

Swan Song

Old George searches for his missing offspring

By SANDY CAMPBELL
Herald staff

Everyone knows Old George at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. He chases anyone who hits a golf ball near him. His father, Old George senior, did the same thing until a golfer clubbed him to death.



"He was in his twenties. He was a cantankerous old bugger and so is his son," said Art Scott.

Old George is a swan. Art Scott raises swans in the pond across from the country club. Gracie, 30, and Old George, 10, are his breeding swans.

Mr. Scott is retired now, but he used to own a General Motors car dealership in Georgetown. After 23 years Mr. Scott sold the dealership.

In a New Year's edition of The Herald, Mr. Scott had an ad he hoped would help him find an offspring of Old George and Gracie.

The missing swan is a one year-old and was last seen flying near the railroad bridge across the Credit River. The swan has been missing since just before Christmas. "I'd like to get him back to get a good home for him," Mr. Scott said. If you have seen the swan call 877-3564.

If he doesn't get the swan back it won't be the first one he has lost. Art Scott has been raising swans for over 30 years. "I would say about 90 per cent of the province's swans come from me," he joked.

They don't all get away. Mr. Scott tries to find them good homes where there is open water year-round. Every year his breeding pair have five or six offspring - three or four survive.

Raising swans is a very serious hobby. Art Scott's Honker swans are the "Queens property. I am bound by the federal government to hibernate them. Mounties used to come two or three times a year to see how they were doing," Mr. Scott said.

Swans have to be registered with the federal government. Mr. Scott is very careful about who he gives his

swans to. Their home must have good quality water. Swans keep ponds clean. That's the beauty of them," he said.

Many of Mr. Scott's escaped swans are keeping Fairy Lake clean. It is the most common home for Art Scott's fugitive swans. "Swans like to trespass," Mr. Scott admitted.

George and Gracie frequently trespass at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. If you haven't seen them perhaps you have seen them waddling across Maple Avenue to get to their second home.

the Queen's property. But now one of his prized swans has flown the coop. If you've seen Mr. Scott's swan, give him a call at 877-3564. (Herald photo)

The pair have their wings clipped and have to walk. A 25 to 30 lb. swan crossing the road has stopped traffic more than once, Mr. Scott said.

Mr. Scott's missing swan can fly, unlike George and Gracie. "The biggest danger is hydro wires. They can hit two wires at the same time they are so big. It blows their head off," Mr. Scott said.

"If some good person sees my missing swan. Let me know. I'll go and pick him up," he said.

Schools increase programs to help prevent sex abuse

An education program to prevent child sexual abuse has been enlarged to include 51 more elementary schools in Halton. This joint project of the public and separate systems has been introduced to 19 schools already. The Halton Region Child Abuse Council is also a sponsor of the project.

The cost of the Halton Board of Education's new commitment is \$33,000; the original commitment (for the 19 schools) were \$11,300.

The program has been so successful only two parents have complained about it, a co-ordinator of the project said. Nine hundred parents attended parent evenings at Nelson High School, W.H. Modern Elementary School and Acton High School.

The Halton Abuse Council received \$5,470 in donations for the project from community organizations, service clubs and home and school associations. Money is used to buy materials such as the Child Abuse Prevention Kit.

All 19 schools visited receive a Child Abuse Prevention Kit and every classroom in those schools has used it. Children begin using the kits after seeing "Journey From AMU", a Sheridan College community service play about child abuse.

Some of the teachers' reactions to the play were: "the play was a fantastic mode of presenting a sensitive topic", and "we've never felt closer to our students."

The project also included the two days training for 350 support staff, principals, teachers, public health nurses, social agency representatives and home and school representatives.

Over 1,500 public and separate teachers received training on their Oct. 4, 1985 P.A. day.

The project will be completed in two final phases. The first, phase two, begins in the spring of 1986 when it will

be introduced to 31 more elementary schools. Phase three begins in the fall. During phase three the remaining 20 elementary and senior elementary schools will be introduced to the project.

