



VILLAGERS SADLY WATCHED firefighters from Chinguacousy, Inglewood and Cheltenham fight the fire at Terra Cotta Inn, Friday morning. Extra hoses were run into the Credit River at the back of the five acre landscaped gardens.

Stockbroker D.S. Bongard bought the Inn only in February of this year, and had it completely renovated and furnished with the valuable antiques.

Terra Cotta Inn ravaged

An early morning blaze gutted the upper floors of the well-known gourmet restaurant, the Terra Cotta Inn, Friday morning, forcing three guests and an employee to flee in night attire.

The three guests, Mr. and Mrs. David Cowper and Kathleen Houlihan, together with employee Ross Curry, crawled through dense smoke to the nearest fire escape. When they found this one blocked by flames they made their way on hands and knees to another one.

Damage to the newly restored Inn ranges from \$250,000 to \$400,000, but will not be definitely established until the cataloguing is finished.

Many of the valuable copper and pewter antiques stored in the attic were lost in the blaze, but a valuable carved brass bed owned at one time by the King of Denmark was saved. Some lamps, bureaus and desks were salvaged before the flames engulfed the area.

A spokesman for the Inn said the upstairs rooms were totally destroyed, as was the front dining room, but the bar and the other dining room escaped with heavy smoke and water damage.

Firefighters from Chinguacousy, Inglewood, and Cheltenham fought the blaze from 5.30 until 10, but remained on the scene until noon to ensure no smouldering area would erupt again.

Owner D.S. Bongard plans to start rebuilding as soon as the formalities of insurance and an investigation by the Ontario Fire Marshal's office is completed. He hopes to restore it to its former elegance and grace, despite the loss of the irreplaceable antiques.

The fire is thought to have started in the basement area, and spread up through the centre of the building to the upstairs rooms.

The fire interrupted a great many plans. Weddings were scheduled for Friday afternoon, and Saturday, and a convention was supposed to be held this week.

Terra Cotta Inn is famous as a wedding reception centre and is known all over for its afternoon teas on the patio of the five acre landscaped gardens which run down to the Credit River. During the fire the river was used as a source of water when firemen ran hoses down into it.

Through the years until taken over by Mr. Bongard, it remained a white frame building. In February Mr. Bongard had the whole building, including the guest house adjacent painted a rustic brown, and had a new sign hung on the front of the Inn.

Among the many villagers watching the fire with sadness, was Mrs. Lorraine Puckering, who said she was one of the first waitresses to work in the Inn when Mr. and Mrs. Farrar first opened the doors.

Harry Watson, general manager of the Credit Valley Authority, said the owners of Terra Cotta Inn would have to apply for permission to rebuild, since it is located in flood plain land.

Two councillors protest closed budget session

Councillors Don Gordon and Marjorie Powys walked out of a Milton Council meeting last Tuesday, protesting council's decision to hold an in camera session to discuss the apportionment of the Milton budget.

Mayor Anne MacArthur had called on council to close the meeting and budget committee chairman Russ Powadluk cast the final ballot breaking the 4-4 tie.

Mayor MacArthur told members of council the closed door session was necessary to discuss transitional grants from the province.

She noted there could be a misunderstanding among the councillors themselves and explained she had had some bad experience with the press recently. She said the councillors could get emotional and could say things they did not mean.

Reason Gordon said he saw no reason for going into a closed meeting. He claimed council policy was to go into a closed session when personnel and property acquisition were being discussed. He felt council should adhere to that policy.

Councillor Powys claimed there was a need for the press and the public to understand transitional grants as well as the council.

Mayor MacArthur and councillors Jim Kerr, Gord Krantz, Russ Powadluk and Brad Clements voted in favor of closing the meeting. Councillors Ron Harris and Rick Day joined Gordon and Powys in opposing the closed meeting but stayed in on the discussion.

The transitional grants for Milton for 1974 amount to \$159,000. Those grants from the province are intended to cover costs of entering regional government and ease the increased mill rate.

According to Councillors Powys and Gordon, council had agreed to raise mill rates in North Oakville, North Burlington and urban Milton

to ease the huge increase the Nassagaweya area would have faced.

The effect of that move sees urban Milton facing a 2.53 mill increase, Nassagaweya with 2.17 mills, Keesling with 2.78 mills, Burlington with 1.15 mills and Oakville with 1.21 mills increase.

