

Will ask council for mosquito spraying

Halton Hills council will be asked this month to investigate the possibility of having a mosquito spraying program in Acton and area this summer.

For the second week in a row Christina Houston, 215 Churchill Road North, visited the ward one councillors' drop-in to discuss a spraying program.

She has been researching mosquito spraying, including reviewing an Ontario Ministry of Environment report dealing with spraying in Halton Hills and other communities in 1976.

Mrs. Houston told Councillors Terry Grubbe and Ross Knechtel she has talked to an expert on mosquito spraying, Dr. Gordon Sturgeon from the University of Guelph, and he says there are methods and chemicals which can be used in a spraying program without damaging the environment.

She said she has now talked to about 25 residents

about a mosquito spraying program with only one person against it. Grubbe said she has received three calls supporting mosquito spraying in Acton.

Mrs. Houston plans to collect the names of mosquito spraying supporters and present them to council this month, along with a request that the town investigate having a program. She invites people who want to see a mosquito spraying program to call her at 853-2763.

She doesn't want to see environmentally harmful sprays used, but has learned a program can be brought in which will rid the area of mosquitoes safely. Mrs. Houston notes before the town could spray it would have to get a permit from the province and Queen's Park will recommend safe sprays.

Knechtel noted the engineer has said in the past he won't spray unless ordered by the Medical Officer of Health because there were so many en-

vironmental concerns and complaints about spraying when it was done in 1976. The councillor commented the complaints may not have been justified and people may not have known all the facts about the spraying program.

He recalled mosquitoes were bad in Acton and area last year because there were a number of areas of high grass and a lot of rain.

Mrs. Houston said people aren't concerned about just mosquitoes, which she described as "huge" last summer, but also black flies that seem to be coming further south each year. She herself is allergic to the bites, swells up badly, and must wear a mosquito net when in her garden.

Mrs. Houston noted there are many people who are allergic to mosquito bites, particularly children, and she spoke to one woman who must take a serum for bites.

Dr. Sturgeon is willing to appear before council and answer questions about safe spraying programs, Mrs. Houston added. He will also be sending her pamphlets about what to do about stings and she will make that information available to residents.

When spraying was done in 1976 it cost the town only \$2,500. The town would only be able to spray public lands, not private property.

Mrs. Houston recalled the summer of 1976 was excellent for her and others in avoiding mosquito bites.



Confirmation of young St. Alban's Anglican Church members took place Sunday. They are from left to right front row: David Deforest, Carolyn Sewell, Rebecca Stansbury, David Gilber, Karen Watzek, Shelley Lindsay. Back row: Rector Arthur Tribe, Chaplain Grant Punccheon, Rt. Rev. Kenneth Maguire, Cheryl Gilbert. Absent for the photo were: Lynn and Mardell Phillips, Karen Little, Donald Johnston, Leslie Johnston.

Library looseleaf

by Esther Taylor

Was the Australian-born actor who played Robin Hood, Captain Blood and Gentleman Jim a Nazi spy? Yes, according to Charles Higham, author of *Errol Flynn: the Untold Story*. Given access to FBI, navy and army intelligence files Higham concluded: "Errol Flynn could have been tried for treason. The world-famous star could have ended his life on the hangman's noose." This is the theme of his astonishing new biography.

Back-when movie goers (a more innocent gullible breed than today's fans) would never have suspected that Flynn, heroism and patriotism personified, was bisexual. The *Untold Story* discloses the superstar's sexual encounters with Howard Hughes, and Tyrone Power; and his one-night stand in New York with Truman Capote, author of *In Cold Blood*. In his espionage role, Flynn worked with Dr. Herman F. Erben, a leading SS man who outfitted the actor, escaped the noose, and reportedly, reformed, devoting his later years to the study of leprosy among the aborigines.

Higham also wrote the best-selling *Kate: the Life of Katherine Hepburn*, and *Marlene: the Life of Marlene Dietrich*.

Tilly Trotter is a beguiling new Catherine Cookson heroine, whose life in Victorian England will be chronicled in a trilogy, of which Tilly Trotter is the first novel. It's a must for Cookson fans.

The many readers of Frederick Forsythe's thrillers, will not be disappointed in his latest best-seller, *The Devil's Alternative*. This is a one-sitting story (if one has the time) packed with tension and excitement. The plot is so timely it could be the framework of a current newspaper story and the locale is our modern troubled world, with action in Washington, London, Rotterdam, Moscow and the North Sea. The hero, Adam Munroe, a British Intelligence

agent, literally has the last laugh in a wackeroo ending. It's the president of the United States who faces the devil's alternative, knowing: "Whatever option I choose, men are going to die."

