

## RAILWAY BUFF USES NATURAL TALENT FOR SKETCHES

# Preserving history with pen and ink

By Ellie Dryden  
Herald correspondent

Twenty years ago, for the want of something to do, Dave Stone pencilled two drawings of galleons, framed and hung them up and went on with life.

Originally from England, having lived in Mississauga, and finally settling in Cheltenham for the past five years, renovating his home has given him little time for anything else.

The family room was nearing completion with the exception of wall coverings, so Mr. Stone and his wife Betty stopped around for pictures and it was during this period that his reaction to what he saw was that he could do the same, if not better than some so-called art pieces.

He cannot explain why he feels this way but he has no formal artistic training nor direction to become an artist.

Being a railroad buff, living in an area surrounded by antique railway stations and

historic buildings kept alive by nostalgia and having those blank walls to cover, what could be a more appropriate opportunity to take up the pen and sketch.

Mr. Stone's technique is quite simple. There is on the spot study of the subject, followed by photos, then enlargement of same for details and finally an average of 10 to 12 hours for each pen and ink sketch. Because of the minute details in his drawings he works in maximum three-hour shifts. So far, good luck or should it be said, good talent has been with him, for the majority of his now eighteen sketches have been done to satisfaction the first time.

Wanting a professional opinion of his work, he did a sketch of a country home opposite the general store in Cheltenham and had it hung there for comments. Careful scrutinizing of the sketch has since led Mr. Stone into a business association with Jim Filby of the Boston Mills

Press.

There has been two exhibitions of his work at the Brampton Library. Again wanting a professional opinion he entered two sketches, one of the Forks of the Credit Station, the other, Meadowvale Hotel, in a Mississauga art show. Since no one else entered this category his work was not judged.

His second attempt was an entry in the Brampton Peel Art Gallery exhibit, again with the same two pictures. This time his work was rejected on the grounds that the "framing was unsuitable", therefore, his pictures were not allowed to be displayed.

To this day Mr. Stone is not quite sure how one goes about getting a professional opinion since the very so-called professional people he sought out, treated his work with an unprofessional attitude. Not to worry though, his consignments have grown and consist of several well-known public and private buildings in the

Peel area. What better opinion can he get but from the people who seek his service and purchase his work.

A famous local politician has also purchased all of Dave Stone's sketches and is making his own private collection.

Each sketch is reproduced into one hundred copies only and four are now out of print, Acton, Brampton, Inglewood and Orangeville. Of these four, the Orangeville and Brampton Stations no longer exist in the third dimension. Other changes have occurred since the originals were sketched.

For example, Brantford Station is now a restaurant, the original freight area is gone from the Georgetown Station and the well known Cheltenham Station that played a minor role in the television series *Jalna* has been privately purchased, removed and restored elsewhere.

Copies of Mr. Stone's work can be purchased throughout the Caledon area in the

antique, boutique and general stores. A few outlets in Streetsville and Georgetown also carry his work. There is a brisk mail order service through the Boston Mills Press whenever his work is advertised outside the local area.

Within the next year or so, he hopes to have thirty sketches completed and made into a book for donations to local libraries, schools and sale to public. Only a certain number of copies will be published and sold.

When this project is completed, he hopes to move into other areas and repeat the process. Although he is not opposed to progress he is saddened to see these monuments of history slowly disappearing - never to be replaced.

Perhaps one day the name of Dave Stone will be synonymous to yesterday's railway stations.



GEORGETOWN TRAIN STATION



DENNY SHEPHERD AND PROPS

## Innovation, tricks used for figure skaters' props

Take an empty pop can, a broken hockey stick and some tinfoil, and what have you got? With a bit of innovation, a

torch to be used as a prop for one of Georgetown Figure Skating Club's ice carnivals.

Creative tricks include cutting round holes along the edges of a sign filling them with transparent plastic drinking cups, and placing a white light behind for a neon sign effect. It is edged with shiny trim from a hot stamp machine.

