

HALTON'S PEOPLE

I love competition, says Dave Kentner

This week The Herald kicks off its newest feature, "Halton's People." Each week we will take a look at one of the many Halton Hills residents that give this area its special character. We will be featuring the well-known as well as the less-known people whose presence in this area enriches the community.

To maintain a feature like "Halton's People" we need the help of Herald readers in finding interesting local residents to feature. If you know of someone we should profile, give us a call at 877-2201.

By MICHAEL HOLLETT
Herald editor

Dave Kentner's family doesn't like playing cards with him—they say he takes it too seriously.

Owner of Kentner's Dairy Bar on Mill St., a thriving catering business, as well as being a member of the Georgetown Raiders hockey club executive, Mr. Kentner is a man who says he doesn't like quitters and thrives on competition.

"I have no desire to be a loser," he says. Mr. Kentner describes himself as a "getter into-er" and has a long list of community work to bear his out. He applies his competitive nature to everything he is involved in, from his work with the Raiders to his involvement in the local Jaycees.

"I commit myself and my resources 100 per cent when I get involved in something. I don't get involved lightly." He says he expects the same approach from others he works with.

LOCAL CLUB

Many of his attitudes were developed during his years as a member of the local Jaycees club says Mr. Kentner. He describes his years with the Jaycees as one of the most important experiences of his life. He held almost every executive position in the club including the presidency as a Jaycee.

"The Jaycees opened a whole new world for me. It helped me develop confidence and I learned public speaking. I had a stutter before I joined the Jaycees."

"The Jaycee experience made me believe I can do anything."

Mr. Kentner's roots are deep in the Halton Hills community. The Kentner's family has been in this area since his great-grandfather came to Ballinafad from Ireland in the

early 1800's. His father and grandfather went on to open lumber yards and fuel supply outlets in Georgetown, Milton and Acton.

Mr. Kentner says he has lived within five blocks of his Dairy Bar location on Mill St. throughout his life—and he has no plans to change that.

"This town is a winner," he says. "There is an ingrained winning attitude here. I would like to make a significant contribution to this town because it means a lot to me, it's a part of me partially because of my family's root here."

NO TAKEOVER

Mr. Kentner explains that he never intended to takeover the family business because "like all sons, I didn't see eye to eye with my father."

He dropped out of grade 10 to get married and began hustling to make a living, with some help from his family. For a while he and a friend worked as disc jockies and also handled band bookings at the Riviera Club in Norval, now known as the Way Jay.

He eventually went to work in the service department of a local Ford dealer. He held that job until the Easter weekend in April, 1974.

"I just got frustrated with the car business. I couldn't stand the idea of going back to work after the Easter holiday weekend so I gave my notice on April 30."

"My wife and I spent Saturday trying to figure out some way to make a living. I only had \$250 in the bank when I quit."

They came up with the idea of selling hot dogs and soft drinks in parks, at auction sales and even by the side of the road anywhere they could hope to find hungry people. The Kentners bought an old bread truck and converted it into a movable fast food outlet.

JAYCEE CREDIT

Mr. Kentner even gives the Jaycees some credit for this idea. He says he had noticed how good hot dog sales were for the Jaycees at a food booth they ran during a fireworks display. It seemed to make sense that he could make a living the same way.

He still sells at outdoor events but the major part of his business is now catering.

Mr. Kentner pinpoints one of the secrets of the catering services success as his wife Gerry's cooking. The Kentner's are partners in their business and fortunately for their family life, spend many

of their long hours working together.

"She's a fantastic cook. It's her hobby and she especially enjoys fancier dishes, like elaborate hors d'oeuvres."

Mr. Kentner describes himself as not a big fan of parties, and elaborate social gatherings so he has no problems working while other people are enjoying a party.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS

Mr. Kentner's business operates from a downtown Georgetown location and he has become involved in the Business Improvement Area.

"The day of the downtown as we knew it is done, people don't relate to the community the same way. In order for the downtown to be the commercial centre of the community it also has to be the social centre. A big mistake was made in letting three theatres, the new arena and the liquor store slip away from the downtown."

"Now we are faced with a major re-building job."

