

Summer festival urged for town

A day-long summer festival in Halton Hills to officially open the summer season was proposed Monday to finance administration committee.

Ed Howse, of Acton, regional representative of Ontario Arts Council said the festival, scheduled for June 3, would be for the entire town and not just Acton or Georgetown.

It would combine the visual and performing arts with horticulture and handicrafts, Mr. Howse said. The festival would open with a parade and plans are for it to close with a fireworks display. There would be hourly bus tours of gardens for which there will be a charge. The evening would have continuous entertainment.

Estimated cost of the festival, the first of its kind in Halton Hills, is about \$5,000, Mr. Howse said. The money will come from the town, Wintario and the Ontario Arts Council.

Mr. Howse said Halton Hills Arts Council, which is sponsoring the festival, were not asking the town for cash but would accept services instead. Such as lighting, parking, policing and insurance to an estimated total of about \$2,000.

Gretchen Day, president of the Credit Valley Artisans, said the summer festival is an opportunity to pull together all the arts groups in Halton Hills.



NEEDLEPOINT DISPLAY, COURSE

This quilt was part of a needlepoint display at Hillcrest Church which featured a slide presentation by Sylvia Hampen of the Oakville Stitchery Guild. The display was part of a summary day for "Needlepoint for Beginners", a course in needlepoint sponsored by the home economics branch of the Ontario ministry of agriculture.

Nancy Schmidt above models a cloak embroidered by Sybil Hampen of the Oakville Stitchery Guild, who is standing in the background. The cloak was decorated by sewing on flowers cut from colored net, and a long stem was embroidered down the back in the white thread.

Actonians expect no reply, but it's coming: McKeough

A spokesman from the provincial treasurer's office says that the Actonians for Acton group should be receiving a reply from Darcy McKeough to their second application for a review of regional government in Halton "within a few days".

A spokesman for the group says they are not expecting any reply.

Norm Elliott, vice-chairman of the group says, "I think he's going to see our second letter as simply expressing our view of his first reply. I didn't expect him to reconsider our request."

At present the Acton group is biding its time and planning its next move, Mr. Elliott says. Since the chairman will be away for a time they have no concrete plan for further meetings until his return.

The group intends to take a more positive approach to the situation he says, and collect more information on all of Halton Hills.

"Up until now our information has just been on how tax money has been used to subsidize projects in Acton," he says.

"There has been no analysis of how much Acton money has been spent outside Acton. Some people seem to have the impression that all we want to do is break up the status quo. Maybe we can get more data on the financial picture when the 1977 figures are available."

GLT rehearses thriller

Georgetown Little Theatre (GLT) is now in rehearsal for Murder Mistaken, a thriller by Janet Green.

This play is GLT's entry in the Association of Community Theatre's drama festival.

Pat Joyne is directing the production with a cast of Joyce Holland, Vera Macdonald, Joe DeGuldice, Ashley Windsor, Marie Cleton and Val Stoddart.

A newcomer to GLT Ashley Windsor, is playing the lead role of Edward Bare, the villain of the piece.

The play was originally presented in the early 1950's and is being played in costume of this period. This involves considerable research by Dorothy Hunt, responsible for costumes.

One "prop" that is proving difficult to find is an old gas fire and if anybody knows of the whereabouts of one, Pat Joyne would appreciate a call at 638-2702.

Murder Mistaken will be presented at Wigglesworth school on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 1 to 4.

Adjudication night is Friday March 3. Tickets are available (limited numbers left for Friday and Saturday).

Council seeks study on town hall safety

The provincial ministry of labour will be asked to conduct an investigation into Acton's old town hall to see if the building is safe for public use, finance administration committee decided Monday.

The fate of the two-storey brick structure, built in the late 1880's, is currently under a cloud. A group of Acton citizens is trying to raise an estimated \$237,000 to repair the building but some councillors want to raze it.

The first floor of the building houses the Acton detachment of Halton regional police and a senior citizens drop-in centre. But police are currently negotiating with the town to move onto Mill Street.

Finance administration committee decided to request an investigation by the ministry of labour because consulting engineer Alan Zeegen says in his report a detailed examination of the structural floor systems would have to be made prior to a final assessment of the load-carrying capacities of the floors.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

Slowing time

By SUSAN De FACENDIS

It was not so very long ago that I considered the pattern of my life to be firmly established. Two people, husband and wife, and inevitably becoming a nucleus of three, four and eventually five.

