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LEARN THE HILLS

Former 'top citizen' dies

Funeral services were held last week for well-known former area teacher Minnie Zoe Bennett. Miss Bennett died Thursday on her 102nd birthday at her home in Central Park Lodge Nursing Home, Kitchener. Named Acton's Citizen of the Year in 1964, the M.Z. Bennett public school on Acton Boulevard was named after her when it was opened in 1957. Miss Bennett began teaching at S.S. 10 (Woodside School) in Erin Township in 1901. She also taught in Clay Hills School and at Hornby, both in Esqueving Township, before moving to Acton in 1907. She became principal of Acton Public School in 1913, a post she held for 26 years. Miss Bennett lived at Central Park Lodge for 14 years. She was predeceased by a brother, Thomas E. Bennett and a sister, Margaret Terry. She is survived by nieces Joan Pearce, of Sarnia, and Donna Book, of Woodbridge and grand-nieces Terry, Patricia and Donna Pearce.

Sent to trial

The man accused of the stabbing death of Acton housewife Colleen Oates, 22, Oct. 22 was committed for trial Thursday. After hearing evidence on three separate dates, provincial court Judge J.E.C. Robinson bound Eric Kellar, 31, for trial on a charge of first degree murder at the fall sittings of the Ontario Supreme Court that begin Sept. 11. Mr. Kellar's lawyer, Thomas Ounapu said he will be reviewing the evidence against his client on which the committal was based and he will "seriously consider" appealing Judge Robinson's decision.

Case tests Charter

A Halton regional policeman is at the centre of a precedent-setting test of Canada's new Charter of Rights. Charged under the Police Act with associating with a known criminal, Sgt. Larry Pattinson of south Halton has asked for a public hearing by an independent court, rather than the routine closed, internal police hearing. The officer's lawyer, Brian Greenspan, says the independent tribunal will determine whether internal hearings are consistent with the new Charter. Metro police chief Jack Ackroyd and Halton deputy chief Robert Middaugh have both expressed concern, however, that weighing conduct charges in a public hearing could affect police disciplinary procedures everywhere.

Legality of disarmament referendum assured

Town will pose nuclear question



FAST COMPANY

Fall fair, officials in Georgetown appear to be barking up the right tree with plans to bring in dog races for this year's event. The fair will run Sept. 10 to 12, with the races beginning by mid-afternoon on the Sunday. Bob Massey (above), president of the Ontario Greyhound Racing Association, joined Markham Greyhound Racing Club secretary Tom Rankin at the Georgetown Fairgrounds Saturday afternoon to give fair officials a

glimpse of the exciting action which is avidly followed in the southern U.S. and the United Kingdom. Chasing at the leash, so to speak, are greyhounds Deaglin's Dairy, Rathlin Gyp, Eulce and Here's Spectre. A series of races is planned for the fall fair, each race with about five or six dogs hurtling down a 200-yard track. About 30 dogs will be at the race.

(Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
With legal doubts apparently no longer a problem, town council Monday night agreed to ask residents voting in the November municipal elections whether or not they support the concept of global nuclear disarmament.

The question will be included on ballot slips as Halton Hills becomes one of over 60 municipalities across Canada which have agreed to hold a referendum on the disarmament issue. Bylaws are being drafted to add the question.

Only one town rep., Georgetown Ward 3 Coun. Walter Blehn disapproved of the proposal. Recalling the disarmament movement which followed World War I, Coun. Blehn questioned if World War II might have been avoided or shortened if the Allies had maintained their military strength during the 1920s and '30s.

"I certainly would vote against disarmament," Coun. Blehn said, wondering aloud if the current movement to disarm the world "isn't bringing further trouble upon ourselves."

Councillors Harry Levy, Roy Booth, Mike Armstrong and Marilyn Sergeanton were absent from Monday night's meeting. But disarmament was strongly supported by Mayor Pete Pomeroy.

BLOWN AWAY
"When I think that all the efforts to make the world fit to live in could be blown away in a matter of a few days, it really scares me," he told council.

He declared that council's resolution to include the disarmament question - the exact wording of which has not yet been chosen - was "appropriate", especially since earlier legal questions surrounding the question's inclusion on the ballot have been dealt with by the province's attorney general, Roy McMurtry.

In a June 10 statement, Mr. McMurtry maintained that the courts would have to deal with arguments that the question has no legal place on the ballot. However, he added, anyone trying to fight it in court "undertakes an

almost impossible task" because of its judicial complexity.

PRESENT RISK
If legal questions linger about the referendum, "they are nothing like the risk nuclear warheads (now) present", long-time disarmament supporter Eldon Comfort told councillors.

Speaking on behalf of a local pro-disarmament group, Mr. Comfort stressed that the urgency for nuclear disarmament has become more apparent in the two years since he last spoke to council on the subject.

More countries, many with unstable governments, have entered the nuclear arms race or are about to, he said. Nuclear weapon technology, most recently exemplified by the development of the Trident submarine and the Cruise missile, ensures greater accuracy for target-bound bombs. Continually building up the nuclear arsenal of the world increase the dangers behind "overkill", Mr. Comfort stressed.

But worst of all, he said, if the "new psychology" of militarists and their governments which conceive of "winning" a nuclear war by making the "first strike".

