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Spirits damp but not down for Back to Acton Days

by Helen Murray
It was "the Acton celebration of confederation" and even heavy rain did not dampen the spirits of hundreds of enthusiasts on the holiday weekend during the third annual Back to Acton Days festivities.

Heavy fog and drizzle Friday night were just an introduction to the thunderstorms of Saturday and the steady downfall Sunday. However, except for cancellations on Sunday, the weekend went off without a hitch.

The celebrations kicked off Friday evening as Joyce Carpenter's Dancers gave a display of their talents. Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy cut the ribbon to officially start the fun.

Mr. Pomeroy and regional councillor and weekend organizer Ed Wood were presented with t-shirts bearing the weekend's logo. Halton member of provincial parliament Julien Reed was unable to make the opening.

While the Acton Citizens' Band played the national anthem, Corp. Paul Carter of 756 Air Cadet Squadron raised the Canadian flag at the cenotaph. The crowd then sang Bobby Gimby's centennial song, "Canada", substituting "It's the 100th anniversary of confederation" with "It's the Acton celebration of confederation."

Square dancing demonstrations by students of Robert Little teacher Bob McGregor, and a group from Brampton also delighted spectators.

Early birds took part in the Health Hustle early Saturday morning.

In the early morning fog, three call-thumpian parades formed in the various parts of town to eventually converge on the main street mall. Just as the parades got underway, the heavens opened and drenched marchers, musicians, clowns, cowboy's and everyone else who came out to take part in the event. However, most felt they were already wet, and a little more water wouldn't hurt them. They continued as planned.

Once downtown, rain soaked booths began to come out of the woodwork to set up again.

Most were dressed in costumes. There was Paul Neilsen in a 19th century suit, Pat Wood as a pioneer lady, husband Ed in bloomers, black leotards and a t-shirt which read Pie Eyed Piper, Terry Grubbe as another pioneer lady, Kay Dills as a cowboy, Alma Sweetman as a clown, husband Dave as a lone musketeer, and hundreds more.

A special presentation was made by Pop Main and Pat Wood to Mrs. Doris Browne, who retires this week after manning C.K. Browne's Confectionery on Main St. for 23 years.

A disco dancing demonstration by Alex Pitt and Ivy Martin was held as were a bike decorating contest at J & T Sports and a baby buggy and stroller contest at Toddlers to Teens.

Another downpour did not scare off merrymakers as they ran for cover. Once the rain stopped, everyone was back on the streets, waiting for the watermelon seed spitting contest, which drew as many entrants as spectators, at Family Cleaners. A close shave at Stedman's saw Dads and Moms being shaved with wooden stir sticks, by their youngsters.

A Cat and Mutt show attracted pets of all sizes. Big dogs, little dogs, furry cats and big cats were all kept reasonably under control considering the number of animals around.

