



THANKS FOR DROPPING BY!

Any disappointment people may have felt because Jane Fonda and Anne Bancroft didn't show up was quickly dispersed in merriment at Thursday's Bicentennial Farewell party in Rockwood. The stars, just wrapping up filming at the Rockwood Academy, declined to attend the party for Eramosa residents, but set co-ordinator Michael Jewison (centre) brought a contingent of bit players and crew members. Academy residents Andy and Heather Dranters welcomed him to the festivities.

Swans' welfare concerns council

Following a lengthy discussion by Town council Monday night, swans living around Fairy Lake may find a new winter home with a local conservation authority.

Recreation director Tom Shepard told council that open water and birds on Fairy Lake create a hazard and costs to keep the water fowl fed and safe during the winter are substantial.

"Open water and birds attract people to an area that isn't safe and, should an accident occur, the Town could be held liable," Shepard explained.

Feeding the birds, installing and maintaining an aerator to keep the water open and fences to keep dogs and people away is turning into a very costly venture, he added.

Esther Taylor, a former Acton councillor, headed a delegation asking if it was true the aerator on the north arm of the lake is to be removed and the swans are again to be taken to the sewage treatment plant on Churchill Rd. South for the winter. The plant

offers open water areas away from the public.

Shepard admitted that the removal of the birds to the disposal plant was being considered. Taylor retorted that council's actions would "traumatize" the birds.

Taylor, who feeds the wildfowl daily, said the swans are frightened when people try to catch them and, if not returned to the lake in time for the spring breeding season, they won't produce offspring.

Another member of the delegation, Jean Hawthorn, told council that plans to move the birds to the disposal plant could risk

their starvation.

The build-up of snow around open water at the plant becomes so high that the swans can't leave the water, she said. When the birds are fed, the ducks get most of the food and the swans could starve.

Unless the Halton Region or Credit Valley conservation authorities can accommodate the birds, they will be taken to the disposal plant and snow build-up will be removed to allow the swans better access to their feeding area.

"It's a good end to a 'fowl' problem," Councillor Rick Bonnette remarked.

No flashing signs

Town council found a new flashing sign in Georgetown objectionable enough last week that it modified its sign bylaw to

prohibit all new flashing and sequential signs. The Town had previously banned flashing lights on mobile signs, but had to make a change to include stationary signs.

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One Hundred and Tenth Year—Issue 23

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Acton councillors opposed

Town asks BIA opinion on parking meters

The board of directors for Acton's downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA) will be consulted about a proposal to install parking meters on Mill St., a move opposed by all three Acton councillors.

Opposition by Dave Whiting, Rick Bonnette and Ross Knechtel failed to change Town council's mind about a staff proposal to seek BIA comments as members considered increasing meter rates in Georgetown from 10 to 25 cents an hour.

Acton has no metered parking as yet, clerk-administrator Ken Richardson noted in a report, but "the placement of parking meters on Mill and Main Streets would not only generate additional revenue but could assist in the decreasing of traffic congestion."

Whiting challenged the need for meters in downtown Acton, though, and Bonnette warned that meters could discourage shoppers from visiting the downtown core in favor of area malls.

Knechtel complained that having some parking lots metered but not others, including church-owned lots used by the general public, would be impractical. He expressed disbelief in Richardson's contention that meters around Mill and Main would reduce congestion.

The recommendation had the support of Councillors Pam Sheldon and Mike Armstrong, among others.

While Town staff offered no estimates for purchase and installation, Richardson predicted that costs would soon be covered by meter revenues, at which point the revenues could be spent on maintenance and property acquisition for additional parking lots.

No Christmas lights for downtown?

If someone says downtown Acton doesn't look as bright and cheery this Christmas, it's true.

Residents have enjoyed well-lit Christmas decorations for a number of years but this year, because of a lack of manpower and lightbulbs, the decorative lights won't be turned on, Acton Business Improvement Area president, Ed Wood said.

Three years ago, strings of lights that crossed the downtown streets were traded in for the present decorations, which hang from light standards on Main and Mill Sts.

The new Christmas ornaments, through handling over the past three years, had most of the attached lights broken and, because no one had time to replace them, the lights won't be brightening the streets this year, Wood said.

"I'm not sure if the lights will be replaced next year either," said Wood.

Wood noted that neither he, BIA members nor Halton Hills Hydro had time to replace the lights this year.

Christmas Greetings



Free Press photographer Ted Brown recruited Melanie Rogie (left) and Belinda Nykamp of the St. Joseph's Separate School choir to help him illustrate one of the season's most endearing

aspects, Christmas carols recounting Jesus' birth. Free Press staff and contributors would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours all the best for the Yule season.



GUESS WHO?

This was the big moment for the little ones at Sunday's Legion Christmas party. They'd had a snack, played some games, tossed around balloons handed out along with jelly beans by Jim Phillip and son Ken, and finally, Santa was calling their name. Great chance to put in a last-minute plug for toys. More photos inside.

Aid Ethiopia through Town, MP

Halton MP Otto Jelinek has added his voice to the national appeal for relief aid to Ethiopia, urging constituents to make donations that will be matched by Ottawa.

Citing the federal government's recent decision to match all private sector donations through a special \$50 million fund, Jelinek has mailed leaflets to all constituents asking them to forward contributions to their Town mayors.

Ottawa also plans to contribute \$3,525,000 in humanitarian relief assistance to Ethiopia, the MP reported, and will spend another \$4 million to supply the drought-struck country with 10,000 to 15,000 tons of cereal.

As well, there will be an \$800,000 extension to the Federal government's \$6.9 million long-range rural water resources development project, aimed at improving wheat and soybean production.

"I have recently met with officials from the Towns of Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills to request their co-operation in involving citizens of this community in the contribution to relief operations in Ethiopia," Jelinek said.

The MP urged Halton Hills citizens to mail donations to Mayor Russ Miller at 34 Main St. South, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4T1. From there, he said, donations will be "promptly

forwarded through an appropriate non-governmental organization to the needy in Ethiopia."

Jelinek commented that prolonged drought conditions, along with intermittent rainfall, deforestation and largely ineffective cultivation techniques have combined to produce "the worst natural disaster" of this century. An estimated seven million of the Ethiopia's 40 million citizens are directly affected, he said. "Hundreds of thousands" have already died from malnutrition and famine-related disease and another million are expected to perish in 1985, he said.

Juveniles charged

Four juveniles, three age 14 and one 13, and a 16-year-old Bower Ave. youth have been charged in connection with a break and enter at Robert Little Public School Sunday evening. The five entered the school by a roof vent, police say, and stole 10 pencils worth \$2. Police were alerted to the entry by an alarm. The juveniles will appear in court Jan. 18, while the youth's appearance is set for Jan. 14. Police did not report any damage to the school.

Christmas Fund theft

A 25-year old Ransom St. woman has been charged with \$250 theft from the Frank Heller and Co. employees' Christmas Club fund.