

Former beauty queens highlight events at Acton fair

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

What has roots dating back 70 years and is still considered fun and exciting by the little ones of 1983?

The Acton fall fair, naturally. Since its humble beginnings in 1913, the annual event has continued to grow and improve.

An entertaining way to spend a day or a weekend, the Sept. 16-18 fair is a crowd pleaser for all ages and backgrounds. It brings rural and urban people together to appreciate the historic development of

rural Ontario.

The fair board wants to make sure you feel like you're a part of the fair and not just a spectator this year.

To that end, the fair board is offering a huge variety of events in which you can get involved.

"We're trying to get something for everybody," Acton fair president Keith Aitken told The Herald. "Things that people from town and the neighboring areas can get involved with."

Besides having a good time with the family,

the fair may also pad your pockets with the green stuff if you're a prize winner in any of the hundreds of classes.

According to a publication by the association of fairs, only 12 fairs in Ontario gave out more prize money than the Acton fair last year, Mr. Aitken said. Over \$30,000 in prize monies were given out.

The fair program begins on Friday, Sept. 16 with the Arabian Horse Show at 10 a.m.

GROWING

"It's something we've had for years now and it seems to grow each

year," Mr. Aitken said.

As in previous years, the activities are being held at Acton's Prospect Park, near the junction of Highways 7 and 23.

CELEBRATING ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Friday at noon, the midway starts up and continues through the next two days along with the other fair activities.

If you hear a lot of squawking and fussing while you're at the fair, it's coming from the poultry exhibits. The Acton fair boasts the

largest poultry show in the area with prize-winners from the Royal Winter Fair and the Canadian National Exhibition in attendance.

At 6:15 p.m. Friday, the roosters take over, encouraged by their owners to crow and crow again. The Rooster Crowing competition is an event introduced last year that proved highly successful.

It's hard to say which is more entertaining,

watching the owners as they wave their arms and flap about to cajole a peep out of their roosters, or the caged birds as they strut around haughtily defiant. After all, who ever heard of a rooster crowing in the evening?

Following the rooster crowing competition is the heavy horse pull at 6:45 p.m., a popular event for a number of years.

At 7:30 p.m. in the arena, the Acton Citiz-

ons Band performs for the half hour prior to the official opening of the fair. A family entertainment variety show follows and the judging of Miss Acton Fair 1983.

It's the 20th anniversary of the queen of Acton fair competition and former beauty queens have been invited back to the fair. So far, 12 have confirmed they're coming.

Friday evening closes with variety acts and the Leahy Family from Lakefield. This is their second year performing at the fair.

Bright and early Saturday, the fairgrounds will be abuzz with activities. Outside exhibits of new model cars, farm equipment, and commercial exhibits will be up.

Horses will be biting at the bit and faking part in the English Pony Show, Harness Ponies, Heavy Horses and Light Horse Show. The Carlsberg Hitch will also be back Saturday and Sunday for its eighth year at the fair.

As in previous years hall exhibits and displays will be up includ-

ing school work, baking, domestic science, canned and preserved products, plants and flower displays, fruit and vegetables, junior exhibits, homecrafts and a hog carcass display.

At 11 a.m. Saturday, the cattle show featuring beef steers, hereford, shorthorn, angus and other beef breeds will begin.

At noon, a parade will start off from the MacKenzie-Smith Middle School featuring the Carlsberg Hitch, six bands including the Acton Citizens Band

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Built over 100 years ago Town bids \$52,500 for Stone School

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

A 19-century stone building on Acton's School Lane is up for sale and Halton Hills council has offered \$52,500 to buy it from the Halton Board of Education.

The town's proposal was made following an in camera session of council a week ago Tuesday. No decision to accept the offer was reached by the school board trustees at their meeting last Thursday, but a response is expected in a couple of weeks.

Known as the Stone School, the building was built by Sydney Smith somewhere between 1864 and 1870 as a family residence.

Until St. Joseph's Separate School moved out last year, the building was used as a school.

RICK BONNETTE
"... a good investment."

ing had been used as a school since 1925. Contacted last week by The Herald, Acton councillors said the building could be used for a variety of community functions.

"There's a lot of possi-

bilities in the building," Coun. Rick Bonnette said. "I think it's a good investment on the town's part."

