

Georgetown Boys anniversary passes quietly

By Oksana Buhel

Paul Adourian, now a Toronto resident, was seven-years-old when he arrived at Cedarvale Farm in Georgetown on July 1, 1923. He was one of the youngest of the first 50, of an eventual 109 Armenian orphans who were brought to Canada to start a new, and hopefully, unscarred life.

The orphans, whose ages ranged from seven to 12, had lost either one or both parents during the exiles and massacres of Armenians in Turkey between 1915-1922. They were being kept at the Lord Mayor's Fund orphanage in Corfu, Greece.

"My mother had to put us (Adourian and his older brother Onnig) into the orphanage because she just had a baby girl," explained Adourian. "She couldn't take care of us and the baby at the same time. My father had been shot in Turkey."

The Armenian Relief Fund of Canada, based in Toronto, worked feverishly with other organizations to coordinate funds to buy the orphans food, clothes and other

essentials. The organizers of the Relief Fund decided to take their aid one step further and attempt to bring some of the orphans to Canada to educate and train them to work the land.

The task was a monumental one, since Canadian policy at the time discouraged immigration from the Near East, Asia and Africa. Dr. A.J. Vining, secretary of the Armenian Relief Fund, took up the crusade to convince government officials to

loosen regulations. He wrote hundreds of letters to hundreds of influential Canadians, hoping they would, in turn, influence others. One letter addressed the plight of "a million murdered Armenians (who) are pleading with civilization to care for the battered remnants of an ancient race."

Long-awaited reply

On April 4, 1923, Vining received his long-awaited reply from G.B. Smart, supervisor of juvenile immi-

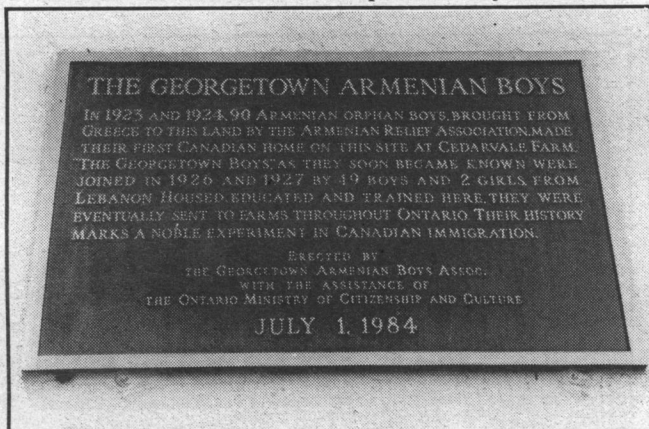
gration, stating 100 Armenian orphan children would be accepted into Canada, under numerous listed conditions, including; full responsibility of the boys by the Canadian Armenian Relief Fund; requirement of top physical and mental state of the boys, and the maintenance of detailed records of the boys. The government also allotted \$25,000 to the project, which came to be known as "Canada's Noble Experiment."

Adourian explained the reaction from the other side of the ocean. "We (the orphans) knew something was happening," he said. "We were told some of us were going to Canada, but we didn't know who. It was very exciting."

