

# Artwork remains constant in life of Acton's talented Mark Kalous

Continued from Front Page himself full-time to his painting, but hard economic times coupled with a lack of profile have hampered him.

"In 1980, I put my foot down and said from now on I will paint. I wish I had done that 10 years earlier," he said.

"Robert Bateman started in '74. If I had started in '69 people could be saying 'Bateman looks like Kalous,' but now they are saying 'doesn't Kalous look like Bateman.' Having a famous name means practically everything in this business." Kalous observed. Kalous tells of an episode at the

Waterloo Farmers' market where he has had a booth for the last seven years. It started with a couple who bought two paintings. A week later they brought their son and daughter-in-law with them and those two wanted to buy two paintings," he said. A small crowd formed around his table causing passers-by to take notice. "Normally, they wouldn't have stopped but they thought they were missing the action," he said. He proceeded to make a number of sales that weekend.

Taxes and difficult, economic times are two other areas Kalous points to as stalling further, financial success. "People add the tax to the painting and say 'too much.' People are looking at long-term loans and so are buying the big things. My time will come. I have to be patient, that's all," he said.

Kalous has overcome adversity before. Born in Czechoslovakia, he escaped in 1948 leaving behind a wife and a young son. Arriving in Canada two years later, he continued on with his painting. "In 1959, I exchanged paintings for work done for me," he said.

In 1967, as a centennial project Mark began the construction of his home and it is something he is very proud of. "It's all me and it was worth it," he said.

Currently, he is working his way upstream against the bureaucracy of immigration. He wishes to marry a woman from the Philippines but red tape is halting the process but Kalous is persevering. His painting has remained a constant.

In 1989, Mark held an exhibition of his work at the Gallery in the Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre. He will be hosting his second show at this venue Aug. 18 to Sept. 12, where, as Kalous says, "For the price of a print from Bateman, you can get an original Kalous."

# NEWS SHORTS

## Bomb ditched in Blue Springs

Local Scouts out for a hike found a live 105MM artillery round Sunday in a stream at the Blue Springs Scout Camp outside of Acton. Police said yesterday that the shell was in "pristine" condition and had not been in the water long at the Sixth Line and Highway 7 camp. Police suspect the bomb was a war souvenir that someone did not want any more and didn't know how to get rid of. The TNT bomb, labelled "high explosive," was turned over to the Department of National Defense for disposal.

## Charges in Rockwood shootings

Two bicyclists, riding for charity, were shot with pellet guns as they rode through Rockwood Saturday afternoon. Police charged a Guelph man and three young offenders in connection with the incident. Police report four males in a red Jeep allegedly fired shots at cyclists in the Multiple Sclerosis Society bike-a-thon. Guelph OPP report one male rider was hit in the hip and slightly injured and a second male rider was hit by pellets but not hurt. Police stopped the Jeep and seized four pellet guns. Three young offenders have been charged with assault with a weapon. Eighteen-year-old Jude Fletcher of Guelph has been charged with two counts of assault with a weapon and possession of a weapon dangerous to the public peace.

## Theft from local golf club

Officials at Blue Springs Golf Club have reported to police that sometime between June 14 and 24 someone stole 50 junior clubs and four sets of junior clubs from an unlocked storage room at the Acton course. Police say the clubs, valued at \$2,750, were moved from a locked furnace room for fire safety reasons and left in an unlocked area which the public had access to.

## Daughter calls cops for help

An Acton man has been charged with assaulting his common-law wife following a domestic dispute late Friday night. Police said the couple, the parents of two girls, started drinking alcohol in the afternoon and hours later a verbal argument ended with the wife's head being smashed into a metal filing cabinet. The couple's 11-year-old daughter called police.

## Don't touch that dial!

Halton police are looking for a man who severely beat a Station Hotel patron Saturday night in a fight over music. Police report a fight started when the victim turned on a juke box while the suspect was playing his guitar. The victim was treated in hospital for facial cuts and bruises and the suspect got away before police arrived.

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Having a famous name means practically everything in this business."  
— Local artist Mark Kalous, Page 2

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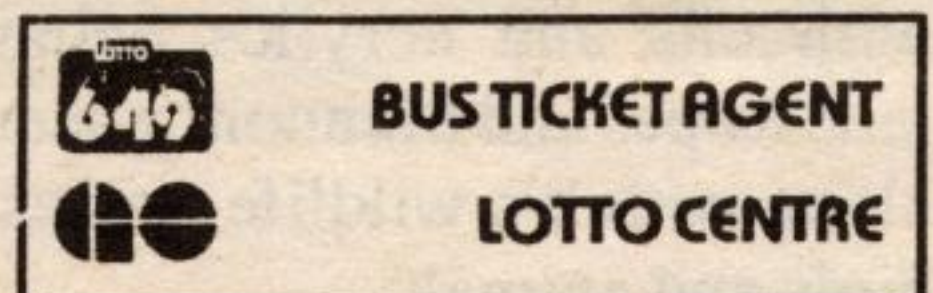
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