

# Keeping time

Is it that difficult to keep time in this town? I realize that the clock in the bell tower of the Town Hall building is pretty old, but surely it could be overhauled and put in proper operating order. It was running smoothly for a long while, but just as it has done in past years, it screwed up. While the town is pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into the downtown revitalization project, you'd think they could sink a few bucks into repairing the clock once and for all. Perth has an exceptional downtown core, but tourists must wonder in amazement when they see a central clock that is usually one hour or so out of time. The clock has been screwing up for the past decade or so, isn't it about time it was repaired permanently?

Bathurst Township residents over the years have shown a real sense of community. The recreation committee in that township has created a number of areas where locals can enjoy an afternoon picnic and swim and they should be congratulated for their efforts. The recreation committee will be holding the 2nd annual Turkey Shoot on September 13 and proceeds will go to provide further recreational programs in the township.

Local troubadour Freddy Dixon hasn't performed in Perth for a number of years, but that's about to change. Fred and his band Short Change will be playing at the beer garden at the Perth fair to drum up monies for the Perth Blue Wings. He's also scheduled to play at the annual Omph Stomp.

Received a letter from an area man who signed his prose "amused." Here's what he has to say: "So, the organizers of the fair (Perth Fair) are disappointed that nobody has entered the Miss Perth Fair contest. Perhaps the young ladies have realized how much dignity can be lost when individual humans allow themselves to be treated as objects or things — a point neatly illustrated by Perth's very own Private 'I': 'It was professional all the way down to the scantily clad ladies that (sic) paraded around the ring with signs...' It is a strange use of the word "professional," unless the reference is to the so-called "oldest profession." Even so, most ladies prefer the appellation "who" no matter what profession they follow, unless of course they take pride in being stared at." The quote from the private "I" was in relation to the recent

boxing matches in Smiths Falls and the literary twist was purely accidental, a mistake on my part.

Joke time! How many environmentalists does it take to screw in a light bulb? One to screw it in and ten to undertake an environmental impact study. (The joke originally appeared in Harrowsmith magazine.)

Great giant puffballs Batman! Prestonvale resident Berta Lindenstruth found a puffball last week that was 39 inches across. For metric converters that's about 130 centimetres. With a puffball like that you could probably feed the entire community of Prestonvale.

Looks like the inclusion of a fleur-de-lis in the town's coat of arms is likely to stir up a bit of a tempest in a teapot. Now I don't pretend to be an expert on coat of arms or anything like that, but it does appear to me that a fleur-de-lis might not be considered appropriate with some people. We'll have to see how it goes over with Town Council.

There was a good crowd on hand for the International Classic Boat Show at Rideau Ferry Inn over the weekend. It appears that organizers were so impressed with the facilities they may consider Rideau Ferry as a permanent location for the event. Some notable who were in attendance included local boating enthusiast Peter Burchell and MLA Doug Wiseman.

According to local police it has been a quiet summer in Perth this year. There have been very few incidents of vandalism and that speaks well for the young people of the community.

Be prepared! Elections are just around the corner and hopefully there'll be a few struggles as the politically minded take a shot at public office. Among those who will definitely be running again are Rick Magie (Board of Education) and Jim Peden and Norm Turner at the Town Council level. Let's hope that not all the spots will be filled by acclamation, we could do with a good horse race here and there.

Speaking of horse races, I'm looking forward to the races at the Perth Fair once again. Last year I won a couple of dollars betting on the races and it got the old gambling blood stirred up a bit.

They come from near and far

## Saturday night at the Inn a Perth and district Institution

Every Saturday night there is an enormous migration taking place in the Perth-Smiths Falls-Westport area.

Sociologists might call it some sort of ritual phenomenon, old-timers would be more apt to call it mating rites.

What it is, is the weekly trek that between 200-400 young adults make every Saturday night to the Poonamalle Pavilion at Rideau Ferry Inn.

Most will tell you they make the trip simply to hear good rock 'n roll music and they wouldn't be lying, but there are other reasons.

They range in age from 19 to 30 and come from farms, cottages and towns throughout the Rideau Valley area.

Around 7:30 p.m. they start arriving, but the main crowd arrives about 9 p.m. and cars of all shapes and sizes line the roadways of Rideau Ferry.

Some will tell you they come for the dancing and they too wouldn't be lying, but there are underlying reasons.

