

Pipe and drums

STORY AND PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

Chances are if you've attended a renaissance fair or historical re-enactment in the last few years, you may already be acquainted with Seth Ferguson. He's the eighteen-year-old whiz kid behind the bagpipes or the drums; depending on which role he's fulfilling that particular day. His work with the comedy musical troupe "The Tartan Terrors" (www.tartanerrors.com) and the re-enactment group Drums 1812 (www.drums1812.org) has seen him travel throughout North America bringing history alive through entertainment.

"I started piping around age 12," explains Seth. "I always liked the pipes and it really tied into my love of history. I've had an interest in the War of 1812 and the Napoleonic era from an early age."

He was only three or four years of age when his mother began reading him tales of the War of 1812, setting him on the path to find out more. "It started off when I was little. The Napoleonic period was so fascinating, the uniforms, the weaponry, the tactics, and the characters. I read almost everything you can read about the War of 1812. In grade six, I was reading university textbooks."

He was only fourteen when he created his own website dedicated to the War of 1812, and now four years later, he has turned his attentions to the written page. Frustrated with the feeling that many books written about the War of 1812 are written by Americans and include a bias in reporting the events, Seth has undertaken his own project, a carefully researched novel set within the military in 1812. Seth is beginning to attract a large fan base through his piping. There is even a website dedicated to him at www.geocities.com/seths_stalkers/. "At first I was really freaked out by it," he laughs, noting he was only sixteen when the website first appeared. "Now I'm used to it. I think it's the kilt. If you want to get picked up, wear a kilt."

The largest hurdle right now for Seth is time. Although he has taken a year off from school after graduating from Milton

District High School, finding the time to sit and write is becoming more and more difficult for this jack-of-all-trades. "Every night I have a different activity to do, pipe band practice, teaching piping, Irish stick fighting," Seth rhymes off just a few of the many things he is involved in. That doesn't begin to take in his work with the "Tartan Terrors" and "Drums 1812" which sees him travelling almost every weekend. Oh and did we mention, his acting career and his work as a referee with minor hockey? "It does keep me busy," laughs Seth when his gruelling schedule is pointed out. "It's very hard to fit everything into my schedule," he admits. Top of his agenda though, is his dedication to refereeing hockey with his goal to someday be a referee in the NHL. "There's nothing I'd rather do," insists Seth, who has refereed for some time in minor hockey. "You get paid to skate around the ice and do something you love. Playing sports and officiating sports are two very different things. I'm a fast, efficient skater and I'm confident it will work out well for me."

Actor, piper, author, drummer, and referee... the list of titles for this modern day renaissance man seems almost endless and that's just the way that Seth Ferguson likes it. "If I could, I would want to do everything, because then you know where other people are coming from," Seth maintains.



Brookville piper Seth Ferguson

Meningococcus immunization available free for Halton men

The Halton Region Health Department will be running meningococcus group C (Men C) immunization clinics over the summer months. The following individuals are eligible for the vaccine:

- Grade 7 students and youth aged 15-19 who missed the clinic at their school
- Youth aged 15-19 who are currently not enrolled in school
- Students 15-19 who are returning from post secondary education outside of Halton.

The immunization clinics will be held once a month from June until August at the Halton Regional Centre located at 1151 Bronte Rd. Oakville and at the Georgetown location of the Health Department located at 93 Main Street. Eligible individuals can call the Health Department at 905-825-6000 to book an appointment at the clinic or visit their family doctor for the immunization.

"Meningococcus group C bacteria account for roughly one out of every four cases of meningococcal disease in Ontario and is common in the teen and young adult years," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton's Medical Officer of Health. "The Men C vaccine is an important step towards preventing this infection."

Meningococcal bacteria have five groups - of which group C is one - that can cause meningitis, bacteremia, or both. Meningitis is an infection of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. Bacteremia is an infection of the bloodstream that in its worst form is called septicemia.

Illness can appear suddenly with fever, chills, rash and feeling very sick and weak. Severe headache and stiff neck usually occur in the case of meningitis. About one in 10 patients die of the disease even with prompt diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

Meningococcal bacteria require close, direct contact to spread such as kissing, coughing, and sneezing. The infection can also be spread through saliva when sharing items like cigarettes, lipstick, toothbrushes, toys, mouth guards, musical instruments with mouthpieces and food or drinks via their utensils or containers.

"Providing accessible public health to the community is one of our strategic goals at Halton Region," said Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline.

For more information, or the clinic schedule for the Men C immunization call the Halton Region Health Department at 905-825-6000, toll free 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866), TTY 905-827-9833 or visit our website at www.region.halton.on.ca/health.



