



'Stolen' bell will have a truly familiar ring

By LOIS FRASER
Herald Special

The new Halton Hills Civic Centre, scheduled to open in May of 1989, will boast an official town bell to ring in the New Year and at other ceremonies taking place at the Civic Centre. Now we hate to admit that this prestigious bell had shady beginnings, but it was stolen from a schoolyard.

Mayor Russ Miller recalls that as a member of the Esquering school board 22 years ago, he and other board members were dismayed at the theft of many of the country school bells when schools closed due to lack of enrolment. At one board meeting it was reported that the bell at Waterloo School, a one-room school on the Fourth Line between Sideroads 15 and 17, had been taken. It turns out that long time town employee Lloyd Fisher and Esquering farmer Chester Early got the jump on would-be thieves by making off with it in the night. Mr. Fisher thought the town might find a use for it, as indeed they have. The Waterloo School bell was stored by Lloyd Fisher for 22 years and is now undergoing restoration work to be in tip top shape for our Civic Centre.

The bell will be supported by a sandstone cairn which is being fashioned by Glen Williams stone mason, Gerry Inglis. Gerry is donating his time to the project and hopes townsfolk will enjoy using the bell for many years to come. The cairn will be made from a single slab of sandstone which is quarried by Rice and McHarg Quarries. The Rice family has agreed to donate the stone to the Civic Centre as they appreciate the many years they have lived and operated a business in our town.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the new Civic Centre, contact Gary Brand at 873-0300 or Fred Nelson at 877-5206.

Citizens' forum

Facing a tragic situation

Dear Sir,
In 1978 the decline of trees on a major scale began in Europe. The spread of this forest sickness was very rapid and by 1986 major deforestation of upland and mountain slopes was occurring in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Reports are now being received about forest decline and die back in France, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium and Southern Sweden.
The decline started in North America in the early 1980s with the reports of the death of red spruce and balsam fir in the mountains of Vermont and New York.
By 1984, reports were coming in from Quebec's maple syrup producers of the die back and decline of their sugar maples. By 1986 a major "epidemic" was clearly under way. Other species were being affected along with sugar maple, beech, yellow birch, green and white ash and other species.

In Ontario some maple syrup producers started to complain of similar problems in the Muskoka area. Current research reveals that the problem is extensive in the hardwood forests around Parry Sound, Huntsville and Bracebridge.
The first signs of decline have now been seen in Uxbridge, Exeter and King with the sugar maple showing the most serious decline.
As you look around your neighborhoods you will see trees with browning leaves and thinning

total leaf cover. It's been a hot summer and some of this caused by drought. The effect of the drought is made more severe by the factors causing the decline.

What is happening?
Acid rain and other toxic substances in the air are all playing a part. Salt, compaction of soil, chemical contamination are all working against the health of our neighborhood trees.

Imagine your street without its trees. It's hard to do; they seem like they should last forever. And yet the insidious attack of noxious gasses in the air plus a host of other problems is working against our trees.

What's being done to work out a solution?

This is the really sad part. Almost nothing is being spent on research to find out what can be done to protect our trees until we stop toxic emissions.
Our current research project, badly in need of financial support, is trying to find a way to either inoculate or give special chemical treatments to trees in Southern Ontario so they will survive.
It's a tragic situation. The value trees give to our neighborhoods is incalculable and yet their continued survival is threatened by the tiny but negligible sums of money given to research to find a way to protect them.

Yours faithfully,
Aird Lewis, Director,
Trees for Today and Tomorrow

Opposed to irradiation

Dear Sir,
In December, Canada's taxpayer-funded gift to Thailand - an Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) food irradiator - is scheduled to be completed. The Cobalt-60 fuel rods, supplied by Canada, are reported to have been delivered to Thailand in September - packed in five tonnes of concrete!
Aside from broad concerns pertaining to the safety of eating irradiated food, there are several disturbing aspects of this agreement between the governments of Thailand and Canada. At taxpayer expense, our government has agreed to help Thailand promote and market irradiated fruit and shrimp - even before their consumption is legal here. The contract also obliges Canada to accept back the spent Cobalt-60 fuel from Thailand. When a Thai official is quoted as telling his constituents that Canada will be "pleased" to take the waste back, he certainly doesn't speak for this Canadian! Indeed I don't wish our nuclear garbage on the people of Thailand, and I don't wish it on us either!
I'm ashamed that my government is still producing, promoting, and exporting atomic technology, when there is no acceptable, safe solution to the nuclear waste crisis. Are

Canadian consumers demanding irradiated foods on the grocery shelf? Not according to a recent Environics public opinion poll, which indicates 75 per cent of Canadians are opposed to irradiation of their food. Are citizens of Thailand and other developing countries asking that food irradiation be adopted as a method of food preservation? The International Organization of Consumer Unions, representing people in 50 countries, has called for a moratorium on the development of food irradiation.

