



GAMES AUTHORESSES PLAY

Any youngster who's had to move can relate to the sympathies expressed in Heather McKend's "Moving Gives Me a Stomach Ache". Ms. McKend was one of the guests at the Georgetown library Saturday afternoon, entertaining youngsters with a reading from her book and then leading the crowd through a series of playful

games. Ms. McKend is finishing her fourth year in an English honors Bachelor of Arts program at King's College, Queen's University and published "Moving" two years ago, at the age of 18.

(Herald photo - by Chris Asgaard)

Wild chase on Fairy Lake

Town crews take charge, Acton swans find home

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

The three yellow trucks stole silently into town late last Tuesday afternoon to carry out a very secret mission.

The mayor had decreed that the job would be done, but not a man in the crew was about to betray their destination, at least not to any reporter who might embarrass them.

Everyone has been on at least one wild goose chase-but attending the "swan song" at Acton's Fairy Lake is just a bit more entertaining. The birds were freezing on a rapidly closing section of the lake. Action was necessary.

First, you need lots of bait. Arena manager Harold Townsley supplied that and the shore was lined with corn and popcorn by the time the six accomplices arrived. Mr. Townsley was sweetening the lure by spreading dried bread at the edge of the water.

The next step is to persuade the 14 white birds to leave the safety of the tiny patch of open water in favor of the ice and bait. The approach of the town workmen sent all the wild ducks and Canada geese who prefer heavenward toward the other end of the lake.

The handicapped victims, the swans, whose wings have been clipped to prevent such an avenue of escape, circle nervously and defy the men to move them.

When coaxing fails the men resort to rougher tactics and trail a rope across the water to push the graceful birds out of the water. With all the grace and skill at their command the beautiful birds calmly slide over the rope and paddle merrily away to the other side of the open water.

Waste report

Continued from page A1 north into the southeasterly portion of Halton Hills which includes some Zone 2 land. Much of this Zone 2 area can immediately be eliminated because it contains water-sheds and permeable soil. More can be eliminated because of its proximity to significant population centres.

"It should also be pointed out that any waste disposal site should be surrounded by a large empty 'envelope' area. This would further reduce the number of possible sites in Halton.

"Beyond these observations it would be premature to speculate whether any area in Zone 2 in Halton would be considered. However, the possibility cannot be discounted.

"There has been some concern that the area under the epicenter, known as Site F, might be a candidate because of its transportation proximity. It is not in an area of consideration and it is interesting to observe that if Dr. Chant's study is credible, the argument against using Site F as a dump is even further enhanced."

Annoyed, the men begin shipping the ropes up and down in the water until spray flies to coat the birds - and workmen with beads of ice.

Gradually in ones and twos the birds are forced out of the water, chased down by a grim-faced human opponent and carried off hissing and honking to be deposited in the back of a specially-provided town truck. It doubles as a garbage truck to collect materials set out for the Divide and Conquer program.

Could the sign on the truck be the inspiration that enables the men to pick off their victims one by one until only one wily creature remains?

The bird is no fool. When it discovers itself being crowded between two ropes and surrounded by six men, it skips nimbly over the rope and charges, wins a falling moment of surprise and races up a hill toward the camerawoman.

She immediately does an equally graceful back-step over her own feet in the icy parking lot and

misses the photo of the day as a workman does a running dive over the bird, slips and falls upon it.

The bird is quick and by the time the man is beginning to feel guilty about harming it, the bird is scooting out from underneath his captor and taking aim for the front gate of the park.

A chase is on and the bird finally gets napped, exhausted, and is thrown into the bowels of the Divide and Conquer truck.

Off goes the truck with a reporter numbly in pursuit.

The truck stops at the pollution control plant. Workmen jump out and, with a rumble, the over-

head rear door swings up. Slowly and cautiously the 14 swans peak over the tallgate. Freedom.

With their necks curved gracefully so they can see down their elegant black beaks at the snow into which they intend to step, the birds hop from the truck. Then with proper disdain for the men who pursued them, the mascots of Fairy Lake waddle down the bank into the warmer water of the plant less than 1000 metres from where they were first captured.

The men dusted their hands and smiled smugly. Those swans were moved and it only took an hour.

-Courtesy
Guelph Mercury

Gravel sites listed

A number of Halton Hills sites are listed as possible sources of gravel for a provincial ministry of transportation and communications highway contract. The six Halton Hills pits are near Acton, Limehouse, Georgetown and Glen Williams. Tenders for the project will be called Feb. 2. The construction project is on a section of Highway 27.

Board, teachers clash on hiring stance

Contract 'tug of war'

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer
A mass turnout of elementary school teachers is expected to pack the Halton board of education meeting tomorrow (Thursday) night. Teachers will be protesting the board's hiring stance on current contract negotiations.

The tug of war over staffing at the elementary level is being blamed for keeping teachers' salary negotiations from reaching a conclusion.

"Everything has been resolved except the staffing issue," Halton Elementary Teachers' Association (HETA) president Robert Filman said Monday.

HETA is looking for an additional 38 elementary school teachers for 1983-84, but the board is only willing to take on 24 more, he said.

Contract negotiations with elementary teachers have dragged long past their usual September wrap-up date. The November municipal election and the provincial and federal governments' wage restraint laws have kept the two sides from an early settlement.

Declining enrolment is

expected to do away with about 25 teaching positions with the board next year, Mr. Filman said.

However, the HETA president is not worried. He anticipates there will be sufficient retirements and voluntary terminations to cover these eliminated positions, so that current staff won't be facing lay-offs.

HETA wants another 12 teachers on the board's payroll to make up for the implementation of new board programs like core French and special education.

"They won't solve all the problems-not by a long shot, but they'll alleviate the worse cases, classes with 39 kids," Mr. Filman said.

The additional 12 teachers will cost approximately \$300,000, a sum which Mr. Filman said is 20 cents a month per rate payer.

The core French program has required additional staffing to be implemented, adding 60 teachers to the board payroll over the past five years, Mr. Filman said. During the same time, 66 teachers have been hired because of the province's Bill 82 requirements for special education.



BRING ON THE HAGGIS

Members of Georgetown's British Club sat down to an interesting meal of cock-a-leekie soup, mashed neeps, chapliti tatties and, of course, haggis as they celebrated the birth of Scottish poet laureate Robert (that's Rabble) Burns. The celebration, which took place in the St. George's Anglican church hall Saturday night featured the traditional piping in of the haggis by George Greig. Following close behind and carrying the men's main attraction was Katrina Paterson. The haggis, a concoction of ground meat and grain stuffed into a sheep's stomach, is referred to as the "King of Foods" and was properly addressed by an eloquent Hugh Shearer, president of the British Club. Later in the evening, Miss Paterson and Christine Stang entertained diners with traditional Scottish dances.

(Herald photo)

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