

Reed calls for action on water in Norval, along Silver Creek

A LIST OF WHAT'S HAPPENING SATURDAY Speyside games set to go

The only Highland Games to be held in Ontario this month are the Speyside Games to be held in Georgetown Saturday.

Games manager Sandy McAllan says that the games drew about 6,000 people last year. This was quite a respectable crowd for the first time such an event is held.

This year, given the same sort of fine weather as last year, he's expecting 7,500 to 8,000. Only the Fergus and Maxwell Games, both widely-known and long-established can hope to draw much larger crowds.

The Honorary Chieftain, Lt.-Col. Colin Macdonald of Guelph, will officially open the Speyside Games at 12:45 p.m.

Lt.-Col. Macdonald is the Deputy High Commissioner for Clan Donald in Canada. He is also a trustee of the Fochair Eilean Society of Canada, which is a committee of the David Stuart Foundation. This body supports all sorts of Scottish heritage events across Canada.

The Carlsburg team and wagon will be featured in the parade bringing the official party to the games.

Both Georgetown pipe bands will also be in the parade.

Although 1976 was the first year for the Speyside Games, they attracted 297 dancers and 15 pipe bands in the four grades. This year looks better.

Already, Mr. McAllan says it has 300 entries for the dancing and more are arriving daily. They are coming from as far away as Windsor and Michigan in the west, Owen Sound and Huntsville to the north, Brockville to the east and Buffalo and northern New York State to the south.

Dancing starts at 8:30 a.m. and runs through to about 5 p.m. or later with most competitors doing three dances. The massed fling is scheduled for immediately after the official opening of the games.

Mr. McAllan wrote to "40-odd" bands in Ontario and Quebec. Of those 17 have already signed up to come and he expects at least 20 to be there for the games.

Four Grade 1 bands have accepted the invitation and Mr. McAllan hopes to see at least seven entries in that class on Saturday.

Both the Toronto and District Caledonian and Clan McFarlane bands have said they will attend the games. They were last year's first

and second place bands in Grade 1. The Guelph Pipe Band is also coming to compete in Grade 1.

The St. Andrew's Pipe Band from Detroit last year's Grade 2 winner, is returning.

Chippawa Legion Pipe Band, last year's Grade 4 winner, is returning. This year they compete in Grade 3.

The Downsview Junior and the Scottish Society of Windsor, second and third place winners in the 1976 Grade 4 competition, will be back in 1977.

The Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band and the Toronto Girls' Pipe Band also compete in Grade 4.

According to John Macdonald, vice-chairman of the Canadian National Exhibition Scottish World Festival, there are only four or five all girl bands in Canada. Besides the Georgetown and Toronto bands there is, or was, one in London. They were invited to compete also, but the invitation was returned marked "address unknown."

The other all girl bands are reported to be in Vancouver and Antigonish, Nova Scotia, too far away to consider inviting.

This means that seeing two all girl bands in one competition is something of a novelty.

At present there are seven bands in the Grade 4 competition.

Since there are usually 15 to 20 members in a band, Mr. McAllan expects there will be 400 pipers on the field for the pipe band marchpast following the official opening.

Grade 4 band competition begins at 1:30 p.m. and the four competitions will not end until about 5 p.m.

This year there is a trophy for the best drum corps. It will be judged on the field while the bands are competing in the regular grades.

A solo drumming competition is also new this year and will be open to both amateur and professionals. It begins at 8:30 a.m. The solo piping competition for amateurs and professionals is also to be held in the morning.

The KaiShin Karate Club of Georgetown will put on a demonstration of martial arts again this year beginning at 12:15 p.m. During the afternoon the Milton Gymnastic

Club will put on a demonstration and Percy Cowan of Palackie, Scotland, will be back showing off the skill of his trained sheep dogs.

The heavy events will be interspersed with the band and dancing competitions throughout the afternoon.

So far this year Mr. McAllan reports that only three teams have signed up for the tug-of-war and he hopes there will be at least one more entry. Last year the event was won by a team of Brampton firefighters.

Ten entries have received for the caber toss, including those of Chuck Mitchell, George Galway and Bill Campbell of Halton Hills. This year's caber is 18 to 19 feet long and weighs about 120 pounds, Mr. McAllan tells us.

Mike Milligan of Kitchener tossed the caber 37 feet, 2 inches just 9 inches farther than George Galway. Mr. Milligan will be back this year to defend this title and the one he earned for putting the 35 pound stone.

Mr. McAllan said new weights have been made for the farmer's walk. This year they weigh exactly 400 pounds.

Although five entries have been received for the Farmer's Walk, Mr. McAllan is disappointed to find that Fred Riding, will not be able to attend. Last year he literally walked away with the event by carrying the 370 odd pound weight 476 feet. Last year's second place winner, Bob Whiteman, is recuperating from a spell in the hospital and is still unsure whether he'll be able to compete even though he plans to attend the games anyway.

Tossing the 56 pound weight for height over a bar wound up as a tie between George Galway and Al Mooring last year. Both men heaved it 14 1/2 feet. Galway will be back this year.

