

The North Halton Compass

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"A RURAL PAPER TO CALL OUR OWN"

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Fall Fair season straight ahead

Georgetown, Acton and Halton Agricultural Societies set to celebrate the Harvest of 1998

BY DONNA DANIELLI
NORTH HALTON COMPASS

All over the countryside, farmer folk are currying the mares, packing in the pickles, getting a little more *hp* from the old family tractor or quilting up a bear paw that would make grandma proud.

The highlight of each autumn season is the annual Fall Fair. Every year kids and grownups count the days between the Acton, Georgetown and Milton fairs.

Being a huge fan of Fairs myself, I have to agree with the kids and eagerly await those three weekends a year when the magic comes to town. Each event is unique unto itself and what follows is a brief overview of what they offer.

First up is the 152nd

annual Georgetown Fall Fair, held on September 11, 12 and 13. Friday night's festivities will open with the Fair Ambassador competition, followed by the Truck and Tractor Pull. Saturday night showcases the ever-popular Demolition Derby and the Lime Stone Blues and Rock Band, while Sunday features a pet show, Princess Karma and Company (a family magic and illusion show), as well as a Kiddy Tractor Pull. Weekend long events include a full midway, homecraft displays and of course, the horse shows. In addition to western and hunter shows, pony shows and light horse events, the heavy horse competition draws large crowds.

"The heavy horse competition has grown considerably in recent years," says Agricultural Society President Don Brander. "The Fair attracts entries throughout Southern Ontario, many of whom have been entered at the C.N.E. and the Royal Winter Fair." Heavy horse events are held throughout the day on Sunday, Sept. 13th. For more Fair information, call (905) 873-6157.

Next comes the 85th annual Acton Fall Fair, set for September 18, 19 and 20. Before the fair officially opens on Friday evening, local schools will be participating in Education Day.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BETTYANNE WELLSTEAD

JUNIOR FARMERS - Alyssa and Kailie Benton of R.R. #4, Acton are gearing up for the Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull at the Georgetown Fall Fair on the afternoon of Sunday, September 13th.

All aboard to save the 797

BY DONNA DANIELLI
CAMPBELLVILLE & AREA

If you're like me, you've noticed the sign for the Halton County Radial Railway museum (H.C.R.R.) on Guelph Line but haven't taken the time to stop and see what it's about. Tourists who flock to the H.C.R.R. realize it's a lot of fun there. The H.C.R.R. is a life size working museum featuring classic antique electric rail vehicles operating on a mile of track. My kids couldn't decide which they enjoyed riding more, the London & Port Stanley Motor Car #8, built in 1915 and complete with stained glass and Tiffany style lamps, the Peterwitt 2424 with reproductions of the original ads along it's sides, or the 327, a replica of an 1890's open air car, (the 327 got my vote for best ride).

The museum is staffed completely by volunteers, from the people who act as conductors and motormen, guiding you through the original Rockwood and Meadow-vale stations and display barns, to Murray and Sheila Smith who drive in from Kitchener to tend the rock garden at the end of the line and do so on their own time. All money raised by admissions go back to the museum.

Chris Fox, a motorman and member of the track gang says, "It's a part of our past that was gone long before it should have

been... it's a part of our past that shouldn't be forgotten."

Maureen Marentette stressed the importance of the museum to the community when she stated, "Our goal is to educate the public while preserving transit history, a goal which more than 300 members and over 75 volunteers work hard to meet."

The museum has about 60 radial trains in its collection, with 12 in operation. Right now the H.C.R.R. is scrambling to find the funds to save the Lake Erie & Northern 797, which ran between Kitchener, Port Dover and Hespeler from 1915 to 1955. Car #797 is the

only surviving Canadian Pacific Electric Lines passenger car and is currently at the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, Maine. A minimum of \$12,000 must be raised by the end of September in order to transport this irreplaceable part of Canada's heritage to the H.C.R.R. The museum asks for the support from the community and surrounding companies in this unique Canadian Heritage project. Tax creditable donations can be made by contacting Doug McOuat, Media Liaison at 416-299-2368 or call H.C.R.R. at 519-856-9802.

