



Kevin Parker

Kevin Parker is 'Canadians' bound

by Robin Insoe

Figure skater Kevin Parker, 17, is off to the Canadian Figure Skating Championships, from January 29 to February 4, "to win" he hopes.

It will be Parker's third and final opportunity to attain the junior men's crown. By Canadian Figure Skating Association rules a competitor may compete in one level for only three years before advancing to the next level of competition.

Kevin has finished fifth and fourth respectively over the past two years. Looking at things realistically Kevin realized he may not top the field in the junior competition but is looking for at least a place among the top three.

Kevin is working hard in his attempt for the championship spending in the area of five to six hours a day on the ice. Three to four of those hours are spent on what may be considered his Achilles heel—his figures.

The figure skating career of Kevin Parker began when he was eight years old. He was introduced to ice as a hockey player but, "I scored in my own net and then quit," said Kevin. Later that year he took up figure skating with the Acton Figure Skating Club.

In his second season Kevin had picked up what was to be his first of many trophies, the most improved skater award.

The next skating season Kevin moved on to Guelph where he could attain better ice time. He remained with that club for three years before moving to a Hamilton club.

From Hamilton Kevin moved to London and coach John Caughell.

Over the competitive season Kevin remained in the home of Caughell and graduated from Westmount Public School. In that year, his first with Caughell he won the Canadian Novice Men's Championships.

The next season Kevin finished fifth in the Junior men's competition before returning to his home on the Guelph Line and attending Acton High School.

Last year, with the Kitchener Skating Club, Kevin finished fourth in the Canadians despite carrying a bad case of the flu throughout the competition and then he received his first taste of international competition as he competed for Canada in senior competitions in France and Germany.

Kevin was pleased with his fourth and sixth place finishes in the competitions and hopes at another chance to represent Canada in international competition.

Kevin is busy during the winter months trying to concentrate on skating and studies, but he feels Acton High "couldn't be better!" "They're really co-operative" said Kevin. He missed 42 days of school last year and was still able to complete his courses.

Kevin missed much of his school during the divisional and Canadian Championships, at a time then the work load at school is quite heavy due to semester changes. He receives incompletes on his reports and is required to catch up when he returns.

Kevin is back in Kitchener now preparing for his final shot at the junior title. His toughest competition, he feels, will come from Brian Orsler of Orillia and Shawn McGill of Toronto.

After the competition Kevin will appear as a guest in many area carnivals, including Milton's. He will also attempt his eighth and final figure.

As for Kevin's future in figure skating he is hoping to make it a career. He will compete this one last time as a junior and then attempt to become the Canadian Senior Figure Skating Champion and represent Canada at the world championships and "hopefully" the 1984 Olympics.

OMB winds up nine days of hydro hearings

By Eric Elstone

The depth of the Ontario Municipal Board's (OMB) examination of government policy proved to be a major point argued by lawyers for Ontario Hydro and opponents of a high power transmission corridor through Halton Hills at hearings in Georgetown.

Ontario Hydro's lawyer, John Parkinson, told the OMB it must accept Ontario government policy without question while an opposing lawyer, the Interested Citizens' Group's (ICG) Patrick Devine, urged board members to probe into the reasons for government decisions.

The sometimes airy debate Thursday in the upstairs room at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena in Georgetown wound up nine days of hearings which focused on the planning aspects of Ontario Hydro's proposed 500 kV line from the north to the south down the back lot

lines of the Fifth Concession of Halton Hills.

The Esquering official plan and zoning bylaw took the brunt of the attention, though part of that local legislation does not allow Ontario Hydro to build a corridor within Halton Hills borders.

Ontario Hydro, a public utility, wants to rewrite the local legislation to permit the corridor and so complete the last leg of a 109-mile line from the Bruce nuclear generating station, on Lake Huron, to Milton where the north-south (Bradley-Georgetown) line is to link up with an existing east-west (Nanticoke-Pickering) line.

Halton Hills legislation, supported by Halton Region and the ICG, stacked up against what Hydro's Parkinson described as established, refined and special government policy which provides for the north-south line.

Parkinson trotted out orders-in-council, statements of past ministers of energy and the housing minister to support his argument that the Bradley-Georgetown line has been part of government for nearly five years.

All that may be so, according to the ICG's Devine, but if the government knew in 1974 what it knows today about such matters as systems security on the north-south line, the government would have decided otherwise.

If the Ontario government's decision had been made on information now available, the citizens in this area would not be affected by the 250-foot wide corridor, Devine said.

Detailing a chain of ignorance, the ICG's Devine, told the OMB the Ontario government was concerned with systems security—what happens when part of a hydro line breaks down—and that the man the government hired to

study the east-west line, and part of the north-south, Omand Solandri, was also concerned with systems security but neither knew of the extent of the problem of many corridors passing through a common point—the Milton Transformer Station. That problem came to light last year with the ICG-Ministry of Energy sponsored Slater Report.