Mr. McAllan says the games committee are enjoying tremendous help from the parks and recreation department and the town works department in setting up the grounds.

A 10 foot by 25 foot stage for the dancers is being built on the grounds opposite the bleachers and 23 concessions have been authorized for the day. These will sell anything from Scottish goods to typical Scottish food. They will be operated by local churches and organizations including the Georgetown Girl's Pipe Band.

Liberal incumbent Julian Reed wants the government to stop "pulling the wool over the people's eyes and come to terms with environmental problems related to the condition of the wells in Norval and the water in Silver Creek."

Reed challenges the validity of testing procedures of water samples in the river and said "the government isn't taking the problems seriously enough by implying the water is clear."

In an all candidates meeting at Georgetown and district high school last week Mr. Reed said anyone interested enough in the problem could check the



GETTING IN A VOTE

Now that she has hands from all the candidates this Halton Hills young lady only has to make up her mind which one she prefers. Her brother popped her balloon, her sister swiped her pencil, and she stuck herself with the button. She stuffed everything back into the litter bag they came in and decided she's glad she's too young to vote.

log book which records the number of hours the bypass pump is used at the water pollution control plant in Georgetown.

The Herald checked the log and discovered that since January, 1977, the pump has been used a total of 109.93 hours pumping 8,595,800 gallons of contact chlorinated sewage into the river.

The sewage pumped to this bypass pump does not bypass the plant, the official stated emphatically, but does bypass "certain vessels" of the plant and goes into a chlorine contact chamber, then into the river.

The plant was built to handle a capacity of 14 million gallons per day, and now handles about 2.25 million gallons.

During the heavy rainstorms a surplus of water runs into the plant increasing the volume to a maximum of 4 million gallons per day.

The water pressure builds up, the official said, and the water is pushed through much faster, which results in a shorter settling time than originally intended.

Reed checked the number of hours the bypass pump was used in February, 1976 and said he was appalled.

He referred these figures to George Kerr, minister of the environment, who was unconcerned.

"Until the new sewage treatment plant, scheduled for 1979 is running," Mr. Reed said, "the problem will be intensified." "He wonders how much capacity the new plant will be

able to accept and with the project growth rate how much will the bypass pump continue to be used.

And he questions if sewage bypassing the primary and secondary sewage treatment systems and pumped only into the contact chlorination chamber (and then into the river) is related to the pollution problems in Norval wells.

He said the problem of contaminated water in Norval wells became evident about seven years ago the same time period as overloading problems started with the sewage plant in Georgetown.

A Norval resident, Mrs. Robert Taylor received the results from a water test taken Sunday night stating her water is contaminated for drinking purposes, with a reading of 80 plus total coliform, and six fecal coliform. A normal reading acceptable from the Board of Health is 4 coliform and zero fecal coliform.

Many residents in Norval have a similar problem, and feel there is a direct relationship between the quality of water in the river and the water table.

Reed is now waiting for information on when capital funding will be released from the region for the water line running to Norval.

"The funds are supposed to be included in the 1978 budget," Mr. Reed said, "but if the region doesn't approve funding a meeting will be arranged between myself, George Kerr, and regional chairman Ric Morrow to address the problem."

OMB approves

Ontario Municipal Board Friday approved a zoning which would permit Garthdale Investments Ltd. to build a 138-unit townhouse development at River and John Streets in Georgetown. The project was opposed by Focal Properties Ltd., a S.B. McLaughlin subsidiary, which has plans for a 361 acre development south of the Credit River on Mountainview Road. The McLaughlin group has opposed all development on the grounds that sewage treatment plant allocation will be taken up by other developers, thus leaving none for its planned development. The OMB ruling means that Halton Hills council has the right to decide sewage treatment plant allocation.

For the informed visitor, a brief look at events

The Speyside Highland Games to be held in the Georgetown Fairgrounds on Saturday are the first of 10 sets of games to be held in Ontario this summer.

They will be followed by games at Embro on July 1, Cobourg on July 2, Brantford on July 9, Burlington on July 16, Huntsville on July 23, Maxwellville on July 30, Dutton on August 1, Bob-Lo on August 6, and Cambridge and Fergus both on August 13.

Since the colorful traditions appeal to those of many nationalities the number and size of the games being held increases annually. This year a new organization called the Highland Games Association of Canada started in Ontario in hopes of uniting all the individual games committees across the country.

So far only eight Ontario associations including the Halton-Peel Highland Games Association have joined. Mrs. Betty Henderson of Dutton, secretary of the national association, says they know about the country and are still trying to make contacts.

The actual beginnings of Highland Games have been lost in legend, although it is generally accepted that they originated as a rude form of entertainment when clan chiefs called their men together for hunting, military exercises, and to conduct clan business.

Since they were rough games in their inception, making use of whatever the men had at hand, the organizers of the Speyside Games have tried to maintain that unsophisticated atmosphere.

Speyside Games committee member, Sandy McAllan explains that the stones used in the stone throw are just what their name implies. While other places may use specially purchased rocks to throw, Speyside does not.

