

'Neighbor' arrested in Pickering area

## Suspect held in Acton mother's slaying



**HOT TIME AT THE OLD JUNCTION TONIGHT**

Norval is usually so quiet on Sunday you can fire a cannonball down Winston Churchill Boulevard and not hit anyone in the hamlet. But deep in its core beats a big, throbbing country music heart as, periodically, radio station CFGM rolls tape for another Opry North show at the Norval Junction (the old Way Jay Club). If you're a country music fan there were all kinds of major Canadian country stars there Sunday afternoon, folks like Johnny Burke and Eastwind, Glory-Anne Carriere, Orval Prophet and the Garrison Brothers.

Spectators, and they bridged an age gap from about five to 80 years, obviously had a roarin' tootin' good time and will return Nov. 22 for the next taping session. See Friday's Weekend Extra for the complete story on the event, which apparently few Halton Hills residents know about, and read how the local Kinmeners are using the "Opry" to raise money for their community projects.

(Herald photo by Chris Gaagard)

Eric Howard Kellar, 31, charged with first degree murder in connection with the stabbing of an Acton woman last week, will appear in Milton provincial court next Monday at 9:30 a.m.

About noon last Monday, Kellar was arrested at a warehouse in the Pickering area without incident, and was returned to Halton region.

Colleen Oates, 22, a housewife and mother of two young children, was found stabbed to death early Thursday morning by her husband Kevin, 23.

The young Acton woman had been stabbed numerous times with a sharp instrument which police say they found nearby.

Following the discovery of the woman's body, Halton regional police led by Staff Sergeant Ron Southgate of No. 1 District Criminal Investigation Branch began an intensive search of the Acton area. Investigators, patrol officers, identification units and tracking dogs were used to search for a male suspect earlier observed by neighbors of the victim.

Deputy Police Chief Bob Middaugh said that vehicles passing through Acton Thursday and Friday were stopped and their drivers questioned.

Police traced the suspect from the Acton area to a local truck stop and then to a hotel in Durham region. Together with Durham police, Halton police conducted an intensive man hunt centered in the Whitby, Oshawa and Bowmanville area.

With 31 Halton police combing the area surrounding Acton, Police Chief James Harding said resources for protection in other areas of Halton region were being drained.

"Kevin Oates was in shock

when he came to our door," said Larry White, a neighbor. "He was just mumbling that he'd found Colleen on the floor near the back door. It's a miracle nothing happened to their two children."

The Oates' 15-month old son and three-year old daughter slept through the incident and were unharmed.

Mr. White said the Oates moved into the lower half of their 136 Bower St. residence less than a year ago from Erin.

Kellar visited Acton several times in the past two years, Mr. White said, and was introduced to him as the brother of Mrs. Floyd Allen, occupant of 134 Bower St.

Chief Harding said police knew Kellar was living with the Allens for the past two weeks. Kellar had been released from a provincial correctional centre last month and was staying with his sister, who lives next door to the Oates.

The two-apartment house belonged to Baptist minister Rev. Das Sydney, who recently sold it to an unidentified Mississauga woman.

Susan Patterson, who lived in the same apartment building as Kellar, told the Sunday Sun she had spent Wednesday evening visiting the dead woman with Kellar.

She said Kellar and Mr. and Mrs. Oates had been together during the day, but Kevin left to go to work early in the

Continued on Page A2

## About the Hills

### Would you like to volunteer?

The North Halton Volunteer Centre has immediate opportunities for community-minded people to be of service to their friends and neighbors. Publicity directors, charitable project leaders, drivers and people with ideas as to how the volunteer centre can be of service to the community: all are needed now. Stand up and be counted, call your volunteer centre today at 853-3310.

### 'Detective' snooping?

"The Great Detective" was expected to be snooping around town again this week, but the weather has been less than co-operative for his investigations. Another episode for the popular CBC drama series was to have begun filming last Wednesday around Union Presbyterian Church above Glen Williams, but inclement weather changed the crew's plans. Supervised tents housed the television equipment over the weekend for a fresh start early this week along the Credit River near the Tenth Line bridge. The same crew shot an earlier episode for the series last winter off Highway 7 near Regional Road 3 on Georgetown's outskirts.

### Greasepaint fun

Still wondering about a costume for your children this Halloween? You can get their wee faces decoratively painted up in time for the evening's rounds with a visit to "Globe's Halloween Affair" Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. The gang from Globe Productions is hoping to raise funds for its first presentation in many years, next February's "Anything Goes", with a little holiday hijinks at the Georgetown Market Centre.

### Wintario returns Nov. 26

Wintario returns to town Nov. 26 with an evening show sponsored by the Leathertown Committee at Acton High School starting at 8 p.m. The lottery has previously telecast draws from the Acton and Georgetown Memorial Arenas, with Faye Dance in her customary role of recruiting button-pushers from the audience and, later on, signing autographs for the fans. Featured this time as well will be an hour-long talent show starring MPP Julian Reed, Peel Regional Chairman Frank Bean (a former Actonian) and the Acton Citizens Band. Regional Coun. Dave Whiting will emcee the show prior to air-time.