In this era of risk-benefit trade-offs, the risk always seems to be to our life and health, and the decisions made by experts who stand to reap the greatest economic benefit. The submission of public health standards to the export-driven needs of AECL should offend most Canadians. (AECL hasn't sold a reactor abroad for years).

Let us tell Mr. Mulroney that exporting our nuclear mess abroad isn't neighborly gift-giving. Let us tell our grocers and food products manufacturers that we're prepared to boycott stores that sell irradiated food.

Yours truly,
Anne Hansen
of Nuclear Moratorium Now

Impaired charge

Police officers at a Fourth Line motor vehicle collision Saturday night charged a man with impaired driving. The officers were investigating an accident when a man drove up on a farm tractor and appeared to be intoxicated. An Action man, 34, is charged with impaired driving and having over 80 mg of alcohol in his bloodstream. He will appear in court Jan. 9, 1989.

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Books for children

By ALLAN GOULD

As each holiday season approaches, one has to pinch oneself to believe how utterly brilliant our country's children's books have become. There are countless reasons why Canada's books for kids are arguably the best in the world: the excessive commercialism in many other countries, which often forces out talent in favor of huge multinational companies; the often generous grant system for many Canadian publishers, authors and illustrators; and more.

One thing is certain: to buy our children the best books written may not be inexpensive, but, in many cases, it is like investing in fine art. And anyone who has seen how kids will often tire of toys knows how they rarely tire of books. Now, to some of this fall's finest:

Tundra Books of Montreal continues to put out stunning books for four to 10 year olds (and thereabouts). Two real treats of this season include Stephanie Poulin's third book about a sweet boy named Daniel and his usually-running-away cat; this time, it's *Could you stop Joseph? (hardcover, unpaginated, \$14.95)*. On a drive to the country, that delightful cat escapes once again, and the wonderful illustrations of Poulin continue to enchant. And Dayal Kaur Khalsa has another wonder, *The Family Vacation (hardcover, 32 pages, \$14.95)*, about a boy and girl who are tossed into the family car and driven down to Florida. It's the ultimate Canadian experience, counting cars and fighting each other, and buying enough postcards to fill the backseat. This new book lacks the hilarity of some of her earlier books, but her artistry continues to be almost Matisse-like in its vibrant colors.

FASCINATING

Out of Grevy de Pencier - the geniuses who bring you Owl and Chickadee magazines (by subscriptions, already!) - is a magnificent new book, *The Wildlife ABC, A Nature Alphabet*, by Jan Thornhill (hardcover, 32 pages, \$18.95). It's a real beauty, with intelligent text (S is for Salmon/Swimming up a creek, T is for Turtle/Her mouth is a beak), and the illustrations are memorable and endlessly fascinating.

Annick Press is one of our favorites, with more affordable, and usually charmingly witty, books. *I Have To See This! (unpaginated, \$4.95 paperback, \$12.95 hardcover)* is a lovely story by Richard Thompson of a child who sees all these marvelous happenings on the moon, while the father has trouble imagining them - until he goes to sleep. And the art by the brilliant Eugenie Fernandes is deeply satisfying. At the same price, Priscilla Galloway's *Seal is lost in an inspired idea: Hugh loses his toy seal, who is, of course, in Lost Toyland, and having a good time with all the other lost toys. What parent and child cannot relate to that? And the montages by Karen Patkau are strikingly original.*

Groundwood Books of Vancouver's Douglas and McIntyre is always producing astonishing works, and this winter is no different. The great Ken Nutt, who illustrated the fabulous Zoon books, has now done the same, under the pseudonym of Eric Beddows, with *Night Cars (hardcover, 32 pages, \$13.95)*, an eerie, powerfully surreal work about a child who don't go to sleep (ring a bell?). This one has classic written all over it. So, too, with *Architect of the Moon by the fine Tim-Wynne Jones, and illustrated by the gifted Ian Wallace (hardcover, 32 pages, \$12.95)*. The moon starts to fall apart, but little David flies up there to the rescue, his block collection at hand. Simply perfect.

