



Martha Jackson, of Mapleview Lodge turned 100 years old Saturday. An avid hockey fan, her favorite player Darryl Sittler dropped in on a birthday party on Thursday to wish her well. The two carefully went through a hockey scrapbook the birthday girl has kept over the years before blowing out candles on a birthday cake, decorated as a hockey rink.

Leaf star at Martha's 100th party

by Helen Murray

Darryl Sittler may not have got a goal in the Toronto Maple Leaf's game Saturday night against Buffalo, but he did score in the heart of birthday girl Martha Jackson.

Mrs. Jackson, of Mapleview Lodge, RR 2, Acton, celebrated her 100th birthday on Saturday and the Leaf captain helped mark her day in a big way.

About 100 people attended an open house at the lodge in Mrs. Jackson's honor on Saturday, but it was a special birthday party Thursday held at the home of Lodge operator Joan Waldie which was the real highlight of the woman's centennial birthday.

When NHL assistant director of officiating John McCauley, of Georgetown, heard what a Leaf fan Mrs. Jackson is, more particularly a Sittler fan, he set about to arrange a meeting, the second in three years.

Mrs. Jackson spent the morning of her 97th birthday sitting in on a Leaf practice at Maple Leaf Gardens, watching her favorite four work out. Her favorite four? Sittler, Lanny McDonald, Tiger Williams and coach Roger Nelson. That meeting was arranged by Halton Hills mayor Pete Pomeroy.

When Sittler was approached by McCauley he immediately remembered the spry little lady and agreed to come to Halton Hills to share another birthday with her. He couldn't bring the other trio as all have been traded or fired in the meantime, but

Mrs. Jackson didn't even notice, she got to see her "boyfriend" again. Mrs. Jackson's love of Sittler goes back to his early days on the team.

An ardent Leaf fan, Mrs. Jackson and her husband used to listen to the games in the days of radio and watched the team's progress on through the electronic era of television. Mrs. Jackson claims that in 50 years she only missed two games and they were absolutely unavoidable.

However, the past few years have not been kind to her hearing and she is forced to have the television up so loud the other residents in the home complain. To keep the peace, Mrs. Jackson has had to stop watching the games, but she still keeps close tabs on the team and their owner's (Harold Ballard) antics. She was watching Saturday though as the commentator wished her a happy birthday on the air during the second period.

Sittler arrived in Acton Thursday afternoon straight from a specially-called practice. His hectic schedule saw him playing in New York City the night before and Philadelphia Tuesday night. Yet his friendliness hid his weariness and his charm made up for the fact he had to be back in Toronto that same afternoon, making it a short, but fulfilling stay.

As a special birthday present, Sittler brought his hockey stick for Mrs. Jackson, to go along with the hockey puck he gave her at their first meeting. Mrs.

Jackson sat star-struck as he signed and dated this stick.

The dynamic duo were like old friends revisited as they went through Mrs. Jackson's scrapbook on the Leafs. Mrs. Jackson has always been very proud of her collection of newspaper articles and pictures and decided three years ago she wanted "my Darryl" to have it. She made sure he took it home with him as he left. They also talked of Sittler's three children, and the quick birth of his daughter in June, necessitating a home delivery.

Also at the birthday party were four elderly friends of the birthday girl from the lodge, and other close friends she wanted him to meet. Sittler shook everyone's hand, lighting up more than one heart as he made his way around the room.

A birthday cake, baked and decorated by Mrs. Waldie's sister was a replica of a hockey game, complete with plastic players, and a puck. The score—Martha 100, Darryl 32. He gently reminded them he was only 31, and only by a few months at that.

While having a late lunch at the Waldie's Sittler talked hockey with McCauley and other fans.

To show her appreciation at the captain coming to the party, Mrs. Waldie gave him a book on the history of St. Jacob's, his home town. Included in

(Continued on page 2)

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Drowning inquest jury says

No fence town error

The town of Acton and later Halton Hills erred in not making the developer of the Kingham town-house subdivision erect a fence between the houses and a race track which encompasses a pond nearby.

That was the finding of a coroner's inquest last night (Tuesday) delving into the drowning death of three-year-old Derek Jones, October 20. He died after falling into a pond on the Campbell property at 202 Main St. S.

After two hours of testimony from Acton Volunteer Firefighters, doctors, ambulance attendants, police and Credit Valley Conservation Authority officials, the jury determined the Kingham Rd. youngster died by asphyxiation secondary to drowning.

