



A Cameroon woman with a headload, the way village crops are moved to markets.

Area man helps with road to remote African village

Following is the second of two articles written by RR 2 Rockwood resident Neale MacMillan about his experiences in Cameroon, an African nation near Nigeria. Neale went there earlier this summer for a cultural exchange.

by Neale MacMillan

I spent four days in the isolated village of Melongo in south-west Cameroon, working with two fellow Crossroaders, Jacques LeCavalier of Vancouver, and Andre LaFleur of Edmonton. We were assigned by the local community development (CD) centre and the Swiss Association for Technical Assistance (SATA) to carry out a socio-economic study of the village and to make a road survey.

A bulldozer has scraped a track to Melongo and a good driver in a rugged 4WD vehicle might reach the village over this track, but only during the dry season. For most of the year a six km trek is necessary, up a treacherous, rocky mountain and back down the opposite side, which is steeper yet.

As in other areas of Cameroon I've visited, the villagers made us welcome and provided food, drink and comfortable living quarters. Everywhere we went, children sang out their familiar call of "white man, white man!" Before we left Melongo the people performed traditional dances and

slaughtered a ram in our honor. Some people believe white man can perform miracles for them and therefore we are treated with deference and respect, whether we deserve it or not.

There are many villages like Melongo in Cameroon, tucked away in remote valleys, which eventually wither up and die as the young people drift to jobs and a better life in the cities. This would likely have been the fate of Melongo if not for the work of Dr. Steven Nzume, a former villager. Dr. Nzume left Melongo in the 1960's and spent 10 years studying medicine in Britain, West Germany and the Soviet Union. On his return he found the village had not advanced in his absence, so he set up the Melongo Development Committee.

Their first effort was a water supply project. This was begun in 1979 and completed last year under the guidance of CD and SATA engineers. The 500 villagers carried in tons of cement, steel pipes and assorted hardware, all by headload. They now proudly show visitors their shower houses, sinks and faucets.

At present the most urgent project is the road. When we met with the villagers to conduct the socio-economic survey the discussion always came back to the absolute necessity of a road. For years the cocoa and coffee which are Melongo's cash crops

have been taken to market by headload, but tons of produce rots since it cannot be carried out fast enough. An old woman stood up at a meeting and we understood what she said before the interpreter translated for us. "This work is killing us!" she cried.

Indeed we are told that pregnant women have delivered babies and died while bearing loads over the mountain. The people must walk to all educational, health and cultural centres since materials for these facilities would have to be carried in.

The main obstacles to building the road are the difficult terrain, cost and the fact that work can proceed only in the dry season. In 1979 the cost of the

road was estimated at 35,000,000 CFA, or \$175,000. Some of the money has been contributed by Dr. Nzume and private donors in West Germany and Holland, and the villagers themselves donate a large portion of their annual income to the road project. But the bulk of the money remains to be raised. In addition there are political differences between English and French Cameroon which can slow or block development projects.

The bulldozer track to the village was completed in January, and when Dr. Nzume arrived in a land cruiser, children who had never seen a vehicle before, clambered over it and festooned it with flowers. There will be real cause for celebration among the people of Melongo when their future is secured by a viable, all-season road.

Developer sues Russ Miller

Al Pilutti, Georgetown developer, is suing Councilor Russ Miller for slander. The amount of damages sought by Pilutti has not been revealed.

Pilutti says the slander action arises from the contents of a letter written by Miller to Glen Schnarr, general manager of the Credit Valley Con-

servation Authority. Miller's letter claims Pilutti dumped fill on floodplain land, owned by Pilutti in Glen Williams and maintains he had no permit to do so.

A section of the letter which makes statements about Pilutti, are felt by him to be injurious to his reputation.

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Is there good fishing in Acton? You bet there is according to new Free Press Outdoors writer Lorne Fletcher who offers some tips for catching bass and pike in his first column this week on page 4. In this photo Mark and Lauree Sears try their luck at Fairy Lake. There are fish in Fairy Lake larger than the one Mark eyes sadly in the insert. Photo by DAVE DORKEN

Just nine more days until 68th Fall Fair

Acton and area residents must wait just nine more days until the biggest event of the year starts, the Acton Fall Fair.

