

Feeling low? All aboard for the wild blue yonder

Flying's not just for the birds, intrepid reporter Mark Holmes discovered

By MARK HOLMES
Once, flying was only for the birds and men of daring, but now, with a little work, almost anyone can soar off into the wild blue yonder.

Flying, for anyone, has been made possible by businesses such as those offered by Guelph Air Service on Hwy. 7 just outside Guelph.

Bob Marsh, who owns and operates the service, explained what flying is all about and, for that first venture into the air, Curtis Robinson, an instructor, soothed my fears and put up with my numerous questions.

Before any pilot takes off, he first makes sure that not even a rivet is out of place on his plane, so for ten minutes Robinson circled the plane poking into and around every part of the machine.

Then, indicating I should join him in the small cockpit of the Cessna 156, he pointed out the various instruments spread in front of the pilot.

Turning a key not unlike that in the ignition of a car, Robinson brought the plane to life.

Leaving the engine running for about ten minutes to warm up and making final checks, Robinson quipped that he was

reasonably sure that the engine would quit after take-off.

My apprehension was not dimmed in the least by Robinson's joke as we taxied to the end of the runway.

Curtis noted that aircraft always try to take off and land into the wind and then, with a final blurt of gibberish over the radio, he pulled out the throttle.



Free Press reporter-photographer Mark Holmes climbs aboard a Cessna 150 at the Guelph airstrip.

In virtually no time at all we were travelling at 60 miles per hour, and with a hop-skip, we were airborne.

As the ground dropped away below us, so did my stomach. Glancing at the altimeter, my apprehension grew. We were 1,200 feet above the ground.

Curtis, in his nonchalant way, said the reading wasn't really accurate. The meter reading is registered for readings above sea level, so you have to subtract 1,100 feet to realize your true altitude. Somehow that didn't make me feel all that much better.

However, as we climbed I began to feel a little more comfortable and seeing familiar old Acton at 2,300 feet was quite a novelty.

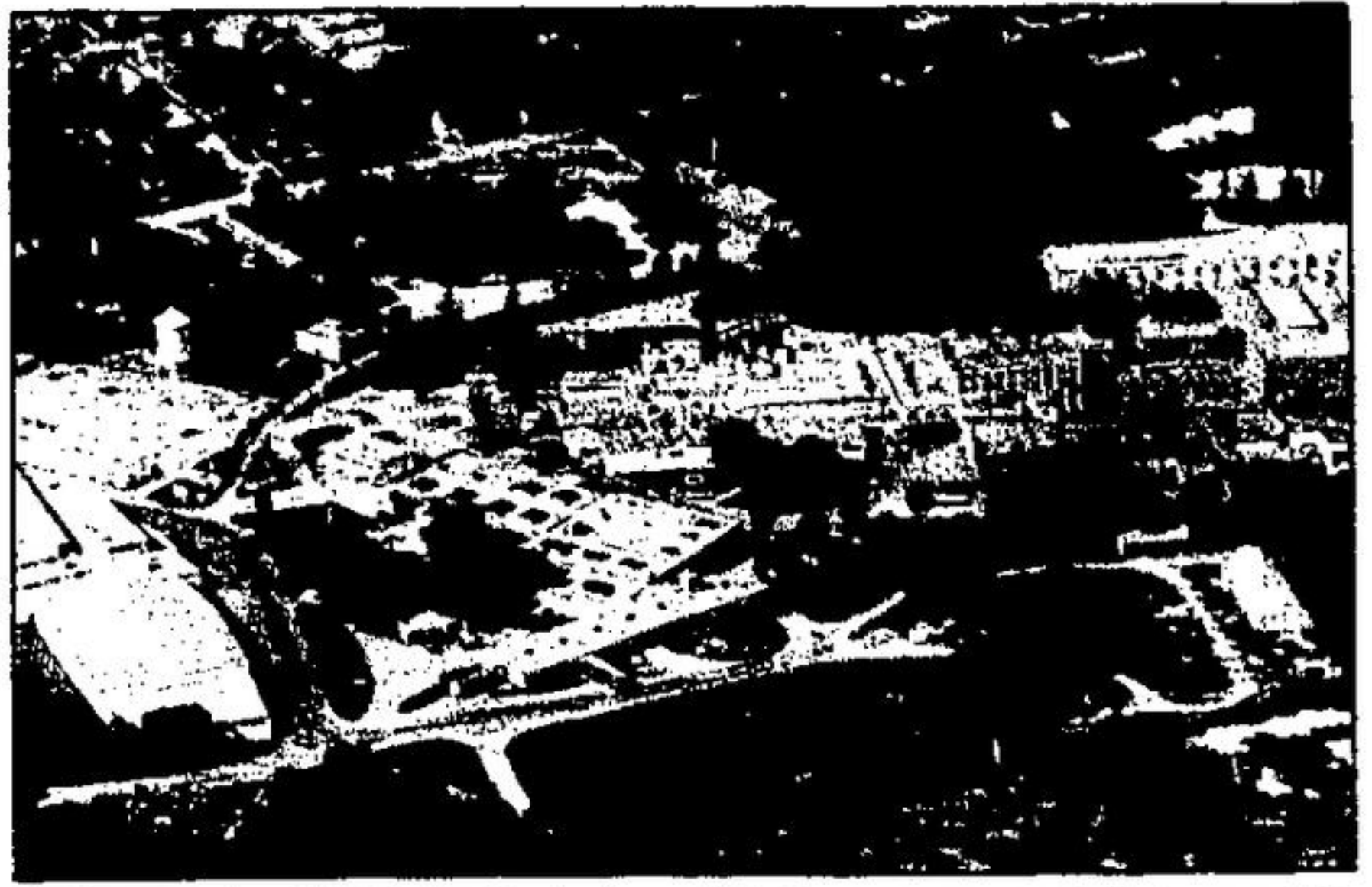
I brought out my camera and in between clicking off several dozen pictures I pummeled Curtis with questions.

