

Superior Motors' Bob Leopardi

Acton racer has Camaro on track for 7th season

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special
Motor racing is becoming expensive and many amateurs are dropping out, but an Acton family were off to the track for the seventh season recently.

Bob Leopardi, of Greenore Crescent said he has \$15,000 tied up in his 1979 Camaro and it's one of the cheapest late model stock cars in the field this year.

Describing his car as a '79 Camaro is perhaps stretching it, he said, since he has rebuilt it himself to suit his requirements and all that's left of the Camaro is the shell.

The interior is filled with heavy tubing which serves to

support it in the event it ever was involved in an accident. The gas tank is sealed off from the rest of the car. He uses a net over the window to ensure his hand or head can't accidentally fall out into danger in the event of an accident.

These, and many more safety precautions are items of great concern to Mr. Leopardi. If his car wasn't safe he'd simply not be driving it, he said.

DISASTER
Fire is the single disaster drivers fear most. To combat it all racers wear flame retardant long underwear.

"You can imagine what it's like in the car some night when

the fans are fanning themselves in the stands because of the heat," he said. "But we all wear flame-proof long underwear when we race. It's just part of the safety equipment."

Mr. Leopardi can't explain exactly why he stays with such a sport when it has both danger and expense as drawbacks to average drivers.

"I guess it has something to do with being a highly competitive person," he said. "There's something about being door-handle to door-handle with another car at 100 miles an hour. It's a good feeling. It's almost like an addiction. Once you get into it you can't quit."

COLLECT POINTS
Drivers claim prizes for winning each individual race but they also collect points

towards a total for the whole series and the highest series total will also entitle a driver to extra money at the end of the season.

SPARE ENGINES
There are a few professional drivers who may have a couple of cars and spare engines who drive the same tracks as Mr. Leopardi. Since driving is their living these drivers can pay \$10,000 for an engine and have it's equal invested in a spare one, while Mr. Leopardi's engine is only worth around \$4,500.

On a short track the cars reach 75 miles per hour while they may go up to 120 miles per

hour on a long one. The past two years, Mr. Leopardi was invited to take part in races at Atlantic

Speedway at Antigonish, N.S. Mr. Leopardi said he is looking for sponsors since his expenses are rising constantly.

The Leopardi came to Acton five years ago. He worked for a car dealership for a time, then opened his own

business with a partner a couple of years ago. He has run Superior Motors on Main Street South since August.

'GOOD OLD DAYS' AT HALTON MUSEUM



Jimmy Tooby tries out the old-fashioned washing machine with his cap. In those fabled "Good Old Days", women relied on such labor-saving devices as this washing machine to help run their household. (Herald photo)

For these days in the summer when the sun is in hiding, the Halton Regional Museum is right on the doorstep, with a wide range of antiques on display. Children like these boys enjoy the chance to see how it was in the "good old days".



School is out, but at the Halton Regional Museum, the desks are there, ready to be occupied. Craig and Josh Schmidt and Jimmy Tooby tried out the students' desks with enthusiasm. The museum is located at Kelso Conservation Area, and is open year-round. (Herald photo)



Susan Lawrence and friend relax in the living room setting at the Halton Regional Museum. The museum features furnishings from every room in the house, as well as old-fashioned equipment from the hairdresser's, the doctor's office and the farm. (Herald photo)

Letter to the editor

Crosswalk sign brings results

Following is a copy of a letter to council filed with The Herald for publication:

Dear Councilors:

This is a letter of gratitude to you all on my best writing paper!!

This is belated thanks. I spent some time in Calgary so I don't know exactly when the "senior citizen crossing" signs went up.

I have waited to see the results and more cars are slowing or stopping! I feel you have elevated us to the status of persons.

I had the feeling at times, from the angry looks at me, that I was considered an ancient dodo who was picking daisies in the hay field when I should be pushing them up.

Mr. Austin said that the region had no pedestrian crossings. I wonder who put up the deer crossing signs, also nattle crossings?

Maple Avenue Baptist Church pastor prays for our leaders and my amen shall be louder from now on.

Grateful and sincerely,

Anne M. Ferwerda,
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