1884 marks beginning of Bell's 'social chats'

Herald Special The opening of the Bell Telephone exchanges in Georgetown and Acton in November of 1884 was greeted almost casually. The Acton editor reported a satisfactory "social chat" with his Guelph counterpart and went on in the next issue to complain that nothing had been done to fix a street lamp broken sometime previous by Bell's careless employees.

But why should anyone, at least in Acton, get excited about the arrival of the Bell monopoly, when just two years before this another telephone had been invented locally?

Acton's Early Days attributes the invention to Cy Stafford and Bob Hac. While Rae was never mentioned in the contemporary accounts of the new wonder, shortly after it was patented, he dld take six months leave of absence from his post as the Grand Trunk Railway station agent. Most of the credit, however, was heaped on Cyrus V. Stafford, a 23 year old teamster, who announced his patent in December

Other men mentioned in connection with the new enterprise included Henry F. Hill, who came home from Buffalo to manage the office, and A.H. Selwood and James Matthews, who took up the rights to market the new product.

> ACOUSTIC TELEPHONE "Stafford's Acoustic Telephone"

was described as being "on an entirely new principle, being on a wire without battery or electricity in any form." It was, H.P. Moore claimed, "much clearer on short distances than the electric telephone" and thus was ideal for private lines, say from home to office or factory, or from hotel room to front desk. To demonstrate its value a line was installed between Moore's newspaper office and J.E. McGarvin's drug store, another line between Matthew's post office and Nicklin's bakery and a third demonstration line in London, Ontario. All three attracted considerable

attention and much "helloing" ensued. Limehouse gathering

While the "Stafford Acoustic Telephone" ultimately failed to be competilive because it couldn't be integrated into the general telephone network, It certainly took the edge off the enthusiasm with which Bell was later greeted.

The new Bell agencies had been established in McGarvin's Drug Store in Acton and J.H. Jackson's stationery and furniture shop in Georgetown. Within a year these men had installed 14 plienes in Acton and all of 20 in Georgetown and Glen Williams. The new service was principally a business tool, Acton having only two residential installations, at W.D. Beardmore's and H.P. Moore's and Georgetown three, John R. and Joseph Barber and G.S. Goodwillie.

It is not surprising that the Barber brothers so readily took the telephone Into their homes. Apart from their pioneering work with electrification, just before the Acton version of the telephone was announced, they had petitioned Bell to establish a local

In both places the medical men were early subscribers, as were the railway companies, manufacturers and newspaper offices. Thus it is not surprising that the major advantage was seen to be the direct communication with Guelph, Hamilton, Toronto and other communities.

By 1892 Bell hours were from 8 a.m. lo8 p.m. Monday to Saturday with shorter hours on Sundays and holidays. By that point the Bell rates had climbed to 25 cents for the first five minutes of a long distance call and were being closely regulated by a government committee.

Rural telephone service would not come to the Hornby, Ashgrove area until an independent company was set up almost 25 years after Bell started servicing the northern villages.

Within eight years of Professor Bell's invention of the telephone, There was regular service in Acton and Georgetown. But two enterprising young Acton inventors deserve the honour for first bringing the telephone to north Halton.

Staffing the switchboard in Halton Hills: two enterprising Acton inventors deserve the honor for first bringing the telephone to north Halton.

Roselands Junior Public School will be holding their 60th reunion Saturday May 23 from 2 p.m. until

Those requesting more information for the reunion at the school on 990 Jane Street, Toronto, can phone 416-823-7565.

Kelso Conservation Area presents THIRD ANNUAL **KELSO TROUT FISHING DERBY**

Sat. May 7th and Sun. May 8th 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration: \$3.00; \$2.00 Juniors (12 & under) and Senior Citizens (60 & over)

Reservoir stocked with 10-24" Rainbow Trout

Prizes:

- * LARGEST FISH each day (Jumor & Senior categories) * BEST MESS each day (Juneor & Server categories)
- . LARGEST FISH CAUGHT FROM BOAT Saturday * LARGEST FISH CAUGHT BY SENIOR CITIZEN

Also:

- · Camping for Derby from Friday evening; \$3.00 per person per night
- Boat Rentals · Early Bird Pancake Breakfast, 6:00 · 11:00 a.m.
- Snack Bars

For more information: (416) 878-5011



Halton Region Conservation Authority

St. John's spring fair

St. John's United-Church is holding an ann ual spring fair and silent auction May 7. The fun and fellowship starts at 10 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m.

