

# Silver anniversary for Watson's Music Store

Ed and Florence Watson are celebrating 25 years of being in business this month. The Watson's Music Store is as well-known in the area as some of the brand names they sell.

August 4, 1953, the couple opened for business for the first time at 124 Mill St., where Larry's House of Buys is now. Mr. Watson had previously taught music both in schools in Wentworth and privately, and accepted the challenge of opening a store.

And a challenge it was. For the first seven years, they said, business was up and down "but mostly down". Acton had at that time only about 2,000 population and not too many people needed guitars, violins and other small musical instruments. They also sold used pianos. "No one knows how we fought to stay in business," Mr. Watson said.

The Watsons stayed at 124 Mill St. for three years before moving their business to Blue Springs Nursery's present location. It was while they were there that the town began to grow, and with it, so did their business. After 12

years here, they moved down the street to what is now J and T Sports, where they stayed for four years before moving to their present location at 3 Elgin Street.

Their business has expanded now and they sell organs and pianos as well as small musical instruments. They also offer lessons on various instruments, with both teaching. In fact, the lesson business has gotten to be so good, they have to hire two extra guitar teachers, Todd Shields, who Mr. Watson taught many years ago, and Fred Pichl, who has been teaching for several years.

Several of their young customers, Mr. Watson said, are children of students who took lessons when they were children. Rough estimates leave a figure of around 10,000 people who have had lessons with the couple in the past quarter century. At one point, Mr. Watson said, in the junior Acton Citizens' Band, he taught about half of its members. "It's a good feeling", Mr. Watson says. Not counting Hinton's 5c to \$1 Store, which is closing soon, Watson's

Music Store is the third oldest store in town behind Lovell's Meat Market at 40 years and Acton Home Furnishings at 30 years.

For nine of the past 25 years, the Watsons have looked after the local Motor Vehicle Licensing division of the Ministry of Transportation and Communication. They gave it up a year ago because they found it was taking up too much of their time.

The Watsons have seen many changes in the town in the past 25 years. The biggest change, and their biggest disappointment, has been regional government. He blames the new system for "the pond" in front of the store every spring. He has called the town numerous times to come and fix the road and give it proper drainage, but to no avail. "The old government would fix it properly".

When lessons resume in September, the Watsons and their two guitar teachers will find themselves with 100 students. It's a busy year to kick off their 26th year of business, but the one way that many people appreciate.



ED AND FLORENCE Watson, owners of Watson's Music Store, Elgin St., are celebrating 25 years in business this month. Not including Hinton's 5 cents to \$1 Store, which is going out of business after 50 years, the Watsons' business is the third oldest store in town, behind Lovell's Meat Market and Acton Home Furnishings.

## Ballots for blind

Blind people will be able to vote in Ontario provincial elections without special assistance thanks to a new type of ballot. The change consists of a small white notch cut into the top edge of the upper right corner. Other notches will be cut beside each white circle down the right side of the ballot. The upper right hand notch will enable a blind person to align the ballot face up with the circles on the right. The voter then can slide a finger down the right side of the ballot counting the notches on the side.

Roderick Lewis, Chief Election Officer for Ontario says there are about 11,000 Ontario residents of voting age registered with the CNIB and probably many more thousands with visual impairments who will find the ballots helpful.

## Wood stolen

Firewood, cedar posts and timbers valued at \$675 have been stolen from the Hydro corridor according to Guelph O.P.P. The site is where thefts occurred in between 17 sideroad and 27 sideroad in Erin township.

The wood included 45 cords of cherry and birch firewood, belonging to Pioneer Sawmill

and Wood Products of R.R.4, Rockwood. The company had been hired by Ontario Hydro to cut the trees along the new hydro corridor in that part of the township.

## The Ex

The Exhibition begins August 16.

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## Protests La Pierre appointment Campbell hunger strike

A "fast" has been declared by Milton evangelist Ken Campbell to protest the Ministry of Education's involvement in a \$300,000 education research project.

The ministry is contributing \$100,000 towards the project that will include an annual salary of \$90,000 for Laurier LaPierre, teacher-appointed commissioner.

The remaining funds come from the Federation of Women Teachers' Association of Ontario, the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation, Association des Enseignants Franco-Ontariens and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association.

In his research on child education, Mr. LaPierre is looking closely at altering the present public school system to fit changing schedules and life styles of modern day family life.

Mr. LaPierre's report is not due until next summer, but he has already indicated some personal recommendations. They include that schools are no longer the extension of

the home, but instead that the home is the extension of the school.

Schools must be adapted to the work schedules of modern families, said Mr. LaPierre, particularly where both parents are working.

In a letter to Education Minister Tom Wells, Mr. Campbell has called for an immediate withdrawal of the research grant provided to the CBC radio broadcaster.

According to Mr. Campbell, president of Renaissance Ontario, the choice of Mr. LaPierre "strips the last pretensions from the teachers' federations to be servants of the parents and supporters of the family."

"It unmarks their commitment to invade the privacy and to violate the sanctity of the home, to dictate to parents how the child must be raised for the state."