### Hostel can help

HALTON WOMEN'S PLACE can help. If you are emotionally or physically abused, we can offer you a safe and supportive alternative. HALTON WOMEN'S PLACE provides 24-hour crisis information and referrals. The Shelter in Milton provides temporary accommodation, clothing and meals. Information is given regarding welfare, legal rights, children's services and much more. If you need to talk - please call 878-8355.

### Five-acre-plot worries some residents

## Neighbors face off over Croatian cemetery

As opposing lawyers cited sections of the province's Cemeteries Act to support their respective cases, about 40 people and members of the town's planning board mulled

over a proposal to establish a cemetery at the Croatian recreational centre at Winston Churchill Boulevard and Sideroad 5. A public meeting was held

Tuesday night to discuss the Croatian centre's request to have about five acres of its 160-acre lot rezoned to permit an elaborately landscaped Franciscan-Croatian cem-

etery with room for 2,000 plots. Opposition to the proposal, as indicated in a 80-signature petition presented to the board by Brampton lawyer John Mullen, has raised concerns

about increased traffic in the area and even the possibility that some properties adjacent to the site may be devalued.

However, the Croatian proponents received a number of testimonials from other neighbors attesting to the ethnic group's eagerness to support local sporting events, allowing open use of soccer pitches at the recreational centre.

Toronto lawyer William Whiteacre also presented a petition to the board with the names of 2,136 members of the Croatian community who maintain that the cemetery, the first of its kind in Canada for Croatians, is badly needed.

Mr. Mullen suggested that the close proximity of recreation facilities to the cemetery may be "inconsistent" with regulations outlined in the Act for burial grounds. One of the Act's sections says that burials have to be done decently and "order" must be maintained on the grounds at all times.

He also warned the board that the town would have to assume the responsibility of keeping the cemetery in good shape if it is eventually abandoned by the Croatians.

Canadian Croatians are a mobile group at the moment, Mr. Mullen said, advising the board to examine the proposal closely to see if the Croatians have made an "ongoing commitment" to the cemetery. Other problems which may later plague the town if the cemetery is abandoned internal roads, he added.

Despite the Franciscan Brotherhood's ties with the Catholic Church, the cemetery may not be needed by the Catholic community in the Diocese of Hamilton, of which Halton Hills is a part. In fact, Robert O'Brien, director of cemeteries for the diocese, later said that the Catholic church would not assume responsibility for the burial grounds if they are abandoned.

The Roman Catholic diocese of Hamilton would not be involved in any problems which may arise in the future," Mr. O'Brien said, explaining that the proposed cemetery is currently an independent proposal made by the large Toronto-Golden Horseshoe Croatian community.

However, Mr. Whiteacre assured board members that provisions in the Cemeteries Act insist that Ontario cemeteries must have perpetual care funds to guarantee that they are always maintained, regardless of ownership changes.

Section 6 of the Act, he said,

requires that 35 per cent of the price of each plot in a cemetery must go into a trust for the cemetery's upkeep. Croatian cemetery organizers have suggested that each plot would cost about \$300, and 35 per cent of which is \$105.

By the time all plots are sold, likely within two years, Mr. Whiteacre said, there should be "slightly in excess of \$200,000" in the perpetual care fund. If the burial ground is abandoned, the trust is turned over to the town, with any amount left after grave sites have been attended going to the maintenance of internal roads.

"This is a Croatian cemetery available to anyone of Croatian origin, regardless of faith," Mr. Whiteacre said. "It's very clear to me that the purpose here is to serve the Croatian community."

He argued that recreational facilities near the cemetery will not conflict with the guidelines as written in Section 44 of the Act, reminding Mr. Mullen that even Toronto's Mount Forest cemetery has to put up with an adjacent subway line.

"It's understandable that life must go on," he said.

Part of the cemetery proposal contains a large area for on-site parking, an aspect of the plan which residents should appreciate, Mr. Whiteacre indicated, because it means that cemetery visitors won't be parking on the road-sides of either Churchill Boulevard or Sideroad 5.

Proponents also point out that the cemetery will be largely obscured by its architecture and natural buffers surrounding it. As one consulting engineer pointed out, much of the site will be lower in elevation than the land around it.

Putting legal arguments aside, some residents living near the facility said they have welcomed the Croatian community's interest in Halton Hills.

Halton Board of Education trustee Betty Walker declared that the "vim and vigor" of Croatian youngsters and parents visiting the centre "contribute to the growth and health of the community".

Other residents who praised the Croatians as hard-working, family-oriented people included Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee representative (and local sheep farmer) Peter Branch.

"They respect my property

Continued on Page A2

## Another budget surplus holds town increases to 16 per cent

Once again boasting an operating budget surplus in 1981, the town's treasury department, supported by the general committee members Tuesday night, has urged department heads use restraint when preparing budget proposals for 1982.

