

Hundreds watch illegal races

Town takes on drag racers



Handing her crown and title to her kid sister, Kathy McGrath - Miss Acton Fall Fair of 1979 - was succeeded Friday night by Lisa McGrath, seen here surrounded by princesses and fellow competitors in the annual competition. The crowning climaxed a gala evening of entertainment; first runner-up was Gwen Gibb and in second place was Kim Lakin. See page B1 for more pictures. (Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

Queen Kathy bows out to sister Lisa

New events, stable weather draw 16,000 to Acton Fair

Herald Special
Acton celebrated the end of summer, and the beginning of fall, this past weekend with its 67th annual fall fair. Attendance was up roughly 3,000 this year. Last year's gate attendance brought in 12,000 people, for a total around 13,000 including gate passers, said fall fair president Brian Evans.

The field by Fairy Lake was covered with people taking in the midway rides, horror houses, games, food, crafts and exhibits.

Though it threatened to rain Saturday and Sunday, the weather held well for the weekend activities, and fall fair officials were pleased in general with the many events.

Mr. Evans said some time slots will have to be rescheduled for next year, as some minor problems occurred, particularly with the tug-of-war. With so many events scheduled for Friday, the officials found they ran out of room to run the tug in at the scheduled time. These problems have already been sorted out for next year, said Mr. Evans.

Winners of the various contests were unavailable, and officials said they would be known later this week.

A couple of the newer events were notable successful. The Arabian Horse Show drew crowds from as far away as Pennsylvania, and fair officials, plan to include it in next year's program, as well as events such as a goat show to augment the day.

Friday evening Otto Jelenek, Halton MP, opened the fair.

The Miss Acton contest saw 50 entrants vying for the title but Kathy McGrath, last year's winner crowned her 18-year-old sister Lisa as this year's winner. First runner up was Gwyneth Gibb, and second runner up was Kym Lakin, both of Acton.

The heavy horse show on Friday was the biggest show Acton has ever had, said Mr. Evans, and there were 11 teams on the unicorn hitch on the field.

The mini-boat races on Saturday were last minute additions to the program but organizers definitely plan to include them next year.

They drew crowds from as far away as Rochester, N.Y., said Mr. Evans.

The antique tractor show and mini tractor pull, on Saturday, were also notably successful.

Mr. Evans said the fair board, in planning, attempts to include entertainment for every age, and all events were successful.

The parade on Saturday was also one of the biggest Acton has seen. Winner of the first prize for floats was the ladies board of Acton Agricultural Society.

The fair board donated a total of \$200 in prize money to the muscular dystrophy fund, on behalf of firefighters who were winners of the waterball contest.

Angered by noise and alleged drug and alcohol abuse at an abandoned dragway near Acton, town council has endorsed a motion allowing Mayor Pete Pomeroy and clerk-administrator Ken Richardson to "take what action is necessary" to clamp down on illegal drag racing at the site.

Mayor Pomeroy said Monday night he was disappointed that the owners of the land, located on the east side of the Fifth Line about a half mile north of Highway 7 have not lived up to assurances to "deal with the problems" at the dragway which have occurred throughout the summer.

Coun. George Maltby claimed that the owner, Lyncean Investments Ltd., said it would tear up the asphalt along the strip and, failing that, post guards to keep out trespassers. Until recently, police had been hindered in their efforts to prosecute trespassers because they had not been given permission from the owner to make arrests at the site, formerly known as Toronto International Dragway.

Mayor Pomeroy said he understood the police had received a letter from the owner earlier in the day allowing the police move in on the dragsters. Fearing a possible confrontation between police and dragsters, council was eager to stop the trespassers before they got into the site and voted to allow Mayor Pomeroy to have guards posted by the weekend if necessary.

Clerk-administrator Richardson said the owner may agree enough to pay for policing if constables are posted at the dragway this weekend. Town staff have yet to decide whether the town is liable for a damage suit if a trespasser is injured once the dragstrip is torn up.

The site has been closed since 1975.

