

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1982



A TOAST TO THE LASSIES

Monday was Robbie Burns Day, and Scots the world over were toasting their homeland's favorite wordsmith at colorful, traditional banquets. Georgetown's British Club was no exception, members and friends gathered at the Masonic Hall to watch with pride as the haggis - the "king of foods" - was piped in by George Greig and "addressed" by John Paterson. Mr. Paterson's daughter Katrina (above) had the honor of serving the ceremonial delicacy (she later joined Lynn Welton to provide some musical entertainment) while friends Marjorie Shearer, Linda Hayes, Wanda Lemay,

Kim Auckland and Rhonda Merrill looked on. Syd Nicholas was the evening's emcee, Mayor Pete Pomeroy proposed the toast to the Queen, Andrew Syne offered grace and after a dinner of haggis, Lorne sausage, mashed neeps and champi tatties, Hugh Shearer toasted the immortal memory of the bard himself. Also adding to the charm of the evening were Tony Welton, who offered a "toast to the lassies", and Irene Paterson, who gave the "reply frae the lassies".

(Herald photo by Harald Brausch)

Board considers abandoning fair, joining Acton

Will 1982 fall fair be Georgetown's last?

By ANI PEDERIAN
 Herald Staff Writer

Serious problems experienced in putting on last year's Georgetown fall fair have put the future of the 135-year old event in question.

Bettyanne Wellstead, in charge of publicity and promotion for the fair over the last two years, asked the Georgetown Agricultural Society Monday night how worthwhile an event members regard the fair.

"Just how important or unimportant has the Georgetown fair become to the community?" she asked. "Just because a venture is considered worthwhile back in the 1930s doesn't mean it's still worthwhile in the 1980s."

She complained that the fair had experienced a decline in

workers and was put on by about a dozen people in 1980. Mrs. Wellstead said in order to carry on a large venture like a community fair, lots more workers are needed.

"I've never been involved in a group anywhere that has as little support as you have," she told about 35 people at the meeting. "You need one hell of a lot of help from the community if you're going to be able to continue."

She said service clubs like the Optimists, Klansmen, and Lions Club had offered to help for the 1982 fair.

Although the 1981 fair had increased prize money in all competitions in an effort to increase participation, Mrs. Wellstead said the support of local farmers wasn't present.

"I don't know why our

farmers aren't interested in supporting our fair," she said. Mrs. Wellstead complained about the lack of response to letters requesting help and promotion for the fair from the local chamber of commerce and businesses.

"Apparently we don't have the support of anybody in the community of Halton Hills," she said.

Mrs. Wellstead mentioned three possibilities the fair board should consider for the future, one of which was to amalgamate with the Acton fair board to form the Halton Hills community fair, a move which she said had been done before.

"We could have it one year in Acton, one year in Georgetown," Mrs. Wellstead said. "It would have advantages in

terms of increasing manpower available to run the fair." She said the Acton fair board is also facing difficulties in getting volunteer manpower to run their annual fair.

Keeping the fair a Georgetown annual event, but with specialization in a certain activity was suggested next by Mrs. Wellstead. She said the excellent racetrack offered by the fairgrounds might indicate increasing the fair's use of the racetrack. However, that would also mean additional expenses in terms of supplying barns and equipment for the participating animals, she noted.

The last alternative mentioned by Mrs. Wellstead was that of doing away with the fair altogether. She said perhaps

Continued on page A10

Heavy snowfall likely cause of Georgetown man's death

A young RR4 Georgetown man was killed when his 1979 Ford pickup truck left the road Saturday at 1:30 a.m. and flipped on its

roof. Three other young people in the truck escaped injury in the accident that took place on Third Line West, just

south of Sideroad 34, in the town of Caledon. OPP said Ronald Tribble, 18, died from massive head injuries when his truck veer-

ed off the snow covered road. Poor visibility caused by a heavy snowfall may have been responsible for the fatal accident, police said.

Council Notes

Arena dispute

Halton Separate School Board officials and town recreation department reps appear to have reached some agreement concerning the use of town recreational facilities. Two weeks ago, the two groups were at loggerheads with each other because the town argued that the board should pay for the use of facilities like the arena in the absence of a similar "payment in kind" arrangement the town already has with public schools. Recreation director Tom Shepard said that when details of the agreement with the separate school are in writing they will be released to council. Public schools use rec facilities in exchange for allowing the town to book space in schools for meetings and recreation after hours.

