



Sparkling Snow Queen

Parade, crowning Ookpik highlights

Operation Ookpik - the high school winter carnival - hit a snowy high spot Tuesday night with the spirited torchlight parade followed by the naming of sparkling Margaret Slaven as the Snow Queen.

The rollicking torchlight parade drew spectators out all along the route from the post office along to Willow St. and down Mill St. to the high school. On a fairly mild winter evening, with big flakes of snow falling, the youthful enthusiasm of the marchers was infectious.

Flaming torches blazed along

the route of the parade, which was headed by the Citizens' Band. No red jackets this time but heavy boots and ski garb - instruments in front and long scarves and tassels flying out behind in the snowstorm.

Floats were varied, ranging from a big last-minute entry of the grade 13's to a little car mocked up as an airplane. Judges were mayor Les Doby (kept late for council meeting by the fun), Don Perry and camera-laden Denis Gibbons.

They placed grade 9D's snow igloo with its accompaniment of

blubber-loving students and seals first for the trophy donated by Roy Goodwin. It was presented during the program in the high school. Second was 9C with an almost genuine skidoo race. Some skidoos were up on the float and others zoomed alongside. In third place was Nanny's Playpen, created by 12D. Nanny was there in person - teacher Mrs. Nan Hurst - with all the little darlings in their pen.

Spectators had a special wave for principal Hansen hearing a torch and wearing a huge silver crown, carried along on a

makeshift litter by his "court of jesters".

Another attractive float with a timely Valentine theme had costumes of a century ago, and another bore along a group of merry, bellowing singers.

The Snow Queen contestants who rode together in the torchlight parade were judged later in the high school gym with a lot of approval greeting the name of dark, attractive Margaret Slaven, a 16-year-old grade 11 charmer.

The Snow Princesses (all genuinely covered with snow



CALL ME OOKPIK

after the role in the parade) were Debi Booth, 16, grade 11; Lucienne Pratt, 17, grade 12; Nancy Abram, 15, grade 11 and Rosemary Bird, 15, grade 10.

The puzzled judges were two former teachers, Ted Curtis, now in Orangeville, and Mrs. Judy Hallman, with Paul Tamblin, husband of one of the present teachers.

Last year's carnival queen Anita Thibodeau crowned the new reigning beauty.

Teacher Bruce Andrews was announcer for the post-parade program which was highlighted by the announcing of winners. Dressed in bright outdoor wear still damp with snow, the students stood or sat around the gym.

A folk singing quartet from the University of Guelph, Paul Bazinet, Ann Knox, Paul Lang and Pam Kitchin, entertained and all the students joined in singing.

They failed to grasp the attention of one group of noisy public school students, who were finally invited by Mr. Andrews to leave.



BLOWING OUR HORN

Newspaper competitions

Free Press takes two awards

The Free Press has again been picked as one of the outstanding weekly newspapers in the province with two first place finishes in the Better Newspapers Competitions sponsored by the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association.

The Acton paper took first place in the coveted General Excellence awards in its own circulation class and was also awarded the Imperial Oil Frank Prendergast award for having the finest front page of any weekly in the province.

The largest number of entries on record competed in the General Excellence and other classes in which the Free Press's sister paper, The Canadian Champion of Milton also won

three prizes. The Champion was second in General Excellence in its own circulation class, third in its use of pictures and took the top spot for its classified advertising excellence among all Ontario weeklies.

Both The Free Press and The Canadian Champion are published by Dills Printing and Publishing Company.

Awards will be presented at the annual convention of the Ontario Weekly Newspapers at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto on February 12, 13 and 14. The publisher and editor of this newspaper will be there to accept the awards.

Other district newspapers to win prizes were the Brampton Bramalea Guardian which picked

up first in General Excellence in its own class and first place for all weeklies in sports page and coverage. The Burlington Post stood third behind the Acton Free Press and the Dryden Observer in the front page competition. The Fergus News-Record took third place in the contest for the best idea in 1969.

The Free Press has been a consistent winner in newspaper competitions over the years.

In last year's Ontario competitions the Acton paper took first in General Excellence and second in the sports page competition. Awards for the editorial page and best all round newspaper were picked up in Canada-wide competitions.

HER SMILE WARM enough to melt the snowbanks outside, 16-year-old Margaret Slaven beams as she's crowned Snow Queen for Operation Ookpik. The glittering little crown was placed on

No applesauce

Township dump not all that's steaming

Esqueusing Township dump isn't all that's been steaming lately and that's no applesauce!

Inspectors from the air pollution control branch of the Department of Energy and Resources Management are hot about smoke coming from piles of apples and apple peelings at the dump.

Dump supervisor Fred Robinson related the woe-filled tale to Esqueusing council at their regular meeting Monday night.