Mr. Kentner is adamant that local businesses must be involved in the community to get community support. He says that although he has many reasons for being involved with the Raider hockey club, he says it certainly doesn't hurt his business to be identified with the team.

Mr. Kentner explains that he is and always has been a fervent hockey fan.

"As a kid I used to head to the Memorial Arena right after school at four o'clock with a friend. His father would show up at five with fish and chips for us all and we would wait for the box office to open to get tickets for the 8:30 Raider game. You had to do that to get in on those days."

EARLY ENTHUSIASM

With his early enthusiasm for the game and his joiner attitude it seemed inevitable that Mr. Kentner would become involved with the Raiders. The Raiders were looking for help back when Mr. Kentner was still with a local Ford dealer. His boss "volunteered" him at the time and he hasn't looked back since. He has held many executive positions with the club including president, since becoming involved with the team.

The Kentners are a close family and fortunately Mr. Kentner's wife Gerry shares his passion for hockey. Their two daughters, Lori, 13, and Stephanie, 10, are also sports enthusiasts.

The main priority for Mr. Kentner in the future is "a deeper commitment to hockey."

He says he has a number of plans on the go and will spend the immediate future developing them.



THE KENTNERS MEET ANOTHER CUSTOMER

Dave Kentner and his wife, Gerry, offer friendly chatter as well as good food across the counter of their dairy bar at the corner of Back and Mill Streets from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. (Photo by Tony Panacek)

Conservation Authority makes 25th anniversary year plans

Preparations are underway for a celebration next year of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's (CVCA's) 25th anniversary, plans for which include the publication of a special booklet reviewing the Authority's first quarter century of operation.

CVCA information officer Joan Rollins has invited all Authority members to suggest ideas for both the anniversary publication and the series of special events being planned to commemorate the CVCA's formation in May, 1954.

Mrs. Rollings told members of the Authority's Information and Education committee Thursday that the booklet, which will be about 50 pages in length, should outline the CVCA's history, early efforts and accomplishments, goals, lands and facilities and current projects. Maps, photographs and anecdotes will help illustrate the publication, 500 copies of which are proposed for printing.

EARLY MAY

Mrs. Rollings predicted that the booklet should be completed by early May of next year and ready for circulation in Authority members, provincial officials and some of the 300 municipal council members in the Credit River watershed, among others, by early summer.

There has been some speculation that more copies might be printed and possibly sold publicly. The CVCA plans to send copies to all area libraries and municipal buildings, and Mrs. Rollings noted that many schools would probably be interested in receiving editions.

Mrs. Rollings and CVCA secretary Vicki Barron reported that the Johnson-Mathay Mint in Mississauga is prepared to create the die for a commemorative metallic em-

blem bearing the CVCA insignia, suitable for incorporating into a tie clip, earring, cufflink or lapel pin design.

Hoping to have the emblems available for presentation to other Authority members, past officials and citizens who have served the CVCA or its objective in some way, the committee voted to set aside up to \$500 for the die.

BUDGET BALANCE

From the balance of the CVCA's \$2,000 budget for the anniversary observations, the committee hopes to stage a number of special events around the watershed during the coming year. Meadowvale Conservation Area, which the Authority recently turned into a revenue-producing park in the hopes of building public interest in the area, has been singled out as a prime location for such activities.

Among the events being considered are marathon races, antique car rallies, a special display recalling Hur-

ricane Hazel, which caused extensive damage in the area in 1954 and prompted the provincial government to establish the CVCA, a banquet for all involved in the CVCA past and present, and art and pet shows at Meadowvale.

Which One?

Bride: The two best things I cook are meat loaf and apple dumplings.
Groom: "Which is this?"

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Education project dropped by CVCA

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority's (CVCA's) Information and Education Advisory Committee has yielded to the pressures of financial constraint and has dropped plans for a \$5,000 educational centre at Silver Creek Conservation Area from its 1979 budget projections.

A proposal to channel funds into the presently-unused Silver Creek park so that the CVCA's annual educational program at Terra Cotta conservation area could be re-located there was the chief target for criticism offered last month by Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill, a committee member.

