



Herald Publisher Don Brander (left) presents a copy of the North Halton Country Club Friday. A packed house of the Herald's tribute to Walter Biehn (right) to the looked on as Mr. Biehn was roasted and toasted by many retiring Chamber Secretary at the dinner in his honor at of his longtime friends.

He's been in the stew before so Walter expected a good roast

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

Walter Biehn's friends learned a lot about him on Friday night. A packed room at the North Halton Golf and Country Club chuckled as speaker after speaker roasted the former Herald publisher and Chamber of Commerce Secretary, who moved to St. Catharines recently.

Ceremonies Rud Whiting set the robust tone for the evening when he pointed out the tribute to Mr. Biehn which appeared in The Herald just happened to be in the April 1 (April Fool's Day) edition.

Ted Gorth, who wrote the tribute, shed some light on Mr. Biehn's incredible capabilities as he revealed that Mr. Biehn was an accomplished pianist. He recalled a time when Mr. Biehn "laid on the (stool of the piano), took off his shoes and socks and played a beautiful rendition of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Anne Currie, a long time friend of Mr. Biehn, acknowledged his longevity in the publishing business and in Georgetown's political scene. She told the audience, "he did not arrive here with George Kennedy and settle - that was his uncle - Lima Biehn."

Toronto Dominion Bank Manager Ken Norman said he was astounded at Mr. Biehn's many different accounts pointedly noted by the faithful of bankbooks he brought into the bank when he made the rounds closing them all off just before he moved.

Lynne Barnard, former owner of penniesworth Concession store on Main Street, told the audience of Mr. Biehn's habit of phoning all the Chamber members to remind them of regular meetings, "which was always every two weeks".

Mr. Whiting noted the former

publisher's consistent success at the polls when it came to elections. "All Walter had to do was make a few phone calls, put up a sign and he was a winner," he said.

While the roasting was formally over after those chosen speakers, several people who made presentations to Mr. Biehn couldn't help but join in the fun.

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid presented Mr. Biehn with a plaque and a letter from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney congratulating him for his work in the community.

"You've been a pillar in this community. I want to thank you for making this place a better place to live," Mr. McDermid said to an audience applause.

Haltim-Burlington MPP Don Knight also acknowledged Mr. Biehn's contribution to the community with a plaque from the Ontario Government.

Betty Fisher, acting on behalf of Mayor Russ Miller, read a letter from the Mayor wishing him well saying, "he will be missed by the residents of Georgetown."

Mr. Gorth also congratulated the former Chamber secretary on behalf of the Cancer Society with a plaque.

Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy jumped into the roasting pot when he said, "Walter has baited the most files of any municipal council chambers in Ontario."

He teased Mr. Biehn on his infamous phrase, "I'm of two minds."

"When I received my invitation tonight it said roast-toast and I thought my God, Walter has arranged his own dinner," said Mr. Pomeroy.

The Regional Chairman also gave Mr. Biehn a plaque for his work in the community.

Herald Publisher Don Brander then honored Mr. Biehn with a framed

copy of the April 1 tribute to Mr. Biehn as a reminder of his 33 years in the publishing business.

Chamber President Marg Tanas lamented on Mr. Biehn's resignation as Chamber secretary. "He carried out his duties with a smile," Ms. Tanas said.

She said Mr. Biehn was "the one constant force throughout the Chamber's growth and various transitions. He made his contributions with a quiet diplomacy."

Ms. Tanas presented Mr. Biehn with a plaque from the Chamber in recognition of his 12 years as Chamber secretary.

Finally, the guest of honor himself came to the podium.

"I was in the newspaper business for years I thought tonight you might have called it a stew because sometimes I was in it," he said.

He said his duties as Chamber secretary have helped him through the years after his wife Mary died. "The Chamber has helped me fill a lot of lonesome long hours. Anything I've done for the Chamber really hasn't been very much because the Chamber's done a lot for me," he said.

"To see people take the time to come for an evening like this is just a joy I was just thinking, if you'd done this a few years ago I might have stayed in Georgetown," Mr. Biehn said.

"I have family in Georgetown. I'll be back. I haven't left for good," he said to a standing ovation.



Legion Lines

By JIM HAYES

CAR CLUB: 34. Catch up draw April 9.

