

Acton fair more than just 'fair' -- it was fantastic!

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

"It was a good fall fair," Acton Agricultural Society president Brian Evans commented modestly following the community's 68th annual autumn celebration. "Despite the fact we had some rough weather and were competing against fairs in Fergus and Brampton, it was a good fair."

Good fair? It was fantastic. Early attendance tallies indicate that about 16,000 people visited the Acton Fall Fair between Friday morning and Sunday evening, just about equalling the attendance record set last year.

It was country fair down to its alfalfa roots. Mr. Evans was especially pleased that entries from across the province in the fair's agricultural competitions were up

over 1981's figures. About 325 head of beef and dairy cattle were shown Saturday and Sunday, ranging from more exotic breeds like belted Galloways to the popular Holsteins and Herefords. Pre-fab pens also corralled dozens of sheep, another competition boasting increased interest from competing farmers this year.

"We doubled the prize money on the sheep competition from the entries we had," Mr. Evans explained proudly. "It was the largest number of sheep we've seen at the fair."

Entries for the horse and poultry shows were also up, although the heavy horse show failed to attract the competition it had last year.

BEGAN FRIDAY

While some farm competitions began as early as Friday and judging of the inside dis-

plays was completed that evening, the official fair opening didn't take place until 8 p.m. before a crowd of several hundred visitors eagerly awaiting the coronation of the new Miss Acton.

Arriving in ActiVan, the town's new bus for the physically handicapped, Acton Citizen of the Year Ron McKnight was warmly welcomed as the man whose special duty it was to officially open the Acton Fall Fair.

"There has been a lot of (fall fair) presidents over the last 20 years or so," Mr. McKnight told the crowd, "and we've always had the leadership at the helm to ensure that Acton always has a successful fall fair."

Mr. McKnight echoed sentiments expressed earlier in the evening by Mr. Evans, especially praising the work the

local service clubs had done for the 1981 fair.

The evening's entertainment which featured a variety show packed with first class professional acts was regularly interspersed with visits from 12 lovely candidates hoping to become the new Miss Acton, succeeding Lisa McGrath whose apparent beauty has done much to put Acton on the map.

Finally, amid the charged atmosphere of anticipation in the Acton arena (Actonians love their Miss Acton contest), Cindy McGilloway, a 20-year old who hopes one day to become a professional figure skater, was crowned the community's new queen. Judging by the audience's appreciative response, she was certainly a favorite, even before the competition concluded that evening.

It must have been a tough decision for the judges, Sheridan College's Pat Gwirc, CHCH newscaster Pat Gwirc, Cummings and John Wiley, general manager of the Royal Winter Fair. They chose two excellent runners-up, first princess Kymm Lakin and second princess Marlene Lott.

RUNNERS-UP

The contest also introduced another McGrath sister and people must have certainly wondered if younger Tina McGrath would follow in the successful beauty contest footsteps of her sisters Cathy (Miss Acton '79) and Lisa.

Outside, meanwhile, the crowd was watching the horse pulls, always a special attraction. Once the undisputed monarchs of the fair, these sturdily built beasts can haul an incredible amount of

weight. And that's just what they did, many teams effortlessly dragging two and even three tons of cement blocks.

Not too far from where the horses were strutting their stuff, junk food and cheap thrill heaven bustled. Albion Amusement's midway, Mr. Evans maintained, was outstanding.

The rides were exciting and the arcade atmosphere alluring - just the way it's supposed to be.

"We never had one complaint this year about the midway," Mr. Evans said, enthusiastic about Albion's handling of this aspect of the fair.

Model boats returned to Fairy Lake Saturday, buzzing around the lake's northern flank, tenuously linked to their owners by radio waves and

remote control. It was also a busy day for livestock. Much of the judging took place in the sheep and beef cattle divisions.

LOG-SAWING

Certainly one of the stars of the fair--almost stealing the show from Miss McGilloway even before she really began to enjoy her reign--was Bert Davidson. Bert, an 84-year old Acton resident, sawed his way to a first place finish in the fair's log-sawing contest, captured a respectable third prize in horseshoes and then hot-footed his way into the hearts of many when a little improvised dancing competition got underway Saturday afternoon.