The three man, one woman jury felt the developer should have been made to erect a fence between the houses on the south side of the development and the Campbell property which has a racetrack and a pond. Because of this, they laid part of the blame on the municipality. They recommended a fence be put up at the property line immediately or the pond where Derek drowned drained.

The jury also recommended more extensive training be given to potential rescuers such as ambulance drivers to prevent this from happening

in the future. The jury commended the firefighters, ambulance attendants and doctors for their attempted rescue efforts that morning, and could find no fault with their methods of rescue.

The jury learned that on the morning in question, Derek was put out to play at 9 a.m. A few minutes later his brother Darryl, 4, rushed home to get his mother, telling her his brother was playing in the water. Mrs. Jones testified she ran to the pond and jumped in the water to pull the youngster out. She cried for help to Don Swackhammer who was exercising his horse on the nearby track.

Swackhammer told the jury he had not seen any children in the area until Mrs. Jones cried out. He immediately started mouth to mouth resuscitation while another person in the horse stables called the fire department.

Randy Ridley was the first firefighter on the scene and took over the resuscitation attempts. Firefighter Doug Hewitt said he arrived shortly after and started CPR. He noted at the time there was no pulse and the boy's pupils were dilated.

Dr. George McWilliam testified he arrived on the scene shortly after and assisted with the CPR. McWilliam testified that upon his arrival the youngster was showing signs of death, or imminent death. The CPR continued until the ambulance carrying the boy arrived at Georgetown hospital.

Peter Ritchie, an ambulance driver said all that was in his power was done to save the boy, but noted there might have been more to be done had he been given licence to perform trachea insertions. Because drivers are not allowed to perform this technique there was not even the proper equipment in the ambulance to let a doctor do it on the scene.

(Continued on page 2)



Everyone loves a parade, especially the children. Jody Archibald and Tina Parson were just two of the happy children on the Robert Little and other floats in the Santa Claus parade Saturday. Hundreds more youngsters lined the parade route. Parade story and more photos on page B1.

inside

Goodbye Father Speagle. See pages 2, 4 and B6.

The Yugoslavians haven't been re-charged yet. More on page 2.

Lifting of import quotas on shoes are likely going to hurt Beardmore. Details on page 5.



Stars are born

Heather Homer and Sandy Chlason became instant TV stars by talking to Greg Beresford on the air at the Wintario show.

Wintario puts Acton on map

It would have cost the Leathertown Association a small fortune to purchase the amount of air time exposure Acton received on Thursday's Wintario draw show on Global Television.

As it turned out Leathertown raised about \$1,500 for its projects by bringing the draw to Acton. It also achieved its goal of publicizing Acton with 16 photographs of the town shown on the program, leather or Leathertown were mentioned 10 times, Acton or Acton High School was noted 15 times and the name Acton was flashed on television screens nine times.

It was great publicity for Acton as Leathertown since Wintario is Global's highest rated program.

Including the Wintario and Global crews there were over 800 people jammed into the gym at Acton High School, a complete sellout, something Wintario doesn't have that often. It appeared the audience had a great time, sometimes the applause lights weren't even lit and Actonians were clapping and cheering wildly.

The Wintario show began with an announcer saying the show would be coming live from the Acton High School in the Town of Halton Hills while viewers saw a map of Ontario with "Acton" flashing on and off six times in the approximate location of the community.

Hosts Faye Dance and Greg Beresford came on and noted they certainly received a warm welcome from the audience at Acton High School in the Acton area of "the Halton Hills."

"Even though it's no longer a separate town, I've got to tell you there is so much community spirit here in Acton," Dance declared.

"This area has a very long and distinguished, a very unique kind of history," Beresford said. "It's all based around one particular industry, and as you know, it's the leather industry. The Leathertown Association has been formed now as part of that to promote the area's heritage and also to promote the future."

Dance told the audience and television viewers across Ontario that "every citizen of the community is a shareholder in that association." Their opening remarks about Acton were greeted with cheers.

Later in the program a brief feature was presented about the town. The TV viewers saw 13 color photographs of the town while an announcer offered a narration. The photographs, several which have appeared in color on the front page of this newspaper or were taken for the Wintario show by the Free Press staff, included the falls on Mill St. West, the Zeigler Flour Mill, the Acton Library with the historical plaque in front, Leathertown logo, a sign at Beardmore, a shot from Back to Acton Days, Fun, the town hall, olde Hide House, Acton Mews, AHS

Voyageurs on Fairy Lake, children tobogganing, the Citizens' Band and Legion Chorallers at Decoration Day and children skating on Fairy Lake. When Wintario went to commercial breaks, three during the half hour, a photo from Acton was shown and the word Acton flashed on the screen in either green or red. The photos used for these breaks were the Y building-municipal office, a band playing at the Ukrainian Camp outside of town and a shot from the Santa Claus parade a couple of years ago.