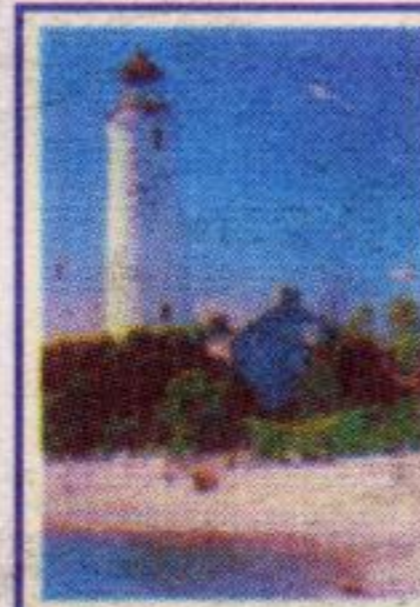
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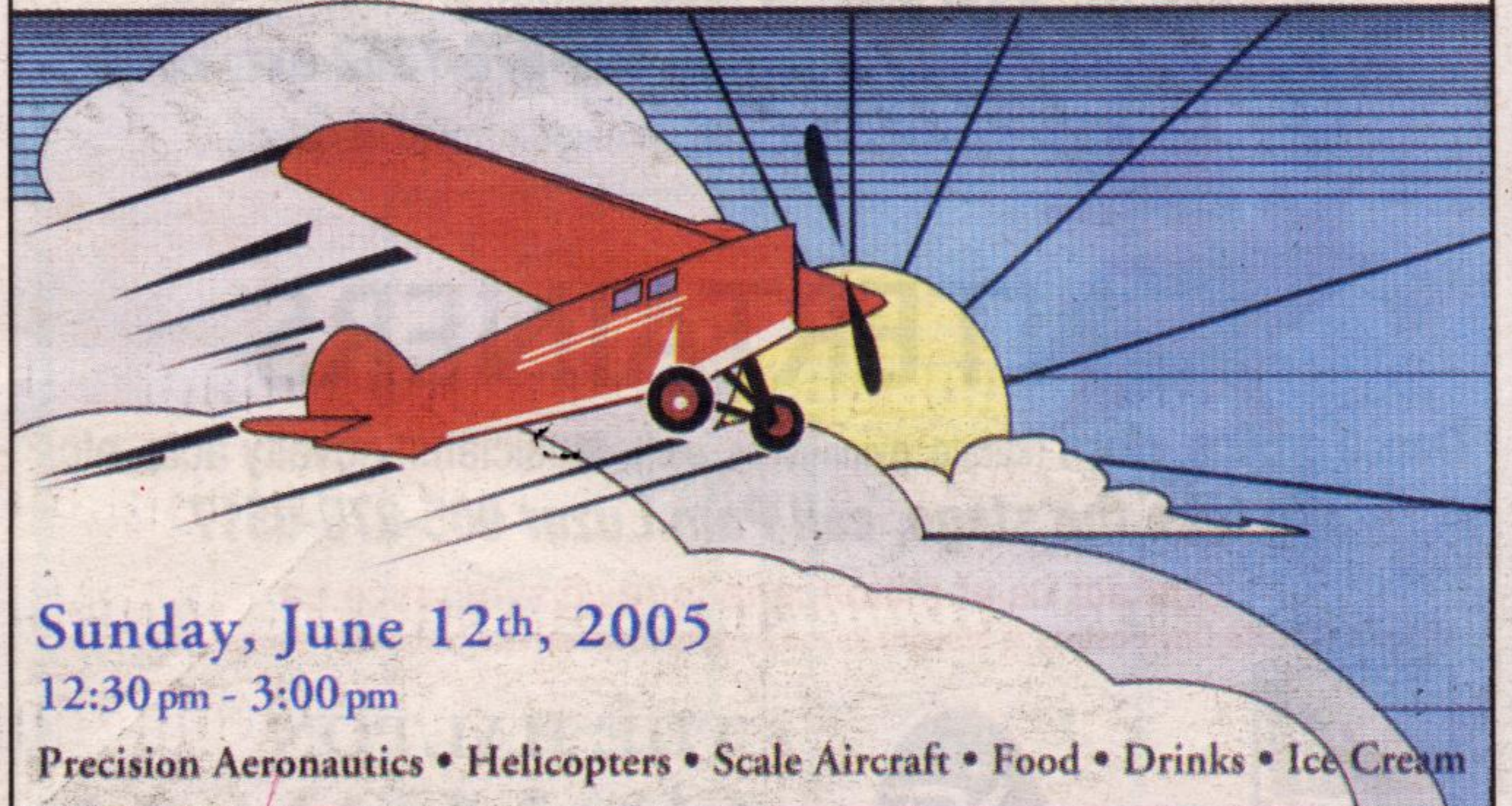
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