Other props include a juke box for a "Fonzle" number; street lamps and a park bench for a Charlie Chaplin routine; a stage for a Donnie and Marie style tap dance; backdrops, a staircase, and decorative hanging lights.

Also being made in Mr. Shepherd's large basement workshop are parts for a 16-foot showboat which is too large to be completely assembled inside. Paddle wheels are built from parts of a machine case; air conditioning pipes are used to fashion smokestacks.

Props are salvaged after the show for future remodeling or parade floats.

Figure skating clubs from Owen Sound, Acton, Milton, and other places have rented these props for their own productions.

Other volunteers active in behind-the-scenes carnival preparation are lighting technician George Howie, ice-painter Ron Snow, backdrop maker Barry Grommet, board painter Uta Pellingale, costume designers Marion Grommet and Val Kemp and their committees.

Mr. Shepherd has been in charge of props for the previous ice shows.

## Come to Church

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Windsor Road at Carole St.  
Rev. Harold R. Pater  
Sunday, Jan. 30  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11 a.m. Worship Service  
Church of the Lutheran Hour

**ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH**  
Anglican  
Rev. R. Gallagher  
B.A., S.T.B.  
Sunday, Jan. 30  
Epiphany IV  
8:00 a.m. The Eucharist  
9:30 a.m. Family Eucharist  
11:00 Choral Eucharist  
9:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
nursery provided  
9:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
church Sunday school

**HALTON HILLS PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY**  
Trafalgar Rd. and No. 7 Highway  
Pastor Rev. E. J. Friesen

**GEORGETOWN ALLIANCE CHURCH**  
14 Main St. S.  
Pastor Peter Ralph  
Sunday, Jan. 30  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11 a.m. Morning Worship  
Everyone Welcome  
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10 a.m. Family School  
11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Services  
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## WORKS THE JOCKEY CLUB CIRCUIT

# Area trainer plays the ponies

BY KAREN WARD

The race track draws people who enjoy gambling and many people who just simply enjoy watching horses race.

The program should be studied thoroughly, however, before the novice bets on a race.

Some people bet on their favorite jockey, but most people bet after following a horse in a series of races.

Cecil Coke, harness-racing driver and trainer, says the breeding of a horse is the major determining factor in its racing career.

"Geldings are the best race horses to train," he said, "mares are in season every three weeks, and although stallions are the fastest race horses, they are very high strung, often kicking the walls in their stalls."

Mr. Coke has been involved in racing since childhood and has lived on a farm at RR2 Norval, for seven years. He is semi-retired, driving only occasionally leaving his son

Wed drive almost every night on the Jockey Club circuit at Mohawk and Greenwood Raceways. His daughter Madeline helps train the horses.

There are 50 horses in the Coke stable. Each is being trained and driven. During training a horse pulls a "jogger" cart which is heavier than the sulky cart used in a race.

Two people walk behind the horse using lounge lines, when the cart is hooked on. Horses first run on a half-mile training track. Yearlings must be taught to run clockwise on a 1 1/2 mile track.

The training period for pacers for trotters is similar, except trotters are free-gaited; pacers wear hobbles on their feet and Mr. Coke says, "breeding plays the important role in a horse's gait."

"Some horses are highly intelligent and learn fast, others are slower," daughter

Madeline remarks. "Most of these horses aren't mean. Colts get nippy, but that's because they're young and need discipline."

A horse stops racing when it reaches 14-years-old, so after Sunbo, one of the Coke horses celebrated its last birthday, he retire to the Coke farm. Madeline's seven-year old son, Bradley now rides Sunbo, around the farm.

Cecil his employees and family start the day by feeding the horses at 6 a.m. cleaning stalls, packing fresh bedding and filling water pails. After

these chores, the horses are harnessed and the training begins. Later in the day, horses are bathed, with alcohol in the water. A horse takes an hour to dry.

