

Keep Them Flying

Club Trains Racing Pigeons

"Keep 'em flying," is the motto of a group of Acton youths who are members of the Acton Racing Pigeon Club. Under the leadership of Colin McColl, a lover of all birds himself, the Acton group raises and trains racing pigeons.

At present there are 10 members as well as Mr. McColl and each has his own loft and flock of birds. The club is associated with the Canadian Homer Union which is nationwide and has over 1,000 members.

The Acton club has been organized over two years and the boys are fast becoming old hands at raising and training their own birds. The members meet at least twice a week to compare notes and to keep up to date on the latest developments.

\$15 Per Bird

Training a pigeon is not all sunshine. Anyone taking up this hobby can expect to spend at least \$15 per bird from the time it is hatched until ready for long distance racing. Although loss of birds is not too great, the members do suffer occasional losses from inconsiderate rifle snipers.

The secret of a healthy bird is to feed it generously, supply clean water two or three times a day and clean pens out daily. Feed mainly consists of corn, wheat, barley and peas.

A racing pigeon is at its best around four to five years of age although training begins when the pigeon is quite young. When one week old, each pigeon is banded with a metal tag on one leg and this remains there until the bird dies.

Young pigeons are not trained with older birds but are started in flocks by themselves. At first



B. D. RACHLIN, Acton jeweller, donated an inscribed trophy to the Acton Racing Pigeon Club for competition among members. Left to right are club president Colin McColl, member Ernie Waller and Mr. Rachlin. There are a total of 10 members and each has his own loft with pigeons at home.

their flights are only up to a mile and this distance is increased as experience is gained. For long distance flying the older and well trained birds will fly 500 miles or better on a flight.

When starting training, a few of the boys take a cage of birds and drive about a mile out into the country, at a specific time they open the door of the cage and the pigeons soar into the air and after getting their bearings, head for home base. Members remaining at home take the time each bird arrives in order to assess the value of each pigeon.

After months of this type of training and distances gradually increased, the pigeons are ready for a longer flight. After loading several cages with their feathered

friends, the members take the cages to the C.N.R. station where they are shipped to a designated destination. Normally this is done at night. First thing in the morning, the station master frees the birds at the time indicated by the members on the freight ticket.

Scan the Skies
In the event the weather is not suitable or time does not allow, the station agent will

either phone or wire the members to let them know what time the pigeons will be freed. Mr. McColl and the boys keep close tabs on the birds and as time lapses (time of flight is estimated roughly according to previous runs) members begin to scan the skies and wait eagerly at their home lofts. As a bird arrives, Mrs. McColl takes down the time on the phone after a rubber flight tag has been removed from the bird's leg to

determine its flight number.

Racing Season
Beginning in May the boys expect to be quite busy. This is the start of the racing season for the younger birds and lasts into late fall for the older ones.

Much Fun? Ask any of the members! They enjoy it thoroughly and work hard at the sport. Listed on the membership roll are Mr. McColl as president, Kasimir Lewandowski as secretary-treasurer, Bruce Lambert, Dave Papillon, Mike Miller, Ernie Waller, Hugh Echerling, Kurt Ecklerick, Jack Pope and Paul Phelan of Acton and Robert Hilton, Rockwood.

Why does Mr. McColl bother with the boys and pigeons, when he also supervises caretaking chores at both public schools, tend several hives of bees, mind chickens, pheasants and partridges? He loves to see youngsters enjoy themselves and find a hobby they can enjoy.

If you are a hunter out in the woods, hunting game, and you see a flock of pigeons flying overhead, don't take a pot shot at them. Remember they could belong to one of these boys — and they cost money to raise.



RACING PIGEONS produce a fascinating hobby for this group. Pondering over a map and anticipating racing the pigeons early in May are, left to right, Bruce Lambert, David Papillon, Mike Miller, Ernie Waller and Colin McColl. They are members of the Acton Racing Pigeon Club.

Mrs. Lowrie Guide Captain

A captain has been found for the Girl Guide Company. Mrs. Lowrie took over at the last meeting and promises the girls a busy time.

A Recent Fly-Up of the Brownies increased the number by seven. Those earning their wings were Roberta Nessett, Marianne Coles, Valerie Coles, Peggy Wheeler and Debbie Slingerland. Two Brownies who didn't quite make wings were helped along the way to the Guiding World by a pair of magic shoes. They were Sharon Gordon and Ellen Wisenz.

Still needed to complete the group of guiders is a new commissioner.

The project on hand is planning for the annual mother-and-daughter banquet to be held next month.

