

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Ninth Year No. 47

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1974

Twenty-Six Pages—Fifteen Cents

Man charged in bizarre death



SHALLOW hole 200 yards behind the Baron barn contained remains, suspected those of missing Isaac Wertman, 52, Toronto. Police believe diesel fuel was used to burn the body in an oil drum.

Manfred Baron, 23, of R.R. 2, Acton, has been charged with non-capital murder in connection with the disappearance of Isaac Wertman, 52, of Toronto. Police searched the Baron property for nearly five hours Saturday morning before leaving with evidence which is now being analyzed at the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto. Dug from a shallow hole 200 yards behind the Baron barn were possibly two pieces of flesh. Metro homicide division contacted Tuesday, said analysis is not complete. Police also seized a 45-gallon oil drum. Wertman and Baron had apparently been playing

poker in Toronto, and reportedly Baron later attacked Wertman with a club in a parking lot, brought the body to his home here, where, police assume, he burned it in an oil drum before burying it. Found car Last Thursday Milton O.P.P. were asked by Metro homicide squad to check the Baron farm for Manfred Baron's car. It was not there. Later it was recovered at Masson Motors in Georgetown and blood samples were taken from it. Halton Regional Police located the car and held it for Metro detectives. Saturday, again requested by Metro police, Milton O.P.P. and Cons. Foley with

two dogs from the canine group returned to the Baron farm for a thorough search of all the property. Charged Friday Manfred Baron had been arrested in Toronto on Friday and was brought to the farm Saturday and returned to the Don Jail where he is now. Staff Sgt. Jerry Stevenson and Sgt. Winston Weatherble are in charge of the investigation, both from the Metro homicide squad, with police from 31 division, the general assignments squad and Milton detachment of the O.P.P. assisting. Excavator Baron lived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Horst Baron, and is self-employed

in the excavating business. He keeps his trucks and loaders at the property, which was formerly the Stan Morrison farm at the corner of the fifth line and No. 7 highway. He attended Acton high school. He has appeared in court and was remanded. In camp Wertman was a North York dry goods jobber who was separated from his wife. Both had been in Nazi concentration camps in the war. They came to Canada in 1951. He has two grown children. He was employed by Harold Silverstein and Harry Patnick of B. Silverstein and Sons Ltd., Spadina Ave.,

Toronto. They reported him missing when he failed to show up for work May 8. He was last seen after a poker game at 1 a.m. on May 8. His car was found, the hood and door splattered with blood, with a trail of blood leading part way into the driveway of his apartment building on Wilson Ave. Several witnesses described a fight in the parking lot to police. Metro homicide squad police, contacted by this newspaper, said this is one of their most bizarre and gruesome cases in years. Non-capital murder is one that involved anyone other than a police officer or jail guard.



TERRY O'CONNOR incumbent for Halton riding was nominated to seek re-election



DR. FRANK Philbrook of Oakville was chosen by Halton Liberals to contest the election.

O'Connor, Philbrook P.C., Lib candidates

The politicians are off and running in the July 8 election race in Halton and Halton-Wentworth ridings. Stories and photos inside today's issue detail how the Halton Liberals chose Oakville Dr. Frank Philbrook and Halton Progressive Conservatives renominated incumbent MP Terry O'Connor to carry their banners into the race, at nomination meetings held last week. Halton NDP hasn't yet announced a nomination date, or a possible candidate. This week Halton-Wentworth's Liberals and Conservatives are meeting to name standard-bearers. The Liberals met last night (Tuesday) too late for coverage in today's issue but the expected candidate was Burlington advertising consultant Eric Cunningham, who threw his hat into the ring last week. The PC meeting is tonight and sitting MP Bill Kemppling of Dundas is expected to get the nod. Halton-Wentworth NDP meeting is May 29 and Walter Mulkevic of Burlington, a former provincial candidate is expected to be named as candidate.

