

Upstairs, Downstairs comes alive at Dundurn Castle

by Gloria Hildebrandt
Not only did members and friends of the Esqueing Historical Society step into another time period during their visit to Dundurn Castle, they stepped into a popular television show. They seemed to be on the set of "Upstairs, Downstairs," as their hostess, dressed in a servant's uniform, led them "below stairs" to begin the tour of Hamilton's famous site.

The home of Sir Allan McNab, Prime Minister of the Province of Canada in 1855, Dundurn Castle was restored in 1967 as a Centennial project. The castle is now completely furnished with pieces dating no later than the 1850's. There is such an impressive amount of detail within the house that the group wished it had been possible to wander through more slowly.

The tour, however, was thorough, beginning in the servant's quarters with the dairy, laundry, wine cellar, vault, larders and kitchen. The butler had command over all the servants, and was responsible for the brew house, where he brewed beer on a weekly basis for the occasions when the servants would be

permitted to indulge. As he also had the key to the wine cellar, his position as butler must have been quite agreeable.

At the other end of the servant's social scale was the scullery maid, a young girl who had sole responsibility for the arduous task of boiling water and washing the many dishes. Broken dishes found hidden under floorboards suggest she held a relatively insecure position. The cook was second to the butler and completely ran the huge kitchen with its two fireplaces. A set of bells communicated with various rooms upstairs, to inform the servants they were needed.

Upstairs, it's a different world. The formal pink drawing room contains spacious couches, elaborate carpets and drapes, a curved wooden door and a chandelier lit by gas.

At that time it was fashionable for ladies to be delicate. Protective screens were used to shield them from hot fires. They avoided the smoking room where men engaged in drinks, cigars and conversation. Nor did women use the ablutium room, a rather

modern bath room with running water heated on a stove. Despite the beautifully patterned Royal Doulton china basin, the ladies preferred bathing in portable tubs in the privacy of their bedrooms.

Such information was vividly related by the guide, who accompanied the group throughout the entire castle, giving a fully satisfying commentary. After Dundurn had revealed all its secrets, the group had lunch in Hess Village, a few blocks of restored houses now serving as specialty shops and boutiques. Hess Village is within Hamilton much like Yorkville in Toronto. The group dissolved to enable the individuals to pursue their own interests. A few hours later, the bus appeared for the return trip to Georgetown.

The Esqueing Historical Society has sponsored a number of similar outings, and finds there is public interest in such excursions. New members are welcome, and all are invited to participate in their historical walk through Georgetown, to be held on June 20. The society can be contacted through the library.



Dundurn Castle.



Another TV show, 'On The Buses'. Members of the Esqueing Historical Society head for home.

North Halton Music Festival

From the mouths of babes...

It was difficult to decide who was having a better time: Mr. Lance McDowell of the ministry of education, or the students he was conducting in a lively chorus of "Sing a Rainbow" at the annual North Halton Music Festival, held May 12 in the auditorium of M.Z. Bennett School, Acton.

Between class competitions, adjudicator McDowell explained judging procedures and offered advice to the young vocalists, as well as leading them in song. Reports constructively criticizing performances were prepared by McDowell for the music teachers.

Said trophy convenor Jean McPhail, "The music teachers should be commended for their time and effort - they use recesses and lunch hours for practicing."

"It's such good experience for the kids," she added, "because every time they get up and perform in front of an audience, they gain more self-confidence."

McDowell agrees, "The ones who are losers are the ones who don't participate."

However, first, second and third prizes trophies, donated by local I.O.D.E. and W.I. groups and the Music Festival were presented to the choirs which placed, to give them the incentive to compete.

For the best performance of the triple duet "Earth Rejoices", the grades five and six choir from Martin Street received the Ashgrove W.I. trophy from Mrs. Kinal. M.Z. Bennett, placing second, received an award from Mr. McKenzie of the Music Festival and Mrs. Ewart gave the third prize to Robert Little, on behalf of the Bannockburn W.I.

Grades one and two from Robert Little received top honours for "Robin's Breakfast" and the John Milton I.O.D.E. award from Mrs. Foster. Runner-up, Brookville, took home the Duke of Devonshire I.O.D.E. plaque from Mrs. R.H. Force and third place finishers, M.Z.

Bennett, received the Nassageway W.I. trophy from Mrs. Dillon.

Robert Little and Brookville Intermediate choirs tied for first place for their versions of "The Horn" and share the Lakeside I.O.D.E. prize, presented by Mrs. Cooksley. Mrs. Hoven gave the Campbellville W.I. award to Joseph

Glen Williams' primary choir for "Two Kites and a Rain Cloud". Limehouse was next in line to receive a Music Festival trophy from Mr. Allan.

