

July 4 in Georgetown

Streets jammed for parade scenes



ORSON WELLES ARRIVES

Making his first public appearance in Georgetown before a thrilled crowd numbering into the thousands, internationally-known celebrity Orson Welles acted out a brief but forceful scene for Never Trust an Honest Thief during Sunday's parade sequences downtown. Here, as Madison's Sheriff Paisley, he fends off the attention of a persistent young man apparently in need of a

washroom. The sheriff finally yielded to the pleas for assistance and escorted the boy, played by seven-year old Billy Kishonti, through the crowd and away from the parade, perhaps leading him to a promising career in Hollywood. More photos inside. For an interview with the film's producer, Zale Magder, see page nine. (Herald photo by Paul Dorsey)

By **PAUL DORSEY**
 Herald staff writer
 Estimates of the number of star-struck Halton Hills residents who turned out for the filming of parade sequences in Never Trust an Honest Thief Sunday range from 5,000 to 10,000 and the film's producers are delighted. Reports on the massive community effort which provided Westfront Productions with a convincing festival atmosphere for its \$4.1 million comedy-suspense feature appeared in most Toronto newspapers and on television news programmes following the big downtown parade. International film star Orson Welles gave the parade wat-

chers a thrill Sunday afternoon when he was chauffeured to the Main-Mill intersection downtown for a brief sequence in the midst of the festivities. After director George McCowan had joined Mr. Welles in the waiting car to explain the shot, the famous actor climbed out of the car, donned his sheriff's hat and strolled across the intersection to join the crowds of spectators watching the parade. **YOUNG BOY** While the bands and floats rolled by, Mr. Welles was seen nodding and waving to passing acquaintances, then held up a hand to stop one of the antique cars in the parade so he could escort an elderly lady, an

actress, across the street. The scene, for which Mr. Welles was applauded by watching fans, ended with the actor guiding a sleeve-tugging young extra, seven-year-old Billy Kishonti, through the crowd, presumably to find a washroom for the preoccupied boy. Mr. Welles filmed additional scenes, including one in which a police squad car careened through a parking lot, in Fairgrounds Park on Monday. He was also to have appeared in parade sequences shot on Queen Street Monday, but the marching bands, beauty queens and smiling dignitaries were left to star in their own sequence. Following early morning production Tuesday at the old post office building on Mill Street, which houses the sheriff's office in the film, Mr. Welles reportedly has two days off. He is expected to return to an intensive shooting schedule Friday. Mr. Welles' co-stars, American actor Michael Murphy and Canada's own Michele Finney, appeared on the parade set briefly Sunday morning, but their acting

CLEAN-UP PLANNED AFTER FILMING

Downtown Georgetown is an "atrocious mess" following the first week of filming on Never Trust an Honest Thief, Mayor Pete Pomeroy admitted Monday night. But he assured councillors the producers have every intention of cleaning up the litter left by massive crowds which gathered for the parades Sunday and Monday. For now, however, they want the Main Street left as is, the mayor explained, since its appearance is in keeping with the needs of other scenes still to be shot.

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Acton hotel blaze leaves one dead

By **LORI TAYLOR**
 Herald staff writer
 A man is dead following a fire which completely gutted the Dominion Hotel in Acton early Sunday morning. Howard Gibbons, 58, a permanent resident of the hotel, died in the blaze. Another resident, Joe Mathison, was taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital suffering from smoke inhalation. He was treated and released. The cause of the fire was unknown at press time. The alarm was turned in at about 2:15 a.m., shortly after the premises had been closed for the night. Hotel owner Cosimo Mercuri said he had

just got home when word of the fire reached him. When he returned to the hotel, the guests had already been evacuated. Halton Hills Fire Chief Mick Holmes said it was known shortly after firefighters arrived on the scene that there was a guest unaccounted for, but the fire was so far underway that it wasn't possible to enter the building to look for him. **THREE PUMPERS** Firefighters were on the scene from about 2:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon, Chief Holmes said. There were three pumpers on the scene and another pumper had to be brought up from Georgetown

to stand by when one of the pumpers broke down. Chief Holmes said much of the job was keeping the fire from spreading to other nearby buildings. Firefighters and police investigators were not able to get into the building until late Sunday morning, and it was around noon that they found the body later identified as Mr. Gibbons. Tom Dewhurst of the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office is working with Halton Regional Police on the investigation. Ontario Hydro inspectors have also been assisting with the investigation. Continued on Page two



