



Local Progressive Candidate Otto Jelinek right, arrived on the scene just in time yesterday to speak with P.C. leader Joe Clark, as he made a brief visit in Acton. The two spoke briefly and continued on in their own campaigning.

Joe Clark stops in Acton for brief visit

It was even faster than a whirlwind tour of Acton, but in what seemed a bit more than a blink of the eye, Joe Clark, leader of the federal opposition came to town yesterday.

Mr. Clark's entourage of two buses stopped in town just before noon on his way from a coffee hour in Georgetown to lunch in Guelph. His unexpected and unplanned stop in town came as a big surprise to everyone, including his campaign manager.

Progressive Conservative supporters lined Mill St., near John St. waiting in the cold wind for a sign of buses.

Two pipers were on hand to greet the potential next prime minister of Canada as well as an NBC news team from the United States. (They are just one of many teams set to cover the election. This particular team is travelling with the Clark group.)

In spite of his tight schedule, and the flurry of handshaking, Mr. Clark took a few minutes to communicate in sign language with a deaf boy, outside Home Hardware. Ignoring his manager's pleas to finish up the visit, he took a few minutes to visit with wee Michelle Pilgram, holding her in

his arms as he spoke to her.

Local P.C. candidate Otto Jelinek almost didn't make it. After Mr. Clark returned to his bus, Mr. Jelinek finally arrived. The two spoke for a moment and then went their separate busy ways.

Then, as quickly as he came into town, Mr. Clark and his group left. Traffic, which had been blocked by people on the streets, was soon back to normal, and placard carrying Clark supporters disbanded. The pipers went home and the town quieted down once again.



Wee Michelle Pilgram wanted to help Progressive Conservative Leader Joe Clark with his campaign and chose to teach him to count. Actually, the two were trying to establish Michelle's age when Mr. Clark stopped in Acton yesterday on an unscheduled visit. Michelle's mother, Linda, decked out in Scotch

lish attire greeted the opposition leader by playing the bagpipes. Mr. Clark was in town for about 15 minutes, shaking hands with residents of all ages. He seemed particularly interested in the children though. Photo by Helen Murray.

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There were fainting women and exasperated men all over the place last week when Conrad Birdie hit the streets. The mere mention of his name sent fans swooning, and husbands and boyfriends fuming, during Acton High School's presentation of the hit musical comedy Bye Bye Birdie. Ron Skeffington played

Conrad, an Elvis Presley type, who has been inducted into the army. The mayor of the small town (played by principal Wally Watkins) while Conrad is turning upside down seems to be having trouble with his wife Linda Osso, who has joined all the other fans in passing out. Photo by Helen Murray.

School trustees

Halton committee alters after Toronto conflict

An Ontario Supreme Court judgment concerning Toronto school board trustee conflicts of interest rapidly rippled into Halton.

Acton-Esqueving trustee Betty Fisher and Burlington trustee Noel Cooper resigned from the Halton board's salary negotiations committee following a court decision which upheld the suspension of two Toronto trustees for breaching the Ontario Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Toronto trustees Robert Spencer and William Fisher voted on salary contracts for high school teachers while their wives were employed by the Toronto board as elementary school teachers.

In Halton Cooper's wife works for the school board. Cooper sat as chairman of the salary committee.

Long before the supreme court decision Mrs. Fisher asked to be let off the committee. "I asked the board to do it before the appeal because the appeal has nothing to do with it," Mrs. Fisher said in an interview after Thursday's meeting.

"It has not been established that I have a conflict of interest because my husband works for another board." The trustee's husband is a teacher for the Peel Board of Education.

Neither Halton trustee took part in negotiations for the recently agreed teacher contracts.

"Both (Fisher and Cooper) felt the recent emphasis placed on trustees' conflict of interest would hamper their involvements on that committee," new salary committee chairman Bill Lawson said. Lawson, from Milton, is also the board's vice-chairman.

The Supreme Court decision came last Wednesday and by Thursday the Halton board's agenda had been revised to include a list of new salary committee members.

Mr. Justice Sydney Robins referring to the Toronto trustees said the contract settlement by the secondary school teachers would "influence the course of negotiations and terms of agreement of elementary school teachers."

One Toronto trustee was suspended for one month and the other for two months.

The legislation states that an elected official must declare his interest and not try to influence voting or vote on a question where he has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest. The interest of an elected official includes the interest of a spouse or other relative living in the same home.

Break-ins net thieves money

Thieves netted more than \$600 worth of cigarettes and cash from two Queen St. break-ins last week.

Halton Regional Police are continuing investigations into break-ins at Shorthills Chalet service station and the Olympia Drive-In Restaurant Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

Most of the money, \$550 in bills and \$40 in change, was taken from the restaurant's till. The cigarette machine was also pried open. Entry was gained by smashing through a glass door on the east side.

The rear window of the gas station was smashed open as a way for thieves to get inside. About \$50 worth of cigarettes were

taken. Five dollars in small change was also stolen.

A school-type chemistry scale valued at \$50 was stolen from a room in Beardmore April 23. Entry was gained through a window.

A town juvenile was charged by police with theft over \$200 after a man reported \$170 sterling missing from his room. The youth is also charged with possessing narcotics and breach of recognizance.

