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JUKEBOX JUMPIN' AT THE JUNCTION

Promoters of the "Halton Hills Country Celebration" threw a media night party at Norval Junction Monday night, introducing a unique opportunity for fresh Canadian country music talent to get a foothold toward success. New talent will join veteran country music stars on the Norval Junction stage regularly Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights starting this week, vying for an opportunity to appear on CFGM's "Opry North" show,

which is taped at the Junction as well. Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy told an audience at the party event that the Celebration will be a boon to merchants in Halton Hills and lauded the efforts of Norval Junction partners Jim and Gerry Robertson. Celebration's inaugural round kicks off with Ronnie Hawkins (seen here performing for Monday's crowd) this weekend. (Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

Hawk's 'media' bash lights the fire under Norval's country music plans

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

A good party will take the edge off any Monday night and that's just what the folks down at the Norval Junction did:

they laid out an impressive table of eals, uncorked a sparkling bar and invited rompin' toastmaster Ronnie Hawkins to unveil what is shaping up to be one of the biggest boosts for fresh, Canadian country music talent.

Billed as a "media night" but filled with guests and VIPs who'll have something to do with this latest Norval Junction venture, the event introduced the "Halton Hills Country Music Celebration". If it proves a success, the Celebration will sprinkle big name country artists among the up and coming every Thursday, Friday and Saturday providing many hours of entertainment for country music lovers.

For CFGM radio, the Toronto AM station whose regular taped broadcasts from the Junction have plugged Norval as "The Home of Opry North" across Canada, the "Celebration" will open a whole new pool of talent from which it intends to draw.

Its Opry North show, which draws hundreds to Norval for regular Sunday tapings, has been for Canadian country music artists what the Johnny Carson Show has been for American "pop" performers: the necessary foothold into elusive stardom.

While the Celebration owes much to its Carling-O'Keefe

Brewery sponsors, local advertisers and a unique co-operative known as the Georgetown Service Club Alliance, Norval Junction owners Jim and Gerry Robertson are the two gentlemen who have done the legwork needed to "get the show off the ground".

Before Rompin' Ronnie hopped on stage and careened into some of his old favorite chair-breakers Monday, Jim told his

audience that the success of the Celebration will underline what can be done when people use a little foresight.

"When we release these boundaries in our minds, we can make things happen," Mr. Robertson said. "We've got to do a lot of convincing but it will come (to be) a very big part in Canadian country music."

It will also do some rather big things for the Service Alliance which is in charge of the bar during the Celebration shows. As Alliance chairman and Kinsmen president Brian Markham said, bar profits collected by the Kinsmen, Georgetown Lions and possibly the Georgetown Raiders and Geminals will, for one thing, contribute to facilities at Alcott Arena.

Celebration will also be good

Ratepayers' concerns remain

GARA on urban study: more answers needed

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Findings of the recently released Georgetown Urban Area Review still leave too many unanswered questions which should be addressed before the study is incorporated into town and regional planning policies, the Georgetown Area Ratepayers Association (GARA) argues.

In a six-page document which was expected to be submitted to the town's general committee yesterday (Tuesday), GARA says that the recently released urban review provides "little encouragement" to ratepayers concerned about the financial and social impact of additional urban growth south of Silver Creek.

Essentially complete after two years of work by municipal officials, area developers and Toronto consulting firms Gore and Storrie Ltd. and Municipal Planning Consultants Ltd., the urban review has determined that Georgetown can extend its urban boundaries if its sewage treatment plant is modified to handle a population equivalent of 40,000.

Without the expansion, the province's environment ministry maintains that the plant should be able to treat wastes produced by 30,000 people.

Headed by Roy Yestadi, GARA's own urban review committee says concerns raised by GARA four years ago about sewage and water facilities, as well as new road, recreational and school needs prompted by new development, "must be fully addressed and resolved to the satisfaction of the ratepayers before considering urban boundary revisions".

The consulting firm determined that several years of monitoring would be needed to ascertain the plant's true sewage treatment abilities, GARA's submission notes.

While Gore and Storrie scientists were allowed to use ministry laboratories to test sewage samples from Georgetown, GARA says their study indicates little other co-operation with the ministry, even though the province is responsible for establishing quality standards for the waste dumped into Georgetown's Rogers' Creek.

If the plant is modified to handle waste from 40,000 people, the study estimates it will cost approximately \$7.2 million. It is expected that most, and perhaps all, of this

money will come from developers if the expansion is approved by the region.

However, GARA insists that all financing questions must be answered if the region and town adopt new urban boundaries based on an expanded sewage treatment plant. There were no estimates in the urban review about how much it will

Continued on page A3



GUESS WHO CAME TO VISIT?

