



BECKY POCOCK

**After a busy life of work in the city, Roy Bonisteel was drawn back to living the simpler life on a farm.**

of his shows, Bonisteel made it his goal to elicit a smile from the saintly woman, and he did.

After being the host of *Man Alive* for 22 years, sometimes working on five shows at once, Bonisteel felt the strains of being on the road, at airports and hotels. He would find himself in New York one day and being sent to Toronto the next, to complete yet another interview.

He was feeling the pressure and tension that had been slowly building up in his daily work and fast-paced life. During that time, he sat down to interview Elie Wiesel, who had been through the Holocaust and was then an author of more than a dozen books poetically explaining his experiences. It was in this interview that Bonisteel listened to this man explain the importance of silence.

The interview would change the direction of Bonisteel's life and lead

him back on the path to Trenton, to revisit the important language of silence.

Wiesel explained that silence is the soul of the world. The words that he does not say carry weight, but Wiesel also explained that there is a time to be quiet and there is a time to scream.

There should not be silence Wiesel said, when there is chaos and destruction that needs to be sorted out and recognized with words.

Bonisteel soon realized that he was losing touch with the deeper reality of life and was not having a chance to just be with the company of himself occasionally.

His three children, Mandy, Steve and Leslie, were born in St. Catharines. They lived in Vancouver for awhile and were about to settle in Toronto until Bonisteel felt the need to return

to the environment he grew up in, to show them what it is like to live a slower-paced, more meaningful life.

"Their school and friends were oriented around the city. Their idea of a farm was to look at a few ducks. It didn't matter to them if it rained or not, either, taking the small things in life for granted.

Bonisteel finds that parents put pressure on what position the child chooses for a vocation. They forget it's the personality they should take pride in.

"Parents should base the child's accomplishments more on who they are and not what they can become," said Bonisteel.

Bonisteel has never stopped being busy. He is now a citizenship court judge for department of Citizenship and Immigration and acting journalism director at the University of Regina.