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## ESTIMATED 12,000 ATTEND GEORGETOWN FALL FAIR



The era of wagons pulled by majestic heavy horses returned briefly to the Georgetown fall fair over the weekend and the look back was much appreciated by the record crowds which passed through the gates to participate in the fair's new three-day format. There were new attractions to see and the agricultural contests attracted more entries

this year. Fall fair "fever" continues this weekend starting Friday with the Acton fair and its wealth of events drawing spectators and participants from across Ontario. Everyone is invited out to celebrate the harvest season and even try hay bale tossing or the farmer's walk. (Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

### Record attendance and balmy weather

## Who'd ask for anything more?

By **BETTYANNE WELLSTEAD**  
Herald Special  
The sun shone on Halton

Hills over the weekend with temperatures hovering in the 80s as record crowds turned out for the 136th annual Georgetown

Fair and rewarded the Agricultural Society in its quest for increased fair attendance. "It's difficult for us to

estimate the numbers that came through the gates during the three days of the fair," says Joyce Gosling, president of the Georgetown Agricultural Society. "The Lions Club look after the gates for us, and on Friday evening, there was no admission charge or records of any kind kept."

"Certainly, with the expansion to Sunday, we definitely added to our best attendance figures of recent years. With children, exhibitors and others, I could only estimate possibly 12,000 visited the fairgrounds throughout the weekend."

On the whole Mrs. Gosling said, the Society is very pleased with the success of the fair. Attendance was excellent, with Saturday the bigger of the two days. The greyhound races and goat show Sunday attracted a good number of people and many visitors from outside the area. Other fairs have found that Sunday attractions outdraw Saturday, but this was not the case here. As this was the first Sunday event in the fair's long history, Mrs. Gosling feels attendance will certainly grow.

A large crowd gathered around the track Sunday afternoon to enjoy the greyhound races conducted by the Ontario Greyhound Association, as the fleet-footed animals bounded down the track at speeds of approximately 40 miles an hour.

The A.E. LePage Realty Stakes was won by "Speedy Rick", owned by R. Hyslop, with a time of 12:20 seconds, and the

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### NEW AT THE ACTON FAIR

The excitement is mounting as Acton fair days approach. This year there's a special treat in store for people who like to laugh a lot. Sunday at 2 p.m. on the Acton arena stage, there'll be an hour-long contest between seven teams representing town councillors, school teachers, service clubs, firefighters, businessmen, media and the Theta Phi sorority. Getting some pre-event practice on a trike Monday night were (left to right) "referee" Fred Shea, 14, volunteer firefighter Gary Pickles, Theta Phi member Maggie Hall, volunteer firefighter Bob Lindsay and Theta Phi vice-president Bev Owen.

## Town won't approve drive without Croatian plan

By **CHRIS AAGAARD**  
Herald Staff Writer

Before town council approves an entranceway off Winston Churchill Boulevard into the Croatian Centre south of Norval, it wants the owners to submit a comprehensive plan of development for the 160-acre property.

In a confusing debate Monday night in which Coun. Pam Sheldon called the Croatians victims of "bureaucratic bungling", the town's general committee recalled that it had asked for the comprehensive plan several months ago when it rejected the centre's bid to establish a nine-acre cemetery on its property.

But Croatian representative Tony Kikas maintained that centre officials are unsure whether they should submit a land use plan as suggested by their solicitor or a comprehensive plan - two similar,

yet different, documents. In addition, there was some confusion about whether the centre should be dealing with the town's committee of adjustment or directly with council.

**GO AHEAD**  
Having received permission from Halton region in August 1981, to go ahead with the entranceway, the centre earlier this summer began construction. The new access, about 100 yards south of an existing driveway into the centre, is 90 per cent completed, Mr. Kikas acknowledged, but the centre's plans have been hindered recently by red tape concerning inter-region jurisdictions.

Winston Churchill Boulevard, while separating Peel and Halton regions, is maintained by Peel. Work on the new access is almost finished on the Croatian property, but they must now have a culvert permit to cross the

ditch between the road and the access.

Mr. Kikas argued that the process for getting a permit is usually fast, but he believes politics have been brought into the issue, causing the delay. Residents in the area who previously voiced concern about noise from celebrations at the centre, are worried the new entrance will cause traffic problems on Churchill.

Lawyer James Beatty, representing some residents living near the centre, supported the town's demand for a comprehensive plan, which includes an assessment of traffic flow in and out of the centre during festive weekends.

Although permission for the new access was given last year, Coun. Sheldon noted that construction wasn't started until this year and wanted to know why centre officials didn't

wait until they had presented a comprehensive plan and it was reviewed by council.

Mr. Kikas said the centre is "not prepared to submit a comprehensive plan at this time". Work was started, he said, when the town's fire department expressed concern that the existing driveway leading to a house would not be safe for heavy firetrucks in an emergency.

(The committee later agreed that temporary work on the driveway has made it usable for fire engines).