FUNNIEST

The funniest kids books each year - hysterical, really - come from the zany mind and pen of John Bianchi. The latest offering is *The Swine Snafu (unpaginated, \$4.95 paperback, \$12.95 cloth)*. Children five and over will howl at the cartoony drawings, and story, about very humanized pigs and bears whose kids get switched at birth - or so it seems. Firefly handles Bianchi's hilarious little books, as they do those from Windsor's Black Moss Press. The company's most daring, unconventional little paperback this fall is *Scary Poems for Rotten Kids*, by the weird, highly original poet Sean O'hughlin. An acquired taste, but a good, low-priced way to confront the fears that all children have about most things (paperback, unpaginated, \$5.95).

-Allan Gould is a Toronto-based reviewer and author. His latest book, a Canadian political satire, is *The Great Wiped Out North*.

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Hillhouse reinstated as chairman

At a Halton Board of Education ceremony last week, Oakville trustee Pat Hillhouse and Milton trustee Bob Clarke were re-elected Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively.

Mrs. Hillhouse, spokesman for the Ontario Public Education Network (OPEN), said funding will continue to be a "major issue" in her next year as Board Chairman.

"Now is the time to really make an effective lobby to the provincial government," Mrs. Hillhouse told board members at the J.W. Singleton Education Centre.

Moderate damage

Halton Regional Police say two cars were moderately damaged following a collision at Main Street North near Henry Street Wednesday night.

A southbound 1981 Buick driven by a Georgetown woman, 42, was struck from behind by a 1982 Plymouth driven by a Georgetown man, 28. Police say the Buick stopped to make a left turn when it was hit from behind and forced to the roadside, where it struck a newspaper box. The driver of the Plymouth was charged with careless driving. There were no injuries reported in the accident.

"We cannot continue to place an increasing burden on the cost of the taxpayers."

Mrs. Hillhouse said Ontario's 1.5 million students are victims of decreasing government assistance. Funding "has dropped from 56 per cent in 1975 to 38 per cent in 1987."

And funding impacts on accommodation, said Mrs. Hillhouse. She pointed out that 1987-88 was a difficult year for the school board, which was forced to close Gordon E. Perdue School in Oakville to indirectly allow funding for northern Oakville and Burlington schools.

Mrs. Hillhouse said the provincial government has "put forth a three-year commitment" for funding, but is unable to meet with demands, which include restoration of older schools and the building of new schools.

But in the next term as chairman, Mrs. Hillhouse said the board will try "alternatives."

"We are eager and willing to try some new approach, to look at different ideas and different ways of approaching education," she said.

Mrs. Hillhouse added that the influx of students moving from other regions causes an overflow in Halton schools.

"We are unable to properly accommodate the students who are

coming to us," she said, but added if any board is able to meet "challenges and changes" the Halton public board is "in that happy position."

"Thankyou for the confidence you have placed in me one more time," Mrs. Hillhouse told trustees Thursday night. "We will continue to make Halton a shining beacon of education."

Trustee Clarke said he "looks forward" to participating in OPEN, and to working for the people of Halton.

The board of education also announced its 1988-89 Striking Committee Thursday night. It will consist of Burlington trustees Linda Glover and Diane Filman, Oakville trustees Patty Wilcox and Janis Millman and Milton trustee Bill Harrison.



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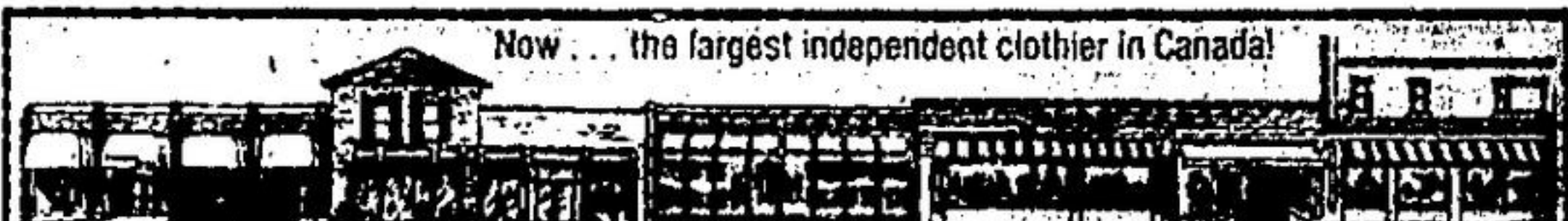
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