SERVICE CLUBS

Acknowledging the work Acton's service clubs have put into the community, he said he'd like to see the building used by them for meetings. Close to the library, the Stone School could also be used if the library ever expands, Coun. Bonnette commented.

Not only is the building in good shape and a historical investment in itself, Coun. Ross Knechtel said, the property around it is also of significant value to the town.

"There's two reasons why (the town) should buy the building," Coun.

Knechtel said. "It was the first high school in Acton and it would be wrong to demolish it. The second reason is the property attached to the school (about an acre). From Acton's point of view, it's very important that the property remain in public hands."

This would facilitate expansion of the library, Coun. Knechtel explained, or it could be used to clear up parking and bus route problems at Robert Little School. He doubted that it would have much value to a private entrepreneur because of its close proximity to a nearby stream and the floodplain restrictions that would affect new construction.

Following the death of Mr. Smith's widow, the homestead was turned into Acton's first high school and served students until the 1977-78 academic year when Acton's new high school, located on Churchill Boulevard, was opened.

From 1977 to 1982, the building was leased to the Halton Separate School Board as "St. Joseph's School". A new St. Joseph's opened this year.

As late as 1981, a number of individuals involved with developing Acton's leather-based history into a tourism theme suggested that the building would make an ideal museum for "Leathertown".

While he'd like to see a museum and tourism office established in the building, Coun. Dave Whiting noted that there are some problems which would have to be solved first. The museum, he explained would need a staff and would have to be properly insured to protect artifacts.



FAIR MAGIC

Besides eating fire, The Whiz (inset), actually Gary Edmunds of Mississauga, impressed Georgetown fair-goers Friday night by a display of the ancient Hindu magical art of lying down on a bed of two inch spiral nails. As dusk settled, the lights of the midway glowed and the children gathered under them, coupons clutched in their impatient hands. Story, more photos on page C3. (Herald photos by Ani Pederman)

Moulden makes bid for vacant seat

Limehouse resident Dollie Moulden is the first person to commit herself as a candidate in the Esqueving by-election for Halton Hills Council.

While she said she'll talk more about issues in the Esqueving area later, Mrs. Moulden said she is particularly concerned about the future of the town's agriculture industry, and questioned whether council has focused enough attention on the needs of local farmers.

Mrs. Moulden is no stranger to politics having made an unsuccessful bid against Coun. Russ Miller for Esqueving's regional seat in the 1980 elections.

For a number of years, Mrs. Moulden has served on Halton's Land Division Committee and the Halton and North Halton Social Planning Councils. She is wrapping up a term as a member of the Halton Housing Authority and she is a member of the board of directors for the region's Children's Aid Society.

Meanwhile, Halton Hills council at a special

meeting Monday night passed a bylaw making the election call official. Tentatively, the election will be held on Oct. 24, with an Oct. 3 closing date for nominations.

However, those dates may change, depending on whether or not the town can have some special election forms printed up in time.

Candidates in the last election, Jake Kuiken and Peter Norton declined to commit themselves to a race in Esqueving. Mr. Norton and Mr. Kuiken said they wished to talk over any election plans with friends and family before making a decision.



DOLLIE MOULDEN

Six Church St. set for demolition

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

After a reprieve lasting several months, the house at Six Church Street in Georgetown appears bound for the wrecker's ball after all.

Without much hope of selling the building to restore funds used to help pay for the library-cultural centre two years ago, town council last week agreed to tear the building down.

The empty lot will eventually be turned into parking space for the downtown core. Council instructed the clerk's department to find ways in which the demolition might be

funded.

Town clerk-administrator Ken Richardson told council that it would cost about \$19,000 to demolish the house and pave the lot in "early 1983 dollars".

COED PROJECT

But he suggested the project might be done as a job creation project under the federal and provincial "COED" program. He noted that demolition of another building on Market Street was carried out by a local service club before the cultural centre was built, stressing that there are ways in which the building could be torn down with-

out much cost to the town's budget.

Coun. Finn Poulstrup drafted the resolution to tear down the building, commenting that leaving the structure standing was "poor use of the town's assets".

The property was originally identified for parking in the Georgetown Core Area Study two years ago, he said, adding that between the cultural centre and downtown businesses, area parking is already "overloaded".

The property could produce as many as 13 new parking spaces.

Acton boy drowns

A four-year old twin boy died Saturday afternoon while attending a birthday party at a neighbor's home on Sixth Line.