Fair crowds also enjoyed the tug-of-war competitions organized by the popular Acton Bull Dogs, a tug-of-war

team that could give a team of heavy horses a formidable challenge. There were other games--horseshoes and bale throwing--which proved so popular that fair board officials are already considering expanding this aspect of the fair next year.

Machinery events moved in Sunday. Noisy as they can be, the mini and antique tractor pulls managed to attract quite a following. The souped-up lawn tractors (and larger classes) can, like the four-legged beasts which they replaced, move weights several times that of the tractors themselves.

The old-timers, vintage Massey-Harris from the 1940s and '50s and other brands which have long since disappeared from the market, vative dog and cat entries.

proved that vitality has nothing to do with age and that they can still pull their own weight and more back at the farm.

Another favorite Sunday feature was the pet show, luring a variety of animals and an equally unusual assortment of owners dressed in extraordinary outfits. Ducks and geese competed shoulder to shoulder with more conser-

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YOU CAN JUMP-A-Lot IN 'CAMELOT'

Albion Amusement's Konkord Castle, at the Acton Fall Fair throughout the weekend, flipped out a lot of youngsters. If visitors to the fair weren't taking in the livestock shows, horse and tractor pulls and dozens of other events, they certainly enjoyed the arcade atmosphere and thrilling rides located at the front of Prospect Park. Lots more photos inside. (Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

Spot checks return as road deaths rise

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

A four-man police patrol is going to be carrying out spot checks throughout the Halton region beginning Nov. 1 to check for faulty equipment, seatbelt use and drunk drivers, following the release of the Hamilton Automobile Club 1980 review traffic accidents.

The study was done at the request of Police Chief James Harding to identify causes of accidents and factors contributing to the severity of injuries.

There were 32 fatal accidents reviewed, resulting in 39 deaths last year. Because of the small sample, caution is being exercised in interpreting the results.

As of Monday, there were 21 fatal collisions, resulting in 28 deaths in the region, compared to 13 fatal collisions resulting in 24 deaths during the same period in 1980.

Some items of particular interest:

- 15 of 39 victims were between 16 and 19 years old;
- 13 of the 32 "at-fault"

parties were between 16 and 19;

- half of the fatal accidents occurred between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.;
- 19 of 22 or 86 per cent of persons killed weren't wearing their seat belts;
- of the 27 fatalities who were either drivers or passengers, 12 or 44.4 per cent were ejected from the vehicle; no person ejected was wearing a seat belt;
- excessive speed was indicated in nine or 28 per cent of the fatal accidents;

- alcohol was in use in 13 or 40.6 per cent of the accidents; of these cases, four drivers were 19 years old or less and five were between 19 and 24;
- 16 or 50 per cent of the accidents occurred at a location with some alignment modification;
- 16 or 56 per cent occurred at rural locations.

A more rigid enforcement program in the speed, seat belt and drinking driver areas is hoped to improve the year-round safety on local highways.

'Time we got mad' says Mike but council receives and files

It was close, but still no cigar.

Town council almost decided to jump on the protest band wagon launched by several other municipalities against the federal government's economic policies--or lack of them--but declined another opportunity at its regular meeting Monday night.

This time it is Minto township, based in Harriston, Ontario, which is calling on municipal government to demand that Ottawa do something to force chartered banks and other money lending institutions into lowering interest rates for small businesses and farmers.

Whether council chooses to support the Minto resolution or draft one of its own, Coun. Mike Armstrong said, it's about time Halton Hills "got mad", not only about how the agricultural industry and small businesses which are suffering but also on behalf of homeowners facing drasti-

ly-increased mortgages.

"There's really nothing wrong with this resolution," Coun. Armstrong said, adding that, in nine years of council, he hasn't seen a resolution circulated by Halton Hills. "You've got to start somewhere, got to get mad somewhere."

However, while council appeared to concur with Coun. Armstrong's sentiments about the nation's economic crisis, it eventually voted to receive and file the Minto resolution, neither approving, nor disagreeing with it.

Coun. Ross Knechtel said he is sympathetic to the plight of small businesses and farmers, but expressed concern that the resolution would be ignored by the politicians if it contains the word "demand".

Coun. Knechtel argued that it would be better for council to present a "better thought out motion".

Coun. Harry Levy defended the town's policy behind

routinely receiving and filing resolutions from other councils. There is too little information contained in the

Minto resolution upon which council can base judgement" and, he said, interest rates should be reviewed for everyone affected.