"There was a time when nuclear war was unthinkable," he said, "when no one would dare make the first move. Now, we are talking about winning a nuclear war. That's the part that really frightens me."

Global disarmament would free up billions of dollars now used for military purposes, Mr. Comfort said, money which could feed and educate the world. Putting extra funds towards this purpose might eliminate many of the reasons for war, he added.

More people are becoming aware of the nuclear threat and a wide cross-section of the world's population - from home-makers to politicians - are advocating disarmament and an end to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In Canada, he said, 64 towns have endorsed the disarmament referendum, representing nearly four million Canadians. Operation Dismantle, a Canadian group which wants Canada to take the global disarmament movement into the United Nations (pressing for a world-referendum) compiled the figures.

Mayor Pomeroy described the disarmament issue as too important to get tripped up by a legal "roadblock".
Voters head for the polls Nov. 8.

Cut off, second biker in hospital

Grant Marshall of Metcalfe Court in Georgetown is still in critical condition at Sunnybrook Medical Centre in Toronto after he was involved in an accident July 30. Mr. Marshall, was travelling north on Highway 7 after turning from Ewing Street in Georgetown when his motorcycle slipped on the rain-slicked road. Mr. Marshall was thrown into the median dividing the highway and suffered major injuries.

Meanwhile, another local motorcyclist involved in an accident near the Hill-Road-Guelph Street intersection Saturday night is listed in fair condition at Sunnybrook. Keith Williams' motorcycle spilled after he was apparently cut off by another vehicle. He is being treated at the hospital's surgical progressive care unit.

Apology from Yugoslavian head fails to sway council

Centre's restrictions remain



Georgetown lawyer Jack Wallinga failed to convince town council Monday night to change its mind about restrictions placed on celebrations to be held later this month at the Canadian-Yugoslavian cultural centre south of Acton.

And he says that Canadian-Yugoslavian Cultural Association president Nick Cajic regrets comments he made following council's July 28 meeting, when he suggested his group might take its conflict with the town before Ontario's Human Rights Commission. Mr. Wallinga was representing the Association Monday night.

Despite the "official" apology, council remained unwayed by Mr. Wallinga's arguments that the town's noise bylaw already protects residents and doesn't need to be shored up by restrictions attached to liquor permits.

Throughout the summer, council has had to arbitrate noise disputes between cultural centre representatives and neighbors living near the centre's Highway 25 location.

Two weeks ago, council determined that its endorsement of liquor licence applications for events planned Aug. 15 and 29 would come only with assurances that public address (PA) systems would not be used at the centre.

When charges were laid last year under the town's noise bylaw against Mr. Cajic, but later dismissed on a technicality, Mr. Wallinga said Mr. Cajic never had the opportunity to defend himself.

Mr. Wallinga argued that complaints about noise at the centre are coming from people who live about one-half mile from the centre; yet, people living closer to the property haven't objected to activities at the centre.

The noise bylaw, he added, isn't meant to guarantee residents "absolute" peace and quiet but is designed to establish a "reasonable amount of peace, quiet and comfort" for neighbors. He maintained that com-

plaints, particularly from Third Line residents, were "subjective" and noted there have never been any "objective tests or studies" carried out to establish whether noise levels at the centre exceed an acceptable standard.

PA restrictions have not been attached to other community events (except for those planned at the Croatian Centre near Norval). Mr. Wallinga noted. He added that Mr. Cajic has agreed to sign an affidavit saying he will be responsible for events

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THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF BOWLING GREEN

Once the leaves overhead begin to change color (and can that time be far away?), 20 local boys and girls will say goodbye to the Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club on Edith Street, at least for the season. They've been gathering there since spring for Thursday afternoon bowling sessions with instructor Shirley Chaplin (left) and have come to know about as much as you can in a non-competitive format about the

relaxing, outdoor leisure sport that perennially attracts participants of all ages. Among those soon to wind up the youngsters' lessons are, (left to right) David Payne, 8, Teri Cowbrough, 12, Danny Brennan, 11, Michael James, 8, Blake Smith, 8, and Gordon Burke, 10.

(Herald photo by Dave Rowney)

Rest home rules 'free-floating', Reed seeks ministry changes

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed has called on provincial health minister Larry Grossman to introduce legislation setting clear guidelines for senior citizens' rest homes in Ontario.

Mr. Reed, responding to the dispute between

Cher's Rest Home in Acton and Halton region's health department, said Monday "the public must be assured of the safe operations of rest homes and specific regulations must be set forth to determine exactly what is expected of (their)

operators."

Currently, there is no legislation concerning the operation of rest homes, but there are ministry of health guidelines they must follow, along with boarding houses and group homes.

Mr. Reed described the

guidelines as "free-floating", adding that they do not meet the specific needs of rest homes.

The controversy involving Cher's and the region "is classic evidence that the present guidelines are not sufficient to regulate rest homes," Mr. Reed

said. "Regulations must be laid down," he added, "so that rest home operators and medical officers of health know exactly what is expected of them and to ensure the standardization of rest homes across the province."

DANGEROUS DIVING

Despite a near drowning at the same spot last month and repeated warnings from authorities about the paper mill dam's fishway gate, which creates strong currents underwater, the lure of the Credit River above Glen Williams regularly proves too much for local youngsters. These boys enjoyed an accident-free swim last weekend, ignoring the apparent risks.

(Herald photos by Harald Bransch)