Canada Day highlights identity, problems

By PAUL DORSEY SUE LEHN

Students at Acton high school heard several widelyvaried interpretations Wednesday of what it means to be a Canadian, some of which frankly underlined the nation's

problems. The occasion was the school's own observation of Canada Day, with some 25 subjects as diverse as the Great Lakes and the construction of the CN tower. Expert commentators on each topic. were on hand to share their knowledge and opinions with the students during three hourlong seminar periods.

The event had originally been scheduled in January, but was postponed because of uncooperative weather conditions.

According to Wanda Hall and Harold Mahatoo, organizers of the day, " 'Canada Day' is an attempt to develop in our students and community a greater awareness of the

many facets and wide diversity that is inherit in our nation's human resources." It was a day planned to help make students more aware of their country.

All students attended a one hour lecture presented by George Vincent, a lecturer, writer, broadcaster, and consultant on both Canada and South America.

He is a former high school geography and history teacher from London, Ontario and a member of the Canadian Association of Latin American Studies. He has also been head of the Canadian Section of the British Ministry of Information, as well as Information Adviser to the British High Commissioner in Canada,

Vincent presented to Acton students a slide show and commentary on Canada, Being a strong believer in first hand or direct experience, the lecture was based on Vincent's numerous travels across Canada. He has seen virtually every corner of our country, as

well as travelling extensively in South America. His whole family travels along with him. his wife Jane Vincent taking the photographs to be used in his lectures. Allogether they have over 7,000 photos, the majority being shots of Can-

> For about three months of the year, Vincent travels across the country, doing on the average three or four lectures a day. In speaking to school and adult audiences, one of the main ideas he stresses is that we are all Canadians, regardless of birthplace.

"One problem is our failure to recognize others as Canadians, we do not want to recognize immigrants as Canadians. Our greatest step toward unity would be to start treating all Canadians as Canadians. You can't make a good cake from one ingredient.

Vincent also feels that we wrongly assume all Canadians must be the same, when in reality a western farmer is as different from an eastern fish-

erman as he is from a Bay be reawakended to serve and Street executive. He feels the bilingualism situation is only a symptom of a much deeper problem in Canadlan unity, and unless we cure the disease we will disintegrate as a na-

"As I travel across the country I see two many signs of differences, and if we drift further apart we will be finished as a nation," commented

Wanda Hall's idea of a

"Canada Day" Is a wondered

their country and the problems

way of making people aware of

faces today, according to "Kids don't know enough about Canada. This kind of day is needed, and I wish it would be adopted in the same man-

ner by all schools." Willie Thrasher, a young Inuit folksinger from Aklavik in the Northwest Territories. brought to the school his vision of a Canadian society in which the lifestyles and traditions of the country's native people can be enjoyed by all of its citizens. Now a recreation director

for the Native Peoples Centre in Toronto, Mr. Thrasher told the students that he and many of his Inuit peers have just recently become aware of the extraordinary culture developed by their ancestors but long since repressed by the advance of European technology and customs.

Mr. Thrasher nevertheless expressed no resentment or hostility toward European Canadians for their actions in the past. He recalled his childhood experiences in a Roman Catholic mission school where the Eskimo children were strapped by the supervising nuns if they spoke in their native tongue. The pupils were instead taught English and, in keeping with their Christian

training, Latin. Il is the almost-forgotten knowledge shared by "Canada's first citizens" he said. which must now be reintroduced, particularly to young lost all sense of cultural iden- department of Indian Affairs EXCHANGING IDEAS

Canada's Indians and Eskimos, who he called the least respected native people of any country in the world, are now getting together to exchange ideas and customs, Mr. Thrasher sald. The success of their efforts, such as the recent inter-provincial volleyball tournament organized by the Native Peoples Centres, will ultimately lead them into their rightful roles in Canadian so-

ciety, he predicted. With the restoration of the country's native cultures, Mr. Thrasher said, all Canadians will benefit from a rekindled appreciation for the land itself. The Indian medicine man, long since disappeared from the Canadian west, will return to once again embody the concept of harmony with nature and refute the charges of Aklavik's missionaries by demonstrating how illness can be treated by natural means.

In the final analysis, Mr. Thrasher concluded, all Canadians can be "proud together" in the eyes of "the same God."

