

People On The Inside

The Niagara Escarpment is in his hands



George R. McCague

People On The Inside is a regular feature of the Herald through which we hope to provide you with a look behind the scenes at the people who make things happen here in Halton Hills. Our looks have included peeks at politicians, raps with realtors and restaurateurs, discussions with disc jockeys, plus just plain talks with just plain people.

By Gerry Landborough

On the office wall of George R. McCague, chairman of the Niagara Escarpment Commission are three very large photographs in heavy gold frames, depicting beautiful waterfalls, and woodland splendours typical of the scenic beauty to be found along the Niagara Escarpment.

The pictures are the personal property of Mr. McCague and reflect his appreciation for the natural beauty to be found on the Escarpment land.

George McCague was appointed to the position of Chairman of the Niagara Escarpment Commission in 1973. Before his appointment he was active on the local council for the town of Alliston. He served first as councillor in 1969 then continued on up through the ranks, becoming Mayor in 1968.

Mr. McCague is a serious, yet pleasant man who answers questions in a direct and honest manner, weighing each word carefully before speaking. It is his ability to listen and consider all probabilities before reaching a decision that makes him an ideal candidate for his present post.

The fundamental purpose of the Escarpment Commission is the preparation of a three-year Master Plan that will help ensure the preservation of the Escarpment's unique landforms, allowing planned development that will compliment rather than scar the area. The area itself encompasses approximately 1.3 million acres running from Niagara to Tobermory.

Mr. McCague is completely involved in fulfilling his position to the best of his ability. "I believe that you have to give whatever you're doing all you've got in order to achieve your goal," he said. Preferring to think of himself as "action-oriented". He believes in doing things as efficiently as possible. "I just can't see leaving something sitting on the desk for two or three weeks. I guess I feel once you get behind you generally stay that way."

It is obvious from the neat, well-ordered appearance of his desk that George McCague

prefers a definite schedule. "No surprises," he said, with a good natured smile.

Of Irish-Scottish descent, George was a farmer, like generations before him, which as he said "gives a good healthy respect for the land." His political career just seemed to follow naturally from his involvement with community projects. In 1967 he was the founding chairman of the Board of Governors of Georgian College, a post he held for seven years. Even now he is involved through his position of Honorary Director.

A family man, he is the father of four teenagers (three boys and a girl). The eldest is his daughter who is 18. Preferring quiet activities he enjoys fishing and travelling with the family. "I guess the most active sport I go in for is curling," he said.

His position as Chairman presently takes up a good deal of his time, arriving in the office at 8, he is usually there right through until 5 o'clock. "Though the commission itself does not usually hear individual reports, I personally make it a point to see anyone who feels they have something to discuss."

The most difficult position for the Commission is that it becomes impossible to accommodate the wishes of everyone. "We try, however, to be as fair as possible and try to help anyone that has problems and has acted in good faith."

Mr. McCague enjoys reading—not necessarily books, but all the periodicals and newspapers. It was in one of these that he came across the word "cuesta", which means of ridge with a gentle slope on one side and a relatively steep Scarp on the other side.

Just the ideal name for the Escarpment publication, which is how "Cuesta"—a publication of the Niagara Escarpment Commission aimed at helping keep the public informed of what the Commission is and what it's doing—came to be. "When I do read books, I prefer ones that deal with facts," said Mr. McCague with a smile, which really wasn't the least bit surprising.

A quiet, serious, conservative man whose interest in others comes through in a genuine manner. One of his staff put it this way: "I think that Mr. McCague is a real human being, a very nice man to work for and well thought of by everyone."

We sort of got the same impression—a direct and modest man who has given many years of service to his community because he likes it, and will probably continue in a quiet, determined manner to give many more.

Spectrum Players will be back for an encore

Georgetown you're terrific! And because you're so terrific the Spectrum Players would like to come back and entertain you once more before their summer season ends. The four-man theatrical troupe will be returning to Georgetown in mid-August to again delight children aged three to ten.

