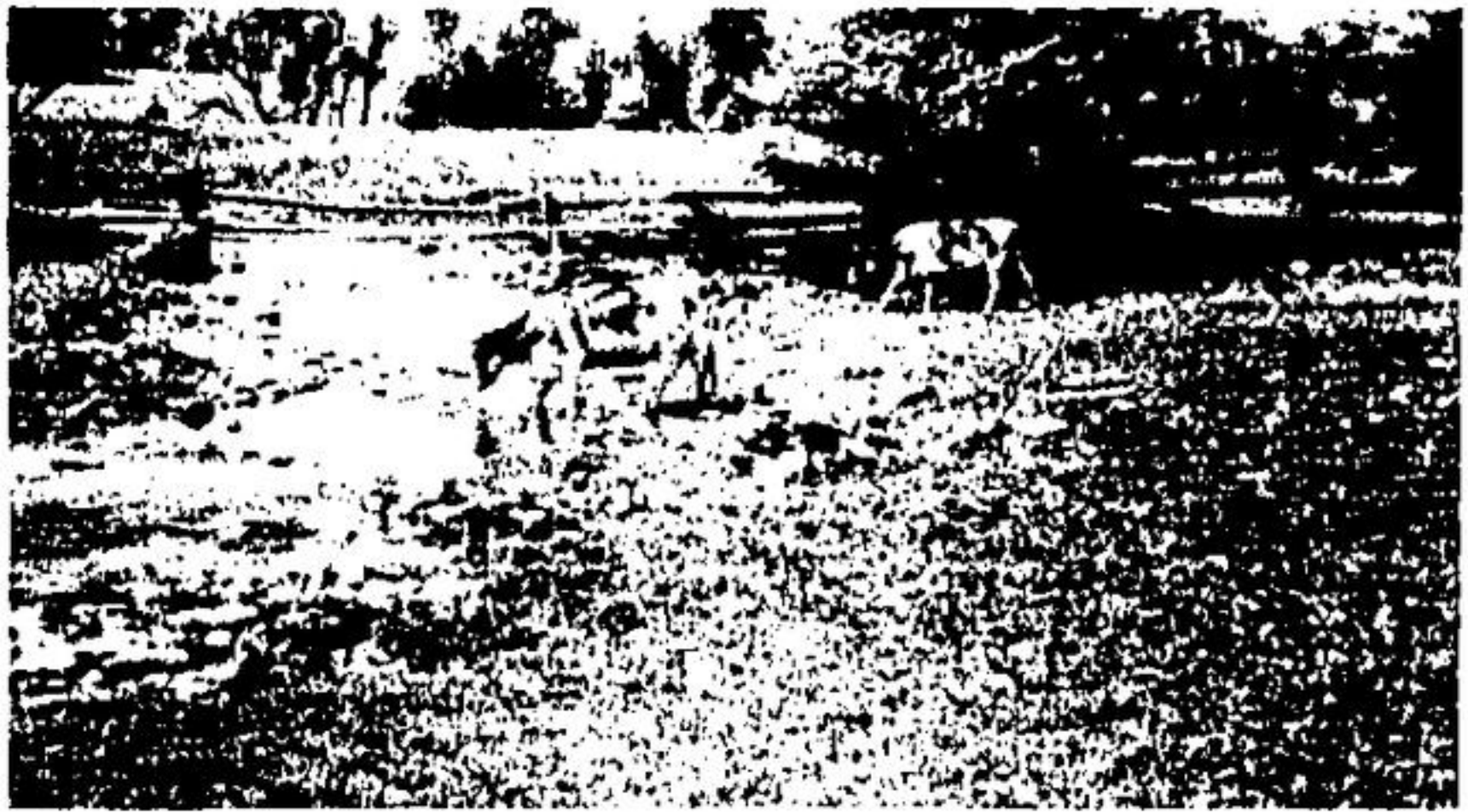


# Jones boys once lurked at Waterfalls Playground



**THE BARN AND DRIVING SHED** on the farm known for many years as Edgar Beene's was razed recently to make way for Joe Prucyk's home and is now the site of a snack bar at Waterfalls Park.



**THESE DAIRY CATTLE** graze on pastures once located under the present pond site at Waterfalls Park. Water from springs on the farm once supplied some neighboring farms and the old Stone School (across from Park Toyota). The Henderson farm on Highway 7 still receives water from the same springs.

