downtown Georgetown has been used as the setting for the creation of a cinematic experience: portions of TV show "Kung Fu" were filmed here last fall.

Humiski deftly exchanges a dead battery for one that is charged, explaining that a cameraman rarely runs out of batteries: "There is a comradery among cameramen."

The the GO bus pulls into the staged shot and a young man walks in front of the camera asking "Is that on?". "Only when you're in the shot", Humiski jokes. Moments later, he gives an aside: "That girl in the black zip top is good. She just slips into the picture. She is innocuous while other people give themselves away."

As a break in the action, Humiski agrees to a brief question and answer period. Greg Scott, 10, asked "Do you travel all over the world?"

"Good question", chuckles Humiski. "Some do. For the last few years I've been working on a show called 'Eye on Toronto'."

"Do you do candid shots?", asks Cory Hageman, 12.

"I have a trick for doing candid shots," says Humiski, "Little red lights indicate when a camera is rolling, but mine has an on-off switch. I leave the little red light off so that I could take your picture now. I could walk away and it would still take your picture."

"Where do you learn to become a camera operator?", asks Phaidra Wall, 8. "Well. When I was still in school in Winnipeg, I took 'Theatre and Broadcasting and then I went to Plains College", answers Humiski.

"How do you advance?" asks Phaidra's mother who seems as curious as her child. "Right place. Right time. Never lie about what you can do. The one thing you can't do is the thing you'll have to do first", says Humiski. John

Daly, 66, an artist with the Palette and Pencil Club, pipes in: "True of life, isn't it?" Humiski continues, "When I first came to Toronto, I was asked 'Can you do this, can you do that?' and I said 'No. No. No. I only do field production. It's important not to fool anyone'."

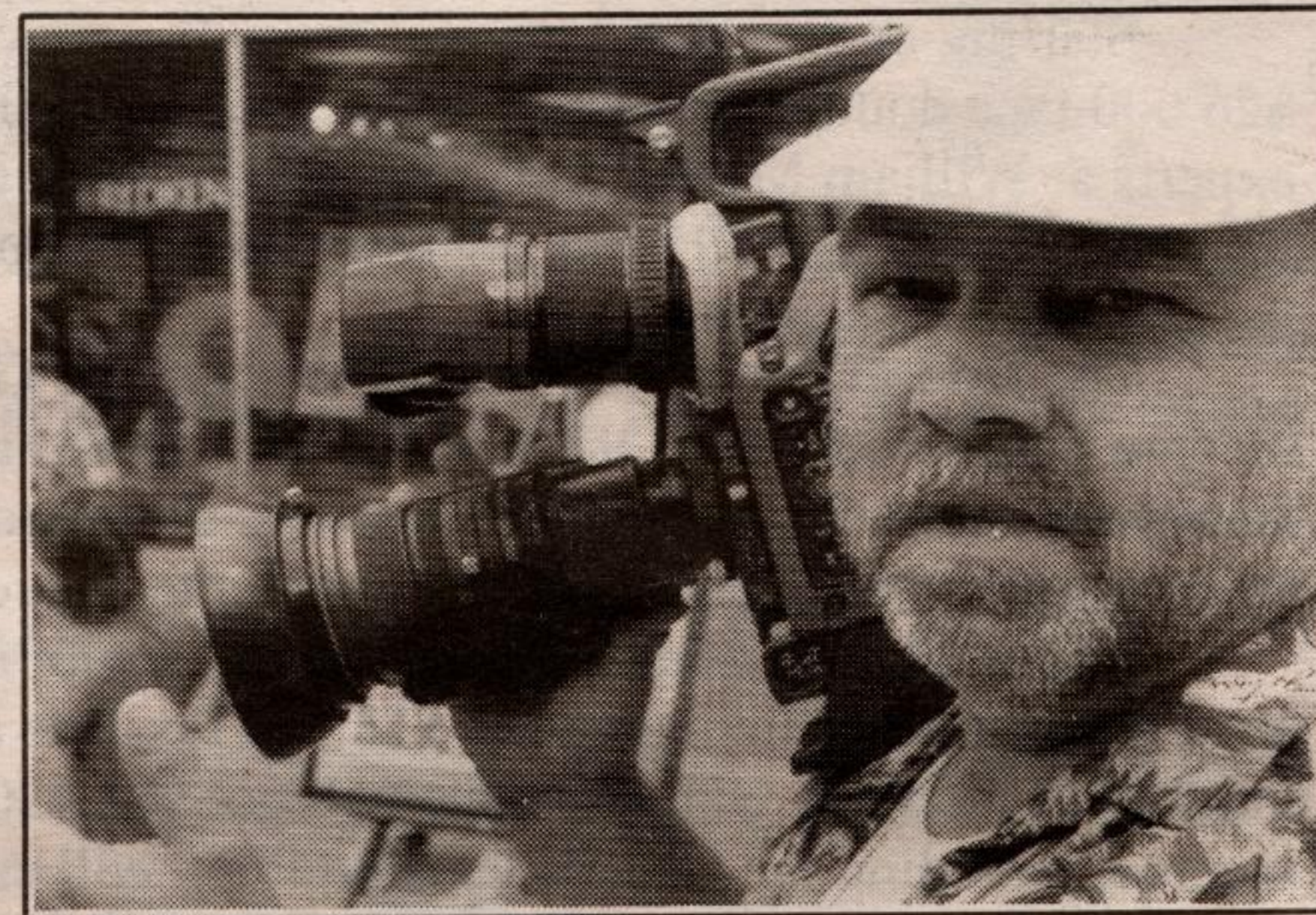
The question period finishes and Humiski moves to a table where Redka Loserts is sculpting ocarinas, small spherical flutes, in fresh clay. Humiski casually picks one from the table and moves it to a position advantageous to the shot he needs. His casual manner and easy humour seem to comfort those around him, especially those in front of the camera. "Part of my job," he says.

"Often when I arrive on the scene, I am the entire CFTO organization. So I don't represent myself individually but the whole (of) CFTO and I always pass on messages. If anyone has anything to say to Dave Duvall, I'll deliver it."

Nearing the end of the interview, Humiski describes his most unfortunate assignment: "What pops into mind is when I blew up my camera. I was doing a story on the Maid of the Mist in Niagara Falls and our cameras are designed to sustain a minimum amount of moisture such as rainfall. And when on the boat, in an environment of complete mist, the

moisture got to the internal electronics and blew out three different areas of the camera. I brought the camera in to the technicians and it also blew out their source. As they say, 'I blew it up real good'."

You can watch a preview of the event this week and, quite possibly, see yourself on Eye on Toronto in the What's On segment of the program.



EASY THERE! Dave Humiski of CFTO TV's Eye On Toronto was in Georgetown Friday to shoot a promotional spot on the Arts In The Afternoon festival on Main St., Aug. 23-24. (Timothy Von Boetticher photo)

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Police nab break and enter suspect

Halton Regional Police have laid charges in connection with a break and enter of a home on Fourth Line, Georgetown.

A 22-year-old Acton man was charged with several counts including break and enter, and theft and possession over \$5,000 in connec-

tion with the incident. Police allege the suspect had broken in to the residence sometime between Aug. 2-6 and \$60,000 including a compact disk player, television, a keyboard, and a dynamic system analyzer. The suspect is set to appear in court in Milton, Sept. 16.