

# Sabres' suffering ends amid controversy

Thirteenth anniversary proved unlucky for the camel with the broken back

By MARK HOLMES

After a lengthy illness, the Central Ontario Junior "B" Acton Sabres passed away a week ago Monday.

The 12-year-old Sabres died of complications arising from a lack of players.

This year would have marked the 13th anniversary of the team's entrance into Junior hockey, but after more than a decade of trouble, the Sabres' misery has ended.

The team's history, while it does have a few highlights, was, on the whole, a sad record, with the final few months a picture of controversy and bitterness.

The team formed in 1971, experienced small bursts of success that were, more often than not, tempered by misfortune. However, over the past year, straw after straw was piled on the proverbial camel's back.



There were three major problems that plagued the Sabres, the first of which was signing competitive players.

While Acton has only a small population centre from which to draw local talent, their competitors were gleefully future hockey stars from much larger populations. The results showed that the laws of average would favor the large centres.

Financial woes that rode the back of the Sabres were the team's second problem. Without strong financial backing like most other teams had, Acton couldn't get better talent to locate in town.

With a team that could neither draw nor afford the better hockey players, Acton faced its third major problem. The Sabres were a losing team and therefore suffered at-

titude and morale problems.

Last November the Sabres looked like they might have a chance to break out of the loser's circle when Godwin Carachi, a local businessman, stepped forward and proposed to buy the team.

Carachi, who has considerable financial backing, was like a godsend to the troubled Sabres and the team's executive welcomed him with open arms.

According to Allsop, a deal was proposed in which Carachi would be named to the Sabres' executive and become their sponsor. At the end of the 1983-84 season, Carachi would have a good working knowledge of the team and he would take over the squad.

By last January, things were apparently going smoothly. Carachi was busy hiring top management in the form of Dave Innes and Dave Switzer and a number of players outside the area were to be relocated in Acton to reinforce existing local talent.

Financially, the executive were confident Carachi could run the team and indications

were strong that many of the local boys were happy to return for in 1984-85 season.

When the Sabres were crushed by the Oakville Blades in the first round of the playoffs, the dirt hit the fan.

It wasn't because the Sabres lost, it was because the previous two months of unrest between the Sabres executive and Carachi came to a head.

In a contract drawn up by Carachi's lawyer it was stated that the present Sabres executive could have nothing to do with hockey within a ten-mile radius of Acton. Extremely displeased with the clause, the Sabres' executive refused to sign over the team to Carachi until the contract was changed.

Carachi, while claiming that he had no idea that the clause was in the contract, also expressed his concern over what he sees as Allsop's failure to obtain a letter from the OHA approving Carachi as the Sabres' new owner.

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## Street vendor lives a mobile life

# Mr. Chips awaits council contract

By PAM DOUGLAS

Claude Morissette has had his fingers in a lot of pies.

As a matter of fact, pies and tarts is how it all began for him.

Morissette has been feeding the world's hungry for six years now, first with pies and tarts, and most recently with hot dogs, hamburgers and french fries which he sells at fairs and special events out of one of the four "chip trucks" he owns.

He puts in about 1,000 miles a week traveling to places like Madoc where he sells his food, and business is good, but he's losing a lot of money in travel, he says.

"I'd prefer to make much less and stay in town," says the 49-year-old Quebec native. He has lived in Acton nine years.

Morissette may yet have the chance to sell his chips locally after the Town's general committee voted Monday night to prepare a one-year agreement specially for him.

The agreement, if Morissette agrees to it, would limit his business to one vehicle in Acton only, parked on private commercial property. He'll probably have to pay \$500 for the privilege.

Council's debate over the desirability of the chip wagon trade entered its third week Monday with new arguments from Georgetown Business Improvement Area lawyer David Page, following up on letters opposing the licensing of Morissette's truck.

Page told the committee that the BIA had been labelled "anti-capitalist" and "protectionist" in council meetings and by the press but pointed out that it opposed last year's second hand store bylaw because it was deemed too restrictive.

Page stressed that the BIA has nothing against new competition as long as it is fair, in that it pays business and BIA taxes like everyone else. Apart from a licence fee, Morissette's truck would not be required to do so.

Citing an anticipated increase in litter and the need for washrooms, Page contended

that free enterprise cannot adopt a "laissez faire attitude".

