



Peter Schapp's two week vacation in Hawaii was anything but restful.

Hurricane interrupts holiday

An RR 4 Acton man found himself in the middle of a hurricane as it battered the Hawaiian Islands last month.

Pete Schapp escaped unharmed, but was forced to spend more than a week of his two week vacation with no electricity, hot water or air conditioning.

Pete's holiday started like any other vacation. He had never been to the islands before and was looking forward to spending two weeks in the sun. He left November 12, and immediately met up with four other people from Toronto, including a honeymoon couple. He landed in Honolulu, Oahu and stayed at the Cinesama Reef on Waikiki Beach, overlooking the famed Diamond Head.

For the first few days, Pete was busy with the usual tourist attractions. He went to a luau where they roasted a 450 pound pig. He also went to the Polynesian Village which showed how the natives lived long ago. He even met Al Herington from the television program Hawaii Five O.

For most of the first week, Pete recalls, the

weather was beautiful. However, he didn't enjoy it that much because he was going on tours.

Five days after his arrival, on Thursday, the skies started to cloud up. It stayed that way until the following Tuesday, when the hurricane hit.

In the hours leading up to the hurricane, everyone on the island was preparing for it. There had been wind and hurricane warnings but no one seemed to know just how close it would come, so they all prepared for the worst.

People started taping windows so when they did break, the glass stayed in place. Stores closed early.

The high winds started at about 6 p.m. Pete recalls. The hurricane lasted until four or five the next morning, building itself up just like a regular storm. During the hurricane, Pete took some pictures until about 2 a.m. and then went to bed.

For the remainder of his vacation, three days, there was no electricity. The hotel managed to put on cold buffets and sandwiches. Pete was staying on the 15th floor, but there was no water and he

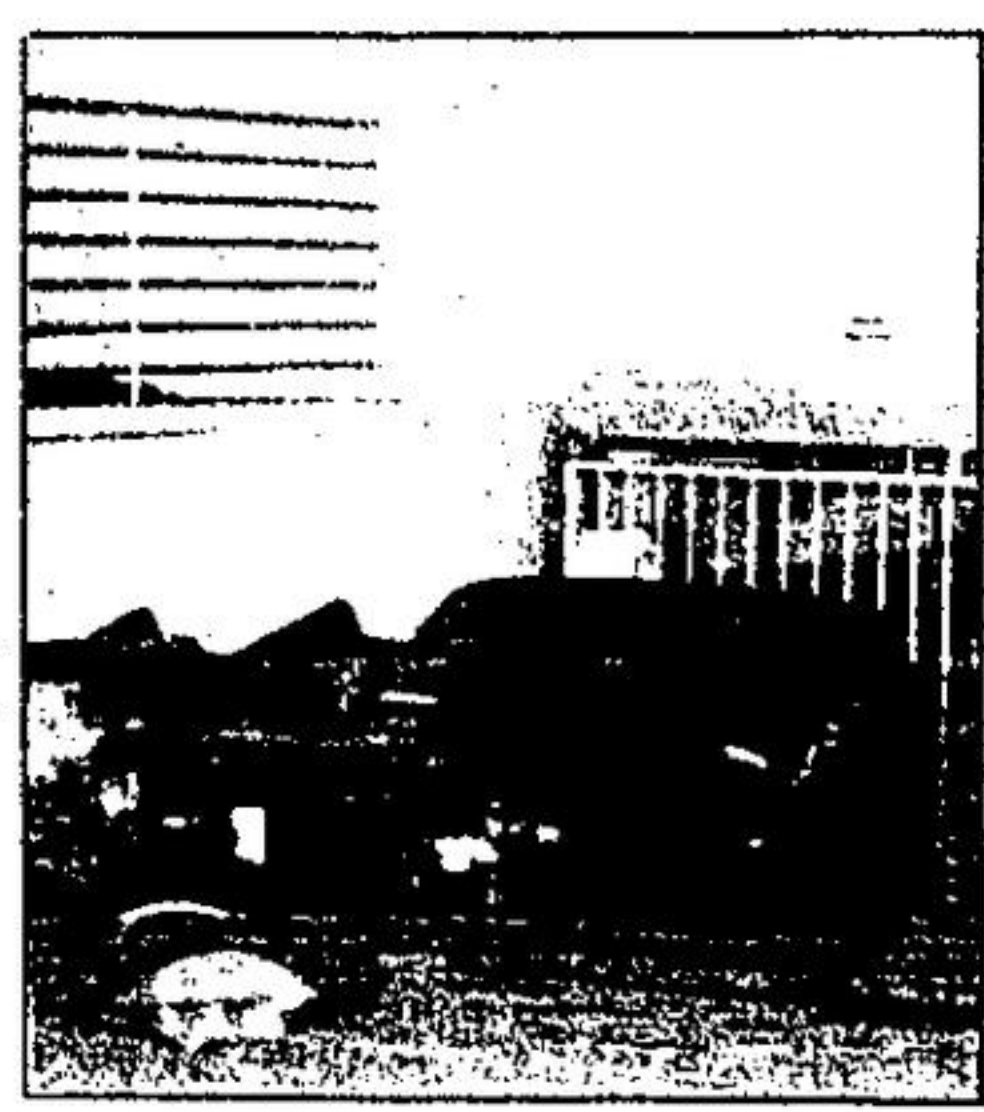
was relocated to the second floor.