Then, Curtis said, "why don't you take the wheel for a while?"

Suddenly my stomach was back kissing my tonsils, and because Curtis was no longer steering, I figured I'd better take over.

Describing what it's like to actually fly an airplane is a difficult task, but I can say it was probably one of the most exhilarating

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Seeing Acton from 2,300 feet in the air shows off the town as a green and gifted community nestled around the sprawling Beardmore Tannery.

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UNITED FOR UNICEF

The stars were shining at Chudleigh's Apple Farm south of Acton Sunday as UNICEF launched its Ontario fund-raising campaign with the help of (left to right) Chris Makepeace, star of the movies "Meatballs" and "The Terry Fox Story" and television's "Going Great", orchard owner Tom Chudleigh, and Andrea Martin and John Candy, both formerly of "Second City." They joined other celebrities and an estimated 8,000 visitors for an afternoon among the apples, pumpkins and helium balloons.

Photos by Mark Holmes



At left, two "giants" of the small screen—at least as far as younger T.V. viewers are concerned—John Candy of SCTV and "Splash" fame and "Polka Dot Door" star Polkaroo share an affectionate hug.



Nestled in the arms of one of her personal heroes, television's Polkaroo—a youngster takes time out from the festivities that saw Chudleigh's boost its reputation as a garden of delights for the little ones.

Tools for Peace date approaches

Acton's Tools for Peace campaign, asking area residents to have their contributed supplies at Tuitman's Garden Centre by this Friday, remains apolitical.

Anticipating a last-minute round-up of hand tools, office and educational supplies and other goods ready for shipment to war-torn Nicaragua, principals contacted by the Free Press at two local schools said they have yet to hear a

negative comment from anyone involved.

St. Joseph's Separate School principal Fred Springer admitted this week he'd initially been concerned about the political dangers of helping people in a leftist-governed country, but no parents have objected as yet.

Tools for peace is a four-year old national campaign which annually sends a shipload of non-military materials to

Nicaragua from Vancouver. Eldon Comfort, a local peace activist who personally visited Nicaragua last year to gain first-hand knowledge of life under the socialist Sandinista regime, organized Acton's involvement in this year's Tools for Peace drive.

Making the rounds of local schools and churches, Comfort assured officials that Nicaragua is the only Latin American country where the people will actually receive all the materials sent. Elsewhere, he feels, governments would restrict distribution.

"Of course, we'll never really know if that's true," Springer said, "but if that is the case, then maybe we can help the people there."

Both Springer and McKenzie-Smith Middle School principal Carl Hymers said their schools are supporting Tools for Peace as a local community effort with peaceful intentions. The materials being collected, for the most part, are "garage sale" items, Hymers noted.

Hymers has designated this week for collection of the materials, with two staff members ready to pile up the goods in the gymnasium and drive it to Tuitman's Friday.

Funds in for Town Hall

The Acton Town Hall restoration project is "clean and green" again now that Provincial funds have been released to cover outstanding debts, according to Ted Tyler.

