

Highland games at Georgetown Fairgrounds today

The Georgetown Fairgrounds is the site today (Saturday) of the distinctive sounds of the Scottish bagpipes and a sea of tartan kilts with the arrival of the 15th Annual Georgetown Scottish Festival and Highland Games.

The main attractions will once again be the more than 20 pipe bands, more than 250 of Canada's best highland dancers, Scotland's version of the Canada's Paul Bunion (the heavyweights) and the Cheer Garden, said games' organizer Nauricette Spicer.

Mrs. Spicer expects between 4,000 and 5,000 people to be in attendance today to see the many participants who have come from as far away as Detroit and Ottawa.

The Highland Games are so popular that a lot of people follow the bands from event to event, said Mrs. Spicer.

The new attraction this year at Georgetown is the staging of Scottish country dancing which starts around 10 a.m. and runs throughout the day. Scottish country dancing is Scotland's version of

ballroom dancing except it's performed in groups of four, six or eight, explained Mrs. Spicer.

The Georgetown Highland Games were founded by the Scottish community in Speyside. It was held in Speyside for four years and then moved to its present location, she said.

This year there is 18 camping spots at the Fairgrounds and they will be allocated on a first come first serve basis, said Mrs. Spicer.

A schedule of today's events is as follows.

- The Highland Fling, 10 a.m.
- Hammer throw followed by the Weight throw and the tug of war preliminary heats, 10:30 a.m.
- Final solo competitions and the Shot Put, 11:30 a.m.
- The arrival of the official party, 12:30 p.m.
- The Massed Highland Fling, 12:50 p.m.
- The Massed Pipe Bands, 1 p.m.
- Scottish Country Dancing demonstration in Centre Field, 1:20 p.m.
- Band competitions, Sean

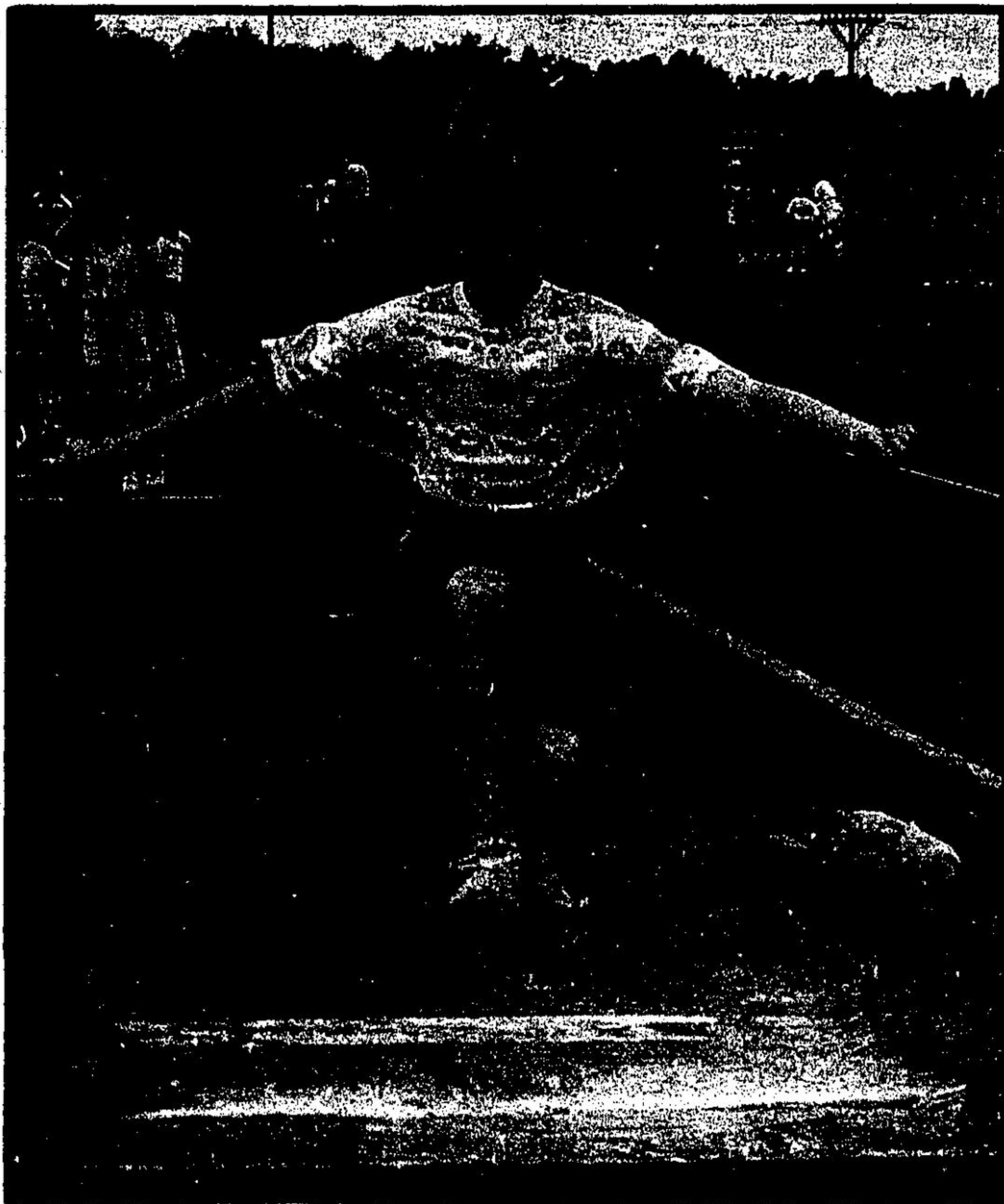
- Tribhas and the Weight Toss, 1:30 p.m.
- The Bass and Tenor Drum Competition and Cabot Toss, 1:45 p.m.
- The Drum Major Championship, 4:00 p.m.
- The dancer's prizes award presentation and tug of war finals, 5:15 p.m.

