



### WARMING UP TO A CAREER?

Nothing like a few leg lifts to get the mood circulating, so that you'll be in top form when the curtain goes up. Brenda Archer and Helma Schwarz brought a little professionalism to the erstwhile amateur performances of Acton and Georgetown youngsters last week. The shows at the town's two public

libraries were arranged by the library board and the town recreation department. While 15 children attended the Georgetown workshop, Acton's session attracted Eliska Elyn, Oslan and Lael Morgen, Brenda Walsh, Heather Fleming, Jeanette Verbik, David Andrews and Russel Fleming.



## Liberal leadership hopefuls greet 70 at Milton meeting

About 70 Halton-Burlington constituents braved Monday night's stormy weather to drive to Milton's Bayrischer-Hof Restaurant for a provincial Liberal party leadership all-candidates meeting.

The five candidates, including Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed's personal favor-

ite, London based lawyer David Peterson, will contend the leadership vacated recently by Dr. Stuart Smith. The Liberal's convention will be held Feb. 19, 20 and 21 at Toronto's Sheraton Centre.

MPP Candidates Sheila Copps (Hamilton Centre), John Sweeney (Kitchener Wilmott), Jim Breithaupt

(Kitchener) and David Peterson (London Centre), as well as outspoken alcohol fuel proponent Richard Thomas of Parry Sound, outlined in turn what they would bring to the leadership and fielded questions from the audience.

In an interview with The Herald last month, Mr. Reed

said he feels Mr. Peterson has the best chance of winning the party's leadership. He praised the calibre of candidates seeking the post.

Referring, at least for the time being, to remain as one of the party's soldiers, Mr. Reed said he declined to toss his own hat into the race.

### One of area's oldest farm equipment dealerships

## Sagging economy blamed again as Allison closes shop after 30 years

By MAGGIE HANNAH  
Herald Special  
Canada's poor economic picture is at least partly to blame for the imminent demise of one of the area's oldest farm equipment dealerships.

Murt Allison, head of Murt Allison Equipment Company Ltd., RR2, Georgetown, said his Massey-Ferguson dealership on Highway 7 will close its doors by the end of January if not sooner, depending on how rapidly stock can be cleared.

The business opened Jan. 2, 1951, in Georgetown, and moved to its present location on Trafalgar Road South of Silvercreek in 1958. In 1961 Mr. Allison's new buildings were the setting for a company commercial narrated by Clare Burt and shown on national television.

The closure will put seven people including Mr. Allison out of work. So far only one has found a new job, Mr. Allison said.

Mr. Allison lays part of the blame on the economy. He has been putting more money into the business in hope of hanging on until things turned around and he could recoup his losses as he has done in the past. The down period has been too severe and lasted too long for that to work, he said.

"I had an investment in stock here that I couldn't turn over," he said. "I came to the conclusion all I was doing was working for the bank. I couldn't clear anything for me."

His problem is a general one, he said, and points to discounts offered by the Massey-Ferguson company through all its dealers. This is a down season anyway but farmers just haven't been buying new equipment. Nor does he feel Massey prices are a problem. The whole farm equipment automotive industry generally is crying the same story, he said.

Mr. Allison said his customers will be able to get parts and service for their equip at in Erin, Milton and Brampton but the company won't be putting a new dealership into Halton Hills.

## Farm equipment dealers rely on large-acreage 'survivors'

Farm machinery sales are different now than they have been in past years, says a John Deere farm implement dealer.

Asked to comment on how badly the present poor farm economy is affecting his business, Doug Ross of Osprey, north of Acton, said small farmers aren't buying equipment as they have in the past. They are hanging on and making do with what they have.

It is the bigger farmers who are still buying, Mr. Ross said. The cash cropper and farmer with large acreage who simply has to keep updating his machinery in order to get his crops off and stay in business is the basis of present sales.

Just how badly high interest rates are affecting such people and to what degree they are experiencing difficulty in meeting payments he can't say.

"They do their financing through banks," Mr. Ross said. "I get paid before equipment leaves the lot so I have no idea what percentage of customers may be

having trouble meeting payments."

He does know that customers are a bit slower in paying bills for repairs or parts he orders for them. Good business practices however take care of problems there.

"I do expect the coming year will separate the good businessmen from the poor ones," Mr. Ross said. "You'll see a lot of businesses go under in the next year, but the good business will survive."

Mr. Ross said farmers aren't even getting repairs done on machinery at present. They know they won't use the equipment for several months yet and they're putting off spending money for repairs until they absolutely have to spend it.

"In about March we're going to get into a real bottleneck," Mr. Ross said. "It's too bad but it looks like that's what's going to happen. I don't know how we'll get around it."

Mr. Ross said some of the big machinery companies are in difficulties because they didn't see that farmers

weren't buying and they didn't cut down on production.

Now these companies have high inventories and the carrying charges when they can't sell their merchandise is really hurting them. John Deere is one of the healthier firms and although it is hurting too, it isn't hurting as badly as Massey-Ferguson or International Harvester.

Mr. Ross doesn't blame interest rates as much as the low prices farmers are getting for produce for the poor farm economy. Prices have to increase to the farmer and the consumer has to be prepared to pay more for food, he said.

The consumer has a good deal right now and if he's really upset about things costing too much maybe he should be cutting down on things like convenience foods, non-essentials like cigarettes and junk food, and travelling less since the cost of gasoline has risen far faster than the cost of food.

"The cheap food policy was instituted by someone, I don't know who, and held onto because there's no pressure group to make it better."

"Do you realize the farm-

ers across Canada have less clout than the Canadian postal union and they perform a far more important service?"

"The Canadian population has to see what farming is, what it does and what it contributes to the country. Right now they aren't aware of that."

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## Kellar remanded to Jan. 18

Eric Howard Kellar, 31, appeared in Milton provincial court Dec. 29 charged with the first degree murder of Acton's Colleen Oates, 22.

Mr. Kellar, fresh from 60 days' psychiatric examination in Penetang, was remanded to Jan. 18, at which time a preliminary hearing date will be set. This week's court appearance failed to produce a hearing date when, according to Oakville lawyer Fred Leitch, who is representing Mr. Kellar, the crown's case was incomplete.

the preliminary hearing to take place late in February.

Mr. Kellar was arrested Oct. 26 at a Pickering warehouse where he once worked and returned to Halton region, where he was charged with first degree murder.

Mrs. Oates, a housewife and mother of two young children, was found stabbed to death early Oct. 22. A combined Halton and Durham police force search scouring the Acton-Georgetown, Whitby, Oshawa and Bowmanville areas led to the arrest of the suspect.

### New chiropractor

Despite the death of 49-year old Georgetown chiropractor G.W. Corbett Dec. 25, patients are advised that his Mill Street practice continues under the direction of Robert Lazinski, D.C. Dr. Lazinski, 27, is a graduate of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in Toronto and also runs a practice in that city's Danforth-Pape area. The Corbett chiropractic office is located at 79 Mill St. and is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and in the evenings from 7 to 9 p.m.

### Croatians cite 'racism'

While there have been no outright accusations as such before town council, a spokesman for the Croatian centre near Norval told the Globe and Mail Jan. 1 that "a group of area residents" is opposing the proposed establishment of a cemetery at the 140-acre centre for "racist" reasons. In its first look at the cemetery issue, subject of a forthcoming town staff report, the Globe quotes Father Mladen Civalo as saying "racism" is behind opposition voiced to town council by neighboring landowners. At council meetings where the issue has yet to be resolved, residents have voiced concern over possible traffic problems and suggested that noisy farm operations nearby might have to be curtailed during Croatian funerals at the centre.

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