



All Georgetown District High School, Winter Carnival time means pancakes, car rallies and the ever-popular Snow Queen pageant. Patty Cutrara bestowed her crown on 1982 Queen Lisa Burke (below) of Grade 13 this year to culminate an enjoyable pageant Friday night. Faced with the difficult task of choosing the new queen and her princesses was a panel of judges (right) that included (left to right) Olga Marden, Miss Cutrara, Dave Kentner, Ken Smith and Ray Norgate. The 12 contestants and their escorts (above) were Deenan Jones and Bob Hamilton, Jackie Giguac and Rob Ripley, Miss Congeniality Stacey Balson and Pat Wolff, Ronda Lemay and Brian Lemay, Sheila MacDonald and Craig Carlisle, Lynn Muir and Lyndon Hounsell, Carolyn Coulter and Greg Coulter, Snow Queen Lisa Burke and Geoff Greig, third runner-up Maureen Hudgins and Eve Rossella, Karen Bruton and Glenn Barfoot, first runner-up Kirsten Mogg and Charlie Cutrara and second runner-up Diane Lawson and Eric Elson.



Sports theme of annual pageant

Lisa Burke new GDHS Snow Queen

By HARALD BRANSCHE
Herald Special

With sports as its theme, it was only fitting that the 1982 Snow Queen pageant which launched Georgetown District High School's annual Winter Carnival Friday night should have local sports entrepreneur Dave Kentner among its judges.

The Chrysler Raiders general manager joined 1981 Snow Queen Patty Cutrara, former cafeteria worker Olga Murdon, Beaver Lumber manager Ken Smith

and Texaco Canada official Ray Norgate to choose Lisa Burke as Queen of the 1982 Winter Carnival.

After a question-and-answer period narrowed down the field of 12 contestants to four finalists, Miss Burke, a Grade 13 student, was selected to wear the crown. Runners-up were Kirsten Mogg (first), Diane Lawson (second) and Maureen Hudgins (third).

Miss Congeniality, chosen by the contestants themselves, was Stacey Balson.

In keeping with the pageant's sporty theme, contestants modelled the attire of their favorite sports and pastimes. GDHS' perennially successful Rebel team got quite a morale boost thanks to the selection of the theme.

Organizers Kelly Norgate and Kim Balson ran into a little unforeseen difficulty with entertainment for the interludes, which cancelled at the last minute. Teacher Moe Leeking and GDHS folk club members filled the bill admirably.

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Acton Dominion Hotel murder trial continues

Firemen suspicious of troublesome flames

Herald Special
Although flames were not visible when firemen first arrived at a fire at the Dominion Hotel in Acton, the building was full of smoke and the door to the lounge was warm, a firefighter testified at a murder trial Tuesday.

Three men, including the hotel owner, are charged with second degree murder of a hotel resident in connection with a fire that destroyed the building in 1979.

Hilton Hills firefighter Larry Frizzell said he arrived at the fire scene on the morning of Aug. 19 on the first pump to leave the Acton firehall.

Mr. Frizzell said it would have taken him two or three minutes to respond to the call and since the station was only a couple of blocks from the hotel, firefighters were on the scene very soon after the alarm sounded.

Mr. Frizzell donned an air mask, entered the building with a partner, determined that smoke was very thick at the north end of the building and began entering rooms to check that everyone was out.

He developed problems with his breathing apparatus and had to leave the building. On his way out through the north entry he touched the lounge door and found it warm. Since the door wouldn't open, he presumed it was locked and proceeded outside.

After removing his air pack he climbed a ladder to begin fighting the flames which were now visible through a second floor window in approximately the middle of the building.

He could not say whether flames were at the third or fourth window and added that he had no knowledge of which room had been occupied by defendant Leonard Cripps.

Mr. Cripps, hotel owner Cosimo Mercuri, and Michael McCrystal are charged with second degree murder in connection with the death of Howard Gibbons, 58, a hotel resident, in the fire.

A second firefighter, Brent Marshall, testified he arrived at the fire scene about five minutes after Mr. Frizzell. He raised ladders first, then entered the building through the lobby door at the north end.

He found the lounge door apparently locked but so hot he burned his hand when he touched it. He and his partner got a fire axe and forced entry to the room.

Mr. Marshall said he saw flames at the ceiling to the left of the door when he first entered the room. After extinguishing that patch of fire near the building's front wall he found a second patch of flames to the right of the door, on the floor. That was extinguished before he and his partner left the building.

Flames in that area were so intense that two efforts to beat them down failed.

Mr. Marshall said he abandoned those attempts and went to work in another portion of the building. Some time later he went around to the rear of the building, entering the kitchen area and found flames along the floor at the wall between the kitchen and the dining room.

There was very little smoke in that area, he said, and that fire seemed to be separate and distinct from what was happening elsewhere in the building.

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Heat from blaze unusually high?

During court proceedings last Wednesday, veteran Acton firefighter Wayne Kelly said he suspected arson after he found the fire on the second floor in a room adjacent to Mr. Cripps' unusually difficult to extinguish.

Mr. Kelly, a captain and 30-year member of the Acton firefighting brigade, told the court that his experience from fighting 500 fires in his career told him something was wrong about the hotel blaze and likened the scene to fires caused after cars have crashed spilling gasoline. He added that he saw no flames in Mr. Cripps' room, but smoke would have hampered his view.

Both he and fellow firefighter Michael Reynolds reported they had trouble extinguishing flames on the second floor near Mr. Cripps' room. Mr. Reynolds said that despite 20 to 30 minutes of fighting he was unsuccessful in smothering the flames.

Meanwhile, another firefighter working on the third floor testified that he extinguished flames fairly easily above Mr. Cripps' room. Richard Appleyard said that he found no flames in any of the other three rooms on the floor.

He agreed with a defence assertion that the fire appeared to have broken through from the room below (rented by Mr. Cripps).

Ontario Fire Marshall's office investigator Donald Bryan told the court Thursday that there is a "distinct possibility" that a hole was punched in a second floor bedroom wall down which was poured a flammable liquid.

Evidence gleaned after the blaze indicated that the fire must have been of an ab-

normally high heat, Mr. Bryan said. But, he said that while he concurred with a defence argument that the space between the walls and brick of the building would have acted as a chimney, intensifying the heat in the area, he maintained that this would not have created the extensive damage following the fire.

The court also heard testimony which noted that unnecessarily large fuses were found in the hotel kitchen's electrical panel, although none were blown, as they might have been if there had been an electrical overload.

Experts from the Canadian Standards Association added that they inspected cables connected to the panel and an air conditioner from which black smoke was seen pouring out at one point in the blaze but found nothing wrong with them.

Meanwhile, Union Gas Limited's Donald Chester testified that he is certain natural gas is not to blame

for the fire. Firefighters, he recalled, had noticed no natural gas odors during the incident.

Although the fire marshal's office had initially listed undetermined causes of the blaze, witnesses' statements later prompted investigators to re-open their case shortly after their first investigation closed.

At one point in their investigations, fire marshal officials were told by co-defendant Michael McCrystal that "we have only to cover up for Cosimo just a little bit longer", investigator Tom Dewhurst told the court Monday.

Mr. Dewhurst said he also believes the fire which burned the joists completely behind the wall between the third and fourth windows on the second floor is separate from the blaze which destroyed the north section of the building.

The collapse of the floor during the fire prevented examination and proof of his suspicion.

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