

## What a great June weekend

From that moment Thursday morning when the first rack of summer sale clothing was rolled outside onto the sidewalk to the final encore of the Old Tyme Music Hall Saturday night, this year's Pioneer Days-Summerfest bash was a social-historical-commercial-cultural party to be reckoned with.

The downtown merchants and the Business Improvement Area board met their usual par with the three-day Pioneer festivities, lining the Main Street core with so many simultaneous events and activities that reporters were hard-pressed to take it all in.

The Halton Hills Arts Council and its member groups outdid themselves, setting a new standard in presentation by moving the open-air Summerfest into the downtown core and spilling, metaphorically enough, onto the grounds of the new library-cultural centre. Knox Presbyterian Church has never looked better than it did Saturday surrounded by colorful displays and activities.

Throughout the weekend ran a current of community solidarity that somehow was not as apparent in previous Pioneer Days-Summerfest events. The physical combination of the two celebrations certainly contributed to that feeling, but more importantly, we feel, there was the influence of the "I Love Georgetown" campaign, itself the subject of much joy Saturday.

Campaign organizers and some special guests were wheeling around town that day to deliver words and tokens of appreciation to those who'd proven them right about Georgetown's inherent community spirit. Hundreds of citizens demonstrated their civic pride in a variety of ways just because they love Georgetown; the praise of community leaders who toured on the ride-about bus came as a welcome bonus to their positive participation.

We chastised the campaign's organizers last week for indirectly diverting public attention away from the downtown festivities, but we're delighted to hear how extensive and warm their reception was in many neighborhoods.

The "I Love Georgetown" ride-about and the Pioneer Days-Summerfest bash may have been two very disparate entities over the weekend but considered together, they share a common denominator in their civic-mindedness and make a common contribution: the downtown celebration gave us plenty of things to see and do; the month-long "Love Georgetown" campaign reminded us we shouldn't take such fun for granted.

Special note to the cast and crew of the Old Tyme Music Hall, which capped off the Summerfest '81: with this kind of entertainment, it'll be SRO every night at the new arts complex when the Terra Cotta Thespians and their friends come to town.

## Old Town Hall debate revisited

Those facing off across the town council chamber Monday night over plans to restore Acton's former town hall were pitting one valid argument against another; we side with the trio of Acton reps who say the historic civic centre must be refurbished, but we question the full extent of their motivations.

Council is once again looking for updated figures on the building's restoration costs and for some specific information about the structure's planned uses after restoration. It's been five years since Halton Hills council said "Yes, go ahead and fix it, but raise half the necessary money in Ward 1."

Those five years have seen so much inflation that, coupled with the restoration committee's generally languishing fundraising efforts, councillors outside the ward are wondering again whether they should veto the project.

It bothers us a great deal that Acton's three councillors, Dave Whiting, Ross Knechtel and Terry Grubbe, should have to urge their colleagues from Georgetown and Esquering to once and for all make a firm commitment to the project five years down the road.

We endorsed the worthiness of the restoration project when it was first proposed and we've expressed our wishes for the Acton lottery set up to raise funds. It has indeed been disconcerting to see Acton receive less acclaim and support from the general public of Acton than it

deserves, but in retrospect, popular support is not always evident for community undertakings that ultimately prove to be a boon to all concerned, including those who took no interest beforehand.

Given the nature of the Acton town hall, and particularly its past role as a focal point for community activities, we believe it behooves town council to make the commitment which Acton reps are seeking, with or without apparent popular support.

A restored town hall of the Acton building's architectural stature could be a thing of greatness for Acton in the classic hometown sense: a place for Joe Public to hang his hat.

The one thing that bothers us about the Acton reps' argument, though, involves their intimation that Georgetown and Esquering councillors might be taking advantage of their willingness to endorse the library-cultural centre in Georgetown. Now that the arts complex is "go," they seem to charge no one outside Acton wants the town hall restored. Mayor Pete Pomeroy ended up defending council's blessings for the arts complex by pointing out that the arts complex costs were known, whereas those of the town hall's restoration remain unsettled.

It may be under construction several miles from Acton and right in the heart of Georgetown, but the arts complex is a "Halton Hills" project in every sense of the word; nothing could be clearer. There can be no intimations of a trade-off here.



### Letter from the editor

Paul Dorsey

## More movie madness

You may have heard that Lord Kilchener's been having a go at the Huns again, this time a long way from Tipperary - just down the road from Terra Cotta, in fact, in the Cheltenham brickyard.