"I hope you're not asking us to delve into how government policy is developed," OMB chairman Henry Stewart asked Devine.

"Assuming government policy can be undercut, I believe it is incumbent upon the board to take that into consideration," Devine replied.

Urgency was a point also attacked by Ontario Hydro's Parkinson. There is a need, a costly need to complete the Bradley-Georgetown 12-mile link, he

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ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1979.

Twenty Pages—Twenty Cents.



Fifty years of marriage were celebrated last Friday by Norm and Jessie Robertson, 65 Young St. The couple enjoyed a dinner in Milton with their family.

Regional councillor Ed Wood presented the couple with a plaque on behalf of Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy.

Robertsons celebrate 50th

A holiday in Florida is one way Norm and Jessie Robertson plan to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

The trip, to be taken some time this winter, is a gift from daughters Phyllis Patrick and Glenice Hurren, in lieu of a big party.

The couple were married Jan. 12, 1929 in Guelph by Dr. McGillivray, a close friend of both the bride's and groom's families. Mr. Robertson was from Everton and his wife has been an Acton resident all her life.

The couple left for a honeymoon in Toronto amidst a terrible snowstorm, they recall. When they returned, they took up residence in Acton. Five years later, they moved to Young St., where they have lived since. After 12 years in one house, they moved across the road to 65 Young St. where they have lived for 33 years.

Mr. Robertson worked 12 years at Beardmore, before spending 23 years at the Acton creamery. From there he went to the high school where he was caretaker from 1964

until his retirement in 1972.

In the meantime, the couple have travelled extensively throughout Canada, but their planned trip to Florida will be a first for that state. It will also be the first time they have ever flown.

Dinner at Harrop House in Milton with their daughters, sons-in-law, three grandchildren, and Mr. Robertson's sister, husband and niece, Mr. and Mrs. George Young and Marilyn was enjoyed Friday.

Special greetings were received from Ontario Premier William Davis, the Governor General Jules Léger, and Halton member of parliament Frank Philbrook. A flower arrangement from regional councillor Ed Wood, and a plaque, presented by Mr. Wood on behalf of Halton Hills mayor Pete Pomeroy were also received. Mr. Pomeroy also sent them a letter apologizing for not being able to give them the plaque personally.

They also received an array of cards and gifts.

Town to pay \$5,000 Arts Centre study

The Arts Plus Committee, a group representing various organizations interested in Halton Hills arts centre, won their point Monday night, when general committee of Halton Hills council agreed to a feasibility study and put up \$5,000 to cover half the cost.

Rex Heslop, chairman of the Arts Plus committee, explained the committee represents the Rotary Club, the Arts Council, Georgetown Little Theatre, the Choral Society, the University Women's Club, Kiwanis Club and Credit Valley Artisans. He said other groups may be added.

He explained a feasibility study by consultants would explore all possible facilities, including existing, renovations, land or new facilities. He said the study would examine costs, proposed funding, and projected revenue.

Heslop said the committee would be like a direct link with council so efforts could be coordinated.

Councillor Ed Wood said he noticed most of the groups are from Georgetown and asked if the committee was talking just Georgetown or the whole of Halton Hills.

Heslop assured him the study was intended to cover the whole of Halton Hills. In reply to another question, he said, "Wintario had told them \$5,000 would be available from them if the town put up \$5,000."

Councillor Roy Booth stated a similar centre in Burlington cannot

support itself, so the city has to help. "How can we support one if a city the size of Burlington can't?"

Heslop replied the report would investigate the economics and how to proceed to keep solvent.

Councillor Harry Levy said he had to know the Arts Plus Committee is not working in conflict with the Georgetown Little Theatre, who had been pursuing a stage at the renovated Wrigglesworth School. He said that may well be the best location and he would not want to jeopardize any work that has been done. He warned the Halton Board of Education has to know the town's wishes.

Heslop said there are two representatives of GLT on the committee, and emphasized all groups had agreed to abide by the results of the study.

School board trustee, Barry Shepherd, a member of the audience, commented, "If we don't get an indication from the town early in March we would have to go ahead with Wrigglesworth addition for educational purposes and the GLT would lose out."

Levy in reply to a question from Councillor Ross Knechtel, put the cost of an addition to Wrigglesworth at approximately \$400,000, and the cost of a new facility between 1½ million and \$2 million.

John Roe, speaking for the GLT, said he supported everything Heslop had said, and pointed out the GLT realized the Wrigglesworth proposal would be part of the study. He said he would like the board of education to hold up a decision on that project until the feasibility study is completed.

Councillor Ed Wood commented, "There's facility in Acton, the new high school."

Council voted to ask the Halton Board of Education to take no action until the study is completed, and will have a committee of one member from each ward act as a liaison with the Arts Plus Committee.

After the meeting the Georgetown Little Theatre told this paper 30 per cent of their members come from areas outside Georgetown, including, Acton, Esquering, Milton and Cheltenham.

Last sermon

Rev. Andrew McKenzie will be preaching his final sermon in Acton January 21, and all members and adherents of Knox Presbyterian church are invited.