Mr. Thrasher relates his ideas in original folksongs for which he has won widespread acclaim and support. A forthcoming record album is intended to follow up on the success of his first single recording, entitled, "Eskimo Named Johnny." PLAYWRIGHT

In another room nearby. nationalistic playwright Carol Bolt was explaining her ambition to create a Canadian literary mythology.

The Winnipeg-born author of "Buffalo Jump" and "One Night Stand" has already dealt with such well-known Canadian protagonists as Louis Ricl and Tom Longboat in her productions, and now believes that the more unique aspects of Canadian lifestyles should become common knowledge to theatre-gowers around the world Turonto's Younge-St. Clair area, for example, should become as well-known internationally as New York's 42nd Street for the social sce-

nario it represented. Wednesday's activities began with assemblies for the whole school during which popular geographer and author George Vincent discussed the need for a deeper appreciation of Canada's physical attributes by its citizens.

Other topics handled by the experts throughout the day included the use and handling of guard dogs, agriculture in Hallon, seals and sealing, the RCMP, and Canadian Armed Forces, Ontario Hydro, quilting, square dancing, spinning, freelance writing, the Toronto Harbor Commission, Scottish music and dancing. Mennonite folk art, the Niagara Escarp-

native Canadians, who have ment and the work of Canada's and ministry of energy.

> Other highlights were a red and white contest which was won by Jim Saxon and Bonnle Caplan, who dressed themselves to the nines in Canada's official colors, and an afternoon variety show that featured many of the performers who had conducted seminar sessions earlier.

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'EXPECT OPEN, FRIENDLY PEOPLE'

New challenge for policeman Schwantz

By LORI TAYLOR Superintendent Floyd Schwantz doesn't believe there will be much of a difference between his job as superintendent in the Halton Regional Police force and his new posi-Timmins.

not the differences between the two places, but the similarities," he said. "I expect to find very open, very friendly people in Timmins, much like the

people I've met in Halton." and his wife, Betty, had had "a secret desire" to move north

for several years. "It was agreed that if I was mainly for patrolling the urban offered a position in the north, I'd take it." he said. Being an avid hunter and fisherman, the superintendent has spent time travelling in the north. However, he said he is not as familiar with the area around

Timmins as he is with areas further south. He has resigned from the

Halton regional police effective May 21, and assumes his duties in Timmins on May 29. "People who don't like the tion as chief of police in north are foolish, I think," he

said. "The north is beautiful." "What I expect to find are He has fished in Lake Temagami and has also gone canoeing in the area. Although the Timmins police

force is responsible for patrolling the largest city, by area, in North America, the entire Supt. Schwantz, 48, said he force is housed in one building. There are 71 police officers on the force and 15 civilians. The Timmins force is responsible area of Timmins, while the rural area is covered mainly by the Ontario Provincial Potice. The city of Timmins covers an area of 1,220 square

service is provided to the public, efficiently and at a reasonable cost," Supt Schwantz said. "Do that and you have to be a winner." One of the advantages of the

Timmins force is two full-time mechanics who perform all the repairs on the police cruisers, except for body work and windshields. The force also has two snowmobiles for emergen-

The superintendent has been to Timmins twice since he first applied for the job of chief of police, and has compared prices of various items, such as food, clothing and gasoline, with prices for those items in

"It was a pleasant surprise," he said. "The price of gasoline is quite high as you go north toward North Bay, but by the lime you get to Timmins, the price drops to almost "My principle concern as the

Monday at the latest."

Coun Les Duby said he was

very disturbed to come to

council and find something

new on the issue at such a late

date. "That costs have risen in

the past year is not the fault of

Garthdale or council," the

credibility of council is at

Supt. Schwantz hasn't purchased a home in the Timmins



FLOYD SCHWANTZ

within a penny of what we pay area yet, but he expects to be chief or police is to ensure that in Timmins a couple of days

before assuming his duties, which would allow time to look around. Son Glenn, 17, and daughter Valerie, 15, will be finishing the school year in Georgetown before moving up to Timmins.

Glenn particularly is looking forward to moving since he is interested in the work of the department of lands and for-

The superintendent said he had some misgivings about leaving the Halton force. "I've worked with a really good bunch of men," he said.