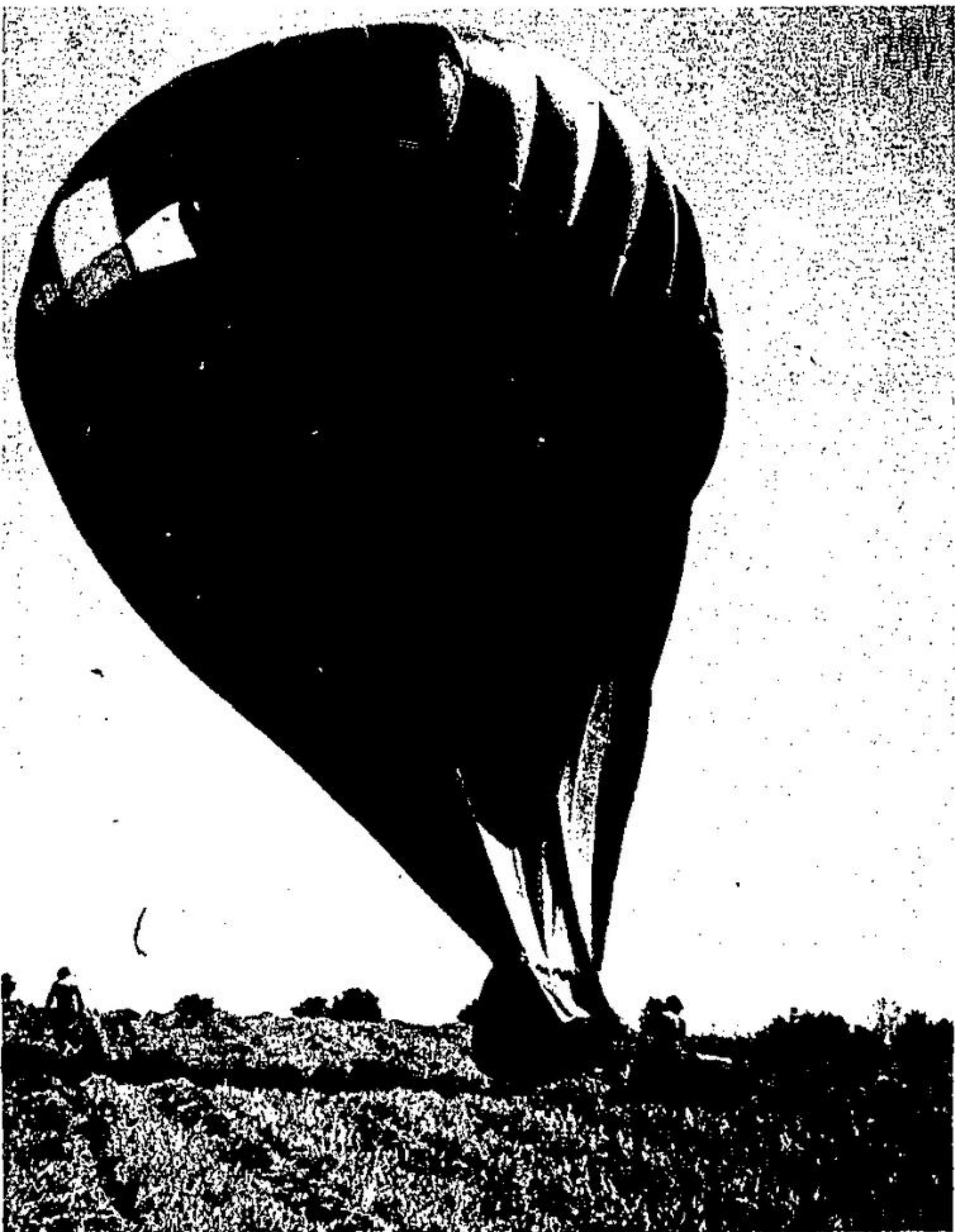
An amateur show was enjoyed by those who wanted to hear some music, and a bingo game at the other end of the street gave those who performed quiet a chance to rest, away from the music.

Family Cleaners held a log sawing contest and a nail hammering contest. A drinking contest was held at Sweetman's Shoes.

A street dance slated for the Station Hotel started but rain was too much competition. After one set outside, members of the band, Jade, were forced to pack up their instruments. Three pigs were barbecued and hungry patrons ate in the hotel rather than in the outdoor Bavarian garden.

Sunday proved to be too dismal a day for most as only the fishing derby.

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Up, up and away in a balloon called "Pot of Gold at the End of the Rainbow." The hot air balloon was caught while landing at the Denny farm on the Fourth Line last week after many spied it drifting over Acton. Piloting the "Rainbow" was an international pilot from London, England, Chris Kirby. Kirby finished eleventh at the recent World Balloonist Championships. A second balloon flown by the top Canadian balloonist, Larry Horack of Toronto was also in flight. The "Rainbow" which made an appearance at Back to Acton Days is owned by Al Russell, R.R. 1, Acton. Photo by ROBIN INSCOPE



Bob Jarett keeps an eye on his daughter Lori as they take part in the close shave contest at Stedman's Saturday during the Back to Acton Days fun. Lori had a bit of trouble working her way around her Dad's existing beard, but eventually found a method to please all. For more Back to Acton Days pictures, turn to page B1.