Morissette calls himself a carpenter by trade, but in actual fact he's a jack of all trades. The ex-policeman, ex-tractor trailer driver, ex-salesman, ex-you name it fell into his present business/hobby (he has a full-time job as a building inspector with a large Toronto company) when he was taking one of his many night-school courses. No one volunteered to supply coffee and donuts during a break in the business administration class he attended at Acton High School. He was asked if he would do it and he went home to ask his wife if she would help.

"I'm a guy who likes to put his nose in anything," he admits.

His wife wasn't crazy about the idea, but she agreed to do it with the help of a friend, Carmela Zenga, now of Melina Bakery. From the first week they began, their profits rose from \$4 to \$100 and they kept rising until they were catering weddings, Christmas parties and other social gatherings. That was in 1978.

When the opportunity arose to buy a chip truck one year later they did, and expanded into that market. But soon Zenga was no longer working with them and Morissette's wife was suffering from arthritis. So last January they sold their company, Pies and Tarts, but remained in the chip truck business with Frenchie's French Fries.

Morissette says he loves the public and he likes being in business for himself.

Morissette has a great sense of humor, but one thing he's very serious about is the help he's gotten from his wife.

"If my business has succeeded it's because of Helen," he says. "She's a wonderful woman, and a super cook."

Nothing seems to slow Morissette down, but in 1980 he fell out of a tree that he was cutting down and hit the ground 45 feet below him. He almost died, but he picked himself up again after an operation and kept going, his enthusiasm and ambition to try new things undaunted.



## TEAM EFFORT FOR TERRY

Local organizers are delighted that Acton's fourth annual Terry Fox Run, held Sunday, saw yet another increase in participation (180 took part) and funds raised (\$12,200). More than \$300 will be added to that total thanks to the efforts of May Hoare (left) and Nan Hurst, among

others, who sold souvenir T-shirts, decals and buttons to participants and spectators. Acton maintained its reputation as one of the biggest per capita fund-raisers nationwide in the Terry Fox Run. Story and more photos, page A3.

# Rockwood Academy will be film set but will Fonda show up for work-out?

Toronto's daily newspapers are "jumping the gun" with reports that Jane Fonda will star, but the historic Rockwood Academy has been confirmed as a location for the new major motion picture "Agnes of God".

Internationally acclaimed Canadian film director and producer Norman Jewison, also noted for the movies "Ice Man" and "Fiddler on the Roof," will direct the movie version of the hit Broadway play at the Academy on Hwy. 7 and at other southern Ontario locations, according to his son Michael, location manager for the project.

The younger Jewison would not confirm that Academy award winning actress Jane Fonda has agreed to play the psychiatrist in the film, as was reported last week by the Toronto Star.

The Star also said the lead role could go

either to Tammy Grimes, who played Agnes on Broadway, or rising young star Amanda Plummer, daughter of actor Christopher Plummer.

Filming is expected to start next month at the Academy, which is currently home to Heather and Andreas Drenters, brother of the late owner and resident Josef Drenters, a sculptor who spent much time and effort restoring the former school.

Heather Drenters told the Free Press she is very excited at the prospect of having a feature film shot in part in her home. The Academy was chosen from a list of suitable buildings prepared by the Ontario Heritage Foundation after Albion Films asked about "monastery settings" in the area.

Michael Jewison said "Agnes of God" is the story of a psychiatrist who investigates

a murder in a nunnery with the help of Agnes, one of the nuns.

Jewison and members of the film crew spent the past month preparing sections of the Academy for the filming. Drenters reported, and are expected to begin construction of false walls and other minor alterations this week.

Well-known as a controversial anti-war activist during the late 1960s and early '70s, Jane Fonda's Hollywood credentials place her among the tiny elite of American actresses. She played opposite her father, the late Henry Fonda, in the Oscar favorite "On Golden Pond", won widespread critical attention for "Barbarella" and earned the admiration of millions of health-conscious fans with her best-selling exercise books and albums.

# Pomeroy joins Quinn in PC nomination race

Pete Pomeroy, Halton regional chairman and former Halton Hills mayor, has entered the race for the Progressive Conservative nomination in this riding. Halton-Burlington is now held by Liberal Julian Reed.