Percy Mary took home the Scotch Block W.I. award from Mrs. Lawson for first in "Sing a Rainbow", open to junior choirs, grades four to six. Mrs. Benton presented the

Trophy was taken home by M.Z. Bennett, who accepted it from Mrs. H. Beer for the top performance of "Ring, Ring the Banjo". Runners-up in the choir for boys with unchanged voices was Brookville, given the Halton W.I. award by Mrs. Staddon. Martin Street and Robert Little, third, both accepted the Music Festival

Parent Representatives' prize from Mrs. Norton.

Mr. Tom Gibson gave the Kenneth Harrison Memorial prize to Martin Street for placing first in the senior entry of "The Lord's My Shepherd," again this year. Mrs. Hunter, representing first-time donors, the Chansonettes of Milton,

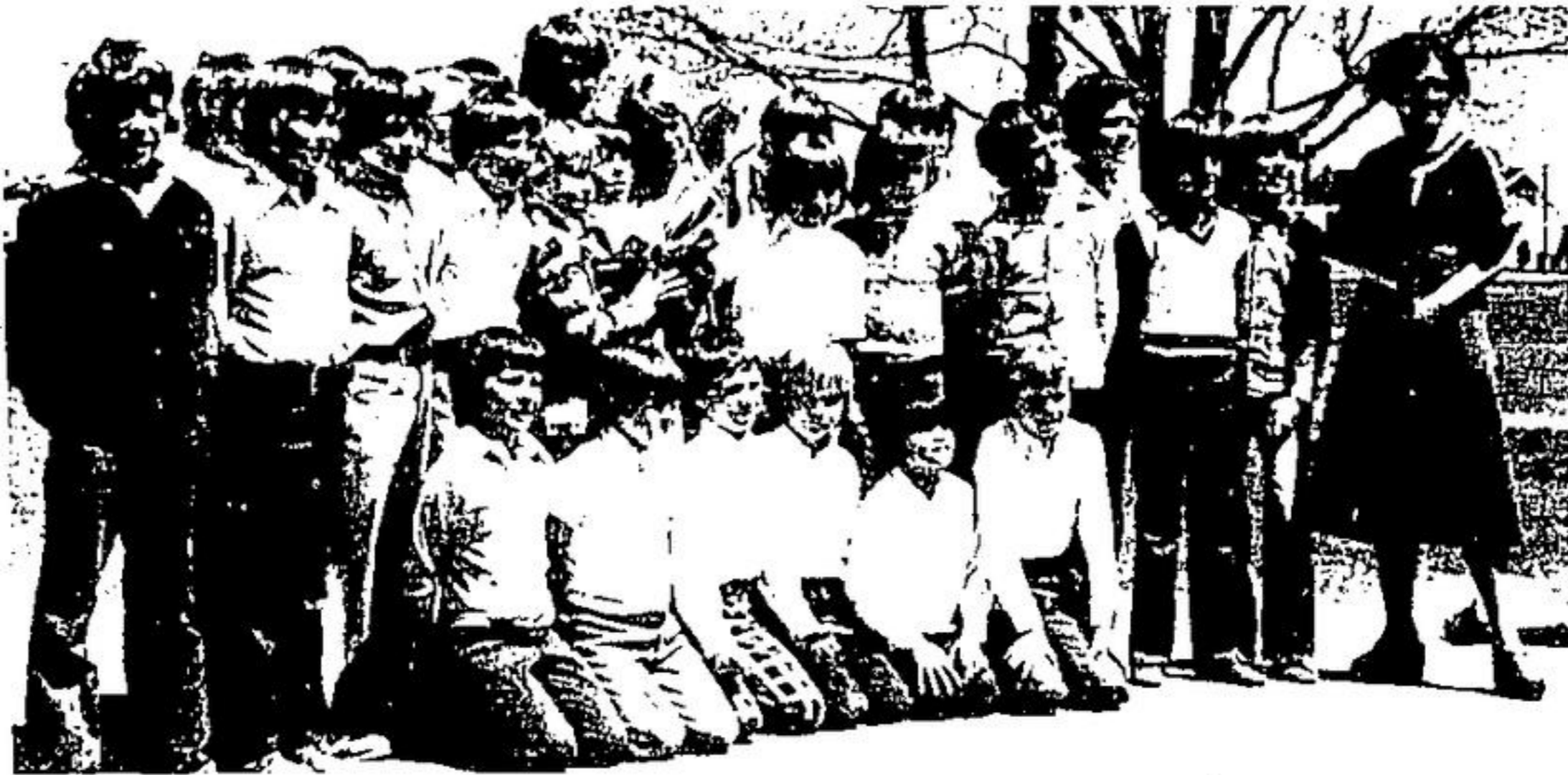
presented second placers, Brookville, with a trophy. Robert Little, third, received the Music Festival award from Mrs. McPhail.