Robin Phillips, former director of the Stratford Festival, spent the latter half of last week and the past couple of days filming "The Wars" there, concentrating on battle scenes re-enacted from the First World War and featuring, I'm told, the destruction of the historic brickyard towers by air and land.

I heard about the project from my old high school chum, Kevin Head, who portrayed a doughboy extra in the film and left the trenches briefly last week to visit Georgetown.

Mentioning Kevin these days is getting to be like celebrity name-dropping; he's set aside the guitar and recording contract which last year took him across Canada as a warm-up act for British folk-rocker Chris de Burgh (you may recall The Herald's "Local boys makes good" coverage of his Massey Hall concert) and has been acting onstage at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

Since the beginning of the year, Kevin's been picking up acting credits around Ottawa that should

stand him in good stead when he tries out for some pretty substantial roles in the upcoming Shakespeare festival at Stratford, including at least one lead.

Last week's smoke-filled bottle scenes were just "slumming," I guess, for the ex-Georgetown rock 'n' roller who became a folkie in Montreal and a "salt cod cowboy" in Halifax. He spent most of the time running around the Cheltenham set, puttees untravelling and bombs bursting nearby, while the film's lead actors nervously flubbed their lines over and over from the safety of a trench in the camera's foreground.

By the time you read this, at least one of the brickyard's long-standing towers will be levelled, the remainder saved by the Caledon Heritage Committee for their historic significance. Brampton Brick Ltd. will soon establish a major plant on the 200-acre property, but first special effects man Colin Chivers, who made movie audiences believe Superman could really fly last year, will dazzle local residents with an explosion worthy of Verdun, collapsing a massive kiln for a finale that could garner "The Wars" an Academy Award.



## The PM's job for Allan? How Pierre may say thanks



Ottawa Report  
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald  
Since Prime Minister Trudeau announced, prior to the 1980 campaign, that he would almost certainly retire before the next election, we have all heard dozens of possible scenarios about what might happen to the Liberal leadership.

Some have said, and still say, that John Turner is a natural to return to federal politics and replace the prime minister who defeated him in his 1980 leadership bid. You also hear about the possibility of another former finance minister, Donald Macdonald, returning to Ottawa for a try at the top job.

Even the name of Otto Lang has popped up, on isolated occasions. Justice Minister Jean Chretien is frequently mentioned. And the names of a half dozen outsiders have been heard from time to time in the backrooms of Ottawa. I've even heard the odd name from other political parties - such as Roy Romanow, the attractive Saskatchewan Attorney-General who happens to be a New

Democrat. More than one Ottawa Grit has wondered aloud whether Romanow could ever be persuaded to become a federal Liberal.

But amid all the swirling speculation about what might happen when Trudeau finally steps down, the name that never seems to fade away is that of Allan MacEachen. It's surprising how many people are absolutely convinced that the Cape Breton-born finance minister will still get an opportunity to sit in that prime ministerial chair.

SHORT TERM  
It might not be a long-term occupancy - in fact, there is no serious speculation about MacEachen ever campaigning as a prime minister. But, for a year or less, he might just reach the top.

No one doubts that the 60-year-old MacEachen would dearly love to have a crack, even for a brief period, at being prime minister. He has served in just about every other portfolio since he entered Parliament in 1963 and since 1976 - with the exception of that brief stint in opposition - he has been deputy prime minister. He has been a devoted member of the Trudeau team since 1968 and the prime minister owes him a great deal.

And how better to repay a debt than to make someone prime minister? Under this scenario, Trudeau, instead of announcing a future retirement date and then governing through that disruptive period when everyone is scrambling for his crown, he would suddenly step down and announce that MacEachen would take over as prime

minister pending a leadership convention.

"Then, for the best part of a year, MacEachen would have achieved his long-cherished goal while Trudeau, in relaxed retirement, could enjoy watching the contest for a more permanent leadership. And because MacEachen's appointment would be considered temporary, the need for bilingualism would not be a factor."

ANOTHER FACTOR  
There is something else to consider. If MacEachen became prime minister, even briefly, it would mean that the French-English factor would not be a major consideration in the subsequent leadership convention. By tradition, the Liberal Party has alternated between French and English leaders.

