

Acton's heritage wins in Actario

Fred Davis and Faye Dance weren't there (Louis Charlebois, Ted Tyler, Yvonne Rosenquist and George Elliott did a better job onstage anyway), but Acton's first lottery draw had all the trappings of success when Friday night's gathering on Mill Street culminated several years' work on the part of citizens intent upon saving their old town hall.

Actario drew about 100 spectators as part of the Back to Acton Days festivities held this past weekend, a good sign that the Town Hall Committee is finally on the right track after many months of indecision and inability to overcome bureaucratic delays. The fun really begins early in September when the draws become a weekly event, carrying some lucky supporter off on a \$1,500 trip abroad. The odds for Actario are excellent, as are the odds that the Committee will realize its objective to raise about \$50,000 toward the \$238,000 cost of repairing Acton's former town hall.

There were at least two occasions in the past two years, however, when it looked as though the Committee might fail to evoke enough community spirit in modern-day Acton to meet their objective. In infrequent progress reports to town council, the

members met with measured cynicism on the part of councillors who do not represent Ward 1 and who saw little practicality in the proposal to raise public funds.

Council, of course, had intended to raze the structure and give Acton firefighters a little more parking space next door to their firehall; the shortage of parking facilities was then considered critical and has improved little since.

A loud cry from deep in Acton's heart stayed the execution, the Committee was given a deadline to meet in its fund-raising drive, two extensions were granted, and still, little evidence of success appeared.

Now, a bold new scheme to raise the necessary money has Actonians and non-residents buying Actario tickets at \$25 apiece and \$100 for four (with chances of winning restricted to one in 1,000 due to purposely limited ticket sales). With a little help from Julian Reed, Pete Pomeroy and others, the first draw Friday night showed much promise.

It should be quite a party when the Committee finally succeeds in re-opening the Acton town hall.



Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown has a new industry. Last week negotiations were completed between Provincial Paper Ltd. and William B. Ackerman of Toronto. Mr. Ackerman purchased the lower building which formerly housed the paper mill. The purchase includes the building and 106 acres of land. Mr. Ackerman will operate two companies in the building, Commercial Displays Ltd., which manufactures steel filing cabinets, desks and lockers, and Commercial Chemicals Ltd., which manufactures baking enamels, lacquers and paints.

After all, the remarks made about June, the summary shows almost a normal average. The maximum average was 75 degrees - only one-half degree above normal, and the minimum average was 50.30 degrees, being only one and a half degrees below average. The total rainfall for June was 3.73 inches, which was almost one inch more than normal.

At the Roxy: "21 years old! 21 notches on his guns! The Kid From Texas, the thrilling story of the outlaw, Billy the Kid, starring Audie Murphy and Gale Storm."

Esquering Council signed an agreement providing a new basis for sharing costs of the high school district, other than the present equalized assessment. At a previous meeting it had been decided to apply for an arbitration on the grounds that the township was bearing too high a share of the costs, and arbitration proceedings had been postponed until July 11 with the hope that all five municipalities would agree to a plan suggested without arbitration.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Trafalgar's first completely licenced hotel, the \$500,000 Mississauga, will be ready to play host to its first guest along about January 1, 1961. The Mississauga will be unusual among small hostels in that it will offer such extras as a solarium, a swimming pool, a gymnasium and a steam bath. But its unique feature will be Canada's first radiation fall-out shelter, that will be readily available to patrons if Kruschev becomes really crafty.

Claims and counter-claims between the town's administrators and the Delrex Developments continue to occupy a good share of the Monday council meetings and last Monday was no exception. A letter from Rex Heslop was received which pointed out the town had failed to honor several commitments regarding sewage and water mains, a sewage disposal plant and other facilities.

A touch of glamour was added to the mundane business of county administration when two civil servants, one from Ghana, and one from Malaya, paid a visit to Milton to study the county government system. Their unfamiliar names, K. Te-Asiedu of Ghana and Abdul Majid, added a touch of the mysterious East to the proceedings.

The government of Ontario has approved grants totalling \$197,706.00 to the Sixteen Mile Creek Conservation Authority for a combined Flood Control Scheme and Conservation Area in the Township of Nassagaweya. The province will pay 50 per cent or \$117,062.25 of the cost of acquiring 341 acres of land, including river flats, the escarpment and 266 acres of open land. The Authority will build a reservoir that would flood 100 acres and contain 1,000 acre feet of water.

