



Let's talk about
HORSES

By Jennifer Barr

THE WORLD looks great to this wee fellow, a day old donkey foal, the first born to Jennifer Barr's donkey "AnnaBelle".

Followup on the rather frantic announcement in the column last week, AnnaBelle, our now famous donkey, finally produced her foal after nearly a year's pregnancy. Donkeys take 12 months to gestate but AnnaBelle obligingly popped two weeks earlier than scheduled.

I came home from work that Tuesday (June 11) tired and uninclined to bother with horses. They were out to grass anyway and required little attention. The weather had turned comfortable and cool, horses were fine. We had supper and I readied myself to go out for the evening. Checked horses' water etc. before leaving and developed that funny feeling to count heads because "something had happened!" After a large number of foals, I know that feeling and it was right - again.

Plush toy
There in a back corner of the second pasture was a sleek AnnaBelle and a tiny clockwork plush toy. Sobbing with delight and relief, (I always get so emotional), I sat among the daisies crooning to AnnaBelle and the babe. Startled, he came over to investigate this noisy creature and nuzzled my face. Never have I met a foal so friendly, unafraid and downright cocky.

It was covered with soft downy curls, unbelievably minute - weighing under 35 lbs. - waving a pair of the most enormous ears possible.

A Prince
Mac carried him to the stable while a worried mama trotted beside. I fended off the far-too-interested horses, took pictures, yelled at the dogs, chivvied the kids along and generally organized things in my usual efficient manner.

After a brief rest, Beau Jangles - yes, that's his name - decided to give us a show. We'd been waiting nearly 12 months and he was going to give us our money's worth. He pranced, cavorted, threw a few wobbly bucks, sat in people's laps, licked faces and acted like a complete ham. Who'd believe he was only hours old and a member of the highly elusive, equine race. Beau hadn't read that book.

Within a day the wee lad had been picked up by un-teen visitors, petted, photographed and been asked to appear in two television shows. He accepted all with the equanimity of a prince among donkeys. Now, he is settling down to the pampered life befitting a son of Don Quixote and AnnaBelle.

OUR READERS WRITE:

A happy summer to our wards

The Editor
Acton Free Press

A long time ago in high school, we had to memorize a captivating poem beginning: "From troubles of the world, I turn to ducks." I think of these lines twice a day on regular jaunts to Acton's so-called wild fowl sanctuary, which in its fourth summer is now a by-guess-and-by-golly-operation.

In a way, the sanctuary at Fairy Lake is suffering from the switch to regional government, because in the area of parks and recreation, lines of authority seem to be very loosely defined. As I bust into print on behalf of my "quack" and "honk" friends, one day before the start of (horrors!) summer school vacation, I don't know who is top-level responsible for our 40 ducks, 20 ducklings, three swans, seven cygnets, a pair of domesticated white geese, Gandy and Peeper, and their week-old goslings hatched from out-of-town eggs; and last, but far from least, a family of Canada geese, seven young and mom, who lost her mate probably over the Victoria Day weekend.

Having spent a good portion of last summer, chasing young and not so young marksmen, sighting on harmless ducks, I am apprehensive at the onset of the good old summer time when some 1500 kids ages six to late teens will be flocking to our parks and waterways.

I have it on good authority that conservation is taught in school, otherwise I would doubt that some youngsters and let's face it - a number of kinky adults - had ever heard a word. If anyone has asked my back when class of fourth bookers about Conservation, the majority of us would have associated it with politics. That's how dumb we were! However, there was one lesson we learned and learned well from a

once-in-a-lifetime Entrance teacher: "You respect all living creatures. Birds and 'critters' have as much right to live as man and his offspring."

Woe to the bully caught stoning birds and squirrels. If he escaped punishment at Miss Minnie Bennett's hands, he was certain to encounter vengeful classmates, of whom few observed Marquis of Queensbury rules in nose to nose combat.

Unblushingly, I admit that at least half of the tooth and nail battles which I waged as a mean skinny kid, were over birds and beasts, wild and domesticated. There are, alas, naturally vicious young monsters in every generation, despite training and education.