Winners March 26, 452 Hal Hulme, 101 Steve Cadger, 491 W. Ostrander, 216 G. Couligan, 399 Charlie Armstrong, 377 Frank Shields.

Winners April 2, 207 Liakie Baxter, 54 Ellis Armstrong, 381 Floss Tracey, 80 Ace Bailey, 361 One Game, 85 Neil Walsh.

Winners April 9, 222 Dave Ward, 309 Lynne McCorry, 442 Vern Kirby, 310 Glenn Hillock, 90 Jim Glass, 327 Carol Powell.

Branch 120 members who frequent the club room are aware of our sick board, and the names posted on it.

The following members are at the Bennett Centre, Fanny Weaver, Duke Wilson, Bill Bryden and Bill Gibbs.

Bernie Postlethwaite is in Acton. Percy King is in "O" Wing at Sunnyside. I feel sure these members will welcome a call, or even a card.

District 'B' Spring Convention is being held at Mount Hamilton Branch this weekend (April 11-12). The Branch will be represented by a full delegation headed by President Bruce Collins. Set-at-arms Harry Bottoms will be leading the Branch Colour Party in the Parade, following the close of the Convention.

Entertainment: April 18, Rucketeers, April 25 Daniel Bruce, May 2 Boots.

Next general meeting: April 23rd.

Musical tour

Local Band St. Xavier are being kept busy with more bookings.

April 15 they will be back in Brampton playing at Hot Rocks.

Free tickets will be available from band members.

Toronto based band "Wow Flutter" have taken a keen interest in the band. They are trying to put together an eight week tour of Northern Ontario during July and August.

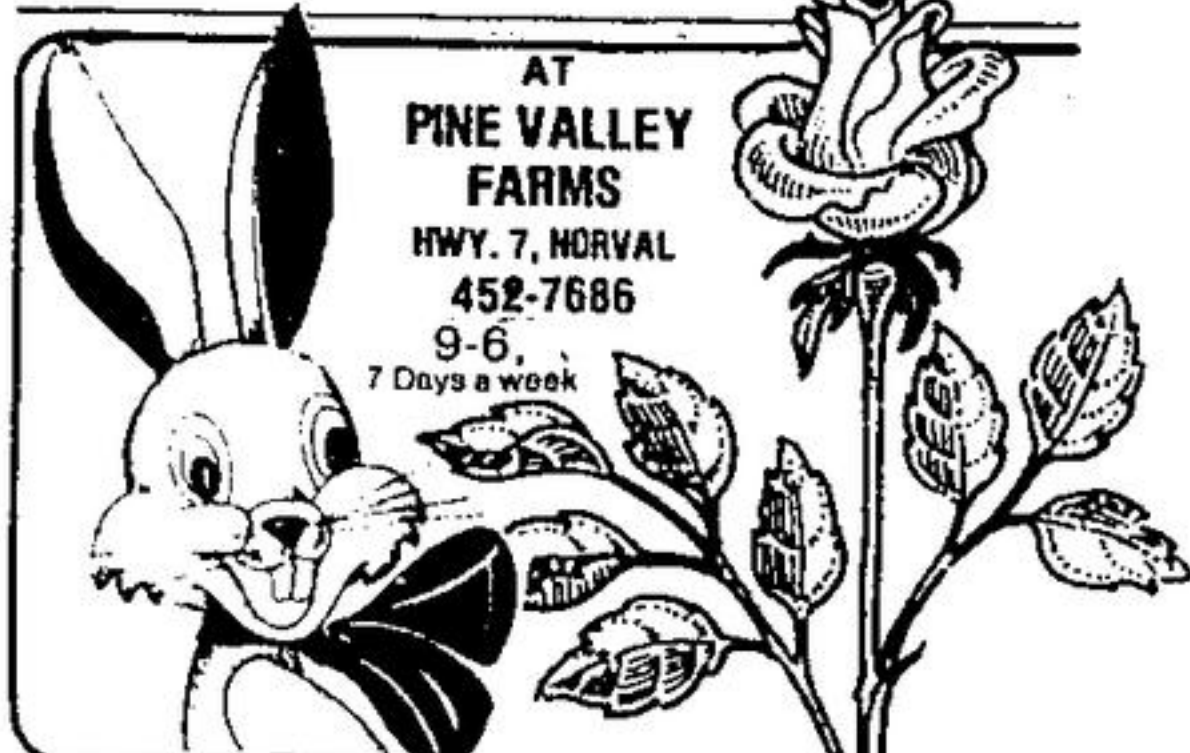
St. Xavier are improving with every performance, and hope to be well supported at Hot Rocks.

