



Katiushka, one of 18 stars of the Martin and Downs Circus coming to Georgetown May 21 courtesy of the Kiwanis Club, performs high above the big top's 1,000 seats, showing deft skills on the single trapeze. Elephants, a llama and a mule, a killer python, clowns and cowboys and jugglers and daring young men and women will present two shows featuring Katiushka and other death-defiers at Neilson's Field adjacent to the Guelph Street Neilson's plant. Tickets will soon be on sale. (Photo submitted)

Martin and Downs here May 21

Circus sights, smells lure the youngsters

Ah, the circus. The sights and smells of the big top and all its wonderful contents still mean a great deal to many "ex-kids". Thanks to the Georgetown Kiwanis Club, a lot of local youngsters who've never had the pleasure will see a real circus, complete with performing elephants and trapeze artists, May 21 in Georgetown.

The Martin and Downs Circus rolls onto Neilson's Field, adjacent to the Guelph Street Neilson's plant, part-way through its 1982 tenth anniversary tour of southern Ontario. Featured in two shows (6 and 8:15 p.m.) will be 16 trained animal and variety acts to please circus fans of all ages.

Relive those childhood memories or introduce your own children to the magic of the 9,000-square foot big top, the children's petting zoo, the giant killer python snake exhibit and the pony rides.

The fun starts bright and early May 21. Residents are invited to come watch the raising of the big top, enjoy carnival snacks and wait for the big show to begin: the esteemed equine exhibits of liberty horses, the antics of the clever canines, trained llama and performing mule,

aerial artistry on the trapeze and the Spanish Web, juggling and balancing stars, the rib-tickling antics of the clowns, and of course the Craig Hollywood Elephants. It's 90 minutes of thrills, spills and chills, as the Ringmaster would say.

Martin and Downs reminds its customers that if they buy their tickets in advance they'll be helping the local sponsors as well as promoting Canadian entertainment. Tickets will soon be available at discount prices at a variety of Halton Hills stores.

Scheduled for the two 90-minute presentations (each show includes a ten-minute intermission) are the following acts:

- feature attraction is the Famous Craig Hollywood Elephants, fresh from the successful Shrine Circus runs at Maple Leaf Gardens and the Montreal Forum; also popular on television's "Circus" series, the dynamic duo will be helping erect the big top on circus morning;
- the Royal Liberty Horses, last of the big horse troupes;
- two rings of dogs, including the Comedy Poodles and Scrieber's California Canine Stars;

- the Incredible Waltens from Belgium, a balancing act that sees internationally-renowned Willy Waltens climb stairs on one hand;
- Lucky the Llama and Molly the Mule, two clever animal actors;
- Katiushka, the sensational aerial star;
- fantastic dressage horses, including the half Arab-Lipizzan Stallion, trained by Brad Franks to do the Lavade, the Capriole and the Hind Leg Walk;
- two rings of juggling with the Oscar Duo and the Amazing Campbells;
- the lovely Martin and Downs Circettes on the Spanish Web and aerial ladder;
- the Niklass, two lovely ladies balancing head to head on the "roly-poly";
- the Unicycling Walkers featuring Roy Walker on the 12-foot high unicycle;
- the Frank Family, wild west entertainers, complete with whip cracking and rope spinning;
- from Mexico, the Garcias make their Canadian debut with aerial thrills;
- Canada's funniest funder, Professor Zamboni and his Comedy Car.

Circus needs private turf here

When the Martins and Downs Circus rolls into town May 21, it will have avoided a bureaucratic snag which kept it out of Acton last year. Sponsored by the Georgetown Kiwanis Club, this year's event will be held on private property owned by the William Neilson's Company on Guelph Street. The town's recreation and parks department told The Herald that the soccer pitch it is constructing on part of the property won't be affected by the activities of the "big top". Town councillors turned down a request from the

Acton Optimists Club last April which asked to use Prospect Park for a Martins and Downs event. Councillors cited a 1973 bylaw demanding tough licensing regulations for circuses and carnivals on public property and ensuring that organizations clean up before they leave. The recreation department maintained that the turf in Prospect Park is the best in the community, and expressed concern that Acton's soccer season would be disrupted if a circus damaged the pitches.

Chambers blast school board

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felt responsible "but we're not about to let the provincial government get off the hook. They've (the public) got our necks, take theirs too," she said.

FUNDRISE
However, the two businessmen were not satisfied with blaming the provincial government's cutbacks for the rise in municipal funding of education.

"I think the problem is yours. It's your job. We elected you. We pay you," Mr. Enns said.

Calling the cost per pupil statistics "gobbledygook", the Burlington chamber president

said he didn't think it significant that it was low relative to other Ontario school boards.

Cutting salaries and administration costs were pointed out as possible solutions to reducing the budget by Mr. Markow.

"I think the board is being unfair in talking about provincial instead of municipal responsibilities," trustee Noel Cooper said. "It doesn't matter too much which pocket it comes out of, it's still money. It shouldn't be so high in these times."

Agreeing the budget is high, trustee Ivan Armstrong said that since 1945 programs have continually been added to the

board's curriculum.

TOO MUCH
"Some trustees and administrators made warning sounds that we're getting too much on our plate, but nobody listened. We all agree it's too high, but we don't all agree on what we can cut," Mr. Armstrong said.

"If you think this year's budget is big, you should see what's coming down the tube with Bill 82. I don't think you can cut any more than if you cut programs and I'd like to see you tell us what to cut," he told the chamber presidents.

The two chambers were not the only ones registering complaints over the budget. Letters from local residents were

acknowledged by board chairman Len Ager.

Oakville taxpayer R.A. Dunford called the budget "preposterous" in his April 10 letter to the board.

"Despite the fact that the Ontario government has reduced its grant this year, the finance committee does not seem to have got the message," Mr. Dunford wrote.

"The message is that a serious effort at cutting back expenditures must be made, and not that the onus should be transferred to the taxpayer."

In a similar vein, L.E. North of Burlington wrote to express her opposition to the \$16 million rise in the cost of education.

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Area woman's family earned royal attention

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer
Making 13 brown bag lunches every day takes two loaves of bread and two cans of orange juice and is no big deal, says the mother of 14 children.



GINA OSBORNE
Her medication is almost finished.
Her eight-bedroom home is furnished with pine furniture

made by her mechanic husband, Ray. A lift gives the children access to all the floor levels in the house.

"It gives the children freedom and dignity to go up and down without having to run to mom to pick them up," Mrs. Osborne said. "We never say 'You can't do this, because you're blind'. They do all the jobs."

A resource co-ordinator with the Mississauga organization of parents concerned with adoption, Mrs. Osborne was chairman of the group for ten years. She helps Children's Aid assess children up for adoption and match them with families willing to adopt. She also counsels parents considering adopting these hard-to-place children.

Gina Osborne, 35, of RR2 Brampton has 14 children, of which 13 are adopted. She was chosen by Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid as an outstanding young Canadian to dine with Queen Elizabeth April 16. MP's nominated one person each from their ridings as a "young achiever".

Mrs. Osborne's children aren't necessarily unusual in their numbers, but in the fact that they all have a handicap and are children hard to place in adoptive families.

Fetal alcoholic syndrome, cleft plate, heart murmurs, blindness, deafness, spinal bifida, quadruple amputee, brain damage, allergies and dyslexia are some of the handicaps of the children Mrs. Osborne has taken into her home.

"They all can look after themselves," she said. "The ones who take medication take it themselves and they're responsible for telling me to get more when

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