I was mother, my role was clear and the future years of childrearing stretched ahead, appearing to be a permanent arrangement. Not an unwelcome one, but a choice that, once having been made, had no foreseeable ending.

I was convinced they would never be anything more than little people, spreading joy, peanut butter and rice krispies around the house and it was inconceivable to me that they would never grow large enough to go to bed without a goodnight kiss.

However, while the trail of peanut butter and rice krispies has never diminished over the years, a lot of other, quite unexpected, changes have taken place.

Suddenly, an unpleasant reminder of the passing years hit me squarely and without mercy. I took my eyes off these children for just one careless moment and, when I looked again, it was to discover that my two eldest had suddenly acquired a height equal to my own.

Do you realize how difficult it is to yell: "Belt up!" To a kid who is looking you straight in the eye? - and, if I am finding it difficult to retain righteous parental wrath in an eyeball to eyeball confrontation now, what will all the tomorrows held when I will be forced to direct the volume upwards to reach them?

My near future is obviously destined to be a permanent crick in the neck.

Yet another first occurred recently, when Louisa asked to borrow a sweater - this coming from a child who has three times as many clothes as her mother - and the tables were turned for the worse, when I found myself keeping a lonely midnight vigil, waiting for her to arrive home from a late baby sitting job.

Now, if all these terrible, unsettling changes are suddenly taking place, can there be more to come?

Is it possible to imagine that, one day, no one will be bursting through the front door to pile mitts, scarves and hats all over the hot air vents in the hall? Can this job of motherhood that I once felt offered security, turn out not to be permanent employment after all, merely part time?

What will I do to fill the sudden void, in the absence of fingerprints on the walls? - potato chips in front of the TV set? - and cupboard doors that remain stubbornly and unannaturally closed?

What do a husband and wife talk about after years of such conversational gems as: "Guess who performed on the potty today?" or "The dentist thinks Teresa may need braces" - and other such nit-picky gut issues pertaining to the worrisome years of childrearing.

When no longer besieged each school morning for money to cover everything from dances, year books, plays and ski trips, will the sudden accumulation of jingling coins in my pocket help to cover a silence unbroken by the familiar and welcoming: "Hi Mom, I'm home."

Hey kids, let's slow time down a little, huh?

Provincial task force review called for once again in Halton

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

Halton's Bill 151 Review Committee has called for a provincially appointed task force to review regional government in Halton.

This is the second time the committee has called for a provincial review of regional government. Hurlington Coun. Walter Mulkewich made the recommendation at the final meeting of the committee, saying, "The kind of effort we're undergoing is futile."

The committee met to decide which recommendations would be passed on to regional council, which will in turn vote on the recommendations to be passed on to the provincial government.

Committee members were warned prior to the beginning of the meeting that this would be the last meeting, and all recommendations would have to be dealt with.

Oakville Coun. Laurie Mannell criticized the report prepared by the regional staff. He said he would challenge a number of statements contained in the report as being blanket statements and opinions.

"It's a regional staff report, and naturally it's going to be biased," he said. "Everyone has to justify his own existence." Coun. Mannell said he disagreed with the statement in the report which said regional government has resulted in a more efficient use of personnel.

"That may be the staff's opinion, but it isn't mine," he said.

He also criticized the staff's comments about the problem of the contamination of Norval water, and the implication that the problem was solved entirely by the region.

"The assumption here is that if we'd never had a region, the people in Norval would never have had water," he said. "Well, I don't think that's so. I think the councillors in Norval or Halton Hills, or whatever up there, would have found a way."

"Instead of bringing things up to the highest common level, regional government has brought them to the lowest common level," Coun. Mannell said.

Halton Hills Coun. Russ Miller said he finds it difficult to justify regional government "back in the municipality" when taxes have doubled.

"But maybe they would have done that anyway," he said.

"I think a lot of the problems with regional government are the fault of the politicians, and we won't own up to it," he said.

"It's time the politicians got off their butts, because if they don't, regional government won't work."

Burlington Mayor Mary Munro pointed out, "We said at

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Block Parents meeting

The Georgetown chapter of the Block Parents program will be holding a meeting next Tuesday, Feb. 21, to elect the new executive for 1978. The meeting is at the Elks' Hall on Mountainview Road North at 8 p.m. Anyone interested in joining the executive should plan to attend. The program is still looking for volunteers to become block parents. Those interested in joining as block parents should also attend the meeting.

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