Buried hydrants

Town engineer was expected to meet with fire chief Mick Holmes and contact regional public works officials to answer concerns raised by general committee members Monday night about fire hydrants submerged in snow. Because hydrants are owned by the region and operated by the fire department, the public works department finds itself at the centre of a debate about who is responsible for keeping them clear of snow. "I don't care who's responsible," Esquering Coun. Pam Sheldon told the committee. "I think the hydrants should be cleared as soon as possible."

Where's our fire truck?

While not setting a specific date on its return, town clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said the town can expect its new but ill-fated aerial ladder fire truck soon. The truck developed hydraulic lift problems before it saw much use and was sent back to Kingston for repairs early last autumn. Mr. Richardson said that the problems have been resolved.

Foster Family Week

Two proclamations were passed by the town's general committee Monday night. This week it's Non Smoking Week in Canada, while the following week (Feb. 1 to 6) is Foster Family Week in Halton Hills.

Woman petitioning against metric switch

Prompted by an episode of CHCH-TV's "Cherington" show, a Georgetown woman is organizing her own campaign against metric conversion, particularly the recent switch in supermarkets.

"The response is really negative out there," Lane Court resident Erma De Rose told The Herald Friday. "Believe me, I know. I've talked to an awful lot of people."

And she intends to reach more people this week by collecting signatures at the Georgetown Loblaw's outlet Thursday on a petition against the metric conversion.

Mrs. De Rose has also outlined her grievances in a letter to the editor on page A5 of today's Herald.

Right now, she is looking for additional volunteers to help her get her anti-metric message across. As of press-time Tuesday, other major supermarkets in Georgetown had not been contacted about letting Mrs. De Rose carry out her protest at their stores.

She intends to send the petition to Ottawa and, in her letter to the editor, urges readers contact local MPs John McDermid and Otto Jelinek to object to the conversion, which she describes as an "annoying imposition".



Preparing for her personal assault on recent federal legislation requiring supermarkets to switch from imperial measurement to metric, Georgetown resident Erma De Rose sketched out a billboard Friday describing her protest. Mrs. De Rose lists her grievances about the metric system and Canada's conversion to it in a letter to the editor on page A5. Loblaw's has raised no objection to Mrs. De Rose soliciting signatures for a petition bound for Ottawa, and will allow her to present her protest to shoppers Thursday.

(Herald photo)

Early morning outage still draws complaints

A power blackout early Thursday morning lasting from 2 to 4 a.m. and affecting the northwest section of Georgetown, Glen Williams and part of Esquering was due to broken wiring insulation on Hydro property, gear the

Varian plant on Mountainview Road. Halton Hills Hydro general superintendent Hugh Campbell said the blackout affected about 2,000 residents of the area north of Highway 7. "We've gotten more com-

plaints than I expected (over it)," Mr. Campbell told The Herald. "I don't know what so many people were doing up at that time of night."

He said the weather was a contributing factor to the blackout.

Census stats tricky but we're losing

While Statistics Canada stresses that preliminary figures from its partial census last year are not accurate, they indicate there were 549 fewer people in Halton Hills in 1981 than in 1978.

Interim figures from the 1981 census were released by the federal agency last week, showing Halton Hills' population to be 33,928, or about 1.6 per cent less than in 1978, the year of the last major census. In that year, the town's population was recorded as 34,477.

The same preliminary

results show Canada's population last year as 24,105,163 and Ontario's as 8,551,733, up from 8,264,465 in 1976.

With final figures from the census expected in May, Statistics Canada points out that the preliminary results do not include the number of people enumerated at temporary residences, such as hospitals and hotels, nor those outside Canada, like the military and diplomatic corps. Others not included are citizens not enumerated because their usual place of residence was erroneously listed as unoccupied.

On a list of 34 Ontario towns and cities provided to The Herald, 12 show a decline in population since 1976. Experiencing decreasing populations along with Halton Hills - again according to preliminary figures - were Belleville, Dunnville, Kirkland Lake, Orillia, Pembroke, Penetanguishene, Port Colborne, Sudbury, Wainfleet, Welland and Woodstock.

Contacted by The Herald, Mayor Pete Pomeroy and planning board chairman Mike Armstrong declined to comment until they have studied the census report.