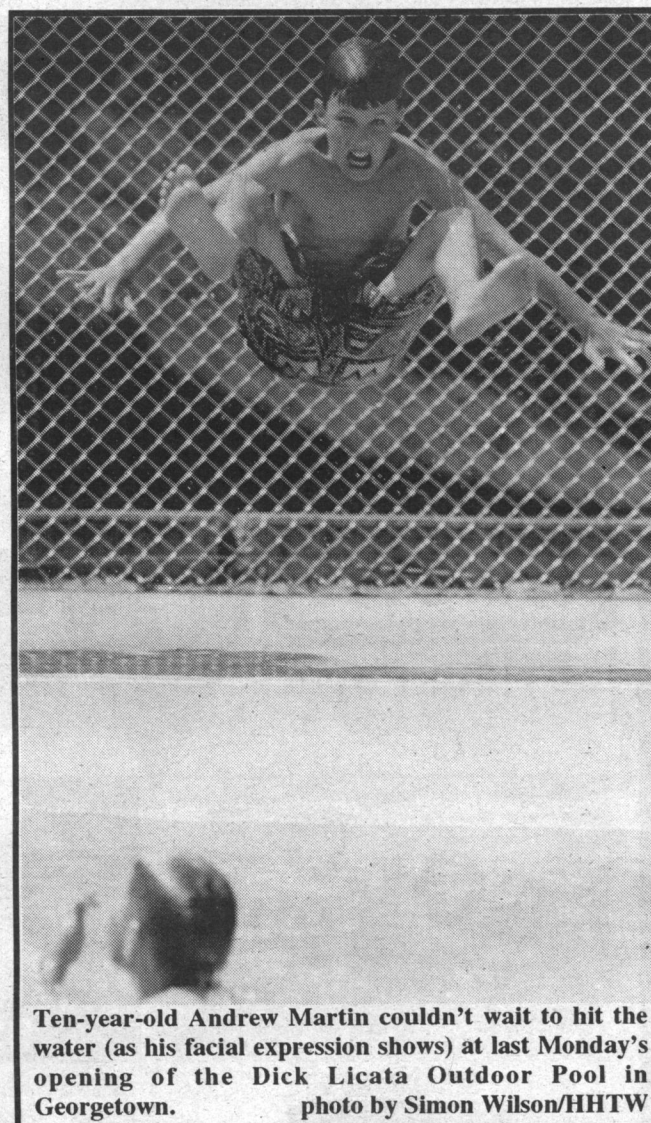
Cedarvale Farm selected

Once the official approval was granted, a location had to be selected where the orphans could be housed and educated before being sent off to the farms of their foster parents.

The location selected was the current Cedarvale Park, Continued on page 10



The plaque to commemorate the "Georgetown Boys" and people involved in "Canada's Noble Experiment," was erected on the south wall of the Cedarvale Community Centre on the 61 anniversary of the first group of boys' arrival, on July 1, 1984. photo by Oksana Buhel/HHTW



Ten-year-old Andrew Martin couldn't wait to hit the water (as his facial expression shows) at last Monday's opening of the Dick Licata Outdoor Pool in Georgetown. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

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IWA site routes selected but not identified

The Interim Waste Authority (IWA) has identified preferred haul routes for each of five possible

landfill sites in the Region of Peel. Residents and property owners whose homes or land are located within

impact study zones - identified for each of the preferred routes - will be asked to complete a survey over

the coming two weeks as part of the sixth step in the IWA's detailed examination of the "short" list sites.

The more preferred haul routes were selected from a number of alternatives for waste vehicle travel to each of the possible landfill sites in the study area. Impact study zones were identified along each route where the study team believed waste vehicle travel would have an impact on the surrounding area. Property owners whose lands lie within the impact study zones were invited to attend open houses and workshops held in late May and early June to obtain information about the routes or to provide feedback on the haul route alternatives to the study team.

Preferred Waste Haul Routes

The preferred haul routes, one for each candidate site, were selected after analyzing the potential impact of

waste vehicle travel along each alternative route. This analysis included detailed traffic and transportation studies as well as examining the potential impact on seven other criteria groups: agriculture, archaeology, biology, economics, heritage, planned land use and social.

The landfill site search involves a six-step process which will conclude with

the selection of a preferred landfill site to serve the disposal needs for the Region of Peel. The IWA is currently in Step 6 of the site search process, which involves detailed studies of each of the five possible sites which are on the Peel "short" list of sites announced last November. The preferred sites are expected to be announced in late summer.



Tachman Car Club held its monthly Cruise Night Wednesday at the Pizza Hut parking lot in Georgetown and Roman Chymycz was seen with his date for the evening (Madonna) in his 1959 Corvette. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Woman trapped

A single motor vehicle collision occurred on Main Street at Tenth Line in Glen Williams on Thursday at approximately 10 a.m.

Police investigation reveals that a motor vehicle driven by Brenda Williams, 46, of Windmill Blvd., Brampton, was southbound on Main Street when the vehicle left the roadway and struck a hydro pole and rolled over, trapping the driver.

Emergency services extricated the driver who was suffering from head injuries and transported her to Sunnybrook Medical Centre by air ambulance.

The investigation is continuing by the Halton Regional Traffic Bureau.

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