



COLUMBIAN SQUIRES INSTALL 1979-1980 EXECUTIVE

Georgetown's Columbian Squires installed their new executive Sunday at a ceremony at Holy Cross Auditorium. The Knights of Columbus Chancellor installed the executive which includes: (front row) Rich Langadyk, rotary; Joe Domingos, chief squire; Pete Koffey,

deputy-chief (back row) Joe Virey, sentry; Gerry Roberts, marshal; senior counsellor Eddy Kasprycki; Bill Pieres, pursor and Don Nowlan, arms captain.

(Herald photo)

Acton Optimists gear up for first soap box derby

By JOHN BOTTOMLEY
Herald Special
Acton's Agnes Street will resemble the Indianapolis 500 Sept. 29 as 50 local racers take to the street. The excitement and competition will all be there. Only the roar of the expensive turbocharged engines will be missing.

The Optimist club of Acton has chosen that date to run its first soap box derby, the brainchild of Optimist member Walter Barlow.

"I always thought I'd like to get one going here," he said. Mr. Barlow got the idea in Toronto, where he used to run derbies for the Cubs.

This year's event (which has 17 more cars than the Indy 500) will be the first of an annual series, if Mr. Barlow's plans work out. "We may want to join up with the free wheelers of the Canadian Soap Box Racers' Association."

TWO DIVISIONS
Open to all boys and girls ages 6 to 16 in Halton Hills, the race will be split into two categories, one more than Indy boasts. Stock cars must use standard size red wagon wheels while the modified class contains all racing machines with wheels other than the standard red wagon wheel.

In addition, there will be two age groups, again twice the number offered at Indy. Classes will be split into junior, from ages 6 to 11 and senior from 12 to 16.

Four first place trophies will be awarded (guess how many at the famous 500), with ribbons for second, third and fourth place finishers in each class. "If we can get them (the ribbons) printed up in time," according to Mr. Barlow, "We may have to come up with an alternative."

This is not when the Optimist club originally intended to run its race. "We tried earlier in the year, but got no reply from Halton Hills council," explained Mr. Barlow. Council had to grant permission to close the street for the race. No letter of council has been received yet from council for the Sept. 29 race date, but Mr. Barlow has been assured it is on its way. (The Indy 500 had its share of legal problems too).

DERBY RULES
Regulations governing the cars have been strictly laid out, as for the formula vehicles used in the 500. The restrictions "ensure equal opportunity to all entrants and thus further the spirit of fair play," according to the book of rules.

First rule is that all cars must run on four wheels only, no more, no fewer. But they get more specific from there. Height, weight, wheelbase, front and rear overhand, steering and braking are all covered. Seatbelts are required, as is a helmet.

Entry deadline has been set at Sept. 15. First 50 entries will be accepted, a much simpler and less time consuming process than the qualifying laps run at Indy. Entries and information can be obtained by calling 853-2723, 853-1963 or 853-2336.

Participation is not limited to the 50 racers. "Soap box derby racing should be a complete family affair, a recreational hobby, therefore participation is recommended."

Other advantages to the Optimist soap box derby over the Indy 500 (a noisy and foul smelling event) are easy to find. The derby will be far safer and use no precious fossil fuel. It will be local and therefore easy to get to. People will know the racers at first hand, perhaps having told

them to wash them before eating dinner. Both race entry and watching are free.

Besides, racers in the Indianapolis 500 don't even go anywhere. They just drive in a big circle. Acton's race will run from Frederick Street to Willow Street, covering the entire length of Agnes Street. Try to top that, Indianapolis.

The big one just doesn't seem to stack up against the derby.

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