Pete says the next day, there was a huge surf and many trees had blown down, and cars were underwater. The motels receiving the most damage were the ones on the beach with underground garages. They were all flooded, he said.

But it didn't take long for the sun to come back out. There wasn't a cloud in the sky and the beach was soon crowded. It was very hot, Pete says, and he was in and out of the water all day.

Newspaper reports in Canada described how a nuclear American submarine was providing energy to the islands until everything got back to normal. And now that life is resuming, according to the Hawaiian hotel owners, people are avoiding the islands like the plague, thinking the hotels are too badly damaged to stay in.

Pete has approached his own travel agent to see if Wardair can give him any type of compensation. It was a different kind of vacation, Pete notes, but he came back with good photographs and a good tan.



Cars submerged in water were a common sight in the days following the hurricane.

Town hall is saved at last. . . (Continued from Page 1)

Whiting and Knechtel supported this notion.

After the votes, Actario chairman Ted Tyler said to say hall supporters were "overjoyed" with acquiring the building was an understatement. He allowed they were disappointed the \$35,000 won't be available and suggested it would have been better for council to delay its decision on making a grant of the remaining demolition funds until next fall as Serjeantson suggested.

Several years ago council voted to give the money set aside for demolition to the restoration cause if citizens could come up with funding.

Tyler suggested possibly the motion can be reintroduced later by Serjeantson or Acton's only representative (Bonnette) who didn't support giving the groups the money. He said those tax dollars would eventually come back to the Town since he "can't believe" council won't exercise its option someday to buy the hall back for \$1. He predicted the Town will want the hall back because it will be worth four or five times more than it is now.

In his lengthy presentation to council Tyler

noted the recent Conservation Review Board hearing recommended the historical designation not be lifted for the hall and the building not be demolished.

At the hearing the hall supporters announced they had received a federal job creation grant of \$133,720 for hall restoration and all they needed now was to be named legal agents for the Town for saving the building or buying the building from the municipality.

In addition the groups will kick in about \$38,000 raised so far through donations and Actario and expect to be able to raise about \$10,000 more next year for a total of over \$180,000 put together so far for the project. Tyler told the councillors they will also be seeking a Heritage grant and other funding, but weren't counting on it.

They aim to start work on the hall by February 1.

For more details on the project as well as council's debate of the issue see the Boxing Day sales edition of the Free Press/Georgetown Independent.



Australian Rotary exchange student Jodie McFarlane presented Halton Hills Chief Librarian Betsy Cornwell with a book on her homeland as her gift to Acton. She returns home January 3.

Error means big hike on water bill

A two year oversight in the billing operation has some townhouse owners facing a 100 per cent hike in their sewer and water bill.

Andy Keep and Jack DeGraaf, spokesman for Condominium Corporation 24, attended a special council drop-in Thursday evening to discuss their billing discrepancies with the region's Michael Skora. They noted their executive has already set their 1983 budget and will now have to ask for more money.

