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SECTION

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For 30 Years ...

 We Have Delivered

Armenian 'Boys' offer annual student award

By ANI PEDERIAN
 Herald Staff

Refugees sheltered at Cedarvale Park in the 1920's have raised funds for an annual award to be given to a Georgetown District High School student at commencement services.

The Georgetown Armenian Boys Association, organized in 1968, has set up the award to make sure the Georgetown Boys will be remembered for many years to come.

At a lunch meeting Friday with GDHS principal Barb Singleton, Albert Papazian of the Association said the \$100 award will be known as the Georgetown Armenian Boys Citizenship Award.

The GDHS student council and teaching staff will pick the winner each year. To be eligible, the student must be in Grade 12 or 13, with high scholastic marks and must be a leader in citizenship activities at GDHS.

Who are the Georgetown Boys?

They were a group of about 110 Armenian lads and a handful of girls brought to Canada between 1923 and 1927. They came from orphanages in the Near East, survivors of the Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman Empire in 1915-16, and the final deportation and exile following the Greco-Turkish war of 1921-22. Left homeless orphans, many of those youngsters were gathered into compounds and orphanages to be cared for by the The Lord Mayor's Fund of London, the Near East Relief Association of New York and other charitable groups.

In Canada, headlines told the sad plight of these "starving Armenians", and The Armenian Relief Association of Canada was soon formed to bring the Armenian orphans to Canada. The federal government even contributed \$25,000 to this mission.

It was to Georgetown's Cedarvale Park, then called the Bradley farm, these "Boys" were brought. They learned the Canadian lifestyle and how to farm, at Cedarvale. A plaque was erected to their memory in 1983 at the site, when the Boys celebrated their 60th anniversary at a reunion picnic in the park.

Today, the Boys want to take a further step to be remembered. Putting the historic plaque is not enough.

"I think this will be my last project," Albert Papazian said. He's secretary-treasurer of the Georgetown Armenian Boys Association and he's now 75 years old. He was 15 when he came to Georgetown in 1926.

GDHS principal Barb Singleton said the award will teach her students the history of their community.

"I'm delighted when any member of the community or an organization wishes to donate an award. We have many youngsters who deserve the recognition," she said.

So far, the Association has \$1,665 in a trust fund and Mr. Papazian hopes to increase the amount to \$5,000 to make the award self-supporting permanently.

He said he sent a letter April 20 to the surviving Georgetown Boys, who number about 55, telling them about the award and asking them for donations. As of May 5, he had received \$600 in contributions.

The idea to establish an award at the high school came from long time friends of Mr. Papazian, Helen and Frieda Ounjan of Toronto.

There will be a permanent plaque at the high school on which the names of the award winner will be engraved each year. Along with a \$100 prize, the winning student will receive a commemorative scroll. Mr. Papazian intends to make the first presentation at the 1987 fall commencement in October.



Bon Voyage - A 36-foot long sailboat left an Ewing Street driveway recently for the waters at Owen Sound, Ontario. John and Karla Rattenbury have been building the sailboat for nearly 10 years, and plan to take the family around the world in it in a couple of years. (Herald photo)

Family catches the wave after ten years of work

By ANI PEDERIAN
 Herald Staff

A familiar landmark on Ewing Street has disappeared. The 36-foot long Goderich 35 sailboat which spent years in the Rattenbury driveway is finally sitting in water.

John and Karla Rattenbury and their two children watched recently as cranes dunked their handmade boat into the waters at the Owen Sound Marina.

"We were all madly excited when we saw it in the water. With all those cranes, it was kind of scary," Mrs. Rattenbury said. "We were very glad it didn't sink, and it was all dry in the sea-cocks, which is a good sign."

The sea-cock is a valve controlling connection with the water through a vessel's hull.

Building their own sailboat has been a dream the couple have shared for more than 10 years, working to make it reality in their spare moments.

