

What if you had a year to live?

By Jane Dougan and Sue Brooks

If you had only one year to live, what would you do with the time left to you? Travel to Europe, explore the jungles of the world, go to church... or would you rather not know?

We asked some of the students and staff at Acton High School that question, and were told some surprising answers, as well as something about the person we were questioning!

Mr. Goring, a teacher, was quick to come up with an answer. He thought he would like to be told "Because it's my life and I like people to live with me!" What would he do with the year he had left? "Well... I'd paint lots of all landscapes and spend most of my time doing little things at home with my family!"

Rosemary Lowe, Grade 12, would also like to be leveled with. "I'd want to know if I only had a year to live, so that I could do the things I'd always wanted to do!" Her plans? "I'd buy a car... travel to Europe! If you knew you only had a year to live, you could plan ahead to leave possessions to and avoid legal hassles. When I was dead, I wouldn't want to be remembered for anything special, just for being a human being." How does she feel about mercy killing? "I think the doctor should always try to prolong life, even if the person was left a vegetable. If you start mercy killing, where do you draw the line between complete vegetables and people who are just mentally retarded or old?"

Donna Gorjup, Grade 11, disagreed. "If I only had a year to live, I wouldn't want to be told because then life would be spoiled. You wouldn't live normally! I would just want to live as I usually do - but I'm not really frightened of death as I believe in life afterwards. I'm not really sure what it is, but I think there is something."

Helen Gunther, Grade 10 and Sharon Ellerby, Grade 12, also would prefer not to know. Helen thought that "If I knew, I would live every day knowing that my days are numbered." Sharon agreed that "I wouldn't be able to do anything without having it on my mind. I'd worry too much about it." Then, with a giggle, "What you don't know won't hurt you!"

Glenn Lee, however told us that "Yes, I would want to know! Then I would just go on living normally and take each day as it comes!"

Exciting places
Many people would want to know so that they could travel to exciting places. Dave Morris, Grade 10, thought he would quit school and explore the jungles. Jeff Patterson liked the idea of a trip to San Diego as "It's nice all the time there." Deb Legate, Grade 11, would travel all over

the world with her boyfriend, and Jeff Cooper thought he would travel everywhere and just generally have a good time.

Jannie Waites would go to Europe, but Michele Bould would spend the year with her friends and family. Roma Kuchmak, Grade 11, was between the two. She would travel to Europe, but would also like to be home with her family. "I would visit my cousins in the Ukraine and my great-uncle in Florida. And I'd leave school!"

Susan Alchin, Grade 12, would quit school too and live my life to the fullest. Travel and get to know as much about other people as I could. I'd try to help people, of other cultures."

Free Press photographer Denis Gibbons also has other people's welfare at heart. He

thought carefully and then decided that, yes, he would want to be told.

"I would try to be of some help to people who are unable to help themselves. That way I'd try to forget my own fate by helping others." Mr. Gibbons also thought he might travel around the world with someone.

Sort things out
Mrs. Joan Williamson, the school secretary, has other plans.

"I would have a lot of things to sort out, so I'd want to be told. I would do all the things I keep putting off... go to Greece, see the sea again, and write a book I keep talking about. I try to do special things with my children - things I keep meaning to do and never get time."

Mrs. Morgan, teacher, "would probably do nothing differently

but would want to be told so I could make appropriate good-byes to people who are important to me. I'm not particularly dissatisfied with the way I've lived - so long as I've lived life fully fame is not important to me. I would like to write children's books though! I'd like to be remembered as a good friend and teacher to those who know me well."

Mr. McGillivray, another teacher, wouldn't want to know anything about it. He thinks "I might do something foolish if I knew. People aren't fatalistic - they don't accept things like that - they think that they have to go out and make their mark in the world. I might do the same thing!"

Too depressing
Both Deb Swackhamer and Rick Bonnette feel the same way.

Rick thinks he would be "too depressed after I found out" and Deb "would constantly be thinking about it". But Ruth Kirkwood thinks that if she knew I would appreciate the things around me a lot more, and I wouldn't put off things I should do!"

