

Film star, circus coming here

A movie star that once played opposite the famed Burt Reynolds is expected to come to Acton May 21. The star is an elephant. The animal appeared in Smokey and the Bandit Part Two.

The Acton Business Improvement Area (BIA) is booking the Martin & Downs Circus to come to town, but they are still trying to nail down a site for the show.

The preferred location for the big top is the Dominion Hotel property on Main St. North where the new IGA plaza will be built.

Ed Wood, who is working on this BIA project, said at first it was thought the Dominion Hotel site would be too small, but with the demolition of the adjacent old house it may be large enough now. The BIA is leasing the land for downtown parking until the

plaza project begins.

The BIA is also looking at the site of the new St. Joseph's School on Mill St. West as a possible location. The Legion parking lot has been rejected because it is needed for parking for bingo and Prospect Park is also out because the soil is too soft still in May recreation department officials felt.

The whole show is under the big top and besides the elephant there will be horses and other animal attractions, trapeze artists and jugglers.

The BIA also hopes to hold a week-long circus promotion downtown the week this attraction comes to town.

Any profits from bringing the circus to Acton will be funneled back into the community.



Blaire Smith: missing a week.

Police search for young couple AHS students have vanished

Police throughout Canada and the United States are searching for two Acton youths who vanished last Tuesday afternoon.

Blaire Smith, 18, daughter of Lorne and Sally Smith, 24 Rosemary Rd., and Ross Rennie, 19, son of Gerald and Joyce Rennie, 67 Churchill Rd. North, haven't been heard from since the afternoon of March 10. Ross works at Becker's and the Brewer's Retail outlet and both go to Acton High School. The couple is engaged to be married.

Guelph OPP found a car belonging to Mr. Smith at Rockwood Conservation Area Thursday afternoon. The park was searched by the OPP, with Halton

Regional Police on the scene, and water areas were also checked. There was no sign of the pair.

Inspector Matt McPherson, Halton Regional Police, said a Canadian Police Information Centre bulletin was posted for the two youths Friday so officers right across Canada and the United States are on the lookout for them.

He said police have no theories regarding the disappearance and the trail simply ends at Rockwood Conservation Area. Halton Police and OPP continue to investigate.

Anyone having seen the youths or knowing their whereabouts is urged to contact police.

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Just a handful of the dozens and dozens and dozens of Acton and area school children who participated in the successful annual Rotary Skate-a-thon Sunday. They have their skates laced up and are waiting for their turn to get on the ice and do their laps. Front row, left to right, Joanne Lewis, Michelle Perry, Christy Dunn and Shelly Matlocks. Second row, Kelly Higgins, Kim Scott, Heather Ormsby and Jane Dawkins. Back row, Emma Martin, Amanda McKinnon and Mary Moore. More skate-a-thon photos on page 3. This Week Thru the Lens. Photo by LYNDA HILL

Australian student discovers Canada a chilling experience

By Diana Waltmann

The biggest difference between Canada and Australia says 16-year-old Jennifer Nunan, is the climate.

She punctuates the statement with a sneeze. Jennifer, who turns 17 April 2, and who is this year's Rotary Club exchange student, is living far from home.

She comes from Alexandra, a small, rural town in the state of Victoria. She is 80 miles from the city of Melbourne which is for those unfamiliar with the land "down under" on the southern tip of Australia.

Alexandra says Jennifer, is like Acton, only smaller. There are 5,000 people in the "shire" with 2,000 living in town.

Alexandra High School is smaller as well, with only 450 students, and runs on a different structure.

For one thing she is in form six—grade 12 over here, and takes classes for a full year. She takes two maths, physics, chemistry, biology and English.

But when she arrived in Canada she found herself in the semester system and enrolled in grade nine French and music, grade 11 physical education, and grade 13 English at Acton High School.

Of the two systems Jennifer says she prefers AHS and semesters. "I like the variety, instead of doing the same thing all year round." She added she also prefers AHS to Alexandra High because it's bigger

and more modern.

Except for the charming Australian accent tall, slim Jennifer fits right in with the students at AHS, blue jeans and all.

Fashion she states, is similar to Canada's. In Australia 16-year-old girls constantly wear jeans as well, although some put on dresses now and then.

Teenagers listen to the same music—Pink Floyd's The Wall was a smash last year. Queen is another popular group said Jennifer but the American band Kiss, a grunge-looking, fire-breathing, blood-spitting trio are hottest band in Australia, while in

their native country, their popularity is waning.

"Everything is Kiss," says Jennifer, with an air of disgust. "Buttons, posters..." She adds their music is okay, but she "can't stand them."

Jennifer says she listens to a variety of music including that of a popular Australian pop band Skyhooks.

All of the music she says, is featured on the television program Countdown, an Australian version of American Bandstand that enjoys the same longevity.

Other popular programs she continues, are English comedies Man 'Bout the House, it's spinoff George and Mildred, The Goodies, a variety show called Don Lane (similar to Tonight Show), Prisoner (called Caged Women over here), Doctor Who and even the Love Boat.

Dallas is shown she says, but it's not as popular as in North America or Britain.

Jennifer says she's not much of a television watcher, but Terry Grubbe, with whom she is staying, says Jennifer is addicted to Canadian television.

