



Ways to attract more tourists

A report on tourism in Halton suggests ways to attract new visitors. Acton would benefit from a VIA stop and more leather themes. See page B1.

Finish in style

Sunny Acres win a bronze

See sports C1

They debate the issues

Four candidates from the Halton-Burlington riding discussed the issues Monday. After the all-candidates meeting students felt Neil Sivertson won.



NEIL SIVERTSON

thruway
347 Guelph St. Georgetown
347 Guelph St. Georgetown
877-0179

MICROTECH COMPUTERS
SATURDAY MORNING COMPUTER SEMINARS
CALL FOR DETAILS
GEORGETOWN 232 Guelph St. (416) 840-0727
MILTON 420 Main St. E. (416) 878-4988

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1985

Man's condition 'stable', ferris wheel cab plunges

By ROBIN BAKEWELL
Herald Staff

It was meant to be a night of enjoyment, but a ferris wheel accident forced a father and son to plunge about 25 feet to the ground Friday.

Martin Ebling, 44, and his five year old son Michael fell out of their carriage when it became snagged.

Mr. Ebling was rushed to Georgetown District Memorial Hospital with skull injuries and a scalp laceration and was admitted in "serious" condition.

His son, Michael, was treated and released from the hospital and escaped with cuts and bruises from the ordeal.

The Georgetown pair were the only riders on the ferris wheel when a steel driving cable got caught up in the outer circumference of the wheel and snagged on a bolt, Friday at approximately 7 p.m.

The snag caused five chairs to fall from the wheel and left an additional three dangling from their holdings at the Georgetown Market Plaza lot site.

Mr. Ebling, who is now listed in "stable" condition at GDMH, said his first reaction was to hold onto his son.

"It happened so fast that I don't remember everything," he said from his hospital bed.

Mr. Ebling said he had taken his son on several of the smaller rides when Michael decided he wanted to try the ferris wheel.

He said the ride had gone around two or three times before the two were dropped with the seat to the ground.

"You don't imagine anything like this ever happening. It's not like driving a car where you may get hit, you're on the ride for enjoyment," he said.

Mr. Ebling said his son Michael "is not the same" because of the accident.

Mr. Ebling's wife, Katherine, said Michael is bruised and cut and suffering dizzy spells and severe headaches.

Mrs. Ebling said the family doctor has advised them to wait a week or two before returning Michael to his day care centre.

She said the five-year-old boy

blames himself for the accident and was unable to walk from shock after the fall until he saw that his father was still alive.

Lynn Pegg, an eyewitness, said she was standing about 15 to 20 feet away from the wheel when "all hell broke loose."

Mrs. Pegg said the Eblings were swung out of the ferris wheel chair as the ride jolted and the seat fell away from the wheel.

She said Mr. Ebling hit the pavement face first and Michael fell backwards with the seats hitting each other and falling around them.

"It happened very quickly but when you're watching it seems like slow motion. They were smiling and all of a sudden that was it," she said.

Mrs. Pegg, who was with her husband Rod and children David and Sara, said it could easily have been them on the ride too but David decided on another ride at the last minute.

Mr. Ebling, a Standard Products employee in Toronto, said he will see what time brings before he takes any action against the amusement company.

"First I'll get healthy and then I'll look into it," he said.

Halton regional police and the Occupational Health and Safety branch of the Ministry of Labour are conducting inquiries into the incident and Sergeant Ken Cormier said there is a possibility of charges arising from both investigations.

A spokesman from the Brantford-based Fairmount Amusements could not be reached. The fair has now moved to a London location.



Martin Ebling recovers from an amusement ride accident at his bed in Georgetown District Memorial Hospital. The Georgetown resident suffered a fractured skull and scalp laceration after falling about 25 feet in a ferris wheel chair after it had come from its holdings.

Zellers break-in

Store robbed of \$70,000

By ROBIN BAKEWELL
Herald Staff

An estimated \$70,000 in cash and goods were stolen from Zellers in Georgetown after thieves eluded an alarm system and escaped by pounding their way through a brick wall.