The incomplete boat sat in their driveway sun, and winters and boat parts cluttered their home, while the project carried on.

Although the "Swagman" is sitting in water, it's still not complete. For one thing, it needs a stripe along the water line and its name painted on.

Why is the boat to be called Swagman? Mr. Rattenbury is originally from Australia, and the term means wanderer and vagabond. A song popular during the war years, "Waltzing Matilda" has several verses about a swagman and the trouble he gets into.

The sailboat still needs its rigging. Its mast is lying on the ground waiting to be hoisted up.

Mrs. Rattenbury describes the Swagman as a floating apartment, comfortable for living in. It isn't one of those long and skinny and uncomfortable racing boats, she said.

It has an auxiliary motor, a dinette, four berths, a galley with lots of storage cupboards called "lockers" in boat lingo, and a chart table where navigation equipment and maps are kept and referred to.

"We're planning eventually to go to the Pacific Ocean with it," Mrs. Rattenbury said.

Her husband plans to take early retirement from the computer company he works for in Toronto and the dream is to travel around the world in their boat, including to Australia. That won't be for a couple of years

yet, Janet, 14, and Mark, 11, will go with them.

They hope to have the boat ready for sailing during their summer holidays before it goes into dry dock in October.

"We're campers, so it won't be a big adjustment," Mrs. Rattenbury says of the sailing life. In fact, the Swagman can be compared to a trailer, she said. Eventually it will have a freezer so enough food can be stored for longer cruises.

The hull of the boat was made in Goderich, Ontario, in 1977. The Rattenbury family used to drive there, on weekends and watch it being built.

After the hull was built, Mr. Rattenbury, with the help of friends, began working on it. A shipwright helped with the woodwork two years ago.

"I've done an awful lot of sanding and varnishing myself," Mrs. Rattenbury said. The boat has mahogany trim with white paint.

John Rattenbury's take on such a large project was to just go out and buy the boat of their dreams.

"The reason is because they couldn't find that kind of boat on the market when they started looking. A second reason was they didn't have enough money to buy a real, made boat," Mrs. Rattenbury said. They run about \$30,000 for the boat the size of the Swagman.

"The only good thing about a boat is it doesn't depreciate like a car," she chuckled.

The Rattenburys weren't interested in sailing when they got married. It was on a camping holiday when they saw a sail-boat going by that their interest was sparked.

Today, John and Karla are members of the Georgetown Power and Sail Squadron and give boating safety and piloting courses.

"I wouldn't encourage anybody else to start a project this size, because it takes too long," Mrs. Rattenbury said. "If you're going to retire, you would be old and gray before you got to sail. You would never get to use it."

As well, there's not a great deal of saving in building the boat yourself, she said.

Without the boat in the driveway, the Rattenburys now have to give friends more directions to find their home on Ewing Street. They can't just say, "it's the house with the big boat in the driveway", anymore.

Teenager captures speaking crown

By BRIAN MacLEOD
 Herald Staff

A Georgetown student topped the field in the Lions Club International Effective Speaking Contest held in Gatineau, Quebec, May 2.

Charlie Gibbs, a Grade 12 student at Georgetown District High School, beat out 11 other competitors from Ontario and Quebec to win the \$500 top prize in the public speaking contest.

This was his fourth attempt at the contest and the first time Charlie got into the finals.

Charlie believes his well-rehearsed speech on the meaning of life, spoken without notes, gave him the edge over his competitors.

To make it to the finals Charlie first had to win three previous levels. He won the local Georgetown level on March 26 followed by the regional level and the district competition held on the same day just two days later.

There were four categories in the competition and Charlie spoke in the English boy category. The other three are English girl and French girl and boy categories.

Each speaker gave a rehearsed and an impromptu speech in the first round and an evening speechoff, consisting of the rehearsed speech and a different impromptu speech, decided the top three places.

