

Historical society keeps in touch with roots, membership and knowledge keep on growing

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

People in Halton Hills are more aware now of places and people of historical interest, Rev. Rick Ruggie says, and the Esqueing Historical Society is probably deserving of some of the credit for resurrecting people's interest in the past.

The Esqueing Historical Society was formed about four years ago by a group of people who shared an interest in history, and wanted to share what they had uncovered in the course of their research. Among the charter members of the society were Rev. Ruggie, town councillor John McDonald, Keith Barber, Bruce Harding and lawyer Tudor Beattie, who moved to Alberta last year.

ORIGINAL TWELVE

From an original membership of twelve, the society has grown to 50 members. Regular meetings held every month frequently feature guest speakers from different areas of interest to historians, like Hugh Mac-

Millan of the Archives of Ontario. Brian Gilchrist is tentatively scheduled to speak at the March meeting on genealogy.

Other outings of the society have included walks through Glen Williams, old Georgetown and Limehouse. The society also had a picnic and tour of the agricultural museum at Kelso Conservation Area, an outing which may be repeated in light of its success the first time around.

One of the major projects of the society was the erecting of an historical plaque marking the site of one of the first major industries in town, the Barber Paper Mill. Acquiring the plaque involved lengthy negotiations with the Ontario Heritage Foundation, requesting the plaque. The foundation did its own research into the background of the mill before agreeing to provide the plaque.

The historical society gave a series of talks leading up to the unveiling of the plaque, and Rev. Ruggie said these talks

were probably the best-attended of the society's presentations.

LACAC FAILED

Something the society was involved in which didn't end as its members had hoped was the formation of a Local Architectural Control Advisory Committee, or LACAC. A LACAC draws up a list of buildings within a municipality which its members believe to be of sufficient historical or architectural significance to merit being left as they are, as much as possible.

This list is then presented to municipal council, which will designate some or all of these buildings as historical buildings. Alterations which would affect the historical or architectural fine points of the building would be delayed, not forbidden.

Halton Hills has rejected the idea of a LACAC at present, and Rev. Ruggie said he thinks councillors were under the impression the legislation, which comes under the Ontario



REV. RICK RUGGIE
Heritage Foundation, had more teeth than it does. The legislation doesn't forbid owners to make any alterations to their buildings, Rev.

Ruggie said. It merely buys time to come up with other ideas. The preservation of the Acton Town Hall might have come about much more quickly had there been a LACAC to smooth the path, according to Rev. Ruggie.

GIVE REASONS

The LACAC must give its reasons for suggesting each building or site for preservation, Rev. Ruggie said. Possible reasons for preserving a building or site include association with a well-known family in the area, or features of architectural significance.

The current project being undertaken by the society is an attempt to enter the publishing field with a booklet by Violet Brownridge on daily farm life around the turn of the century. Rev. Ruggie said that grants are available from the Ontario Heritage Foundation to cover half the printing costs of the booklet.

Grants are also available for

historical societies, but the society has to go through a waiting period of a couple of years to prove it will survive before the foundation will look seriously at grants for it. The grants run to as much as half the operating expenses of the society.

The society has talked to the library informally about the possibility of establishing an archives in the library. The archives would house material of local interest, and the society would be involved in gathering the material, arranging it, and making it available to the public.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The society is recording its own history with records of its guest speakers through newspaper articles, and the oral meetings, where members of the audience talk about the community and what they know of it, are being recorded.

One of the main achievements of the historical society has been to increase the awareness of the people in the community to the fact that there are many places of historical interest in Halton Hills and they aren't necessarily found only in books, Rev. Ruggie said. The society also has the information from books, however, two of its members being published authors. Rev. Ruggie has written books on Glen Williams, and Norval, and on the Halton Children's Aid Society. John McDonald is well-known for the book he wrote entitled "Halton Sketches".

Rev. Ruggie suggested that a neophyte interested in beginning some historical research of his own would do well to begin with local churches and municipal buildings, which have generally been around for some time in an older community and have a lot of history behind them. He also

suggested cemeteries as a good place to look.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Rev. Ruggie said one area of historical research which hasn't been dealt with to any great extent is industrial archaeology and the history of local businesses. For example, he said there was a pottery outside Norval at one point, and while he knows the name of its operator, he can't determine whether or not the man owned the land on which the pottery was located. Thus it will be difficult to trace the man any further.

"I'm sure there are lots of people around who've been doing historical research on their own, and just haven't head of us, or we haven't encountered them," Rev. Ruggie said. "If they want to share what they've found, or if they want assistance with their research, or if they're interested in joining the society, they can contact us."



A strong team from the Georgetown Lions Club was all set to demonstrate the merits of Participation alongside their counterparts from other local service clubs Thursday night, but no one else showed up! As part of Fitness Week, the community's indoor pool was booked for an hour of challenge competition among the various clubs, but the only ones willing to get into the swim of the week-long fitness festival were the Lions. Pictured above, left to right, Lions Dan Boyle, Bob

Gordon, Ross Irwin, Bob Gordon and Dan Parent arrived on time, armed to the teeth with volleyballs, plungers, floating eggs, rubber tires, plastic baseball bats and all the other paraphernalia of water sports they felt was necessary to show the other clubs in town who was more fit. As it turned out, the Lions were the only participants in the house, and were deservedly declared winners by default. (Herald photo)

Student Manpower Centre set for Georgetown full-time

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

The Canada Manpower Centre will be operating a full-time office for students in the Georgetown and Acton area this year, instead of the part-time office which they have run in the past.

Erika Harper will be the supervisor of the Canada Employment Centre for students, which has a projected opening date of April 23. The location of the office hasn't been decided yet, but it is hoped that it will be convenient for students from Acton to make use of the office, as well as Georgetown students.