Rezone Acton lot

A single lot on Main Street North, Acton, adjacent to the industrial park, termed "an eyesore for years", will be rezoned residential from industrial, if council accepts a general administration committee recommendation. Duby said there were three homes there now, and this vacant lot. He said for years Acton had been trying to have the lot cleaned up. He described it as housing an old trailer with a rusty stove sticking out of the roof, and high weed infested grass all over.

"Now we have someone who wants to build an 12 house on it, we should grab the chance," said Duby. He emphasized three houses were already there, despite the fact it was zoned industrial. Chairman Roy Booth suggested the whole street should be rezoned since houses were there anyway. Duby agreed it would be the wise thing to do, but would hold up the owner, M. Toft.

Special meet at St. Joseph's

The philosophy of Catholic education will be explained to members of St. Joseph's church at a special meeting in the parish hall on Thursday evening. Dr. Leno Braida, chairman of the Halton Separate School Board, and other administrators will be there to speak and answer questions. Acton was recently included in the jurisdiction of the Halton board by the same legislation which implemented regional government.

Dog donated

Hugh Patterson of Church Street won a huge stuffed dog at a dog show recently. Mr. Patterson is thoughtfully donating it to the Cancer Society and it will be put in a draw. This Thursday at the Cannovers' dinner the six foot pooch will be on display for the first time.



THIS HAPPY-looking young lady is Bev Smeltzer, Miss Rockmosa of 1974. Bev and three other girls were in competition for this honor at Centennial School, Rockwood, Friday night and she rode in Saturday's parade. More pictures and story on the Rockwood pages B4 and B5.

Coins for Acton's 100th

In honor of Acton's centennial, special commemorative coins will be distributed, having a face value of \$1. Also special silver and gold coins may now be ordered at a cost of \$15 for the silver and \$25 for the gold. The Acton Legion is holding wine and cheese parties at the Legion on Tuesday, May 28 for the merchants and Thursday, May 30 for people in industry. The purpose of these parties is to show the businesses and industries samples of the coins so they will be able to order the number they feel they will need. The coins are also set in knife handles, paper weights and are found in other new ways. Deadline for ordering the coins will be June 15.



BARON FARM, three miles east of Acton, was location of a thorough search by police and two police-trained dogs for almost five hours Saturday. Remains, found in a shallow hole behind the barn, are being analysed at the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto and Manfred Baron, 23, has been charged with non-capital murder. This property was formerly farmed by Stan Morrison.

Strike date looms

May 30 still looms as the strike date for outside workers of Halton Hills. On that day, 18 days after the "no board" ruling from the conciliation offer, it will be legal for the 50 members of Local 73, Canadian Union of Public Employees to strike. While the union voted 80 per cent in favor of a strike, last week, Local 73 president Kent Robinson said the strike could still be averted if the town comes up with an offer. "So far I've heard nothing from them", said the Local president. The town came up two cents to \$4.01 an hour for a laborer, but the union is asking \$4.06 an hour, which they claim would put them on a par with neighboring towns.

Acton pair to study Soviet techniques

Bruce Andrews, head of the Acton High physical education department and coach of the North Halton Harriers Track Club and Free Press sports editor Denis Gibbons have been accepted in a Loyola University-sponsored course which will study the advanced system of sports and physical education in the Soviet Union. Bruce and Denis are scheduled to leave Montreal Sunday night on a flight to Moscow, where they will study Soviet scientific approaches to sports and receive specialized instruction in the coaching and playing of hockey, basketball, track and field, soccer, gymnastics and many other sports. Together with a group of 100 coaches, teachers, students and recreation directors from across Canada they will spend three weeks in Moscow. The course is the result of an exchange study agreement signed by Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Kosygin in 1972. While in Moscow, the group is scheduled to study at the world famous Soviet Federal Institute of Sport and Physical Education. Former USSR National hockey coach Anatoli Tarasov is to head the list of hockey instructors, while former world high jump record holder Valery Brumel and long jumper Igor Ter-Ovanesjan are on the list of track and field instructors. Dr. E. F. Enos, director of Loyola University's Institute of Comparative Physical Education recently finalized arrangements for the course with Soviet officials.

