



Elizabeth Morrison, Anne Lindsay and Laurel Benville, three students hired to conduct the Leathertown history research project this summer, review files of information.

Leathertown student researchers find

Newfoundland-Acton link in leather industry for years

Two towns in Newfoundland have been sending workers to Beardmore ever since the 1800s.

There seems to be some connection dating back many, many years between Acton and Botwood and Point Leamington Newfoundland. Applicants from those two towns have been coming to Beardmore ever since the last century and still are coming.

Recently three more applicants showed up from Botwood and Point Leamington and were asked by Beardmore personnel manager Donald Rankin why they come to Acton. Their answer was when growing up they repeatedly heard they had three occupation options in adulthood; they could work in fishing, the lumber industry or come to Acton and work in leather.

This is just one of the Leathertown tid-bits being probed by three students after first week of research here.

The trio doesn't know how the Acton-Newfoundland connection was born but they hope they'll find out sometime in the next 15 weeks.

Anne Lindsay, Laurel Benville and Elizabeth Morrison started on their summer project on May 25 and have been pouring through microfilm copies

of the Acton Free Press searching out Leathertown information.

The federal government gave the Leathertown committee \$9,072 a few weeks ago to hire three students to probe the leather industry history in Acton so a walking history tour can be established here.

Ms. Lindsay, the project supervisor, is a veteran at this type of summer work. The 22-year-old University of Guelph honors BA graduate in history and sociology worked on a similar project last summer and is already familiar with Acton.

Last summer she and some other students delved into the history of the communities between Lake Ontario and Acton on Highway 25, including Bronte, Merton, Palermo, Boyne, Milton, and Speyside. This project differs because much more research and details are needed about a single community and the role an industry played in its development.

Ms. Lindsay plans to attend the University of Western Ontario this fall to earn her masters in library science.

Ms. Benville is 18 and takes illustration at Sheridan College's Brampton campus. While she's enjoying the research work she is especially looking

forward to the last half of the summer when she will start doing drawings of buildings in town as they looked years ago for a booklet as well as the walking tour markers; glass cases containing photographs, drawings and short stories about the Leathertown significance of what tourists are looking at.

A 20-year-old University of Western Ontario history and psychology student, Ms. Morrison looks at this summer's job as the start of her career. She expects to be doing this kind of research work the rest of her life.

The three young women are working under the direction of Leathertown officials Chip Petrillo and Donald Rankin.

Besides searching the back issues of this newspaper the women plan to try and find out about Acton's leather industry prior to 1875. They've got a whole list of books to read, one has already started on Acton's Early Days; they will search through Beardmore archives; the Ontario archives; old insurance maps; and registry office documents.

But they figure their greatest resource will be the citizens of Acton. Already they've compiled a list of (Continued on page 2)

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Leathertown seeks Wintario draw

Acton's Leathertown Committee is trying to bring the Wintario draw to town. Leathertown chairman Chip Petrillo revealed in an interview this week that recently the committee contacted lottery officials about doing a draw at Acton High School and they were receptive to the idea.