One of the most popular recreational parks in the immediate area possesses a colorful history.

Two hundred acres located on the 6th line (Lot 24) near Limehouse was issued by the "Crown" to Abraham Secord in 1821. Abraham was related, through marriage, to the popular heroine Laura Secord who took the perilous walk near Queenston in 1813 and advised the British of an impending American attack at Beaver Dam. As early as 1805, Laura's father, Thomas Ingersoll, leased a "Government Inn" and later "kept a ferry" at what is now Port Credit.

In 1822 Secord sold the farm land to Peter McCollum. McCollum's grist mill was one of the earliest in Esqueping Township. Stories have been related about men carrying their wheat on their backs from as far away as Erin to be ground at the McCollum Mill.

After two subsequent owners, F. Watson (1853) and Duncan Stewart (1855), the west half of the 200 acres was sold to Neven Jones in 1859. Apparently in 1855 a few

acres of Lot 23 were purchased to take in part of the mill pond.

Neven Jones and family operated a saw mill and blacksmith shop on the farm for a number of years. The Jones family was reputed to have been horse traders...and thieves!

Many stories have been handed down concerning the Jones gang and some of their "mafia style" activities. Some stories relate that stolen horses were hidden below the mill dam and could be concealed in the rock caverns behind waterfalls. The horses were then smuggled to the Niagara area and sold.

The "Jones Gang" is said to have had influential accomplices and informers in Halton villages...this explains the success of the "gang" during their exploits of the area.

The story is told about an Acton hotel-keeper who bought a "Jet" black horse from the Jones which soon became the envy of his clients. However, after being exposed to a heavy rain the beautiful "black" horse turned white...the Jones' obviously didn't research the type of dye they had used!!!

by  
John McDonald



**THE OLD FARM HOUSE**, believed to be the third on the farm, still stands on a hill overlooking the pond which has served early Ontario industries and now a modern park.

swamp behind the hotel was a graveyard for anyone who declined membership made the decision somewhat easier!!

The Jones "gang" apparently dissolved and some sources indicate that they spent the remainder of their lives in poverty and disgrace. The dark caves which once housed stills, counterfeit money and stolen horses have since crumbled and are said to have been dynamited on the orders of a leader's sister, either to conceal evidence or to locate hidden loot!!!

Elias Smith, Thomas Seirs and John Coulson were owners between 1866 and 1882 when Johnathan M. Lane bought the farm and raised a family there until the 1920's. Subsequent owners included Pat Gervais, Joseph McBride, ACM Bruyns and E.H. Little until Edgar Beene purchased the farm in 1935. Operation of the sawmill and blacksmith shop on the farm had ceased prior to 1935.

Joseph Prucyk bought the property in 1954. It is interesting to note that Joseph Atkinson, publisher of the Toronto Star from 1899 to 1948, was very interested in purchasing the property in the early 1950s.

Joe Prucyk once operated a lumber business in Brampton, worked at the Thompson Hardware store (now Global) and later owned Georgetown Plumbing and Heating. In 1954 he bought the farm from Edgar Beene, built up the pond, and opened the picnic and swimming area known as Waterfalls Park.

After Prucyk opened a crushed stone quarry on a portion of the farm, Armstrong Brothers held a ten

year lease which began in 1956. The firm subsequently removed several million tons of crushed stone. The result of this excavation is the popular swimming "hole" known as the "quarry" which attracts thousands of swimmers and sun bathers each year. The waters of the mill pond

on the farm was at one time harnessed and utilized for as part of a modern early Ontario industry, but today the waters are enjoyed as part of a modern recreational park.

## Halton Sketches

### ACTON FAIR PARADE ENTRY FORM

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th**  
PARADE TO START AT 12:00 NOON

- BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL FLOAT
- SERVICE CLUB AND ORGANIZATION FLOAT
- NOVELTY FLOAT

**No Entry Fee**

Please check the space above for your entry

**PRIZES FOR EACH SECTION**  
1st PRIZE - \$25    2nd PRIZE - \$15    3rd PRIZE - \$10

**BEST FLOAT IN PARADE \$25.**

Mail Entries to: Acton Agricultural Society  
Box 59  
Acton

**ON/OR BEFORE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1975**

NOTE: Small children with buggies, bicycles, etc. will be on a float from The Acton High School.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

## Wholesale changes for principals this year

Thousands of North Halton students start back at school for another year today. Marilyn Smith of the North Halton Education Centre told this paper that actual figures for enrolment wouldn't be available until later this week.