A list, of the silent nuction items will be available at the church office after May 1. Call 877-2531 for more information.

Every Night At The Movies Most children like to be frightened by horror movies.

Associate Tax Consultants

INCOME TAX RETURNS DONE

Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. " Friday 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Saturday

101 GUELPH ST., GEORGETOWN 877-2217

McDonald's Colouring Contest



TAKE A TOUR OF McDONALD'S

and see what goes on behind the scenes

Great for groups of all ages. To reserve your tour: call McDonald's at

877-0221

LAST WEEK'S WHNERS SHERLEY LOUISE JOSHUA MARKUS DAVID PEGG 20 McGilvray Cr. 14 Stockman Cr. 29 Guelph St. Georgetown

Win McDonald's. **Gift Certificates And Watches**

MAME

SUBART YOUR ENTRY TO THE HERALD

OFF CHIPCATES POSED OF AT HOUSE DIVISION

BMX — Style Bicycle Races At the Bang-O-Rama Georgetown Fairgrounds Monday, May 23

Sponsored by Georgetown Optimists

'Scouting World' film

By JEAN LAYMAN Herald Special "Scouting World", the first segment of a series of films was shown to beavers, cubs, scouts, venturers, leaders, parents and guests at the annual parent and son banquet for 1st Limehouse Scouting group. The films were shown in St. Alban's Church hall Thursday evening.

A sumptuous dinner was enjoyed by all, put on by Elaine Hannah and Evelyn Owen in charge.

Group committee chairman Tom Hill welcomed the gathering. This was followed by Mr. Hill giving Thanks with the blessing.

Mr. Hill introduced head table guests which included Mrs. Cannon, president of the Women's Institute (the Institute being the sponsor for Ist Limehouse), Gord Douglas president of North Halton District Council, Darren Hill, Jean Bel-- District Service Team, John Sharples -District Commissioner. Jean Layman - Public Relations Officer, Sandy Booth - Venturer Co-ordinator, scouter Dennis White, son Robert White, and scouter Gerry Fish.

Mr. Hill introduced all section leaders and

HOLY CROSS

ROMAN CATHOLIC

CHURCH

224 Maple Ave.

Georgetown

PASTOR Father Dave Cola ASST. PASTOR

Father Con O'Mahony

MASSES

Saturday: 7:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m.

For Information call:

277-3563

and 12:00 noon

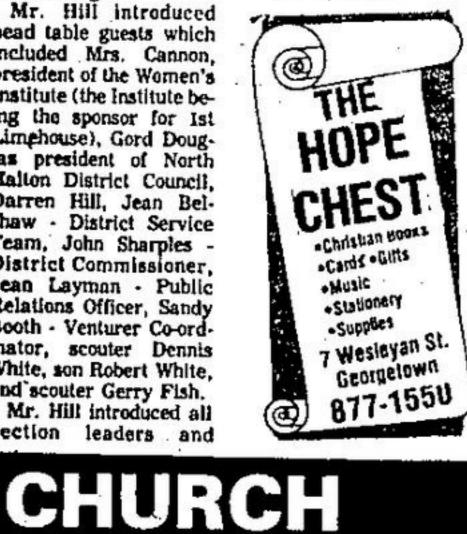
DIRECTORY

thanked each and everyone for the time spent providing good programs, training and fellowship for the boys.

Mothers serving the dinner received a good round of applause, as well as Mrs: Hannah and Mrs. Owen. Mr. Hill presented gifts to Mrs. Hannah and Mrs. Owen for a job well

District Commissioner John Sharples was very pleased to present scouters John Grace and Dennis White with their Part Three parchment for their Wood Badge.