Sergeant Ken Cormier of the Halton regional police force said the Thursday night or Friday morning theft was "well planned" at the Guelph Street location.

A hole, approximately two by three feet, had been smashed in the upstairs wall of the store allowing thieves to gain access to an adjacent roof.

Sgt. Cormier said there was a possibility that thieves hid from the store check conducted before the store closed and used the wall as an escape exit.

The alarm system in the store is hooked up to the windows and doors but does not cover the walls.

A sledgehammer is believed to have been used to make the hole in the wall.

The theft was discovered by employee John Saxon when he opened the store shortly before 8 a.m. Friday.

He said he noticed the jewellery section of the store in disarray with empty watch cases littering the floor.

When he arrived at the rear of the store he dis-

covered the safe had been destroyed and arranged for the police to be called.

The approximately three by six foot safe was

off into areas used for holding money trays from the cash registers.

Taken along with the money and watches were an assortment of rings, a



Leading from an inside storage room to an adjacent roof at Zellers, this hole was believed to have been smashed by using a sledgehammer which provided an escape route for thieves.

video cassette recorder and luggage which police believe were tools from the store. The door had been completely removed from the safe during the robbery.

Police were unable to release exactly how much money was in the safe but Mr. Saxon said it contained all the receipts from 5 p.m. till closing on Thursday.

The safe was sectioned off into areas used for holding money trays from the cash registers. Taken along with the money and watches were an assortment of rings, a

Stevens' property road, study delayed by town councillors

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Leary of getting the town into debt by moving too quickly to make use of the Stevens property, councillors voted to defer construction of a street through the property or hiring architects to design a new administration building Monday night.

The town's five year capital forecast, released Monday, identified these projects for the property whose very purchase received considerable attention last year.

The forecast proposes building a \$341,000 road through the Stevens lands which are located across from the North Halton Golf and Country Club on Maple Avenue. The new road would link Maple Avenue with the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital.

Money to build the street would come partly (\$188,500) from a provincial subsidy and the rest (\$152,500) through toll levies, the report indicates. Also forecast for 1986 are \$250,000 for architects fees to be financed without any borrowing.

The building of this new home for town staff was slated for 1987 in the capital forecast. Anticipated to cost \$3.2 million, money for the building is to come mainly from taxes (\$2 million) and the rest through the sale of some of the land.

Councillors felt the forecast was rushing them into development of the land and voted to delay the architectural studies and construction of the road to 1987, and the erection of the new administration building to 1989.

This, despite the fact Coun. Harry Levy reminded them these projects were listed in the forecast merely to give councillors an indication of what they would like to see done if they had the money for it.

"I never thought we'd be looking at putting a building up for 10 years," Coun. Dave Whiting said. "We can't afford that building in 1987; we're not going to have that growth then."

Coun. Mike Armstrong agreed there were a number of stepping stones to be crossed before an administration building could go up on the Stevens property.

"There are many, many hurdles to overcome before a shovel is put into the ground. If you don't start now, you won't be putting it in till the year 2016. This is a start," he said.

Coun. Pam Sheldon said the forecast may be misconstrued by the public to mean that councillors are going to be looking for \$2 million in the next two years, which treasurer Ray King said would mean an 8.7 per cent increase in the town's tax bill to make annual payments of \$383,000.

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson said that when the land was bought she'd said she wouldn't support borrowing by the town, "so I can't support this now either," she said.

Another issue with the development of the property is how it will be affecting town staff.

Staff are cramped right now. They need an indication where we're going," Coun. Whiting said.

According to when the new building will go up, staff can lease additional space for the planning and engineering departments, he said.

Not to identify the development of the Stevens property in the town's forecast is like councillors sticking their heads in the sand, Mayor Russ Miller said.

"If we didn't buy it (land) to sell and develop, why the devil did we buy it?" he demanded.

Maple Leaf in town

Toronto Maple Leaf hockey player Dan Daoust was in town Friday afternoon. The Leaf veteran was at the Alcott Arena at the social held in conjunction with the Ontario Hockey Association's (OHA) "AA" mid-level tournament played here over the weekend. For further details, see



DAOUST page C2.