**LOTS OF WORK**

The Coke stable's 50 horses require 15 employees. Mr. Coke says he is thinking of cutting back on the number of horses because "it's a lot of work."

There are two different types of racing, a conditioned race, and a claiming race. Horses in a claiming race can

be bought by other trainers; the owner takes a chance, a conditioned race has different track conditions for a specific class of horses.

"The owner knows the ability of his horse and places him in a race where he can make the most money," Madeline said.

Cold weather slows the horses down, but this does not affect the race, since all the horses react the same, says Cecil.

Harness-racing has been a way of life for Cecil Coke, and has become an ordinary job to him. He is used to post time and rarely has a jittery attack of nerves.

## Extension granted

A one-year extension was recommended by works department last week for the remaining installation of sidewalks and laying of sod in Georgetown's new Elton subdivision.

Town engineer Bob Austin reported that 80 percent of the homes in the subdivision are completed and that the only remaining work involves the completion of public service

installation around the few vacant lots remaining.

Mr. Austin assured the committee that the ongoing construction would pose no problems for the residents already living there, and confirmed that the Ontario Municipal Act permits only one such extension of the completion date for any single subdivision.

**The Kentners**  
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## HALTON HILLS RECREATION and PARKS NEWS & VIEWS

Commencing this week, staff from your Recreation and Parks Department will be presenting a variety of thoughts, comments, questions and statements for your information, reaction and opinion.

This space will also attempt to better acquaint you with the staff working within this Department and the Recreation Facilities and programmes available to you and your families.

As identified in the Departments annual community brochures circulated via the mail to all homes in Halton Hills in early September the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department has been busy putting into effect the plan for bringing its services close to the citizens it serves. Our first step has now been achieved - our administration and staff have been decentralized into two major areas; principally, Wards 1 and 2, and Wards 3 and 4. Area offices are now in full operation for fall and winter recreation activities. We encourage you to contact your Ward area office for information as well as for your comments and suggestions. As with any change, there will be no doubt be a few 'bugs' to be ironed out. Please bear with us!

While most programmes will be operated on an area or ward basis through the community schools, centres and facilities, some programmes and co-ordinating service will be operated on a Town wide bases through the main Recreation & Parks Department office in Georgetown.

**RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT STAFF**  
Mr. Glen Gray, Director of Recreation & Parks  
Mr. Pat Sheehan, Recreation Facilities Superintendent  
Mrs. Irene Little, Secretary  
Mrs. Chris Rivett, Secretary

**Area Managers**  
Mr. Harold Townsley, Acton  
Mr. Doug Vivlan, Georgetown Memorial  
Mr. Don Gosling, Gordon Alcott  
Recreation Co-ordinators  
Miss Karen King  
Miss Anne Pickering  
Pool Supervisors  
Mr. Vic Stoddart, Georgetown  
Miss Elizabeth Blinfield, Acton

This week, an introduction to Glen Gray, Director of Recreation & Parks for the Town of Halton Hills.

Glen arrived in our community in the fall of 1973 after having enjoyed working experiences with municipal recreation departments and YM-YWCA's in Hamilton, Etobicoke, and Stoney Creek.

During his tenure here, Glen has resided in Georgetown and presently in Acton, in an attempt to better determine some of the feelings within the communities forming parts of our municipality.

During his leisure, Glen spends his time snow and water skiing, enjoys 'pounding a broom' at the local curling club.

Admitting that there are a number of problems with our new community that have yet to be resolved; Glen, however, feels that patience, understanding and two-way input will serve to help iron out some of these problem areas.

The Recreation & Parks staff are preparing a busy and active season of winter and spring activities and look forward to your involvement and participation.

Please remember that we are here to serve YOU the citizens of Halton Hills. Let us do our job, give us a call... do drop in...

Next week: A look at 'What is the purpose of a Recreation & Parks Department and how can it benefit me?'

For further information and suggestions regarding this column, contact Miss Anne Pickering, Recreation Co-ordinator at 877-5185, ext. 19.

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