Jelinek seeks resignation over betting bid

Halton M.P. Otto Jelinek last week called for the resignation of Fitness and Amateur Sport Minister Gerald Regan following the government's announcement of its intention to introduce a "sports betting pool".

"In response to questions posed in the House of Commons in June of this year," Mr. Jelinek said, "the min-

ister categorically denied that he had knowledge of any such activities, and casually dismissed assurance given by the federal Liberals that, following the Montreal Olympic experience, no further gambling operations would be initiated.

"His intentional misrepresentation of the facts is conduct not befitting his office."

Tentative contract for Halton teachers

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

The Halton Elementary Teachers' Association (HETA) and the Halton Board of Education's salary committee reached a tentative contract agreement early Friday morning after a week of intensive negotiation.

At a press conference Friday afternoon, the board announced costs of the elementary

proposals, dealing with salary, benefits, and staffing, which have still to be ratified by both parties.

Currently, the board spends \$33,110,193 for elementary school salaries. The board has offered to increase salaries by 12.2 per cent, which will cost taxpayers \$4,039,440.

The Teachers' Association has asked for a 15.5 per cent raise, which will cost

\$5,132,080.

The board currently pays \$478,710 for teacher benefits, paying 75 per cent of OHIP costs, 75 per cent of dental plan, 75 per cent of extended health care, plus some forms of insurance.

The Teachers' Association has asked that the board pay 100 per cent of these benefits and add hearing and vision care to the extended benefits,

the cost of which is \$424,947. They also want schedules for dental care to be brought up to current rates.

Regarding staffing, the board has offered to hire 44 teachers over the next two years, costing \$1,267,156.

The Teachers' Association has asked that 43 teachers be hired over a one-year period, costing \$1,814,337.

Negotiations were to continue yesterday (Tuesday) with both sides hopeful of a quick settlement.

Both secondary and elementary school teacher contracts expired Aug. 31.

The Ontario Secondary

School Teachers' Federation contract talks with the Halton Board continue.

"We're aiming for a target date of Sept. 30," said Joe Harwood, president of the OSSTF.

There are about 28,450 students at the elementary level, with 1,275 teachers in 70 schools in the Halton board.

There are 20,000 secondary students, and 1,150 teachers in 17 high schools.

The average teacher salaries for secondary school teachers under the old contract was \$28,100, for elementary teachers, just under \$25,000.



ROYAL TRIPLETS ARE FAIR-BOUND

There's royalty coming to this year's Georgetown Fall Fair Oct. 3. Here's Lady D, Victoria and Elizabeth (left to right), three regally-named Nubian does who'll be making their first public appearance at the fair's Old MacDonald's Farm. Born in July, the triplets were named affectionately after British royalty by their owners, Dave and Judy Shrubsole of Jen-Lea Farm in RR1 Limehouse, MacDonald's Farm, a collection of favorite barnyard animals and household pets, has become a popular spot at the Fairgrounds since it was added to the attractions two years ago.

CITIZENS RESPOND BUT MORE WELCOME

Directors of the North Halton Contact Centre are delighted that some 20 citizens have thus far answered their appeal for volunteers to man the centre's crisis and information phone lines. Still more volunteers are welcome, they report. A training session begins Oct. 21, but interested citizens are urged to contact the centre in advance so they can be individually "screened". Call the centre at 877-1211.

Recalled!

