

Clang, clang, clang:

Georgetown's model railroad buffs are mobile at last and they're bringing a major layout display to the cultural centre

By BRIAN ROBINSON
Herald Special

After 12 years of work, the Georgetown Model Railroad Club proudly presents its first Model Railroad Exhibition at the Halton Hills Library-Cultural Centre May 7 and 8.

On display will be the club's new modular portable layout, a small N-scale layout, and a three-quarter inch scale live-steam model. Members will be on hand to discuss the hobby and answer any questions.

The Silver Creek and Credit Valley Railway is modelled after the Halton County and Credit River Valley areas. The layout will be in full operation, with scenery representing the locality, from the Niagara Escarpment to a horse show. During the 12 years of construction, many new techniques have been learned by the club members, and modern materials, ranging from cork wall tiles through improved foam rubber "grass" to complex electronic chips, are used.

One long-suffering wife was even heard complaining about the disappearance of her eye-shadow! It's amazing that a material intended to make an eye look clean and beautiful can also make a railroad car look dirty and ugly!

Most of the materials used, other than the specialized equipment, such as brass locomotives, were obtained from local merchants and sources. Apart from the obvious Hobby and Craft stores, the local hardware, electronics and drug stores were searched for supplies, and even the Bruce Trail yielded some model trees.

In 1971, the club decided to build a large model railroad which could demonstrate to the local community that the hobby provides an opportunity to develop and use many different crafts, skills and artistic talents, and that it is



It took a little basement revamping, but Georgetown Model Railroad Club member Brian Robinson finally found room for the club's newly-portable layout, scheduled to go on public display at the library-cultural centre May 7 and 8. Bring the whole family for a real visual treat when the club sets up its layout and throws the switch to make the whole miniature countryside come to life.

(Photo by Ron Bouwhuis)



The miniature wildlife goes scurrying when Canadian Pacific 1263 crosses the Silver Creek bridge on the Silver Creek and Credit Valley Railway, part of the sprawling model railroad layout coming to the library-cultural centre. Using casting resin for "river water" is just one of the fascinating innovations enabling the Georgetown Model Railroad Club to create a lifelike landscape.

certainly not the toy imagined by many people. Since that time, three layouts were constructed, only to be destroyed before completion, due to the untimely relocation of the owner of the premises.

Two "panic" Open Houses were held, in 1976 and 1979, which over 800 people attended, convincing club members that there was an audience for a public display of this nature.

The club then decided that to avoid any further disappointment and considerable cash loss, the next model would be designed specifically with dismantling in mind. This meant that the

new layout could be easily moved, if necessary, but also could be taken to the public and would therefore avoid the overcrowding problems of a display in a private home.

To test the layout before its completion, it was shown twice at the annual Toronto Model Railway Exhibition at the CNE grounds. These shows proved that it was indeed practical to move the layout and have it still work well. It also showed us that we can erect the layout at a display site in less than 15 minutes. Now that's portability!

With the completion of the new Library and Cultural Centre, the community now has the space suitable for a display, and so the exhibition can be given, with the hope that it may become an annual event, depending on the public response. See you at the show!

House Sol's 25th anniversary renews acquaintances with graphics master

Georgetown's Gallery House Sol celebrates its 25 years as a showcase for the visual arts with a special return visit by one of its most popular exhibitors, George Hawken, who proprietor John Sommer describes as "the most remarkable graphic artist of his generation".

Mr. Sommer has collaborated with Mr. Hawken and Editions Canada of London, Ontario, which has published 12 linocut prints by the artist in one portfolio, based on novelist Franz Kafka's "Die Verwandlung (Metamorphosis)".

Each of the 12 prints going on display at the Charles Street gallery this Saturday until May 13 was printed by hand on 300-gram Arches paper in 16 by 20-inch sheets in a particular low collector's edition of 35 copies, plus five artist's proofs.

Also on display until May 13 are sculptures by Theo Willense of Toronto, who emigrated here from Amsterdam in 1958 when he was seven years old. After studying sculpture under Windham Lawrence and apprenticing with William McEcheran, he travelled and

worked, spending some time at Georgetown's Art Cast Foundry. He opened his own studio in Toronto in 1979, the year after his second House Sol exhibition. Last winter, Toronto's Merton Gallery staged a large exhibit of his work spanning the past two years.

George Hawken was born in Owen Sound in 1946 and studied general arts at the University of Guelph. He then furthered his studies for three years at the University of Toronto under painter Jack Chambers. After his graduation in 1969, he taught drawing and printmaking at Humber College, then the University of Toronto and finally Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.

Mr. Hawken's work has been the subject of several solo exhibitions at House Sol since 1973 as well as at Toronto's Aggregation Gallery. His work is currently in the collections of the U of T, York and Lakehead universities, the Canada Art Bank, Toronto-Dominion Bank, the city of Toronto, the CIL and INCO collections and many private collections.

House Sol visitors can meet the artists this Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m.

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Zone convention this Monday

Norm Eyres will be entertaining in the Lounge Saturday night.

Anyone who received an invitation to the Initiation and Honors and Awards Night and did not attend may pick up their branch by-law pamphlet and lapel pin at the bar. Any member, ordinary, associate voting or honorary, who has not received a lapel pin, may do so by seeing the membership chairman. Any member who has paid this year's dues and has not received his membership card should check at the bar.



LEGION LINES

By Tom Elliott

Last call for the mixed euchre Saturday (April 24). Register at noon, play at 1 p.m.; two persons per team; \$1.50 per person; all money returned in prizes; followed by

a social evening. Hard Time Dance in the evening at \$2.50 per person. Pies and peas and prize for the

best hard time dress. The L.A. zone convention April 26 is at Port Credit. A bus will leave the branch at 6:30 p.m. sharp. All auxiliary members are welcome to attend.

Preparations are well underway for the next Imperial Dance June 19.

It is time to start thinking of who to nominate to run the branch next year. Nominations will be open May 27 so start giving it some serious thought.

Speyside boy prize winner

Halton Region had two honorable mention prize winners in a province-wide children's fire prevention poster competition.

Elizabeth Richardson, 10, of Martin St. School in Milton and Peter Armstrong, also 10, of Speyside School in Halton Hills each won \$25 prizes as runners-up in the competition sponsored by the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, according to Acting Captain Harold Penson of Milton, chairman of the Halton Fire Prevention Committee.

For over 20 years, Halton fire departments have been staging a poster contest for children of Grade 5 age during the October fire prevention week campaign. Municipal winners are chosen for a Halton competition organized

by the Fire Prevention Committee.

Elizabeth and Peter were both runners-up in the 1981 Halton-wide poster contest. Eight posters from Halton were entered in the provincial competition.

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