Halton County is having problems with its crest. In an effort to straighten them out, County Council reinstated the County Seal used on the very first bylaw ever passed 107 years ago, as the official County Seal. By some mysterious method another seal has been used for many years, with the motto, "Nothing without work", but the original seal simply says, "Prospere".

From The Herald's classified pages: "A 100-acre farm, light loam soil. Eight-room brick house in exceptionally good condition. Hydro, heated by hot water furnace. Bank barn with new roof, sheep pen, close to paved road. Possession at once \$15,800.

TEN YEARS AGO—By a slim majority, Halton County secondary teachers last week ratified a salary agreement giving them a 9.5 per cent increase. 56.5 per cent of the 825 secondary school teachers in the county voted in favor of the settlement. The contract settlement will cost the board \$850,000 and \$1 million for the elementary teachers who settled earlier.

The senior citizens' apartments on Hyde Park Avenue, looking more like a fancy motel than apartments, is completed, with half the tenants already moved in, and the other half scheduled for August 1 occupation. Only two of the 24 apartments are not rented at the moment.

Susan Nixon, 19, of Norval was crowned Halton County Dairy Princess Friday night at the annual competition held at Falgairbrook Farm owned by R. Kunica of R.R.2, Georgetown. The three contestants, Mary Anderson of Milton, Pat Murray of Acton and the winner, were judged on an interview, public address, assembling and sanitizing the milk machine, the milking operation, cleaning and storing the utensils, performance, efficiency, showmanship, organization and lastly on time.

Tiger-Joe Fobert, all 165½ pounds of him, has won the Canadian Junior freestyle wrestling championship in his class in Calgary. His feat wins for him a gold medal, while two other Georgetown wrestlers, Brian Leslie and Clive Llewellyn, copped silver medals in their divisions.

Jack Nieuwhof is the proud possessor of a sterling silver pin recognizing the patent for his invention of a magnetic switching apparatus. He is one of 390 Canadian inventors whose products have been licenced for commercial exploitation by Canadian Patents and Developments Ltd. and who are entitled to wear "The Inventor".

ONE YEAR AGO—Contract negotiations between the Halton board of education and its elementary and secondary school teachers have been broken off. The secondary school teachers had requested the assistance of a mediator in talks with the board, and the Education Relations had appointed a mediator. However the board has withdrawn from the talks and is requesting they continue without mediation. The elementary school teachers requested the appointment of a mediator following a meeting two weeks ago when the teachers' chief mediator walked out of the meeting.

Officials of Halton region and the Halton Federation of Agriculture will confront the province's ministry of environment next week over charges that the ministry's incompetent inspection procedures for sludge disposal sites have resulted in the contamination of area rivers. Halton Region Conservation Authority general manager Murray Stephen submitted a lengthy list of complaints to regional council's special liaison committee Thursday which raise serious questions about disposal of sewage sludge on Halton farms.

All quiet in House on the Hill as Parliament watches world



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald

Perhaps my viewfinder is out of focus, but I can't recall another period in which Parliament has seemed so irrelevant. Apart from the tourists, who swarm toward the Peace Tower like a group of invaders from the Eastman Kodak Company, the place is being cheerfully ignored.

Partly, I suspect, it's because Parliament just isn't doing much. And partly, I further suspect, it's because the real action has been occurring far away from the great echoing halls of the House on the Hill. It used to be that just about every major decision affecting our lives was arrived at in the House of Commons, but not any more. In the last couple of years, our Parliament has been a spectator to the most momentous events.

The whole question of national unity which has preoccupied us for years and which reached another periodic climax with the Quebec Referendum, has basically been a non-parliamentary affair revolving around federal-provincial conferences. Apart from dominating the recent throne speech debate, the subject is

treated only to sporadic questioning in the Commons.

MANY MEETINGS

In fact, federal-provincial conferences have upstaged Parliament in many spheres. Last year, believe it or not, there were more than 500 federal-provincial meetings at the prime ministerial, ministerial, official and messenger levels. Just about everything remotely affecting our lives is discussed between Ottawa and the provinces before legislation is drafted.

