

Erin Soaring Society will share joys of gliding with fair-goers

You'll see special glider display

By IAN OLDAKER
Herald Special

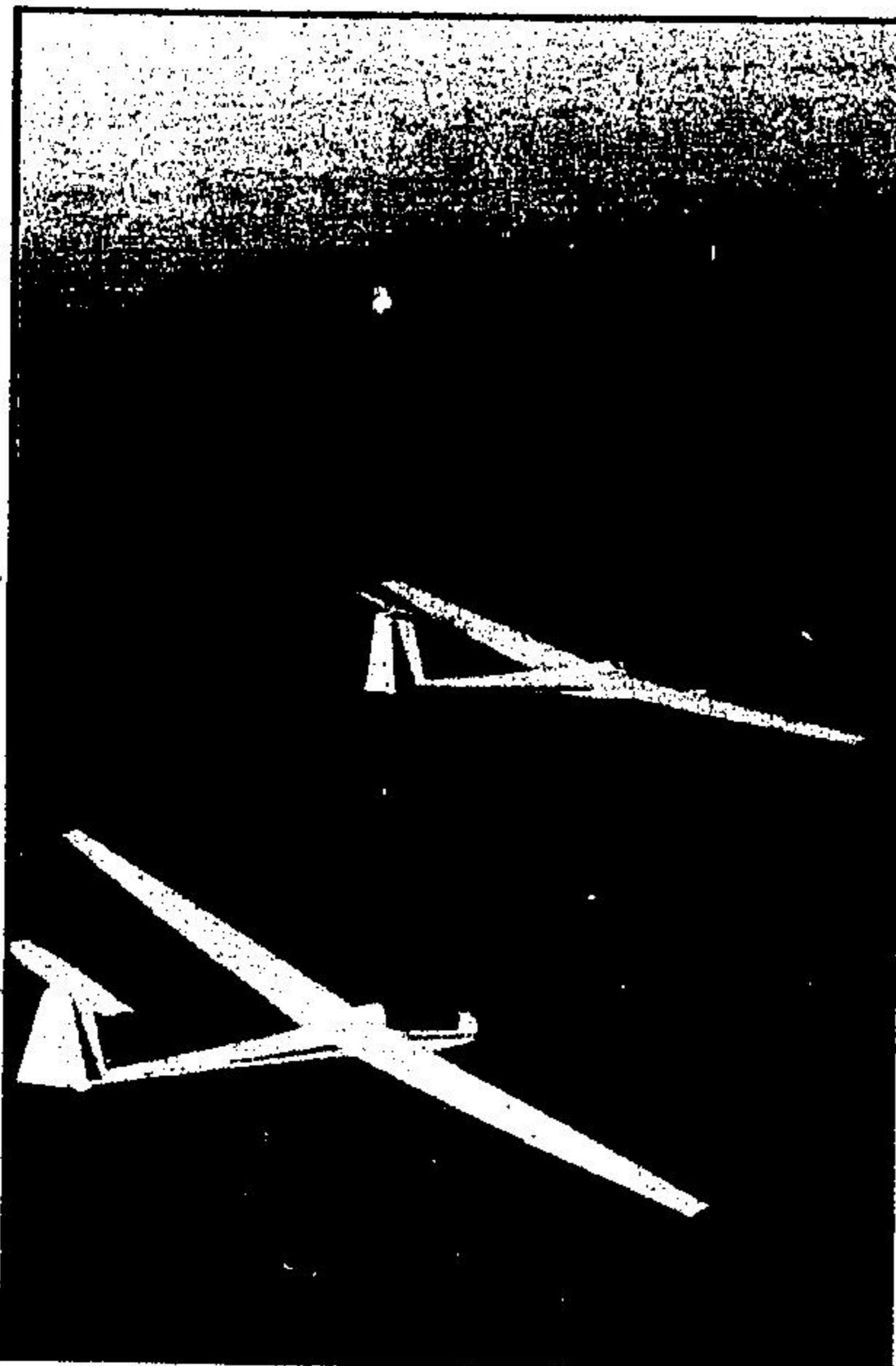
The sport of soaring is enjoyed from coast to coast in Canada by many men and women who belong to clubs such as the Erin Soaring Society.

