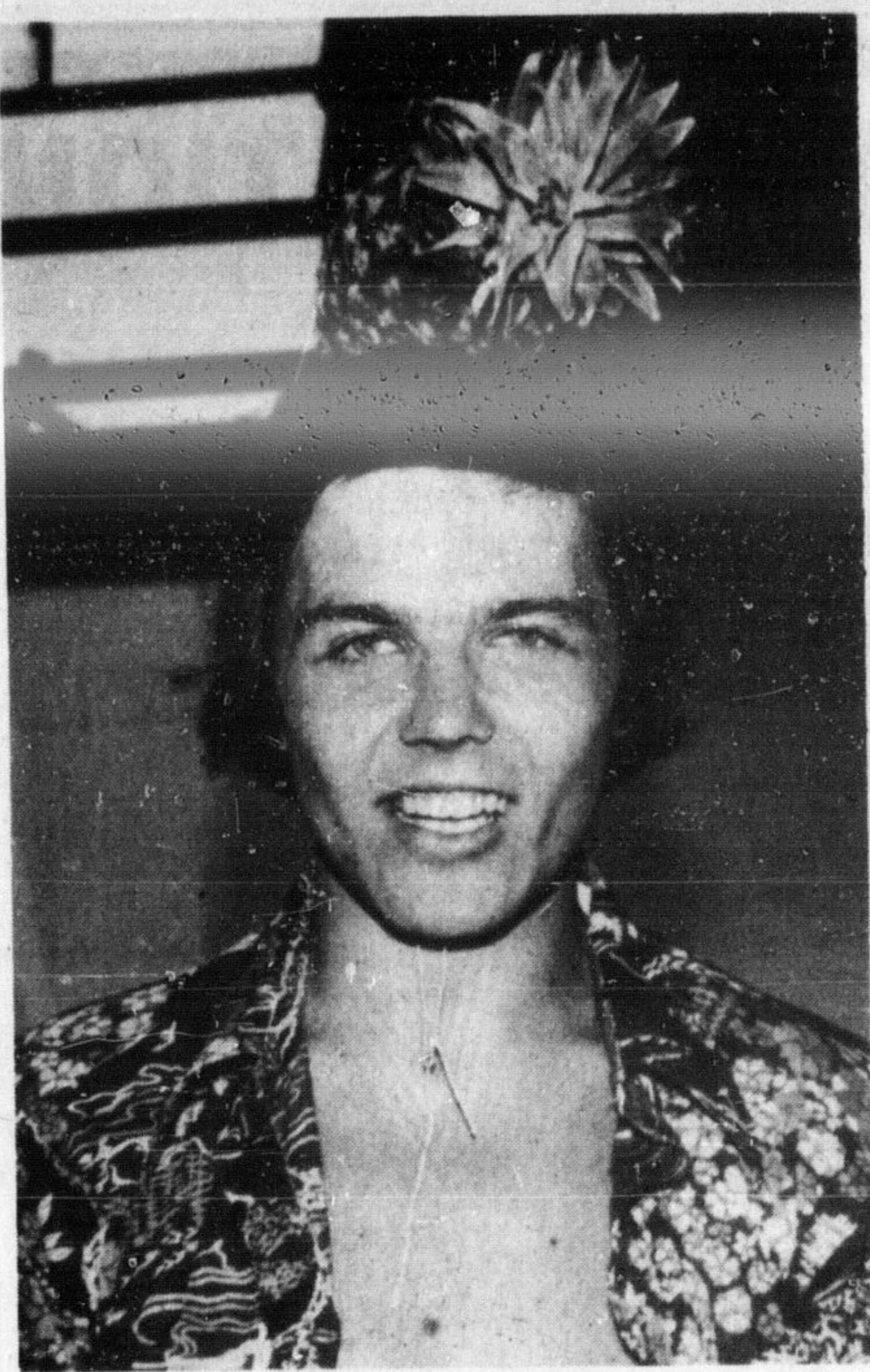


The Canadian Champion

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SECOND SECTION



CALL ME "PINEAPPLE HEAD": Milton summer playground leader Eric Baudler donned a fresh pineapple when he temporarily took over Liz Richardson's job as emcee at the Hawaiian Luau at Rotary Park Wednesday night.



KING RICARDO—a fire-eating limbo dancer from Trinidad—stole the show at Wednesday night's Hawaiian Luau as he extinguished flame after flame in his mouth on stage at Rotary Park. The King also gave a limbo demonstration and invited children from the audience to

compete for the title of "Limbo Champ". Dressed in shiny gold pants, a fur vest and wearing a red bandana around his head, King Ricardo prompted "oohs" and "aahs" from children and their parents as he danced on a fire in his bare feet and even belly danced a bit.



HAWAIIAN ROYALTY: Prince Steve Corradetti and Princess Laura Bradley managed to break away from the crowd at Rotary Park long enough to pose for this "official photograph" honoring their visit.

Hula dancers, fire batons, boar's head feast

Playgrounds end with Hawaiian luau



ARRIVING HAWAIIAN STYLE: Sun-washed canoes sail to shore at the mill pond carrying visiting Hawaiian dignitaries to greet the waiting crowd.