Hefty increase Had Milton, North Oakville and North Burlington not agreed to assist Nassagaweya or Ward Three area ratepayers, Nassagaweya would have faced a hefty increase, according to Gordon. Conversely those three areas would have enjoyed decreases in the mill rate.

Costs for services applied strictly to urban Milton were reduced when council agreed to reduce garbage collection from two weekly collections to one. The urban section of the town also benefited from a rebate for water and sewer services. That amounted to \$148,000. Rural areas pay no share of water or sewer expenses.

Increased costs Nassagaweya faces increased costs this year because it is the first time it has been levied for recreation service and police costs.

Councillor Jim Watson argued that the townships should not have to pay any share of the regional police costs because at this time the

areas are not served by the regional police. The townships are served by the Ontario Provincial Police which is a charge levied across the province.

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Standing room, only for GO passengers

The GO train in Georgetown is taking the place of buses and cars for people travelling to Toronto. The reason for the lack of bus service is the T.T.C. strike. People don't want to take their cars into the city, knowing the traffic tie-ups, yet they can't travel any other way, except of course, the GO train.

Murray Pyatt from Linthouse travels on the GO train because it is more convenient for him and "it's reasonably fast". He finds now, that it is only "a little crowded".

Harry Gill lives near Rockwood and is travelling the GO route because of the traffic congestion in Toronto. He finds that the train is normally too early for him, though.

Bob Healey takes the GO train every day because it is more comfortable and is less time consuming. He travels to Toronto every morning and back again to Georgetown every evening. He finds that it is far more crowded and coming back at night there is standing room only.

Visiting with Bob Healey is John O'Dea who also likes the GO train because of its comfort and its speed.

Craig Moodie from Erin does not normally take the GO train but because of the traffic congestion in Toronto caused by the T.T.C. strike it has become necessary.

Since the T.T.C. strike GO train travelling has become more important. Also, there

is a stop in the morning runs which ends at the C.N.E.

If you do plan to travel by GO, get there a few minutes earlier or you will be a part of the "standing room only" crowd.

Obituary

Florio Tournour

After a short illness Florio Tournour passed away on August 8 in Guelph General Hospital. He resided at 69 Young St. in Acton.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Lazenby, one brother, Mario from New York and sisters Olga Coletto of Willowdale and Julia Liantani of Torino Italy. He was the son of Louise and Annie Tournour.

Florio was born on July 6, 1915 in Bracebridge. He worked as a tanner at Beardmore and Co. for 35 years. He spent four and a half years overseas with the Saskatoon Light Infantry during World War I.

The funeral was held on August 10 with Rev. Al Ewing officiating.

Orville Duffield, Alfred Roach, Nino Braida, Stan Burton, Thos. Lazenby and Wilf McEachern were pallbearers.



GO TRAINS are becoming more popular due to the T.T.C. strike. These people are getting off the last morning run from Georgetown to Union Station in Toronto.

94th birthday M.Z. Bennett

August 5 marked the 94th birthday of former Actonian Miss M.Z. Bennett. Four Acton women, Lillian Eaton, Nellie Shoemaker, Nellie Weick and Marguerite Taylor, of Trinity United went to visit with Miss Bennett at the Central Park Nursing Home in Kitchener. "She was beautifully dressed, and in great spirits",

reported Lillian Eaton. The birthday was celebrated with cake and tea. Miss Bennett was the principal of Acton public school for many years after first teaching in Acton. She is widely known and respected and, of course, the M.Z. Bennett public school on Acton Boulevard is named after her.

Lost in shuffle

Find missing desk

The case of the missing desk is solved. Halton Regional Councillors asked staff people at the region to see what happened to the warden's desk that was used at the former county buildings. It seems the desk got lost in the shuffle when the office was moved from Milton to Burlington in April. After a search the desk was found alive, healthy and in use in an office at the engineering department.

Toyota Community Calendar

What's doing in the North Halton Area!

STEAM-ERA WEEKEND

If you relish the days of steam-powered farm implements, plan to attend the annual reunion of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers' Association, "Steam-Era" in Milton Fair Grounds on Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 30, 31 and Sept. 2. It's a great show and fun for young and old.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION

The Halton Board of Education will hold Advance Registration (for those students not previously registered), for all schools in Milton and Halton Hills. Registration will take place at the individual school Monday, August 26 and Tuesday, August 27, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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