



Diving demonstrations were particularly popular at the town's annual Christmas water show Friday night in Acton. The high and low boards were used by junior and intermediate-age participants. Synchronized swimming and rescue demonstrations were also part of the show. (Herald photo)



The "grande finale" to the town's parks and recreation departments aquatic show Friday night in Acton was this candlelight synchronized swimming demonstration. Although our camera's flash hardly gives the display justice, swimmers criss-crossed the indoor pool at McKenzie-Smith school almost in complete darkness, as the capacity audience enjoyed the rather unusual and break-taking display. Other demonstrations included speed swimming, a special show by the younger swimmers in the town's learn-to-swim program and even comedy routines. (Herald photo)



No stranger to aquatic sports himself, Donald Duck was a welcome guest at the town's Christmas water show in Acton Friday night. Donald was joined by Walter Safety (whose face appears on Red Cross water safety brochures), and Santa Claus. Youngsters were delighted by the trio, which lead a parade around the McKenzie-Smith School indoor pool at the end of the two-hour program sponsored by the town's recreation and parks department. (Herald photo)

## Region, agencies awaiting support payment report

Research conducted by the Burlington social planning council last summer shows that 83 per cent of child and spouse support payments issued in Halton and registered for enforcement are in arrears. With recommendations from the Burlington agency to be

released shortly, a council press release says the total arrears on 538 orders is \$458,322. Support payments in Ontario may be ordered on behalf of spouses, children or parents through the family division of Halton's provincial court.

Surveys conducted by the researchers indicate that many of the people involved — victims and defaulters — "lack an understanding of court procedures, rights and obligations". People who default may force their dependents to go on

welfare and family assistance, social planning council executive director Joan Eaglesham told The Herald Friday. "But we are not so concerned with the amount of dollars drained from the provincial coffers," she said. "We're concerned with the well-being of the individual who is supposed to receive the payments."

If individuals entitled to support aren't getting it, she added, they must turn to other sources for the money to make ends meet; even for those people who are employed, pursuing support payments in court is time-consuming, aggravating and costly.

The study also notes that both parties involved in support cases alleged that financial information had been falsified and expressed a dislike with the bitter nature of the court proceedings.

Sixty-nine per cent of the people contacted by the researchers who had applied for support payments said they were appreciative and cognizant of judges' fairness.

## Valente verdict appeal adjourned to Feb. 25

An appeal initiated by Halton Crown Attorney James Treleven in the case of a Burlington man who killed three women, one an Acton resident, July 3, 1980, has been adjourn-

ed Thursday to Feb. 25. Mr. Treleven had received a letter from the lawyer for Walter Valente earlier this month asking for an adjournment because he is new on the case. The decision to adjourn the trial was made by Judge J.E.C. Robinson.

Mr. Valente was fined \$200 and had his driver's licence suspended for 12 months in August when he pleaded guilty to a charge of careless driv-

ing in connection with an accident in which three women riding bicycles were killed and two others injured.

Mr. Treleven has said he feels the sentence Mr. Valente received was too light. At the time of sentencing the crown attorney had urged a jail term be given to Mr. Valente.

Lorraine Robertson, mother of three and Acton resident for eight years was killed in the car-bicycle collision.

## VISUAL TREATS AT 2nd ACTON POOL SHOW

## Be safe, happy - OPP

**Herald Special**  
The Ontario Provincial Police force wants you to have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year's holiday. Acting Commissioner Jim Erskine emphasizes that "although OPP officers will do their part, much depends on the attitude and thoughtfulness of holiday drivers". During December of last year, 94 people were killed needlessly in Ontario traffic accidents, over 9,000 people suffered injuries and thousands of cars were rendered useless.

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## GDHS' past unveiled

Continued from Page A1  
students and whether they had paid their school fees. In those days, schooling past the elementary level was paid for directly by the families.

A sum of \$97 was collected from 78 students between August and December, 1891, based on whether the students were "residents", "non-residents" or from the "county". In 1891, there were 47 county pupils, 24 non-residents, and 42 residents.

In the early years of the high school, enrolment didn't grow in great numbers, since the town itself wasn't growing very fast. In 1916, there were five staff members, and by 1937, that had only been increased by one.

### SIX STUDENTS

A commencement program from 1916 found in the vault showed six students received their senior diplomas, of which four were young women.

The school system was quite different then, with certificates and diplomas being dispensed. "Junior Diplomas", "Entrance to Faculty Certificates", "Entrance to Normal Certificates", "Matriculation", are some of the honors which students received in 1916.

The commencement program included songs like "Dear Little Shamrock", "Three Old Maids of Lee", "The Broken Pitcher" and of course, "God Save the King".

Another GDHS commencement program, dating from 1937, was found. Eleven girls received their graduation diplomas. There were no boys graduating that year.

Teacher McMenemy received an athletic crest, and is named among the orchestra members for playing the saxophone. Besides athletic awards, awards like the "Lt. Col. Ballantine Trophy for Team Shooting", and the "Strathcona Medal for Rifle Shooting" were given out to students.

A play called "Mr. X" was presented by students, and the orchestra played several selections, including "A Rendezvous With a Dream", "Just the Way You Look Tonight", and two selections by Franz Liszt.

The high school staff in 1936, besides principal John Lambert, included H. J. Heldmann, who taught English and history and was a "Specialist in Physical Culture"; Marjorie Inman, who taught mathematics; Florence Luke, "Specialist in French and German"; Elizabeth Penson, science teacher; and Muriel Thompson, who taught English and history. All of the teachers had university degrees, with three of them holding Master of Arts degrees. They were a very well educated group.

Mr. McMenemy remembers the school orchestra won a trophy at the Halton Music Festival that year, challenging

Burlington, many times a winner.

"I don't think Mr. Lambert



(the principal) let go of that trophy for about a week," Mr. McMenemy said with a chuckle.

### ONE FIND

A gavel donated by D. V.

Latimer, chairman in 1963 of the Georgetown District High School Board and now a judge at Milton Provincial Court, was also one of the finds rediscovered. It was given when the Georgetown Board of Education amalgamated with the Halton Board of Education, said Mr. Baker.

Also on the top shelf in the vault were three long ledgers neatly recording student marks in longhand from 1917 to 1925, from 1925 to 1939, and from 1939 to 1956. Now, such records are kept on microfilm.

Mr. McMenemy found his name in a ledger and wasn't too pleased with the marks he found there.

In 1936, students took subjects like composition, literat-

ure, British history, algebra, botany, latin, French, geography, art, physiography and geometry.

"You took what was prescribed. You had no choice in subjects," Mr. McMenemy said. "If you failed your Latin, you had to repeat the year for it."

Nowadays, students have a great deal of choice in their core subjects in high school and failing one course doesn't mean they have to repeat all their subjects the following year.

A little bit of quick calculation by Mr. Baker figured out that students who enter Grade 9 at GDHS next September, will be the 100th graduating class of the school.

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