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Ailsa Craig, Port Elgin in pumpkin tussle

Charlie Brown, step aside. The village of Ailsa Craig and the town of Port Elgin are going to battle for the great pumpkin.

Ailsa Craig Reeve Don Shipway and his council have challenged their Port Elgin counterparts to a pumpkin-growing contest. And

Shipway is sure his village's orange champion will win.

"We've got the experts and a few secrets I'm not going to reveal," Shipway said Wednesday. "Of course we're going to win."

If Shipway is wrong, he and his councillors will cook steaks for

Port Elgin Mayor Fred Wuerth and his council.

If Port Elgin loses, the mayor and each of his nine councillors have to buy a \$5 money-raising brick for the proposed Ailsa Craig recreation centre. Construction on the \$800,000 centre is expected to

start in the spring.

Port Elgin council still has to approve the light-hearted challenge at its Aug. 8 meeting, but Wuerth is already growing his entry. "I think Ailsa Craig better shoot the bull right now and light up the barbecue."

Just thought you might find these interesting. We had a lot of fun with the pumpkins. Ailsa Craig beat us by about 13 lb. Ours weighed about 220 lb. The article about illegal drug use caused a lot of controversy - especially amongst the elderly people who didn't read the complete article!



Convicted 'criminal' Fred Wuerth remained jovial while being forcibly led to the slammer by two Georgian College law and security students. (Photos by C. Meingast)

Port Elgin Mayor charged in illegal drug use; public sympathy only hope!

Sept 6/89

Port Elgin Mayor Fred Wuerth has been charged with the illegal use of drugs and will appear in court September 29th to face the accusations.

The veteran of local municipal battles appears to have his biggest fight ahead of him as he tries to beat this wrap. The court will provide legal council to the married, father of two when he approaches the bench at the Food City store in Owen Sound on the 29th.

The Food City store? Wait a minute, something is funny in the pumpkin patch here!

Well, Fred has been charged with the illegal use of drugs by the Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce Inc., to wit: injecting steroids into your prize pumpkins, thereby giving you an unfair advantage at the World Pumpkin Confederation weigh-in, being held at Port Elgin on October 9, 1989.

The charges are actually part of a fun,

fund raising campaign by the Crime Stoppers organization called a "Bail-a-thon". Various personalities in the Grey-Bruce region have been asked to participate in the campaign.

Fred's notoriousness as a world class pumpkin grower provided the Crime Stopper people with the perfect charge. He will attend "court" at 2:40 p.m. and will be jailed, no doubt, at 2:45. His summons states categorically, "In the event that you are convicted, and chances are that you will be, bail will be set at \$150. If you are unable to pay this bail to Crime Stoppers immediately, you will be imprisoned and will be at the mercy of the general public at the Food City store and the listeners of CFOS Radio for contributions to pay the aforementioned amount. A telephone will be available in the jail cell to allow you to contact friends and business associates to assist in your

lease."

The summons continues (tongue-in-cheek) that due to the seriousness of this offence, failure to appear will result in an automatic doubling of your bail with an "All Points Bulletin" issued for your apprehension, for the purpose of collecting this amount.

Mayor Wuerth denies the steroid charges and will appear at "court" to defend his good name and reputation.

He will be then throwing his fate to the mercy of the court and to loyal believers who can either raise the bail money or break him out of the slammer.

Bail money raised will be used in the Crime Stoppers reward program and tax receipts will be issued for all donations of \$10 or more.

Information can be obtained by calling 376-9650 or (800 265-3121).

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by Carol Scott

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