

Carriers get driving awards

Four motorized letter carriers from the Georgetown Post Office received Safe Driver Awards from the Transportation Safety Association of Ontario in a recent presentation.

The awards are in recognition of one year's accident-free driving and are awarded annually.

Bob Freestone of Georgetown, Bruce Bridle of Rockwood and Norm McGowan of Glen Williams received awards for eight years of accident-free driving while Dave Howitt of Erin received his award for six years of accident-free driving.

Vehicle safety is a major concern to Canada Post since the corporation operates one of the largest truck fleets in Canada. Canada Post encourages and recognizes safe driving habits and practices on the part of its vehicle operators.



Post Office drivers who received safe driving awards recently are congratulated by supervisor Hans Janzen, left. They are: Bob Freestone, Bruce Bridle, Norm McGowan and Dave Howitt.

Employees' problems

Board cautious of adding staffer

Halton Board of Education was not enthusiastic about adding a full-time staff member to the Employee Assistance Program.

The program, which now has one half-time facilitator, helps employees cope with mental, alcoholic, psychological or family problems. The facilitator may handle a problem himself or if necessary turn it over to Halton Family Services, with which the board has a contract.

Superintendent of Employee Services Rae Stoness claimed in 1978 the average absenteeism in all fields across Canada was 13.7 days a year. He hastened to point out the average in Halton school system is 4.6 days a year.

Asked about the cost, Stoness said the cost at present is \$36,000 and would rise to approximately \$100,000 by 1986. He explained the staff bargaining units contribute \$6,200,

with the board paying the remainder. Trustee Ivan Armstrong predicted the program would keep growing and "in another year or two there will be three or four facilitators."

To another question, Stoness replied the employees do not contribute to the cost.

Trustee Bill Priestner would not support the additional cost, and said he would have to be shown its benefit by a proven reduction in the use of supply teachers. He said that had not happened so far. The program has been in existence for almost two years.

Stoness explained the cost is \$28 per employee with the bargaining units paying \$2 per capita.

"If you ask the employees if they'd pay the \$28 each I know what they'd say," commented Priestner.

The subject will be discussed again at the next board meeting.

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Tom Phair shows combatants-to-be one of the plastic pellets containing red dye that they'll be firing at each other from CO2-powered machine gun replicas. It's all part of the Capture Game; a

bit of ferocious fun played out by adventure-seekers in the hills above Acton. Keith Perkins of Glen Williams is one of three partners behind the independent venture, continuing each weekend

Reed states

Criminal Code should control film cuts

Julian Reed MPP dismisses suggestions he puts the abuse of animals before the abuse of children, and claims anyone who would believe that of a father of three "I just can't fathom."

He points out statements he made to the Fraser Committee on Pornography and Prostitution, quoted by a letter to this newspaper are accurate, but certainly were never meant to imply animals were more important than children.

He contends the Censor Board is hypocritical in its structure since by far the majority of cuts made in movies are straight sex scenes, not child sexual abuse, forced sex, bondage or mutilation.

"In '83 there were 135 cuts of straight sex scenes, but only two of children in sex scenes, and 81 of forced sex or implied bondage or mutilation."

He maintains the whole issue should be covered by the Criminal Code, and points out at present to be considered obscene films or sections films have to be "sexually stimulating."

"That means someone has to say in court a scythe going through someone's chest is sexually stimulating."

Instead of the present system he would like to see the Criminal Code amended to eliminate sex and in its place have specific acts such as abuse of children, sexual use of children, mutilation, bondage and degradation, spelled right out, and banned.

In addition, he wants the abuse of animals included and cited scenes in Mondo Caine where horses were set a fire, and Apocalypse Now where a heifer was cut in two with a machete.

Reed stressed the Censor Board allowed these scenes uncut.

"The distribution and importation must be stopped and this can only be done through the Criminal Code not through the Censor Board."

Reed explained the Censor Board reports are available to anyone. He believes the statistics of the type and number of cuts in film would give people a better perspective on the Censor Board's activities.

He concluded by saying, "I would never have answered the statements made by Gall Rutherford, except she suggested my concern for animals took precedence over children. I have three children who have all appeared in films."

Battle for the 'Ponderosa'

Capture game issues its 'call to arms'

by Paul Dorsey

The gunman suddenly materialized out of a stand of cedars, his camouflage gear a blur of green and brown. Three enemy troops swung around and fired, but the element of surprise was against them.

With a blast from his Uzi submachine-gun, the gunman leapt to the crown of a hill and snatched the red flag from its station. Victory was in sight.

Such is the near-authentic action of the Capture Game, an hour-long "shoot-to-kill" season of military hide-and-seek played out as though for real on Acton's 325-acre "Ponderosa," the rolling bushland along the First Line.

In a flak jacket, peaked cap with insignia and goggles, Keith Perkins of Glen Williams—"commander-in-chief" for this particular operation—looks for all the world like a Viet Nam vet at a Saigon reunion.

