

Acton Lions centennial pool opens officially Sunday

Pantomime delights busload

A six foot kangaroo, a woolly turtle, a charming man called "Buttons"—these characters delighted a group of Actonites who went to Hamilton Place Friday night for the English pantomime production of "Cinderella". Jack and Joyce Carpenter organized the outing helped by Jack's show business connections. Lionel Blair, the show's director, choreographer and star, was interviewed on Carpenter's radio program along with Dawson Chance, the well known ventriloquist, a key character in the performance.

Pantomime is an ancient English theatre art form, many traditions of which linger in today's somewhat "music hall" performance. The main purpose of pantomime is to entertain and involve children in theatre participation.

According to the cast of Cinderella, Canadian children provided more lively audiences than English ones, possibly because of the lack of this type of entertainment here. It was certainly evident the Acton spectators enjoyed themselves immensely.

Chance's visit to the Carpenter home with his kangaroo and turtle puppets attracted many of Joyce's dancing school pupils. A trip to the pantomime became inevitable and a bus was hired to transport 31 of the Carpenter's friends and students.

Tradition Two thousand spectators packed the beautifully designed theatre to cheer Buttons, laugh at the two ugly sisters, and sigh at the fairy tale romance.

Back stage With the help of Hamilton Place's public relations officer, Barbara van Luyen, the Carpenters were invited to take their party back stage after the performance to meet many of the cast. Scruffy the turtle kissed all the girls while his partner, Dawson Chance, was occupied signing autographs (quite a feat, if you think about it). A similar trip to next year's pantomime, "Aladdin" is now being planned.

The Acton Lions centennial pool will be declared officially open Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m., even though hundreds have been enjoying swimming for some weeks now.

The official opening doesn't involve the water at all, anyway. For one thing, regulations prevent spectators from coming any closer to the water than six feet, which made an aquatic display impossible.

So the whole program is in the high school gym, with dry tours of the pool before and after the official ceremonies.

Cheque Lions club members will present a cheque for \$30,000 to the town of Halton Hills, the result of their canvass in town. The town of Acton made a grant of \$65,000 and Esquesing \$5,000. Federal and provincial grants are forthcoming to the town.

Total cost is estimated at over \$300,000 now, as costs escalated during the course of the project. The Lions club first dreamed of a pool project in July 1973 after their plans to refurbish the CNR station went wrong. The cost proved too high, and the station was sold by the Lions and demolished for scrap.

Only project Still determined to have a centennial project for the town, they proceeded with the pool idea, finding ready co-operation from the town and school board.

Lions remember they were told by many they'd "never make it."

Now they want everyone to come and see that they did make it, and now they have it. The pool is really the only town centennial project to which people contributed.

It is already well used, with over 200 swimming last Saturday.

Costly They realized from the beginning no local organization could manage a pool alone. After construction, there was the constant maintenance and costs of operation. The school board now maintains and supervises the pool, with Halton Hills recreation department in charge in off-school hours.

On the Lions pool committee are Art Gordon as campaign chairman, Ray Evelyn, Don Murdie, Don Gordon and Vic Bristow. The club has 14 members and "It would have been impossible to do it alone," say the committee members. "We had a wonderful relationship with the town, they added.

Members of parliament, participating clergymen, former Acton councillors, present Halton Hills councillors, recreation department and board of education officials will share the stage with the proud Lions club Sunday afternoon. High school teacher Jim Goring will act as master of ceremonies.

There'll be refreshments afterward. Everyone has a special welcome to come. "We really want to show the pool off to the people, and let them see what they have!" grin the happy Lions.

CONGRATULATIONS

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ON THE

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TWO SMILING faces belong to Jill Morris and Shannon Lindsay on their way to see Cinderella.



CINDERELLA STARS wow a group of young Actonites backstage at Hamilton Place. Lionel Blair, director, choreographer, and star poses with ventriloquist Dawson Chance and puppet "Scruffy". The English pantomime was attended by a busload of Acton enthusiasts.



VENTRILOQUIST Dawson Chance signs autographs for Acton fans at the pantomime performance of Cinderella in Hamilton Place.

Meeting on Esquesing hall

A public meeting to discuss the future of Esquesing community hall in Stewarton will be held later this month, according to Recreation Director Doug Collison.