Charlie believes he was lucky with his two topics given him for his impromptu speeches. In the morning speech, he was informed he would have to talk about Terry Fox and in the afternoon Charlie had to answer the usually rhetorical question "do gentlemen prefer blondes?"

Charlie particularly liked the second impromptu speech as it gave him freedom to introduce some humor and wit into his speech.

"I said they do (prefer blondes). I took the stereotypes of blondes, red heads and brunettes and described them," he said.

"I like the impromptu almost better than the prepared (speeches). You can be really casual and use a lot of humor," said Charlie.

The second and third place competitors spoke on really versus imagination and extra-terrestrials respectively, said Charlie.

On Friday night, Charlie had to make a mad dash for the competition from New York. He was there on a cultural visit with his school band.

"The Lions Club are incredibly generous. They paid for the whole weekend," Charlie said.

"I really enjoyed it. I only wish that more people would get involved. It's a great way to get involved and understand more about our world. The people you meet are really super too," said Charlie.

"I've been public speaking since Grade 6. I find that at the high school level there's not much opportunity," he added.

"I think that public speaking is just as important or more so than knowing how to play basketball because it is certainly more relevant to our lives," he said.

As the winner of the competition Charlie will make his speech on the meaning of life to the Lions Club convention in Sudbury on June 5.

In the hills

Hearing tests

There will be a free hearing test at the Georgetown Motor Inn May 12-14 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. No appointment is necessary. The testing is being sponsored by Mini-Aid Laboratories Inc. For more information call 1-800-265-7267.

Homeless talk

Homelessness-Strategies for Change is the topic of a meeting hosted by the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton.

The date is May 28 for the event and the location is the United Steelworkers' Hall, 1031 Barton Street East, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The meeting will address the problems of the homeless and develop strategies for change to meet the needs. For more information call 522-1148.

Lupus film

May 17 the Lupus Society of Hamilton will be presenting a special video film called A Brighter Tomorrow. The location is St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton at 2 p.m. There will be a question period following the film.

If you would like to attend call 335-8810 or during office hours 527-2252.

La Leche meeting

The La Leche League of Georgetown welcomes all women interested in breastfeeding information. Babies are always welcome. Our next meeting will be held at 42 Baird St. Cr., Georgetown on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 877-0819.

Recreation talk

There will be a talk about Recreation Services for the Learning Disabled June 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lord Elgin High School in Burlington.

Speaking will be representatives from the Department of Recreation in Milton, Burlington and Oakville. All are welcome. For more information call 634-0686.

Parking approval

J. and J. Dunlop Insurance of Norval has received approval from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority to put down fill for a parking lot at its Guelph Street office.

The parking lot is in the floodplain of the Credit River.

Bounce, bounce for Heart Month

By Tom Hamantarsingh
 Herald Staff

The 25th Anniversary of Georgetown High School was held on September 1st and 2nd 1911. An enthusiastic Georgetown Herald columnist reported on September 6, 1911, "No better spot in Ontario could be found for such a gathering... the beautiful grounds looked charming."

The minutes of March 24, 1911, showed "The High School Board of Trustees and four students met to consider the question of celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the opening of Georgetown High School by holding a reunion."

In addition to the above, Ex Reeve Grant and Principal Miller of the public school attended the initial meeting. Mr. W.A.F. Campbell was appointed chairman and Principal Coutts the secretary. Many in attendance spoke enthusiastically of having a reunion and it was moved by Mr. Grant and seconded by Mr. W. Arnold that a reunion be held. This was unanimously carried.

The reunion committee consisted of the high school board members, high school staff, Messrs. W. Arnold, Ed Leslie, Percy Reid, Misses K. Bradley, Violet Ressey and May Langan and students Carl Adams and Norma Millar. The chairman was Dr. F.H. Watson and the secretary was Principal R. Coutts.