"When the Captain Comes In" was best sung by the boys' choir with changed voices from Brookville, who accepted the Acton W.I. trophy from Mrs. Hargrave. Mr. Lawson presented the Music Festival Board Member plaque to second in line, Martin Street, and third placer Robert Little took home another Music Festival award from Mrs. Arblck.

M.Z. Bennett received the Bennett Memorial trophy from Mrs. Evans for "Shenandoah". The senior choir placing second in this class, Robert Little, accepted the Esqueing W.I. award from Mrs. Gamble.

Silverwood W.I. representative Miss D. Powell made the presentation to Martin Street, for top honours in a triple trio of "Believe Me In All Those Endearing Young Charms." On behalf of the Music Festival, Mr. K. Alger gave the trophy to runner-up M.Z. Bennett.

The five-hour North Halton Music Festival of performances and presentations was well-paced and entertaining.



RING, RING, THE BANJO, won the boys choir from M.Z. Bennett School, Acton first prize and the Elmer Smith Memorial Trophy at the Music Festival held in Acton last week.

Gibbons for placing second. Another tie for third, resulted in the acceptance of the Music Festival trophy from Mr. Foster by both M.Z. Bennett and Martin Street.

"Listen Inside the Sound", entered by junior choirs grades three, four, and five, won Robert Little their third first and the Dublin W.I. prize from Mrs. Norton. M.Z. Bennett, runner-up received the Musical Festival trophy from Mrs. Nellis and Brookville accepted the Mountain Union W.I. award from Mrs. Navis for placing third.

Hornby W.I. donated top prize, through Mrs. Wilson, to

Limehouse W.I. prize to Glen Williams for second and Limehouse accepted the Music Festival Parent Representatives trophy from Mrs. Kinal, for placing third.

Two choirs, grades four to six, entered the triple duet class of "Little David Play Your Horn" from Howard Wrigglesworth. They placed first and third, receiving Music Festival awards from Mr. McCaw and Mr. Dawkins, respectively. Second prize was presented to Percy Mary by Mrs. Jamieson on behalf of the Ballinacree W.I. The Elmer Smith Memorial



PROUDLY RECEIVED was the North Halton Music Festival Trophy, presented by Mr. McCaw to the grades five and six choir from Wrigglesworth School, Georgetown, for the top performance of the triple duet "Little David Play Your Horn."

Town feels objections to apartment 'frivolous'

Two objections to the plans for the McNally Apartments complex will be treated as "frivolous" if the town's planning board is successful in future talks with the Ontario Municipal Board.

Town planner Mario Venditti

told the planning board last week that by convincing the OMB that the two objections are "frivolous and have no substance" a further delay to the project might be avoided.

Already the town and the developer, Bill McNally,

have waited for one year and for an OMB hearing, due largely to a delay at the

regional level in getting a report on the project. That delay stretched from July of

last year to March of this year. The town will know, said Venditti, within 15 days if their

suggestion to the OMB has been supported.

Sher. campus on schedule

"We are only slightly behind schedule because of severe winter weather conditions," said college project engineering co-ordinator Michael Musiol, in reference to the new Sheridan College Brampton Campus. "But it is expected that the contractor will pick up time lost and meet the scheduled opening date," he added.

The new campus, located on 101 acres at the southeast corner of Steeles Avenue West and McLaughlin Road, and two miles south of the existing Brampton Campus on Church Street, is expected to be completed by January 1977.

Roofing and windows are being installed in the main building structure, and inside, heating and cooling ducts and electrical conduits are 30 percent finished.

Although construction of the

10,000 square foot multi-sports complex on the same site has just begun, plans are to finish it simultaneously with the main building.

The recreation wing will contain a 4,000 square foot gymnasium, which can also be used as an auditorium, two squash courts, a student lounge, an exercise room and offices.

Landscaping will begin as soon as the grounds are cleaned up, while site services such as water, storm and gas sewers, parking lots and driveways are partly finished.

Sheridan's own bus lines, public transit and GO buses will provide access to the new Brampton Campus, for the predicted 800 full-time students enrolling this fall in business, technology, visual arts or applied arts.

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Front row, left to right: Susan, Murray, Gail, Sandra, Terry, Back row: Mary, Lillian, Lynn, Jane, Marion, Carol, Betty. (Absent were Nicole Campbell and Judy Vetricck). They have the welcome mat out for you to help you

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