

# Bessems have real rocks in their heads

by Joan Morgan  
"Warning! Rock Pox. Very contagious to both sexes," reads the sign on the door. It is an apt caution since you are about to enter the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman

Bessem, R.R. 1, Georgetown. It all started seven years ago at a family gathering. It was then that their eight children and 23 grandchildren convinced Ethel and Herman Bessem it was time to take

their interest in rock collecting seriously. Ever since two fires had struck their farm on Highway 24 near Everton and Herman had taken work at Micro Plastics in Acton to recoup

the losses, the Bessems had talked of owning a small handcraft shop and doing some rock polishing. Nine years ago they moved to their present home on Highway 7 and since then

there has been no looking back. Crossing the threshold of the Bessem home is akin to participating in a geography lesson, delivered with all the enthusiasm and hospitality

which is characteristic of the Bessems. One is first struck by the colorful display of stones polished and set out by Herman himself with elaborate equipment some of which was a gift to him from relatives in Holland. Ethel has set many of the pieces in her gold wiring work to make colorful pendants, brooches and bracelets.

Raising eight children who were eager to master different crafts involved Ethel further and 4-H work was another incentive to learning handicrafts. Ethel explains her interest this way, "Like Topsy, it grew."

## Mrs. C. Aitken reports on agriculture society

Birthdays and birthstones were roll call answers at Thursday's evening meeting of the lady directors of the Acton Agricultural Society when 16 members answered at the home of hostess, Mrs. M. Madill.

Two ladies, Mrs. Alger and Mrs. Cobham had attended a meeting of the men's board and Mrs. Alger reported. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Matthews were appointed to attend their next session.

After business Mrs. C. Aitken gave an interesting

## Confirmation ANNOUNCEMENT service

A special service was held in the Trinity United Church Sunday when the Rev. William G. Onions officiated at the confirmation of six members of the congregation.

The service was conducted with a large assemblage in attendance and, after a talk to the children, the rite of confirmation was bestowed on Susan Dedman, Donald Coats, John Kirkwood, Orval Chapman, Ian McGillivray and Lloyd Smallwood.

The service was consistent with the third Sunday in Lent and, to finalize, the congregation joined in the recessional hymn, "Love divine, all loves excelling," culminating the solemn event.



**FASHION TREND WEST**

is pleased to announce that Miss Brenda Barry has joined their staff. Brenda brings with her 5 years of hairdressing experience.

## Minor accident

Cars operated by Gojko Cavic of 128 Church St. and John Krul of 121 Churchill Rd. were involved in a minor accident last week.

Five dollars damage was done to the first vehicle and \$150 to the second. No charges were laid.



ETHEL AND HERMAN BESSEM, left, show rocks to prospective customers at a Bracebridge arts and crafts show last summer. The Bessems

became interested in rock collecting seven years ago and have been avid collectors and finishers since.



## Consumers will pay more for meat

By Wendy Thomson

Recently, I found myself in Milton, with no transportation, sitting waiting. The "brief wait" turned out to be two hours. After five minutes of conversation (with someone other than myself), 20 minutes of reading brochures, and 10 minutes wandering around, I had one hour and 25 minutes left to fill.

I amazed myself! There was a time when I would have been a nervous wreck after doing absolutely nothing for that length of time. But like I said to the gentleman who kept popping out of his office to apologize for the delay—it does me good to learn patience.

Consumers of beef and other meat products will either have to tighten their belts and eat less or be prepared to pay higher prices within a matter of months.

A recent report from the ministry of agriculture points out that present prices to the farmers are not meeting production costs at the farm level and more and more farmers are selling their grain, forgetting about livestock. This situation will

lessen cattle numbers on the market in the future, forcing prices up and the consumer to pay more.

The decision whether to feed livestock has been largely influenced by increased world demand for the crops that have traditionally provided a reasonably priced feed for livestock. Farmers now have the opportunity to market these crops at high prices.

These prices are even more attractive when the farmer considers the fact that he can market his crop and receive cash in the year of harvest rather than buying cattle which are a large investment. Often such purchases require interest rates and the farmer must wait an extra year for returns from his crop.

The report indicates that, when all of these factors are considered, consumers can expect to pay more if they want beef, pork or lamb on their dinner tables.

## Delicious muffins baked Wed. by Dublin Junior Wheat Grains

The fun of muffin making was the constructive instruction presented at the fourth meeting of the Dublin Junior Wheat Grains held last week at the home of Sherry Ismond.

