



the painted box

by Wendy Thomson

Once, a man who had read about me arguing with 15 year old Beth over wearing patched jeans to school, said that having this sort of family problem in print might be upsetting for her. After all, she was just "doing her own thing" as the saying goes.

Okay, — patched jeans were her thing, but it happened that that particular day, patched jeans on Beth weren't my thing and I was bigger than she was — so the jeans stayed in her drawer.

This character seemed to think that I was stifling Beth (I know he meant "figuratively" but I often think about it literally) by not allowing her to express herself and all that.

Louder expression
That might be, but I think it only fair that if she can express herself, then so can I, — louder and more forcefully.

However, he might be happy to hear that Beth is now bigger than I am (taller, that is) and our battles often get onto the physical plane.

Truthfully, I don't think it's really that she is growing taller. I'm sure there's a campaign on to beat my 5'6" by wearing me down a few inches.

After being rumped, crumpled, twisted, turned, tumbled, and sat on regularly, I'm developing some sort of complex. Either that or I'm being brainwashed or conditioned or whatever you want to call it.

For example, a few weeks back, Beth's boyfriend, Ken, asked why I didn't go swimming with them and Beth seconded the suggestion.

Now, if I thought that it was an honest invitation, I might have joined them. But I'm sure they just wanted to see how fast I could sink, with maybe a hand to the bottom of the lake, that is, — not mine). Of course with Beth, I'm never sure.

Swimming used to be my favourite past-time, long ago. I can swim passably, and float beautifully, but I just didn't trust those two.

Anyhow, last Sunday we were at a garden party in Rockwood. All afternoon, small groups of the 40 guests broke off to go over to the dam. Beth and Ken pestered me to go along, but I didn't have a bathing suit. Also, when I swim, I like to swim in peace.

My mistake was in walking over to watch those two, plus two sons, one brother, two cousins,

two aunts, one uncle, and two dogs. Everything was fine (other than my brother falling in with all his clothes under one arm) until Beth spotted me on the dam and headed for me with obvious evil intent.

I could just picture my new and expensive long hand-woven wool skirt ending up a soggy mess in the pond (along with me, of course.)

Brainwashing
And here's where the brainwashing came in. Instead of taking a firm stand and boxing Beth's ears, I acknowledged that she was quite apt to take an equally firm stand, attempt to box mine, — then push me in.

So, to forestall her (and noting that everybody was watching one of the dogs do a high-dive) I ripped open the velcro skirt fastening, handed the skirt to my aunt, and jumped off the dam. I surfaced to astounded faces (respectably Beth's as I had almost landed on her).

I must admit it was a nice in-luade, although I had on one of Gord's shirts that came halfway to my knees and the cufflink-length sleeves kept unrolling a foot off the end of my hands which made swimming a little difficult.

The real problem was, of course, getting out. I suppose I could have walked casually out, but by that time there were a few groups of onlookers over the other side.

So very nonchalantly, I took an offered towel, wrapped it around me under water, and THEN walked casually out!

The first thing anybody said to me was — "Now there's your next week's column". And so it is!



FOUR ACTON YOUTHS embarked on a bicycle trip to Coldwater this morning (Wednesday) with gear all packed on 10 speed bicycles. Left to right, Randy Upton, Gord Chafe, Doug Jordan and George Binden intend to

do the journey in several legs, stopping to camp on the way. All have 10 speed bicycles for the journey which will end at Doug Jordan's cottage at Coldwater.

—H. Coles Photo

Beverly Brunelle nursing graduate



BEVERLEY BRUNELLE

Beverly Brunelle graduated from Perth-Huron Regional School of Nursing on Friday, June 29 at Stratford. She is the eldest daughter of Mrs. Stella Brunelle and the late Sam Brunelle.

Those attending her graduation exercises were her mother and brothers Steve and Paul, her two grandmothers Mrs. Mary Osbourne of Acton and Mrs. William Klaphuk of Kapuskasing and friends.

Bey is a graduate of M. Z. Bennett public and Acton High School.

Chris Brunelle was unable to attend her sister's graduation as she is travelling in Europe for the summer.

Beverly will write her R.N. exams in August and plans to visit an aunt in Mexico City upon completion of her training before she starts her nursing career.

Graduation June 28 for Dianne Fisher



DIANNE FISHER

Dianne Fisher graduated Thursday, June 28 from the Greater Niagara General Hospital School of Nursing. Dianne attended M.Z. Bennett School and Acton District High School. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Mac Sprowl.

Present for the graduation ceremonies were her parents Mr. & Mrs. Mac Sprowl, sister Marie Fisher, Mr. & Mrs. James Leitch, Mrs. Keith Leitch, Erin, Mr. & Mrs. John Sprowl, Acton, Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Sprowl, Guelph and Mr. Ken Gray, Acton.

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Monthly immunization clinics will be held for adults beginning in September. Halton County Board of Health decided last week.

Since less than 60 per cent of Canadian adults over 30 have sufficient protection against

diphtheria, tetanus, polio and smallpox the Health Unit will operate free immunization clinics on an appointment basis every month.

Serums for typhoid, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio and measles are provided free by the provincial government.

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What council did

Council had a lengthy meeting Tuesday ending as the clock neared midnight. Accounts were passed and committee minutes questioned.

Other matters:
Mayor Duby said next Tuesday he is participating in a panel on regional government with Milton and Georgetown mayors, being taped for TV.

—On inquiry deputy-reeve Marks learned tenders will be ready to be called for Elizabeth Dr. sidewalks Monday. The engineer had advised Mill and Cameron projects be called in the same tender. It's not yet certain whether the sidewalk will go on the north or south side of Elizabeth Dr. due to land ownership negotiations.

Marks her 91st birthday

Mrs. Annie McLean, marked her 91st birthday at her Brock St., Acton, home Sunday. Mrs. McLean is the widow of the late John McLean, living now with her daughter Jean.

Mrs. McLean has lived on Brock for 25 years coming from the McLean homestead on Lot 5, Concession 10. She enjoys embroidery and other types of needlework.

She is a past member of the W.M.S. in Erin and later in Acton. The Free Press joins in wishing Mrs. McLean many more birthdays.

Bike licenses

During the coming two weeks, bicycle licenses will be issued at the town office instead of the police office.

New name

The continuing care unit is the new name for the extended care wing of St. Joseph's hospital in Guelph. The new name was approved by the trustees. The 114-beds in the wing are to become more closely integrated with the hospital with emphasis on rehabilitation.

—Duke of Devonshire chapter of the I.O.D.E. was given permission to hold their usual tag day at the fall fair.

—Mayor Duby feels trophies and prizes should be provided for the bicycle rodeo run for the public schools by Constable Redpath. These prizes would be presented at the fall fair.

—Acton council was advised it was not felt advisable to have a second police cruiser in Acton. However this could be negotiated in next year's contract. North Halton O.P.P. works in co-operation with Acton to have a cruiser available.

—Clerk Usher informed council committee it would not be necessary for an application to the committee of adjustment of the township of Esquevas for a conveyance to convey a parcel of land from C. Neilla to the town by reasons of the planning act. The clerk was authorized to proceed with the proposed purchase.

—A representative of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority will be asked to investigate and give a report on the swale at the cemetery. Plans for a new fence at the cemetery met the approval of council committee.

—The clerk will write letters to Acton Citizens Band, the Rotary Club and the Firefighters thanking them for the splendid program of events on the Dominion Holiday weekend.

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