Mrs. Spicer said the Cheer Garden will be open to 8 p.m. so that visitors can mingle with the games' participants.

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Coming through

Crystal Waterkamp of Joseph Gibbons Elementary School flies through the air with the greatest of ease in preparation for landing in the 8-year-old girls long jump competition at the Georgetown Elementary

Schools track and field meet staged Wednesday at Georgetown District High School track and field facility. For more pictures and results, see pages 11 and 12. (Herald Photo by Colin Gibson)

Recommended option

Guelph Street may expand to four lanes

By **BEN DUMMETT**
 the Herald

The \$1.5 million expansion of Guelph Street from Maple Avenue to the west end of Georgetown to four lanes is the recommendation Halton Hills councillors will be asked to consider when the issue goes before council in August, said Ron Goddard, a town engineering technologist.

The town, along with its engineering consultants Delcan Corporations, are recommending a four-lane instead of a five-lane expansion of the strip because the latter scenario will cause "a lot less property damage," said Mr. Goddard during a public hearing at the Civic Centre Wednesday night.

"There were a lot of adverse comments from people during the last public meeting held (earlier this year) about a five-lane expansion. (And) we looked at these and it was obvious people didn't want it."

Mr. Goddard described the impact of the five-lane option as "fairly devastating."

That option would mean the destruction of 29 large trees, a lot of which are maple and oak trees, said Delcan representative Dave Smith. It would also mean demolishing eight buildings both residential and commercial, he explained.

Contrastingly, the recommended option will result in 19 trees being destroyed, which Mr. Smith describes as smaller and easily replaceable. And only the Carpet Barn at Guelph and Mill Street will have to come down if the plan goes ahead, he said.

The Carpet Barn has submitted a plan to the town calling for the building to move to the property next to its current location. The five-lane option is also at least \$300,000 more expensive. Mr. Smith explained the five-lane option would cost \$1.8 million excluding the cost of acquiring the necessary properties. The \$1.5 million estimate for the four-lane option excludes only the cash needed to buy the Carpet Barn property, said Mr. Smith.

The benefits of the five-lane option include a left-hand turning lane that would reduce traffic congestion and would also reduce the potential for accidents, said Mr. Smith. But he also said the safety factor of the four-lane scheme is "quite acceptable." "Any benefits of five-lanes were outweighed by the disbenefits."

Mr. Goddard said the comments that came out of Wednesday's public meeting will be incorporated into the final report which will be finished late this summer. The town will have paid out about \$80,000 to complete the report, said Mr. Goddard.

He couldn't say if council approved the recommendation in August when construction on the expansion would happen. The town's first priority is starting the road improvement on Guelph Street from Mountainview Road to Maple Avenue, which is scheduled to begin in 1993.

But, "property acquisition (for the Guelph Street expansion from Maple Avenue onwards) and further designs could begin in four to five years," said Mr. Goddard.

Glen Williams set for Canada Day
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