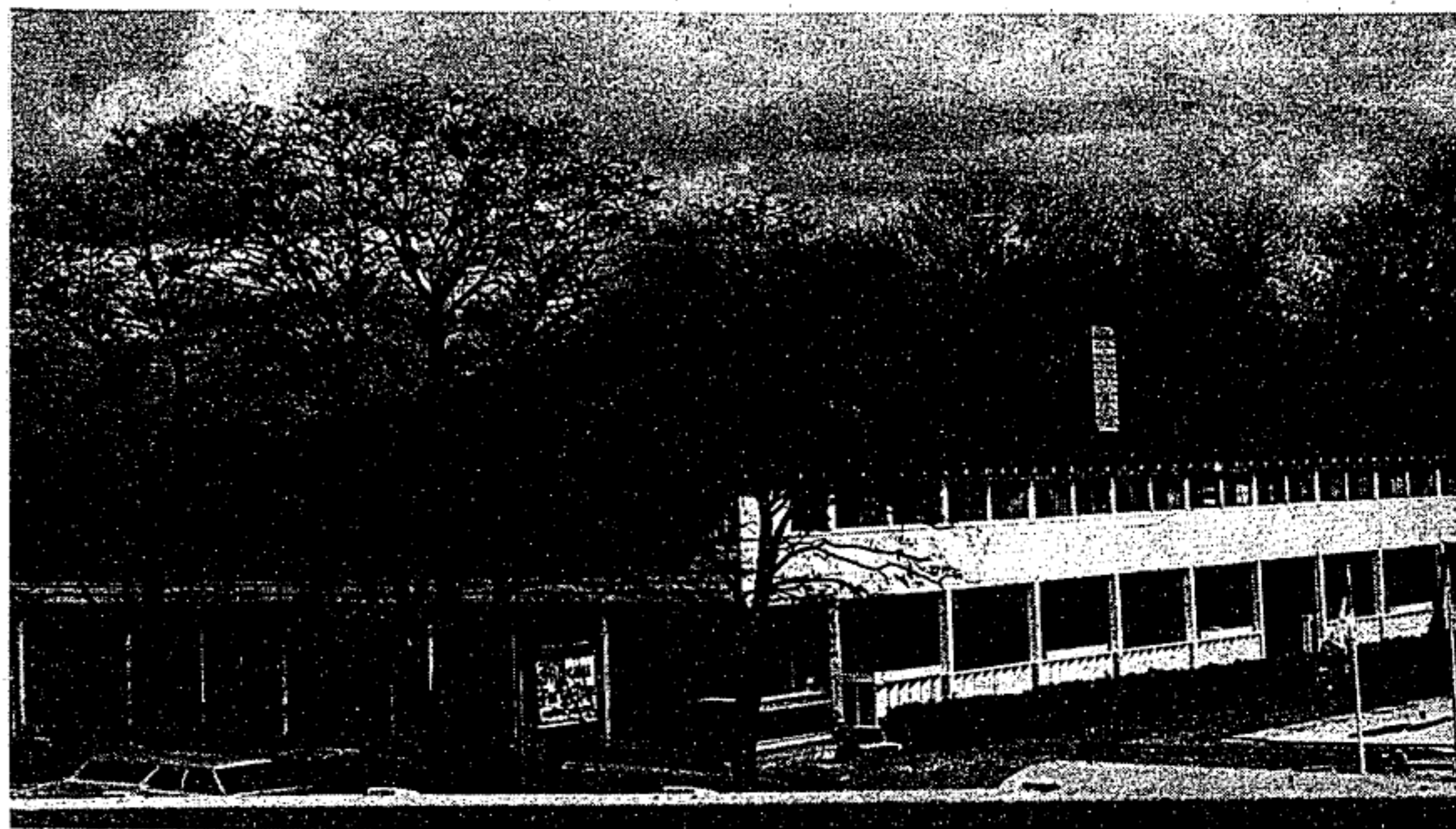
You can see it in their dress. The girls, at least some of them, are dressed for the kill and the boys are fashionably "cool."

No amount of deodorant has been spared for this Saturday night bout of fever. The clean shirts have been brought out and the hair is coiffed just right.

Some couples make the scene, hand in hand, well pressed, just getting to know each other after the first few dates and anticipating a slow waltz to end the evening.

However, the majority appear to be single and come in groups, paying their few dollars cover charge and filing into the large hall.

Clusters of slightly boisterous young men wave across the room to old friends and quaff the beer that will release inhibitions and get them the cour-



Rideau Ferry Inn is a hot spot for young couples on Saturday night. Some come for the rock 'n roll while others engage in the age old mating game.

age to ask that certain someone to dance.