HOTEL DESTROYED

Fire completely gutted the Dominion Hotel in Acton early Sunday morning. One man died in the blaze, the cause of which has not yet been determined. Firefighters were on the scene for 14 hours, protecting nearby buildings and extinguishing small fires in the debris after the fire had been brought under control. This is the third death caused by fire in the Acton area this year. (Herald photo)

This Week

YMCA brochure
 Check this week's Herald for your copy of the Georgetown Y's fall program brochure listing planned activities for this fall and winter. Registration forms and information are included in the brochure.



BILL RIDDLE
Youth officer
 Dealing with the criminal element of society can make a person cynical if he isn't careful. Halton Regional Police Constable Bill Riddle tells The Herald how he handles his job as Youth Officer for Milton and Acton.

Preparation took two years town to unveil first park plan

Two years in the making, Halton Hills' first Master Parks Plan, a sprawling, 400-page collection of guidelines for the future planning and development of the town's recreational facilities, is to be unveiled at a series of special public meetings beginning next month. Members of the town planning board, press and public had a preliminary glimpse of the comprehensive document last Tuesday night, previewing a plan featuring recommendations that will touch the lives of nearly all Halton Hills citizens. Among the new facilities proposed for development during the next five years:

- two "community-scale" outdoor skating rinks;
- outdoor swimming areas,
- complete with beaches;
- three major baseball diamonds and another intermediate diamond;
- one major playing field and one intermediate field for soccer and other sports;
- six lighted tennis courts;
- more children's playgrounds;
- a trail system for hikers;
- more picnic areas.

Acton congregations to help Boat People

The congregations of seven Acton churches - comprised of more than a thousand people - have joined hands in an ecumenical effort to sponsor the immigration of at least two families of Asian refugees. The formation last week of a 12-member committee to coordinate the efforts of the so-called Acton Churches for the Boat People, along with similar gatherings of prospective sponsors elsewhere in Halton Hills, promises to carry the local chapter of Operation Lifeline past the halfway mark toward its goal of sponsoring 20 refugee families. In the past week, interest has been shown by members of both Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church and Mountview Baptist Church in Georgetown in joining the efforts of area residents, most of whom are contributing to the cause of the "Boat People" through their churches. **DONATE MONEY** The Georgetown Lifeline committee, meanwhile, has suggested that Acton residents should donate money, clothing, food, furnishings and accommodations directly to the newly-formed Acton Lifeline committee, headed by coordinator Arlene Bruce. The need for accommodations for the refugees in the Acton area is being stressed, Mrs. Bruce told The Herald this week. Whether temporary or permanent, and regardless of living conditions, accommodations are desperately needed, she said. Acton Lifeline is also looking for language interpreters or other volunteers to help teach the refugees English. Food of all kinds is being sought, including perishables, now that the committee has access to freezer space. Acton area residents interested in helping their local Lifeline committee are invited to contact the appropriate members (See Box, Page 18). The Georgetown Lifeline committee continues to act as the umbrella group for citizens' efforts elsewhere in Halton Hills. The availability of English language lessons in Brampton and Georgetown is now "pretty definite", ac-

ording to spokesman Brenda Gogan. Georgetown Lifeline coordinator Don Long explained that donations continue to trickle in and the committee is now considering more direct means of soliciting the public's help. "We've really had a fantastic response for the relatively small communities of Acton and Georgetown," he said. Continued on Page two

DANGEROUS DRIVING CHARGES LAID

Charges of dangerous driving, driving while impaired and having levels of alcohol over the legal limit were laid against a Georgetown man following a chase through town last week, on the weekend. Police observed a van being driven in an erratic manner and pursued the van, eventually apprehending the driver when the van struck a fence on Durham Street, near the senior citizens' apartment building. During the chase, the van struck a police cruiser, causing an estimated \$3,000 damage. The man was scheduled to appear in court Monday for a bail hearing.