



Six Scouts, a Venturer and a leader all left Thursday for CJ '81 the Canadian Scouting Jamboree, in Alberta. Front, left to right, Peter Kuechler, Don McDonald and Jason Sharples. Back row, David DeForest, Tim Height, Rick Gibson, Ted Moysie and Ken McKee.

Acton man's homing pigeon sets Ontario speed record

A homing pigeon owned by an Acton resident has set an Ontario and possibly a Canadian speed record.

Tony Van Dam's pigeon number 825, it doesn't have a name, flew from Logansport, Indiana, to his roost on June 20, a distance of 385 miles, in record time for that distance. The bird was let go in Logansport at 8 a.m. and arrived in Acton at 1.45 p.m.

Van Dam, Cook St., a member of the Acton Racing Pigeon Club, said there are faster speed records but they are for shorter distances.

He thought it was amazing 825 clocked 67 miles an hour considering a year ago the bird was still in an egg. His pigeon naturally won the race for all pigeons from Southern Ontario that day.

All 14 members of the Acton Club entered birds and 825 topped a field of about 1,600 pigeons in the race for year old birds.

Pigeon enthusiasts bet on their birds, but 825 didn't produce a big pay off, just \$7.50. The bird paid off a little better in the way of hardware though. Van Dam will receive a trophy from the Southern Ontario Branch of the Canadian Racing Pigeon

Union as well as an award from the Acton Club. Last fall one of his birds won him \$128 and three trophies. That bird won a race from Tekonsha, Michigan.

Van Dam has been racing pigeons since 1977 and now has about 60 racing and breeding birds. Each week he enters six or seven birds in races starting from points south of the border and about 18 in Southern Ontario races. Races are run by the Canadian Racing Pigeon Union and they arrange for birds to be taken to the United States for races.

Van Dam raced pigeons in his native Holland and back in the 60s tried to get an Acton club launched with no success. A few years later the local club was finally born.

Pigeon 825 flew home a third faster than any other bird in the race and Canadian Racing Pigeon Union officials were so amazed by his time they sent two officials up from St. Catharines to check that the bird was really home. Van Dam was pretty amazed too. At first he thought the bird was one that didn't return home a week earlier when the pigeon was lost in a tornado in the United States.



Tony Van Dam with pigeon 825 which set an Ontario speed record.

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Town hall step closer to saving province to help pay for study

The Acton town hall moved a small step closer to the goal of restoration Monday with the announcement at Halton Hills council that the province plans to help pay for an updating study. The study will look at the structural soundness of the building, update restoration costs, investigate funding for restoration and determine uses for a renovated hall.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson also said the Ministry of Culture and Recreation has indicated it will extend the deadline for the municipality applying for a Wintario grant past August 1.

A couple of weeks ago council balked at a bid by Acton councillors to have Halton Hills commit itself to the restoration project and opted instead for a new study expected to answer many questions about the town hall restoration project.

Following the meeting Monday, Councillor Terry Grubbe, chairman of the town's special committee dealing with the town hall, said she thought the news was "positive". She was pleased to see the province is willing to help fund the study and extend the Wintario grant application deadline past the start of next month. She added there has been no indication the town hall isn't still on the tracks towards restoration.

Richardson reported recreation director Tom Shepard has met with provincial officials three times regarding the town hall in the past two weeks.

Terms of reference for the study have been drafted. They were to be set and approved by council Monday, but the ministry is making a few minor changes before committing funds for the study.

Council has set a limit of \$5,000 as its share of the study cost and that money comes from the \$40,000 set aside a few years ago which was originally supposed to pay for demolition of the building.

Shepard has been told the province will contribute to the study and extend the Wintario deadline as long as the "municipality keeps moving" on the project, Richardson reported.

Richardson said terms of reference will be completed this week and a list of province-approved consultants compiled for the special committee to review at a meeting next week. Then the selected consulting firms will be asked to submit bids for the study. He added by having staff and councillors involved for the next two weeks no time will be lost before the next council meeting on July 21.

Hide House adds furs, gift shop

The olde Hide House isn't even a year old yet but it is again going to grow. Renovations will take place this month which will add a fur salon and gift, crafts and arts shop to the olde Hide House.

The business was opened in November in the old Heller's factory specializing in leather garments and fine wood furniture.

Within weeks it proved to be such a success at drawing shoppers to town from throughout the Metro, Halton and Peel regions that planning for an expansion was underway.

In the Spring more space was added for furniture display as well as an area devoted to western wear. General manager Don Dawkins says the current expansion program is "significant", not so much in space but in its nature and content.

A substantial sized fur salon will be built above the foyer. There will be a selection of 150 fur coats in a 600 square foot area. That is a good sized salon, Dawkins says.

In addition underneath the fur salon there will be a 450 square foot gift shop featuring arts and crafts wares.



The oldest Yugoslavian immigrant Marko Vuljatic, joins Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy in cutting the ribbon to officially open the Canadian Yugoslav Cultural Centre south of Acton on Sunday afternoon. More photos on page 3, This Week Thru the Lens.



Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church was the scene of a special Terry Fox Memorial Service Thursday. Speakers were: back row, Lorne Doberthien, Garth Hunter. Front row Christine Strang and Pam Gnutson.