The general committee's recommendation opposing the entranceway will be sent to Peel council for review later this week. Some councillors following Monday night's discussions privately expressed doubt that the town's position could sway a matter over which Peel has control.

## Victims' parents ponder unanswered questions

# Coroner's jurors can't answer 'why?'

By **ANI FEDERIAN**  
Herald Staff Writer

How two Acton boys drowned July 19 remained a mystery despite the testimony of 25 witnesses at a coroner's inquest held last Wednesday and Thursday nights.

The inquest into the drowning deaths of seven-year old Brent Patey and Nick Dimic at Acton's Prospect Park this summer left questions in the minds of the parents.

"There are still some unanswered questions," Clarence Patey, Brent's father, said. "Nobody saw anything and to lose two boys in that span of time... I still don't have the answers in my mind."

"I just don't understand how nobody saw them drown," his wife agreed.

The boys had been dead for some time before separate searches of Fairy Lake located their bodies. According to pathologist Dr. Gordon Longfield, who performed post mortems on the two boys, it was unlikely either boy had struggled or surfaced after they went under water.

He said nibbling marks inflicted after death by an aquatic animal such as fish or turtles indicated the bodies had been underwater for some time.

**BOTH DIE**

The five-man jury was sequestered to deliberate about 11:30 Thursday night by Coroner Allister MacIntosh.

"I think we've all been shocked and shaken by the fact that two young, innocent kids should both die at the same time," he said.

Dr. MacIntosh noted there was no direct evidence of the boys going under.

"The area appears particularly dangerous around the willow tree (on private property to the east and fenced off from the beach) where it's possible the two boys were

playing on a picnic table, an area which is beyond the jurisdiction of our lifeguards," he said.

The boys were spotted playing on a picnic table in the edge of the water at one point by witnesses Jake Ram, 14, and Terry Corkum.

Halton regional police crime prevention officer Scott Pringle was called upon to search the lake bottom the evening of the two drownings. A qualified diver, Const. Pringle said he found that past the buoy line there's a sloping drop-off which becomes a 22 foot deep channel. The channel is much closer to the shore by the willow

tree, where the drop-off begins four feet from shore.

Const. Pringle said that because of a dam to the east, a slight current is created and it's possible the current brought the boys' bodies back to the swimming area. The bodies were found about 25 feet beyond the buoyed area, approximately three feet apart.

**UNDERCURRENT**

The officer testified that the water in the buoyed area is very shallow and there is no undercurrent.

Mr. and Mrs. Patey told The Herald that although they've lived in Acton for seven years they never

knew about a drop-off in the water. Mr. Patey said, however, that his children recently told him about it.

As Const. Pringle's evidence revealed the drop-off to be most severe where the willow tree is located, Mr. Patey objected to the fact that children have easy access to it.

"Just don't leave a pure, clear walkway for the kids," he said.

Although there is a fence separating the beach from the private property, it is still possible to cross over via a concrete block in which the last fence post is imbedded.

The jury deliberated for

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### ELECTION CENTRAL

## Young, Barrager seek Ward 3 votes

### Acton's Esther Taylor in running

Three additional candidates have decided to vie for municipal office in the Nov. 10 election following announcements last week.

Jim Young and David Barrager have entered the race in Georgetown's Ward 3 in which there are two open local seats. Regional councillor Roy Booth has yet to announce if he'll seek re-election in Ward 3 and John McDonald, who has served two terms as local rep for the ward, has stated he'll run for the regional position.

Walter Blehn, who holds the ward's remaining local seat, plans to retire when the current term expires.

Meanwhile, Acton residents Esther Taylor is also gearing up for a campaign in her community. She told The Herald Monday she'll be after a local position in Ward 1, campaigning against incumbents Terry Grubbe and Rosa Knechtel.

Coun. Knechtel said last week that he'll join Coun. Grubbe seeking re-election, adding that he's pleased with the teamwork and performance of the outgoing council.

**FIRST WOMAN**  
Miss Taylor retired last year from the Acton library, where she had worked for 26 years. She was Acton's first woman councillor when she first ran for office in the early 1950s.

Mr. Young is also no stranger to municipal politics, having served on the former Georgetown council between 1962 and the 1969 election year. He is a former deputy reeve of Georgetown, a position similar to today's office of regional councillor. He will likely run for a local seat, he said last week, expressing an interest in town finances and "getting better value for our money".