The girls are in groups of three or four and smile and chat; all the while glancing around the room checking out the crowd to see if "he" is going to show tonight.

When the band strikes up, all attention is riveted to the stage and a determination of the group is made. There are three ratings for bands: good, not bad and \$%&#\*%.

No one dances for the first few songs, which always leads a band member to say something like, "C'mon folks, there's plenty of room on the dance

floor."

After awhile one or two couples stray onto the dance floor and soon the whole place is gyrating, turning into what citizens of the 1800's would call a madhouse.

**Meeting Place**  
The Saturday night phenomenon of Rideau Ferry Inn is really more than just an acting out of the mating game.

It's a place and time where you meet that guy you knew in high school, who is now working at Rideau Regional or the girl from two rows over who is now a dental assistant.

In fact, Rideau Ferry Satur-

day nights are an institution.

For almost two decades the weekend pilgrimage has been made by young adults from throughout the region and scores of romances have been cultivated on the dance floor.

But let's not forget the music.

It too plays an integral part in the cultivation of romance, whether it be a Fifties band crooning Who Wrote The Book Of Love or a new wave act singing about My Best Friend's Girlfriend.

In the late Sixties top of the line bands such as the Stampede and the Five Man Electrical Band performed regularly

for young lovers at the Inn.

These days the music has changed, with bands like The Crayons and The Heat pounding up a storm, but the essence of the Inn remains the same.

For the older crowd who have graduated from youth to middle age, there is now soothing jazz on the main floor and the gyrating is a little slower.

But the young folk still walk down to the water's edge hand in hand while the band is taking a break and perhaps a fleeting kiss is exchanged in the moonlight.

And that's something that hasn't changed in centuries.

## Lions "300" Club winners

Winners in the Perth Lions "300" Club draw which took place on Saturday, July 26, 1980 were: Joe Richardson, Chas. Henderson, Louis Karigianis, Lila Morrow, Frank McLean.

Winners in the Perth Lions "300" Club draw which took place on Saturday, August 2, 1980 were: Ena Charles, Geo. Kouloufakes, Gwen White, A. Patel, Ken Lackey.

Winners in the Perth Lions "300" Club draw which took place on Saturday, August 9, 1980 were: Vic Lemieux, Louis Karigianis, Karen Hogan, Marlene Duffy, Gerald Latimer.



The family that runs together sweats together. Ken Heatherington, son Bryan and wife Mary competed in the Glen Tay Block Race last week and all three completed the 9.6 mile

course. It was the first year the McDonald's Corners area family ran together in the race and they hope to continue running as a group in the future.

## A relaxing evening with Citizens' Band in the park

The Perth Citizens' Band will hold its final concert of the 1980 summer season in the park at 8 p.m., Thursday, August 14.

The band has performed in the park seven times since May this year with a wide variety of music including old time waltzes, marches, novelty numbers and popular selections.

As well, members of the band have also presented special numbers including dixieland renditions. This summer a "Big band" was set up including members of the citizens' band. This group, under the direction of Monty Kirkpatrick, performed at the Rideau Ferry Inn and at the most recent park concert.

Since the summer began, several teenagers have joined the citizens' band and their contribution is considerable. As well, students returning from university for the summer have brought with them their special talents enhanced by university music studies.

The band is scheduled to perform at Lanark Lodge later in August and will be marching in the Perth Fair Parade. For the fall season, the group will march in Remembrance Day parades and an exchange concert with the Pembroke Legion Band is in the planning stages.



Sitting: Tom McMahon, Doug Stocker (Vice Pres.), Laurie Henderson (Dir.); Barb Martin (pres.). 2nd Row: Steve Bentley, Eric Devlin, Stu Douglas, Leslie Henderson, Peter Wand (Mus. Director). 3rd Row: Freda vanden Heuvel, Patty Meray, Cindy VanAlstine, Doug Cavers, Mel Dixon, Tom Bowes. 4th Row: Julie

Fortner, Ian Watson, Lloyd Williams (Dir.); Peter Code (Dir.). 5th Row: David Vanden Boas, Dave Gemmill, Steve Arnett, Keith Cavanagh, Art King. Top Row: Jim Tysick, Brad Mills, Peter Wilcox, Jim Bailey (Sect.-Treas.). Missing: Geoff Goss, Peter Woodward, Monty Kirkpatrick, Sally Fortner.