And aside from the billowing growth of the federal-provincial industry, our political attention has been diverted to many other non-parliamentary areas. The two federal elections in the last year have kept our eyes riveted on leadership, watching the retirement and resurrection of Pierre Trudeau, the ascendancy and tumble of Tory leader Joe Clark, and the never-ending guessing about their futures.

And with the changes in government came the disrupting housecleaning operations that snarled up the legislature program, sent fearful shivers through the bureaucracy, and generally kept the capital in an unsettled state. And with every change came another review, study or task force. Nothing is less appealing to political spectators than watching someone take a third look at a second look because they were originally suspicious of the first look.

Did you know, for instance, that Parliament is still wrestling with bits and pieces from the 1978 budget of Jean Chretien? In case you have forgotten,

he was finance minister then. There hasn't been a budget passed since he left.

LITTLE PASSED

In fact there hasn't been much of anything passed. Only eight pieces of legislation have passed through the House since this Parliament began sitting in April and seven of those were leftovers from the last Parliament. The one exception was a bill providing for a \$35-a-month increase in old-age pensions. Most of the measures were routine housekeeping bills.

Actually, the story was much the same last year under the new Conservative government. That regime introduced eight bills during its brief lifespan and only one - another social security measure - managed to get through. Then, as now, all the action was outside Parliament as federal-provincial politicians argued over everything from oil prices to lotteries.

There is no indication that things will change even when Prime Minister Trudeau returns from his European travels. There is that forthcoming National Liberal Convention in Winnipeg to distract us, and after that we'll be starting to watch the Tories begin rehearsals for their leadership revue (no, that's not a mis-spelling) next February.

Meanwhile, Parliament will continue plodding away at legislation which had been left over by the Clark government because it was too busy worrying about bills that had been left over from the previous Trudeau government.

A fitting tribute

Since few individual communities can boast local historians who have ready access to publishing opportunities, it is rewarding to future generations as well as those present when public facilities are dedicated in honor of local citizens of merit.

Thus, the late Dick Licata joins Joseph Gibbons and Jack Armstrong (both former Georgetown mayors), Gordon Alcott and Georgetown founder George Kennedy on the list of names attached to modern buildings and facilities.

Last week, the Lions Club, of which Mr. Licata was an honored member until his death four years ago, acknowledged its former president's work by naming the club's long-established outdoor pool in his memory.

It is a fitting, if delayed, tribute to a man

who spearheaded the club's drive to give local kids a swimming pool where before none existed. Successful in that venture by 1958, Mr. Licata dedicated equal effort toward the Greenwood Cemetery board, to launching night courses at the high school and elsewhere and to the original hospital board which oversaw the construction of Georgetown Memorial.

All this energy was expended above and beyond Mr. Licata's regular job as a grocer in downtown Georgetown. Thanks to the Lions' latest project, future generations of youngsters who troop into the pool's dressing rooms can read the plaque marking Dick Licata's work on their behalf and come to know his role in Georgetown's development as an important and motivating force in the community.



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

It's interesting to follow the continuing saga of Bruce McLaughlin in the Toronto Star and elsewhere; a couple of reports in recent weeks shed even more light on the nature of the man and the company who want to transform the appearance and quality of life in Georgetown by building 1,700 homes on our southern boundary.

First came the news that the head of S.B. McLaughlin Associates Ltd. (and thus its affiliate, Focal Properties Ltd.) is now the highest-paid executive in Canada, raking in a cool \$2.4 million a year. As the Star pointed out in unusually reverent terms, that's about four times as much as the top dogs at Canadian Pacific and Imperial Oil earn.

Then, only three days later (June 25), the Star reported that McLaughlin has offered to resign his presidency because of Bay Street criticism over his hefty new management contract.

Described as a high school drop-out, McLaughlin drew a flurry of criticism as soon as the signing of his new contract was announced; the boys on Bay Street decided his company is "too integrated with its founder and controlling shareholder" and suspended ratings of all series of the firm's secured debentures. Adding credibility to the brokers' lack of confidence, S.B. McLaughlin shares jumped from \$1.13 to \$9.50 when it was learned the boss was ready to quit.