Even now, as an ancient, battered citizen, well over the hill, I feel the adrenalin surging when wild creatures are mistreated. Just for kicks and the hell of it.

People living around Fairy Lake, and other Actonites making regular hikes to Prospect Park could if they wished, recite horror tales incredible in these so-called enlightened times.

Less than two weeks ago, a Lake Avenue bird-lover had to call the police to break up a little innocent fun enjoyed by three boys 10, 12, and 13. Armed with fishing rods, they deliberately cast until one line caught Gandy, the old white gander, in for a rare swim while his mate, Peeper nested at the dam. When spotted, the trio were hauling Gandy down the lake.

I was phoned at the library, but arrived too late to nab the little so-and-sos, who having been reprimanded by the police, took off on their bikes when they saw me pounding over the dam. I know - you DO!

NOT touch other people's children. But there are times, when one is strongly tempted, regardless of the consequences.

There are other (venerable) types, both young and adult who get their jollies chasing swans and ducks as a boating bonus. Still in the horror department, are kids; teenagers and grown-ups whose first reaction on beholding a peaceful flotilla of ducks is to reach for a rock. Meet punishment for such characters would be to shackle them to logs in the centre of the lake, and charge five cents a rock shy.

Can you imagine a male citizen (presumably mute, although he wore a wild womanly wig plus a beard) deliberately smashing goose eggs in a nest poor Peeper started at the dam? Three witnesses saw this initiation of a man at his work of destruction. Obviously, an admirable son of Adam (euphemism for a hunter Anglo-Saxon term) the same adornment of the human race, has been seen, making like a matador with his coat, and otherwise provoking Gandy, the white gander into defensive action. The object of the game was to retaliate with a kick at the gander who was only protecting his nesting mate.

I cite these nasty examples to stress my main point. Have we a wild fowl sanctuary or not? There are no signs to inform visitors that the ducks and geese they see on Fairy Lake are protected fowl. Or supposed to be protected fowl.

The sanctuary was opened amid a burst of enthusiasm which I did not share. Frankly, I was apprehensive about bringing wild birds to a People Lake. I still worry, although I am grateful for the opportunity to watch mallard ducks, and

Canada geese at work and play. I consider them my friends, and as such they rate all the care and consideration I can give them.

I read somewhere that in Denmark, the storks and swans are considered wards of the state. In my humble opinion, this idea rates a gold star for Denmark.

Here in Acton, we have a beautiful lake, the envy of out-of-towners. Last year, many trippers voiced delight at seeing flotillas of ducks in quiet sunset waters. "You don't know how lucky you are. This is wonderful!"

There's room on our lake and in our park, for both people and wild fowl, but the former have to respect the latter. Our birds should be protected and fed, which after all is the purpose of a sanctuary.

I bring greetings from Gandy and Peeper, Mamma Honk and her six, all the duck Ding-A-lings, and Sammy Swan and his tribe. May they our wards, have a safe, happy summer, which they certainly rate after a long hard winter.

Esther Taylor

On the beat



(Sixth of a series)

This is the sixth of a series of photographs to introduce the public to their local police officers.

Constable Nick Farion is seen here checking doors on foot patrol. Foot patrol and the checking of property is an important part of a policeman's job in a small community.

Constable Farion joined the O.P.P. in November 1960 and was stationed at Port Colborne. Since joining the O.P.P., Constable Farion has served at detachments in Port Arthur, Geraldton, Toronto, Port Credit and Burlington prior to coming to Acton in April 1965.

Constable Farion is an ardent golfer and enjoys working in a general duties detachment.

Uncle Bob and Grand Pierre.
Are chasing round our country fair,
Said Grand Pierre to Uncle Bob,
"I do not want to lose this job"

"If you should get more votes than I,
My income might not be so high"
Said Uncle Bob, to Grand Pierre
"I might even lose my underwear."

I hope they hear my humble cry,
Let all the members "do or die"
They will never cure us of inflation,
By creating jobs in administration.

They know how quickly I forget,
Who got me deeply into Debt,
To buy those things I'll never need,
To satisfy the money greed.

They're laughing as they roll along,
and chanting their political song,
While I sit back I'm almost fun
They've stuffed me with election bull.