IN THE HILLS

Night school art

Credit Valley Artisans are offering the following courses for the winter: Oriental Floral Design with Daisy Harris Thur. Jan. 16 and 23, 7-9:30 p.m. Watercolour Painting with Gretchen Day Thur. Feb. 6 to Mar. 13, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Beginner's Weaving with Jette van der Meiden Wed. Jan. 29 - Apr. 2, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Silver Jewellery Making with Janice Smith Thur. Jan. 28 - Mar. 4, 7-9:30 p.m. General Spinning Workshop with Ted Carson Sat. Mar. 1, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Registration dates: Jan. 17, 7-9 p.m., Jan. 18, 10 a.m. - 12 noon at the Cottage, Cedarvale Park. For more information call Fran Anthony, 877-5856.

Clinic guest

Halton Cable's "Against The Odds" will feature Karen Thompson-Harry, community legal worker at the Halton Hills Legal Clinic as its guest for the January show. Tune in on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. to catch this informative interview on what the clinic can do for you.

Group ski package

This winter the Terra Cotta Conservation Area is offering cross-country skiing to groups of 10 or more people at a reduced rate throughout the weekdays.

Ten dollars per person includes trail fee for the full day or skiing and complete equipment rental. The half day ski package is \$8. per person. For information and reservations contact Ed Brooker, 877-9650.

Handicapped meet

The Physically Handicapped Citizens Association will be holding their next executive meeting Jan. 20 at 9:15 a.m. at the Acton Social Services and Information Centre, 19 Willow Street North in Acton. Anyone interested in becoming involved can contact Pat Woode, 877-1436.

Puppeteers meet

The Kids on the Block North Halton Chapter, will be holding a meeting January 16 at 8:30 p.m. If anyone is interested in attending, they can contact Benny MacLeod 877-7186.

Campers line up winter events

By J.D. HEWITT
Herald Special

Yes, the Georgetown Fireflies are still camping. At the end of 1985 three families from the local club, and one former member, now living in Texas, gathered together at Fort Wilderness Campground in Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida.

Also closing out a good year, the Fireflies and guests, had a scrumptious Christmas dinner. Both the social and program committees worked hard to have one of the best evenings going.

Forthcoming events for the next four months are: Jan. - Progressive Euchre - Sno-Darts and Tobogganing, Feb. - Monte Carlo Nite - Pot Luck

Adult skates

Don't miss this opportunity to learn or improve your skating in a small group setting. Lessons begin tonight (Wednesday, Jan. 15) from 8:30 to 9:15 p.m. at the Memorial Arena. Call 877-5185 ext. 260 for more information.

supper and cribbage. Mar. - Bus tour of Seagraves - Bowling Nite. Apr. - Dinner Theatre - and our annual spring dance.

The 1986 executives for the club are: President - Sue and Derek Bloomfield. Vice-president - Ev. and Herb Frederickson. Secretary - Joan and Murray Harrison. Treasurer - Marg and Ted Hewitt. Social - Lols and Hilton Batchellor. Camosite - Mary

and Larry Hornby. Program - Sally and Dave Caldwell, Denise and Bob Bolton.

The Georgetown Fireflies meet at 8 p.m. every third Monday of the month at the new Optimist Hall, north of Georgetown on Highway 7.

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SPECIALS! Page A5

Favourite Recipes

MINCEMEAT BRAN MUFFINS

- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3/4 c. vegetable oil
- 3/4 c. granulated sugar
- 1/4 c. molasses or brown sugar
- 2 cups milk
- 1 1/2 c. mincemeat
- 2 1/4 c. all purpose flour
- 1 1/4 c. natural bran
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt (optional)

Pre-heat oven to 375°. Beat eggs, oils and sugar. Stir in molasses, milk and mincemeat, beat together. Blend in dry ingredients. (Batter tends to be thin). Spoon into greased or lined muffin tins. Bake until golden, about 18-20 minutes. Makes 24 muffins.

- Contributed by Mrs. Pettit

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PUBLIC AUCTION

Following the immediate closure of leading internationally renowned specialist Oriental carpet wholesaler and dissolution of partnership. Shipment ex-storage held in A & B Financiers' Vancouver warehouse will be freighted out, bales will be opened and pieces separated for public view and will be sold individually to the highest bidder. Pieces added to the collection consist of

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JANUARY 18 AT 3:00 P.M., VIEWING 2:00 P.M. DAY OF SALE

CEDARVALE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Bales will be opened for complete public inspection and displayed piece by piece by 2 p.m.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Owing to the urgency of realizing immediate cash, these items are being offered under instructions to ensure complete disposal.

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