Lightning hits aerials

Thursday night's thunderstorm, coupled with days of rain, caused considerable flooding in the district. A few country roads were impassable for a while and some cellars were flooded. Most serious damage here resulted Thursday when lightning blew out several television sets in Lakeview subdivision. Clocks stopped at 1 a.m. showed the time of the one storm which wrecked the most havoc here. Home most hard hit was that of Mr. and Mrs. Wilf Duval Jr. and family, 43 Nelson Cr., where lightning hit two television sets and a light fixture, littering broken glass on the floor. He's a firefighter and the family put out the flames in one downstairs television set themselves. Power was off and other electrical equipment at Duval's is malfunctioning. Loss color Other nearby neighbors found television sets missing the color factor after the lightning struck. One district home had curtains shot right off a window by lightning. Rockwood area In the Rockwood-Eramosa area some instances of flooded basements were reported by home owners in direct vicinity of the

Eramosa River. Joe Randall, assistant superintendent of the Rockwood conservation park said, however, that flooding was not severe. "It wasn't as bad as spring flooding," he said. He explained that around both ends of the Everton and Rockwood dam there was overflow, with the roadway beside the Everton dam requiring regravelling. "In the Rockwood park where the old Fourth Line used to be the road was covered with water," said the park spokesman. He added, "between Eden Mills and Rockwood we didn't have any alarm calls so there couldn't have been any great problems."

In Guelph In the city of Guelph the storm was reported as the worst to have hit in 20 years. Main trunk storm sewers reportedly became incapable of taking the rush of water away leading to basements becoming flooded in many parts of the city. An emergency crew of 25 men from the public works

department was required to spend all Thursday night and most of the next morning on duty with every available power pump in the city pushed into action. Milton damage Acton's damage in last Thursday's rain storm was minor in comparison to other surrounding areas. Milton damage from the flash flooding has been compared to Hurricane Hazel which swept through this area in 1954. The four inches of torrential rain that fell could not be soaked up in time. As a result the flooding of rivers and streams was the cause of extensive damage to many homes in the area. In Milton a construction project which was designed to end core area flooding had not been completed and was useless in this disaster. Unofficial estimates of damage in Milton have reached \$100,000, but official figures will not be available for a few weeks.

Forces grad



Lt. Stewart McCulloch, formerly of Acton, has just graduated from Canadian Forces Fleet School, Esquimalt, Victoria B.C. He is presently at home on leave. He received his Level One certificate as a combat systems engineer. Stewart is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. McCulloch, now residing at 106 Main St. N., Rockwood. Lt. McCulloch is now proceeding to C.F. Fleet School, Halifax, where he will take advanced systems engineering. For those who are looking for a challenging profession, with lots of travel and great companionship, he reckons that all land lovers should try a stint at sea!

Extensive damage in Sunday's house fire

At 8:30 last Sunday night fire broke out at the home of Clifford McDonald of R.R. 4, Acton and Acton fire fighters were called to the scene. In order to enter the smoke-filled house inhalators were needed. The McDonald family had gone for a drive in the car they had purchased the previous day leaving one son at home. The kitchen, cellar and roof were burnt with damage estimated around \$5,000 to \$6,000. The fire started in the cellar. Due to the smoke and fire damage the house is not livable, said fire chief Mick Holmes. Several neighbors offered the family sleeping quarters. Grass fire A second fire occurred on the property of Indusmin between the third and fourth line of Esquesing. It was a grass and bush fire with no damage to any buildings. Acton firefighters again responded to the call.