The only other announced candidate at this time, is Burlington and Halton Regional Councillor Barry Quinn. Milton Mayor Gordon Krantz, touted as being a candidate, said this week he is not running and will support Pomeroy in his bid. The P.C. nomination meeting will be held October 11, in Milton.

Pomeroy entered politics in 1975 as Halton Hills councillor, then served as mayor for five years. As mayor he was also a member of Halton Regional Council.

In December 1983, after the resignation of

Jack Raftis, Pomeroy was elected chairman by regional councillors, beating Oakville's Carol Gooding on a 12 to 10 vote on the second ballot. The first ballot was an 11 to 11 tie.

Before entering politics he owned and operated North Halton Sports on Main Street, Georgetown, for 12 years.

During his years of community involvement, Pomeroy has been active as a member of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Regional Business Advisory Committee, Go Transit Board, Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, Halton Hills Hydro Commission and the Halton Region Police Commission.

Asked about his commitment to complete the term as regional chairman, Pomeroy said he had no intention of running provincially at that time, but changing circumstances and the two big issues of toxic waste disposal and zoning for the aggregate industry, convinced him he could be more effective on these matters as a provincial member.

He said his in-depth knowledge of regional business would stand him in good stead if he became an MPP. Pomeroy pointed out 85 per cent of the money raised at the region goes to implement provincial programs.

He said he had difficulty in dealing with the Environment Assessment Act and its great cost to the taxpayer. He said he disagreed with the Niagara Escarpment Plan which would designate potential gravel pit sites and claimed the position taken by Halton Hills where a gravel pit application was the way to go. "The message must be made clear to the province that an aggregate application is no different from any other."

# Hide House wins its exemption over challenge from 'outsiders'

The possibility that its exempting bylaw could be challenged in the Supreme Court failed last Wednesday to stop the Region from allowing the old Hide House to continue opening for business on Sundays.

Advised that the Hide House draws almost as many visitors annually as Mohawk Raceway, Bronte Creek Provincial Park and Milton's nine conservation areas combined, council authorized preparation of a bylaw exempting the Eastern Ave. leathersgoods store through Sept. 22, 1986.

In a repeat of the previous week's regional administration and finance committee meeting, Hide House vice-president Steve Dawkins defended the Sunday exemption against a challenge from the Toronto-based People For Sunday Association.

Association executive director Les Kingdon cited several municipal and legal decisions on the definition of the word "essential" as it pertains to the need for a commercial business to remain open Sunday.

The Hide House, which Kingdon said he's visited "a number of times", offers none of the kinds of goods identified in a 1970 Law Reform Commission report, he said. They include humanitarian, emergency, perishable, seasonal, recreational, familial, convenience and technical goods.

Asked by Milton Mayor Gord Krantz about the nature of the Association's membership, Kingdon admitted that food chains and other businesses affected commercially by Sunday openings are "involved".

Council endorsed the administration committee's recommendation to extend the exemption after Councillor Dave Whiting expressed his disappointment in Kingdon's presentation.

"Mr. Kingdon is obviously unaware of the problems we face in Acton over the water supply (and other factors limiting growth)," he told council. "The leather industry in Acton dates back to 1865 and people like Steve Dawkins are trying to make something of that heritage and get a tourist industry going. It's been one hell of a fight to get this off the ground and now we get this group with no connection to Acton coming in and opposing the exemption."

"I wish they'd taken the time to look at the whole situation. We certainly don't need outsiders coming in and giving us a hard time."

Dawkins listed the Hide House's contributions to Halton's social and economic well-being, including its support of the North Halton Heritage Area scheme and Acton's Leathersgoods Association.

The Hide House is "best known as Canada's largest leathersgoods store," he told council, but it also offers locally hand-crafted furniture, a 275-seat restaurant and

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## SWEETIES

These little sweeties took part in Knox Presbyterian Church's Cradle Roll Tea Sunday afternoon. It's the beginning of their involvement in the church's social activities. See also page A8.

# Eden Mills cyclist is killed

An Eden Mills man was killed early Monday morning while cycling to work in Guelph.

John Dolmer of Ash St. was declared dead on arrival at Guelph General Hospital after a station wagon, eastbound on York Rd. in

Guelph, struck the cyclist, who was also travelling east.

Guelph police are still investigating the incident, which they say may have been partially caused by poor visibility. No charges have been laid.