

Watermelons help 'seed' Glen birthday party

This village really knows how to salute Canada

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

It's doubtful that Glen Williams' Canada Day celebration this year could have been much better.

Residents and visitors took full advantage of a sunny mid-week break last Wednesday to swarm around the village's Main Street area, cheering on competitors in half dozen games or simply basking in the outdoor beer-garden outside the Apple Products factory.

Early morning showers threatened to wash out the Glen's national tribute, just as they forced a postponement of events last year. But by 9 a.m., it appeared that

organizers' worst fears would be allayed and the Glen ballplayers went ahead with their traditional pancake breakfast.

There were some youngsters, however, who in hindsight probably would have preferred seeing the breakfast flushed away by an uncooperative weatherman.

About eight of them, some of whom had already polished off several plates of Nick Hunsley's flapjacks, decided to overindulge and joined the day's pancake eating contest.

Defending champion Stephanie Poloz, who gulped down 11 buttery and sticky pancakes last year during

the contest, also took top honors this year. While she fell four short of her 1980 total, she explained that she had already eaten seven pancakes at the ballpark breakfast.

Mike Flynn and his brother Terry finished first and second respectively in the boys' division, with a young Ian Blair taking third place in an admirable "chew-off" to finish a life-breaking fifth pancake. Carol Izzio and Lynn Norton finished second and third for the girls.

Shortly after lunch, a parade of dignitaries, the Georgetown Girls Pipe Band, Lions Club members and the

Elkettes majorette squad left the Mullen Place subdivision and began a steady march northward along Confederation Street and towards the stage set up across from the apple factory warehouse.

During the opening ceremonies, Mayor Pete Pomeroy reminded celebrants of the sacrifice of the late Terry Fox, who had passed away three days before, and the special significance this year's Canada Days have in his honor.

St. Alban's Anglican Church rector Graham Bland called for a one-minute prayer vigil for Terry.

Other dignitaries included Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid, Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, local and regional councillors George Malby and Russ Miller and 1960 Citizen of the Year Vi Haines. Mrs. Haines, who cut the first piece from the giant Canada Day cake, was later recognized as one of the Glen's favorite residents, receiving a picture of St. Alban's Church.

It was impossible to walk anywhere on Main Street without finding reasons to stop. A number of local organizations such as Georgetown Little Theatre, St. John's (Glen Williams) United Church, the Glen Town Hall Committee, the Optimists' Club and the Georgetown French Canadian Association, had all established food booths of some sort, serving everything from butter tarts, custard pies and hot dogs to sauerkraut and sausage-on-a-bun.

Glen Canada Day events have a long history of being imaginative and downright wacky, and their dog and cat shows drew some rather unique members from both species as well as a lot of audience attention.

Dogs and their respective owners were rewarded for such oddities as the shortest or longest tail, being the smallest or the largest, best trained, best behaved or having the longest nose. Canines were also honored for best resembling their masters or for having "dressed" well for the occasion.

Likewise, area felines were dressed to their nine lives. Other awards were given to the blackest cat and the biggest of the bunch, too.

Across the street, Ellen Russell was hammering home first place in the ladies' nail-driving contest and, shortly afterward, spectators were dodging a hail of watermelon seeds during the

seed spitting competition. Despite tough, aggressive opposition, Tom Davies was eventually declared the "splitin' image" of a winner.

Things became a little scrambled later in the afternoon during an eight-heat egg competition. The Jeff Davies-Bob Anderson team consisted of the most agile pitchers and catchers.

It took two final run-offs to come up with a winner in the Glen's wheelchair race. But Brian Osbourn and Donnie Raymond combined swift footwork with careful passenger balancing to take top spot.

Other events along Main Street included the YM-YWCA's coloring contest for kids and Halton Helping Hands volunteers passed out sunshades and information about their organizations from a booth opposite the Nature's Emporium store.

During the day, musical entertainment was provided by the Cantante Singers, accompanied by director Dale Wood. In the evening, performers included the Al Jolson-like Ken Gorin, a recent entertainer at the Olde Tyme Music Hall during Summerfest-Pioneer Days in Georgetown, and the Mississauga-based Sweet Adelines.

The Pine Valley Squares, an organization which regularly practices in Stewarttown's Esqueving Town Hall, also swept up spectators for a brief taste of some square dancing. Later, the A.M. Myers Stage Band performed to wrap up the evening.

Ralph Uresel and Jack Layman teamed up for an interesting piano-fiddle duo just after supper.

As one visitor was ironically overheard to say Wednesday evening, "I've been to many of the larger Canada Day celebrations in southern Ontario. But this is relaxing, very relaxing."

Members of the Georgetown Lions club and dignitaries crowded around centre stage Wednesday for the opening ceremonies to the Glen's Canada Day celebrations.

Fittingly enough, Mayor Pete Pomeroy and St. Alban's Church Reverend Graham Bland called on the audience to pay a special tribute to the late Terry Fox, who passed away three days before. Terry, it was said, was a true representative of the values of this country's founders.



Herald photos by Chris Aagaard



Perhaps in another dozen or so years, little Joe Stephens will assist senior citizens as a volunteer for Halton Helping Hands. The organization was on hand at the Glen Canada Day celebrations last week, handing out pamphlets about the work it does for seniors and the region's residents who are home-riden due to physical handicaps.



During the afternoon of the Glen's Canada Day celebrations last Wednesday, the Cantante Singers entertained crowds of participants. Under the direction of Dale Wood (seated), they were among performers brought in by organizers to add a musical atmosphere to the day's events.

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Donna Brown and her dog, Dudley, were among the hundreds of celebrants during last Wednesday's Canada Day festivities in Glen Williams. Dudley was one of the entrants in the pet show, vying for the "shortest tail" prize. Donna recently joined The Herald staff as an advertising consultant.

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IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

John Fitzgerald is one safe driver and he now has the award to prove it. Awarded by the Halton Hills Insurance Agents and Brokers Association to the best student driver, John Fitzgerald (centre) displays the pen desk set he was awarded by Paul Armstrong (left), a representative of the association. Driving Instructor Ted Scott taught the Grade 11 student all there was to know about driving and named him to be the champ of the 1981 spring program. Mr. Scott has been teaching the driver education course at Georgetown high school since 1967. (Herald photo)

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