Other photos submitted to Wintario, but not used, included the Legion, Acton High School, interior shots of people at the Hide House, ducks and geese on Fairy Lake, the fall fair, the old Stone School, Shoemaker Funeral Home, Moorecroft and downtown.

Television viewers were told "tonight's host community dates back to 1829 when it sprang up, as did many Ontario communities, around a mill and a mill pond."

"But in 1836, with the opening of its first tannery, Acton began to develop a unique heritage."

"It's because of this heritage that the Leathertown Association came into being. Today the leather industry employs 600 of the community's 7,000 residents and it has become the focal point of a drive to revitalize the Acton area."

"The Leathertown Association is hard at work developing the old town's resources as a manufacturing and tourist centre. The olde Hide House has become the largest leather outlet in the country and will soon sport a new restaurant, and

downtown is showing signs of redevelopment in such projects as Acton Mews.

"Surrounded by parks and lakes, Acton offers fun and recreation year 'round. It's a place full of festivals and good old fashioned community spirit and Wintario thanks the folks of the Acton area for a warm welcome and wishes the Leathertown Association the best of luck."

Several residents were on television talking to Beresford and pushing the button causing the winning number balls to pop out.

The first trio on television were Gary White, Glen Lott and Marlene Rocher. They reported they weren't nervous about being on television and said hi to Kent Hurst and Joel Pink.

Next on were Peggy Warford, of McKenzie-Smith Middle School, and her father Reg Warford, who during his conversation plugged Tyler Transport. He drives for the firm and viewers learned the company is big in this area and also is into school buses.

Beresford promoted Saturday's Santa Claus parade while talking to Heather Homer and Sandy Chlason. Mrs. Chlason said she enjoys "our reindeer" best about the parade and the host observed he and his wife saw a deer run across the road just north of town that day. "We wish all the people here in the Acton community the best of luck with their Santa Claus parade, that's this coming Saturday, November 28. We hope you have a nice fresh day, with maybe just a little bit of snow," Dance said. Her wish as far as the weather was can-

(Continued on page 2)

Maximum capacity 330 pupils for new St. Joseph's - principal

Parents need not fear the new St. Joseph's School will fill up overnight and portables will be needed again.

St. Joseph's principal Fred Springer says the new school will have a maximum capacity of 330 students.

While Halton Separate School Board does expect enrollment to climb from 200 students, the current student population of St. Joseph's located in the old Stone School, when the new building opens September 1982 on Mill St. West, they aren't anticipating a 130 pupil leap.

Springer says a student population of 275 to 300 pupils would be comfortable and "quite

manageable". Last Tuesday night, Trustee Irene McCauley reports, the board gave approval to the final working drawings.

These have been forwarded to the Ministry of Education and once the drawings are approved at the provincial level of government the project can go to tender. She says they expect tenders will be let in early January.

Both McCauley and Springer said they had noticed no changes in the working drawings from the final design plans approved by the board in August and by the province last month.

Actario Year II starts Saturday

Actario Year II kicks off downtown this Saturday morning.

Despite lagging ticket sales organizers have decided to proceed with the lottery.

Spokesman Ted Tyler says Actario's second year "definitely" is starting this Saturday after its second year launch was delayed from the beginning of October to the beginning of December.

Odds of winning will be fantastic. Less than 200 of 1,000 tickets have been turned in. However, organizers know some tickets have been sold and not turned in yet. They also expect something of a sales rush this week now that the lottery is definitely going ahead.

Actario is slated to help pay for restoration of the town hall. There is considerable uncertainty surrounding the restoration project these days, but Actario is still going ahead. If the town hall is torn

down, Tyler says, Actario revenues can still go towards many worthwhile local projects.

Last year Actario raised about \$30,000 on sales of over 600 of 1,000 tickets. It was a good deal for local ticket buyers. A higher percentage of trip and weekly cash prizes were won by the Acton and area residents than bought tickets.

There is a draw for a trip each month as well as weekly draws for \$350 and bonus merchant voucher draws. The bonus prizes can only be won by people downtown at 11.30 a.m. Saturday mornings for the draw.

Ticket prices are \$100 cash or four cheques (three of them postdated) for \$26. Tickets are available at some stores downtown as well as from Actario organizers and members of various community groups.