Lewis Carroll's famous children's adventure "Alice in Wonderland" already has its ever popular White Rabbit, not to mention the March Hare, but the Acton Figure Skating Club guessed right when it decided the audience at its annual carnival Saturday wouldn't mind a couple of Easter bunnies being added to the story. As well as their timely characterizations, Tina Krzyzyk (left) and Stacey Perry portrayed two Dodo Birds in the well-attended ice spectacular at the Acton Community Centre. See also page A2.

(Herald photo by Harold Bransch)

Mercuri gets 25-year sentence in Acton hotel arson-murder

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

It took an Ontario Supreme Court jury 3½ days to find Dominion Hotel owner Cosimo Mercuri, 43, guilty of second degree murder.

Hotel employee Michael McCrystal, 49, was found guilty on a reduced charge of manslaughter with the jury recommending leniency.

Both men had been charged with second degree murder in the death of hotel resident Howard Gibbons, 58, in a fire

that destroyed the Acton hotel on Aug. 19, 1979.

A third defendant, hotel employee Leonard Cripps, 57, was acquitted March 29 on a directed verdict from Justice Coulter Osborne.

Last Thursday, one calendar month after the trial began, Justice Osborne awarded a 25-year sentence for Mr. Mercuri. The sentence, mandatory for any murder conviction, will allow Mr. Mercuri to become eligible for parole in 10 years.

Mr. McCrystal was remanded in custody for sentencing last Tuesday.

After considering the recommendations of both lawyers involved, Justice Osborne sentenced Mr. McCrystal to two years less a day at the Brampton Correctional Centre and advised him to enter an alcoholism rehabilitation program. Mr. McCrystal maintained his innocence throughout the sentencing.

Mr. Mercuri will be held at the Hamilton-Wentworth regional detention centre until the end of a 30-day appeal

period. Mr. Mercuri's lawyer Michael Moldaver said an appeal may be filed.

Justice Osborne congratulated all parties to the case in his final remarks saying "these are the moments even the judge and lawyers never get used to."

As Justice Osborne sentenced a silent, stoic Mr. Mercuri, the defendant's weeping wife, Jean, collapsed in the arms of her son, Carlos, and two relatives.

Justice Osborne said the

Continued on page A2

GLT's 'Our Town' collects honors for best lighting, best actress

Georgetown Little Theatre's Ian Oldaker captured the Best Lighting award for "Our Town" at the Association of Community Theatres (ACT) Sixth Annual Theatre Arts Ball in Toronto Saturday.

Melissa Bell, who played the female lead role in the same production, was one of three nominations for Best Actress in the 23-entry drama category.

It is the second time that GLT has won an award for lighting. In 1975, Harvey Lee won the award for his ingenuity in lighting "A Letter From A General" in the old Howard Wigglesworth Public School auditorium under what was described then as "adverse conditions."

Drama Adjudicator Neil Freeman in presenting the 1982 Best Lighting "Thea" (ACT's equivalent to the "Oscars") to Mr. Oldaker, praised his skill in achieving some striking lighting effects on such a large stage with the

limited lighting currently available in the new John Elliott Theatre.

Speaking later about the often extremely difficult conditions under which community theatre labors,

Mr. Freeman said however that he hoped more groups could have the benefit of facilities "such as those in Georgetown."

Mr. Oldaker, who moved to Georgetown two years ago

from Manitoba, has worked with stage lighting for 20 years. Since coming to this area his services have been in constant demand at the John Elliott Theatre as well as Hamilton Place and the Oakville Centre. He joined GLT almost immediately upon arrival in town, became extremely enthused at the plans for the new theatre and volunteered his assistance in determining the basic lighting requirements.

