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Movie stardom near for Acton youth

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Acton may have a young movie star in its midst. Ten year old Holly Shields of Storey Drive is waiting impatiently to hear if she's nabbed the lead role in a children's movie.

The Robert Little Public School student is one of five redheads on the short list to play Pippi Longstocking, a popular European children's character.

Called "The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking", the movie is about a very independent little girl with red pigtails. Pippi lives in her own



Holly Shields

home and looks after herself because her father is away travelling a lot. She goes to school when she feels like it and leads a life that considered every child's dream.

Holly auditioned for the part Nov. 2 in the Metro Convention Centre, along with 900 other youngsters.

"For just doing a fun thing for an afternoon, it's really turned out to be exciting," mother Margi Gibson said. "It's kind of unbelievable. We're trying to keep calm. Holly's very excited."

After the audition, Holly was one of the three chosen to come back for a screen test the next day.

Longstocking Productions of Los Angeles hasn't just auditioned in Toronto for parts for the upcoming film. It's conducted a world wide search for Pippi and her friends, auditioning youngsters in London, England; Germany; and Los Angeles, New York and Chicago, U.S.A.

The casting director is Garrison True.

A total of 5 little girls were selected world-wide for the part of Pippi and Holly is in the finals. "We're pretty proud she went that far," Mrs. Gibson said.

The letter saying Holly was still in the running arrived shortly after Christmas and said a final decision on who gets the part is to be made in January.

Once Pippi and her friends have been cast, they head down for 12 weeks of filming in Florida. If the movie is a success at the box office, the company will consider doing a series of Pippi movies.

Holly starred as the nasty neighbor child in last year's Georgetown Little Theatre's production of "Wait Until Dark". She played Gloria.

Small for her age, Holly is a good height for Pippi. Although her hair is short in a serf cut now, Holly is letting her red hair grow.

With her classmates in the French Immersion program, Holly creates plays, and co-directed their Christmas play.

As well as her height, Holly has her North American accent going for her. Mrs. Gibson said that was something the film company was looking for.



STARS AWAY-Brian Lula can't help but be proud of the homemade telescope he has in his backyard. After all, he made it. The astronomy buff likes looking at neighboring galaxies and says the most impressive thing to show first time viewers are the planets and moons of our solar system. (Herald photo)

telescope and he didn't forget eye-pieces which allow him to photograph the sky. All he has to overcome now is his camera shutter freezing up in the wintertime during prolonged exposures, or the lenses dewing up in the summertime. To take frost off the lenses, Brian uses a hair dryer. It also helps to warm him up a bit.

Telescope matches star gazer's dreams

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

It takes visitors to his backyard observatory to remind Brian Lula of the thrill of seeing the planets and stars for the first time.

The Acton man has been hooked on watching the sky since 1960. When, as a youngster, he watched the Echo 1 Satellite pass overhead.

"I saw it and I was absolutely awestruck," the tall man said enthusiastically. "At that time it was tremendously exciting. I remember a lot of people on my block were outside at the same time to see it. That has stayed with me since."

Three years later, his dad woke him up early to see the Ikeya-Seika comet through binoculars. Then, one night, while at a drive-in near the newly built Toronto International Airport, Brian was bored by the movie. He looked up to see the whole sky exploding with light.

"I can remember people getting out of their cars and fearing it was a nuclear bomb," Mr. Lula said.

It was the Kincardine meteorite. "From that day on, I'll tell you, I was hooked. I read every book I could find," he said.

Brian started out with a tiny telescope he built himself with poor quality lenses. Five years ago, he built himself a telescope that matched his dreams.

It's got a four and a half foot long tube and the optical system inside is actually 16 feet long. The formal name of the telescope is "12 1/2 inch F4 Newtonian F16 Cassegrain".

A cheery orange color on a U-shaped base that can swing around and let him see the whole sky, the telescope weighs almost a ton.

"I'm not too worried about people walking away with it," he laughed. The telescope sits in a bed of concrete five feet deep, below the frost line so that as the ground heaves in the winter, the telescope stays put.

Unbolting the roof of his tiny outdoor observatory, Mr. Lula rolls it away and the sky is his.

This telescope is really his pride and joy. From its design to all the machining, welding and the optics, Mr. Lula takes the credit. He did it all, including polishing the glass lenses.

An article in an international magazine called "Sky and Telescope" explains how to build Brian's telescope. He wrote the article and it was published in the magazine's March 1985 issue.