"I really regreat leaving these

In his present position Supt. Schwantz is responsible for District 1, which covers Halton Hills and Milton. Prior to the formation of the Halton Regional Police in 1974, he was chief of police in Georgelown. When the regional force began operations, Supt. Schwantz took the rank of staff inspector and worked in administration

in District 1. Before coming to Georgetown he worked for 21 years as a member of the Kitchener

in Oakville before taking over

police department. William Hourigan, chairman of the Halton Police Commission, said, "We're sorry to see it happen. Superintendent Schwantz has certainly done a commendable job. He's the type of officer we would like to

have remain with us." Supt. Schwantz said he and his wife will be sorry to leave behind all their friends in this

"If we can keep the lines of communication open, we will," he said.

The superintendent said that he thinks his opportunities to enjoy the hunting and fishing available in Timmins will be limited for the next while.

"If I get out twice in the next year, I think I'll have done well," he said with a smile. "For the first twelve months, I want to concentrate on doing my job, to the best of my ability "

Developer ends up with the bill need the building permits by

Halton Hills council was haunted Monday by a former policy of Halton region but a developer ended up footing the

 Region policy used to be that it collected water and sewer levies from the developer but it turned this responsibility back to the area municipalities July

Developer Murray Grueson, who wants to begin construction Monday on 69 townhouses at Mountainview Road North and River Drive, got stuck with a \$51,292.50 bill for providing an over-sized sewer for the development and reconstructing the John Street pump

 "That ill advised policy haunts us in many ways, treasurer Ray King told councal. This is just one of them." The treasurer explained how the "rather unusual situation"

Garthdale Investments Ltd. entered into two agreements to build 139 townhouses, since reduced to 89. The agreement with Halton Hills was dated August 16, 1974, and that with the region April 29, 1977. In the period between the two agreements the region returned to the municipality the responsibility to set and collect capital levies for water and sewers.

"As a result of the timing. .," Mr. King stated, "there is no reference in either agreement to regional levies."

He recommended council charge Garthdale Investments a further levy of \$800 per unit, which is the current rate for regional levies.

Two other alternatives council could choose were to charge the developer \$600 per unit - the rate that was in effect before Halton changed its policy - or not to charge anything as neither of the two agreements makes reference to regional lot levies, Mr. King

Mr. King said there was reference made in the file on the subject to allow credits to Garthdale Investments provided the company spent \$11,000 reconstructing the John Street pumping station and \$40,292.50 to oversize a sewer to permit future development.

"The file says logically this (cost) should be reduced from the levy. . . The intent, no doubt, is a reduction from regional levies." The situation is not the town's or the developer's fault he said.

Mr. Grueson reviewed the nine year history of the project. He said the region was responsible for a delay in the project which caused a zoning battle with S.B. McLaughlin

and Associates. "If the region had not stood in the way," Mr. Grueson said, "this project would be standing today." He said that in nine months of negotiation with the region, the matter of

capital lot levies was not ment-

"If we don't go into the ground in the next ten days, the (building) season will be

forecasts, AHOP (Assisted cause of the poor market for

condominiums. the levy is \$650 per unit.

Mr. Grueson replied by asking if the town would reimburse him for the land carrying costs during a three year battle on the project "that we had nothing to do with."

ce," Mr. Grueson said. "We

He said there has been reliance on the written agreements in preparing budget Home Ownership Plans grant, structures and mortgaging from CHMC (Centreal Mortgage and Housing Corporation), which only approved 89 of the original 138 units be-

The question of local and regional levies, "is in such a state of confusion." Mr. Grueson said, "nobody knows what's doing " Under the agreement between Garthdale Investment and Halton Hills,

Coun. Peter Marks asked him if he saw it morally fitting that the development make a contribution to the sewage treatment plant in George-

"Time is totally of the essen-

a police cruiser resulted in a total of \$2,500 damage Friday. A police cruiser, driven by Roger Neal, 27, of Guelph, was parked on the east shoulder of Halton Road 3 with its roof lights activated, and the fourway flashers on. A car driven by Joseph Drenters, 29, of Hillsburgh, was northbound on Halton Road 3 and failed to turn for enough to the left to avoid the cruiser. The car

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stake, be said

Coun Mike Armstrong said the extra costs could be passed on to the home buyers and he is not worried about this point But after mne years and the developer ready to proceed, the issue is "past the point of

Cruiser damaged A two-car collision involving

struck the cruiser on the left

rear corner

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the \$200 difference in the two proposed levies, better to add at to the selling price than to the taxpayers, he said

After much discussion by

not charged to Halton.

ridiculousness. If we want the development to proceed, we go against the region."

Coun. Armstrong said council should make no charge against the developer.

would credit to the account.