The Authority recently raised its charge for students enrolled in the educational program from 25 cents per day per student to \$1 and some members hoped that a private home at Silver Creek park could be purchased and converted into a classroom-type facility next year.

HILL BALKED

Mayor Hill and other members balked at the proposal to spend any additional money on the educational program, particularly on buying the home, a building which the mayor pointed out would be better off sold privately at a profit. The Information Advisory Committee was persuaded to review its budget estimate.

Committee chairman R.K. Harrison noted Thursday that the 1979 projection is almost double the committee's 1978 budget, but added that the committee has underspent its budget in the past while other advisory committees were over-

spending theirs.

Mr. Harrison explained that three main factors have forced the committee to drastically increase its budget. The provincial government has realigned its financial relationship with the conservation authorities, he said, so that

many routine items previously covered by provincial budgets must now be entered into the CVCA's estimates. Other new factors are the one-time expenditures needed for next year's 25th anniversary celebrations by the CVCA and the printing of new information brochures to replace depleted stocks.

"The bottom line of our budget looks bad until you take these non-recurring costs and revenue-producing items into account," Mr. Harrison said. "The Authority was very upset with the figures we presented to them at the last meeting. Now it's up to us whether we'll cut back on some items or try and justify them to the others."

STUDENTS EXPECTED

Subsequent discussion centred on the nature of the CVCA's educational program, with education officer George Roberts reporting that more than 60 students a day are expected to attend the CVCA's 1979 program. Authority chairman Grant Clarkson acknowledged that the provincial ministry of natural resources, in questioning the program, asserted that emphasis must be placed on the work of conservation authorities, rather than nature and ecology studies.

Mr. Roberts responded that Authority operations provide the mainstay for his program and stressed the importance of training youngsters to believe in and support such efforts. The general public's misunderstanding of authority works leads to poor relations with the taxpayers, it was acknowledged.

Committee member Frank Webb motioned for the budget to be endorsed without alteration and expressed hope that its requirements can be justified when the full Authority meets again. Mr. Webb's motion found no second.

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BAZAAR WINNERS

Winners of the St. John's Guild Bazaar held November 4, 1978 are Quilt - Mrs. G. Vincent, Guelph; cushion - Mrs. Sheppard, 20 Chapel St., Georgetown.



NEW SCOUT FIELD OFFICER

Mark Lamb, 9, left and Andrew Stoddart, 9, of the Georgetown Cubs presented a bird feeder to Halton Region Boy Scout field representative, Bob Carlaw for use at the Blue Springs Reserve west of Acton. Mr. Carlaw has just recently taken up residence at

the new quarters, at Blue Springs after five years as field representative in northwestern Ontario covering an area from Thunder Bay to White River. (Herald photo)

Cinderella pantomime by GLT

As one of the many centuries-old traditions that make Great Britain great, the Christmas season pantomime is enjoyed by theatre patrons of all ages in that nation on an annual basis.

This year, the Georgetown Little Theatre brings the tradition to Canada with its second production of the current season, Cinderella, to be presented at Howard Wigglesworth Public School on Guelph Street Dec. 7 through 10.

Unlike the identically-named art of Marcel Marceau and company pantomime in the traditional British sense involves nonsense jokes, slapstick comedy, exaggerated characters and scenery and topical songs with a nursery rhyme or fairy tale as its starting point.

MALE ACTORS

Another important component of British pantomime is the delegating of female roles to male actors. In the case of Cinderella, Little Theatre president John Roe and Gerry Eggleton will portray the Ugly Sisters.

Pantomime's beginnings are not entirely clear, but historians of the theatre have traced some of its traditions to the masques and ballad operas performed in Britain during the 18th century. The pantomime served as an "after-piece" to tragedy, plus leaving the audience in a happy frame of mind. The most noted exponent of this form of pantomime was Joseph Grimaldi, 1779-1837, who first produced Mother Goose in 1806.

During the 1850's the songs and comedy of British music halls became popular and created their own stars. Those comedy routines were gradually incorporated into the nursery rhyme stories, paving the way for the evolution of pantomime as British audiences know it today.

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