

# The old poolhall ain't what she used to be



Brian Battye, 20, lines up his shot in a game of skittles where three balls and five miniature bowling-type pins are used. Brian has been shooting pool for 10 years.

For all the years she was a bank clerk, the last 18 months or so in Georgetown, Patricia Baths didn't think running a pool hall was a woman's job. "I just couldn't picture myself in a pool hall," she told The Herald in an interview, while standing at the counter of Club Billiards on Georgetown's Main Street. She and her husband Gerry, residents in Georgetown for seven years, recently purchased the pool hall as an investment. Patricia quit her job at the bank to manage the business while Gerry continued his job as a wood industry salesman. "I didn't know the difference between Boston balls or snooker balls," Patricia laughed. But now in the second month of management and the beginning of the busy season, she's ready to mind the 50 to 60 customers playing at 11 tables and eight pinball machines. "I would never have believed anybody who told me that we would own a pool hall," she said. Now, despite longer hours and harder work than at the bank, she enjoys being her own boss. Part of her disinclination to pool halls came from the poor image of pool

halls as portrayed in movies and on television, she said. She herself felt that they were dens of unsavory characters. But that all changed when she took over and discovered the pool playing public. First the kids and, "It's amazing how nice they are," she said. "Kids are terrific, just marvellous." Then, among her customers is a father who is teaching the games to his sons and daughters, she said, and even businessmen in suits and ties who leave their briefcases by the side of the pinball machines they play for an hour or two. "Pool is a game where you have to have skill and concentration," Patricia said. "It's a relaxing game... you can't just stab at the cue ball." She had never shot pool before taking over Club Billiards but now is learning to enjoy the game. Paradoxically, now that she is surrounded by pool tables and eager to improve her shot, the true nature of the game - to get away from it all for an hour or so - escapes her. You can't play without having to keep an eye on everything," she said. "Yet, it's so simple once you know it."

"Who knows," she laughed at the thought of it. "In a couple of years, I'll be a real pro at it." When she's not busy she watches how the shooters aim. She and her husband enforce a strict rule forbidding foul language, alcohol or drugs. It's the only way they can keep the atmosphere to draw the family trade, Gerry told The Herald. He has previous experience running pool halls and thus was familiar with what to expect. "I have no sympathy with drunks or anyone who ruins it for the others," he said. There is no place in town for kids to go, Gerry said. "Here at least there are 50 or 60 kids off the street... sometimes I think it's a babysitting service on weekends." Both agreed that the venture has increased the time they work. "You can't have your own business by sitting," Patricia said, "you work for it." The decision to purchase the pool hall as an investment took two years, she said, but once done, the transition from her old job to her new one was sudden. "It's amazing how life can take a turn."



Being your own boss is something Patricia Baths, above, says she really enjoys. "It's amazing how many fingerprints there are on the glass."

## Herald photofeature By George Evashuk



Mary Ellen Larusso, 29, aims to shoot a match with Cliff Thorburn, Canadian Snooker Champion, when he comes to Club Billiards for a demonstration in the fall. She has been shooting for four years.



Cindy Hayes, 24, has been shooting pool since she was 11-years-old. She has already played a match with Canadian Snooker Champion Cliff Thorburn and is looking forward to another match with him. Above, she sets up the snooker balls for another game.

## Norval water becoming a political football

Municipal water to Norval has been stated as being a priority item, yet residents of the village are wondering if the water situation hasn't just become a political football, Art Reinhardt, chairman of the Norval water committee said

at press time. MPP Julian Reed is setting up a meeting between Rick Morrow, Halton regional chairman and George Kerr, minister of environment. A meeting was scheduled between Mr. Reed, Hugh Mac-

Farlane, president of Norval Community Association, Art Reinhardt and Coun. Pat Patterson but was cancelled because a mutual date could not be set.

Mr. Reinhardt said the outcome of the meeting would have been to set up an interview with the two key political figures and this is being carried out by Mr. Reed.

