



Herald advertising manager David Beattie (left) presents Colonel John R. Barber with a plaque naming him Pioneer Citizen of the Year. The presentation was to have taken place in conjunction with downtown Georgetown's Pioneer Days the weekend before last but was postponed due to Col. Barber's absence.

(Herald photo)

## Pioneer Citizen recalls family heritage

It was roughly 120 years ago that James Barber hiked north along the Credit River from a village just west of Dundas and purchased a small chunk of what was then called Hungry Hollow on which to build a foundry; last week, his grandson, Colonel John R. Barber, was presented with a plaque naming him Georgetown's first Pioneer Citizen of the Year.

The honor, sponsored by The Herald, and presented in conjunction with downtown Georgetown's Pioneer Days, was bestowed Thursday following Col. Barber's return from a weekend fishing trip.

As reported last week, Col. Barber's ancestry and his prospering downtown insurance and travel agency make him a natural choice for the first such honor. He embodies the spirit of Pioneer Days, an annual celebration conceived by downtown merchants to simultaneously boost summer sales and commemorate the community's colorful past.

In accepting the Pioneer Citizen of the Year plaque last week, Col. Barber briefly recalled his childhood in Berwick Hall, the huge, grey home which still stands at the corner of Main and Park Streets. It was built by his father, John Barber Sr., many years after the paper mill founded on the Credit's banks nearby became a prosperous business and had laid the foundation for Georgetown's industrial heritage.

Col. Barber's grandfather had purchased land for his foundry from George Kennedy, the village's founder, after whom the community was eventually named. James Barber had emigrated from Ireland during the potato famine of 1837, landed in Montreal and literally walked - under military escort in deference to possible Indian attacks - as far as Brookville. A ship then carried him to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where he was employed in stone masonry.

James helped build a paper mill and learned much about the machinery that had evolved out of the industrial revolution. He traced the Credit's source to Hungry Hollow, and Col. Barber believes he may have built his initial foundry just below the Berwick Hall site, on the present-day location of Silver Creek Towers.

After a dam on the Credit was dismantled so that land along what is now Guelph Street could be reclaimed, the Barber family, James and his three sons, built their paper mill on River Road above Glen Williams. The mill is still there, now used by Deltacraft. Just downstream, their dynamo harnessed the river's current to make history by setting a new distance record for the transmission of hydroelectric power.

Col. Barber was born in 1904. His late mother, Alberta Bessey, had grown up on a farm overlooking Georgetown on land now owned by S.B. McLaughlin Associates.

## Subdivision plan in limbo

# Board to decide on estate criteria

**Herald Special**  
Another application proposal for the construction of estate homes in a rural area just east of Acton has again prompted the town planning board to reconsider criteria for the approval of such projects.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy acknowledged last Tuesday night that the town's official plan contains no such criteria to determine the suitability of a proposed estate housing site. Approval of one such proposal would set a difficult precedent for other estate housing applications, he warned.

The mayor's remarks came during discussion of the application by Almond Developments for permission to build 20 estate homes on Highway 7 two and a half miles east of Acton. The board declined to vote on the proposal until criteria have been established; a decision is expected July 8.

Mayor Pomeroy agreed that

estate housing is "great for taxes" since municipal servicing is limited at the sites, but pointed out that the town must be sure of its wishes for Ward 2 (Essexing).

Clarence Coles, a neighboring farmer, expressed concern over the future of his feedlot operation should homes be built on the property. He also questioned the effect on existing wells of adding 20 more wells to those tapping the water supply and pointed out the potential nuisance problem of dogs roaming at large from estate homes.

Although the applicant's lawyer, Roger Elliott, assured the board his client would be willing to register waivers on the title of each lot to prevent new residents from complaining about farm smells, Coun. Pat Patterson requested a legal opinion on such waivers.

The town's deputy planner, Bruce MacLean, said he understood the waivers hold little weight legally and the town of

Milton, which had such waivers placed on a development, finds them unenforceable. All they do is wave a "red flag" at prospective buyers to warn them there's an agricultural operation nearby, he said.

Coun. George Maltby cited a letter from Denison Denny, a neighbor to the west of the property, who said he would want similar zoning for his property if the application was approved for Almond Developments.

Coun. Russ Miller questioned the ability of the area's winter supply to meet the demands of 20 more wells when council has already approved the construction of 50 estate homes less than a mile north of the site on the Fifth Line. Seventy new homes in such close proximity would have the effect of creating another small hamlet in the rural area, he said.

He also reminded the board of a recently rejected application to put homes on a farm on the Sixth Line less than a mile to the east, and cited an application to do aggregate tests on a farm further south on the Fifth Line. If it is turned into a quarry, the truck route would probably pass the homes and council could expect more problems, he warned.

Attempts by the developer's soil consultant, David Cressman, to point out that at least half of the 100-acre farm has only low class agricultural land or is too steep or too wet to be useful for agriculture were shot down by Mr. Coles, who pointed out the value a stream adds to a farm and that development would just destroy its purpose.