It took Brian five years to build his

Zimbabwe native speaks out

By JANET DUVAL
Herald Special

Why are people hungry? Despite years of foreign aid and efforts to improve farming, education, and health care, why do millions around the world still live on meagre diets?

Theresa Chimombe of Zimbabwe will try to answer the question next Thursday, January 23. She will speak over lunch hour at the Open Door in St. George's Anglican Church, and in the evening at Holy Cross Church, a guest of the local "10 Days for World Development" group, which represents 10 local churches and four national churches.

Miss Chimombe is a young lecturer in Economics and Development at the University of Zimbabwe, currently working on food problems in Africa with a focus on cash crops and agribusiness.

She will be speaking in towns throughout Ontario during the annual "10 Days" educational campaign conducted by the churches at the end of January.

This year the campaign looks at Hunger and Canada's foreign aid program, with a concern that Canadian commercial interests, rather than Third World needs, are setting the agenda for Canadian giving.

For example, "tied aid" means that 80 per cent of our government aid must be used to buy Canadian goods and services, so we create Third World dependence on our food and spare parts, while their farmers and factories sit idly by. Often we donate large scale "glamour" projects such as a satellite for Bangladesh, when small scale projects like wells and clinics would help more of the poorest.

Past speakers for 10 Days have been provocative and received with great enthusiasm. Cheryl Lightowers of the local committee says, "Last year's speaker Marta Benavides quite literally changed our family's life."

"We have a whole new outlook on the world, and I'm now taking university courses on development."

Could Theresa Chimombe open windows for you? Don't miss the chance to hear someone who has "been there".



She's one of 5 redheads ready to take lead role

One of five redheads are going to get the part, and Holly Shields hopes she gets it.

The freckle-faced youngster wants to play Pippi Longstocking in the movie "The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking", and is waiting impatiently to hear whether she got the part.

"I'm very nervous," Holly said emphatically. "I'm all uptight. Whenever I go to school I'm afraid they're going to phone and nobody's going to be home and they'll phone and phone and give up."

She wriggled out of the kitchen chair to make herself a hot chocolate Saturday afternoon.

Holly is a student at Robert Little Public School and she's been waiting all through the Christmas holidays for someone to call.

"I finally gave up hoping on the last day because I hadn't heard anything. Then my mom found a letter in the mail from Pippi Longstocking Productions, California. They had narrowed it down to five people and I could be one of them."

"I was so happy I started dancing. I might be making a movie. But now, I have to wait through January. Now I'm really nervous!" Holly said.

She's written a three-minute long speech about her audition and screen test experiences which she hopes to deliver to her classmates.

In the audition she was told to walk along a piece of tape on the floor, pretending it was a telephone wire, to save her pet monkey atop a burning building.

"I guess they thought I was good. They asked me to stay longer," Holly said. The next day she was back for a screen test. They sat her on a table and pointed cameras and lights on her as they taped a piece she'd been asked to memorize the night before.

"I was quite nervous then. I did a boo-boo so they rewound it, but I didn't do any better," Holly said.

The fellow directing this new movie is Ken Annakin. He also directed the movie "Annie". Holly has taken drama classes so she's not nervous performing, but this was her first time in front of a camera and it made her a little uncomfortable.

She was also nervous whenever the director put on his glasses. "It meant he was saying something very good about you or something not very good about you, then he'd write it down," Holly said.

March 1

65 sign up for open house

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Special

A Halton Hills Community Open House scheduled for March 1 has 65 different groups signed up for exhibits and more applications are being received every day. A similar event took place two years ago at Holy Cross Separate School. With more than 800 people in attendance, the organizers were encouraged enough to want to host a repeat performance this year on a larger scale.

Joy Thompson, Community Liaison Officer for the event, explained that the move to the Georgetown District High School for this year's extravaganza should provide more room for exhibitors and for parking facilities.

The purpose of the event is to allow all leisure service groups in Halton Hills to demonstrate to the public their recreational initiatives and to help them register more members.

There will be over 100 booths, some organizations will occupy more than

one booth, and demonstrations will take place at many of them.

The Halton Hills Jills will have a gymnastic demonstration at their booth. The YMCA will have a craft table for children and even the Canadian Cancer Society is joining in the fun by bringing Sammy the Smoker to their display. The Halton Hills Computer Club will be setting up terminals at their display.

The event will begin Friday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. with three workshops on fund-raising. These workshops will include discussions on topics such as how to find sources of potential revenue, fund-raising ideas, marketing techniques, and how to find volunteers. "Each workshop would normally cost a good \$60 to attend, and there are professional people running them," said Mrs. Thompson. Anyone interested in attending any of the free workshops must register by Jan. 31 by calling 877-5185, ext. 281 or 877-3219.