WEL Spinning Wheel New Museum Exhibit

A spinning wheel that came to this district in 1782 with a United Empire Loyalist family is one of the latest acquisitions at the Halton County Museum. Along with it as gifts came a wool winder and a clock and a piece of petit point worked in Philadelphia before the family came north.

JACK RIDLEY CARTAGE
Limited
● CONCRETE BLOCKS ● CONCRETE BRICK
● CINDER BLOCKS ● CLAY BRICK
● SAND ● STONE
● LIVESTOCK and FERTILIZER
● FARM SERVICE and SUPPLIES
DUMP TRUCKS FOR HIRE
Fully Insured ACTON
PCV Class PS & F PHONE 853-0730

RECIPE OF THE MONTH
FRUIT RELISH
Serves 8-10. Crisp with cranberry; pleasing with peach.
1 large orange
1 cup canned Canadian pears, diced (choice or standard grade)
2 cups raw cranberries
1/4 cup sugar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 3-ounce package lemon-flavoured gelatin
Peel orange. Scrape off most of the white membrane. Put peel, pulp and cranberries through a food chopper using medium blade. Combine with pears and sugar. Prepare gelatin according to directions on package. Chill until thick as unbeaten egg white. Fold in cranberries and peach mixture. Pour into 1 1/2 quart mold. Chill until firm.

NEED A CARPENTER?
for . . . New Floors
New Ceilings
New Kitchen Cupboards
. . . or Any Other Alterations?
FOR FREE ESTIMATES PLEASE CALL 853-0860
TENPRO DISTRIBUTORS LTD.
Expert Craftsmanship — All Work Guaranteed

POLICE RECRUITS WANTED
CONSTABLES AND CADETS
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
AGE 17 to 34 HEIGHT — 5 ft. 9 in.
WEIGHT — 160 lbs. EDUCATION — GRADE 10
Apply in Person to
METROPOLITAN TORONTO POLICE
Personnel Office, 92 King Street East
OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

EASTER STORE HOURS
All Acton Retail Stores Will Adopt the Following Schedule
OPEN THURSDAY, MARCH 26 TILL 9 P.M.
CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 27
OPEN SATURDAY, MARCH 28 TILL 6 P.M.
CLOSED MONDAY, MARCH 30
THIS AD IS SPONSORED BY YOUR LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
— A JOYOUS EASTER TO ALL —

Now \$99 *Installs a Flat Rate*
Water Heater
IN EASY TO MEET MONTHLY INSTALMENTS

12 Monthly Instalments of \$8.75 PLUS TAX **24 Monthly Instalments of \$4.62**

YOU CAN NOW BUY . . . The above tanks may be purchased for use on either for cash or on easy credit terms. Normal installation and FREE service are included in the rates. Under this enlarged program the Acton Hydro Electric Commission will, in addition, service all flat rate water heaters presently installed in the Town of Acton. This free service to include miscellaneous parts to a value of \$5.00 but does not include replacement of heater bands unless under warranty.

IF YOU PREFER TO RENT these units you can be completely free of all maintenance problems and charges. A new 40 gallon, glass lined, electric water heater tank built to Ontario Hydro specifications by Knight Industries Ltd. will be installed for only **1.75** MONTH PER

Energy charges are additional. Larger tanks are available where required.

FLAT RATE ENERGY CHARGES

750 WATT HEATERS	3000 WATT HEATERS	4500 WATT HEATERS
750	1000	1500
2.72 Per Month	3.58 Per Month	5.23 Per Month

See Your **Acton Hydro-Electric Commission**
3 ELGIN ST. N. PHONE 853-2410

You get loads... and loads... and loads of hot water with an **ELECTRIC WATER HEATER**

Your Esso agent

and these **4** motor oils

can take care of any motor oil requirement on your farm regardless of the type and make of your equipment

ESSOLUBE HDX — The motor oil providing the most efficient lubrication for 80% of today's gasoline... or diesel farm equipment motors.

ESSOLUBE D-3 — Esso D-3 — 4 series 3 motor oil... for most diesel operation under most severe conditions... today's highest quality farm motor oil.

ESSO MOTOR OIL — Esso Motor Oil — a new name for an old favourite, Marvelite. The change is in name only... you get the same all round engine protection with Esso Motor Oil, as you did with Marvelite.

MINERALUBE — Mineralube — for hydraulic system, top up... and for engines which do not require a detergent type motor oil.

YOUR ESSO AGENT is your local motor oil adviser. He knows your requirements and is familiar with the type of equipment you use on your farm. He will recommend and provide the motor oil that's best suited for your requirements. Let him help you solve your lubrication problems. Phone him today.

MORE NOW...MORE IN THE FUTURE...FROM IMPERIAL OIL

JOHN WELDON — 40 Mowbray Pl., Acton — 853-2580