



FREE OIL job? Hardly. Ian Williams found his car suddenly covered in thick dripping oil after driving home to Acton on Monday. The works crews had done their annual road oiling in Esquesing, and Mr. Williams went right through it unaware. There were no signs. He also met a police cruiser, similarly covered. The oil on both sides of his car goes right up to the roof, covering door handles.

Road oiling includes cars

The annual spring oiling of country roads always produces cars covered in slimy oil.

Cops check \$200 mishap

An attempt to avoid a head-on collision with two motorcycles on 10 Sideroad resulted in minimal injuries and \$200 damage for an Acton man. David Wayne Oakley, of 2 Storey Dr. was travelling westbound on 10 Sideroad Friday, when he was confronted with two motorcycles travelling eastbound in the west lane, report Halton Regional Police.

Mr. Oakley stated to police that he swerved to the left side to avoid a collision and went of the left side of the roadway. Police are continuing their investigation into the accident. Damage was estimated at \$200 for Mr. Oakley's.

That's small comfort to such people as Ian Williams of Acton, who suddenly found himself inside a car that was dripping in road oil from its roof to its tires.

Mr. Williams explained to the Free Press he was driving home from work in Toronto Monday along Maple Ave. and past Indusmin quarry when he unexpectedly hit the newly oiled road. With seconds his car was dripping in dark brown liquid.

He also encountered a police cruiser in the same plight.

Bud Snow of the Halton Hills works department said the oiling was started and finished all on Monday.

There are complaints every year, he recalls. The roads in Esquesing have been oiled each spring for 10 years now. The oil collects in the hollows and Mr. Snow agrees it's nasty to wash off.

It's not far, he says, just road oil.

Mr. Snow points out that the people on the roads concerned have been "crying for it" for a month now. Four or five men worked on the oiling, and the roads were posted with signs saying the road was closed while the work was underway.

The oiling is only done where there is heavy truck traffic, on the fourth line, parts of 17 sideroad and parts of the third line.

Other roads are treated with calcium.

The remainder of No. 17 sideroad will be surface treated, which is the eventual goal of the department.

Esquesing township used to oil about 10 miles each year, but now it's about four miles, Mr. Snow says.

Rick Rocher
A familiar face around town and the Recreation office is this year's camping supervisor Rick Rocher.

Rick is entering into his ninth summer with the department having worked in all the different stages of the system before becoming a supervisor. In his first year Rick worked as a leader in training for the department. At this time he wasn't paid and spent the summer observing and helping the other leaders. For the next four years Rick worked as a playground leader before gaining the position of playground supervisor for two years. Last year Rick worked as both a playground and day camp supervisor. This year he will return to the department.

Fraud

An Acton man was charged with fraudulent use of a Charge card belonging to another man. An Acton business also received an NSF cheque this week.

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Nine years with Rec. department
RICK ROCHER has returned as camping and day camp supervisor for the Recreation department. Rick has worked on as a L.I.T., playground leader, and supervisor giving him a total of nine years with the department. He is looking forward to a good summer and would like to hear from people with suggestions for this year's programs.

Rick is a life long resident of Acton and just recently graduated from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Math. Rick will be attending Western University in the fall for one year of Teachers College. He enjoys camping, sports, music and art. Rick is looking forward to meeting parents and other community members who may have suggestions for the day camp and camping program. Rick will be working out of the Acton Scout hall but can be reached through the department switchboard.



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Dr. Juraj Krnjevic

District Croatians welcome party head, politician in exile

A former vice Prime Minister of Yugoslavia and the present president of the Croatian Peasant Party, Dr. Juraj Krnjevic is a specially honored guest whenever he visits people of Croatian descent. He made one of his frequent visits to Canada last week and spent several days in Acton, guest of the editor of the weekly newspaper The Croatian Voice, Mehmed Basic.

The offices of the Croatian Voice are at 9 Mill W., in the former medical centre building. The paper is printed at Dills Publishing.

This 49-year-old publication which started in Winnipeg is distributed throughout the world...but not in Yugoslavia.

Neither Dr. Krnjevic nor those associated with the Croatian Peasant Party are able to go back to their native land.

Dr. Krnjevic was visited here in Acton by many Croatian-Canadians. A barbecue dinner was held for the distinguished guest at the Rockwood home of Kresimir Mance, general manager of The Croatian Voice. A picnic was arranged near Hamilton, when Croatians in that area gathered for a special visit.

Dr. Krnjevic flew Friday to Vancouver to attend Croatian National Day Sunday, when he was guest speaker. Between 2,000 and 3,000 attended.

Before returning to his home in London, England, he will spend a few days in Montreal with his son, Dr. Kresimir Krnjevic, a professor of medicine at McGill, his daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

Dr. Krnjevic was in parliament in Belgrade the day the founder of the Croatian Peasant Party, Stjepan Radic, was mortally wounded by an assassin. His brother Pavle Radic was killed outright. A southern Slav opened fire during a heated debate on June 20, 1928.

Later Dr. Krnjevic succeeded Radic as party leader.

Radic's life has been an inspiration to the Croatian people. He was born to a peasant family in 1871. There were 11 children and just one hectare of land, but his father was a skilled wheelwright.