Town's first official plan due in April

The first Halton Hills official plan, consolidating the former plans of Acton, Georgetown and Esqueving township, should be ready for ministry of housing approval in April, the town's planning department has reported.

A flow chart circulated at last Tuesday night's planning board meeting says a draft of the plan, complying with the region's official plan, which was signed at Queen's Park August 1, will likely go before the board next month.

Following board revisions, the proposed plan will be released prior to public meetings in January. Revisions based on those meetings will be made in February.

The plan will then return to the board for further discussion before being forwarded to council for approval. The plan is scheduled for printing in March and copies will be sent to the ministry the following month.

Final date for official government endorsement of the plan is unknown at the moment. The ministry could ask for changes in the draft after it is received in April.

Chapel deal in the works

A trade-off of Georgetown properties between Chateau Belair Developments Ltd. and town council may see ten of the 14 building lots on the Chapel Street school grounds developed and the rest left open for use as parkland.

Council gave two of the required three readings Monday night to a bylaw authorizing construction of homes on the ten lots. Belair will pay the town \$7,500 in lieu of donating parkland at the site and develop the remaining four lots unless a proposed land exchange becomes feasible.

The open space area on the school grounds will be traced for two town-owned lots on Henry Street and another two on Dayfoot Drive if the proposal is accepted.

Council originally asked Belair for \$8,700 to cover road reconstruction costs for Dayfoot.

The request was modified following a brief, closed-door session of council Monday night.

Maltby fails to halt 20-home estate project

Two attempts by Coun. George Maltby to block an estate development proposed for Highway 7 between Acton and Georgetown failed last Tuesday and again Monday night.

Almond Investments Ltd.'s 20-home subdivision, termed "an intrusion into the rural area" by Coun. Maltby, was approved Monday with a 7-4 council vote. The proposed site is on the southeast corner of the intersection at Highway 7 and the Fifth Line.

Town planning staff claimed the 40-acre development in the midst of a 100-acre property will not adversely affect nearby farming operations.

Despite independent studies indicating the land is viable for neither extracting aggregate nor producing crops, farmers in the surrounding area are convinced the development could endanger the growth and health of the farming community.

In a letter to council Monday, Dennis Denny said he is concerned that farmers would have to deal with a sudden increase of trespassers, dogs

and vandalism. A neighboring dairy farm should not be hampered by the development if it expands in the future, according to planning staff. The farm could grow from its current 70 head of cattle to 300 head without any additional distance between the farm buildings and the nearest home in the proposed subdivision, they advised.

However, the board amended the agreement planned between the town and the developer to include a covenant on title clearly warning prospective buyers of the homes that they may have to bear occasional unpleasant odors from nearby farming operations.

Coun. Maltby argued Monday that the development "could be the downfall of the farming community in the long run" and insisted that the property still has agricultural potential.

But had council rejected the proposal because it is considered bad planning in an agricultural area, the town may have ended up before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) with

ELECTION CENTRAL

Hinton tries again for Acton board seat

Declaring that his retirement last year has given him more time to devote to education, Acton resident H.H. (Bert) Hinton announced Friday he will seek the Ward 1 trusteeship in the November 5 Halton board of education election.

A charter member of the Sheridan College board of governors and a former chairman of the board, Mr. Hinton told The Herald he would turn the Halton board position into a full-time job.

"I'm concerned about the high cost of education," Mr. Hinton said, pointing out he is



BERT HINTON

no stranger to the Halton Board of Education and that he would take a "constructive and critical approach" to the present-day educational system.

"There is a great need for career-oriented programs which should be backed with work experience," Mr. Hinton said, adding that student counsellors in today's schools should be in closer touch with the working world.

Mr. Hinton said that while he is often out of town these days, people can reach him usually before 9 a.m. and he never goes to bed "until after the news at night".

School board candidate has financial background

Herald Special
Arianna (Nan) Cargill is the first person to announce an intention to seek the Acton board of education seat in the Nov. 10 election.