Acton, Esquesing could pay double for police

Acton and Esquesing could be paying double for police protection this year unless Queen's Park straightens out provincial legislation implementing regional government. Mayor Tom Hill divulged the information to the Halton Regional Board of Commissioners of Police at a meeting in Georgetown Thursday, noting he and Milton mayor Ann MacArthur were going to see the Hon. John White at Queen's Park over the possible double payment. The Nassagaweya area of Milton is affected by the same legislation. Hill said Acton and Esquesing could be paying for both the Ontario Provincial Police and Halton Regional Police under the present legislation enacted by Bill 151, the bill which set up regional government in Halton and Peel counties. "Acton is paying \$104,000 a year for the Ontario Provincial Police," Hill told the commission, "but now they are assessed on the Halton Regional Police basis also." The Halton Hills mayor said there was nothing in Bill

151 to avoid the double payment and that was why he and Mayor MacArthur were going to see Mr. White. Acton was under contract with the O.P.P. with a seven-man detachment from Milton O.P.P. stationed there while Esquesing police protection was provided by the province and paid for indirectly. Eventually the Halton board of police commissioners anticipate the entire region will be covered by the Halton Regional Police but chairman Judge W. K. Warrander said the province is likely moving slow on this because of the cost involved.

Halton Regional Chief Ken Skerrett told the commission the present state of affairs is causing him some concern. He said the regional police have been standing by until the O.P.P. arrives in Esquesing and that was fine but he feared legal entanglements. Skerrett said the situation at the Toronto International Driveway was one example of the confusion. The O.P.P. does not enforce local by-laws in Esquesing but regional police would respond to calls. At the same time the Halton police chief said the regional

police could refuse since it involved getting the O.P.P. to register a complaint through the regional police. The chief advised Mayor Hill to contact the regional treasurer Don Farmer for information about double payment but Hill said that had already been done and the treasurer was as confused as they were. There was also discussion about unconditional grants from the province to alleviate the situation for Esquesing and Acton but Hill said the province was unlikely to respond unless approached.

He said the first estimates of the budget showed an alarming increase for Esquesing and any further costs would have to be watched carefully. The chief noted that he could only submit his budget. He had no control over other areas. Judge Warrander presided for the one hour meeting of the commission at police headquarters in Georgetown. A tour of the headquarters followed. Also attending were Mayors Harry Barrett of Oakville, Tom Hill of Halton Hills, commissioner Glen Magnuson of Georgetown and Chief Skerrett.

Crafts sale for Y funds

The Y.M.C.A. is being cleaned up and is already in much better condition, with the services of an excellent janitor. At their last meeting Wednesday, May 15, board members were very pleased with the change in the premises. Plans are still in progress for renovations and fundraising projects are underway, the first a dance in Rockwood town hall Saturday. A hand-made quilt will be purchased to raffle at the arts and crafts display and sale. Patience "We sincerely ask for everyone's patience and endurance in our decision to close the Y until the fall," board members said this week. "Then, we can have worthwhile programs running in clean, well cared for surroundings."

Fish derby sure for July 1

The Rotarians and firefighters continue to head the list as participants in the July 1 centennial celebrations with Monday of the holiday weekend their day of action. A meeting held last Monday night finalized several plans they had in mind and members of the two groups were given responsibility to see that ideas were put into motion. "There will definitely be a fishing derby," said spokesman Herb Dodds who added, "there will also be one or two more fairly large projects which have not been confirmed. Right now we're working on the 'for sure' details," he said. Besides the fish derby, the enthusiastic spokesman said there would be a mini-rock concert in the park in the afternoon and a band concert in the evening with members of the Legion Chorallers participating. He said the combined-group planning committee of firefighters and Rotarians hope to run a minor league baseball game in the afternoon as well as the concert, with the chicken barbecue slated for 4 p.m. and the annual fireworks set for dusk. "Hands in the locality will be approached for the mini-rock concert," said Mr. Dodds.

June goal

Sixty points continue to pump and water level at the high school pool site was down to 11 feet at last count before last week's heavy rains. According to superintendent Peter Ursu, in charge of Lions Club pool project, the table should already be back to the 11 feet level again, he said Tuesday. The superintendent says, "Foundationwise, all footings are in and we are backfilling the building with a backhoe. He says they are also now in process of forming pool walls and the hope is the building will be up in the first week of June. Water table level must be down the required 14 feet