Trustees want discipline in classrooms

Halton Board of Education may be putting itself on the tracks in seeking answers "for the ever-growing concern of discipline" in classrooms following Thursday's meeting at Burlington.

Acton-Esqueing Trustee Betty Fisher and Oakville's Jackie Cutmore served notice they want the board's staff to draft a discipline policy as soon as possible.

The trustees aimed their notice at setting up procedures with which the board can solve disciplinary problems, written from board knowledge of how far it can go in disciplinary matters.

Lines defining behaviour that earn a suspension and other behaviour worthy of expelling a student are now too vague, according to

trustee Fisher. Interpretation of the Education Act rests with the school board, a position Fisher describes as being "rather dicey".

The Fisher-Cutmore motion is the result of the trustees' groundwork, with tacit approval of board staff, at the ministry level. They sought help from the provincial ministry of education in defining rules governing "extreme cases of behaviour that are present within the Ontario Education system".

The ministry's written opinions are in the board's hands. Halton is waiting on a further opinion from its lawyer before deciding on any action.

As with other notices of motion, the Fisher-Cutmore notice will be dis-

cussed at the next board meeting.

Wording of the motion indicates there is widespread concern on the subject of discipline by people within and without the schools. Also it states there is confusion concerning just what to do about what it terms extreme behaviour.

Trustee Fisher in an earlier interview, defined extreme behaviour as including drug pushing in all Halton schools, physical violence on teachers by students, and on students by other students, as well as vandalism.

Although she said that "in some schools the drug problem is escalating by quite a rate" she said she also believes Halton is well off when compared to other boards such as North York in Metro Toronto. There, according to news stories, teachers are being beaten up by students and intruders. Fisher hopes to avoid a situation such as North York's in Halton.

Fisher says the ministry states cases of serious acts of misbehaviour should follow due process: the principal asking an area superintendent for an expulsion, then a hearing for the student, with possible legal help, followed by a board decision.

What is happening now? Incidents are handled within the school and the board is not always made aware of problems, according to Mrs. Fisher.

Along with the punishment aspect of the motion is a call for fair treatment. "Although it is my firm conviction that our system should be always thoughtful and fair to its students and not over-react to certain situations, I feel we must protect those students who attend school to learn and be good citizens," writes Mrs. Fisher.

The motion is worded similarly to one adopted last month in Peel Region. Peel also has a nine-member discipline committee. A draft discipline policy also is in the works there.

Teacher, Board talks in limbo

Halton's 2400 elementary teachers are not happy with negotiations over wage settlements with the elementary association or a new contract with the secondary school teachers' federation. In fact, Halton Board of Education officials aren't sure whether negotiations have broken down or merely protracted as the result of an incident between the Halton Elementary Teachers Association and the board's salary committee June 19.

The elementary teachers in a letter to board chairman Bill Herd charge the board broke off negotiations at a joint meeting on that date. Board salary committee chairman Trustee Bill Lawson says it was the teachers' chief negotiator who walked out of the joint discussions.

Board chairman Bill Herd called a press conference after last Thursday's regular board meeting to allow Trustee Lawson to field questions from the press. Mr. Lawson

said the board was anxious to get back to the bargaining table with both teacher federations but felt it was too early in talks to bring in a third party (mediator) for the elementary panel.

In a prepared statement for the press, the board noted only the wage issue must be settled with elementary teachers and the request by the teachers for appointment of a mediator by the Education Relations Commission (ERC) was premature. He felt they could still resolve their differences without a third party although the board would bow to the wishes of the ERC.

In another prepared release the board said negotiations with the OSSTF have been hampered rather than helped by the presence of a mediator and after meetings June 20 and 21 requested that negotiations continue without a mediator. "To date, the board has received no word from the OSSTF District 9 whether

they wish to continue negotiations without mediation," the release declares. The board said it would accept the service of a Fact Finder to smooth negotiations over.

