

Longtime resident recalls decades of fun

Continued from pg. 1

Helson, who was raised on King St. and attended Chapel Street School and Georgetown High School, has many fond memories of growing up in Georgetown.

She says as a kid she used to play jacks in her backyard, swim in the Credit River (near Barber Mill), and play baseball in a vacant field near their home with the other neighbourhood children.

There was the Gregory Theatre on Mill St. and, of course, there was the fall fair.

"Everybody went to the fall fair. You knew everybody by name," says Helson.

She also remembers a touring circus that regularly came to town named "Chataqua" that featured clowns and skits.

"When I was in high school we used to go to the arena (Memorial) every Wednesday night to skate to

records and every Saturday we would skate to the Modernaires Band."

Saturday nights the local band would play for dances in the arena's Rose Room.

Area residents used to ski at J.A. Willoughby's private club (which became North Halton Golf Club in 1954) and Helson says membership for a year of golfing there was only \$5.

In the 1940s and 50s she was a member of Apprentice Productions, a local theatre group that used to rehearse and perform in the Town Hall.

"We had a lot of fun," says Helson.

Back in 1948 when her now-husband Fred came to town, Georgetown's population was less than 3,000, says Helson. The couple married in 1951 and Fred later became a lawyer and practised for several years in town at Helson,

Kogon, Ashbee and Schaljo.

Helson says she started working at the CIBC (then the Bank of Commerce) in Georgetown in 1943 and during the war it was only the bank in town.

She remembers when the homes for returning soldiers from the Second World War were built on Churchill Cr. and Normandy Blvd. She handled mortgages in the bank and recalls when each new section of town was built. She remembers farmers selling their land to developers back in the 1950s for \$500 an acre.

She didn't like to see the farmland turned into housing developments but says she understood because many of the farmers didn't have sons, or if they did, they weren't interested in farming.

Helson doesn't really mind all the growth she's seen in Georgetown over the years, but she does have one complaint— traffic.



Calendar of events

Former Georgetown residents from as far away as Australia and Switzerland are among those expected to return next weekend for Homecoming 2007 (July 27 to 29).

There could be as many as 5,000 people taking part in the event. Mail-in registrations will not be accepted at this point, but those interested can register on line at www.georgetown2007.ca until midnight Wednesday, July 25 and register with a credit card. You can still register on the day of the events, but only if there are openings left. The cost to register is \$15. To register after Wednesday contact David Smallwood at 905-877-7466.

For more information on Homecoming 2007 and to view a list of those who have registered for the event visit www.georgetown2007.ca. The schedule of events is:

Friday

- A Homecoming Golf Tournament will be held at Eagle Ridge Golf Club at 8:30 a.m. That event is sold out.
- Registration will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 9 p.m. at Mold-Masters SportsPlex.
- At 5 p.m. A&W will host a special Classic Car Cruze.
- From 7 to 10 p.m. a Meet & Mingle/Wine & Cheese will be held in Rinks A and B in Mold-Masters SportsPlex. There will be memorabilia, displays, a welcoming ceremony, media display and live music.

Saturday

- Registration will be held at Mold-Masters from 10 a.m. to noon and 3:30 to 7 p.m.
- Georgetown District High School will hold its 120th anniversary reunion from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. which will feature a brunch in the cafeteria between 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Tours of the school, a memory lane and decades rooms will also be part of the celebration.

• From 8:30 to 11 a.m. breakfast will be held at the Georgetown Legion at 127 Mill St.

Throughout the day there will be a wide variety of events and tours including:

- The Festival on Main (formerly Village Festival)
- Visit the hospital or Memorial Arena.
- At the Library there will be views of the past, and everyone is encouraged to bring in their pictures of Georgetown's past to be scanned into the library's archives.
- Esquering Historical Society will have a display in the library and is hosting a walking tour of downtown Georgetown starting at 9 a.m. from Knox Presbyterian Church, led by local author and historian Mark Rowe.
- There will be a Limehouse Kilns hike/tour and the 150th anniversary of the founding of Limehouse (formerly Fountain Green).
- Participants can check out Lucy Maud Montgomery Gardens and Willow Park Ecology Centre.
- A Seed House Employees Reunion, Friends of the Seed House, University Women's Club, Horticultural Society will be held at Dominion Seed House Gardens.
- 50th anniversary of the Referees/Umpired Association
- Alliance/Domtar Employees Reunion 30th Anniversary from 12 to 2 p.m. at Georgetown Legion.
- There will be an open house at Georgetown Armoury (Todd Rd.). All former members of C Company and the Regiment are welcome.

• From noon to 4 p.m. the First Annual Performing Arts Show will be held at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre.

• From 4 to 6 p.m. Homecoming/Maple Lodge Chicken BBQ will be held at Mold-Masters SportsPlex rink A. The barbecue is sold out.

• From 9:30 a.m. to noon St. Andrew's United Church will host a drive-in movie at the church, on an outdoor screen. Refreshments will be served. Bring lawn chairs and blankets.

• From 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. the Homecoming 2007 Reunion Dance/Social Evening will be held at Mold-Masters SportsPlex. Performing will be MAC, Boomerang, Blue Steel, Neil Cotton & Hawk's Nest, Double Exposure and Station House. A limited number of tickets are still available.

Sunday

• Homecoming church services will be held at 10:30 a.m. at St. Alban's Anglican Church in Glen Williams and St. Andrew's United Church (89 Mountainview Rd. S.) After the service there will be refreshments and Georgetown memorabilia on display.

• The 65th anniversary of Georgetown Pipe Band will be held at Branch 120 of the Legion at noon.

• The March of Remembrance/Closing Ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to join in marching from the Legion along Main St. to Remembrance Park, led by Georgetown Pipe Band and Branch 120 Colour Guard. There will be a Homecoming Service of Remembrance.



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