

On the Leavell

With Helen



The DeHaan family held a reunion this week and last with the arrival of son (and brother) Wayne and his wife Penny from New Brunswick.

Wayne, a Private with the Canadian Army has been transferred to Baden Baden, Germany for about a year and came home to visit before heading out.

The couple stayed at his parents' home, Fritz and Mary DeHaan for a week and then the entire family headed to Pembroke for a week to visit another son (and brother) Bill. Wayne and Penny will be leaving from Ottawa and so will not return to Acton.

And another family reunion is currently taking place at the Mathieson home.

Don and Avril are entertaining 12 members of Don's family from Kirkintilloch, Scotland, for three weeks. Actually, only six are staying with them, the other six are with Don's sister Mrs. Isabel Jess, also of Acton.

In town are Don's mother, Mrs. Evelyn Mathieson, sisters (and husbands) Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lyle, Mr. and Mrs. John Laughrin, Mrs. Evelyn Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Clark, and nieces and nephews Graham, Joanne, Steven and Denise.

Don and Avril celebrated their silver wedding anniversary in February and the family decided to use that as an excuse to get together.

A couple of strange faces were wandering around our printing plant this week in connection with the INTO program from Sheridan College.

Marjorie Bekar and Wendy Simpson, both from Milton, are here as a placement for the Introduction Into Non-Traditional Occupations for Women.

Composing room foreman Tim Coles showed them around and explained the

various departments and machinery.

Acton's own Jack Carpenter was quoted in the Toronto Star one day last week in a story about the Masons.

Jack told the reporter that his group was not really so secret after all, just confidential. "That secrecy matter is always blown 'way out of proportion.'" He continued, "We don't look for publicity and we don't advertise for members, but we do a lot of charity work behind the scenes and we don't look for accolades. We like it that way."

Jack was acting as spokesperson for the more than 3,200 Masons who met at the Royal York Hotel.

George Hargrave was also quoted in the story. "I bet you four to six you can decide within 10 minutes whether a fellow you meet is a Mason or not. There's a certain way of saying things and you'll be able to tell."

An article in Monday's Star caught my eye, but hardly my sympathy. It was titled "Defence siren spoils sleep for thousands."

It seems the good people in Scarborough were awakened at sunrise Sunday to "a screaming civil defence siren." The story said "The siren—on the roof of Knob Hill Public School on Seminole—shrilled for about half an hour, drawing a crowd for blocks around, until a Scarborough Board of Education worker arrived to turn it off. Police blamed the incident on a mechanical malfunction."

The people in Scarborough were upset because "It's the only time of the week you get to sleep in, and this thing has to go and wake you up," according to one resident.

At least they got to sleep.

Actonians had to endure over three hours of the wailing sirens when we had a similar malfunction on January 1. Naturally it started when most of us were crawling into bed, and continued until the early hours of the morning, making shut eye impossible.

It continued until the wires were finally snipped by Halton Hills Hydro, in a completely unofficial move. We weren't fortunate enough to have someone on hand in 30 minutes who knew how to shut the blasted thing off.

Council to examine paddleboat purchase

In the wake of the purchase of six paddleboats for Fairy Lake from the manufacturer in Peterborough, Halton Hills council is going to be examining recreation department's purchasing policies and procedures.

The owner of Al's Marine in Acton contacted councillors last week to complain that he wasn't given the opportunity to bid to supply the Town with the paddleboats.

Councillor Dave Whiting said Monday he discussed the matter with recreation director Tom Shepard and wasn't at all satisfied with the answers he received.

He said he wasn't concerned just with the purchase of the paddleboats, but felt this incident raised questions about the purchase of things like canoes for Fairy Lake in past years.

The Town saved \$70 per paddleboat buying directly from the manufacturer, but there are two firms, one in Acton and one in Norval, which sell the same product and hold franchises in this area. Whiting suggested the two local businesses have a grievance with the manufacturer who sold the paddleboats wholesale to Halton Hills. The municipality may have saved some money buying the paddleboats wholesale, but then the local suppliers also pay a lot of money in property taxes to the Town.

Twice last year staff was taken to task by Mayor Peter Pomeroy and council for not tendering purchases so local suppliers can bid.

Whiting said this new incident raises the question of "where" the recreation department is making its purchases. "Is anything bought locally?"

The businessman who complained to the councillors thought he was overlooked because the Town bought the water craft from the Norval dealer, Credit River Boat Co., because the owner, Bill Pomeroy, is the mayor's brother. Of course, this wasn't at all true, Whiting said, but when planned Town purchases aren't advertised and

tendered such conclusions can understandably be reached.

He said he asked Shepard why the paddleboat purchase wasn't advertised and the recreation director suggested it was in newspaper budget coverage. "That's a lousy attitude. The answer was just a way to get around things."

Shepard wasn't at the council meeting since he is on vacation so Pomeroy directed staff to have the matter put on the next agenda so councillors can get some answers.

Pomeroy said afterwards he agrees completely with Whiting. "All materials, within reason, should be purchased locally." He suggested it appears either the recreation department head doesn't understand the Town purchasing policy or he has violated it. In any event the matter must be clarified and the Town's purchasing policy reviewed with staff again.

Councillor Rick Bonnette noted the Acton paddleboat dealer didn't know the Town was buying the boats until he saw pictures of taff and councillors riding the water craft.

Boy, bike hit driver leaves

A pick-up truck carrying two male occupants struck a six-year-old Acton boy while he was riding his bicycle along Longfield Rd. Friday evening.

Police say the truck struck the bike at about 7:45 p.m., throwing the boy into a ditch, continuing through a stop sign and leaving the scene.

The boy sustained a cut left knee and scrapes to his hand. He was taken home by a neighbor. Police are continuing the investigation.



Crowds gathered at the corner of Mill and Main Streets Monday to watch the demolition of the Acton Pharmacy building. The closer the workers got to the south-east peak, the more people stopped to watch. Traffic was halted several times while key parts of the store were torn down. The top corner of the building, once surrounding walls were felled, needed little help in crashing down as "Red" Lindsay, of Fred Laking Construction chopped away at the brick all day. Work started about nine a.m. and all that remained just after three p.m. was the downstairs portion of the south-east corner. It didn't take long to make that into rubble either.

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Household Hints

From Pauline McNelly



Paper towels are handy for quick cleanups and clear hands in the garage. Cut most of the bottom off a wire hanger, and you've got a convenient FFF towel holder.

It shoes sleek, sprays in some tanning beds, such as a lot less than special ones, and it does the job. Sprinkle in at night, shake out in the am.

Roll up an extra straw beach mat to use as a floor covering for the bathroom. It takes the dirt off your shoes, dries quickly, looks attractive.

No brass push-on knob? Rub on a big blob of Vaseline the knob does the work!

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3 Outlets - \$12.90 + .77c FST = \$13.67 + .96c OST = \$14.63	S + F - \$28.95 + \$1.74 FST = \$30.69 + \$2.15 OST = \$32.84
4 Outlets - \$14.90 + .89c FST = \$15.79 + \$1.11 OST = \$16.90	S + F + C - \$40.45 + \$2.43 FST = \$42.88 + \$3.00 OST = \$45.88

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