Mr. Elliott tried to gain board member's sympathy for his client by saying council's advisory planning board had given "approval in principle" to the scheme in 1974, but the Niagara Escarpment Commission had "fouled up" the development because it wasn't sure if the property would be within its control area. He was promptly shot down by Coun. Maltby, however, who said he was violently opposed to it then as a member of the advisory board, and by Coun. Harry Levy, who said he remembered council just "received and filed" the application.

Coun. Levy seconded the mayor's suggestion that council must decide first if it is interested in estate residential development and then where to put it before looking at any more such applications.

## About the Hills

### Terra Cotta arts weekend

The art community of Terra Cotta will be holding a celebration this weekend featuring the three local galleries. The Forge Studio Gallery, the Country Gallery and the Gallery of Tibetan Arts and Crafts will have a two-day sale which will be augmented by other activities. An artist will be on hand to paint clown masks on faces, there will be a flea market and refreshments will be served. The celebration will continue from noon to dusk.

### Student handymen?

The Halton Board of Education has requested administration to report by February of the advantages and disadvantages of using students to repair, maintain and otherwise help in the upkeep of school property. The request for a report followed lengthy discussion on the use of students in vocational courses being allowed to paint the building as part of their practical experience in connection with classroom instruction.

### Correction

An article in the May 21 issue of The Herald incorrectly stated that developer Joe Shaw's proposal to build a nursery and garden centre near the intersection of Trafalgar Road and Steeles Avenue had been rejected by town council. In fact, Mr. Shaw's application is still on file with the town, awaiting council's consideration in light of hydrology and engineering reports being commissioned by the developer. The Herald regrets the error.

The Herald would also like to clarify a remark made by Mr. Shaw, quoted in our June 18 issue. According to the developer, his comment that homeowners near the site are "nuts" to oppose his plans referred only to specific individuals, rather than the residents of some 45 homes who signed a petition blocking his proposal to build a golf driving range on the site. The Herald apologizes to Mr. Shaw and the homeowners for the misunderstanding.



**NICE DOGGIE!**  
This friendly dog, Jason, was the winner of the prize for largest dog in the show, for obvious reasons, in the Glen Williams Canada Day dog show. Here he stares show judge John Minns right in the eye, proving his right to be declared the biggest dog on stage.

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## Vehicles, supplies stolen

Tools for repairing a photocopier machine were stolen from a parked car in Georgetown last week. The tools are valued at \$1,000.

A 1979 Suzuki motorcycle was stolen during a burglary at a house outside Norval.

Stereo equipment, including a Hitachi turntable, amplifier, tuner and cassette deck, was stolen from a home outside Norval. Value of the missing property is estimated at \$2,039.

A boat inside a building in Acton was damaged by vandals who broke into the building. Damage was estimated at \$150. Nothing was taken during the break-in.

A stereo cassette player was stolen from a car last week and the seats of the car were slashed. The value of the missing tape player is \$80, while damage to the seats was estimated at \$200.

An estimated \$1,500 worth of wrenches and tools were stolen from a garage on Trafalgar Road.



## STUDENTS WIN PRIX D'EXCELLENCE

Sacre Coeur students Doris Perroo and Paul Presseault were among three grade eight students who were awarded achievement prizes as their school closed for the summer last Friday. Paul is shown here holding the "prix d'excellence" for being the best all round student and Doris was presented with a dictionary for placing third in the graduating class. A third student, Caroline Shultz, finished the year with the second highest academic standing, but was not available when this photo was taken.

(Herald photo)

## Storm lightning damage

Area 2 firefighters (Georgetown) received three fire calls during the thunderstorm Thursday evening.

A homeowner on Delrex Boulevard reported that lightning struck his CB antenna and was somehow transmitted to his two televisions, causing about \$750 in damage.

The sign at Mr. Submarine on Guelph Street was struck by lightning and suffered about \$100 damage.

## Come to Church

<p><b>GEORGETOWN ALLIANCE CHURCH</b> 14 Main St. S. PASTOR PETER RALPH Sunday July 6, 1980 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Evening Service 6:30 p.m. Come and Make our Church Your Church Everyone Welcome P. RALPH 877-9816 853-3923</p>	<p><b>MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 177 Maple Ave. Georgetown PASTOR EDWIN H. MITCHELL 877-6465; 877-0320 Sunday July 6, 1980 9:45 a.m. Family Bible School All Summer Long 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship "CARING" 6:30 p.m. Summer Sharing 1 Theesalonians 4 Communion Quarterly Fellowship Auditorium Air-Conditioned 25 YEARS AND GROWING</p>
<p><b>ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH</b> Anglican REV. ROSWELL TEES Sunday July 6, 1980 TRINITY 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Family Eucharist (NURSERY)</p>	<p><b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Windsor Road at Carole St. Vacancy Pastor REV. ARTHUR RADER Sunday July 6, 1980 9 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Church of the Lutheran Hour</p>

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7:00 p.m. - Indoor Camp Meeting

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