But, Uncle Bob and Grand Pierre
Have always been a fighting pair,
But, in my bare feet I'll give them dues,
They took the taxes off my shoes.

So I'll sit down now and deliberate,
While the future governments congregate,
I'll pick the ones that suit me best,
Or make opposition for the rest.

Victor Smith,
R.R. 2, Rockwood.

All nominated
Six eye two seats

Taking care of details, all local candidates for the July 8 federal election got their official nominations in to the election clerk early. Monday, June 17 at 3 p.m. was the deadline for each nominee to officially declare his intention to run for office and present the required deposit.

NDP Archie Brown was the first, going to the electoral office a full week early; PC Terry O'Connor came in the Thursday before; and Liberal Frank Philbrook became official on Sunday.

In Halton-Wentworth all three candidates, PC Bill Kemppling, Liberal Eric Cunningham, and NDP Walter Mulkewich, presented themselves last Friday. No last-minute candidates emerged to run as independents.

Nor rain, nor sleet...

A new twist on the old game of post-office, where players said "there's no one by that number," is being played by the real postoffice.

A letter addressed to a house on Churchill Cres., Halton Hills, was returned to the sender with the notation, "No such post office in Ontario, return for better direction."

Richard M. Telford, D.C.
DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC
75 MILL ST. E. — ACTON
Phone 853-2483

★ BY APPOINTMENT ONLY ★

• OFFICE HOURS •

Mon & Wed. 9 a.m. - 12 noon; 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Tues. & Fri. 9 a.m. - 12 noon; 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Thurs. 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Sat. 9 a.m. - 12 noon

WILDERNESS ADVENTURE CAMP

for boys
age 13 and up

CANOEING, MOUNTAIN CLIMBING, FISHING, BACKPACKING, ROCK CLIMBING

Wilderness Adventure Camp is operated by Greenville Christian College, a co-ed residential school near Brockville, Ontario, offering grades 7-13.

The program is under the direction of Mr. John Childs, a provincial member of the staff and a licensed guide and outfitter in the Adirondack Mountains with five years' experience in leading treks.

The following trips are available: July 28-Aug. 2, canoeing; Aug. 4-9, backpacking; Aug. 11-16, canoeing; Aug. 18-23, backpacking. Any one week trip may be chosen, and a two week trip is possible by taking two consecutive trips. Competent instruction and the best equipment insure excitement with maximum safety. For further information, contact:

Wilderness Adventure Camp,
Greenville Christian College,
Box 410,
Brockville, Ontario
K4V 3V8 (613) 245-3531




Dr. Frank Philbrook
Halton

invites you to ...

A GIANT PICNIC
HERE IN THE NORTH HALTON RIDING

with
The Honourable
Eugene Whelan
Minister of Agriculture

AT THE ERIN FAIRGROUNDS
SUNDAY, JUNE 23rd 2 - 5 P.M.

COME AND SHAKE HANDS WITH THE MAN WHO HAS DONE MORE FOR THE FARMER IN RECENT YEARS THAN ANY OTHER CANADIAN.

FOR LEADERSHIP IN CANADA AND HALTON

VOTE

Dr. Frank Philbrook

LIBERAL — HALTON — JULY 8th

FOR INFORMATION — — — ACTION CENTRES ARE
100 MAIN ST. ERIN 833-9020 — 348 GUELPH ST. GEORGETOWN 877-6912 — 298 QUEEN ST. E. ACTON 853-1430

ANNUAL LAWN PARTY
JUNE 22nd, 1974
AT
Halton Centennial Manor
185 Ontario St., S., Milton
Official Opening and Dedication of Bandstand
1 P.M.
GOOD FOOD, GAMES OF CHANCE AND SKILL
Entertainment By
BANDS, CHORALISTS, DANCERS,
INSTRUMENTALISTS
A FULL AFTERNOON OF ACTIVITIES & FUN
OUTDOOR RELIGIOUS SERVICE
Sunday, June 23rd, 2:30 P.M.
Conducted By
The Oakville Branch of The Salvation Army
Accompanied By Their Junior Band
Everyone Welcome