Mr. Reinhardt said Mr. Kerr is implying that the hold-up is at the region, but he said, the region said they are waiting for a commitment from the ministry saying that money for Norval water is in the budget.

"It isn't really that much money. It's only a loss in the bucket, considering the amount spent at a provincial level," Mr. Reinhardt said. However, Mr. Reinhardt said, "even with Mr. Kerr's approval I can still see hurdles that will have to be jumped, but, we'll worry about that once the ministry gives their approval."

Mr. Reed will set up a meeting at a convenient date for everyone and "we will finally get to the bottom of the problem."

### Fashion show

A fall fashion show will be held at 26 Guelph St. Georgetown, on Sept. 20 and Sept. 21 at 8 p.m. held "by Bettianne" and "The Lunch Garden." Refreshments will be served and admission is \$4. A limited number of tickets are available and anyone interested should call 877-1113 or 877-7334 by Sept. 12.

### Area change

Ford of Canada has announced that Georgetown has been assigned to the newly-formed Great Lakes Region for administration of sales and service. The new region will administer 143 dealerships in southwestern, Northern Ontario and the Niagara Peninsula.

## Police decline proposal

Georgetown Jaycees proposal of donating a policeman of the month award was declined by the police commission Thursday. Chief Ken Skerrett said the commission has an agreement with Kiwanis Club of Oakville and the board feels it would not be wise to segment the force by district for such recognition.

Chief Skerrett suggested the Jaycees join with the Kiwanis Club in a joint presentation, but Mel Fawcett said the Jaycees will drop the project instead of joining the Kiwanis Club. "If the Kiwanis Club drops the project at a future date, the Jaycees may continue with its proposal then," he said.

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## Chess Mess

Georgetown's top dozen CFC ratings as of July August edition of the CFC bulletin.

1. Steve MacLeod 1635
2. Brian MacLeod 1486
3. Murray Marchant 1446
4. Tony Smith 1431
5. Blair Thompson 1321
6. Kevin Neill 1313
7. Dave Nichols 1312
8. Andre Boisvenue 1298
9. John Moore 1288
10. Glen Emerson 1204
11. Brad Waters 980
12. Ken Marchant 978

**CANDIDATES MATCHES**  
Victor Korchnoi has defeated Lev Polugaevsky by a score of 8½-4½. The 44-year-old Grandmaster thus goes on to the finals for the 3rd time. (He lost to Spassky in 1968 and Karpov in 1974). He will meet either Spassky or Portisch in the final.  
Here is a game showing Korchnoi at his best, from

his 1974 match against future World Champion Anatoly Karpov. This amazing game is the shortest decisive game ever in a Candidates match.

WHITE: V. Korchnoi BLACK: A. Karpov Queen's Indian Defence

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. g3 b6 4. Bg2 Bb7 5. c4 Be7 6. Nc3 0-0 7. Qc2 c5 8. d5 ed 9. Ng5 Ne6 (Better was 9...g6, as Karpov had played earlier in the match.) 10. Nxds g6 11. Qd2? Nxd5 12. Bxd5 Rd8? (This move loses outright. Best was 12...Bxg5 13. Qxg5 Qxg5 14. Bxg5 when Black still has a difficult ending.) 13. Nxb7! Re8 (The Knight cannot be captured because of 14. Qh8ch Kg8 15. Qxg6ch, etc. Black is lost.) 14. Qh6 Ne5 15. Ng5 Bxg5 16. Bxg5 Qxg5 17. Qxg5 Bxd5 18. 0-0 Bxc4 19. f4 Black resigns.

Next week we will have a report on the \$3,000 Labour Day Open, expected to attract 300 players to the Harbourfront September 3-5.

FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: S. Tartakover - "It's better to sacrifice your opponent's pieces!"

GEORGETOWN GIRLS' PIPE BAND

35th. ANNIVERSARY

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All former members are cordially invited to the dinner-dance. Everyone else is welcomed to the dance.

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For tickets contact Mrs. Gail Bennett, R.R. 5, Georgetown, or phone 877-8775 or 877-6398 (Mrs. Valerie Cunningham) or any band member.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!