President Marita Manina called the roll and collection was taken by Kim Van der Eyken. Muffins then became the object of discussion.

The kitchen was the place of learning where Marita Manina, Debbie Rippon, Teresa McCarron, Alice Van Ogtrop and Julie Ismond made blueberry muffins. Sherry Ismond, Sandy Hall, Cathy Burke, Marie Davis and Kim Van der Eyken made bran ones.

While waiting for the muffins to bake the group discussed the many kinds and uses of flour including whole wheat, all purpose, instant blending and pastry flour.

It was an enjoyable afternoon and Mrs. Ismond's kitchen smelled of delicious baking. The next meeting will be held at Marie Davis' home on Mar. 27.

## Zambia is W.M.S. topic

Zambia in the sun was the highlight topic of the March 14 meeting of the adult group of Women's Missionary Society of Knox church held in the Dr. A. C. Stewart hall.

President Mrs. I. Anderson presided and the group was favored with a music session by Mrs. R. Algie playing her mandolin. Mrs. A. Near and Mrs. W. McIntyre were in charge of program for which they chose the story of the great missionary, Dr. Livingston, as their subject.

A lunch culminated an interesting program as served by the group lunch committee.

**Hiding plans**

As long as I can sit (preferably in the sun), lean my head back and look at the ceiling, I can while away time indefinitely, now. There's so much to think (or daydream) about. First and foremost is, of course, riding and plans to fit more in this spring. And walking—friends and I are going to start off on the Bruce Trail soon.

And the house—maybe Gord's pugs will be profitable enough this year that we can finish one more room in this unfinished house of ours.

Then there's daydreams, as always, about anything and everything from the sublime to the ridiculous.

And failing that, I can always start writing columns in my head (like one on "Waiting"). Unfortunately they're usually forgotten before I get home. However, there's an endless variety of ways to wait.

At home it's different though. Waiting for an expected call, I'm afraid to go downstairs, turn up the stereo, plug in the vacuum, or submerge in the tub in case the phone rings and I miss it.

When company's expected, every car on the road sounds as though it's slowing down for our drive. I either worry they might come early or worry they might be late, until they finally arrive. Waiting gives me the jitters.

Then there's the waiting for the animals to come in at night. We keep one eye and ear open for ages, waiting for the bang at door or window, but it usually doesn't come till that eye and ear give up.

"Rowf!"

Our old hound Rip was a darned nuisance that way. No matter how long we waited up, watching TV, reading, or talking, his demanding "ROWF!" didn't echo off the doors until two minutes after our bedroom light was switched off when we went to bed. There was no fooling him by turning it on and off early, either.

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CLASSES START:

Thurs. March 21—10 a.m., 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Fri. March 22—10 a.m., 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sat. March 23—12 noon & 2:30 p.m.

Mon. March 25—10 a.m., 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

\* All Classes Identical and Start Promptly \*

## Personals

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Robertson, Tidey Ave., have returned from a vacation at Indian Harbour Beach, Florida. They report fine weather in the south, reaching 85 degrees last Wednesday.

Dr. and Mrs. Frank Oakes and Councilor and Mrs. G. W. (Pat) McKenzie have returned after a three week vacation in Florida.

# A-B SUPERMARKET

9 MILL ST. ACTON 853-0650

<b>Meat Department Specials</b>	ALLENS 48 OZ. TINS UNSWEETENED GRAPEFRUIT DRINK (SAVE 17c) <b>2/89c</b>
FRESH LEAN GROUND CHUCK <b>\$1.19</b> LB.	BLACK DIAMOND 16 OZ. PKG. CANADIAN CHEESE SLICES <b>95c</b> (SAVE 24c)
FRESH LEAN STEWING BEEF <b>\$1.19</b> LB.	LYN VALLEY 10 OZ. TINS CREAM STYLE CORN <b>6/\$1.00</b> (SAVE 29c)
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PRICES EFFECTIVE MARCH 20, 21, 22, 23.	ONT. NO. 1 3 LB. BAG COOKING ONIONS <b>39c</b>
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THE TEA PKG. OF 60 <b>69c</b> (SAVE 30c)	
CHRISTIES 16 OZ. LOAF OLD COUNTRY CRUSTY BREAD <b>3/\$1.00</b> (SAVE 17c)	