A special presentation will take place in the sanctuary immediately following the sermon. A congregational dinner in the Dr. A. C. Stewart hall will follow.

Rev. McKenzie and his family will be leaving shortly after Perth where he will be ministering to members of the Presbyterian congregation there.

Public plaza meeting Jan. 30

The proposed shopping plaza at Highway 7 and Churchill Rd. drew a full house to Halton Hills planning board Tuesday night when the opposing factions confronted each other.

Ron Burnett, planner, speaking on behalf of the merchants of Acton Business Area termed the plaza "the death now and destruction of downtown Acton." Developer Jerry Sprackman of Landawn Shopping Centres, meanwhile forecast an influx of shoppers to the town every week and the retention of Acton shoppers in the town.

Acton residents jammed the council chambers and made it clear they were dissatisfied with the ruling that they could not speak unless listed on the agenda.

Chairman Mike Armstrong stuck to his guns but told them they would have the opportunity at a public meeting which at Sprackman's suggestion will be held in Acton January 30.

Burnett, a former town planner, now an independent consultant, said the provincial government is actively supporting the revitalization of downtown cores. He claimed

the plaza would "fly in the face" of both the Acton and Esquering official plans. He said the official plan guidelines state new commercial areas will be an extension of the existing business area.

He emphasized merchants are in favor of this type of growth but located in the designated Business Improvement Area. Burnett claimed planning should be done in conjunction with the surrounding area. "It doesn't make much planning sense to develop in a fringe area."

He claimed the town can be adequately serviced with the existing

commercial land. He emphasized the merchants are not opposed to any development in the existing core area. He said they realized competition is good for the town. Burnett said he had been involved in areas with stronger downtown cores than Acton that "died overnight" when plazas were established on the fringe of the town. He asked planning board to consider the proposals premature until there is enough residential development in the Acton east area to sustain it.

Henry Joseph, vice president of the research and planning division of A.E. LePage, who of-

fered a study for Landawn Shopping Centres, said the downtown area covered 16 blocks with each block being 1.6 acres. He stated to build a modern supermarket with three to five acres of land including parking would mean clearing two blocks and closing a street. He warned the town could wait for ten years for a large supermarket if they insist it be in the downtown area.

Joseph stated "If the people want it and it can't be accommodated, you have to go elsewhere." He emphasized his company had conducted market and impact studies that show the

plaza is feasible without the development of Acton east.

The consultant predicted the land assembly for a large supermarket in the downtown core would ruin the character of the area. "You'd have a huge open parking lot in the centre."

Jerayl Jaque of W.W. Urban Consultants, and economist, challenged Burnett's claim of sufficient commercial area for present needs. He said there is a high number of Acton people who shop out of town. He declined the use of words by Burnett such as "death now", "ruination" and

"destruction of downtown". He said they were serious statements amounting to accusations.

According to Jaque's study the plaza would not be dependent on Acton east development. He claimed the present population and surrounding area would support it and said consumer surveys bear this out. The surveys also show people shop both downtown and in plazas, said the consultant.

Jerry Sprackman of Landawn Shopping Centres, said an informal survey by Mrs. O'Rourke, whom he did not know at the time, showed people wanted a Zehrs store. "She gave me an idea so I hired Acton high school students to ask people if they wanted a Zehrs supermarket at Churchill Rd. and Highway 7." Sprackman said a resounding 98 per cent of the 1040 people asked said they definitely did. He emphasized Zehrs is signed up and would be a major industry bringing 7000 customers into Acton every week.

Sprackman says the proposal has been cut by

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Legion life memberships

One life member talks to another. Bob Angell, left, was surprised Saturday evening at the Legion awards night to be awarded his life membership for the Legion. Only five active members have had this

honor bestowed upon them, one being Fred Wright, right, who at 86 is one of the oldest active members, and also holds his 50 year pin.

Police suspect waits in jail

An R.R. 2 Rockwood man Halton Regional Police want to talk to in connection with a series of break-ins is already behind bars at Toronto.

Police carried out searches of the suspect's home and recovered loot missing from as far away as Peel Region and Peterborough.

Goods recovered amount to a value of \$48.

The man is serving an

18-month sentence in Toronto's West Detention Centre.

The list of recovered goods includes: 12 boxes of tile, a post hole digger, one pair of French doors, one slab door and a welder. Also recovered is a saw, which police suspect was obtained by fraud.

The investigation continues.

Police have a report of

a stolen \$800 snowmobile from Wallace Street last week. The machine, a 50 HP 440 Ski-Roul, belongs to a Mason Boulevard man.

The Free Press building was again the target of break and enter thieves last weekend. Vandals smashed a window in order to get inside. About \$200 in change was stolen from the pop

machine.

Halton Regional Police have no suspects in connection with the breaking of a window at the north entrance to Beardmore and Co. last week.

Police are also continuing an investigation into the theft Beardmore and Co. of \$345 worth of assorted tools from one of the shops.