"Well, I prefer Canadian T.V.," Jennifer says.

(Continued on page 10)

Two killed in car crash

A 20-year-old Georgetown man was one of two men killed in a single car crash early Sunday morning on Kingham Road and Highway 25 in Acton.

Anthony Creagan, R.R. 2, Georgetown and Antonio Bellissimo, 18, of Mississauga were killed when the 1974 Firebird they were in struck the curb, a fire hydrant and light standard and flipped over before landing on its roof. Mark Casey, 17, of Mississauga is in stable condition at Sunnybrook hospital according to Halton Regional Police. The accident occurred at 3:01 a.m., Sunday.



Jennifer and Fred... Fred is the stuffed Koala 16-year-old Jennifer Nunan brought with her from Australia. Jennifer is this year's Rotary Club exchange student.

OK rezoning new IGA plaza

In an effort to speed up development of the new IGA plaza on the site of the Dominion Hotel, Halton Hills planning board last Tuesday night decided to approve rezoning of a small piece of the land without the usual public meeting.

Monday night the bylaw permitting the rezoning was approved by Halton Hills council.

Plans for the development have been revamped in the two months since it was announced. Work on the plaza containing a 15,000 square foot IGA store and six to eight small retail outlets totalling 7,300 square feet won't begin until June at the earliest now.

When the development was originally announced it was to be in two buildings, constructed in two phases with work starting in May. Now it is one building in one phase.

A brick home to the north of the hotel site will be retained. Lawyers' offices are located in this building. Originally it was to be taken down and part of the second phase of this project would be on that land.

Planning staff had recommended the rezoning of a small part of the site be the subject of a public meeting, but Councillor Terry Grubbe urged the meeting be skipped.

She said there was a time constraint, adding all details of the plan would still have to be approved for a site plan agreement so the town was protected.

Gord Chapman, lawyer for the developers Doug Fread, Acton, and Roman Kassian, Toronto, explained four properties are involved in the project, including the hotel land which is already zoned commercial.

He said the Lindsay property to the north of the hotel land was approved for severance by land division committee on the condition the rezoning is approved.

The deal was to close at the start of March, but has been held up for the rezoning. Chapman said Lindsay has agreed to an extension of a couple of weeks to give the town the chance to approve the rezoning.

The project is to the point now where there are "a whole raft of things to be dealt with yet."

Chapman warned the developers were taking a risk by not insisting on a public meeting, and don't want an appeal of the rezoning any more than the town. He added if they had been able to meet the deadline for Lindsay they wouldn't be opting for the rezoning without the public meeting.

Several councillors expressed concern about skipping the public meeting. Harry Levy said he was all for the plaza development, but was concerned about dropping the usual public meeting. He noted the town has received no objections to the proposal yet but still could. Marilyn Serjeantson was worried about the town running "into trouble" with the rezoning because the usual procedures weren't followed.

Both Councillors Mike Armstrong and Ross Knechtel said the public meeting wasn't necessary because only a small corner was being rezoned.

Kassian said there were other issues still to be resolved, such as parking, which deputy planner



96 years young

Essie (Elizabeth) Rennieck is celebrating her 96th birthday at Eden House Nursing Home today. Mrs. Rennieck, who lived many years with her husband Thomas in Orangeville, was born in Amaranth Township. Mrs. Rennieck, who has been living at Eden House for about three years, said she is visited by relatives from Campbellville. World affairs interest Essie and she reads books from the Erasmus library. In spring and summer she is often seen removing the dead blooms from garden flowers around the home. She was a member of Westminster United Church and a member of UCW in Orangeville. She and her husband were able to mark their 60th wedding anniversary together. Essie shares with Jenny Hamilton the distinction of being the oldest residents at Eden House.

It's your choice tomorrow

Tomorrow, (Thursday), over 52,000 Halton-Burlington residents are eligible to vote in the provincial election. The polls are open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., not the usual 8 p.m.

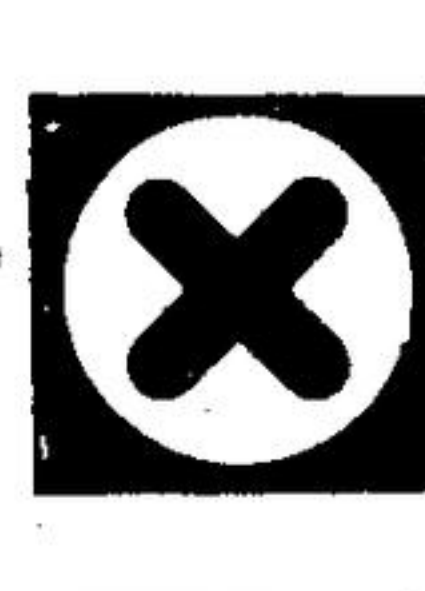
Turn inside for an election editorial as well as interviews with each of the candidates.



Fran Baines



Chris Cutler



Julian Reed



inside

Pentecostal minister Pastor Brian Rennieck is heading for Zambia. Details on page 2.

The transit service for the disabled has been approved by council. More on page 5.

Florida and other points south are still the hot vacation spots with Acton travellers. See story on page B4.