

Cadet awards



It was the annual awards dinner for the Air Cadets of Squadron 754 in Georgetown Thursday night. The 80-member squadron was out in full uniform. Receiving senior awards were (front, left to right) Brett Serjeantson, 17, Laura Groskorth, 17, Jeff Duncan, 18, Chris Blencowe, 15, (back) Andrew Boettcher, 17, Joel Brown, 18, Cam MacLean, 16, and Jon Newcombe, 18. Over 29 awards were given out to members of the squadron, while proud parents and siblings watched. (Herald photo)

Dorothy McLean talk Norval once existed as mill town

NORVAL-Dorothy McLean gave the history of the Norval mills and the mill owners from 1820 to 1954, and the several changes to the road through the village. There is nothing to show today of where the mills were located - nothing but a busy highway with bumper to bumper traffic waiting at the main corner for the light to turn green so they can speed on their way through the village.

The mills were a short distance east of the Hollywood Tavern and the road curved around south of the mills for one hundred years. In 1920 when the highway came through, they changed the road to curve around north of the mills. However, to make room for the widened road the Hollywood House lost a large portion of the front of the building.

The raceway from the Credit River that supplied the water power to operate the mills ran from the river along beside the road on Noble St. now the parking lot of the Hollywood Tavern.

James McNab built the dam and first mills in the early 1820s. They included a saw mill, a flour mill and an ashery to make soap. A flax mill (that in later years became a woolen mill), a grist mill and a cooperage shop to make barrels for shipping the flour soon followed when the village quickly grew.

James and William Gooderham of the Gooderham and Wortz Co. had a distillery near the mills and rented the mills for a few years. They also had a tannery and a general store here. In the flats below the mills were a saw mill, a brass factory and an ashery. Farmers supplied the ash when they burned the trees as they cleared the land.

When Robert Noble purchased the mills from a bank in 1868 he rebuilt them. He also built a new storehouse, cooperage and barrel sheds. The woolen mill burned down and was replaced with a new grist mill. In later years Robert was joined by his son Col. Alex Noble. They continued increasing the plant until the output was 400 barrels of flour a day.

During these years the saw mill did a booming business turning out 200,000 feet of lumber a day. There was a plentiful supply of White Pine from the farmers as they cleared their lands. Boat builders in England were among those supplied with this choice lumber.

The mills were owned by the Nobles for 50 years until 1919. Norval was on the stage coach road from Toronto to Guelph via Streetsville. At one time a plank road came up what is now Winston

Churchill Blvd., to Norval and on to Georgetown. It made a lovely boulevard until the planks and sleepers began to rot and then it was a holy terror!

Travellers on the stage coach road had to have a place to rest and eat and their horses looked after. There were four hotels (the Hollywood Tavern the only one remaining), three blacksmiths, three saddlers and harness makers, a carriage maker, as well as two general stores, a butcher shop, a bakery, a tailor, a book agent, a broom factory and various other businesses. All this added to the industrious mills made Norval a busy and prosperous village.

The highway that was supposed to bring business to the village did just the opposite and people went to town to shop. Farmers changed from growing wheat to dairy farms, beef cattle, and market gardening, and business gradually declined.

Early one cold January morning in 1930, the flour mills burned to the ground in a spectacular fire. They were owned at that time by W.B. Browne and Co. with W.G.M. Browne as manager, (Joan Carter's and Gordon Browne's father). The grist mill was saved but in 1954 Hurricane Hazel damaged the building so badly it had to be torn down.

No more mills for the road to wind around so in 1973 the road was filled

in and the highway straightened through the village. To make the road straight for the convenience of the traffic, one house at the east end of the village had to be demolished, and a new bridge built. Norval's busy prosperous mills are buried beneath the paved highway with not even a memorial stone to mark the spot.

Dorothy ended her history with a poem "Village Epitaph".

A verse from the poem composed by Joyce (McLean) Fulton sums up the transition of a peaceful village to the nightmare traffic today:

"Once maples mothered a two lane road, and wild flowers grew in the ditches. Now wide, treeless pavement mocks the speed limit signs, and parents clutch their children closer and suffer from ulcers and nervous tension... And the people aren't even Indians."

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Citizens' forum

Fry pan to the fire

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Herald received the following letter for publication:

"Disney" Television Show
 Disney Productions
 c/o ABC TV
 1330 Avenue of the Americas
 New York, NY 10019

Dear Sir,
 As usual we enjoyed your program last Sunday, Nov. 2 - except for the last 5 minutes!

"Ask Max" presented worthy ideals for young viewers: that you can't "buy" friends, and that adults can learn from a 12-year old. But what was Max's biggest idea - the one that the Board of Directors accepted? To save a fighter plane factory from closing down, with the loss of many jobs, by converting to production of TOY fighter planes!

We don't have war toys in our homes. War toys, such as the fighter plane, teach that might is right, that it's OK to kill the evil "them", that fighting solves problems. Yet there are millions of children in 19 countries today for whom war and fighter planes are a grim reality, not a game. Our own children live in the nuclear shadow: nuclear war is unthinkable, and so they must find other ways to resolve conflict. We are trying to teach them to solve

arguments without fighting, that the world is not divided into "them" and "us", that we need to solve problems together.

Max could have made many other creative suggestions, for conversion of the fighter plane factory, including manufacture of his own wonderful "Sky Bike". We wonder then, just what Disney Productions was trying to teach its millions of young viewers last Sunday. We strongly object to the lesson presented!

Yours truly,
 Janet Duval, Deb Zeni,
 Barbara Shein, Mary Piercy,
 Nora Lipp, Janet Still,
 Nancy J. Knox, P. McCrodon,
 Vicky Glasse-Davies

Responsive poem

Dear Sir,
 In response to Mr. Joe Hurst's verse of Nov. 12, 1986,
 A man's verballity frames his theology.
 Words he'll use
 Determine his views.
 No language of his own
 Does own universal truth.
 But each can teach,
 Can the human race
 Help stand 'gainst ignorant space.

I would also like to point out that many of Mr. Hurst's words are of non English origin. Saskatchewan's Prima Vox are Ukrainian and Greek. In Quebec the language spoken is Quebecois, based on French of the 16th through 18th centuries. Also could be mentioned Cape Breton or that linguistic vegetable garden - Toronto.

Yours truly,
 Robert D. Rennie,
 The Bard of Acton

Correction

A picture appearing on page A5 of The Herald's Nov. 12 edition incorrectly identified a Georgetown District High School student blood donor. Bob Anderson was the donor in the picture, not Norm MacPhail. The Herald regrets the error.

Soldiers' missing

On page C8 of the Nov. 12 Herald, names were printed from a 1942 list of Georgetown residents signed up with the Canadian armed forces. The active duty list apparently had some omissions, according to our readers. There were five names which were missing. The Herald will be pleased to publish additional names as they become known. The following names should have been included: Gordon James, George Greensword, Al Puckerling, Clarence Beaumont and Jack Kemshead.

Waterloo grad

John, Scott, Cameron and Alan are pleased to finally announce the graduation of Jo MacLean from University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Arts on October 24, 1986. Jo graduated on the Dean's Honour List, majoring in Social Development Studies. She is currently teaching at Percy W. Merry School in Milton.



Diabetes meeting

Dec. 3 will be the next meeting of the Brampton and District branch of the Canadian Diabetes Association at 7:30, Peel Memorial Hospital Auditorium, 20 Lynch, Brampton. Miss Cheryl Anderson, Director of Pharmacy at the hospital will discuss "prescriptions and over the counter medicines". After the meeting, refreshments will be served. For additional information, call 458-1648.

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