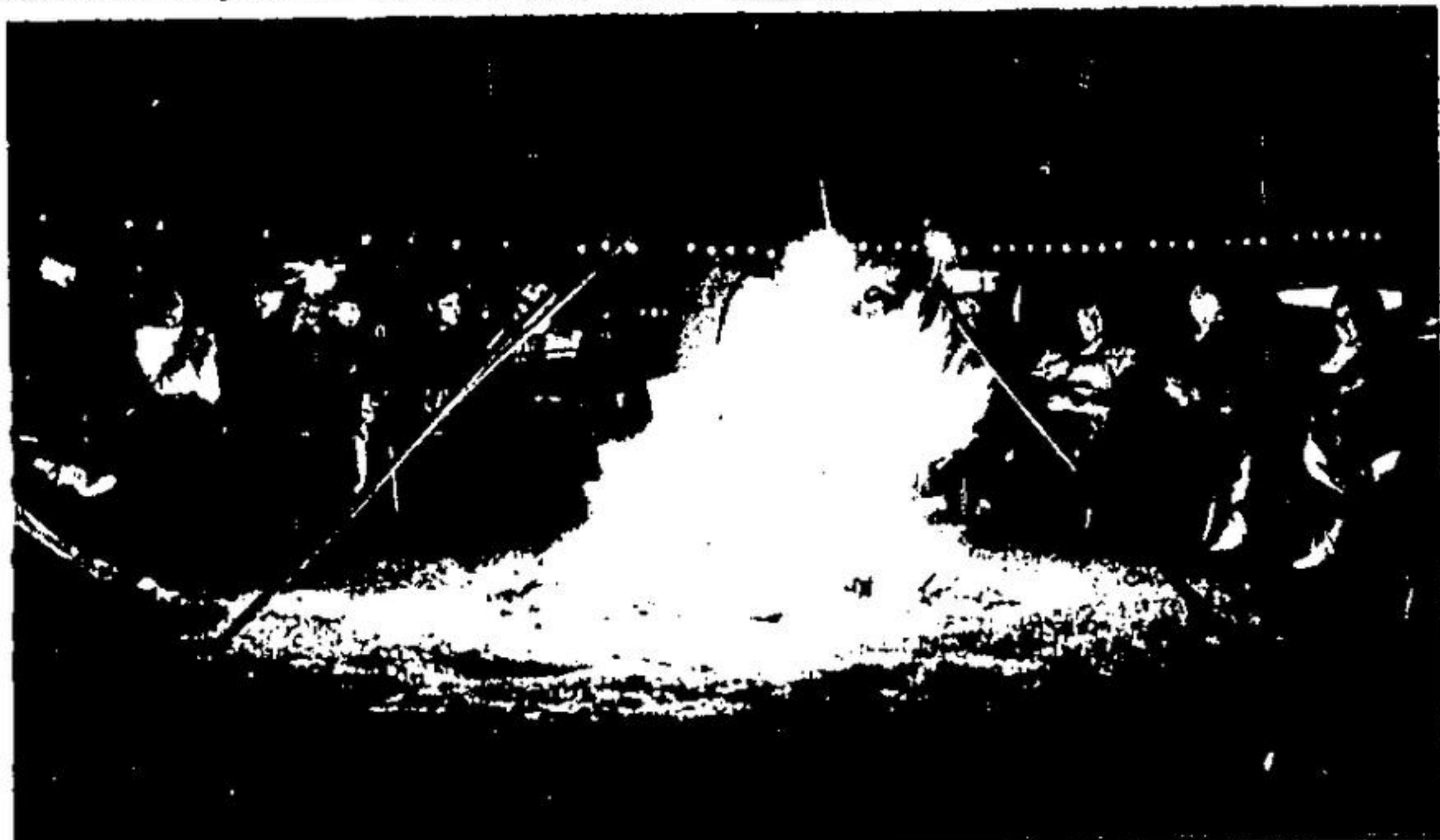
The new fire truck bought for \$205,000 by the Halton Hills fire department has failed its "training" period. It's being sent back to Superior Fire Trucks in Kingston, the manufacturer.

Deputy-chief Bob Hyde said Monday that firefighters were having problems extending and rotating the ladder on the truck.

"The biggest problems we're having are hydraulic problems," he said. "It's like buying a new car. It isn't anything serious, but it needs adjusting."

He said the truck hasn't been in service very much. It will be gone for three weeks.

"We've been without it for 100 years," he laughed. "I'm sure we can get along without it for three weeks."



BONFIRE LIGHTS UP NEIGHBORLY NIGHT

A perfect night it was for a bonfire and party for residents--and former residents--of Alredale Court in Georgetown Saturday night. It was the tenth anniversary of the annual event, hosted by Brian and Dianne Hanbow and emceed by the "one and only" Mary Wilson. The party got underway at 3 p.m. and featured a small children's parade, games for the kids and adults, a special dinner and movies for the youngsters and a crafts display. The Alredale men, Mrs. Hanbow explained, made cakes in a bake-off with the ladies who whipped up batches of squares. There were 47 adults and 33 kids at the party. Now that's neighborhood spirit!

(Herald photo)