Would-be thieves also smashed window glass in order to get inside the

Canadian Legion building. They pried open three beer coolers. Value of the damage was set by police at \$400.

A car was stolen from

the rear parking lot at the Dominion Hotel. The vehicle is owned by one of the employees.

Three bikes were reported stolen last week.

Prime Minister to visit Halton

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau will visit Halton riding on Saturday, May 5.

Mr. Trudeau will speak at a public meeting at the Oakville Centre, 130 Navy Street, Oakville. Doors will open at 10

a.m., and the program will start at 10:30 a.m.

Dr. Philbrook said that in addition to a major policy address by the Prime Minister, those who attend will be treated to a superb musical program



Louis Montgomery, R.R. 3, Grand Valley, died Monday night when the car he was driving north on Highway 7 near Park Toyota collided with a southbound truck driven by Andrew Morrison, Rexway Drive, Georgetown. Morrison suffered minor injuries in the crash. Montgomery's Marquis came to rest on the west side of the highway. Georgetown firefighters washed down the road afterwards.

Grand Valley man dies in Highway 7 smash-up

A Grand Valley man died and two others suffered injuries in a car-truck smash-up on Highway 7, near Park Toyota, Monday evening.

Louis Montgomery, R.R. 3, Grand Valley, died as a result of the collision at 6:05 p.m., according to Milton OPP. Montgomery, 23, was driving a northbound 1977 Marquis.

The car went off the road, jumped the ditch and came to rest on the west side of the highway south of Casselman Fuels.

Andrew Morrison, 22, of Georgetown was driving

a truck southbound. Morrison, 30 Rexway Dr., suffered minor injuries, police say. For a time the truck was on its roof. Morrison had a passenger, 22-year-old Brian Herfort of R.R. 2, Acton.

Details are sketchy. At publication police had not established a cause of the mishap or estimated damage.

Georgetown firefighters were at the scene to wash down the road of debris.

For about an hour after the accident, traffic in both lanes was delayed because of the clean up.

Shooting incident

Judge waives plea preliminary court set

A preliminary hearing was ordered last Thursday for an Acton man accused of a weapons offence, after failure of efforts to try him on less serious fire-arms charge.

Milton Provincial Court Judge John Robinson scheduled the preliminary hearing after the crown joined the defence to hold a trial for Cosimo Mercuri, R.R. 4, on a charge of careless use of a firearm.

A plea of guilty to the charge was floated, but after listening to Crown Attorney Terry Vale read witnesses' statements, Judge Robinson refused to accept the plea.

The crown earlier indicated to the judge the

lesser charge was more appropriate based on the three statements.

The original charge was attempted to cause bodily harm with intent to endanger life.

The charge rose from a March 4 shooting incident in front of the Mercuri home south of town. Mr. Mercuri is alleged to have fired a .22 calibre bullet at the husband of a woman, who with her three children, was seeking refuge after a family dispute.

A preliminary hearing helps the court determine if there is sufficient evidence in the case to warrant a full trial.

Normally a preliminary hearing involves a

ban on publication in the press of details surrounding the accused and the incident. Defence counsel Gord Chapman asked the court for similar protection regarding the statements heard Thursday.

"I really don't have the power," replied Judge Robinson, however, he went on to indicate to reporters no evidence was accepted by the court and the not guilty plea stricken. "I hope the press will restrain itself."

The crown tried to proceed with a summary conviction on the lesser charge of careless use of a firearm. The maximum jail sentence with a summary conviction would be six months. On the more serious charge the maximum sentence is 14 years.

Music Festival in Acton school next Wednesday

Schools from Acton, Milton, and Georgetown will all be meeting at Acton's M.Z. Bennett for the annual music festival next Wednesday.

Ten schools will be competing in the various categories. These schools are Acton's M.Z. Bennett, Robert Little, and MacKenzie-Smith Middle school, Brookville, Georgetown's Howard Wrigglesworth, Harrison, Glen Williams and Georgetown District Christian school, and Milton's Martin St., and Percy W. Merry.

All competitions will take place in the gym, with Mel Evans, Oakville as adjudicator. Mr. Evans is a former music teacher and music consultant with the Halton Board of Education. He is now retired.

ICG meets Davis in private at Q P

The Interested Citizens' Group (ICG) is once again going to the top of the province's political system to press its case for an independent review of a controversial Ontario Hydro corridor.

Ontario Premier William Davis will receive some ICG members in a private meeting Thursday afternoon at Queen's Park, according to ICG sources.

For years the ICG asked for an independent—non-Ontario Hydro—study of the 109-mile Bruce-Milton corridor route. Recently the scope of the requested study has been limited to the area where the line has not been built—within Halton Hills.

As planned the 500 kV corridor from the Bruce nuclear generating station would slice down the centre of Halton Hills to link up with an equal strength east-west corridor.

The east-west corridor received an independent study by the Soland Commission. However, the north-south line has been looked at in pieces by lesser bodies, such as the Environmental Hearing Board in 1975.

The ICG, Halton Hills and the region are involved in appeals of previous decisions such as the most recent one by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) which confirmed the planned Ontario Hydro route. Later provincial cabinet supported the OMB.

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