



PEOPLE CAME FROM as far away as Georgetown to the Curling Club auction Friday evening. Alma Riepma, of Georgetown, inspects a chest of drawers before the bidding starts.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING, says Sherry MacFadden as she admires Santa and his sleigh at the Curling club's auction Friday.

Crowd jams club for auction

A good crowd jammed the curling club Friday evening for that club's auction sale.

Members and friends all pitched in to donate an array of articles including a washer and dryer, fridge, chesterfield suite, kitchen suite and baby needs. By midnight, most of the items were sold.

Auctioneer Max Storey, a former curling club member, donated his time for the fund raising event. Monies raised will go towards renovations of the club house.

In addition to the auction, there was a rummage sale, as well as a table with baking, crafts and preserves for sale.



DOESN'T GEORGE ROBERTSON know that if he takes the lid off that bottle, a genie will come out? Mr. Robertson inspected the bottle at the Curling club auction Friday. A good crowd turned out and bought most of the articles offered. Max Storey donated his time as auctioneer.

Thieves strike rural home

The inside of an R.R. 1 home was ransacked and the swimming pool last week. Entry was gained through a lawn mower thrown into the basement window.

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Acton library looseleaf

by Esther Taylor

What do you feed a motherless baby heron when eels are not available? Sausages. Sausages? Yes, sausages, although Ugly "cost a fortune" according to Police Constable Ken Williams, Welsh naturalist and conservationist. There's an engaging photo of Ugly looking like the unfortunate victim of an innovative hairdresser in Wildlife in Custody by Ken Williams and Ian Skidmore.

Wildlife in Custody is one of those rare books that renew your faith in compassionate humanity. It's funny, educational, descriptive and above all a thoroughly engrossing read about a young Welshman son of a policeman, and grandson of a policeman, who hoped to be a gamekeeper, because he reasoned this was the only route to a job dealing with wild creatures.

Fate in the shape of his dad thought otherwise. Williams enlisted in the Welsh guards to "learn discipline" before joining the Police Force. However, even during his Army service in the Middle East, he managed to surround himself with animals; lizards, chameleons, tortoises, desert foxes; and when at last he returned to Wales to be a constable in Holyhead, his days revolved around the care of wildlife, on and off duty.

The sometimes zany experiences of a village constable and the adventures and of a born naturalist plus descriptions of beautiful mid-Wales are combined in this Williams-Skidmore story.

It is a Must for critter lovers. And unlike some books dealing with animals, this has a happy ending in the realization of William's boyhood dream. Thanks to the Rio-Finto-Zinc Corporation, who gave him "a stretch of woodland and beautiful rocky coastline" P.C. Williams opened his own Nature

reserve at Penrhos.

To quote from the cover blurb: "Now it is the home of birds of the field and forest, sea and shore, migratory winter visitors, animals and fish, and there is a hospital for injured creatures. Thousands of tourists, naturalists and ornithologists visit every year."

One of Williams' most delightful anecdotes reflects his enjoyment of a joke at his own expense. The Welsh Guards in which Williams was the youngest sergeant, was the first regiment, post-war to mount Buckingham Palace guard in red tunics and bearskins. One night when he and a companion were on guard duty, the pair had a sudden yearning for an apple (royal).

Although aware that "pinching the King's apples" was a Tower job for sure, the two crept through flowers to the Royal orchards. When police arrived, Williams was up a tree, and the guardsman was filling his bearskin with apples. The former recalls "It was raining London bobbies." Williams looked down into the eyes of an irate police inspector who informed him that he and his crony had set off every bell in the place. (The Royal apple trees are all wired to burglar alarms!)

Years later, P.C. Williams made the Birthday Honours list, January 1, 1974, for services to conservation in Wales. In Buckingham Palace, he went cold as he remembered some of the incidents of his service in London, notably the apple escapade. Questioned after the medal presentation about his obvious nervousness, the ex-guardsmen confided to his sister that he expected any minute the Queen was going to come and say: "Don't give him one, that's the guardsmen they caught pinching our apples."

Remember the Big Snow, December 1977 in the North-Eastern states of the U.S.A.? Suppose similar freakish

Mayor Hill rediscovers CVCA

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) discovered long time absentee Thomas Jefferson Hill in its midst last week, when it found some of its work under attack by the Halton Hills mayor.

The main attack was against the authority's plan to use Vaughn House, on the 9th Line, for the education centre. "The public is paying enough for education," said Hill. He reminded the CVCA full authority meeting at Meadowvale that it was going to rent Vaughn House and get some money back.

"There are a couple of teachers here whose salaries I'd like to cut," Hill said.

weather hit the States and Canada this winter or next? Imagine the chaos if the blizzard continued, with no end in sight, and without a valid explanation by meteorologists?

This is the situation in Blizzards by George Stone, a new name in the local library catalogue. It might be a good idea to read Blizzards on a hot day, because physically and psychologically, this is a chilling story, with a weird ending. Incidentally, Russian weather scientists were blamed for the potential catastrophe, but there were in fact Other Culprits!

Other newish thrillers are: Blindfold, Anthony Melville Ross and The Steel Palace, by Hugh Pentecost. Suave Public Relations expert, Julian Quist, is featured in the Pentecost mystery. Diane Pearson's The Marigold is a paperback find and a great read for browsers fed up with much of the current fiction. Pearson is the author of Casardis, a library hardback.

Library critter lovers heard this true animal story a few weeks ago. A friend of the raconteur happened to be in Prospect Park where he saw a puppy tied to a picnic table, beside a supply of canned dog food, 14 cans.

In this case, the finder-keeper rule made for a happy ending. Finder collected puppy and this and gave them a new home.

At least once a week, this library staffer feels like apologizing to the animal kingdom for belonging (more or less!) to the human species.

criticized the authority's hiring of a part-time instructor for Vaughn House. "Just because there's some extra money in the budget," he said.

CVCA member Ken Whillans, of Mississauga, is a teacher who sat near Hill during the meeting.

Hill's remarks about Vaughn House focused on the Information and Education Advisory Board, of which he is a member. He attended none of the board's meetings this year. The advisory board has discussed making Vaughn House, at Silver Creek, into an Outdoor Education Centre. The project has been approved for a couple of years, according to the board's Robert Harrison.

The Information and Education (I & E) board's budget is about \$80,000 or twice this year's figure. The \$80,000 is ridiculous said Hill. He went so far as to call for the scrapping of the board. This year's budget is \$43,000.

Harrison agreed to take the budget back to committee if the rest of its reports were accepted. Authority chairman, Grant Clarkson reminded the meeting the guide line for next year's budgets was to make them as close to this year's as possible.

Hillsburgh was where the CVCA tried education, and it had to be sold, said Hill.

"After everything (at Hillsburgh) was turned back, there was a straight dollar profit to the authority," replied CVCA honorary member R. K. McMillan.

Speaking to Hill, McMillan continued by saying: "If you'd read your minutes you'd see we're only following up what was thought of ten or twelve years ago."

Harrison pointed out that the \$80,000 is not all for education. Part of the budget is set aside for printing and a special project of the 25th anniversary.

Schools are shutting down, said Hill. He asked why the CVCA could not use a closed school.

In all fairness, replied CVCA chairman Clarkson, the program is tied to the environment.

Mayor Hill checked some other budget figures. He

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