Mr. Lawson said talks with the elementary teachers broke down when the teachers' chief negotiator left the room, indicating it was useless to continue negotiations. He said the board had sent a letter to the elementary teachers asking them to resume negotiations without a third party involved but had received no reply. A similar letter was sent to the secondary teachers.

"We're awaiting a response from both federations," Mr. Lawson declared.

The secondary teachers' contract expires August 31 of this year while the elementary teachers' contract goes to August 31 of 1980 with only the wage settlement to be negotiated in 1979.

Earlier, during the board meeting, chair-

man Herd attacked the contents of a letter from Bill Watt, president of the Halton Elementary Teachers' Federation. He said Mr. Watt's remarks were inaccurate, impugned the character of the spokesperson at the table and suggested the board was backing from previous tabled position.

The letter which was given to the press, said that at the outset of negotiations both parties clearly stated their intent to negotiate fairly for the purpose of reaching a settlement without resorting to playing games. The letter said the trustee table spokesman was sympathetic to the need to expedite matters. However, it continued, "subsequent reorganization of the board's committee and installation of a board employee as chief table spokesman contributed to the demise of harmonious relations."

Mr. Watt, whom Mr. Herd said was not pre-

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School trustee gives up seat

Virginia Kennedy has resigned from her trustee post on the Wellington County Board of Education, effective August 27.

Mrs. Kennedy announced her resignation at Monday evening's meeting. She explained to this newspaper she and her family have taken up a business venture in St.

Catharines, and will be selling "The Village Craft Shop" in Erin. Mrs. Kennedy has been on the board for three years, representing Erin village and township. She explained the school board will be appointing someone to fill her seat and expects there will be advertisements in area papers asking for applications.



Balance and skill was necessary for successful completion of the obstacle course at Ballinafad's Canada day. Patty Portell was one of the many taking part.

Bomb squad called to burn dynamite

Peel Regional Police Bomb Squad was called to Milton recently to dispose of two sticks of dynamite found buried in a shed.

Irene Douglas of R. R. 1, Acton arrived in Milton OPP station Thursday morning June 21 with the dynamite after finding it in an old foundation of a shed on her property.

The two sticks were estimated to be approximately 20 years old and "very dangerous" according to Staff Sergeant

Eric Bullock, of Halton Regional Police.

"Once the dynamite starts to deteriorate, it breaks down and the nitro glycerine comes to a point where it starts to seep out," he explained.

Milton OPP officers contacted Halton Regional Police, who in turn called the Peel Regional Police Bomb squad.

A combination of wood chips and coal oil was used to burn the dynamite and dispose of it behind Milton OPP station.

Husband charged in wife's murder

A Cambridge man has been charged with first degree murder following the shooting death of his estranged wife.

Ronald Richard Dube turned himself in to the Guelph detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police Friday, two days after the body of Lisa Dube, 23, also of Cambridge was found at R.R. 1, Rockwood.

Stanley Alfred Hollinshead, of Guelph was arrested by Guelph OPP Monday and charged with accessory after the

fact to first degree murder. He was to appear in Guelph Provincial Court yesterday, (Tuesday).

The investigation is being conducted by the Guelph OPP, under the direction of Detective Inspector Carl Mannik of the Criminal Investigation Branch, Toronto.

Police failed to say whether Mrs. Dube was killed on the Rockwood site, or if her body was later disposed of there.



Beardmore garden is a perfect setting for a retirement party for men who have retired from that company. Left to right, Peter Dunham, president, latest retirees, Cecil Curtis, Edward Connon, and Lorne Youngblut, and past president (1953-1968) Wes Beatty

got together to discuss old times. Other retirees since the last party were Cosmo Mangeri, Gordon Lambert, Roman Mokrycki, Victor Elliott, Joseph Pavil, James Higgins and John McPherson.

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