A favorite saying by a local library staffer makes the point: X that horticlans and scientists are our ruination. Reading the *Devil's Alternative* one is reminded anew how the average Joe is at the mercy of political leaders.

A glorious spring day after a bout of unseasonable cold might have been to blame for an outbreak of speculation among staffers about the ten books they would choose if exiled to a desert island. First choice for the Junior department head was Nicholas Monsarrat's *The Cruel Sea* while his Acton colleague chose Pearl Buck's *The Good Earth*. Another staff bookworm opted first for Mary Webb's *Precious Bane*, rated: "one of the most beautiful books I have ever read."

The library's one copy of *Precious Bane* vanished from its shelf more than a few years ago. However a book and rummage sale addict jubilantly located the book in fair condition at a recent garage sale. It was, she said, like finding a treasure. osthro's an ideal time for re-reading *Precious Bane*, which was published in 1924, winning for Mary Webb the "Femina View Heuresse" Prize for the best work of imagination in prose or verse descriptive of English life by an author who had not attained sufficient recognition. The scene of *Precious Bane* is the country of north Shropshire meres—the Ellesmere district. The dialect is south Shropshire. It is the England of Waterloo.

Among April fiction on hand are: *Von Ryan's Return*, David Westheimer; *Dragon Lady*, Donald Silver Cameron; *Niagara*, Robert Lewis Taylor; *A Very Private War*, Jon Cleary; *Stormy Affair*, Margaret Mayo; *Spirit Wrestler*, James Houston; *The Queen Comes to Minnicog*, James Bacque.

The idea of Canada

When this country was being put together, the different parts had no intention to become one homogeneous whole. Far from it, we wouldn't sign a thing until we saw good solid guarantees that our differences would be left alone. We agreed to the obligations of partnership in order to gain the advantages.

As partners Canadians succeeded and prospered for over a century. We didn't become a melting-pot. We kept our separate identities. We shouted at one another for the whole time, and we helped one another. The idea of Canada worked well.

But now that idea is being forgotten. The partners are ignoring their obligations, and angling for advantage over each other. One region after another is saying "to Hell with Canada—we come first".

Ordinary Canadians haven't suddenly become more narrow and greedy. The country is coming unglued because our governments are grabbing for power that doesn't belong to them.

Ottawa has been enlarging its role wherever its money and its legislative powers could infiltrate. The federal government has made itself a direct threat to provincial autonomy, like a bookkeeper controlling the actions of his board of directors.

And the provinces have responded to federal power raiding with full confrontation. They are building walls to stop the flow of people, jobs, capital, business, even dialogue within this nation. They seem to be hedging against the breakup of Canada by taking everything they can get their hands on while the country is still intact.

As the walls go up, the idea of Canada dies. What does it mean to be a Canadian if you are gouged by one part of your country and forbidden to work in another, if you are subsidizing this area and are not allowed to invest in that, if you can do business more easily in other nations than in other provinces?

Canada came together 113 years ago so that all its component parts would gain the joint strength to go about life and business without interference. Now we may break apart because of the interference of our own governments.

Somehow, before it's too late, we have to get a message through to our empire-building politicians and bureaucrats. Canada is a good idea. It works fine when you leave it alone. *Leave it alone.*

Churchill speeding worries

Churchill Road South residents are worried about the safety of their children because of continual speeding on the road.

Monday night James McGuire, spokesman for the residents, told Halton Hills general committee "I don't want to bury my child."

In a letter to the committee the residents on the street complained about speeding, noting the problem is compounded by the number of children living on the road. McGuire, 59 Churchill Road South, sold a quick survey of Churchill Road showed there are over 40 children living on the street and one woman has 12 grandchildren visiting. Some homeowners are fencing their back yard, but children still get out to play.

He told committee cars are moving so fast residents can't even spot licence plates.

The residents propose speed bumps, or stop signs at Churchill and Westcott Road and Churchill and Orville Road.

McGuire asked what council proposed to do about the problem and how long it would take to reach a decision. He said there isn't much of a pol-

ice presence on the street, or in Acton for that matter. McGuire observed stop signs may not even solve the problem since the penalty for running a stop sign is only \$28, and three demerit points, and who is around to catch the driver anyway. He urged speed bumps, despite the fact they will cause problems, since bumps will stop speeding. He said the town could put markers (Continued on page 12)

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