

## IN OLGA KORBUTS' FOOTSTEPS?



Marcia Roy is given a helping hand with her first moves on the balancing beam by coach Donna Horton during the summer gym camp sponsored by the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department. Girls ages 5 to 12 are invited to join the gym camp each week held in the Georgetown Memorial Arena. The girls don't have to be potential Olga Korbuts, they can just join for the fun of it.



Coach Diane Horton gives Katherine Brown a boost to get her on the right track with her backward flip. The coaches assist the young girls in the summer gym camp for four to six hours every day each week. The classes are limited to 28 girls and they can register weekly.

# Barretts: Abitibi to Alberta

Continued from page A1  
Perhaps Halton Hills' most tragic occurrence of the past year was the accidental death last February of Herb Wild, the Meadowdale Mushroom plant worker who was killed while trying to prevent the theft of a forklift. It was Mr. Wild, Jim recalls with a combination of pride and distress, who was literally the first Georgetownian to greet him when he stopped off the train at the CN station, just arrived from Moncton, New Brunswick.

**WITH LETTERS**  
Just prior to the fall fair last September, The Herald was deluged with letters to the editor both condemning and defending the idea. Opponents of the pageant contended that it is exploitative and places the participants in a competitive position too early in life. The fair board disagrees, and plans to run both the Little Miss pageant and the baby contest at this year's fair.

Mr. Barrett firmly believes the pageant can do no harm to its young participants, either physically or psychologically. Had the weather not been uncooperative last September, he said, the pageant would have helped break all attendance records at the fair.  
Favorable and supportive comments from individuals and service club representatives have convinced Mr. Barrett the event was a "huge success."

"We knew it the minute that first little girl got onstage," he recalled. "The emcee asked what grade she was in; she answered 'zero'. Then he asked her 'What do you study in Grade Zero?'. She said, 'Nothing'. The whole crowd just broke up and everybody relaxed."

Suddenly a household name in Georgetown, Mr. Barrett found himself speaking to many service club representatives, beginning with the Halton Hills Elks Lodge, which was holding a preliminary competition to choose the order's entrant in the Little Miss pageant.

Soon after, Mr. Barrett joined the Elks brotherhood, and soon after that, the Georgetown Optimists. In each case, he noted, the group's interest in helping young people was the factor which attracted him.

"People think these sports programs and special events are just there," he said, "but they're not. People have to take an interest and get involved and start these things. Money just does not grow on trees."

As if Mr. Barrett's work as an Optimist and the Elks' publicist wasn't enough, he began working to co-ordinate the efforts of all such groups in town through a service

club liaison council, an idea that's been suggested by several people over the years, including Georgetown Chamber of Commerce president Bill Crawford, also an Optimist.

**TWO MEETINGS**  
Convened with a series of phonecalls, the club council held two meetings before breaking for the summer. A first-year steering committee was chosen, headed by Jaycee Jim Dudley. Other groups whose representatives met to discuss joint community projects were the Kinsmen, Optimists, Rotarians, Lions, Kiwanians, and Knights of Columbus of Georgetown, plus the Halton Hills Elks Lodge and the Georgetown District Newfoundland Club.

Patterned after service club associations found in most major centres, the liaison council could unite local groups to work for a common cause. While all member groups share an interest in the library-cultural centre project being spearheaded by the Rotary, Mr. Barrett said, he personally would prefer to see the council expand the intensive care unit at Georgetown District Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Barrett praised the work of Rotarian Rex Haslop and others in raising funds for the new arts complex, but questioned its importance - in terms of how many residents will use it - compared to that of two more intensive care units at the hospital, the need for which will be more apparent, he said, once the hospital builds its planned nursing home.

As well as co-ordinating service clubs' efforts, Mr. Barrett said, the liaison council could help promote the clubs themselves, which

he believes don't receive nearly enough public acclaim.

To remedy that situation, Mr. Barrett hopes his idea for an annual award to the "service club person of the year" will catch on. Though any duplication in the Lions Club's choice for Georgetown Citizen of the Year would have to be avoided, he said, the service club honor could do a lot to make residents more aware of the clubs' contributions. Mr. Barrett hopes to have a plaque presented on his behalf each year.