Last year, the student manpower centre operated out of the Canadian Manpower Centre on James Street, two days a week. Because of the level of response from students, the decision was made to open a full-time office here. Last year, the office was open two days a week.

Nancy Gale, the Summer Youth Employment Program Co-ordinator, said that although the office will be located in Georgetown, Manpower is hoping that students in Acton will take advantage of the office here.

EMPLOYERS

At the moment, Mrs. Gale and Mrs. Harper are working on letters which will be mailed out to prospective employers of students in Orangeville, Brampton and Georgetown. These letters will be followed up by visits to as many of the employers as possible, Mrs. Harper said. Last year, the Manpower offices visited 1,300 employers in the three areas, Mrs. Gale said.

While statistics for the Georgetown area itself are not available, Mrs. Gale estimated that the Manpower offices had about 3,000 students on file last



ERIKA HARPER
year in Orangeville, Brampton and Georgetown. Students are already registering with the full-time manpower offices in Brampton and Georgetown she said.

those who haven't hired students before. There are a lot of students registered right now who are interested in part-time and evening work of any type and employers with that kind of opening can call the office now.

FIRST JOB

The students looking for these jobs are willing to do almost any kind of work, because many of them are looking for that first job, to put some job experience on their resume, Mrs. Gale said. They would be willing to do painting, filing, or cleaning the plant, in order to have that first job, she said.

A lot of Georgetown area students were able to find work in the Brampton area last year, and Mrs. Gale said those students who can arrange transportation, or who are willing to travel to Brampton by bus each day, should consider expanding their job-searching area to include Brampton.

The placement rate for the three municipalities last year was just over 51 per cent, Mrs. Gale said, and since the office was established, the placement rate has risen steadily.

We go in to see the employers with the positive attitude that the employers need good employees, as much as the students need work, Mrs. Gale said.

The students should bear in mind that small employers shouldn't be neglected, and even though a company may have only five employees, those employees will be taking vacations, and the company will need someone to cover for them, Mrs. Gale said.

And on the other hand, she said, employers who only need someone for a couple of days' work should not be afraid to call the student employment centre. Students are looking for any kind of work, and many

would be willing to take even two hours' work, just to add to their job experience, if nothing else.

Mrs. Gale said Mrs. Harper and Mike Proudlock, a counsellor in the Brampton Manpower office, will be holding seminars at some future date to help students "get their foot in the door" to teach them how to handle an interview and how to hang on to a job once they get one.

CAUSE PROBLEM

Areas that often cause students a problem when trying to get a job include their appearance, and the way applications forms are filled out.

"If an employer is confronted with someone in blue jeans who has come in to apply for a job as a clerk-typist, there is no way they are going to get that job," Mrs. Gale said. "Wearing blue jeans when applying for a janitor's job would be acceptable, because that is what would be worn on the job. Students should stop to consider what they will be required to wear to work if they get the job, and wear something along those lines."

Filling out applications is an important part of getting a job, and Mrs. Gale said at seminars she has held in the past, when asked to fill out a sample application form, students frequently don't complete the form, they fill it in with a pencil, or they write it illegibly instead of printing.

Students wishing to register with the Manpower Centre for Students can do so by filling out a registration form at the Georgetown office on James Street, or by going to the Brampton office at 45 George Street South.

Employers wishing to contact the office to hire some students for temporary help or for the summer can contact Nancy Gale at 451-8330 or 451-8331.

Fitness Week is 'a success'

The organizers of this year's Fitness Week are recommending that Halton Hills residents form a committee to hold a fitness week of their own next year and make the project an annual event.

Heather Leslie, project manager of Operation Action, which organized this year's Fitness Week, said the group feels it was a success and that the idea should become an annual event. Because Operation Action is only a year-long program, however, it would be up to interested citizens to form a committee to organize the event next year.

This year's Fitness Week was relatively low-key in order to gauge the response from the community, Miss Leslie said. While one or two of the vents weren't as well received as the organizers had hoped, the program as a whole went well, she said. Most of the schools held fitness-related activities or film days during the week, and participation in the McDonald's "Flair for Fitness" art contest was high as well.

The boxing clinic and the badminton clinic had high levels of participation as did the sports travelcade, particularly in Acton. The Operation Action fitness buttons were a popular item and disappeared fairly quickly, Miss Leslie said.

The February weather may have deterred some people from coming out to take part in the various activities being offered, and Miss Leslie recommended that the people organizing future fitness week programs consider carefully when they plan to hold them. The timing should take into consideration other programs going on at the same time which Fitness Week could tie into, and awareness of school semesters and examination schedules.



Doug Masdell of Operation Action, right, showed McDonald's owner Rich Chandler some simple exercises when he visited McDonald's last Thursday to demonstrate exercises to McDonald's customers as part of Fitness Week in Halton Hills. (Herald photo)



NEW LIMEHOUSE BROWNIES

1st Limehouse Brownies enrolled new members last week during their Thinking Week celebrations for their founder's birthday on Feb. 22. New members posed with the rest of the pack are front row from the left: Leanne Burt, Lesley Case, Erin Loughnan, Leah Stansbury and Jennifer Scot. Second row: Pat Bonozew, Brown Owl, Mandy Bonozew, Ginger Denny, Shannon Burrell, Joleen Scholz, Susan White, Lesia Shrubsole, and Karen Case. Back row: Marie Brown, Tawny Owl, Wasita Phillips, Heather Brown, Lori Haddon, Sabrina Papp, Jody Carol and Rhona Scholz, Snowy Owl. (Herald photo)