Keep told Skora, and Halton Hills councillors Dave Whiting, Ross Knechtel and Rick Bonnette that in 1980, his corporation had a sewer rate of around \$30 to \$31 in 1980. The 63 homes were hooked into two meters. At the time, they felt this was very low, so they telephoned the water office in Georgetown who told them they were on a flat rate because their water consumption was so high.

In 1981, Keep continued, this group had trouble with their meter, but after it was checked, the bills did not change. His executive budgetted accordingly.

However, in 1982, their bills jumped about three times what they had been paying, with no notice and no explanation, according to Keep. Three phone calls were made by three different people to the water office, with three different answers.

Keep contends when he asked Skora's office for a letter on what was going on, he was refused.

Skora told Keep in 1980 and 81 there was "an oversight in the billing operation" which had been rectified in 1982. A maximum 46 cubic meter maximum per unit charge is policy, he said.

The error was on-going for over two years, he noted, but his office felt they would deal with the questions concerning the mistake as they came up, so attention was not drawn to the error.

Now, Skora pointed out, the corporation would not have a bill more than the maximum of 63 units times 46 cubic meters of water per bill.

DeGraaf pointed out the unfairness of this method. He said if an apartment building has

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NELSON 137 g Invitation Mints

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DELAMONTE 14 oz. 1/2" veg. pineapple juice

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1882 Stone milled bread

\$10,000 damage in basement fire

A fire in the basement of a home at 55 Churchill Rd. South caused an estimated \$10,000 damage. Halton Hills Deputy Chief Bob Hyde said.

Firefighters responded to the call at 1:40 a.m. on December 17 when one of the residents woke up with a medical problem and noticed the fire. "They didn't have any smoke detectors," said Hyde, "and they were very lucky to get out."

There was heavy fire and smoke damage to the basement, but no injuries were sustained in the fire.

Two possible causes have been listed for the fire, but the investigation continues. "It could have been an electrical short circuit in the heating pad or careless smoking," he said.

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More money for information centre

The Acton Information Centre will be receiving an additional \$5,106 from the region next year as a rental fee for the use of the facilities, it was decided at the social service committee meeting Tuesday.

The region uses the centre's facilities 69 per cent, outlined in Director of Social Services Debbie Oakley's report to committee.

The recommendation to pay a rental fee goes before the next council meeting for approval.

Councillor Dave Whiting explained that the centre had financial problems incurred in moving to another office and "this is our way of getting around it."

In July, the Centre had asked the region for an additional \$5,000 to supplement their \$20,500 grant. "We are

really just giving them what they asked for originally, even though it's called a rental fee," objected rookie Oakville councillor Rob Forbes.

But Whiting told committee if the centre does not get the fee, it will be more expensive for the region. "It should be pointed out that if this centre closes, the region will have to pay a helluva lot more than \$5,000," he commented.

The cost of the telephones and offices has been estimated at \$7,400 for 1983. "As we use the services part-time, then we'll pay part of the costs," said income maintenance manager for social services, David Szwarec.

Police beat More vandalism at cemetery

More vandalism has been caused at Fairview Cemetery, Halton police report.

At 6:15 p.m. on Saturday, two male youths were seen pushing over the head of one tombstone. Damage is estimated at \$50.

Police are looking for

a male 5'8", wearing an olive green coat and blue jeans and another male about 5'3", wearing a dark blue coat, blue hat and blue jeans.

A 16-year-old youth was charged with trespassing at Acton High School Thursday at noon hour.

Police charged a 17-year-old male with consuming liquor under 19 years of age at 12:58 a.m. Saturday on Queen St.

A 46-year-old Acton man was arrested for impaired driving on Church St. Thursday at 1 a.m.

A 26-year-old male was detained in a domestic dispute Friday at midnight on Church St. There were no injuries and no damages.

Police responded to a domestic complaint Thursday evening on Mill St., there were no injuries and no charges laid.

A youth at Acton High School was charged with consuming liquor under 19 years of age on Thursday during noon hour.

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