

Ducks: For dinner and for winning ribbons

For those who don't roast a turkey for Christmas dinner, perhaps a plump duck will appear on the table.

Duck is also considered a festive dish but not by Mr. and Mrs. Ron McLean of R. R. 3, Acton. Mr. McLean raises prize winning show ducks and doesn't get around to eating many of them these days, not when they're bringing home ribbons and trophies from the Canadian National Exhibition and the Royal Winter Fair.

Mr. McLean remembers raising chickens "ever since I was a kid" in Galt. He's been in ducks for the last 25 years because he had a fancy for some bright colored Rouens. "They look so nice swimming around," he thinks.

The Rouens were followed by several other breeds of ducks, Cayugas, Buffs and Blue Swedes, to name a few.

His farm

In those days the McLeans had a 50 acre farm on the Fourth Line close to Rockwood and were able to keep quite a pile of ducks. They even had some geese who used to spend the night on the front lawn necessitating the hosing of grass every morning so walking wouldn't be too squishy.

"We sure had green grass," grins Mr. McLean.

Three years ago, the McLeans purchased their present home on one acre just north of Acton on Highway 25. Some of the ducks and chickens came with them and are housed in pleasant back yard pens.

About 25 ducks waddle and chortle around the spacious run, paddling over each other when corn appears on their feed tray. Color-

ful Rouens share the pen with Blue Swedes, Buffs, and Cayugas and are only kept separate in breeding season.

Many awards

Some of the many awards Mr. McLean has won at shows include five firsts, four seconds, and three thirds, with as many birds at this year's Royal. He was Grand Champion Waterfowl winner at the Royal for 1975 and 1973.

Originally a chicken breeder of considerable note, Mr. McLean still has White Leghorns, Barred Rocks and Wyandottes.

Mrs. McLean is very proud of a plaque dated 1952 assuring the world Ron McLean had the Best Collection of White Rocks at the C.N.E. - and those aren't pet rocks either.

The McLean chickens have always won many prizes but mostly at the C.N.E. The Ducks go to the Royal.

At one time, Mr. McLean crossed Cayugas with Rouens for a fine eating duck. He claims they were delicious but Mrs. McLean says "there's not much to eat on a duck, they're all feathers."

No eggs

Lately he hasn't been able to prepare any of his own ducks for table - other people are always after his ducks for breeding stock. He hardly gets to eat any eggs either; they're too much in demand for producing more championship ducks.

So turkey will probably be the Christmas dinner at the McLean household and all those glamorous ducks will be scrabbling over their corn feast in blissful ignorance of their importance.



MARCHING TO SUPPER, these prize-winning ducks don't seem to mind the snow while Ron McLean of Acton makes sure the stragglers don't get forgotten. These ducks were major prize winners at this year's Royal Winter Fair, an event at which Mr. McLean has walked off with waterfowl trophies for many years.

No go for GO in Eden Mills

There will be no GO transit service running through Eden Mills, says GO spokesman Tom Henry.

The Eramosa township council had last month requested a commuter bus through the police village to Guelph in the morning, and one returning in the afternoon. A motion was made and sent to GO.

The matter was discussed by GO officials who decided they were not in the position to change the service.

Mr. Henry told the Free Press the only way a bus could go through Eden Mills to Guelph would be to reroute it from Rockwood "which is out of the question," he said.

GO staff members suggested that if there is a real demand for commuter service, the council is advised to ask the Ministry of Transportation and Commu-

ication for a Transit Study, or approach the North-End Bus Lines about the matter. Mr. Henry explained he believes this bus line does business in this area.

A letter will be sent to Eramosa township council telling them of GO's decision.

Osprige

White Gift service Sun.

by Doris Fines
A special White Gift service was conducted Sunday morning in Knox Presbyterian Church. Rev. George Lewis spoke on The Widow's Mite, revealing that a person has to sacrifice for the offering to be of true worth to himself. The Sunday School children sang, 'Little Giver,' and a poem, 'The Nicest Gift,' was recited by Suzanne Walma. Brenda Bruce's solo was a lovely rendition of Gesu Bambino (The Infant Jesus). The White Gift donations will be presented to Lois Cunningham, to aid in her work in Brazil. Lois is coming home on furlough in December for 3½ months.

Mr. George Lang is a

patient in Guelph General Hospital, following surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Auld of Mississauga, visited one day with Mr. and Mrs. George Lang and Bonnie.

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To The Electors of Erin Township

I wish to express my thanks for your confidence in acclaiming me your Reeve.

I trust that Council will continue to attack all problems with a common-sense approach in the best interests of the municipality.

Season's Greetings

Donald Matheson
Hillsburgh

Liberal Ass'n executive

At the founding meeting of the new Brampton-Halton Hills Liberal Association, Richard Weller, Brampton area, was elected president, Frank Allen, Georgetown, was chosen executive vice-president, Cameron Welsh secretary, Donald MacKenzie treasurer.

Ron Nelson, a teacher at Georgetown High School, is vice-president of organizations, and Margaret Whitaker vice-president of committees.

Alice Walker was elected vice-president of rural areas, Lynne Callaghan vice-president of Brampton area and Bill Cooke vice-president of Bramalea area.

This new association was formed because of the change in federal boundaries. A private member's bill to change the name of the association from Brampton-Halton Hills to Brampton-Georgetown will be presented by M.P. Ross Milne. The new

boundaries do not include Acton, and most of Esquesing.

The new association is an amalgamation of two riding

associations.

Approximately 50 people turned out for the meeting, Thursday night in the Lions hall, Georgetown.

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Charged

An Acton district man was charged with causing wilful damage, creating a disturbance and being in possession of an offensive weapon after two vehicles were damaged in the parking lot of the Busholme Inn in Erin.

Collision

When a car stopped for a pedestrian, two cars collided and one of the drivers, Anthony Berlinger, was injured. A pick-up truck by Alan Thompson, Young St., and the car driven by Mr. Berlinger, Poplar Ave., were involved in the collision on Queen St. Monday, Dec. 13. There was about \$75 damage to the pick-up truck.

Calling all callers!

Rockwood

Starting Saturday, December 18, the operator will no longer ask for your telephone number when you dial your own long distance calls. Instead, your number will be recorded automatically, making Direct Distance Dialing even easier. Rural customers will still be required to give their number.



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