In October Georgetown Little Theatre presented a brief to council urging its use as a permanent theatre for Halton Hills.

At that time both Esquesing and Ashgrove Women's Institutes and the former Esquesing hall board were opposed. They said they did not want control of the hall to be taken from the community.

Residents of the rural area wanting to book the hall found out they now must book through Halton Hills recreation department. Previously they booked through the caretaker.

The union of the west branch of the Credit River and the main portion of the Credit River made water power for milling at Norval power of a superior kind in the 1800's.

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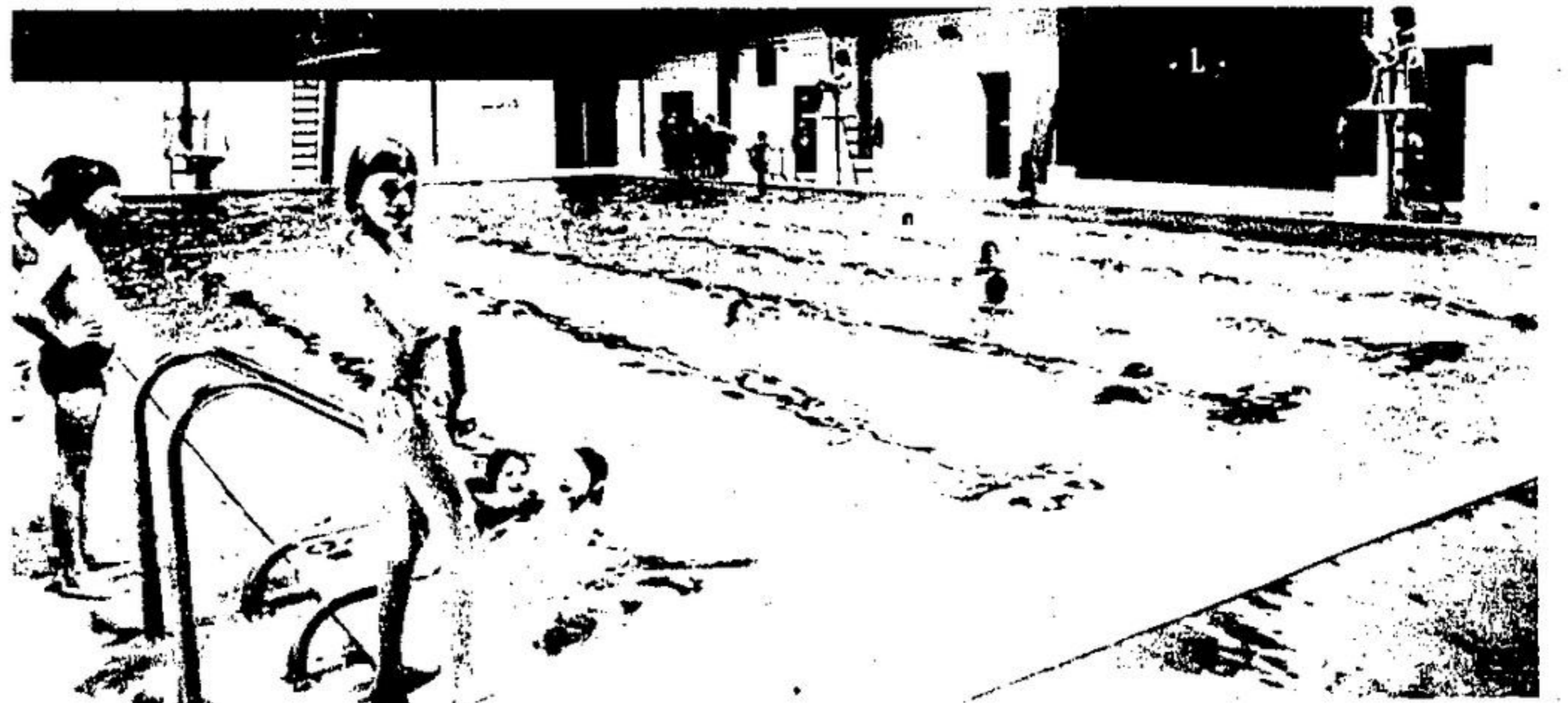
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