McAllan went into a farmers field, found a few stones that he judged to be of an appropriate weight, took them home to the bathroom scales and chose the ones closest to the exact 16 pounds.

Likewise the pole used in the caber toss is just a rough log

purchased bark, knots, and all, at a lumberyard near Snelgrove.

Casting the bar, or tossing the caber, is said to have originated among Highland woodcutters. Caber is the Gaelic word for tree trunk. The caber is usually 17 feet long and weighs 90 pounds. Although there are several theories on its origin including the suggestion that men tossed the logs from one side of a stream to another instead of carrying them across the water, the more logical explanation

is that the caber was used as a measuring device for the logs. The caber is usually 17 feet long and weighs 90 pounds. Although there are several theories on its origin including the suggestion that men tossed the logs from one side of a stream to another instead of carrying them across the water, the more logical explanation

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sheep dog demonstration have been added to hold the attention of less purist spectators.

Such as tug-of-war, throwing the weight for height, and the Speyside Games does not include only the traditions behind the Farmer's Walk would pose a mystery to uninitiated spectators.

Since the Scots were as partial as any other people to using feats of strength to show off their manhood they included this in their games.

While the stone of strength in their contests was used for putting the stone, the manhood stone was a huge affair weighing between one and three hundred pounds which participants must lift onto a waist-high wall. This is a somewhat primitive concept to modern sports enthusiasts apparently, and thus in many North American games the stone has been changed to Farmer's Walk,

based on the notion that pioneer farmers carried heavy loads and were virile males.

... and a little about the dances, too

three or four months to learn the fling and it is usually the first dance a student is taught.

Some say the sword dance originated in 1654 when Malcolm Canmore crossed his sword over that of his beaten foe and danced for joy across the two weapons.

A second story suggests that it was a dance performed to amuse the troops in camp the night before a battle. The dancers had to be cautious however, for if they touched a sword it was an omen that they would be wounded in the battle. Displacing a sword foretold death for the dancer.

Kathryn deHueck suggests

flowing, graceful dance she is said to have performed in tribute to the departing Bonnie Prince Charlie, is sometimes seen at games. The Aboyne dress is the traditional costume for this dance since it is a woman's dance.

The Sailor's Hornpipe involves a lot of symbolism from the life of the seafarer while the Irish jig is really an English parody on how they see the quick temper and shifting moods of the Irish people. Both these dances are also seen at games as extras besides the three compulsory dances.

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Flora MacDonald's Fancy, a

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To The Readers of The Herald, Georgetown

I feel compelled to write this letter in hopes it may prompt some people to stop and think. Some may remember my story—it appeared July 10, 1975 on the full front page of the Toronto Sun—“WIDOW'S \$76,000.00 NIGHTMARE”.

Part of my problem stemmed from the builder, most of it from the fact the Chief Building Inspector of this area overlooked thirteen Building Infractions and six Fire Hazards, overlooked also was the fact a permit was secured with one set of plans and another set used to build a different house. Only those who have actually experienced some such circumstances can fully appreciate the following 2 1/2 years of nightmares and agony which followed.

During that time I wrote to and telephoned every available department set up for just this purpose—Consumer's Affairs, Uniform Building By-Laws, Property Rights, Ombudsman, O.M.B., Premier Davis' Office, the list is endless, it also includes the Georgetown Council, the area in which I live. I did contact my Member of Parliament, Mr. Julian Reed, he did try, but was hampered by red tape. Finally in desperation, I called a Mr. William Johnson, a name I noticed on an election poster in my area. Mr. Johnson immediately answered my call, he visited my house, wrote letters, arranged meetings which he attended on my behalf. At one point I had 15,000 gallons of water, yes 15,000 gallons, flood my basement where all my furniture was stored. Mr. Johnson arrived minutes after my call and he and a friend (another NDP member by the way) baled water for nearly a day, in water up to their knees. They both took time off work to do some of these deeds. Not once did I hear "Sorry, it's not my jurisdiction" Mr. Johnson did his level best as a human being. He did his utmost for me, he would do his utmost for you, he's that kind of a person. Which brings me to the point of this letter.

Mr. Johnson is a member of the NDP party. Not once did I hear a word on politics, nor a word of repayment. From what I have experienced, these people seem to be more interested in the plight of the people and this country than most politicians whose main interest seems to be money and power. If the first product you buy is unsatisfactory, try another, if it too fails, go to a third, even though you may not be too familiar with it.

Why NOT give the NDP a try? You can vote them in, you can vote them out too if you so desire.

Most people are not too concerned with politics until it touches their lives personally. All I can say if it had not been for Mr. Johnson and his friends, I honestly don't think I could have survived this experience. Today, more than ever before, people should stop and think about the real person they are voting in, not just the name of the party. Would your party give up a day's wages to bale, by hand, 15,000 gallons of water out of your basement?

Thank-you Mr. Johnson, for all your time, your efforts and your work on my behalf. My only regret is that there are not more Bill Johnsons and his kind in this world.

Mrs. Linda Barrack
Mrs. H. Barrack
5 Sideroad

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