Likewise, Helke Bollert, Judy Thibodeau and Joyce Denny would all travel. Helke "all over the world", Judy "as much as I could - and I'd have as much fun as I could" and Joyce "to Europe and would let no limitations bother me!" Joyce would also visit "everyone I've met, and have a really good time with them."

Virginia Zuraw wouldn't want to know "Because as long as you don't know, you don't worry about it" while Debbie McNight "would make plans for the future."

Live each day
Lastly, Art teacher Mrs. Levy would not want to know "because I think the happiest person is one who lives from day to day. If you live each day as you see fit you should be able to fulfill your life. I would be afraid that I would worry my last few weeks away and waste it."

I just don't want to know... if I know the good Lord was gonna call me up I would be afraid I wouldn't know the right answers!"

As you can see, we found a lot of different approaches to life, philosophies and dreams. On the whole, most would want to know about the deadline so that they could fully live the time left.

I can't know for sure what I'd do, but in the back of my mind is the idea of going to Northern Ireland to visit my family there, having a bubble bath and a glass of wine every day, and trying to help stamp out leg-hold traps. In fact, animal trapping as a whole, but I don't think that would be possible in a year.

Sue Brooks would travel to as much of the world as possible, spend lots of time with friends and family. She wouldn't want anyone to know that she was dying.

Mr. Boris Sheen is undecided but hopes that such a situation doesn't arise for at least another fifty years.

What would you do. Think about it...

Notes from Acton High

By Janice Gibson
Bernie Smith gave us an interesting assembly last week on a very controversial topic, "This Thing Called Love". He also spoke at the 1st Baptist Church in Guelph on Friday night and all day Saturday.

Typing contest
This last week the annual typing contest was held in Milton. Two students from Acton, Sharon Ellerby and Donna Gorjup, participated. Sharon won third place in the senior division, and Donna placed 10th in the junior division. Congratulations to both of you. It proves that Acton has it,

Ability Fund drive by mail

Donations to the Ability Fund (March of Dimes) will be accepted in town again this year, but there will be no door-to-door canvass.

Attempts were made to locate a campaign chairman with no success. However Mrs. Les Doby has agreed to mail out appeal letters to industries and business people and to accept donations from everyone wishing to assist. She has official receipts available for contributors.

The district campaign secretary Dorothy Clark of Stratford, is herself confined to a wheelchair.

The Ability Fund was formerly called the March of Dimes. Donations go to the volunteer, non-profit foundation to further the medical, vocational and social rehabilitation of the physically handicapped residents of Ontario. Excepted are the blind, mentally retarded or mentally ill for whom special services exist.

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Ohio man on love

By Janice Gibson

Last Thursday, Bernie Smith, originally from Warren, Ohio, came to the high school. At 9 o'clock, we filed into the auditorium, not knowing quite what to expect. Mr. Smith, a negro, soon put everyone at their ease, with his opening line, "I just thought I'd add a little color to our group". Since this put everyone into fits of laughter, the atmosphere became less tense.

Bernie Smith played us two songs which he wrote himself, and then started into his topic, "This Thing Called Love". He explained to us his opinion of the difference between lust and love.

Using quotes from the Bible, Mr. Smith illustrated his statements with words that have been written and repeated for centuries.

I, personally, really enjoyed Mr. Smith's talk, and what was really great is that the whole time we didn't feel as if we were being preached at.

Add more names to wall of fame

New names added to the Acton Centennial Buy-a-Brick campaign this week were: J. W. Hibbard, Gladys Hibbard, Caroline Hibbard, Scott Hibbard, W. McLaughlin, Guelph, Eva McLaughlin, Charles McLaughlin, Wilda Blacklock, Jack Ridley, Wayne Ridley, Randy Ridley, Ken Fryer, Florence Fryer, Grace Townsley, Sonny Townsley Sr., Edward J. S. Mayse, Knox Presbyterian Church choir (SNR).

