



Acton resident Jack Carpenter behind the microphone

How about that! Radio is a habit

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer
Jack Carpenter is a freelance radio and television broadcaster, a film producer, an animator and a photographer.

"But people know me more from Sunday night than they do from the rest of the year," Mr. Carpenter said in an interview with The Herald.

Mr. Carpenter is the writer, producer and host of a popular Sunday evening radio program called Music Hall. The show, which runs from 5 to 8:30 p.m. on Kitchener FM radio station CFCA, features entertainment from the United Kingdom in a radio variety format.

Music Hall is going into its fifth year of broadcasting, every Sunday, all-year-long.

"It's kind of a pride thing with the show, keeping it on the air," Mr. Carpenter said.

Mr. Carpenter has been in radio for 26 years. He started out doing news, features and interviews with television and radio stations in the Kitchener area before FM radio came along. When CFCA decided to do a British-oriented show to balance out their other shows, Mr. Carpenter took on the job.

"Our show has become a Sunday night habit," he said. "We even invented a new catch phrase — 'How about that!'" Once, when I was introduced to an audience in London on a special occasion, the whole audience said 'How about that!'"

Putting together a radio show every week is "continuous," Mr. Carpenter said. "You pick up an idea every day of the week."

"My library is my show," he added. "I collect the recordings and I have my own personal library that I select from."

Radio is a one-to-one business, according to Mr. Carpenter with the host only a voice, and the audience conjuring up an image of who the voice is.

"I stay the same from week to week," Mr. Carpenter said. "You don't change the host."

Comedy is a favorite with the Music Hall audience. The station buys pre-recorded comedy shows from Britain and airs them, sometimes in serial form, so the listeners can hear three of four different shows instead of one.

"It's nice to have something to chuckle at," Mr. Carpenter said. "I'm not the most serious person in the world." Humor is the subject the listeners write in about most often with requests and dedications following closely.

"I guess the thing I enjoy in the respect we get from professionals," Mr. Carpenter said. "The show is listened to by people in the business."

The list of performers who have made guest appearances on the program is lengthy. Among some of the celebrities are Des O'Connor, Danny La Rue, Kenneth Moore, John Mills, Glynis Johns, and Dame Vera Lynn.

The late Guy Lombardo appeared on the program whenever he came home to London. Harry Mortimer celebrated his 75th anniversary working with bands on the Music Hall. Time and circumstances are the only limitations affecting the program, Mr. Carpenter says.

"The show hasn't been fully utilized yet," he said. "It will change as the artists change. We've been fortunate to have some intriguing features."

Mr. Carpenter said that as the host of Music Hall, he does "all the things radio variety allows you to. One day, for example, I suggested 'If you're listening to this program from your car, put your headlights on high. And if you see another car with its headlights on, honk your horn.' What people didn't think about was that within ten minutes, it was dusk and everyone had their headlights on. That's a radio gag. It creates a smile and doesn't do any harm."

In Mr. Carpenter's view, the funniest show of Music Hall was with Cook and Moore, a British comedy team, who performed five of what they thought were their funniest skits. One of the highlights was the English Christmas show last year.

"But comedy gets more responses," he said. "Sunday nights keep sanity in my family."

Although Mr. Carpenter is involved in many projects outside his work on Music Hall, the show seems to be something he will do as long as possible.

"More and more people are saying 'We found you,'" he said, "but we feel like we've been on the air all our lives."

Halt regional police will be making more frequent inspections of the intersection of Highway 7 and the First Line in future.

Lloyd Hislop, a Canadian National Railways employee, reported last week that four red caution reflector lights were smashed by a person or people throwing rocks.

In recognition of the dangerous nature of such an incident, periodic checks on the intersection by police will be increased, especially on weekends.

Two brothers arrested

Two brothers from Erin Twp. were arrested on charges of obstructing justice and creating a public disturbance after an incident on Main St. in Acton last week.

Officers were attempting to clear a small disturbance in front of a grocery store in Acton, and, according to police, the suspects refused to leave the area. One man allegedly began shouting and swearing. The officers cautioned him, and he was subsequently arrested. According to police, the suspect was resisting arrest the entire time.

The suspect's brother was charged with obstructing justice when his actions resulted in the escape of the suspect, who turned himself in the next day, police said.

Charged with causing a disturbance and escaping custody is Joseph Kenter of Erin Twp. Frederic Kenter of Erin Twp is charged with obstructing justice.

School break-in

Burglars broke into Limehouse public school last week and escaped with three pieces of audio-visual equipment.

Police said Tony Harley, a school janitor, discovered a window to room 3 had been forced open on the north side of the school, giving the burglars access to all the classrooms.

The missing items are two Bell and Howell recorders and one tape recorder. The tape recorder has a black plastic top and a green plastic bottom. On the bottom of the tape recorder is printed "H 196"

Correction

The Herald made errors in two Remembrance Day stories last week. Mr. and Mrs. Pat Chamberlain were referred to as W.W.I veterans. They are, in fact W.W.II veterans. Mrs. Marina Bludd was also wrongly identified as Mrs. Kay Bludd. The Herald apologizes for any embarrassment or inconvenience which these errors may have caused the incorrectly identified individuals.

Stop sign removal

Works committee recommended that removing the stop sign on the south-west corner of the MacDonald Boulevard-Wallace Street intersection in Acton and the replacing of the yield sign on the south-east corner of the intersection with a stop sign. The move was suggested by Halton regional police Superintendent F. N. Schwantz because he feels that after making the stop on Wallace Street, vehicles travelling south on that street intending to make a left turn on MacDonald Boulevard ignore the stop sign at Wallace and MacDonald. Vehicles going north on Wallace may ignore the yield sign and make both right- and left-hand turns thus posing a threat to easterly traffic ignoring the second stop at Wallace and MacDonald.

Speed limits

Works committee recommended speed limits on the Eighth Line from Steeles Avenue to 10 Sideroad be reduced, although they were not specific about what the new limit would be. Since they discovered that signing the road under official guidelines would involve approximately 20 signs, committee members believe this would be too expensive. Ward 2 Coun. George Mully recommended that the speed limit be reduced "one increment below the norm", and left it to the town's engineering department to post signs that would comply with the regulations and still not be costly.

Road opening opposed

Works committee turned down an application by Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Clark of R. R. 2 Norval to have the unopened portion of 15 Sideroad road allowance opened up another 1,000 feet at the town's expense. The committee agreed with an engineering report which said that putting in a public road in this area would encourage rural residential development which is contrary to the Esqueving official plan. It would also be very costly and most impractical to build and maintain 1,000 feet of new dead end road to serve one new dwelling.

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