According to Mr. Robinson, frozen apples and apple peelings are being hauled to the dump three times a day from a plant in Glen Williams. When municipal

garbage is dumped on top of the apples, they begin to heat up causing steam to rise.

Mr. Robinson said he was concerned that garbage would eventually catch fire since inspectors had threatened to fine him \$500.

"Is Council going to back me up on this?" he asked.

Reeve George Currie suggested the apples be dumped in a separate place, away from garbage.

Mr. Robinson also reported the Department of Health had been after him about dead turkeys and chickens at the dump.

Reeve Currie said a letter had been sent to all turkey owners in the township to ask their co-operation in letting dump workers know when loads would arrive, so that they could be covered up.

Mr. Robinson had another solution for a Department of Health suggestion that rat poison be placed in the dump.

"Just give me a .22" he said. "And there's a couple of dogs I'd like to get a hold of. One of them bit me on the back of the leg", he added.

Reeve Currie said he thought dogs should be stopped from going into the dump.

No objections to variances

Although most councillors had some reservations about the lack of parking available, Acton council made no objection to three applications for variances on new buildings - two of them banks - planned in Acton. The applications will be heard by the Committee of Adjustment Feb.

16.

First application was an addition to the rear of the Bank of Montreal which would encompass the remainder of the lot. The bank asked relief from all parking requirements.

Second was the erection of a new Toronto-Dominion bank on

the corner occupied by the old post office. Owner Mrs. Pauline Ollen asked that parking requirements be reduced from 21 to 11.

Final application for a minor variance on a lot owned by William Roger Turtall at 35 Cobblehill Rd. was passed with no argument.

Some councillors were concerned about the lack of parking for bank buildings but most agreed a precedent had been set by allowing the Bank of Nova Scotia to expand to the rear lot line and penalizing either the Bank of Montreal or the Toronto-Dominion bank would be discriminatory.

Councillor Masales felt that if no provision was made for parking there should be some plan for the future.

"We've already granted the Bank of Nova Scotia relief to the lot line and the other bank (Acton's fourth) is going to the lot line," said Councillor Greer. "How can we object? But I agree, somewhere along the line it has to be stopped."

Deputy-Reeve Ted Tyler outlined a scheme to ask cash in lieu of parking until the town developed a major parking lot and money would be available to assist. Later in the meeting, Councillor McKenzie said the planning consultant advised this was not legal.

Councillor Marks thought the amount of taxes being collected from downtown merchants and the services the town supplied were unequal.

"I agree," said the deputy-reeve, "merchants are not getting much for their tax assessment so the town has an obligation to provide parking."

Advice from the planning consultant recommended a central parking area rather than small parking lots in several places.

The resolutions passed with the deputy-reeve opposed to granting variances to the banks.

Council looks favorably on request for trailers

At their regular meeting Monday Esqueusing council looked favorably on a request from Merv Barber, of R. R. 1, Acton, that he be allowed to have house trailers on his property.

Mr. Barber said the trailers would not stay there permanently and would likely house construction people, spending the winter in the area.

"If it's run properly I have no objection," deputy-reeve Tom Hill said. "As long as we get our fee per month."

Council refused Mr. and Mrs. John Woods permission to

operate a permanent trailer camp at "The Breezes" tourist camp, near Acton last fall.

D. Harkley acquitted

In court in Milton Monday, Daniel Harkley, 22, of Acton was acquitted of a charge of dangerous driving. Provincial Court judge Michael Cloney presided. A charge of careless driving was withdrawn by crown attorney William Sharpe.

Danny Harkley was one of two persons on a motorcycle which went out of control on No. 7 highway at Ajax Engineering plant, crossed the white line and struck a car driven by Reginald Andrews, Acton.

The other cyclist, Leonard Varey, was killed in the accident. Mr. Harkley suffered extensive injuries to arm, leg and ribs.

Eyewitnesses were uncertain which man was driving. The judge, in finding Mr. Harkley not guilty, said the location of Mr. Varey's body would seem to indicate Mr. Harkley was on the rear seat. Mr. Harkley claimed he was not the driver.

Paul Murr graduates

On Saturday, February 7, Paul Murr graduated from the three year Business Administration course at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto. He majored in financial management and will begin an I.R.A. course at McMaster University, Hamilton, in September.

He is employed at Force Electric Products.

Present for the graduation ceremonies were Mrs. Paul Murr, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Murr, Mrs. Wagner, and other relatives from Toronto.

Speculation rife about jetport in area

Speculation is rife locally and in the district that this area could be chosen for a supersonic jetport to replace already obsolete Toronto International Airport.

Sources have indicated that the federal-provincial committee is looking favorably at a site described only as being east of Guelph. Soil tests are being conducted in this area as well as three or four other sites.