Rotary Park became an exotic, palm swept island for a few hours Wednesday night when Milton's summer playground staff presented a Hawaiian luau complete with hula dancers, fire baton twirlers, a fire eater and boar's head feast.

The luau began at Mill Pond about 7:15 p.m. with George Swann providing the musical accompaniment as visiting Hawaiian Prince Steve Corradetti and Princess Laura Bradley were paddled to shore in canoes decorated with paper roses.

Emcee Liz Richardson introduced the royal guests to the spectators who had gathered on the shores of the pond.

Princess Laura and Prince Steve then led a torchlight procession of more than 100

people over the bridge and through the trail that encircles the pond to Rotary Park.

Upon arrival at the site of the luau festivities, guests were greeted with the word "aloha" and all the ladies were presented with a flower for their hair by grass-skirted playground leader Patty Holmes.

Hula dancing
When guests had formed a semi-circle around the hilltop stage, Melissa Cescon was introduced as a "hula-hula" dancer and swayed her arms and hips to tropical music before a setting of palm trees and flowers.

Following Melissa's performance, the audience was treated to a group "hula" dance by all the Parks and Recreation Department's summer playground leaders.

Then Eric Baudler, wearing a pineapple on his head, took over as emcee to introduce "Miss Obesity" (an overstuffed Liz Richardson), "Leggs Laverne" (elastic-limbed Nancy McKinnon), a hot-lipped, swivel-hipped dame from New York City (Erin Scisizzi) and finally "Miss Bidoink" (a shy, bespectacled Kathy Varley). The audience roared through this you-have-to-see-it-to-believe-it comedy skit.

Fire batons
Their laughter turned to applause and "oohs", however, when three young girls from Kitchener appeared on stage and gave a fire baton twirling demonstration.

After this, each of the seven summer playground leaders and the children they've worked and played with during the past three months sang a song about their playground—and why IT was the best one.

This was followed by a "hula-hoop" endurance contest, which ended in a four way tie when time ran out and

four of the six contestants were still swirling the hoops around their middles.

Trophies were presented to the four winners and a pineapple eating contest (crushed—to be eaten without the help of fingers) began.

Doug McCann, representing Martin St. playground was the undisputed winner of this event.

King Ricardo

The audience was then asked to form a circle at the bottom of the hill to watch a limbo contest as the stage was prepared for King Ricardo (of Molson commercials and Ontario Place fame) for his fire eating and

limbo demonstration.

It was a special show both for the Milton spectators and the King—as Ricardo's family had just flown in from Trinidad. They were present at the "luau" and it was the first time they had ever seen him stage his dangerous act.

King Ricardo, costumed in glittering gold calf-length pants and a fur vest with beads around his neck and a red scarf wrapped around his hair, fascinated children and their parents as he "danced around the stage (sometimes hopping on fire) and extinguished flaming torch after flaming torch inside his mouth.

Dozens of small hands flew into the air when King Ricardo asked for a few volunteers from the audience to be in a limbo contest with him on stage.

Participants were disqualified one after one as the limbo bar was moved closer and closer to the ground—and Ricardo proved that he truly is "King" of the limbo circuit as he slide blindfolded under the stick at its lowest notch.

Boar's head feast

Only one thing could deter the crowd's attention from the glamorous king—and that was exactly the next item on the evening's agenda: a boar's head feast.

Decorated to perfection and done to a "T", the 70-pound pig was carried on a silver platter coloured with paper flowers to a torch lit carving board where Ledwith's butcher Peter Putman took over the serious task of carving the beast for the hungry guests.

When everyone had been served some roast pork, the crowd was asked to join the summer playground leaders in a circle, singing "Umm, I want To Linger", as everyone waved sparklers.

This was followed by a brief fireworks display and a farewell by the leaders to the children of Milton—until next summer.



LOOKS OF CONCERN are reflected in the faces of playground leaders Mary Fay and Donna Jackson as they watch butcher Peter Putman carve a 70-pound pig he prepared for the Hawaiian boar's head feast at Rotary Park Wednesday night.



HULA-HULA DANCER Melissa Cescon entertained guests at Rotary Park dressed in native Hawaiian attire. She was accompanied by music from George Swann's loud speaker.

Feature
by
Ann

Hauptich-Nielsen



CROWDS GATHERED along the shores of the mill pond to get a look at the visiting Hawaiian prince and princess who arrived by way of canoe for Wednesday night's festivities.



LEADING THE WAY: Richard MacTavish and Donna Jackson held torches in the air and formed an archway with their arms for visiting Hawaiian Prince Steve and Princess Laura as they led the procession to Rotary Park for the Hawaiian Luau.



EMCEE ERIC BAUDLER jokes with the audience from atop a hilltop stage in Rotary Park as "Miss Obesity" (Liz Richardson) gestures to a sexy New York City dame (Erin Scisizzi) and "Leggs Laverne" (Nancy McKinnon). Looking on are grass-skirted summer playground leaders who earlier treated the audience to a hula dance of their own. At right are three fire baton twirlers who drove from Kitchener to entertain guests at the luau.