Craig Harvey Burt of RR2 Acton drowned in an above-ground backyard pool. His body was discovered at the bottom of the pool at 5 p.m.

Although he was immediately pulled out and artificial respiration performed, efforts to revive him failed and

he was pronounced dead at Georgetown Memorial Hospital a short time later.

Tuesday, Coroner Dr. Allistair Macintosh decided against an inquest into the death. A post-mortem was held Monday.

The son of Gordon and Doreen Burt, the child was the twin brother of Cheryl. Together, the two children had been attending a birthday party with 13 others

ranging in age from four to 12 years old.

The children had gotten out of the pool for supper and it wasn't until 5 p.m. that Craig was discovered in the pool, Guelph Ontario Provincial Police said.

Police said he apparently fell unnoticed into the pool and drowned in a metre of water.

A funeral was held Tuesday afternoon for the child at J.S. Jones and Son Funeral Home in Georgetown.



UP FOR GRABS

Cars kept rolling in carrying buyers and bidders to the Halton regional police auction Saturday morning at 10 a.m. when most others were just barely rolling out of bed. The annual sale of unclaimed property raised about \$5,000, money which goes to the Halton police commission. There were 143 bikes and 99 other items sold, ranging from hub caps, jewelry, chain saw, a TV, car radios and tape decks to ski boots.

(Herald photo by Ani Pederman)

Limehouse due for new bridge

The steel bridge with the wooden deck which spans Canadian National Railway tracks in Limehouse is due for a major overhaul.

CN plans to begin work on the Regional Road 43 bridge Oct. 17, replacing the existing wooden decking and making adjustments to the steel supports and road approaches.

The work is expected to close Regional Road 43 to through traffic until Nov. 30 and the Fourth and Fifth Lines will be used as detour routes.

Residences were

given more details of the project at a special public meeting held at Limehouse school last Thursday.

Two days earlier, Coun. Pam Sheldon told town council she was concerned about using the Fifth Line as a detour.

A pedestrian bridge will keep the two sides of the road open to local residents, Coun. Russ Miller said, and the work will be of considerable benefit to the community allowing school buses to use it as well as other heavier trucks.

Time's running out

Time's running out to register for Harold Taylor's one-day seminar on time management, a session to be held at the John Elliott Theatre.

An expert in putting time into more productive use, Mr. Taylor will be at the town's library-

cultural centre between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sept. 19. For \$35, participants in the session also receive Mr. Taylor's book, "Making Time Work For You" and a hot lunch catered by Kenner's Catering of Georgetown.

ABOUT THE HILLS

GDHS commencement

The Georgetown District High School commencement committee is gearing up for the annual event Friday Oct. 21 at 8 p.m.

Of special importance to the committee at the moment are the students who have received scholarships and/or bursaries.

These students should inform the committee by Sept. 30 so this information can be printed in the program booklet (c/o Mrs. Armstrong in the GDHS office).

Amateur night

Again this year, the Recreation Department is coordinating an amateur night to be held Thursday, Oct. 13, 1983 at the John Elliott Theatre.

As part of the second anniversary celebration of the Cultural Centre, the evening will provide an opportunity for residents of all ages to bring their talents to the stage.

Pick up an application form at any of the Town Offices and return to the Recreation Department Office in Georgetown by Sept. 19.

Road stress study

Town council has agreed to spend \$22,100 to find out how much stress Halton Hills roads can handle before they need a new coat of asphalt.

A number of roads in Acton and Georgetown will undergo testing by Barker Terp Gibson Ltd. Town Engineer Bob Austin explained to council last week that a weight is dropped on sections of roadway and the road deflection is measured by computers.

Testing will help decide what sort of work is needed to extend road life while keeping costs down.

Bring your bunnies

"Bring your bunnies" is Diane Evans' message to those attending the Acton Fall Fair starting Friday Sept. 16.

There are 27 entries for the rabbit and guinea pig show to be held Sunday at 1:30 p.m. nearly doubling the size of last year's show.

Two people have 11 entries between them, says organizer Diane Evans.

A special category this year is for a mother rabbit and her babies.

Features

Acton Fall Fair excitement Page A2

Family

Morely Mills enjoys 'co-operative' spirit. Page C1

Entertainment

Cultural Centre second anniversary plans in full swing. Page A8

Sports

Georgetown Georgettes drop two playoff games Page B1

Section D

Real estate and classified