Each member of the group has had four to five years experience in theatrics with the bulk of their training from the theatre arts program at the high school level in their home town of Burlington.

"The average age of the players in the troupe is 18," explained David Playfair, actor and head dwarf of the production. Funds for the summer program are from an Opportunities For Youth Grant.

Joe Pendleton, David Playfair, Rena Raspberry and Angela Brouwers presented their version of the classic fairy tale, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," last week outdoors at the Halton Hills Library. The total group, which tours the Halton area, comprises ten members who have each written and produced a play for the summer series.

"Once we get into the play we can improvise on the lines as we feel the character should be," explained Joe Pendleton of the group. The play was adapted for participatory theatre by including the audience as trees and dwarfs



THE MAGIC OF IT ALL. Even the actors became enchanted with the magic and the mystery of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. David Playfair, with a few of the dwarfs, watched the evil queen trick Snow White.



KILL SNOW WHITE. The wicked queen played by Angela Brouwers, and the hen-pecked-huntsman, played by Joe Pendleton, entertained a large group of children at the Spectrum Theatre's summer Workshop. The children doubled as trees and dwarfs in addition to being a most receptive audience.

Ballinafad news

Injures heel in serious fall from ladder

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith attended convocation ceremonies of Conestoga College of Applied Arts and Technology on Saturday afternoon in the Kitchener auditorium to view the presentation of diplomas to the graduates of the Nursing Course.

Their grand-daughter Brenda Ruth Burt, was among those students graduating from the Guelph division. The 300 graduates dressed in white and carrying red roses, made a striking picture as they marched into the arena.

Besides Guelph division, Cambridge and Doon hospitals had graduates among the class. The reception following the event was held at Conestoga College. Brenda's sister, Charlene Root, and her husband, entertained at a dinner party for Brenda and about 25 guests at the Roots' home in Waterloo.

Dan and Linda O'Connor spent last week at a camp in Thunder Bay.

Mrs. Effie Thompson ac-

companied her daughter Annie and family to Florida where they hope to spend some time visiting Disney World.

The Jamiesons have returned home from their trip to the west coast. On the way back they visited with former neighbors, Billie McEnery, and his wife. They also had a visit with another former resident of Ballinafad, George Gibson.

Mrs. Howard Briggs is a patient in Peel Memorial Hospital. We hope she makes a quick recovery and will be able to return home soon.

Lois and Frank Kennedy, who have been living in Regina, Saskatchewan for the past year, are on holidays and called on her parents Mr. and Mrs. Wilf Burt and other relatives in the community last week.

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PLANS UNDERWAY—Organizers of the Hillsburgh Potato Fest have plans well underway for the annual event, scheduled for early September. This year, in recognition of International Women's Year, the Potato Fest is saluting the fairer sex. Adding an at-

tractive early touch to the Potato Fest are these two young members of the Bramalea Majorette and Drum Corps, Debby Shaw (left) and Lynn Kirkpatrick. The Bramalea Corps will be participating in the Grand Potato Fest Parade on September 6.

Georgetown lawn bowlers dominate mixed tournament

The Invitational Mixed Trebles Tournament was held this past weekend at the Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club and local bowlers proved their mastery in turf rolling as they won two of the three events and came second in high triple games. The tournament attracted teams from Milton, Guelph and the local club.

The team of skip, Grant Real, vice-skip, Sadie Macdonald and lead Dick Prust won the high triple game. The runners-up honors also went to a Georgetown team, composed

of skip, Bert Macdonald, vice-skip Myrtle Pattenden and lead, Vi Ainsworth. High two-game winner was the local team of skip, Jim Zebedee, vice-skip, Glad Robinson and lead, Bill Robinson.

A Milton team ended the Georgetown dominance as they won the high, one-game event. The Milton team was led by skip, Peggy Johnston, vice-skip, Barbara Bussell and lead Russell Clements.

The next tournament scheduled for the Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club is the Ladies Treble and this will be staged August 13.

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