

Parade Sunday, Monday

High-speed chase set for Main Street



OKAY NOW, SMILE!

(Herald photo by Michael Hollett)

George McCowan (left) director of "Never Trust an Honest Thief" looks on as his crew takes part in their first day of filming Monday afternoon on top of the State Bank of Madison (now Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce). The bank was just one of many downtown businesses to be converted to make Georgetown

look like an American border town. Other scenes shot last Monday included an auto yard scene shot at a junked up Al Jarvis Collision as well as another scene shot in the parking lot behind the bank. The film's major stars are expected to be in town by Thursday. For more movie news, see page 11.

By PAUL DORSEY
 Herald staff writer

A high-speed car chase through the streets of Georgetown, a massive community party with free hot dogs and souvenir T-shirts and a golden opportunity to rub elbows with internationally-known celebrity Orson Welles promise to make the coming week one of the most exciting periods in the town's history.

Filming began early Monday morning on Never Trust an Honest Thief, the 4.1 million

Westfront Productions feature in which each and every citizen of Georgetown and area has been invited to appear.

Production is continuing throughout the next three weeks at several locations around the community, but unquestionably the biggest scene of the film will be shot this Sunday and Monday, when the producers are hoping the entire population will line both sides of Main Street and other downtown roads for the all-important parade sequences.

Westfront publicist Stephen Chesley told the Herald this week he hopes the movie's filming will almost become secondary to the festive atmosphere which producers are promoting for the parade scenes. Everyone - all ages, all types - is being urged to come downtown for the two days of intensive shooting, both of which will end with massive parties in Fairgrounds Park, where the film crew will be distributing free Coca-Cola, Schneider's hot dogs and Never Trust an Honest Thief T-shirts.

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Operation Lifeline nears goal

The formation of two new sponsoring groups and the readiness of two other groups to join in the campaign have pushed Georgetown's Operation Lifeline committee halfway toward its goal of sponsoring the immigration of 20 families of Indo-Chinese refugees.

As the day of arrival approaches - latest estimates indicate that refugee families may begin arriving in Georgetown and Acton by mid-September - the committee's efforts are becoming increasingly fruitful, with dozens of offers of food, clothing, accommodations and assistance pouring in each week.

A committee meeting Monday night saw eight sponsoring groups tallied with two others in the works, according to committee spokesman Brenda Gogan. And while the overall situation awaiting the refugees' arrival continues to improve, valuable advances have been made in the area of English language training for the newcomers, she said.

Mrs. Bruce, who can be reached at 853-1267, added that the group will be working with Acton's ministerial association in a joint effort to help the refugees.

The eighth group has designated itself the Friendship Group on immigration forms completed this week following the addition of two other members whose financial participation had been awaited. In charge of the Friendship Group's campaign is Lynn Wilkels, who can be contacted at 853-2986.

Other Acton residents are in the process of forming a ninth sponsorship group. Mrs. Gogan reported, while a tenth is expected to arise from the interest being shown by another church-related gathering.

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FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE

Orson Welles was expected to arrive in Toronto last night (Tuesday) but is not scheduled to commence his acting chores in Georgetown until tomorrow (Thursday). His costar Michael Murphy, was expected to begin filming today.

Mr. Chesley reported Westfront is relying on some 400 local residents to portray key extras during the filming of parade sequences this Sunday and Monday. Area residents are invited to surround these pockets of extras along Main Street, taking occasional directions from the producers which could see the odd spectator chosen at random from the crowd to occupy a more important position.

In all, he said, the company has invested some \$35,000 in salaries for the extras who will be used during the four-week filming period. The vast majority of these extras are local residents, he added.

One important scene which the producers are hoping you'll attract too many spectators is a car crash sequence slated for August 28. With the blessings and co-operation of town council and the Halton regional police, the company will film the chase along Main Street, over the railway bridge on Maple Avenue, at the railway underpass on John Street and

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FILM'S FLAGS DISAPPEARING

The sight of the American flags and banners decorating the buildings along Main Street in Georgetown proved too much for some people.

Almost \$1,000 worth of flags and banners have been taken since they were put up about a week ago as part of the set decoration for the movie, "Never Trust an Honest Thief".

One American flag measuring three feet by four feet, a banner measuring eight feet by one foot, a steel flag pole with a steel eagle on top and seven other assorted flags and banners have been stolen. A banner was also taken from the balcony of the McGibbon Hotel.

NEW GROUPS

Arlene Bruce of Acton is co-ordinating the efforts of one of the two newly-formed sponsoring groups, this one made up of members from ten local families. After an initial meeting two weeks ago, Mrs. Bruce told The Herald, the members moved quickly to finalize immigration forms and begin arranging for accommodations in their community.

Whether or not Bruce McLaughlin is telling his investors the truth is not the concern of town council, Coun. Mike Armstrong argued. He stressed, though, for the ratepayers' information, there has yet to be a meeting between the current council and McLaughlin officials. Nor has the 1979-80 council taken any action on the Focal proposal, he said.