A group of approximately 40 enthusiasts, the club has members who live from Georgetown to Richmond Hill and Scarborough. About a dozen sailplanes belonging to the club, individuals and syndicates can be seen flying each weekend throughout the summer near Grand Valley (the club moved north from Erin last summer). There are of course other clubs in the area!

Gliding, or soaring, is an individual sport (though we need other club members to fly the towplane and to help get launched), and a pilot's achievements are marked by the earning of badges, performance in contests or perhaps by record setting.

The first badge (the "A" badge) is awarded for going solo, and progress to the "C" badge is usually quite rapid. International badges (silver, gold and "diamonds") become progressively more difficult and range from a 1000-metre gain in altitude to a 500-kilometre flight for a distance diamond - yes, men can wear diamonds in this sport.

However many pilots just enjoy the challenge of staying up, of using updrafts to gain altitude, to prolong a flight from a



few minutes to several hours.

Canadian clubs belong to the national Soaring Association of Canada that sets training programs for instructors and students under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transport.

Club instructors receive their training within the club and or Association and in turn train new pilots for their licences. It is possible to go for a "familiarisation" flight in a two-seater sailplane to experience the joys of soaring at first hand, and

to see something of how people are taught to fly.

The illustration shows two "Lark" sailplanes, a single seat model flying with a two-seat trainer over Manitoba. The single seat Lark now belongs to a member with the Erin club.

Trotters are long gone, but still racing returns

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town so much that they helped to found Steam Era in Milton (held each Labor Day weekend) in 1961. Before he became a police officer, my dad was raised on a farm and he used to thresh with an old steam engine. Later in the 1950s, he bought some steam engines as a hobby. He used to restore and parade them occasionally and, of course, he was always in Milton with his engines in the early days of Steam Era.

Steam Era and fall fairs are different attractions with different aims. At Milton, we look back to show "the kids" what it was like in the old days. At fall fairs, we attempt to take what was good about yesterday and make use of it (with some changes) for the present. We showcase the best of today's agriculture, crafts and the like for the education, information and enjoyment of the community and the neighbors "round about.

Some may do it better. Others, maybe not so well. But the Agricultural

"Treasured Memories"

Society does their best to present a good fair for the enjoyment of all.

MORE FOR YOU

Georgetown fair is 136 years old this year. It is a tradition that is valued by some and not by others. Its future will be decided by its value to the community which it serves. If it is valued and esteemed and enjoyed as I enjoy fairs, it will certainly be preserved. If it is not, it will be discontinued and become just another memory for all of us.

But in the meantime, it's here. A few weeks earlier than usual, Georgetown fair continues in September in the hope of better weather, lengthened to three days to attract more people. "More for you in '82" is the slogan of Georgetown fair this year. I hope there is. But if it falls short, a little here, a little there,

I'm not worried. Because Fair Days need not be perfect to become treasured memories. They just have to happen. The animals, the baking, the races, the candy floss, the midway, the people.

In all the years I attended fairs, I don't suppose we ever attended a "perfect" fair. But, it never

mattered. I loved them all. Whenever I see a snorting sulky coming down the track, hear the whistle of an old steam engine, or see an apple pie with a red ribbon, I recall many other happy times. - And I think of those countless workers at those many other fairs. And I am grateful.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The author's parents mentioned above were Lorna Campbell Rogers of Norval and Georgetown and David Rogers of Streetsville, later stationed in Oakville and other centres of the province.



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Pet Show seeks Joyce's 'twin'

Good thing she's a good sport!

The Children's Pet Show will be held again this year at Georgetown fall fair. A popular feature at last year's fair, the competition is open to boys and girls 14 years of age and under.

Contest organizer Mona Milne advises that all pets must be on a leash or in a cage, and that each pet may compete in as many classes as it qualifies for.

The pet that most resembles the president of the Agricultural Society, Joyce Gosling, will receive a ribbon and cash prize, and other prizes will go to the most unusual pet, best trick performance, best pair of pets, four cat categories, and five dog categories.

These include fluffiest cat, most colorful cat, best dressed dog, saddest looking dog and so on.

Registration is at 10:30 Saturday morning at the Entertainment Tent on the fairgrounds, judging to commence about 11. Georgetown fair will be held this weekend - Friday, Saturday and Sunday - with a full program of events and entertainment.



JOYCE GOSLING: Does your pet resemble the Agricultural Society president?

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