

Entertainment Outlook



Fighting mad

Lizlie Tingley and Doug Cameron aren't always on proper speaking terms. This girlfriend-boyfriend team can't always make up their mind to be friends or fight. In real life, these characters are played by actors Chris Farragan (Lizlie) and

Don Macrae. You can see them by purchasing a ticket to Georgetown Little Theatre's production of *The Real Last Summer* which begins its debut Feb. 20. For ticket information call 877-3700. (Herald photo)

TV Ontario to air science behind news

Whether we realize it or not, science and technology have entered every area of our lives. News stories abound attesting to this fact: terrorism in the skies; prominent athletes arrested on drug charges; potential lawsuits from those who object to "colorizing" old movies.

In the Science Edition, TVOntario's fast-paced news magazine show, the story begins where the news headline leaves off. The 13-part series offers viewers "the science behind the news," clarifying the science generally kept in the background of the news story, yet affecting the lives of us all.

The Science Edition explains science and technology in vivid, human terms, covering topics from nature and medicine to food and agriculture; recreation and the environment; research and development.

The series premieres next Friday, Feb. 13 at 8:30 p.m. repeated

Wednesday, beginning Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.

Each program presents two distinct documentaries, taped on location with one of five Science Edition reporters, featuring interviews with leading experts in the topics covered. Programs are anchored in the studio by Judy Haleday, co-host of two previous TVO science shows, *Not Another Science Show* and *The Science Alliance*.

Among the 26 documentary items are: "An Electronic Lifeline," which explains the technology that enables 911 emergency centre personnel to send help to a location within minutes; and "Careers on the Line," which explains what is involved in the various forms of substance testing.

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The Book Corner

Akenson's The Orangemen often twists and turns

By J.M.S. Careless

Once the Orange Order held a powerful place in Canadian politics. Those days are now long over; but their beginnings are vividly recalled and interpreted in *The Orangemen: The Life and Times of Ogle Gowan*, by Donald H. Akenson (James Lorimer and Co.; 336 pages; \$24.95), the story of a thrusting, scheming, yet engaging twister who became the real founder of Orange power in Canada.

Gowan, an offshoot of the Irish Protestant land-owning class, settled in Ontario (then Upper Canada) in 1829, buying a bush farm in the Brockville area. He was already prominent - to some, notorious - in leading Orange circles in his native Ireland.

At Brockville in 1830 he used rather questionable homeland credentials, deftly presented, and his undoubted managing talents to launch the Grand Orange Lodge of British North America - under Ogle R. Gowan, chosen as deputy grand master and two years later, grand master.

OLD COMRADES
Thereby he provided effective organization for the numbers of local Orange lodges that were multiplying in Upper and Lower Canada and the Maritimes with Irish Protestant immigration, and which in time attracted many Scots and English newcomers also to their congenial old-country comradeships.

Then Gowan took Orangism, and himself, ardently into politics in the cause of British Loyalty, Crown and

Constitution - that is, as more anti-radical and anti-Yankee republican than anti-Catholic, though that could appear besides.

But in any case, he shaped a potent force of "immigrant Toryism" which by the 1850s was firmly embedded in Conservative Party ranks - and, by his death in 1876, was a major populist and patronage instrument on municipal, provincial and federal levels all together.

TWISTS, TURNS
Don Akenson, a distinguished scholar in Irish and Irish-migrant history as well as a novelist, skilfully traces Gowan's convoluted career through varied graphic, sometimes lurid, aspects:

- There is his Irish background of illegitimacy yet near-gentry status, a respectability he desperately sought but unusually smeared by his own suspect devices to assure it.

- There in his role in journalism, first in Brockville and next in Toronto, influential but seldom profitable. That left him regularly just a jump ahead of his creditors, what with his unwise land and business dealings or lawsuits in addition.

- There is his political generalship, the fervent speeches and hot debates, the dexterous power-plays behind scenes, the battering election violence he repeatedly called on to win.

- And there is his free-wheeling sex life, which finally produced an unproven but still ruinous case in court, because of his propensity for under-age girls.

It has to be noted, however, that he explicitly terms his volume in its preface a "fictionalized biography", though it is in keeping with the historical sources (discussed in an afterword) as far as they ran and could carry him.

J.M.S. Careless is University Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto.

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