



Sergeant Paul Cormier uses the defensive baton behind Sergeant Al McQueen's back to subdue an attacker in a demonstration at the police open house.

Trail bikes "horrendous issue"

Turnout down for open house

With less concern in the community this year about police service the crowd was down substantially for the second annual Halton Regional Police open house at the Acton Y yesterday (Tuesday), however Chief James Harding still thought the exercise was a success.

Last year over 250 residents went to the Meet the Force day, but this year less than 100 attended.

Harding said at the conclusion of the two seasons annual open houses are "a permanent fixture in the police response to this community."

He noted police heard some concerns, as well as remarks of gratitude from citizens.

One concern frequently mentioned was about trail bikes in parks and fields around town and in the rural area. Staff Sergeant Roy Smith said police recently warned eight youths, including three juveniles, about trespassing in the Three Sisters area of the Third Line.

He is monitoring this problem throughout North Halton, pinpointing problem areas, such as behind homes in the Lakeview subdivision, and with three officers trained to use the north district's trail bike "we'll be enforcing the Highway Traffic Act and



Recently two new officers joined the Dirty Dozen, the group of officers assigned to Acton. Constables David Frost and Walter Buccell have replaced Constables Rod Beaumont and Art Goddard who have been assigned new duties.

Trespass laws with vigor. Police will be checking riders for insurance, licences, helmets, etc. He said they want to have the police trail bike in Acton "periodically" throughout the summer. Trail bike riders and mini bike riders have been ruining cultivated farm fields in the Acton area, he noted.

Harding called the bike problem an "horrendous issue."

The Chief felt improved relations and the nice

weather were reasons for a lower turnout. "But turnout is no concern to us. We just want to make ourselves available to meet the people and let the citizens get to know the officers responsible for their protection. If one curious child went home thinking the police are their friend, if one citizen had his confidence renewed, if one citizen's complaint was satisfied, then the day was a success."

He described the day as "nice policing", getting the force back in the community where it "belongs." He said he got the distinct impression the police are now "warmly regarded" by Acton and the feeling is mutual.

About 35 officers were at the drop-in throughout the day.

Police demonstrated the use of the defensive baton, had displays showing the legal system from victim to criminal through the police, courts, correctional centres to probation and parole. Other displays showed the officers assigned to Acton, police going out on their first shift in Acton, stations throughout the region, new facilities and training programs and other special equipment and services.



Chief James Harding discusses the mini-bike problems with citizens Lorne Doberthien and Peter Pappilon at the open house.

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Kellar hearing to resume August 5

The preliminary hearing of Eric Howard Kellar charged with first degree murder in the death of Colleen Oates last October will resume August 5.

A ban of publication of evidence prohibits the printing of anything said during the hearing.

Kellar appeared in Milton Provincial Court yesterday (Tuesday) for the second day of the hearing. The first set of witnesses was heard in April.

Judge J.D. Robinson heard three witnesses yesterday before Crown Attorney James Treleaven

asked for the continuation to the summer when another witness will be able to return to Halton to testify.

Oates was found dead in her Bower Ave. home when her husband returned home from work October 22. After a province-wide manhunt, Kellar was apprehended in Pickering several days later.

Treleaven told the Free Press he expects the trial, if there is one will be held in September, in spite of the delay in the hearing. The trial should last about one week, he said.

School construction slow, catching up after strikes

Recent construction trade strikes resulted in work on the new St. Joseph's School falling behind, but it is now being caught up and the school will, with any luck, still open in September on schedule.

John Birett, Halton Separate School Board official overseeing the project, said that with the masons and sheet metal fabricators out on strike, work fell about two weeks behind schedule and there were real fears the building wouldn't be ready for occupation this September.

However, with the masons back at work last week and Weber Construction hiring extra workers, a half a week on the lag was picked up.

In addition, Birett said, Weber Construction expects it can pick up the remaining one-and-a-half week lag over the next little while if there aren't any more strikes and weather conditions aren't too poor. Sheet metal fabricators have returned to the job and that should help pick up the schedule slack.

The cement floor work was completed last week, just in time too, since the concrete finishers have gone off the job.

Birett is hopeful they can "zig-zag" around work stoppages and complete the job on time. "The foreman at the site now feels we can get back on schedule and complete the work by September."