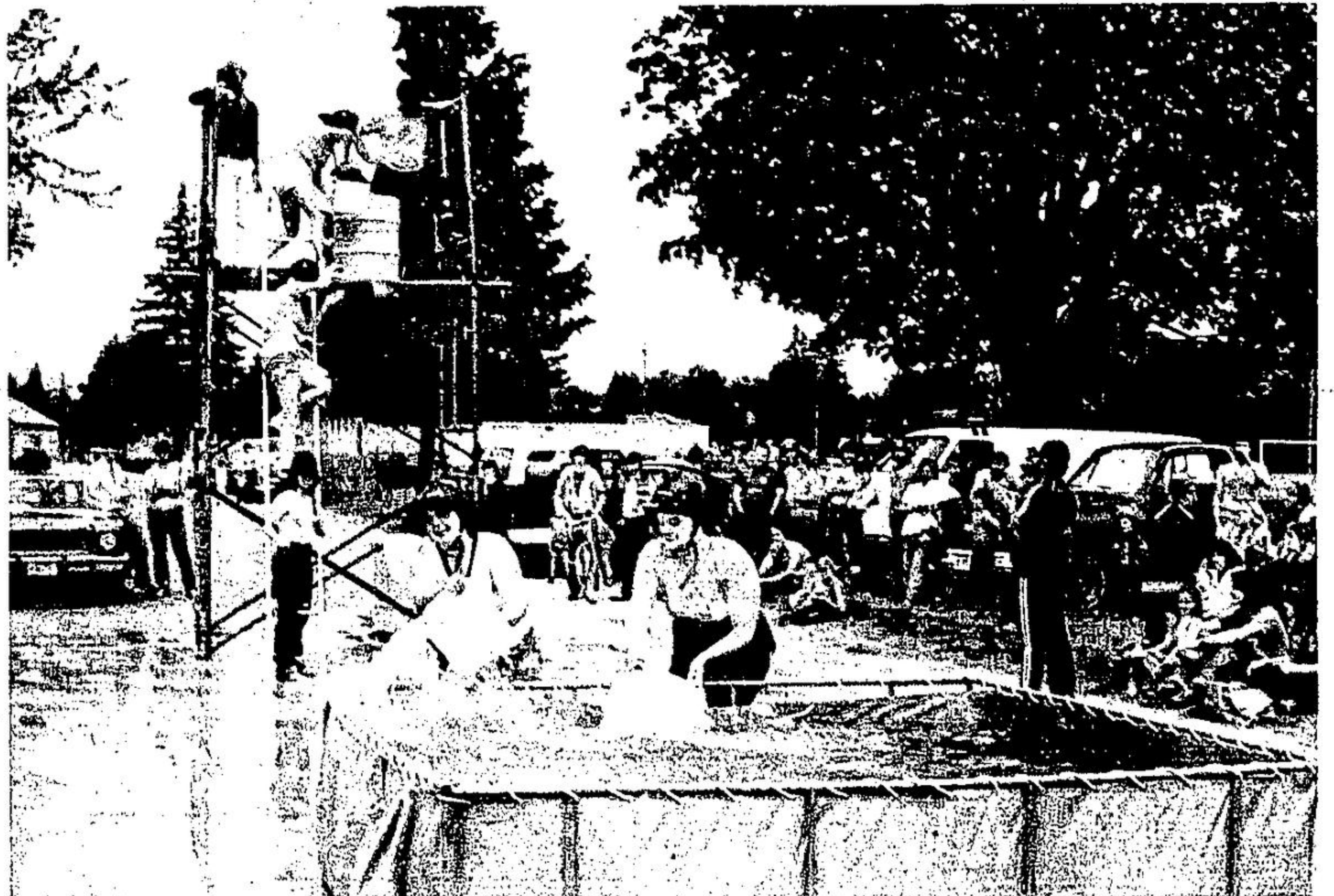
He noted it would be great publicity for Acton throughout the province as well as a fun event for residents.

Before they do a draw in a town Wintario officials come out and learn a bit about the community and then talk about the town during the weekly Wintario draw broadcasts.

Petrillo noted they aren't booked that far in advance for draw show locations so it could fairly soon that a draw is held here.

He said the committee would prefer the draw is held after the summer when students have completed their research of the leather industry. That way the program hosts could talk about Acton as Leathertown.

Another plus working in Acton's favor for a Wintario draw is there have been some sizeable winners here in recent months and the lottery crew likes to have previous winners in the audience to talk to during the program.



Pat Andrews and Janet Marshall dunk their buckets while Rosie Frederickson, Susan Hewitt and Marie Frueter are on the ladder passing the buckets and filling the barrel in the bucket race. Not seen in the picture is another Acton ladies' team member Anne Davies. The Acton team placed third in a field of three in the bucket race competitions held Saturday at Prospect Park. The Acton Firefighters hosted the waterball and bucket race competitions in which Grand Valley and Ingewood teams cleaned up. See story page 6. Photo by GORD MURRAY



Polypenco staff joined Guelph City officials for the official sod turning for the firm's new plant in Guelph Thursday. Pictured here, left to right, are Ian Weir, Tim Vollick, Peter Pavli, Stephen Cole, Nancy Cowan-Cornelisse, Carol Fuller, Bryan Iredale, Junita Lamarche, Ralph Smith the Guelph Industrial Commissioner, Guelph Mayor Norm Jary, Polypenco manager Michael Worthington, Wayne Redwood of Aris Construction, David Barclay-Smith, Mike Rao, Colin "Tip" Baker, and Murray Reid. Absent is Kathleen Hayward.