The local restoration committee, which Tyler chairs, received a check from the Ontario Heritage Foundation last week for \$40,000 to pay off debts incurred in preliminary refurbishing work. Some balance remains, Tyler told the Free Press, and the final installment of \$30,000 has been pledged on completion of the project.

The committee will meet later this week to discuss its next move, with "cost ef-

iciency" foremost on members' minds, Tyler said.

The project was stalled through most of the summer because of a lack of funds.

"They needed some frost on the ground first," Tyler laughed. "That makes it more difficult."

Town councillors heard the project is off the ground again at their Monday night meeting, where Councillor Mike Armstrong suggested that newly-revised criteria for Wintario grants will be of interest to the Town Hall committee. Councillor Jake Kuzken announced that the cheque is not only "in the mail", as colleague Rick Bonnette quipped, but "in the bank" as well.

Acton man injured

Area man killed in Indusmin fall

Donald Colbert 56, of Guelph plunged to his death Friday morning in a 30 foot fall from a catwalk at Indusmin Ltd.

Steve Leveille, 21 of Acton, was taken to Georgetown hospital with cracked ribs and multiple bruises.

Colbert, a 17-year employee with the company, Leveille and Fred Newell of Acton, were on the catwalk beside a conveyor belt, which was stopped, when a six-foot section of the catwalk gave way.

Leveille, hanging on to a railing, wrapped his legs around the 230 pound Colbert, who was clinging to a lower rail, but could not hold on until help arrived.

Leveille fell with him, but according to witnesses, seemed to land on his feet, then roll.

Newell, who escaped injury, tried to pull Colbert to safety, but finding it impossible went for help.

Peter McBride, publicity director for Indusmin, said Leveille could have pulled himself to safety, but instead chose to try to save Colbert by supporting him with his legs

while hanging by his arms.

Police arrived within four minutes, according to McBride, who praised Constable Susan Zohar of the Acton division for her swift action in immediately starting cardiac pulmonary resuscitation on Colbert. He was taken to Georgetown hospital by Georgetown Ambulance Service, but pronounced dead on arrival.

The constable then took Leveille to the same hospital. He is now back at his Cobblehill Rd. home.

Mine manager Alex Morrison shut down all operations immediately after the accident and sent all workers, other than those in the area of the tragedy, home. Halton police and Ministry of Labor representatives questioned all witnesses. The investigation continues.

Before releasing news of the accident, Morrison went to Guelph to meet the Colbert family.

McBride said no one remembers a previous fatality at the aggregate operation on the Fourth Line near Acton.

Keep Ospringle P.S. open public tells school board

Don't close Ospringle Public School. That's the general consensus of approximately 200 people who attended public meetings with the Erin-Eramosa study committee.

"Most people wanted to give (Ospringle school) a chance to live and grow," committee chairman Paul Young told the Free Press last week.

The meetings, held in Erin, Ospringle and Rockwood earlier this month, invited comment on five options open to the Wellington County Board of Education for revamping the school system.

Shifting some French immersion classes out of Brisbane School, closing part of Erin Public School and taking Grades 11-13 out of Erin High School to send them to Guelph, thereby creating a junior high school of Grades 7 to 10 in Erin are the other options available to the Board.

Friday was the cut-off date for the submission of briefs from the public, Young said. The committee will read and discuss the briefs and come up with recommendations to the Board which will be made public and will once again be open for public comment.

Mid-November is the earliest the committee will make a recommendation, Young said.

"It will probably be December or even in the new year," he said. "A fair number of people came up with other options."

The details of the different solutions are outlined in briefs the committee has just begun looking at. The committee will go through the briefs and decide if any of the newly suggested options are viable, he said.

Bancroft, Tilly will star

According to the Toronto Star, Anne Bancroft has been confirmed to play opposite Jane Fonda in the movie version of Broadway's "Agnes of God," which will be shot in part at the Rockwood Academy starting late next month. Bancroft currently appears in "Garbo Talks." Joining her and Fonda will be rising star Meg Tilly, star of "The Big Chill," who will play the title role, rumored to have been set for either Amanda Plummer or her better-known mother, Tammy Grimes.



GAELIC EYES WERE SMILIN'

Handing out souvenir programs at Knox Church and explaining to wondering guests that the choir's Gaelic name, Cor Y Soreen, means "Choir of the Star". (Left to right) Irene King, Dr. Joan Richards and Marion Fisher wore traditional Welsh costumes for Friday's concert. See page A3.