Regarded as one of the best, if not the best, fairs staged by a small community anywhere in Ontario, this year's fair will be the 68th annual spectacular.

Under hopefully clear, sunny skies the fair will open a week this Friday, September 18 and run through to Sunday evening, September 20.

The best way to see the fair is to pick up a three day pass for just \$5, a saving of \$2.50 over daily admission for three days, at any bank or the Credit Union and then climb aboard one of the free buses going around town hourly during the three day extravaganza. Avoid driving, there's limited parking in the area of the fairgrounds, Prospect Park.

Popular events and attractions are all back and a few new wrinkles have been added for this year's fair, making it the best yet.

Organizers are expecting record setting crowds as well as a mark shattering number of exhibitors.

The fun gets underway Friday morning with the gates opening at 10 a.m. and the start of the C.E.F. approved Arabian Horse Show. This is the second year for the Arabians and the attraction is becoming very well known and highly regarded, luring entrants and spectators from throughout the area and some from long distances. This is the earliest opening time yet for the ever growing fair.

Hall (arena) exhibitors should have their displays set up by 11 a.m. with judging beginning at noon and the doors opening at 4 p.m. There will be selections of school work, baking, canning and preserving, plants and flowers, fruits and vegetables, juniors exhibits, homecrafts, quilts and dozens and dozens of other interesting displays in the arena.

At noon the midway opens with games of chance and rides.

Besides the hall, the poultry exhibits in the barn will open at 4 p.m. Acton Fall Fair's poultry show is regarded as one of the best in Ontario.

Spot-in-the-Park (a beer garden) will also open at 4 p.m. with entertainment and the Fair Board's famed roast beef on a bun sandwiches.

By 6.30 p.m. under the lights the highly entertaining heavy horse pull, drawing entries from throughout Ontario and even the northern United States, will be set to go on the track.

The fall fair will be officially opened at 8 p.m. by Acton Citizen of the Year Ron McKnight, after fair goers have enjoyed a half hour of fine music from the Acton Citizens' Band.

And added attraction this year, in honor of the Year of the Disabled, will be a display of the Acton and a handicapped exhibit.

With the fair officially opened, settle back for an

evening of great family entertainment in the rink. There will be music, acrobatics, comedy and dancing with the big show culminating with the crowning of the 1981 Miss Acton Fall Fair from among an

(Continued on page B7)



The 2nd Acton Trinity Sea Scouts test their raft for the upcoming Huck Finn Raft race during the Fall Fair. On the raft are Steve Campbell, 13, Duff McGillivray, 11, Steven Henderson, 11, Darren Robb, 12, Michael Bowers, 13, quartermaster Terry Bridge and First Officer Chuck Benton.

Parkette, bypass suggested in downtown study report

It could cost Halton Hills millions of dollars if recommendations and suggestions for downtown revitalization are implemented.

In the second phase of a three phase downtown study by the consulting firm of Walker, Wright, Young Associates Limited, planning board last Tuesday night heard of proposed plans for a parkette at the Mill/Main corner, a truck bypass around the downtown core, and the banning of parking and widening of sidewalks on Mill between Main and John streets.

Council also heard suggestions for future municipal building sites and major food chains in downtown Georgetown.

Because of the costs involved in such major projects in the town's urban areas, Mayor Pomeroy requested municipal staff to investigate the money needed to implement the ongoing plans. He asked that their findings be available when phase three of the planners' reports is made public, tentatively on October 27.

In his presentation to planning board, consultant Steve Houghton explained, "The choice for Acton is clear and straight-forward and essentially requires action to maintain and reinforce a role and function which, to a large extent, already exists. To this end, the recommended policies for Acton generally call for the prohibition of commercial development from occurring outside the downtown area, concentrating retail development in areas within the downtown area and radically improving off-street parking. Given the nature of the expected future growth pattern in Acton, there is really no real alternative to consider for Acton which had as much validity."

