

Leathertown display debuts out of town

Acton's Leathertown campaign is branching out. Today (Wednesday), a Leathertown display is set up in Eaton's Centre, Toronto, as part of the Festival Country exhibition.

Leathertown chairman Chip Petrillo explains it is only a small booth, as the committee was given very little time to get ready. Halton Regional Business Development department asked for the display last week. The region is staffing the display, which will consist of brochures, photographs and key fobs. The display, Petrillo explains, depicts Acton as being the up and coming tourist attraction.

Petrillo realizes the effect these displays have outside the community and plans many more in the future. The more displays they have, he said the more they will find out about.

Petrillo noted the display will get better as it goes along as they learn what people are interested in, and what they want to see.



Nick Wagner lifts a bale of hay onto an elevator during his work at Jim Johnston's farm. The Acton student hopes to put experience he picks up on the farm into practice when he becomes a veterinarian.

Wagner grows experience on the farm

by Dave Dorken
Money isn't everything in a summer job, just ask Nick Wagner.

While most students try to pick up some money in the summer Wagner is quite content to pick up something a little different—work experience.

The 17-year-old Willow St. North resident is spending the summer working at the farm of Jim Johnston in Bolton.

"When I tell my friends how much I get paid for the number of hours—only \$12 a day—they think I'm looney," said Wagner.

The experience he is gaining on the farm more than makes up for the hard work 12 hours of each day and low pay.

"I'm thinking of going to veterinary college, this experience will help, I guess," said Wagner.

He already has picked up some pointers on the 35 milking cattle he helps tend to.

"I've found cows to be more sloppy than most people think," he said.

Besides feeding the cattle Wagner has just finished helping Johnston with the haying on his 350 acre farm. This may be dusty work, leading the barn up with bales of hay, but it is cleaner than feeding the cattle, he said.

Working the farm was one of the several choices he had for a summer job. He applied to about seven places through Experience '81, summer work program—farming was the one he ended up with.

"It's good experience, I don't say everybody should try it, but it's different," he smiled.

Wagner moved to Acton from Toronto six years ago, so he didn't find life on the farm to be too much of a culture shock.

"It's isolated (at the farm). Jim has to take the car to see his friends, now I do too," he explained. "I don't know anybody around here, but I'm usually too pooped to go out any ways."

In Toronto all of his friends lived on the same street.

"It's more relaxed out here, but it has to be. You can't work hard all the time, you'd blow your brains out," he said.

The isolation isn't bad if someone else is there to talk to, said Wagner.

"I like to work with another person. When you're working at some jobs (like loading the elevator in the barn) you can't hear the other guy. Then you have to sing a song to yourself," said Wagner. "A lot of time goes by when you're yacking."

Wagner already has had some practice with animals—he has his own dog. Working at the farm

has given him some experience with larger animals.

Still he hasn't decided what type of vet he like to be.

"I'd like to try both of them, working with horses and cows and dogs and cats but, I'll probably tend to be a country vet rather than a big city vet," he said.

This fall the return to school will be something of a shock to Wagner. He spent the last year in Acton High School's grade 12 immersion program. Along with the farm experience he has done a lot of practical things, but hasn't spent much time behind the books.

"We learned wood-cutting skills, Chain-sawing skills and transit skills in school. We took a historic canoe trip," said Wagner.

He also did a stint at Guelph University where he became interested in becoming a veterinarian.

"I was working at the chemistry department at the university. One of the doctors from the OVC (Ontario Veterinary College) came over and we talked about OVC," said Wagner.

The doctor told him he had to get good marks if he wanted to get accepted to the course.

"I won't be disappointed if I don't make it," he said. The experience still should be a big help to him.

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Consultants study downtown

Strongly oppose plaza outside town

Consultants studying downtown Acton for the municipality have come out strongly against plans for a plaza on the east side of town.

Also Acton shoppers want a greater selection of department store merchandise and expanded food stores, a recent survey of shoppers showed.

A lengthy report on both the Acton and Georgetown Business Improvement Areas has been unveiled for Halton Hills councillors by the consulting firm of Walker, Wright, Young Associates.

Besides revealing results of surveys of both shoppers and merchants the report warns against the municipality allowing a supermarket to be built on the edge of town. For a few years now Halton Hills has been fighting plans of developer Jerry Sprackman and his firm, Landawn Shopping Centres, to build a large plaza on the east side of town. The matter is before the Ontario Municipal Board.

"It is important that development of the proposed suburban shopping centre be stopped. We strongly

believe that if this centre were to proceed that it would provide irreparable damage to the core area," one person who studied Acton, Paul Wagener, wrote.