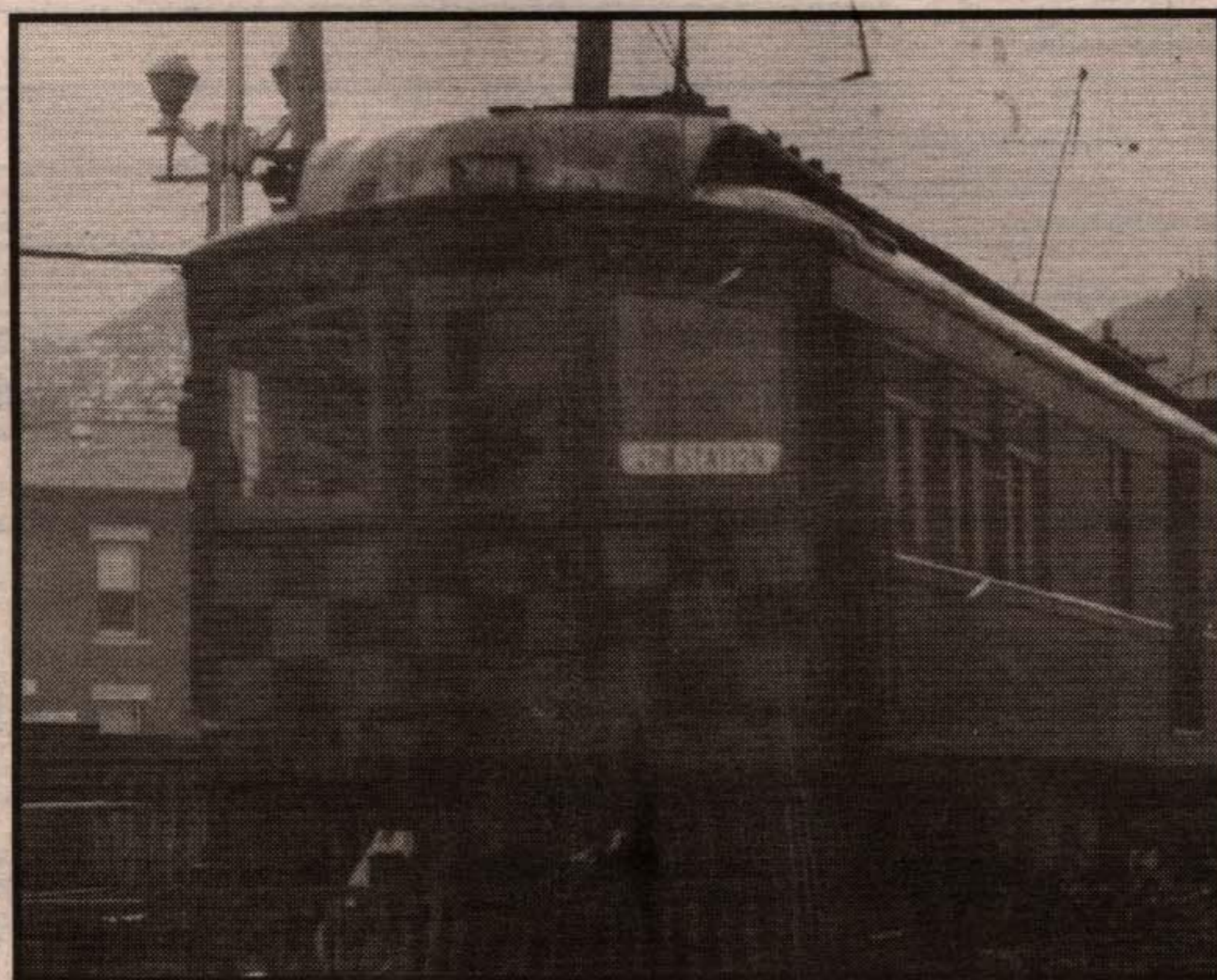


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE H.C.R.R.

LAST STOP? - The staff at the Halton County Radial Railway hope to purchase the Lake Erie & Northern 797 for the local museum.

Inside This Month's Compass

Developing Countries Farm Radio Network -

The DCFRN since 1979 has become a mainstay of rural life in developing countries around the globe.

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Everyday Heroes -

Jack Layman gives to the community by entertaining with his fiddle and miniature steam engines, and wife Jean is active in the Scouts movement.

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Shoobox Memories -

During the early sixties, natives of Nassagaweya such as George and Smitten Currie enjoyed Pioneer Power Reunion at the Les Lowe Farm.

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Acton Lanes -

Gord and Donna Labombard of Acton Lanes take a special interest in kids through their bowling alley's YBC program.

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