David Barrager, the proprietor of Barrager's Cleaners in Georgetown, ran unsuccessfully during the last election for a local seat in Ward 3. He said he'll begin door-knocking shortly to drum up votes and to express his concerns about how taxpayers' money is being managed locally and by regional government. He also sees some deficiencies

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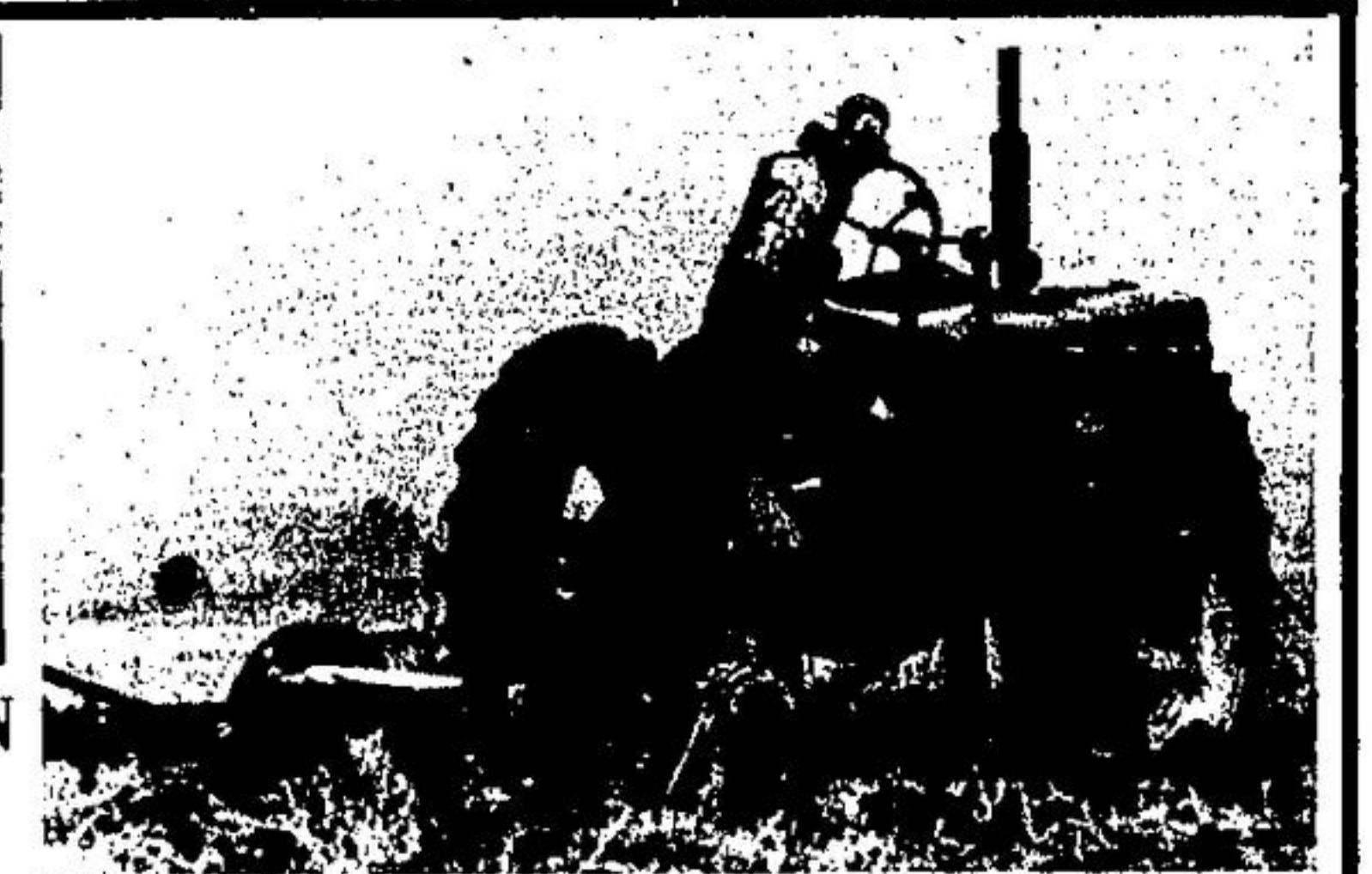


Georgetown Coun. John McDonald, literally, took the election plunge over the weekend. Perched precariously in the Kinsmen dunking tank at the Georgetown fall fair, he helped raise funds for Kinsmen community projects and cystic fibrosis research. Other celebrities who "did time" in the tank Saturday and Sunday include Mayor Pete Pomeroy and Herald editor Paul Dorsey.



### HORNBY GIRL QUEEN OF THE FURROW

There were 29 entries at the Halton Plowing Match Saturday held on land farmed by Harold and Norm Biggar at the southwest corner of Oakville's Lower Base Line and Trafalgar Road. Several of the farmers competing in the competition and vying for a chance to compete later this month at the International Plowing Match in Lucan, Ontario, were from Halton Hills. Later that evening, Hornby's Susan Livingston was



named Halton's Queen of the Furrow during a post-match banquet at St. Stephen's Anglican Church. Brian Wingfield, who farms along Halton Hills' Fifth Line, was one of the competitors in the match's antique tractor or steam class. Georgetown's Doug McPhail won second place in this category. Limehouse's Allan Cunningham claimed first place in class 2B, expertly plowing with his Ford 3600 four furrows.