Coun Walter Bielm argued that if \$800 per unit is a fair price, the lown can't afford to give it away. If it's a matter of

Mr. Grueson said the agreement with Halton called upon Garthdale to pay for some hard services which the region "It's not to get credit from the

councillors on points of the issue. Mr. Grueson offered a compromise, which council accepted. Council accepted a resolution that no regional levies be charged and that the work amounting to \$51,292.50 be paid by the developer and

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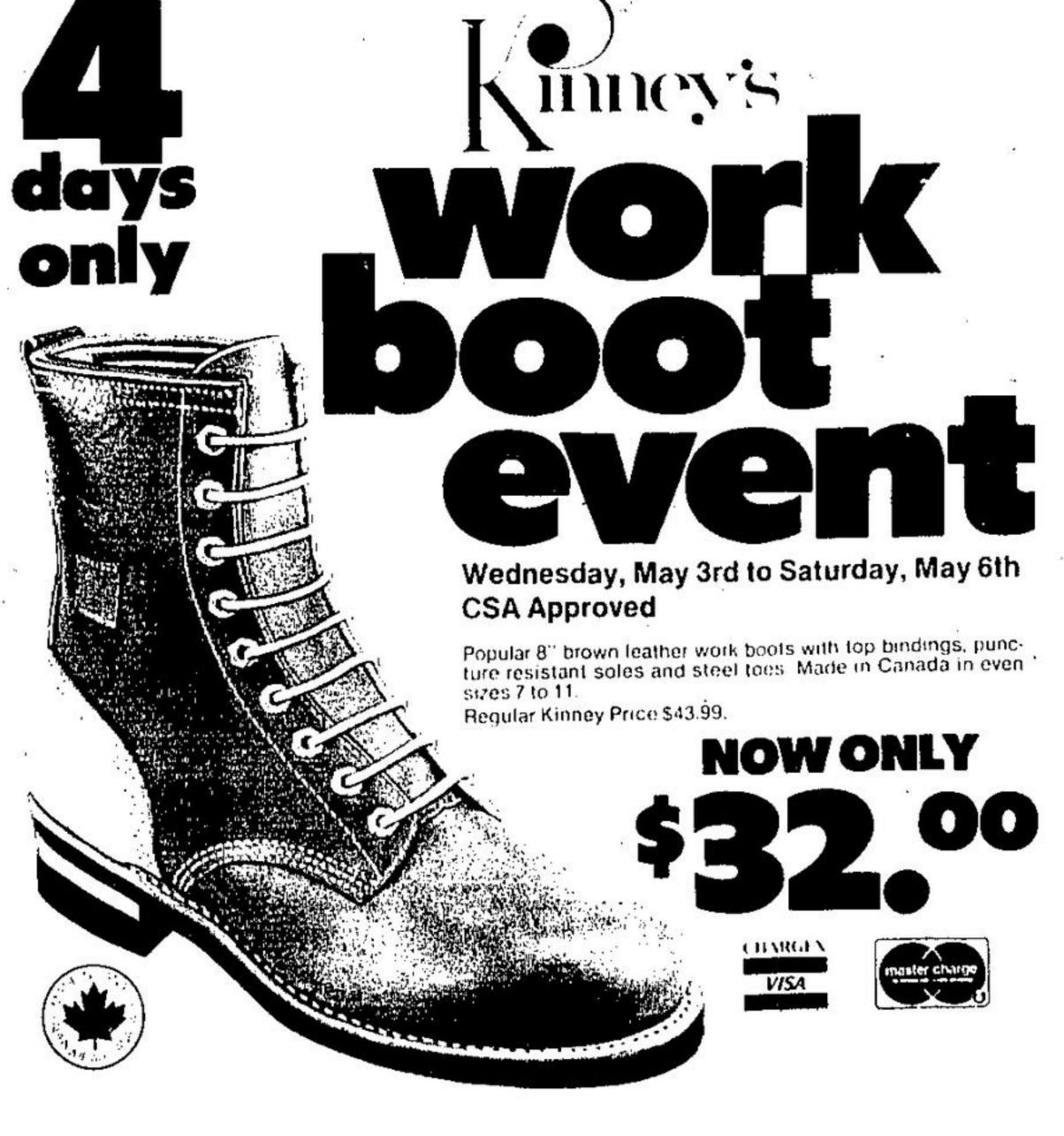
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