With the project two weeks behind, had the strikes lasted longer then there would have been serious problems with opening the school for the start of classes. Birett explained, students could move in without everything being completed and workmen still doing the finishing touches, if everything isn't finished by the end of August.

While there are other construction contract settlements pending the rest of the summer, none which affect the St. Joseph's project are currently threatening strikes, Birett said. "Things look really good again" for a September school start occupancy of the building.

During the strikes Weber kept progressing with the project as much as possible. Footing and foundation walls had been completed and underground draining, plumbing and electrical conduit installed, Birett told trustees recently.



Central Band of the Canadian Forces were simply fantastic at Saturday's concert at the Acton Community Centre. The audience rose repeatedly in standing ovations and the band played music to suit every taste.

Central Band thrills Acton

by Gord Murray

The visit of the Central Band of the Canadian Forces to Acton was an event the approximately 700 Actonians who took in the afternoon and evening show won't soon forget. It was an audio and visual spectacular with the band playing superbly in an Acton Community Centre which was barely recognizable.

The band's expertise and charm exceeded Acton's wildest expectations for the evening.

Playing a wide variety of music, really something to suit every taste, the band, dressed in their formal reds, (red jackets and the men in dark green trousers and women in slit dark green long skirts,) thrilled the audience in the evening with their musical wizardry. Ovarions, some standing, were long and enthusiastic.

Jack Carpenter called the Central Band Canada's best and proclaimed them, in his opinion, the world's greatest collection of musicians. The audience heartily agreed. He promised the band would make us proud to be Canadians and that was the result.

A team of volunteers had worked tirelessly to assemble and decorate the colorful stage which was draped with flags. The arena had a fresh coat of paint and was spanking clean too.

Director of the band, Major Derek Stannard, called Acton Community Centre the finest arena the band has ever performed in as far as acoustics go. They were all amazed at the sounds they were able to produce in a hockey rink. He said he wasn't sure if it was the construction of the ceiling or what, but the director had never experienced such fine separation of the array of instruments used by the band in a rink.

Just before 8 p.m. Lt. Governor of Ontario John Aird arrived with police escort and was greeted in the rain at the front of the arena by Carpenter and Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy. Escorted into the arena, he greeted Masonic and Legion officials in the hall before being piped into the arena after the introduction of the band and director Stannard.

The performance began with the playing of the Vice Regal Salute to the Lt. Governor.

Then came the entertainment, and entertainment of the highest calibre it was. The band began with George Gershwin's Strike Up the Band and followed up with the superb Symphonie Tone Poem Tulsa by Don Gillis.

The first vocal feature was a hint of treats to come as Corporal Catherine Thompson, wearing her greens (she hasn't been with the band long enough to be fitted with a reds' uniform) sang Good Mor-

ning Heartache from Lady Sings the Blues. Her powerful voice filled the arena with sweetness.

The Ambassadors Stage Band gave us a taste of their upcoming salute to the big bands with Omar Bergson's Beefsteak Charlie.

Variations on the Theme from the Carnival of Venice featured band member Brian Greenwood performing a brilliant cornet solo.

The Salute to the Big Band Era featured vocal introductions of the works of such artists as Glenn Miller, Harry James, Tommy Dorsey and Lawrence Welk by the Diplomats quartet who also sang a number of the hits. The audience was rocking throughout this portion of the show, and their familiar refrain Juke Box Saturday Night threaded the pieces together. The band was thanked by waves of applause and "bravos".

John Phillip Sousa's Stars and Stripes closed out the first half of the show.

The band left for intermission to thunderous applause, though it was nothing to the kind of appreciation they received in the second half.

Associate band director Captain Ron McCullum took the band through March Militaire Francaise by Omlot Camille Sansen, to kick off the second half followed by William Tell overture and the musical Sweetstakes Race with Carpenter calling the race. The difficult passages were handled expertly.

Joey Harrison made his trombone talk with "deceep" notes as he was featured in Apple Strudel.

The brass group of the band, the Top Brass, played an old French Canadian favorite, John Ivison's arrangement of Frere Jacques.

Lover Come Back to Me had the audience swooning as Corporal Thompson returned to the stage to sing and then Master Warrant Officer Robert Fowler stunned the crowd with his mastery of the xylophone for Kenneth Ford's On Another Track.