Radic was able to receive a university education and always fought for the rights of the peasant people. He was arrested several times for his

political actions and writings. Radic gradually developed the social program which became the Croatian Peasant Party and the party platform was drafted in 1904. It aimed for a united Croatia and complete independence, as well as for better education and social programs for the country. Before the formation of the party, Croatians had a very limited franchise.

Members of the party, including Dr. Krnjevic, were elected consistently to parliament, although it was dominated by Serbs in the federation. Dr. Krnjevic was the youngest member of the parliament at one time.

Croatia was part of the Turkish Empire centuries ago and as a legacy, many Croatians are Muslims. Most, however, are Roman Catholic.

Croatia was part of the Hapsburg Empire for many years, and Yugoslavia as we know it, including Croatia, was formed in 1918 after the First World War.

After Radic was shot in parliament in 1928, King Alexander declared a dictatorship in Yugoslavia. Dr. Krnjevic went into exile in Geneva, Switzerland and as secretary-general of the Croatian Peasant Party he represented the party at the League of Nations.

He says he found it particularly interesting to live in Switzerland during the life of the League of Nations, the forerunner of the United Nations.

Over the years as a political observer, he has noticed a general change in language use. When the League of Nations began after World War One, the majority of delegates from all over the world spoke French. In the course of several decades, more and more people came to speak English as an international language.

With the rise of Hitler and the threat of invasion, the Serbs

were finally ready to come to terms with the Croats, and to make concessions. Dr. Krnjevic returned to Yugoslavia from Switzerland in 1939. He became the vice Prime Minister of the Yugoslav government.

"We more or less joined the Serbian government to show we stood by democratic principles," he recalls.

Hitler and Mussolini made promises of a separate Croatia, but Dr. Krnjevic and his followers preferred democracy. They left for England, living in London during the war, when Yugoslavia was occupied. He was the vice Prime Minister then, of the Yugoslav government in exile.

Marshal Tito, who fought the Nazis as the head of the resistance, took over control of Yugoslavia after the war, and the country has remained Communist since.

Dr. Krnjevic was one of those who chose not to return under those circumstances. Since then there have been no democratic elections there as we know them; the communist government is self-perpetuating. There is no freedom of the press, Dr. Krnjevic explains.

Mehmed Basic, the editor of the Croatian Voice, explains that the Canadians have no idea of what living in Yugoslavia is like. Two or three people might be assigned to a newspaper to check what is being written, he said.

With no expectations of change available through elections, people resort to devious means to influence each other and the government.

"We are fighting from outside as we can," says Dr. Krnjevic. Since the Croatian Peasant Party was strong years ago "we are hopeful." Younger Croatians who have grown up in Canada share his hopes of a free and democratic country one day. "We are now internationally much stronger than we were 50 years ago."

Many Croatians came to Canada in the 1930s. Conditions were poor at home. Due to the depression, the United States would not permit the entry of many of those who came instead to Canada or to Australia.

Many emigrated to the prairies, where they were directed to farms where help was needed. It was in this centre of Croatian people that the

Croatian Voice was founded 49 years ago in Winnipeg.

Other Croatians headed to the mines at centres such as Timmins, Sudbury and Nanaimo.

Everywhere they banded together, and the new newspaper filled a need. It was the voice of the Peasant Party, and also a source of news on cultural and economic events.

One Croat who had been working on a farm in the prairies rode the rails on a cattle car to Toronto, where he at once obtained work at Swifts cattle yards and meat packing plant. He sent out west for others, and so the Croatian group in Toronto began.

Dr. Krnjevic proudly tells of the success of life in Canada for his people. He echoes the feelings of the party's founder, Stjepan Radic, who said that people could succeed if they did things themselves.

He first came to visit in Canada in 1935, and again in 1938. He came then to the Croatians who worked in coal mines at Nanaimo; these mines no longer exist.

The Croatian Voice deals with the problems of these people here in Canada, and also with the mother country, Dr. Krnjevic points out. "They have been good for this country and they appreciate it. They are useful Canadians."

Dr. Krnjevic is a spry, keen-

witted gentleman who never seems to tire. He has studied widely and has a particularly retentive mind. Seeing old friends and new places gives him keen pleasure.

He was particularly happy to see the Basic family in Acton. He and Mehmed Basic have worked together for 30 years now, but the Basics came to Canada to take over the newspaper in April, 1977.

Dr. Krnjevic attended university at Zagreb, Vienna and Budapest; he has lived in Croatia, Switzerland and England for many years. "I have always loved Canada," he smiled.

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Lorene Barton accepted to school

An Acton mother of three has been chosen one of 18 students for the specialists in deaf education course at James Whitney School in Belleville.

Lorene Barton received word last week she was one of 18 chosen. Five hundred had applied. Last year 34 were accepted.

The course runs for 10 months, which finds Mrs. Barton living in Belleville while husband Gary tends household duties back in Acton. He is pharmacist at Glenlea Drug Mart. Before she sent the final papers to the school however, she sat down with her family and

talked about the problems which would arise with her being a "weekend mother." With her family's encouragement, Mrs. Barton was able to accept her position in the course.

Mrs. Barton is a certified school teacher, and taught for many years. It has only been in the past four years that she became interested in the deaf, and now finds her life steering in a completely new direction.

When she graduates in June, she said, she hopes to teach at E.C. Drury school for the deaf in Milton, which her seven-year-old son Andrew now attends.

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