Looking further at the question of commercial development outside the downtown area the consultants wrote "in order to ensure the viability of downtown Acton it is imperative that retail development not be permitted in competitive locations in the vicinity of the Acton community. The downtown area is in a more than adequate position to satisfy the retail needs of the urban community; there is no apparent advantage in suburban locations for future retail development. For more than a decade a decision permitting commercial development on the periphery has been pending, which has left the downtown business community in a state of uncertainty with respect to their future for this time period."

"Final assurance that competitive development will not be permitted outside of the downtown area would provide a more secure environment for further investment in development downtown."

The survey of shoppers carried out over a one week period produced answers which showed "the quality and variety available in food store outlets does not satisfy total needs of the community."

In addition the survey pointed to one of the reasons people shop out of town. "Inadequate range of department store type merchandise encourages shoppers to go out of town for retail goods."

The study also showed almost all the business for local merchants comes from Acton and area shoppers despite the fact there is considerable traffic moving through Acton daily on Highways 7 and 25.

The majority of people shopping downtown were pedestrians and few people complained about parking facilities in the downtown area except to note it's hard to park on Mill St. because of the traffic going through town.

Shoppers put the rap on downtown for its "unattractive buildings and streetscape appearance" but also showed "some interest in individual buildings such as the old Town Hall, new urban plazas like Leathertown Village and Acton Mews, churches and municipal offices."

(Continued on page 5)



Becky Schipper, 8, Chris Hill, 9, Glen Bossert, 8, Brian Massales, 7, Joe Scarengella, 8, and Victor Lee 4 try to blow the biggest bubble around at the Acton Library bubble gum blowing contest last Wednesday. Photo by DAVE DORKEN.

Policeman assaulted

Charges have been laid against three Acton residents after a Main Street fracas in which a policeman was assaulted last Wednesday night.

One man and a girl, a juvenile, were charged with assault and obstructing a police officer after the incident at the corner of Mill and Main Streets. The other man was charged with causing a disturbance and resisting arrest.

The three were arrested, and released to appear in court August 1.

inside

The Watson family's basement has been taken over by ceramics. See story and photos on page B4.

It's vacation time and today's paper contains stories on the most popular vacation destinations Acton travel agents are booking and how to keep your home from being hit by thieves while you're away. Stories on pages 5 and 6.

Waterfalls Park, Acton campgrounds all comply with swimming area laws

Waterfalls Park in Limehouse, Smallwood Acres and The Breezes in Acton, all have complied with the requirements of the swimming area bylaw, Jack Lusty, Bylaw Enforcement Officer told this newspaper.

On his most recent inspection this week, Lusty noted Waterfalls now has a sign stating the location of the nearest telephone, and the depth of the water has been painted on stones. Some markings were already there.

Lusty emphasized all the areas had been given seven days notice to meet the bylaw demands and all had done so.

This means each of the swimming areas where admission is charged has the proper life-saving

equipment including a reaching pole of not less than eight feet, a ring buoy and line, a non-inflatable buoyant aid and a spine board. "At Waterfalls Park there are two sets of this equipment" said Lusty.

The bylaw does not require lifeguards. That demand was withdrawn after small campground

owners claimed they would be put out of business if they had to be provided. The campground owners pointed out swimming is only a secondary attraction with camping their primary source of income.

The crackdown was sparked by two drownings in two days at Waterfalls Park, two weeks ago.

Chinese people highlight of Jean Bonner's trip

by Helen Murray

Jean Bonner came back from a recent trip to China with lots of souvenirs, and lots of memories, but she admits she wouldn't want to go back for some time.

The R.R. 3 Rockwood woman spent three weeks on the Concordia University China/Canada Study Tour, returning last week; back to a world of knives and forks and privately owned cars.

As a professional figure skating coach, Jean, 21, first heard about the trip through the Figure Skating Coaches of Canada organization. She had known people who had gone on a similar tour of Sweden last year and thought this trip sounded like a good way to see a communist country and let someone else do the paper work of getting visas and cutting through the red tape to get into such a country.

About 50 Canadians went first to Los Angeles, then to Anchorage, Alaska, then on to Seoul, Korea before heading to Hong Kong. Ages ranged from 20. (It was Jean, who has since celebrated a birthday), to about 65-years-old.

The group spent a few days in Hong Kong, which Jean describes as hot. They had a tour of the city, and saw the junks in the harbor.

While in Hong Kong the Canadians were briefed on what to do and say while in communist China. They were warned never to call it Red China, or refer in any way to the communist party.

(Continued on page B5)



Jean Bonner



Acton Travel agents Jack Pauwels and Rick Bonnette, (wearing cowboy hats) and Leathertown chairman Chip Petrillo (in Leathertown t-shirt) were on hand Saturday at the olde Hide House to greet a bus load of Belgium tourists touring the area. The holiday was arranged by Acton Travel. Petrillo presented the tourists with Leathertown Key fobs. Photo by HELEN MURRAY