

Beauty contest going ahead despite parents' opposition

Despite a flurry of angry letters to The Herald (see page A5) and telephone calls to his house Jim Barrett says he is not "bowing to any minority pressure" in the community to cancel the Junior Miss Halton Hills "beauty" pageant proposed for the Georgetown Fall Fair in October.

Mr. Barrett said he feels that the competition for girls three to five years of age "will be of immense value to the community". The idea has already been approved by the Georgetown Fall Fair board and contestants will be sponsored by various service clubs within the community.

"It's a good way of showing that we're proud of our community," Mr. Barrett said during an interview Thursday, "and there's no more beauty than in the kids of our community."

Mr. Barrett said he expects the service clubs to work well together on the scheme.

"If we can work together on something small like this, think of how we can come together on something larger," he said, adding that a unified council of service clubs in Georgetown could conceivably raise money for

a badly-needed geriatrics wing at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

But at least one club which had previously approved sponsoring a girl in the competition has since withdrawn its support and another as-yet-uncommitted organization may not get involved at all because of the sudden outcry from a number of parents who feel the competition is "sexist" and exploitative.

"If people would stop and think about the word 'exploit', they might not be so eager to rush into such a protest about this," Mr. Barrett said. "We're not using kids to raise money."

Arguing against the "sexist" accusation, Mr. Barrett said that a "Junior Mr. Halton Hills" would probably receive equal consideration by the fair board and can still be proposed by would-be organizers.

Mr. Barrett said that a general meeting of the various clubs in town will be held tomorrow night (Thursday) at 7:30 in the Elk's Lodge.

"We'll be discussing the ins and outs of the contest," Mr. Barrett said, adding that

the possibility of forming a permanent general council of clubs in town will also be on the agenda.

Meanwhile, Mr. Barrett said he has received a favorable response from local merchants wishing to supply prizes for the competition.

A similar contest held every summer in Moncton,

New Brunswick, is well supported by the public and businesses alike, Mr. Barrett said.

"The whole town is behind it and companies end up waiting in line to sponsor the girls."

The Georgetown Fall Fair is scheduled for October 3 and 4 this year.



Mary Lou Egerton of The Herald's composing room staff captivates some of the guests at Thursday's Open House with a demonstration of typesetting, using one of two machines on hand which convert words and

sentences into one long, perforated ribbon that tells its story to the computers ready for rapid copy preparation.

OLD FRIENDS, NEW FRIENDS AT THE HERALD OPEN HOUSE



Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed (Left) exchanged greetings with Ward 1 town Coun. Ross Knechtel at The Herald's Open House Thursday. More than 100 guests took advantage of

the opportunity to tour the newspaper's new production plant at 45 Guelph St. in Georgetown.

Burglars vandalize kitchen

A set of golf clubs, a golf bag and some putters were stolen during a break-in at the Georgetown Golf and Country Club.

The burglars entered through an insecure door, police said. The value of the missing property is estimated at about \$520.

Burglars smashed a window to get into the Silver Creek Shell station on Trafalgar Road. They got \$50 in cash and an unknown quantity of cigarettes.

Damage is estimated at \$1,000 after someone broke into a house on the town line between Erin Township and Halton Hills and tore apart the kitchen.

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