The Ontario Education Ministry earlier denied a request from Renaissance for a government grant to help them fund the costs for a four-year "back to educational basics" campaign.

Mr. Campbell has vowed not to eat until he has received response from the minister's office.

education minister, dated Aug. 3. Mr. Campbell stated he continued to refrain from eating, "as a personal expression of anguished alarm."

He continued to state that he is "shaken" and "distressed" by the context of the education study undertaken by Mr. LaPierre.

He began his fast on Thursday, July 26 as a protest move against Mr. LaPierre's philosophy on the schooling system.

On a separate issue, Mr. Campbell has sent a letter to the Hallon Board of Education, challenging the board to hold a referendum on the topic of providing "heritage schools" as alternatives to the current schooling system.

"Heritage schools" would be committed to the "broadest possible philosophy based on traditional values emphasizing discipline in academic pursuits," according to Mr. Campbell.

He has stated that the unwillingness of the Hallon Board of Education to establish the proposed alternative on an experimental basis "emphasizes the fear of the civil servants who run their monolithic public school empire."

## Erin readies for 100th

Two years from now Erin Village will be celebrating its centenary, but at least one resident is preparing for the occasion this year. Valerie Hoag a Queen's University student, is researching the history of the village so that an up to date version will be ready for 1980.

The project is financed with a provincial government Experience '78 grant.

She is concentrating on the changes which have taken place on Main Street.

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## OUR READERS WRITE:

### Seat belt regulations

Hon. James Snow, Minister,  
Transportation & Communications,  
3rd Floor,  
Ferguson Block,  
Queen's Park,  
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1Z8  
Dear Mr. Snow:

Through this letter, I am asking you to make regulations or introduce a bill in the Legislature this fall requiring the installation of seat belts in all school buses and making their use compulsory.

Your Ministry's statistics show substantial reductions in deaths and injuries to occupants of automobiles since mandatory seat belt legislation was passed more than two and one-half years ago. In fact, deaths were a dramatic 64 per cent lower in the first quarter of 1978 than they were in the similar period of 1975 when belt use was optional.

I believe the benefits of seat belt use should be extended now to the 600,000 school children who are transported daily by school buses. Although it is recognized that school buses are the safest vehicles on the road, the (average) two deaths and 200 injuries that occur in school bus accidents each year could be reduced markedly by seat belt use. It is worth the minimal cost and inconvenience—especially when the dead and injured are those in their early

July 24, 1978

years. The installation and compulsory use of the belts in the school buses would have a major spin off benefit too. Habits, including the use of seat belts, are formed at an early age. Children who are belted in automobiles from baby stage insist on using the belts as they grow up. The absence of belts in the buses they ride during their school years, breaks the habit and causes them to be more indifferent about their use when they become drivers and adult passengers.

There can be no doubt too, that school bus drivers would have far more freedom to concentrate on their driving if the students were buckled up.

As you know, the report of the Ontario Legislature's "Select Committee on Highway Safety", tabled in September of last year, stated: "The scale of prospective tragedy in a serious school bus accident is increasing as school buses, for economic reasons, become larger." Several suggestions for greater safety were suggested, but it said that "Seat belts and padded safety seats appear to offer greater promise."

Your government has full authority over seat belt policy. I urge you to bring forth the necessary regulations or legislation to provide mandatory seat belt installation and use in all school buses.

Yours truly,  
Mel Swart, MPP  
Welland-Thorold.

## Old books Metro man dies

The art of repairing and restoring old books will be taught in a new one-year certificate program to begin this fall at the Oakville campus of Sheridan College.

Bookbinding and Restoration is a practical program designed to train Canadian craftsmen in the traditional skills of book restoration, as well as binding and decorating books for contemporary needs.

It has been developed in response to the growing concern of the book industry, museums and libraries over the presentation and conservation of important old books and records.

The program will introduce students to the traditional methods of book construction as well as the materials used in the fields of fine binding and book conservation.

An inquest is pending into the death of a 21-year-old Toronto man knocked from the CNR trestle known as the "iron bridge" at Georgetown late Thursday night.

John Michael Sampson of 221 Morse St., Toronto, was pronounced dead at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. His body was found by Halton Regional Police soon after midnight on the southwest shore of the Credit River, 110 feet below the bridge. CNR freight 417 was west-

bound from Toronto to Sarnia when the engineer saw a person crouched down the trestle ahead of the locomotive. The person did not move.

The left front part of the engine struck the person, who was flung into the ravine. A post mortem was performed Friday morning.

The name of the victim was withheld by police for a time until next of kin was notified. His mother was at a cottage in northern Ontario.

## Will meet in Acton

Halton Hills planning board is planning something new... a meeting in Acton. It will be in the firehall on Tuesday, August 15th, in the evening.

## Storey starred

The familiar face of Max Storey highlighted a story on "auction fever" in the Toronto Star on Saturday, August 5. He is called "one of the most colorful and reliable of Ontario's country auctioneers."

The accompanying story gives observations and hints on buying at country auctions. "Certainly, for the astute, the knowledgeable and the lucky, there are good buys," says writer Hyla Wulfs Fox.

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