He's had experience in the militia, but his real claim to fame here is a hunger for adventure and new experiences.

"I do foolish things," he laughs. "For every birthday, my wife gets me something really unusual. I've taken soaring lessons, I've gone sky diving."

Most recently, Perkins says, his wife tried to sign him up for the increasingly-popular civilian war games" run by a

Toronto company. Unfortunately, it was booked solid.

The obvious solution, Perkins explains, was to launch his own company to enable adventurous types like himself to play out their military fantasies. Tom Phair and Bill Roberts of Brampton were enlisted as fellow "chiefs-of-staff," the Ponderosa, as it's known colloquially, was leased and the "recruitment" ads went out.

Throughout this summer until Nov. 18, the Capture Game will be played rain or shine each weekend, participants from near and far paying \$25 each for evening sessions or \$35 for day sessions. For \$15 you can come unregistered, but you run the risk of not finding openings.

Capture Game troops sign agreements attesting to their age (18 and up), health and awareness of certain risks that should be anticipated in such an active game played on rough terrain. They wear camouflage gear, heavy boots and goggles to protect their eyes against stray "bullets," actually plastic pellets containing red dye that are fired from plastic copies of the infamous Israeli Uzi.

Object of the game is for one team to capture the flag of another and return it to their own home base. Players are eliminated once shot with the dye pellets. Blasts from hand-held air horns begin and

end the sessions, recalling all troops to home base for decidedly non-military rations.

As eager as participants are to get started with their first game of the day, there's a pervasive feeling of apprehension as teams head out to their starting positions. Everyone is all too aware that they are adults playing a kid's game, and no one really knows what to expect.

That all changes within the hour.

A strategy chosen and missions assigned, the players settle into a remarkably intense battle of wits and marksmanship. Emotions build, from the sneaking fear and trepidation of skulking through the bush listening for the snapping of twigs, perhaps signalling the enemy's approach, to the first flush of victory once the word passes down the line that the enemy flag is captured.

"It's the thrill of the hunt," Perkins comments. "You're hunting something that's smart, and you know you can't fire 'til you see their arm band (denoting their team)."

The scene back at home base is entirely different from that of an hour earlier. Both victors and vanquished are elated, celebrating their vigorous involvement and raring to start the second session.

April fire calls double

Halton Hills firefighters are responding to more calls for assistance this year than last, but damages are down.

In a monthly report received without comment by town council last week, Fire Chief Bill Cunningham said his department answered 69 calls during April, more than twice as many as April, 1983.

April's tally brings to 149 the number of calls the firefighters have had so far this year, compared to only 110 during the first four months of 1983.

Damages thus far in 1984 total \$306,790, down from \$383,725 last year.

And while fewer firefighters have been injured this year, more members of the public sustained injuries. Four firefighters were injured through April 30 of last year; none this year. Injuries to the public totalled

three last year, but six this year.

Cunningham reported that 39 of last month's calls involved open fires, while 12 were building fires, two were accidents and 16 were of varying nature.

Cunningham attributed seven of the fire calls last month to accidental causes, four to maintenance problems and three to negligence. He did not specify the causes of the remaining 55.

Tot Lot program for 3-5 year-olds

The Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department is once again offering the Tot Lot Program for boys and girls ages three to five years.

The program, which is offered in both Acton and Georgetown, combines songs, games, crafts, stories and special events designed to challenge and entertain the pre-school age child.

The leaders stress fun and participation while developing the social, creative and motor skills of the participants.

The Tot Lots are located at Joseph Gibbons School in Georgetown and at Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton. The cost of the program is \$15/week/child for full days and \$10/week/child for half days. Family rates are also available.

Parents choosing the half day program can register for either the morning or afternoon session. Half or full day passes are also offered for your convenience.

In order to maintain a child to leader ratio of no more than five to one, enrollment is limited. All disabled participants will receive a 50 per cent discount. The deadline for qualified registrants is Friday, June 1, 1984.

To avoid disappointment, parents are asked to register children now at either Recreation Office at James St., Georgetown or at Mrs. M. East, Acton, or by completing the full-in registration form found in the Spring/Summer Brochure. Call the Summer Activities hotline at 877-5108, ext. 300 for more information.

Board considers retirement plan

Halton Board of Education is considering an early retirement plan for teachers over 55 years of age.

The offer has been sparked by declining enrolment and the resultant lay-off of younger teachers with less seniority.

A salary committee report points out the normal balance of all ages of teachers in schools is being affected.

The plan, if adopted, would be available only to teachers ineligible for the full 70 per cent of salary pension at the time of retirement.

A teacher retiring four years before full retirement time would receive \$14,000, three years prior the amount would be \$11,000, two

years earlier \$9,000, one year \$6,000 and four months \$4,000.

The early retirement plan would be a pilot project for three years. The board would decide whether to continue it after that period.