Polypenco breaks ground for new plant in Guelph

Polypenco in Acton closed down for a couple of hours Thursday morning so the entire staff could witness the sod turning ceremony at the site of the firm's new home in Guelph.

City of Guelph officials joined plant manager Michael Worthington and the Acton staff for the brief ceremony at 11.30 a.m.

Polypenco announced last month the firm was moving to Guelph in October or November of this year after 14 years in Acton.

The new 20,000 square foot plant will be built in the Hanlon Industrial Park.

Worthington said there has been an indication almost all of the company's 14 employees in Acton will be moving with Polypenco to Guelph, although there is some concern about commuting costs on the part of the workers. He added Polypenco will review the situation to see what can be done to relieve workers' reluctance regarding travelling cost.

Acton man charged in fatal accident

Guelph OPP have closed the books on a two-year-old hit and run investigation after charging an Acton man with criminal negligence causing death, failing to remain at the scene of an accident and impaired driving.

Barry Alexander Wilson, 34, turned himself into the Guelph detachment last week after news reports were broadcast earlier stating police were looking for him.

Joan Montanna Sheppard, 44, of Rockwood was

charged with being an accessory after the fact.

Wilson was charged in connection with the fatal hit-and-run accident in September, 1979, in which James Cowan, 26, of Guelph, was killed. Cowan police said, had stopped his motorcycle on the shoulder of County Road 27 about a mile north of Rockwood when a northbound truck left the road hitting the motorcycle and killing Cowan instantly. The truck fled the scene.

The charges against the pair are the result of a

two month follow-up investigation by OPP Constables Rick Dwinell and Ken Russell. The investigation had died out when police initially could come up with no leads.

Nab Acton cat burglar

A 16 year old "cat burglar" has been nabbed by Halton Regional Police and charged in connection with 14 break and enter incidents since May 12.

Halton Regional Police Detective Ron Southgate said the "cat burglar" entered the homes during the night while the families were asleep. None of the homes were entered by force.

An Acton youth, Donald Lawrence of RR 1, is believed responsible for 13 Georgetown house entries and one Acton entry. He was arrested Tuesday on a possession of a narcotic and held in custody. Further investigation linked Lawrence with the cat burglar case.

Southgate says 11 of the entries involved theft of an item, usually money, two were break and enter with intent to steal and one incident was an attempted break and enter.

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Halton Board of Education trustees agree with principals about revisions to Canada's drug laws. Turn to page 2.

The Acton Optimists held a bike rodeo on Saturday. See pictures and story on page 3.

The Acton Citizens' Band held its spring concert Sunday night. Story and photos on page 5.

Decoration Day here Sunday

The annual Decoration Day parade and service will be held in Acton this Sunday, June 7.

The parade will form up at the Post Office on Bower Avenue at 2.15 p.m. and move off to Fairview Cemetery at 2.30 p.m. A bus will be provided for those needing transportation to the cemetery. Ab Irwin should be contacted at the Acton Legion, Branch 197, regarding transportation.

Hugh O'Rourke will be the parade Marshal. The Acton Citizens' Band will march the parade.

The service, conducted by the Acton Ministerial Association, will begin around 3 p.m. Decoration Day is a community effort when friends and family remember and honor the dead with tributes and flowers. Following the service the organizations will place geraniums on the graves of deceased members.

Groups slated to participate in Decoration Day include the Legion, Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, Lakeside IOOE, Duke of Devonshire IOOE, Acton Chamber of Commerce, Halton Hills Council, Dublin WI, Acton Firefighters, Rotary Club, Friends-in-Deed, Golden Age Club and Salvation Army.



Members of the Acton Legion, Branch 197, color party and Acton Citizen's Band will again participate in Decoration Day which is this Sunday in Acton.