It was back to modern tunes with Children of Sanchez, the Latin flavored Chuck Mangioni movie (Continued on page 3)



Second consecutive year Free Press nation's best

For the second consecutive year the Acton Free Press has been judged the best community newspaper of its size in the country.

The Free Press topped a field of 15 entries in the General Excellence competition for class three broadsheet newspapers, circulation 3,500 to 4,499, in the annual Canadian Community Newspaper Association's (CCNA) Better Newspapers Competition.

The Free Press earned first place for best all round and second place for front page for papers published last year. This newspaper also won a Blue Ribbon Award for high marks in all judging categories.

Papers in the General Excellence competition were judged in seven categories: front page; editorial page; news of community-inside pages; pictures; advertising; typography, make-up,

general impression; and local features and columns. The Free Press competed against similar sized broadsheet community newspapers from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Ontario.

Last year the Free Press was named best all round and second for front page in the same class.

Earlier this year The Free Press was judged third best all round in the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's competition.

In the General Excellence Competition newspapers were directed in early 1982 to submit their issues of January 28 and September 9, 1981.

Free Press news editor Helen Murray will accept the awards at the annual CCNA convention in Saskatoon next month.

Fred Babbidge turns 100

by Helen Murray

Longevity runs in Fred Babbidge's family, as he proved yesterday (Tuesday) when he turned 100-years-old.

And remarkably enough, he is not the only one in his family to see his 100th year. His brother died a few years ago, and was within a week of his 100th birthday.

Over 100 friends and relatives came from as far away as England and Wales for a special birthday party, Saturday, put on by Mr. Babbidge himself at his home within the home of his daughter Blodwyn Morris, 132 Elmore Drive.

Mr. Babbidge was born June 8, 1882 in Oswestry, Shropshire, England. He was the youngest of 10 children born to Thomas and Charlotte Babbidge. His father was 65-years-old at the time of his birth.

While still in England, Mr. Babbidge apprenticed as a builder. In 1904 he married Nellie Porter in Somerset. Three years later, he caught the "Go west young man" fever. Deciding to move to Canada, he picked up the map and focussed on Hamilton, because it was called the Birmingham of Canada because of the steel industry.

Because Nellie was pregnant, she joined him after the baby was born. The couple had two children, Blodwyn and a son, John who died two years ago.

Over the next several years, Mr. Babbidge built a lot of homes and public buildings in Hamilton as a builder and contractor.

He is a charter member of the Mason's Hillcrest Lodge in the Steel City, and was a member of the Acatia Lodge, also in Hamilton. He was church warden for 27 years at St. Stephen's Anglican Church.

Mr. Babbidge's hobby is travelling. He has crossed the ocean 37 times, his most recent trip being last year when he was 99 years old. He travelled all by himself.

Mr. Babbidge's wife died 12 years ago, but it was (Continued on page 3)



Fred Babbidge

Armed robbery at gas station

An armed robber held up John's Auto Service, the self-serve Texaco station on Mill St. East near the railway tracks, Friday night, escaping with about \$250 in cash.

Halton Regional Police said a suspect in his late teens went to the gas station around 10 p.m. carrying a white shopping bag and a single barrel sawed off shotgun. He forced the lone attendant Brian Wong, of Acton, to give him the cash before fleeing on foot. He didn't harm Wong.

The white male suspect is about 5 feet, six inches tall and weighs about 145 pounds, police said. He has dark hair and was wearing blue jeans, a jean jacket and dark gloves. He wore a nylon stocking mask over his face.


Police are continuing their investigation.

inside

Acton's now "just plain lost" according to Global news. See page 2.

Five men charged in connection with theft of Beardmore skins have been remanded until later this month. More on page 2.

Another chance for the Yugoslavs. Details on page 5.



MP's and carset manufacturers are living off the fat of the land.

Blood donor clinic next Tuesday

The Acton Red Cross will hold a blood donor clinic at the Acton Legion next Tuesday, June 15, from 5 to 8.30 p.m.

Alice Schreiber of the Red Cross said many operations have been cancelled because of a lack of blood so this clinic is very important. The Red Cross is aiming to collect at least 150 pints of blood. For further information contact Mrs. Schreiber at 853-0681.