Just for your bare toes

How much sand does it take to make a beach? The Town of Halton says 80 cubic metres. That's about 250 metres square in size, and how much sand they're going to dump at Acton's Prospect Park to make a new beach. The beach is going to be near the new Fairy Lake boathouse and about 250 metres square in size.

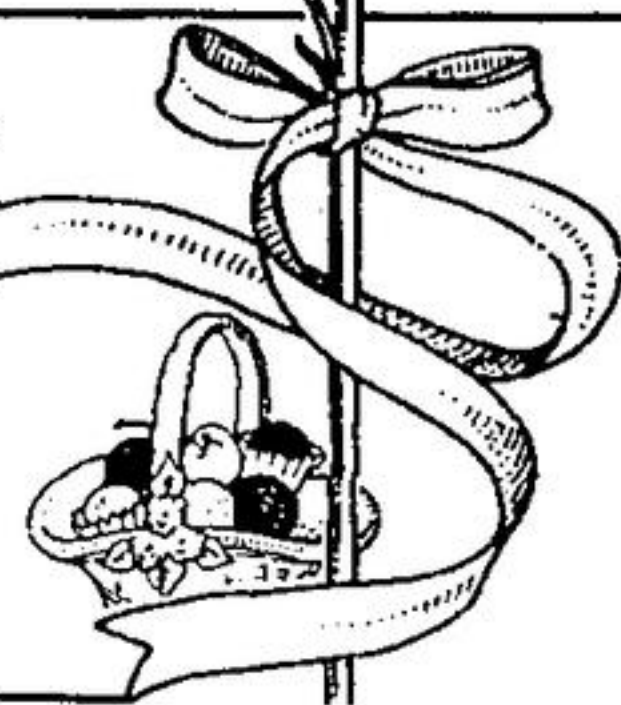
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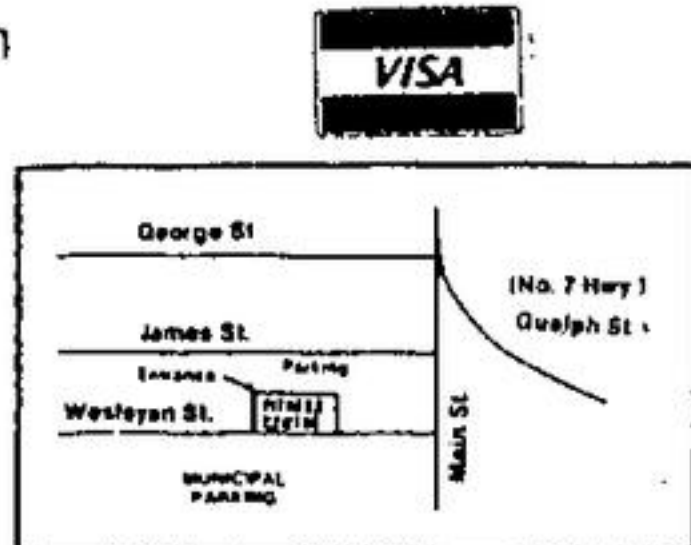
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A good read

Sarah MacDonald, 9, studies a book on E.T. at the 14th annual book sale at the Knox Presbyterian Church Saturday. The sale featured 286 boxes of books for readers to pick over. Organizers hoped to raise over \$2,000 from the sale. The funds raised go towards local school scholarships, organizers say.

Spring and Summer Watercolour Courses with Gretchen Day at the Forge Gallery Terra Cotta

Spring - Adult Courses Beginner, Intermediate April 22, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., 8 weeks May 4, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., 8 weeks May 4, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., 8 weeks

Watercolour Weekend Intermediate, Advance Sat. June 13 and Sun. June 14, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Summer Children's Courses (10-15) July 7, 9, 14, 15, 18, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. July 21, 22, 23 & 28, 29, 30, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Adult Course July 7, 9, 14, 15, 18, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. July 21, 22, 23 & 28, 29, 30, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 877-8680

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