Mr. Hill introduced Dennis White who had two TV sets to show "Scouting World"



This Weekend

Attend The

Church of

Your Choice

WE'RE RIGHT ON TIME CO-OP

Open Monday Through Friday Until

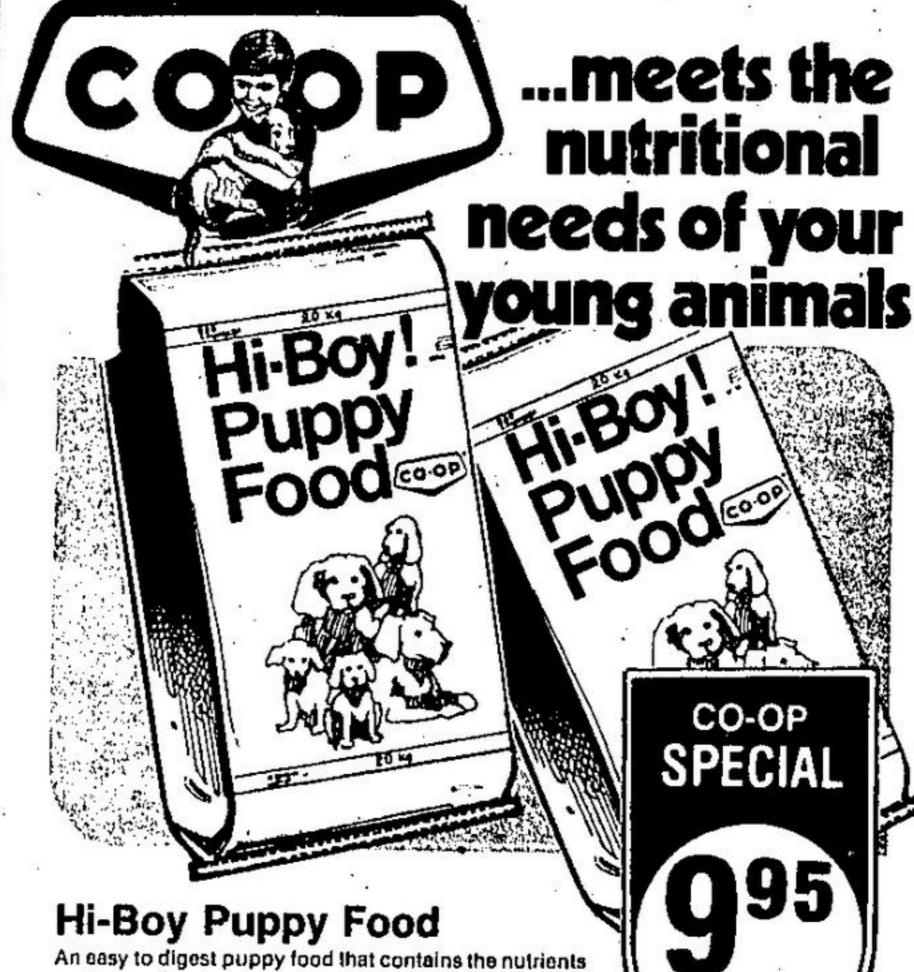


Shop CO-OP's Weekly Good Values!



NOW OPEN! centre for a large selection and

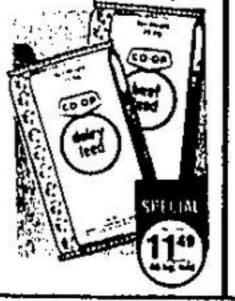




necessary for the first, crucial twelve months-extra protein for strong muscles, calcium for strong bones and teeth.

CO-OP's 18% CALF GROWER RATION

A combination mash and pellet feed containing steam-flaked grains. Specially formulated to start your calves off right.



"Visit our new farm counter. We carry a complete line of specialty feeds, fertilizers, chemicals, etc.'

10 kg. bag

UNITED CO-OPERATIVES OF ONTARIO **MONDAY-FRIDAY** 7:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

877-2271



MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH PASTOR . Edwis H. Mitchell **877-6665 — 877-032**0 EVERY SUNDAY 9:45 a.m. Family Bible School 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Biblical Preaching Worship - Praise

WEEKDAYS Prayer & Bible Study Youth Recreation Boys - Guis Clubs Little Cherub Hursery

MONTHLY

Adult Followships

Ladies Missions

Sanlor Adults Visitors Welcome GEORGETOWN **ALLIANCE** CHURCH 14 Main St. S.,

Georgetown PASTOR Rey. Peter Rates, B.A., M. Cir. CALL: 877-9816 Morning Service 11:00 a.m

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Evening Service 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Prayer 7:00 p.m. Macting A CHURCHOF THE CHOCKHAN &

NISCIONARY ALLIANCE IN CANADA



SATURDAY

8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.