Cops having a bang-up time with car, bus accidents

A Georgetown woman is in fair condition following surgery Friday for a fractured larynx. Rita Parker was brought to Georgetown District Memorial Hospital early Friday morning following a car accident which caused \$8,000 damage to the two vehicles involved. From there she was transferred to Toronto General Hospital where she underwent surgery. Mrs. Parker was turning left into a private driveway on Confederation Street near Mountainview Road when hit by a car driven by a Ninth Line resident. The driver and passenger of the second car, suffering minor injuries, were also taken to Georgetown Memorial Hospital where they were treated and released.

There were several other accidents as well Friday morning in Halton Hills. A passenger suffered minor

injuries in an accident when two cars reversing out of private driveways on opposite sides of Delrex Avenue in Georgetown collided causing \$250 damage.

A school bus carrying 30 children stopped on the Fourth Line near Highway 7 to pick up a pupil when a car struck the rear. There were no injuries in the collision that caused \$1,500 damage to the car. The driver of the car was charged with following too closely.

Late Friday morning there was \$5,000 damage to two cars which collided on Guelph Street in Georgetown. A Georgetown driver had turned left across the path of a Milton driver, in an attempt to turn into the IGA plaza. There were no injuries.

No spending limit for chief in emergencies - commission

By ANI PEDERIAN
 Herald Staff Writer

When it comes to spending money during an emergency situation, Halton regional police chief James Harding was issued carte blanche Thursday morning at the Police Commission meeting.

Judge Joseph Scime, chairman of the five-man commission, hoped to limit emergency expenditures by the chief.

Although agreeable to having a limit imposed, Chief Harding reminded the commissioners of the Police Act, which makes it the duty of police officers to respond to all emergencies to the best of their ability.

"We can try it, but do I place the lives of my men in jeopardy or listen to the board?" Chief Harding asked. "I can't tell what the disaster might be."

Recalling the Mississauga train derailment disaster in which the city was evacuated because of the danger of leaking chlorine gas from a punctured train car, Chief Harding said emergency money was needed then to fit officers with gas masks.

"Faced with an emergency situation the chief will have to do what he thinks is right regardless of the board's decision," commissioner Ric Morrow said in his "inaugural" remarks to the board. He said it is redundant to set an arbitrary figure of how much money the chief can spend.

"We don't want someone's life on the line while you're trying to get someone on the commission on the phone for permission to spend," Judge Scime acknowledged.

"I acknowledge I'm subject to the government of the board

and we're talking about extreme emergencies and nothing else," the chief said. "Being a prudent manager, I don't think the chief is going to rush off and do things without

the approval of the board," Commissioner James Grieve of Burlington said.

Commissioner Harry Barrett, the mayor of Oakville, said it is a waste of time

discussing a hypothetical situation. "The world may come to an end tomorrow, but I don't think we should discuss it," he said. "If the chief goes off and spends too much money often enough, I'm sure the deputy chief will be glad for the promotion."

The discussion arose while the commission was trying to establish financial control over various levels of management in the police force.

The commission decided that designated unit commanders and inspectors within the force can make purchases up to \$2,000 on budgeted items.

Administrator Robin Hale has to approve such spending up to \$5,000.

Chief Harding can spend up to \$10,000 on budgeted items without having to go to the commission for prior authorization. If he wants to spend more, as in vehicle tenders, uniforms or building construction, he'll need the commission's approval.

Although Mr. Harding was granted unlimited spending money during time of emergency when a delay in purchasing equipment could affect health and safety, he must justify his spending in writing afterwards.

"If he can't justify it, he'd be subject to disciplinary action," Mr. Hale said.

"Until today we had to get the price quotes on furniture for the force and bring it to the board before we could buy anything," he said. Now, management can make the decision and every individual purchase price doesn't have to go to the board. The board still has power in that it sets the budgets for spending.



Joining the five-man Halton police commission Thursday morning, Air Canada captain Ric Morrow of Georgetown was sworn in as a commissioner by Judge Joseph Scime, commissioner and chairman of the commission. Mr. Morrow, 41, was appointed to the position by the Ontario Solicitor General's office, replacing Glenn Magnuson of Georgetown who recently resigned. The former chairman of Halton regional council will serve on the personnel and finance committees.

(Herald photo)



SNOW BUNNY SUPREME

Rexway Drive had a larger than life bunny watching passers-by this week. Built Saturday by Mike Mewat, 8, a Harrison Public School student, with the aid of his mom, the snow bunny kept them hopping in the snow for a couple of hours until all its whiskers were nearly in place.

(Herald photo)