And while Jean Chretien is perceived by many to be a strong contender to replace Trudeau, even he acknowledges that it might be difficult for one francophone to replace another francophone at this stage. However, if someone like Allan MacEachen were to succeed Trudeau, even on an interim basis, then it's a whole new ball game when a full scale convention is held.

I long ago learned the futility of trying to predict what Pierre Trudeau might do in any given situation. But there are many good reasons why he just might appoint Allan MacEachen as the next prime minister.

And something has to account for the fact that MacEachen seems more buoyant than usual these days. The economy certainly doesn't give him much to giggle about.

## The agriculture ministry's strange decision-making



Queen's Park  
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald  
The surface issue is simple: why did Agriculture Minister Lorne Henderson trigger the process that resulted in the withdrawal of his ministry's objections to a 1,000-unit estate development on farmland north-west of Toronto?

The deeper issue, the fundamental question at stake, concerns how decisions are arrived at in the Agriculture Ministry, or more accurately, in the minister's office. To say the least, the method appears strange.

In this case it appears like a caricature of some political "old boys network" deciding matters - the telephone call here, the response there. And interestingly, many of the principals involved in the Purpleville Heights controversy are old-time, long-term Tories who project an old-fashioned image and way of doing things.

(None of this is to give credence to the cries of "scandal" and allusions to Watergate erupting from Liberal ranks. Nor corruption, but stupidity and "who-you-know" seem to be the keys here.)

NEW CALL  
Standing Agriculture Ministry staff objection to the proposed development, because it violated the government's own foodland guidelines, was re-examined after a telephone call.

Henderson said it came from Housing Minister Claude Bennett's office, where the development plans were in limbo pending an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing (which later rejected most of them).

Although Bennett personally denies knowledge of any such call, Bennett's parliamentary assistant, MPP Bill Hodgson (PC-York North), who happens to be the member for the area where the proposed development is located, is keeping silent.

It would seem reasonable to conclude Hodgson, as a good constituency MPP would, was responding to complaints from landowners seeking development that in fact the site was not good farmland.

WHY RON?  
But Henderson didn't turn to his ministry staff for re-evaluation. Instead he sent his parliamentary assistant, MPP Ron McNeil (PC-Elgin), out to look at the land, which McNeil did, being shown the location by Hodgson himself.

McNeil, a farmer by profession, judged the land unsuitable for long-term, modern farming, and told Henderson so. On March 9, 1980, Henderson sent Bennett a letter withdrawing ministry objection to the development.

(Other farmers disagree. Either

view could be correct, so far as this non-farmer is concerned).

But then Henderson made his second puzzling move, this time in reference to 101 acres adjacent to the original development block that were not included in the area covered by the March 9 letter.

OMBSAID  
Representing those additional acres was lawyer Ron Webb, whose Tory connections go back to once being a law partner of Premier William Davis.

The OMB hearing began Dec. 1, 1980, and on Dec. 2, Henderson signed a letter stating the ministry was withdrawing its objections to developing that parcel of land too.

These particular objections were outlined in an Agriculture Ministry staff memo to Housing on March 17, 1980 - after Henderson cancelled opposition to the original development site on March 9.

Interestingly, according to the OMB decision, the contents of the March 9 withdrawal were not raised during the hearing, but Webb submitted the Dec. 2 letter as evidence and argued "The Board ought not to feel bound by general government policy such as the foodland guidelines, but should give more weight to the contents of letters from a Minister of the Crown."

## Ride into yester- year

Shades of Pioneer Days! The Halton County Radial Railway Association is hosting a "Trolleyfest" this Sunday at its Electric Railway Museum near Rockwood. Railway cars ranging from an 1893 model open street car to Canada's first streamlined PCC car, built in 1938, have been gathered for the occasion from as far away as Montreal and London, Ontario, affording a prime opportunity for history buffs to view and ride aboard some vintage vehicles. Admission, which covers all rides, is \$2 for adults, \$1.50 for children, \$1 for senior citizens and \$6 for the whole family. The museum is on the Guelph Line, nine miles north of Highway 401 and two miles south of Highway 7.

## Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—A 13-year old Terra Cotta boy was seriously injured Monday when some bags he threw on a bonfire blew up. Robert Elwood was badly burned about the chest, arms and face and was rushed to Guelph Hospital where he is in satisfactory condition.