Midway inspection law considered

By ROSEMARY CINO
Queen's Park Bureau

TORONTO - After a year's study of midway rides' safety prompted by several accidents, Consumer Minister Gordon Walker won't promise the province will assume responsibility for safety inspections of the rides.

Following Friday's accident in Georgetown in which a Georgetown man and his 5 year old son fell 25 feet when their seat dislodged from a ferris wheel, Mr. Walker said he's on a verge of introducing new safety rules for amusement rides as soon as the legislature reconvenes after the May 2 election.

Mr. Walker said Monday one of the options he's considering is for the province to take over responsibility for safety checks from local municipalities.

Few municipalities inspect travelling midway and few have qualified staff to do the

safety checks, a ministry spokesman said.

"I'm not saying one way or the other what I want to see (in the proposed legislation) at the moment," Mr. Walker said.

However, the minister said he hopes new rules could be in place by June in time for this summer's season.

Last spring, Mr. Walker's predecessor, Robert Elgie launched a survey of Ontario municipalities to determine what regulations are in place for amusement rides.

This study followed two serious roller coaster accidents in 1981 and 1982 at amusement parks which left more than 10 people injured.

Nine people have died on rides since 1962 in Ontario.

In announcing the study, Mr. Elgie pledged that if the results showed a need for the province to get tough on inspections, "we shall not hesitate".

According to consumer ministry spokes-

man Greg Snow, of the 79 municipalities which have bylaws governing midways, only 39 require inspections before the rides are permitted to operate.

The others grant licenses for the midway to carry on business. "We recognize that inspection is uneven across the province," Mr. Snow said.

Checks that are done are conducted by municipal officials who are not generally experts with the machinery, he added.

Meanwhile Brampton city councillor Nancy Porteous says she's angry that the provincial government has not acted more quickly to guarantee inspections of the rides.

At Coun. Porteous' request, Brampton City Council went on record in 1982 to urge the Ontario government to take over safety responsibilities.

"I'm disappointed...the legislation should have been in place by now for this spring," Coun. Porteous says.

Bang-O-Rama amusements not affected by accident

By DAVE ROWNEY
Herald Staff

Optimist Bang-O-Rama chairman Norm Guthrie calls the equipment used by Fairmount Amusements of Brantford "exceptionally good".

The Georgetown service club have been using Fairmount to set up their midway rides at their annual Victoria Day celebration for the past seven years.

Mr. Guthrie says the rides will still be coming to Bang-O-Rama May 20.

However, the chairman has been told changes will be made in the inspection of the equipment.

After talking to officials from the Ministry of Labor, Mr. Guthrie said he was told the accident was caused by "a cable going out which twisted the machine".

He said the Ministry of Labor's industrial safety branch were on the scene less than an hour after the accident happened Friday night.

The safety branch crew came back Saturday to continue their investigations, he said.

An independent engineering firm has been asked by the Ministry of Labor to inspect the ferris wheel and Mr. Guthrie said he will have access to the written report.

In the future, members of the elevator inspection branch will be taking over the inspection of these rides, from the industrial safety branch, he said.

Before the machinery is ready for use by the

public at Bang-O-Rama, it will be checked by the Ministry of Labor, an independent engineering consulting firm and by Fairmount employees, Mr. Guthrie said.

If there is an accident at Bang-O-Rama Fairmount Amusements is liable, he said, but they are insured for \$1 million.

The Optimists are not required to, but they also carry a \$1 million liability insurance policy, he said.