**MORE ABUSE**  
Having never joined a service club in the Maritimes, Mr. Barrett said his only community work there involved revamping Moncton's version of our own Christmas Good Neighbor Service. To a far greater extent than here, he said, Moncton's Christmas welfare system was being abused by residents who applied for food and gift hampers but didn't really need them. By polling the city's service groups, he and other volunteers prepared a master list which now has the system running equitably.

Community work wasn't the only field in which the Barretts took a more public role since moving to Halton Hills. On the local political scene, Rita Barrett became a director of both the federal and provincial Liberal riding associations in Georgetown. The Barretts worked on Rosa Milnes' two unsuccessful bids for federal re-election,

then helped Julian Reid retain his provincial seat (Rita was Georgetown office manager).

During the provincial election campaign, Mr. Barrett publicly announced his own intention to run for town council in Ward 4 next time around. That idea, of course, has fallen by the wayside, although he'll keep tabs on the area and predicts that Mayor Pete Pomeroy, if he chooses to run for office again, will face former regional chairman Ric Morrow.

Will Jim carry his own political ambitions to Grande Cache in Alberta's Peace River Valley, Joe Clark's staunchly Conservative turf? There's a good chance, he said.

"I always did like the impossible causes, something like Don Quixote," he said.  
He'll also maintain his enthusiasm over community work. If Grande Cache (population 4400) doesn't yet have an Elks Lodge and an Optimist Club, he vowed, he'll start them.

## Grease fire costs \$10,000

A pot of grease left unattended on a kitchen stove caused an estimated \$10,000 damage to an Acton home last Tuesday night. Residents of the Elmore Drive house were not at home when the fire occurred. At approximately 8:30 that evening, a neighbor noticed the kitchen was on fire and attempted to combat it with a garden hose until the firefighters arrived. The damage was confined to the kitchen with extensive smoke damage throughout the house.

## Tree talks

Halton regional council has decided to take a more "subtle" approach in its negotiations with the provincial government to get back a 1,200-acre stretch of forest adjacent to the Hilton Falls Conservation Area near Campbellville. Although the region's planning and public works and finance and administration committees both agreed that natural resources ministry should write off the \$187,000 debt which they absorbed while managing the forest under the Halton Agreement Forest plan, council felt that the finance committee's recommendation was too strongly worded and didn't leave enough "flexibility" for future negotiations. Councilors expressed concern that the committee intended to end discussions if the province rejected the region's request to dissolve the debt outstanding on the forest agreement.

## Sore jaws and big smiles at library

Although at least a dozen youngsters may have nursed sore jaws Saturday morning, four of them came up winners in the bubblegum blowing contest held Friday at the Georgetown Library. Susan Lamb won the first division for over six years of age youngsters trying to blow the largest bubble and Brian Vincent huffed and puffed to claim victory for the Juniors. Winning top place for blowing the smallest bubble in the over six years category was Geoff Patey while Kristy Johnson eked out a very small bubble to win for the toddlers.



Geoff Patey's attempt to muster up a king-sized balloon in the bubblegum contest at the Georgetown Library Friday fizzled, but he took top honors in the smallest bubble category. Following the lip-puckering, jaw-stretching challenge, youngsters stayed for a movie, returning home later to start practising for next year's contest. (Herald photo)

### OPTIMIST CLUB

Georgetown

Don't miss President Stan's Barbeque. Bring your own steak and beverages, swim suits and towels this Saturday (July 25) at 4 p.m.

Our next dinner meeting will be this Tuesday (July 28).

Anyone going to the Ontario District Convention Sept. 10, 11 and 12 at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, please have your application and cheques in to John Horwing by Tuesday.

Winner of trip of the month was Lisa Dodds of Guelph, who won a trip to Las Vegas and California. The \$100 consolation prize was won by Tom Villeneuve of Islington. Suit of the month won by Rick Berghammer.

Aug. 8 the Erin Optimist Club is having a family day with fun for all and movies. Slow pitch ball game, for which we need players and club members wishing to play, call Rob Horning.

Dinner meetings will continue all year 'round, business meetings will be suspended for July and August. Anyone interested in becoming an Optimist or coming out to see what we do, please call Dan Scarborough (877-6384) we meet on the second or fourth Tuesdays of each month in North Halton Golf and Country Club.

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