There is lots of room left on the wall of fame but not a lot of time left. Although Centennial celebrations are 12 months away it would be more enjoyable if we could look to the community centre and see it completed.

Keep those names coming! Send your names to the Centennial Project, Box 100, Acton, Ontario.

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Free Press Youth page

Meet the AHS athletes

By Bob Howson

Terry Davidson is currently a member of the junior basketball team at Acton High. Terry was born in Windsor, Ontario and has been living in Acton since 1968. He is now 16 years old, 5'11", and 155-160 lbs.



TERRY DAVIDSON

Terry has played interschool baseball, and belonged to an organized league of lacrosse players in Fort Credit. He feels the calibre of play experienced in the Halton County Athletic Conference is very good. He also considers Acton is too small to compete with larger schools, as the choice of players is limited.

doubts it. She feels that Georgetown and places like that have more to offer. She thinks that Acton really needs a downtown parking lot and something like a plaza to prosper and attract more people.



NANCY SHORTHILL

By Janice Gibson

Nancy Shorthill is a student at Acton, and a much prized member of our volleyball team. She also enjoys softball, badminton and other sports. Her favourite subject is physical education.

Nancy participates in school activities when she has time and finds them especially interesting. She also feels that Acton has a chance in interschool sports, if the team has lots of practice, and puts emphasis on team effort.

After she finishes school, she's not sure what she'd like to do, but she would be interested in something to do with physical education or art.

Would she stay in Acton? She

Winter carnival coming it's Ookpik the Third

Ookpik III is coming!

The high school student council and the Acton Youth Council are planning a third winter carnival for next week, February 14 to 16.

The Friday night grande finale is being planned for the whole town and will include a torchlight parade to the park for festivities there. There will be broomball, bicycle races, toboggan races, tug-of-war, soccer, car demolish-

ing and other events started by the reigning queen and her escort. The students would like to challenge clubs and groups to play against them that evening. There will be a food booth in operation.

Slaves and queen
On Wednesday there will be a slave auction at the school. Up for slavery are a few boys as well as girls: They will remain loyal to

their masters all day Thursday. There will be a junior boys' basketball game Wednesday.

Thursday brings the first annual paper airplane contest for distance and accuracy. Another first is a "charms" sucker eating contest. After a 10-minute time limit the suckers will be weighed to determine the winner. The carnival queen will be crowned at the dance. Dancing will again be to the Brutus, back for a second appearance.

Organizers
Organizers include Mike Albano, Malcolm MacMillan, Janet Bos, Susan South, Ian MacMillan, Cindy King, Colin Price, Sharon Barber, Glenn Lee, Wendy Hannah, Sean Aherne, Russ Coultrup and the student youth council with a special appearance by the "Angels".

The project, designed to free teacher-librarians to work on a co-operative basis with classroom teachers to individualize and personalize class instruction, will employ eight persons hired through the local Manpower Office. The program will last until June 1. Clerical personnel will lift the burden of technical jobs from

professional teachers.
Winter works plans
Four men are working for the town under the Provincial-Municipal winter works program. These benefits end May 31.
It is understood that several men are working in the bush at Blue Springs scout reserve under a similar grant.



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L.I.P. grant...

(Continued from Page 1)

Three jobs
They estimated providing three jobs—as well as a service the whole town. A manager, clerk and part-time clerk would all have been paid during a five to six month period. In their plan, The last word was L.I.P.'s. They sent a letter to the Acton organizers, confirming that the Acton men had "withdrawn" their "request".

Milton grant
An L.I.P. grant of \$10,286 has been granted Milton for improvements and an addition to the town's swimming pool at Rotary Park. The addition will include washrooms, workshop and storage area.
Total cost is \$25,000.
Wellington L.I.P.

An L.I.P. grant of \$17,512 has been awarded to the Wellington county board of education for its School Media Centre's Project.

Jim Watson of Nassagaweya ended a 17½ year teaching career when he retired last week from his position as vice-principal at Clarksdale public school in Burlington.

Watson said he intends to go into farming full-time by expanding his small hog operation at his Steeles Ave. farm south of Campbellville.

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