Fairmount had licence to hold amusements

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

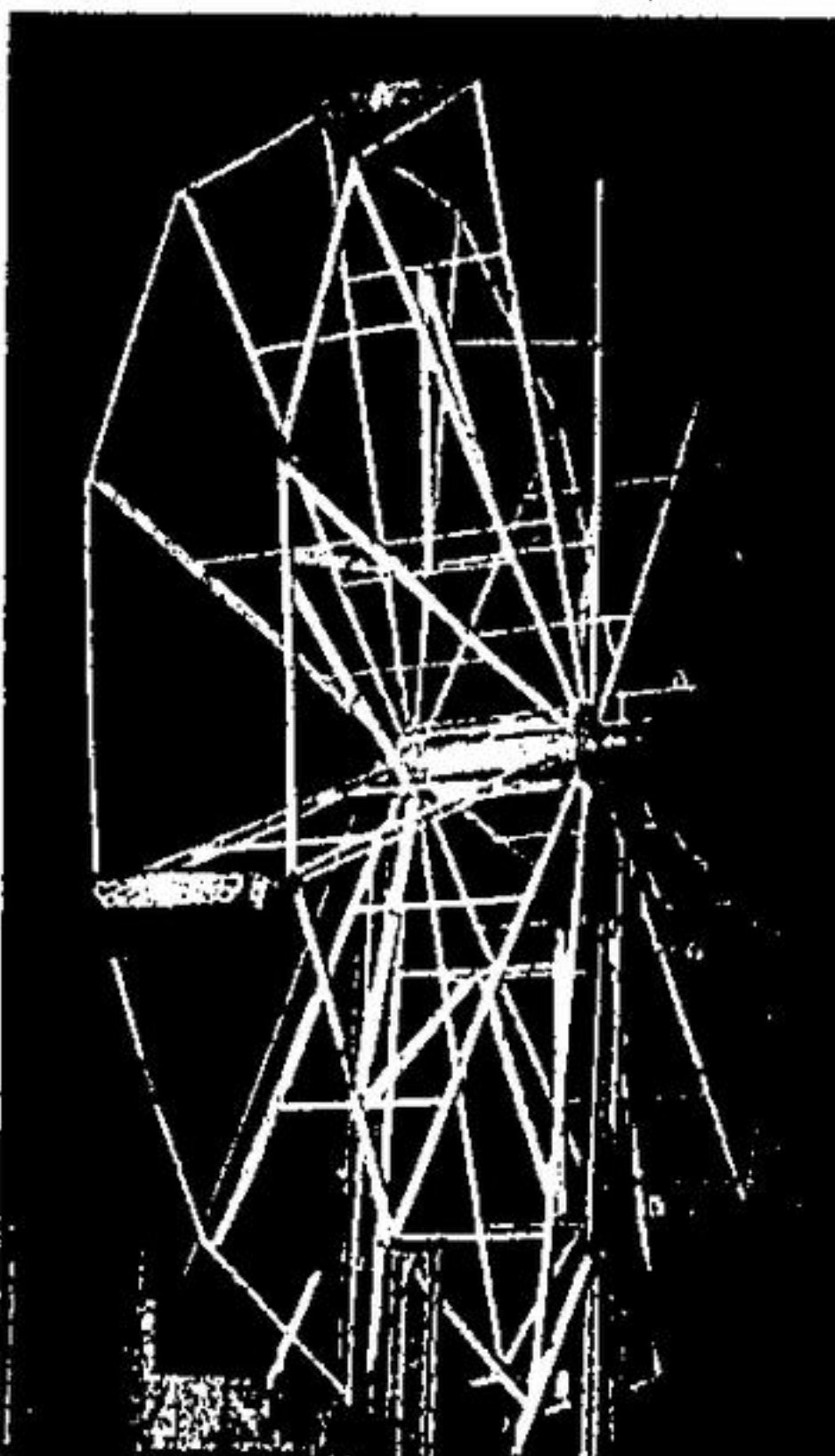
Before Fairmount Amusements Company Ltd. could set up their rides in Halton Hills, they got a town licence.

The town's bylaw officer Jack Lusty gave them that licence, after he made sure the company was insured for public liability and damages.

Then, he collected the town's fee for the licence, which is \$200 for the first day of operation and \$10 a day thereafter.

"The theory is if you're going to come in here and take money out of the community, you have to contribute to the municipality also," Mr. Lusty said explaining the licensing fee.

Continued on page A2



This is the ferris wheel in which a man and his son were injured Friday.