In 1968 the federal and provincial governments formed a joint committee to find a new site for an airport that could handle the new intercontinental supersonic jets. Originally the government had planned to expand the Malton site but protests from residents and council, particularly Etobicoke, forced a change of plans.

Transport Minister Donald Jamieson told the Commons last week that the committee had narrowed the choice of suitable

sites down to four or five after considering almost 60 different proposals.

A number of criteria are being applied to the remaining four or five sites to determine the best location. Until a final decision is made, the minister said he will make no announcement about the location being considered, to prevent land speculators from driving up the cost.

The government will ultimately purchase 50,000 to 80,000 acres for the airport.

Mr. Jamieson did not rule out the possibility that the present airport at Malton could be expanded if none of the other sites picked proved worthwhile.

The government is studying passenger origin and destination, aviation and technology, the ability of the various areas to accept airport noise and handle pollution, ecological, topographical and water and sewage problems that a mammoth airport could create.

A final selection will not be made until late fall, the minister stated, but already there is plenty of speculation about the location. A recent radio interview with an official from the Department of Transport extracted the information that the search for a suitable site had extended from Acton to Uxbridge.

Probably the most forbidding obstacle to an international jetport in this area is the presence of the Niagara escarpment which cuts right through Halton County like a slash. Some of the best farm land in the country lies below the escarpment. Rough, rocky land lies above the escarpment.

Rolling hills seem to rule out a jetport in Erin or Caledon townships while land further afield could be too far from the large centres of population. Land too close to Toronto would have an immense price tag.

Certainly, most speculators agree, the site chosen will have easy access to Toronto and be a transportation hub.

Reports are also being circulated that speculators are making massive land grabs near Mount Forest on the rumor that the airport would locate near that town of 2,000. One

Toronto company is rumored to have purchased upwards of 1,500 acres of land at better than market price.

Meanwhile the chairman of the Halton Region Conservation Authority has pledged to fight any plans for a super jetport in Halton County, especially where the land falls under the Authority's jurisdiction. Toronto Mayor William Denison said last week that one potential site is near Milton.

And so the speculation goes with an authoritative body of opinion convinced the new super duper airport will end up somewhere in this vicinity.



TEST RUNS for Sunday's snowmobile races on Fairy Lake have occupied snowmobile jockeys the last couple of weeks. Fourteen races will be run off starting at 1 p.m. Sunday. (Photo by Jim Jennings)

Jet airport here?

Rud says no

Halton's Federal MP Rud Whiting has branded reports of a jumbo jet airport locating in or near his riding as "pure speculation."

Mr. Whiting said he has had several phone calls from constituents on the same matter and has given the same answer.

He claims the Department of Transport has narrowed down the proposed airport site to five or six areas but could not say whether they are in or near Halton.

Previous news reports have said possible sites were 25 miles east of Toronto or 15 miles west of Guelph.

Corp. Kneale on duty here

Corp. Larry Kneale of the Milton detachment of the O.P.P. is replacing Corp. Ray Mason in charge of the Acton detachment, while Corp. Mason recuperates from surgery. He's still in Guelph General Hospital, Corp. Kneale expects to be here six weeks or so.

He has been with the Milton

detachment (which covers north Halton, not the town of Milton itself) for the past ten years.

Other police officers from the detachment have been filling in for ailing Constables Noseworthy, who's had another leg operation, and Kressler who has a bad back.

Two complaints noisy skidoos

Two more items were added to the smallish but steadily growing record of complaints about snowmobiles, when Acton OPP this week recorded two more calls about the machines.

Both these complaints were about noise from the snowmobiles zipping around the lake.

Other complaints have resulted from damage and from erratic driving.

(The Free Press previously reported the opinion that snowmobiles have driven the deer from conservation areas. And this week a fisherman blamed this year's general lack of catch on the noisy machines on Lake Simcoe.)

Snowmobile races Sunday on lake

Acton Y's Men's Club is taking a flyer by sponsoring snowmobile races on Fairy Lake this Sunday afternoon. Fourteen races are planned on a course marked out on the lake ice and three of the events will be powder puff races for ladies. Entry is open to everyone and the Y's Men hope to attract many entries from all over the town and district.

Trophies will be awarded to winners in each race, which will go by classes of horsepower.

Entries must be made by 12.45 Sunday. Entry forms will be on hand at the park.

Snow fences are being erected to control the crowds and the Y's Menettes will be selling refreshments in the booth in the park.

The committee organizing the event - first of its kind in Acton is composed of Don Perry, Ross Ribey, Elmer Smith, Al Clark and Stu Robertson. Proceeds will go towards support of the Acton Y.M.C.A.