It was decided that a major feature of the 1911 opening ceremony was to unveil a beautiful brass plaque in memory and honour of the late Joseph Barber and the late T.J. Wheeler (Secretary of the Board for twenty years). The community was showing its appreciation for the unstinted efforts and unselfish services these two citizens had given to the cause of education.

This plaque now hangs in the front foyer. Thanks to Fred Armstrong who found it and diligently restored it to its place of prominence.

The Program - Sept. 1st, 1911 (Friday): 1. 1:30 - 2:30 Registration. 2. 2:30 - 3:30 Civic Reception. 3. 3:30 - 5:30 Social Intercourse and Games. 4. 5:30 - 7:30 Banquet on the Girls' Recreation Grounds. 5. 7:30 Procession to the Armories. 6

Back to 1911 - Back for 1987

by Tom Hamantarsingh
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Power of parenting

Dr. Dobson continues his talk on the "Power in Parenting" on Thursday, May 14 at 8 p.m. at Italy Cross Church. The focus this week is on the adolescent as he discusses father/daughter and mother/son relationships and the importance of allowing children to grow and develop as individuals. He also encourages parents to free themselves of undeserved guilt when their teenagers choose to rebel. Admission is free. Everyone is welcome.



CHORAL CONCERT - "Ma, he's making eyes at me", is the song being played up by Centennial Alumni Choir members (left to right, front) Tracy Weeks, Mark Micklethwaite, (centre) Stephanie Schoffelemer, Cindy Algar (back) Heather Bruton and Mark Duke. The choir is rehearsing for its spring concerts May 27 and 28 at the John Elliott Theatre. For tickets, call 877-0978 or 877-5313. (Herald photo)

Courtesy Alumni choir Two-part musical evening

By ANI PEDERIAN
 Herald Staff

The Centennial Alumni Choir is gearing up for its fifth annual concert, to be held May 27 and 28.

For tickets, call the school at 877-0978 or Lois Barrager at 877-5313.

The two part musical evenings will feature some pop music, some spirituals, jazz and easy-to-listen-to tunes such as "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" by Simon and Garfunkle.

The 28-member choir was born out of the Centennial Public School choir. Music teachers Paul Brisley and Lois Barrager started it up five years ago.

"I thought I'd like an older, community group to work with, so we decided to start with the kids from here," she said.

The choir has really caught on, with other young people who didn't graduate from Centennial wanting to join. Numbers are kept to 30 and there are auditions to get in.

Hanging in age from 14 to 20, the young people find the time to turn

out for Thursday evening rehearsals each week.

They take part in community concerts such as the upcoming spring concert. At Christmas time, they carolled on Main Street and raised \$50 for children's toys and also put on a show at St. Andrew's United Church. In September they performed for the Hungry Hollow Hobos campers at the Milton Campgrounds.

"We try to remain a real part of the community," Mrs. Barrager said.

To buy the music for their spring concert, the young people held a 12 hour dance-thon and raised \$800 in November.

The second half of that concert is a show called S.H.O. arranged by Mark Brymer, an American. It features music from the twenties, thirties and forties. There's music from Vaudeville days, songs of the silver screen, the best of Broadway and big band radio shows.

You'll meet everybody from Jimmy Durante on, at this concert. The

pieces have been choreographed by Cheryl Broughton who choreographed last year's show "American Pop", and recently Stewarttown Senior Public School's production of H.M.S. Pinafore.

Joan Lovegrove is helping with some of the costumes, and Centennial's industrial arts teacher Stan Cathrae is helping make props for it.

There'll be six soloists in the show, three performing each night. Mrs. Barrager said they're to be selected soon.

Because some members of the choir will be leaving this year to go away to college and university, a medley of songs the choir has done over the past five years will also make up this spring concert.

The choir has 22 girls and six boys in it, and most songs are done in three part - soprano, alto and tenor.

Mr. Brisley has been music teacher at Centennial for seven years. Mrs. Barrager was music teacher at Centennial for four years. She is currently music teacher at Stewarttown.