The gathering will not be without its lighter moments. The organizational committee has employed the services of a town crier in full costume, to make announcements throughout Saturday.

The provincial government has recognized the efforts of the committee by donating a \$1,200 Wintario grant for the program.

A growing list of door prizes, ranging from free membership at a health club to T-shirts, will be given away throughout the event. Even Ronald McDonald will be making a special guest appearance to run a fitness class.

Both the baseball and soccer organizations will be holding registration for their respective leagues at the open house so the organizers are expecting a huge turnout.



Joy Thompson, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, can't wait for Open House '86, a chance for clubs and organizations to show off their stuff to the community. A town crier came

along for the announcement of the open house, just to make sure everyone knew about the event. The message was loud and clear! (Herald photo by Brian MacLeod)

IN THE HILLS

Slip slidin' away

There are two outdoor ice rinks ready for use. The Georgetown Fairgrounds rink has boards and nets in place for pick up shinny in addition to recreational skating. The outdoor rink at McKenzie Smith is also ready. Our department has also equipped the two public tennis courts at Emerson and Joseph Gibbons Park with hockey nets for pick up hockey. Be sure to also try our Toboggan Run which is located at Cedarvale Park. The hill is about 200 meters from the main Park entrance along Main Street (8th Line). The track at the Georgetown Fairgrounds is also ploughed regularly for you "All Season" joggers and runners. For more information, call your Recreation and Parks Department at 877-5185 ext. 219, 260.

Nominate now
Applications are now available for the Municipal Awards Evening to be held April 2. If you know of someone who has brought honor to our community through their achievements in sport or culture in 1985, be sure to nominate them before Feb. 14. For more information, call 877-5185 ext. 276.

Pre-school playshop

There are still openings in the Tuesday morning Pre-School Playshop Program held at Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton from 9 to 11:30 a.m. This is a half-day activity centre for children ages 2 1/2 to 3 years. An emphasis is placed on fun, learning and especially social interaction.

Police work to encourage public to get involved

By SANDY CAMPBELL
Herald Staff

Getting more people involved in policing is the goal of the Halton Regional Police Community Relations Bureau. In 1986 they will be working more with senior citizens and high school students.

These goals will be reached through the upkeep of old programs and the creation of new ones. In Halton Hills Constable Bill Phipps, school safety officer, and Constable Bob Ustryzcki, crime prevention officer, will be leading the Community Relations Bureau's assault on crime.

The Community Relations Bureau

has 11 full-time officers. Staff-Sgt. Richard Kivell is in charge of the bureau. There are two supervisors and two officers in each of the four districts of Halton.

The three departments within the bureau are: school safety, crime prevention and public relations.

Crimes against senior citizens account for about 10 per cent of all crime, Staff-Sgt. Kivell said. This figure could be higher because often seniors do not report crimes.

Crimes against seniors is a concern of the department. "Rather than wait for them to come to us we are approaching the seniors," Staff-Sgt.



Staff-Sgt. Rick Kivell

Kivell said. That is the bureau's practice, to stop problems before people complain about them, he said.

The bureau started a pilot project

in Burlington to help reduce crimes against seniors. Police are holding crime prevention seminars with seniors' groups. By fall similar seminars will be held in Halton Hills, Staff-Sgt. Kivell said.

"With seniors the fear factor is so strong. Our society owes our seniors something for the years of commitment to the community," Staff-Sgt. Kivell said. The police are particularly interested in youth "because we could have a tremendous influence on them," he said.

Three to four years ago there was a problem with vandalism in Halton Hills. There are no outstanding

problems with youth now, but there are always problems and improving police relations with senior students could help solve them, he said.

Staff-Sgt. Kivell believes the image of police has improved among students. "When we go into a school we're much more readily accepted. We don't get the verbal abuse we got five years ago."

"At E.C. Drury I was handed a big cup of Tim Horton's coffee when I arrived. That's the first time anyone ever did that," he added.

Talks on rights and responsibilities, drugs and alcohol, vandalism and traffic safety are some of the topics

police address when they visit senior schools.

There are also co-op programs on the force for high school students who get credits for their work with crime prevention officers. One duty of students is to look at crime statistics and identify problem areas for crime prevention departments. Crime prevention departments do not have enough manpower to assess all of their statistics in detail, Staff-Sgt. Kivell said.

Students report back to class and are marked by their crime prevention officer.