Trustee Bill Priestner questioned the clause stating only two per cent of the entire teaching staff could use the plan in any one year. He suggested a legal opinion should be sought.

The report says the costs of early retirement would be offset by replacing long-time teachers with teachers at lower salaries.

For teachers who would never be eligible for a full unreduced 70 per cent pension because of mandatory retirement at age 65, the amount would be:

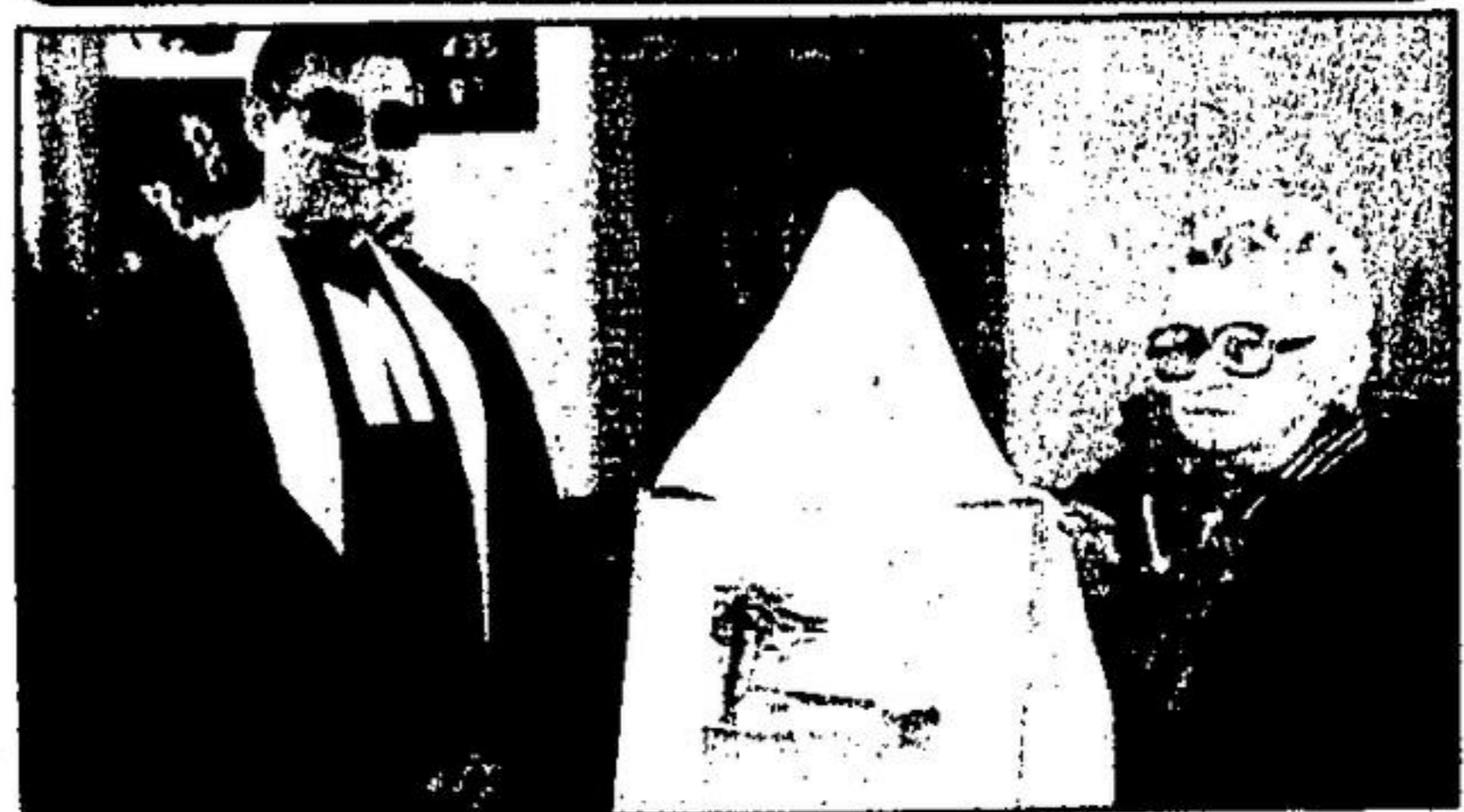
\$16,000 if retirement occurs while the teacher is between 55 years and 60 years of age;

\$14,000 if retirement occurs while the teacher is 61 years of age;

\$11,000 if retirement occurs while the teacher is 62 years of age;

\$9,000 if retirement occurs while the teacher is 63 years of age;

\$6,000 if retirement occurs while the teacher is 64 years of age.



Jessie Givan presented the congregation of Limehouse Presbyterian Church with a water color painting of the church, painted by Dr. Ken McCauley of Georgetown, at the annual Memorial Day service of the church and cemetery. Accepting on behalf of the congregation is Rev. Peter Barrow.