Terry Fox memorial service draws about 100 mourners

About 100 people took part in a Memorial service for Terry Fox last Thursday evening at Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Desmond Howard officiated at the service, and Milton Mayor Gord Krantz read from the Old Testament.

Four guest speakers told why they ran with, or for, the Marathon of Hope runner, who died last Sunday morning after a long battle with cancer.

Acton's Lorne Doberthien pointed out he was stricken with the same affliction as Terry, and had also lost a leg. He has since had three lung operations and extensive chemotherapy. He noted that when he was first stricken seven years ago, the odds of survival were five per cent. Now, he says optimistically, they are 60 per cent.

It's not going to be easy fighting cancer he said. "It's going to be a long hard fight for everyone, and Terry helped in a big way."

Pam Gnutson, a Milton District High School

student explained she ran for Terry last fall because she felt someone had to do something to help him reach his goal. "My dream is to find a cure for cancer," she said, "I am very proud to have run for such a great man, and I hope everyone will continue what Terry started," she said.

Christine Strang became interested in Terry Fox's journey last summer when he stole the hearts of all Canadians. When she heard he became ill in September she wanted to do something. She went to the Milton District High School's principal and asked what could be done. The school raised \$1,000.

Garth Hunter pointed out the impact Terry had on so many lives, and the motivation stirred in everyone. So often people look at a problem and say one person cannot help so they don't try. Terry Fox proved just how much one person can do.

Farming prospects

Weather, yields are pretty good

With a few exceptions it has been so far so good for north Halton farmers this season as far as weather conditions and crop yields are concerned.

Halton Agricultural rep Henry Stanley reports farming is going "pretty well."

He said haying has been going "rather slowly" because of frequent rains and poor drying conditions the last three weeks. Because of this the hay being brought in or still to come in from the fields is a little too mature and lower in feed value. In addition there has been some alfalfa weevil damage, but the yields have been good which compensates.

Pastures are in good shape for cattle and sheep because of the rains, they aren't burning up under the sun as sometimes happens this time of year.

Corn for silo and feed is producing at least an average, possibly higher than average, yield.

In the area of fruits there has been some bad news. Spring frosts have chopped the apple yield down by 40 per cent, higher with some types of apples.

Frosts have also wiped out cherry crops in north Halton and peach trees never had a chance, having been destroyed by the bitterly cold weather of last year's Christmas season.

Strawberry crops though are strong and raspberries look like they'll be good too.

As for various vegetables grown in this area Stanley says there is nothing really "good or bad" to be reported. Yields are average or slightly above average and there has been adequate rain and the vegetables are coming off the field in good time.

Winter wheat looks good, it's starting to ripen and the harvest three weeks from now should produce a good yield.

Spring grains, "heading" out now should produce a good yield in August.

inside

An Acton youth is going to jail for 18 months. See page 2.

Two drownings in two days at Waterfalls Park. More on page 2.

Exchange program

Ron Skeffington heads to Manitoba, Philippines



Ron Skeffington left yesterday for seven months in Manitoba and the Philippines. He returns in February.

by Helen Murray

Acton's "mad scientist" left yesterday (Tuesday) on the first leg of an international exchange with Third World countries.

Ron Skeffington, who earned public acclaim as the mad scientist in Acton High School's production of Superman this past spring, was chosen through a complicated computer system to take part in the exchange sponsored by the Canadian-World Youth Organization.

Ron originally applied for the exchange a few years ago, but was rejected. In fact, he was rejected again this time, and placed on an alternate list. He had no sooner been put on the list, than he received a telephone call asking him to go to the Philippines, his first choice of countries.

Exchanges take place with Asia, Africa and Latin American nations, and are eight months

long. In preparation for his exchange, Ron needed all his shots and had to learn Manhong, the native language of the area he is going to. He also has to learn French.

The first leg of his journey takes him to Manitoba until October. There, the Canadian group meets their Philippine counterparts, and work and live together on farms. The Philippines will be totally immersed in the Canadian culture just as Ron will be in the Philippines.

In October the group flies to Manila, are bused to outlying areas and then take a river barge into the jungle, where they will spend the next four months.

In the Philippines, Ron says, the group is split up and stay in different villages. Ron says he will probably be the only white man in his area.

The total immersion for the Canadians begins right away. They must shed their western clothes and wear native clothing, eat the native food (mainly because there will be no choice), and do the native jobs such as clearing the jungle, building huts, etc.

At Christmas the Canadians plan to get together to celebrate the festive season. Ron also plans a visit from his brother at Christmas. He explains his brother works on the oil fields in Saudi Arabia and will stop for a visit on his way home for the holidays.

A stop-over in Vancouver is planned for the Canadians upon their return in February. Here a debriefing will take place. They have been forewarned that the biggest shock they will endure is not in the Philippines, but coming home when they see the wealth and waste of the Canadian people and country.

Ron will be paid \$10 a week, with all his transportation costs and lodging paid for. He recognizes the exchange as a chance of a lifetime, but he also realizes he had to pass up another opportunity in order to go.

A few days after Ron had been chosen for the exchange, he was invited to go to Los Angeles and start a year-long world-wide tour with an acting troupe sponsored by Christian faiths. He was forced to turn down the offer, but hopes the organization will let him tour with them next year. Following that he plans to enter university to study drama and psychology.

For the "mad scientist", life seems to be full of opportunities, with a great future ahead of him—and he didn't even have to do away with Superman!