Setting a maximum limit of 16 per cent for budget increases this year, the treasury department has suggested that personal services plan accord-

ing to a 12 per cent increase, materials, rents, and services, and transfers at 13 per cent and capital expenditures for the town at a five per cent rise.

The guidelines indicate that homes assessed at an average of \$4,500 can expect their tax bills to rise from \$200 to about \$233 next year, or a 16.5 per cent increase.

Gross expenditures for the town under the report also suggest an increase of about 10

per cent, rising from \$6,623,923 in 1981 to \$7,264,149 in 1982.

Funding from the province's resource equalization grant system is not expected to rise next year, which means the town will have to count on getting \$513,939 just as it did last year. However, the provincial transportation ministry has increased subsidies for road improvements by seven per cent.

In addition to the anticipated

revenue from taxes and other sources, the town will carry a \$176,000 surplus into next year's budget.

Meanwhile, the general committee has also approved a time table for budget preparations. Next week, the treasury department will distribute budget forms, guidelines and timetables to the town's various departments.

Budget details are expected

Continued on Page A2



**PEDESTRIAN INJURED IN COLLISION**

Early Friday morning saw a vehicle lose control on the icy surface of the Canadian National Railway bridge near Main Street North in Georgetown. The driver slid into a parked car and struck the bridge's restraining barrier. A pedestrian, Mabel Wiltshire, standing beside the parked car was struck and taken to

Georgetown Memorial Hospital with major injuries. Information about her condition was unavailable at press time Tuesday. There was \$1,000 damage to both cars.

(Herald photo by Chris Gaagard)



Members of the Georgetown high school Outers Club and their parent-volunteers ran into a spot of bad weather, to say the least, during a canoeing expedition into northern Ontario the weekend before last. Intended as a three-day excursion, the outing stretched into a fourth day when gale force winds and constant downpours left the Outers stranded in mid-portage and forced them to spend an extra night in the brush without campfire or dry clothes. The party returned home a week ago Monday after a government search plane ascertained for their families that they were still safe. Seen here are Chris Bertelsen, Harald and Gottfried Bransch and Dave Heller.

### GDHS club stranded up north

## Searchers dispatched for delayed Outers

By HARALD BRANSCH

Herald Correspondent  
Georgetown District High School's Outers' Club experienced an extended fall canoe trip the weekend before last when they were storm-locked at a northern Ontario portage by gale force winds.

The trip was planned to cover approximately 60 kilometres, including several overland portages. The school outdoor activities club had expected to return home Monday after a two-day excursion.

The 13 members of the club participating were Carl Bourassa, Ian Brown, Jane Cartwright, Andrew Delroy, Gord Doig, Brian Kemp, Mike McMurry, Glen Edwards, Richard Belshaw, Tom Chiovitli, Bruce Rieger, Harald Bransch and club president Doug Isaac.

Adult supervisors consisted of parent volunteers Garry Brown, Gottfried Bransch, long-time member Dave Heller and school staff supervisor Chris Bertelsen.

The tour of eight canoes travelled through several lakes starting near the north-west corner of Algonquin Park on Kawawaymog Lake, looping eastward to Erables Lake and then returning to the starting point.

The first morning was extremely cold, with a temperature of nearly minus seven degrees centigrade but developed into a superb day for canoeing. The wind was from behind and the sun warmed temperatures to a very comfortable level. The hardest part of the day was a grueling, two-kilometre portage over rough terrain.

Sunday morning began with a cold rain and wind. Throughout the day, the Outers were plagued with sudden downpours, followed by high winds.

Much of the day was spent on portages, several of which were a kilometre long. The portages were transformed into muddy streams by the rains, and no one escaped without soaked feet.

During a portage into Biggar Lake, which is eight kilometres long, gale force winds had developed, running in the direction of the lake and directly facing the canoes' path. The result were waves two to three feet high, making any travel extremely dangerous and impossible.

At this point, the decision to stay the night was made. This was possible due to extra meals club members were obliged to bring for emergencies.

Showers persisted throughout the night and became snow and sleet early in the morning. Breakfast was postponed so the group could cover as much critical distance as possible while travelling was still safe.

Although the gales had died, there was still a strong wind and a snowstorm hindered travel across Biggar Lake.

After two short portages, a Ministry of Transport search plane dispatched from Pembroke in response to calls from worried parents and school officials sighted the party and circled twice. A visual check and an "OK" sign from Doug Isaac satisfied them that no one was injured and we were merely delayed.

The final leg of the journey was slowed by despondent spirits and wet and relentless cold, but everyone eventually made it back to the vans and home.

Staff leader Chris Bertelsen said he was impressed by the way the club's inexperienced members endured a trip that would have "fazed" most adults.

Most Outers Club members say they aren't swayed by one bad trip and are looking forward to the next event on their calendar.