McLaughlin now proposed to resign as president and act as a consultant through his private management firm, a deal in which he would be earning far less than \$2.4 million.

Of course, all these wheelings and dealings are far removed from the agendas of Halton Hills council, whose members still await decisions on the availability of sewage treatment capacity before they move on the Focal Properties package.

The Georgetown holdings, hemmed in by a chain link fence that runs through Hungry Hollow, were listed in the initial Star article alongside Mississauga's Square. One shopping plaza, (which McLaughlin built and owns) and 1,400 acres in the Caledon Hills encompassing the Chingwacousy Country Club, which Bruce founded.

"About 900 acres in the Halton Hills (sic)," the list continued, "on much of which building

approval has been held up for the past five years pending water supply and sewage studies."

The understatement says little of the intense and sometimes emotional debates that have centered upon Focal's ambition, an issue that has both weakened and solidified various political careers on the local scene, and one which threatens to have much more effect this fall when we go to the polls once again, the Focal development problem still unresolved.

the HERALD
Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

A DIVISION OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS COMPANY LTD.
45 Guelph St., Georgetown L7G 3Z6

WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF
Publisher & General Manager

PAUL DORSEY
Managing Editor

DAVID BEATTIE
Advertising Manager

Phone 877-2201
Second Class Mail Registered No. 0943

AN AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

1979 Second Best All Round
Best Front Page
Best Composition & Layout
Best Photography
Best News & Features
Best Agricultural Story
Best Sports

1978 Second Best All Round
Best Sports

1976 Best News & Features
1975 Best Composition & Layout
Best Editorial Page

Advertising is accepted on the condition that the advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred, whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise. . . . there shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

National Advertising Offices
Thomson Building
45 Queen St. W., Toronto, Ont.
340 Cathcart St., Montreal, P.Q.

New Democrats transformed from a movement to a party



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald

New Democratic Party Leader Michael Cassidy is usually not the most charismatic of speakers, and his performance at the party's annual convention here was no exception.

"Flat" was how one neutral observer characterized his keynote address.

It failed to rouse the delegates in the way, for example, a speech from an old tub-thumper like Ontario Federation of Labor president Cliff Pilkey could (and did) at the convention.

But to draw any kind of negative conclusion from that would be a big mistake.

In a curious kind of way the subdued reaction to Cassidy - and in fact the general low-key tenor of the whole convention - indicates a good

deal of confidence by the delegates.

Over the past two decades of subtle transformation the movement has become a party.

FLOOR FIGHT

This was nowhere more evident than in the floor fights over controversial issues, in particular the attempt by the Left Caucus (as they call themselves) to commit the party to nationalization as the sole tool of industrial strategy.

What was interesting is not that the Left failed (by a vote of three or four to one ratio among the 1,100 delegates), but the lack of rancor among the losers, no huddling in the corners muttering revenge, or issuing dire threats about splitting the party.

All the passionately-held issues that tend to splinter New Democrats received the same kind of moderate response, the sort of acceptance of reality that comes with political maturity.

HEAVY STUFF

And so, too, it was with Cassidy's speech.

He didn't play the game of smashing the bosses for sucking the workers financially dry, or painting in glowing colors the socialist New Jerusalem to come.

Instead he gave a very business-

like speech full of rhetoric of the technological age - "we can build the infrastructure to underpin the manufacturing sector of this province" - in all its dry complexity.

All good, solid, if a trifle heavy, stuff promising solutions to what the NDP views as society's economic ills.

But not the kind of sabre-rattling that brings the troops to their feet, or the old-style NDP jerking at the heartstrings with tales of starving widows and gouging landlords.

NEW WAVE

Maybe they no longer need it. The impression is that somehow at this convention the party gelled as never before.

If there is no love for Cassidy, respect certainly exists, and no desire among ordinary delegates to see the party suicide with some kind of leadership wrangle.

Cassidy used a standard political line at a news conference that "party solidarity is stronger than I've ever seen it before."

This time one tended to agree with him.

Equally important, the policies he laid out and that the convention endorsed are in the main more coherent and saleable than ever before, flexible and workable (if bureaucratic and expensive), an overall social democratic vision of Ontario's future.