ONLY MOVES
 Coun. Armstrong explained that the only moves made this term relative to the proposal involved a comprehensive study of Georgetown's urban boundary in which consultant Murray Jones evaluated possible ways of expanding the community.

In a report received and filed by council last month, Mr. Jones concluded that Georgetown has no further capacity to grow beyond a population of 30,000 by virtue of Silver Creek's limited ability to absorb more effluent from the community's sewage treatment plant.

If any area developer wishes to see the community expand further, he said, it is up to him to show the province's ministry of environment how additional sewage capacity can be provided. The town, meanwhile, will maintain its policy of allocating available sewage treatment capacity first to "in-filling" development within the urban boundaries.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy speculated that Mr. McLaughlin, in his address to the brokers, may have been referring to a recent informal meeting between himself and several Focal officials in the mayor's

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McLaughlin paints rosy picture of the Focal/town controversy

S.B. McLaughlin Associates Ltd. is presenting would-be investors with a rosy forecast for its proposed 1,740-home development near Georgetown in order to boost confidence in its stocks, Coun. Ross Knechtel has charged.

The Ward 1 councillor based his charge on a report by a Bay Street publication in which Bruce McLaughlin is quoted indirectly predicting "a favorable decision" from town council regarding the massive housing development proposed by McLaughlin Associates' subsidiary, Focal Properties Ltd.

Submitted for the perusal of the town's general committee Monday night by Laurie Duggan, president of the Georgetown Area Ratepayers Association (GARA), the Canavest House report claims that "a development agree-

ment has been reached with the town of Halton Hills".

RECENT MEETING

The bulletin is apparently designed as a service to Bay Street brokers and, in the issue submitted by Mr. Duggan, reported on an address given by Mr. McLaughlin at a recent brokers' luncheon meeting. The Canavest House publication serves as a guide for stock market investors.

McLaughlin's hopes of building 1,740 homes at a 945-acre site on Georgetown's southern urban boundary are outlined along with Mr. McLaughlin's comments regarding several other company projects.

"Halton (sic) now has not allowed development of the total acreage agreed upon, so McLaughlin's only recourse was to issue a writ of non-performance for \$27 million," Canavest's report states. "As

a result, the town have agreed to set up a committee to determine how to allow McLaughlin to proceed with another 100 acres. A favorable decision is expected in the near future, with a further 300 acres allowed in a year or two and another 300 acres subsequent to that time."

Mr. Duggan asked the committee Monday to clarify the town's position regarding the Focal proposal, noting that conflicting interpretations have appeared both in the press and in public announcements made by McLaughlin.

"That's a lot of B.S.," Coun. Knechtel said upon reading the Canavest House report, "which McLaughlin is putting forward to enhance the value of his securities."

Coun. Harry Levy likened the report to the smoke indi-

cating there is fire nearby. He said that the town should determine how the information has been collected and issue a denial of all inaccurate facts.

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Survivors improving after major accident

Two of the people involved in the accident a week ago which left two Georgetown girls dead are recovering from their injuries, with one released from hospital.

Tom Van Sickle, 19, was released from Peel Memorial Hospital last Saturday, where he had been treated for facial and ankle injuries. His sister, Karen, 21, is still in hospital recovering from head injuries. She has been transferred out of the intensive care ward.

The Herald spoke with one of the first people on the scene, Grant Bodnar, of 8 Heslop Court, who commended the police, the fire department and the ambulance service for their handling of the accident.

Mr. Bodnar, with the assistance of a friend, Liz Moulden, was able to help Tom Van Sickle out of the car before it burst into flames. He also moved the other victims away from the car.

"The town's got a lot to be proud of," Mr. Bodnar said. "The ambulance people, the police, the fire department, they all handled the situation very well. It wasn't pleasant."

COMFORTED HER

Mr. Bodnar singled out one firefighter in particular, although he didn't know the man's name, who stayed with one of the bystanders who was very upset, and comforted her. Mr. Bodnar said he was assisted in moving the victims

by Miss Moulden and also by an area resident whose name he didn't know. He said he wasn't actually the first on the scene, but was flagged down by another person.

"Whatever happened, I did it because I thought I had to," Mr. Bodnar said. "I guess I took some risks, because those people might have had spinal injuries or neck injuries, but I took the risk of moving them."

"I'm just very happy I could help in some way," he said. "The emergency services people and the residents who helped are to be commended for their efforts." Police are continuing their investigation of the accident.

This Week



Retired referee

Ward 2 Councillor C.F. (Pat) Patterson reminisces about his career as a referee with the Ontario Hockey Association and tells about his involvement in International World Hockey.

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Raider's coach

Steve Blundy has been appointed the Georgetown Raider Coach for 1979-80. He will take over from retiring Gerry Inglis. Blundy has played with the team for six seasons. For more on the new coach's plans see Sports Week.



SUMMER SANTA

Charles Gils of Georgetown got a preview of Christmas 1979 as Santa Claus dropped by the summer recreation program operated out of Joseph Gibbons School. The kids held a Christmas party last Wednesday and treated Santa Claus to a few cupcakes and, his old favorite, milk and cookies.

(Herald photo)