The report also suggests the designation of various areas of "old Acton." For example, the area of Mill Street, from just west of Main St. to John St. would be labelled Core Retail Commercial while Mill from John to Wilbur would be deemed Residential-Office in the Land Use Plan. Wilbur to

the railroad tracks would be Special Commercial. The Residential Office zone, the report says, contributes to a relaxed "village-like" atmosphere which should be maintained. Bower Ave and Church St., Houghton noted, should remain as residential and should be designated so, and not commercial.

The report has designated some areas for redevelopment, either because the land is presently vacant and is a desirable location, or it is already developed but not to its full potential. Infilling shall be encouraged in areas designated for redevelopment, Houghton pointed out.

A boost for the town hall restoration drive was the suggestion that there be a "municipal presence" in downtown Acton. This essentially calls for maintenance of a municipal office in Acton. The consultants also support a community centre downtown.

The report urges against retail and food stores outside the downtown area.

Downtown merchant Ed Wood pointed out many businesses on Mill St. have no rear access. By banning parking on Mill, the merchants would not be able to have deliveries.

Houghton admitted that had not been considered. He reminded everyone present the recommendation from the study were only proposed.

The consultants noted no buildings in the Acton area have been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. It was suggested the municipality investigate the desirability and practicality of the future retention of structures the report deems to be of architectural or historical interest to the community.

It was pointed out provincial grants for downtown revitalization programs have been tight. However, Houghton said, some current projects which received money may not be going ahead with work because of high interest rates. If this happens, the consultant surmised, some grant money may be reallocated, possibly to Halton Hills. His firm's study is not an overnight project but an ongoing plan taking perhaps 10 to 20 years.

Pomeroy said the report, if implemented would commit councils for 20 years to spending the money which would take a lot of thought and consideration.

Pomeroy also pointed out that a truck bypass around Acton had been studied in the past. The only viable solution is through a residential area, which was not wanted.

inside

Margaret Buchanan turned 70 on Monday. See page 2.

Meet new St. Joseph's principal Fred Springer on page 5.

There will be an open house at Rockwood Academy this Saturday. Details on page 6.



Councillor Dave Whiting, on behalf of Halton Region, presented 12 place settings of dishes to the residents of the senior citizens' apartments on Elizabeth Dr. Accepting the set of dishes are tenants' association treasurer Walter Hug, president Tom Nichol and secretary Gladys Davidson.

The Terry Fox Run
For the Marathon of Hope

September 13
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Acton High School

There are about 300 Terry Fox Run for the Marathon of Hope registration forms and pledge sheets already out in the community according to organizers.

About 150 have been picked up at The Acton Free Press, Olde Hide House, Acton Home Furnishings and L&L Ford and there are still more available.

Approximately 150 more forms were handed out during neighborhood blitzes last week.

There are posters about the run in stores all over town and large displays in tribute to Terry Fox at Acton Pharmacy and Acton Home Furnishings.

Organizers are going to local schools this week to hand out more forms.

There's still time to climb on the bandwagon and support this worthy project. Organizers are aiming for 500 runners, joggers and walkers this Sunday and want to raise at least \$7,000; a dollar from each man, woman and child in Acton.

Yugoslav Centre to court Nov. 24

Five noise bylaw infraction charges against the Canadian-Yugoslav Centre on Highway 25 south of Acton and its operators will go to trial November 24.

President of the association, Nick Kajic, appeared in court last Tuesday on the noise bylaw violation charge laid by the Halton Regional Police earlier this year. That charge was set aside for Wednesday to be joined with the four charges laid by Halton Hills after residents annoyed by the loud speaker broadcast of music complained to council.

On Wednesday Kajic pleaded not guilty to all five charges. Halton Hills bylaw enforcement officer Jack Lusty said rain on the last weekend of August put a damper on festivities at the centre and there were no complaints about noise from area residents.