

Rooster crowing contest is new Fall Fair fun

By Jennifer Alton
If you've been awakened by the sound of a rooster crowing, it hardly seems to be a feat warranting prize money.

The Acton Fall Fair will this year be awarding six prizes for the best crowing roosters—but there is a catch. "Getting the rooster, traditionally an early-riser, to crow at 6.30 p.m. at night is the tricky part," according to one of the contest organizers and Fair Board president Keith Aitken.

Scheduled for Friday evening just prior to the Heavy Horse Pull, the antics used to convince the winning bird to give a \$15 crow are all part of the entertainment.

First prize is \$15, second is \$10, third prize \$8 and three \$5 awards will follow for fourth, fifth and sixth place entrants.

All birds must be entered, although no entry fee is charged. To enter contact Brian Evans, Fred Kentner, Don Swackhamer or Secretary-Treasurer John Rowe.

There is no age limit, each bird must be named and housed in a suitable coop. Time limit is 15 minutes and all crows must be distinct.

The rooster crowing contest is just one of the many new activities scheduled for the 69th annual Fall Fair, September 17, 18, 19.

Water granted but can be withdrawn

An Acton family has been granted a permit to connect to Halton's regional water system... but they'll have to disconnect if the urban boundary changes currently before the province are not approved.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Nelles, of 159 Mill St. W. in Acton, are living on a property half in and half out of the present Acton urban boundary, a situation which causes a lot of confusion when policies concerning land servicing come into question.

However, if Official Plan Amendment Two is approved by the province—a 99 per cent certainty, according to Halton's planning department—the whole property will be within the urban boundary.

The new boundary proposals have resulted in a number of advance requests for water connections to existing or planned water services. Planning director Raj Mohammad claims, "The bottom line is, we're not supposed to do connections until the amendment goes through."

The Mill St. W. water-main is scheduled to be built in September, Mohammad said, at a cost of \$32,000. Approval of the official plan amendment, however, may take some time. "I am 99.99 per cent certain it's going to be approved," Mohammad explained. "But just in case it isn't, the legal department advises us to have a clause in the agreement for water hook-ups to save the region from responsibility for disconnecting if the amendment doesn't go through."

Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy told members of the region's Administration and Finance Committee last Wednesday that the well presently serving the Nelles property is inadequate and they are anxious to connect to the region's water system as soon as possible.

Residents along a street where the water main is being built pay about \$64 per metre (about \$20 per foot) property frontage, a water connection fee of about \$480 and a water meter installation fee of about \$147.

If, for some reason, the amendment does not go through, the Nelles will also have to cover the cost of the disconnection. However, Mohammad assures, they will get their investment in the water main returned to them.

"It's pretty certain the boundary change will go through," Mohammad added. "They were drawn up specifically to resolve problems like this. Adding a clause like this disconnection statement is merely a legal technicality."

Life goes on at home

Life is back to normal at the D and G Group Home on Highway 7 just south of Acton following eight months of controversy and allegations.

The Home, owned and operated by David Stanley of Milton was practically closed from January until July after Ministry of Community and Social Services took wards out of the establishment on the grounds they were abused and neglected. Charges were laid against Stanley, but later dropped after senior ministry officials stepped in. The home was set up to house hard to handle teenagers.

Stanley contended white staff were afraid of the Indian teenagers, and ignorant of their customs and rights. Most of the wards were Indian or Metis, but a few white children were placed there.

The controversy started in January when the police removed a 16-year-old resident forcefully and transferred him to a home in Hamilton against his will. Several other youths were also taken from the home, kicking and screaming, some of whom ran away from their next home.

In an interview this week, Stanley said it would take years before the financial repercussions of the past half a year are settled. By February the home had only one teen in it, yet staff pay had to be continued and the mortgage and other obligations had to be met. Income was virtually zero, he said. He is paid by the government per child. So far, no one has offered to reimburse him for the lost revenue.

However, there are now six teenagers, 13 years to 15 in the home, all Indian, in what the provincial government now recognizes as a "special program." D and G Group Home received two important exemptions, allowing them to have an entirely Indian staff and residents.

"It is a completely different atmosphere," Stanley pointed out. Everyone is comfortable, including staff and residents, and there are no problems or threats hanging over their heads.

Stanley commends the senior ministry staff for recognizing the special needs of the home and he appreciated the support from the various Indian agencies during the closure threats.



Ed Crimless of Ed's In 'N Out drew the Actario tickets Saturday morning.

Actario winners

Ken Clapperton of Ancaster was the winner of Actario's monthly draw prize, a cruise down the St. Lawrence from Montreal to Kingston.

James Wilson of Etobicoke was the winner of the weekly draw for \$350.

Helen Murray, 55 Greenore Cres., won merchant bonus vouchers from Stedman's, Acton Pharmacy, and Acton Family Cleaners while Pat Boysen of Guelph went home with vouchers from Nielsen's Clothing, Acton Photo and Camera and Ed's in 'N Out.

Jane Moffatt of Georgetown and Monika McKay of Kingham Rd. shared the winning ticket which won the super shopper containing vouchers from Jug City, Family Cleaners, Acton Bowling Lanes, IGA, Home Hardware and Acton Family Restaurant.

Organ Elliott restored plays again in Picton

An Acton man's initiative and interest resulted in a 130-year-old pipe organ being restored to play a concert Sunday in Picton, Ont.

Amidst an overflow crowd in the old museum church, of St. Mary Magdalene, George Elliott reviewed the history of the 130-year-old organ, the story of its restoration and the reasons for its restoration. He also played the tracker type organ on which he had lavished many hours of restoration work and planning.

He recalled visiting the Picton Museum in 1973 and finding the church's second organ stored in a box minus pipes and keyboard. He urged its restoration, but a few years later found the organ relegated to a storage shop with no work done.

With the co-operation of the Museum Board and Acton friends Marty Allan, Jeff Carr, Blair Batty, Don MacDermid and Ian McGuigan, he began the careful work of repairing and replacing, restoring and reviving as he spent spare hours in the basement of his Bower Ave. home at work.

The organ was the second organ to serve the old church of St. Mary Magdalene which had been built in 1823. This organ was installed in 1854.

It is thought the organ became unplayable in the early 1900's and the church was closed to regular worship in 1913.

Among the tasks faced in the restoration work were the location of a keyboard, repairs to the mechanism and replacement of old leather where necessary. The appearance of the organ was not altered. Pipes to match the original specifications were obtained from a similar type of organ partially destroyed in a fire in Heidelberg, Ont.

Sunday, before elected officials and guests, the organ was played and speakers commended the work of George Elliott.

"The Museum owes a considerable debt of gratitude to George Elliott who not only inspired this major undertaking but also freely gave of his own time and talents to see the work properly executed over the nearly half decade which followed. Prince Edward County is richer for this generous donation of his musical craftsmanship," the words of the printed program summarized.

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