Mrs. Smith said actual figures for June 30 show 8,514 youngsters were enrolled in public schools in the north and 3,381 secondary school students attended the three high schools in the north.

**New faces**  
When school opened today, students found new faces in the principals' offices in many North Halton schools. At Milton District High School Ron Ziegel returns as principal, replacing the retiring Charles Hunter. Mr. Ziegel had served as vice-principal at Milton a few years ago but worked at Thomas A. Blakelock School in Oakville last year.

Acton District High School Principal Dave Katz leaves Acton to become the first principal of the new Lester B.

Pearson School in Burlington. Dean Pink leaves his post as vice-principal of Lord Elgin High School to replace Mr. Katz as principal.

Tom Gibson leaves his post as principal of Martin St. in Milton and moves to Joseph Gibbons school in Georgetown while Dave Haley moves from Limehouse School to assume Gibson's post.

**To Lowville**  
John Kavanagh leaves his job as vice-principal at J. M. Denyes in Milton to take over as vice-principal at Fairview School, Lowville.

Winifred Prosyshen has been promoted from a teacher at Fairview School to vice-principal at George Kennedy School in Georgetown.

Peter Oprica leaves his job as principal at Georgetown's Park Public School to man the principal's office at Glen Williams school.

Howard Allan leaves the principal's office at Glen Williams to take over a vacancy in the principal's office at Harrison School in Georgetown.

**On leave**  
Eric Balkind, principal of Harrison is on a one-year leave of absence to study at OISE. Eastview vice-principal Ron Beckett is promoted to the rank of principal and will take charge of Limehouse School.

L. Leaper, vice-principal at Gladys Speers School in Oakville has been promoted to principal and he will be in charge of Park School in Georgetown.

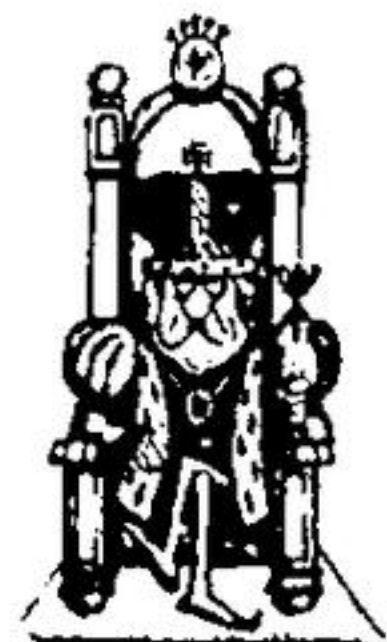
Logan McDonald takes over as principal at Stewarttown and Jack Reid leaves Stewarttown to take charge of E. J. James School, Oakville.

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## With Your help . . . .



**. . . . the Job will be done**

To be a successful Member of Parliament one must have a strong desire to serve people - and Gary Dawkins has. To be a successful Member of Parliament in 1975 one must understand and appreciate Youth - Gary Dawkins has proven this in his chosen vocation as a School Principal.

To be a successful M.P.P. one must be able to serve our rural and urban communities, as well as business and industry, and Gary has demonstrated his competence in communicating with rural and urban people and in gaining their support. Therefore, when you consider his education, his involvement with young people and ideal age for service, his desire to be a full-time Member of Parliament, you will be justified in selecting Gary Dawkins as your representative at Queen's Park.

**SEPT. 18 ELECT DAWKINS PC**

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Thurs. & Fr. - 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.  
"Service For a Growing Community"

The Halton Board of Education  
**"RECREATION AND LEARNING"**  
offering education, recreational and general interest type courses to the community is being delivered this week (September 2nd-6th). Contributing agencies include:  
The Halton Board of Education  
Halton Region Health Unit  
Halton Region Conservation Authority  
Sheridan College  
Milton Parks & Recreation  
Oakville Parks & Recreation Department  
If you do not receive a copy by Saturday, September 6th, call 877-6993 and a brochure will be mailed to you.