Barns, houses, trees and telephone poles bore the brunt of a twister which blasted a five-mile trail through Hornby early Wednesday evening. No one was injured but three people had a close escape when the twister lifted them off the ground and hurled them 50 feet into a culvert.

Bad weather and lack of labor has prevented any progress this past week in harvesting Halton's best hay crop in years. Considerable amounts of hay have already been baled but experts speculate whether it won't be musty by next winter.

The Georgetown Legion was well represented at the Zone Picnic held Sunday at Streetsville. Three busloads and innumerable carloads of Georgetown Legionnaires swamped the picnic site and enjoyed short speeches by guest speakers, good food and plenty of fun.

MEMBERS OF THE SIXTEEN MILE CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY have asked a Toronto engineering firm to draft a master plan of the new Kelso Conservation Area, site of the new \$332,000 Kelso dam. The master plan will design the layout of the new water storage dam, roads, recreation site and the buildings.

FIVE WOULD-BE RODEO QUEENS suffered bruised toes and contusions when the harness hitching team to their wagon broke causing the horses to bolt. The accident occurred during the parade designed to kick off the Lions Club Rodeo Day Saturday.

THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT announced it will make three grants totalling \$7,800 to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. One grant for \$4,500 will allow the CVCA to make extensive developments in the Terra Cotta Conservation Area. A camping area will be developed and roads within the area improved.

OWNERS OF THE OLD ROXY THEATRE have been asked by the town building inspector to demolish the remaining walls of the building within the next two weeks. Fire Chief Bob Bonfield said that a recent fire would not have occurred if the debris from a previous fire had been cleaned up.

TEN YEARS AGO—Halton County Board of Education cancelled the school bus service for 375 of the students at Georgetown High School. Students who now have to walk to school are from the extreme east end of town. There is still the possibility that a bus service could be offered with a small charge to the students provided there are enough interested.

WORK IS UNDERWAY at the arena to update its ice-making facilities and install a new floor. A new ice-making plant is being installed at the rear of the building. The new floor will vastly improve the surface for avid roller skating fans.

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH in Norval celebrated its 125th anniversary June 8. A number of former clergy have been invited to come back during the year to speak to the parish.

A SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE of the Halton Board of Education recommended that further studies be made of its present open concept schools before building more schools without interior walls. Georgetown's newest school, Joseph Gibbons, is open concept.

ONE YEAR AGO—Efforts to raise the public portion of the funds necessary to restore the old Acton Town Hall will kick off this week when tickets go on sale for a year-long lottery. The town had originally planned to demolish the old building but had to reconsider due to community pressure.

IAN CLARK and Sherri Crossman were named the GDHS male and female athletes of the year at the school's annual athletic banquet Wednesday night. Five special awards were also presented in addition to the junior and senior sports and letter awards.

SALES OF SEAT PLAQUES for the town's new library-theatre complex have now passed the half-way mark, according to Georgetown's Little Theatre, which is operating this fund-raising effort. Some 142 of the commemorative plaques have been sold, raising over \$17,000.

THE HALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION is preparing for a major blitz on vandalism in the board's 89 schools. Damage caused by vandalism in Halton schools cost the Board of Education \$132,000 last year.

THE HALTON REGIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION and the police commission have gone to arbitration for the first time in six years in an attempt to resolve their contract dispute. Negotiations have been stalemated since March with the police asking for a 15 per cent increase and the commission offering only 7.5 per cent.

## POETRY CORNER Inflation

Man stoops to madness ever since life began,  
Our parents had a hard life but the world's still run by Man.  
This day and age of science things should be open clear,  
Men have taken to money grab, they live in dread and fear.  
Our governments are illegal the way they perform  
they don't care for your loved ones, it's time they did reform,  
striking is just madness when you don't earn your pay.  
If you need more money, work harder is the way.  
Say by chance our harvest did not come this year,  
We would think of those poor-paid farmers, hail them high and dear.  
Inflation is an excuse the selfish man to gain,  
There is no other reason the greedy man to blame.  
It is the greatest sin on Earth to squeeze the working man,  
Will seek no happiness doomed like a helpless plan.  
Tomorrow looks like a hopeless storm,  
Forced to kill their young before they are born.  
Some children of this present day,  
Are not fed the proper way.  
If for others you have no part,  
You have a stone for a heart,  
Strange, you have no one you love so dear,  
What is the reason that you're here.  
—By Albert Brooks  
RR2 Acton