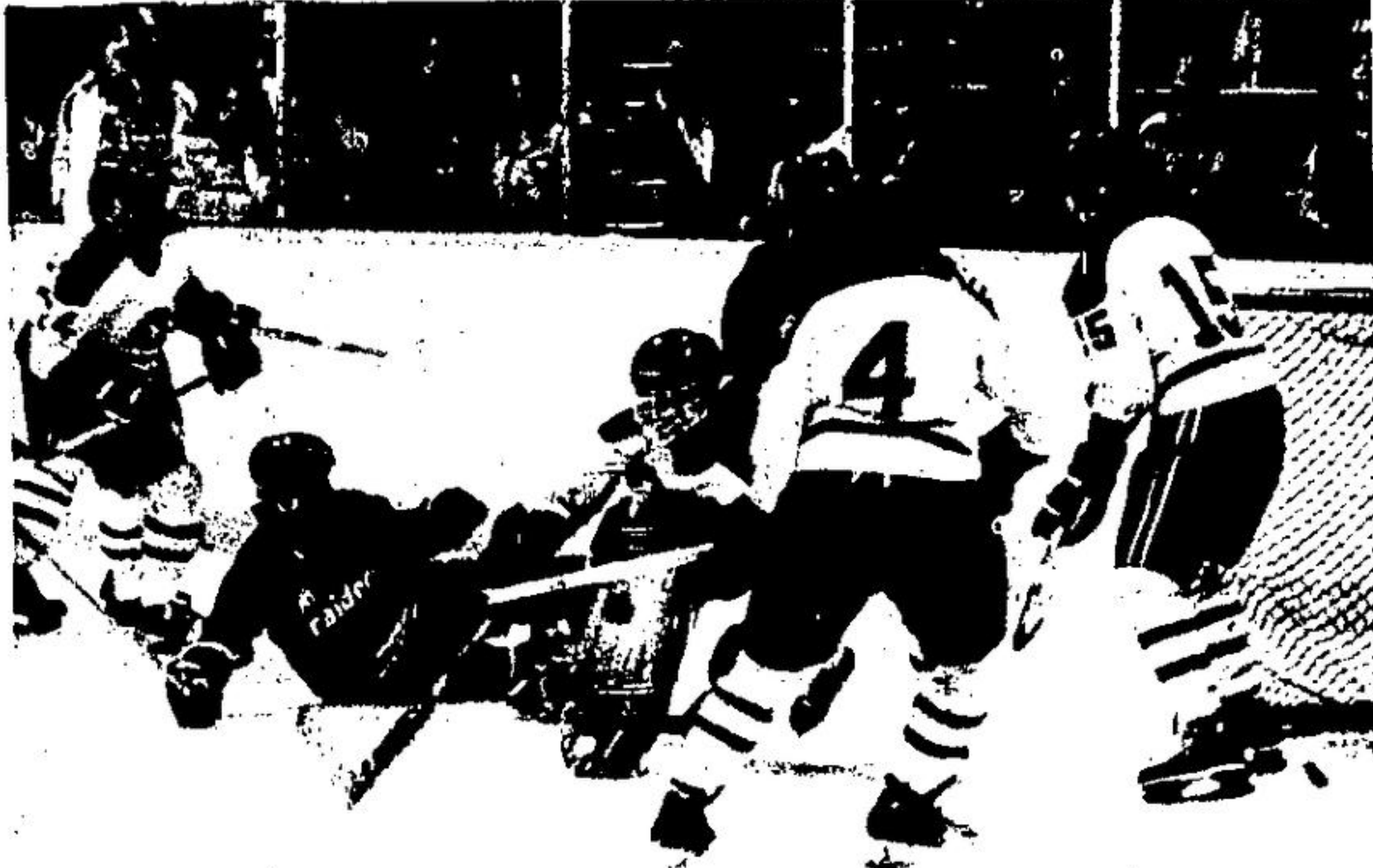
In GLT's upcoming production of the classic comedy "The Importance of Being Earnest" - April 30, May 1 and May 5-6 (Box Office: 877-5407) - Mr. Oldaker will be involved with both lighting and stage management. An experienced director with other companies, he makes his GLT debut in the Fall as director of "Absurd Person Singular", a sure-fire English comedy which won the 1982 Best Drama production for Toronto's East Side Productions.

Married with two sons, Mr. Oldaker lives on Mountainview Road North and works at Atomic Energy Canada in Meadowdale. He is currently on the executive of Halton Hills Arts Council.

In nominating Melissa Bell's performance as Emily in "Our Town" for consideration as the best by a female in a leading role, the adjudicator noting that she was "still only 18", said she had had the audience "in the palm of her hand" in the last act. He predicted even better things in the future.

Ms. Bell, who lives on Georgetown's Reid Court, first appeared with GLT when she was 15. She is planning to take up a professional theatre career.

Georgetown Little Theatre, which is one of 31 drama and musical groups belonging to the Association of Community Theatres - Central Ontario, was competing against 23 productions in the drama category.



HEADED FOR THE HARDY CUP

The cheers were deafening Monday night when Georgetown Chrysler Raiders forward John Cook (sliding on ice) scored the tying goal to bring his team even with the Cap Pele (New Brunswick) Capitals early in the third period. Then, with nine minutes left in the game, fellow forward Gary McFayden (seen here assisting on the tying goal, partially obscured by the Caps'

Number 4) beat Capitals goalie Yves Boulanger to give the Raiders a 3-2 victory in the Eastern Canada Championship game. Raiders now advance to the Hardy Cup finals against the Quesnel (B.C.) Kangaroos, starting Friday on home ice. More photos and stories inside today's Sportweek.

(Herald photo by Dave Rowney)