A native of The Netherlands, Mrs. Cargill came to Canada in 1969 and has lived in Acton with husband Brian since 1972. She has two sons attending Robert Little public school.

She has worked in the financial departments of several companies in both Holland and Canada as well as working as

secretary for a law professor at Leiden University.

Mrs. Cargill says she stayed home to look after her family while they were little but now that they are in school she has the time to devote to community work such as representing Acton on the school board.

As her children grew she became increasingly concerned about the quality of education in Acton, she said.

She wants to see education maintained and improved without burdening the taxpayer.

Mrs. Cargill is learning about problems in the system and preparing solutions to them.

"But I'm not going to make any statements or solutions yet," she said. "I don't know the factors which may be influencing board decisions that parents aren't aware of."

Mrs. Cargill says parents' participation at the McKendzie-Smith school meeting on class size last week pleased her. She would promote parent involvement in the school if she is elected.

Businessmen wary of Hwy. 7 rezoning

The possibility that a rezoned industrial lot near Georgetown's busy Guelph-Mountainview intersection might be sold to another major restaurant chain has local restaurateurs worried.

Approving an application to have property next to Baz Motors Ltd. rezoned for commercial use would be "a disservice to Georgetown ratepayers", according to Russ Powaduk, who addressed the town planning board last Tuesday night on behalf of Georgetown and Milton McDonald's Restaurant franchise owner Richmond Chandler.

Mr. Powaduk argued that the "economic health" of the community "demands the retention and expansion of industrial land", which may eventually create more jobs. He said that several other ratepayers along the Guelph Street business area "may not survive" if the application by Baz Motors owner Baz Kutter is approved.

There is some speculation

that a large restaurant company - possibly a steak house or a chicken outlet - may be interested in building on the one and a half-acre lot sandwiched between the new police building and a Honda dealership under construction next to Baz Motors.

Mike Hatzl, owner of Wimpey's Restaurant in the Halton Hills Shopping Centre, warned board members that Georgetown doesn't have enough citizens to support any restaurant proposal, noting

that a Pizza Delight outlet in the Plaza had already closed down.

"It's very hard for most to compete in the food area," Mr. Hatzl said.

However, board chairman Mike Armstrong disagreed, saying he feels the "town is going to grow" and that an operation on the property could be "very, very viable".

Planning staff will prepare a report for a future board meeting using public comment from Tuesday's meeting.

DALE CARNEGIE COURSE PREVIEW

Proof of the power of your own memory will be available at a special preview meeting of the 1988 Dale Carnegie course next Wednesday night (Oct. 1), open to all interested readers.

Course organizers will conduct a brief memory lesson as a demonstration of the unique teaching methods which enable their classes to accomplish a great deal in a short period of time. The preview meeting, which begins at 8:00 p.m., is open to all and carries neither admission charge nor any obligation to register.

Class manager Bruce Beattie this week informed The Herald, which is sponsoring the course again this year as a public service to the community, that next Wednesday's meeting at the Georgetown Lions Hall behind Memorial Arena signals the start of another Dale Carnegie session.

For an enjoyable, informative evening and a memory lesson guaranteed to amaze the uninitiated, come to the Lions Hall next week. More information about the preview meeting - and about the few remaining openings in the course - is available from The Herald; phone 877-2291.



GDHS (PANT, PANT) DONATES \$2,000

A total of 1,147 runners participated in a cross country run at Georgetown and District High School last Tuesday, raising a total of \$2,213.50 for Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope against cancer. Student Jill McKelvey (second from left) presented the cheque to Mary Ellen Bridge of the local cancer society. Flanking the two for the presentation are teachers Ivan Loo, (left) and Bob McKay, who helped rally staff participation in the event. See page B3

(Her. 14 photo)



Unicycling is a balancing talent mastered by few, but the Amazing Arlise trio juggled and pedalled around the extremely light stage area in the Acton arena Friday night entertaining the audience with a repertoire of acrobatics and even some fire-eating. The trio was part of the variety show held during the Miss Acton Fall Fair competition.