



# the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

When we were first married (like for the first 10 years or so) I had subscriptions to uncounted magazines and used to pore over every "How To" article that came along. As a matter of fact, I spent so much time "poring" that there was little time left to TRY anything!

Some articles were clipped out and stored away for the right time whenever that might be. The rest were quickly forgotten. All except one. I think about it often when looking in the mirror around 5:30 a.m. This particular piece had to do with making oneself attractive first thing in the morning before one's husband got out of bed. It gave step by step instructions, starting with rising five minutes early and ending with presenting a clean, lightly-made-up face to the spouse for a morning kiss before sitting him down to breakfast and sprightly chatter.

Steps  
If I were reading that article for the first time now, I'd be in stitches long before I got to step 5 (eyebrow pencil).  
To begin with, there's no way I'm going to get out of bed before I have to. Five-thirty is bad enough, earlier is unthinkable!  
Secondly, our routine has become so set over the years that I'm not going to risk up-setting it.  
The bedroom alarm rings at 5:30. Gord shuts it off and comes back to bed for five minutes. That's allowed because the bedroom clock is five minutes faster than the kitchen clock, so when he finally reaches the kitchen, he's still on time.  
While Gord heads down to the barn, I wash my face, plug in the kettle and feed the animals. Later, Gord has cereal, I make the tea and his lunch. Then while he pours the tea, I make toast which he eats as I pack the lunch box. He kisses me goodbye and is out of the door by 6:15.  
And even if he lingered over the tea or kiss, it wouldn't matter because the kitchen clock is five minutes ahead of the real time.

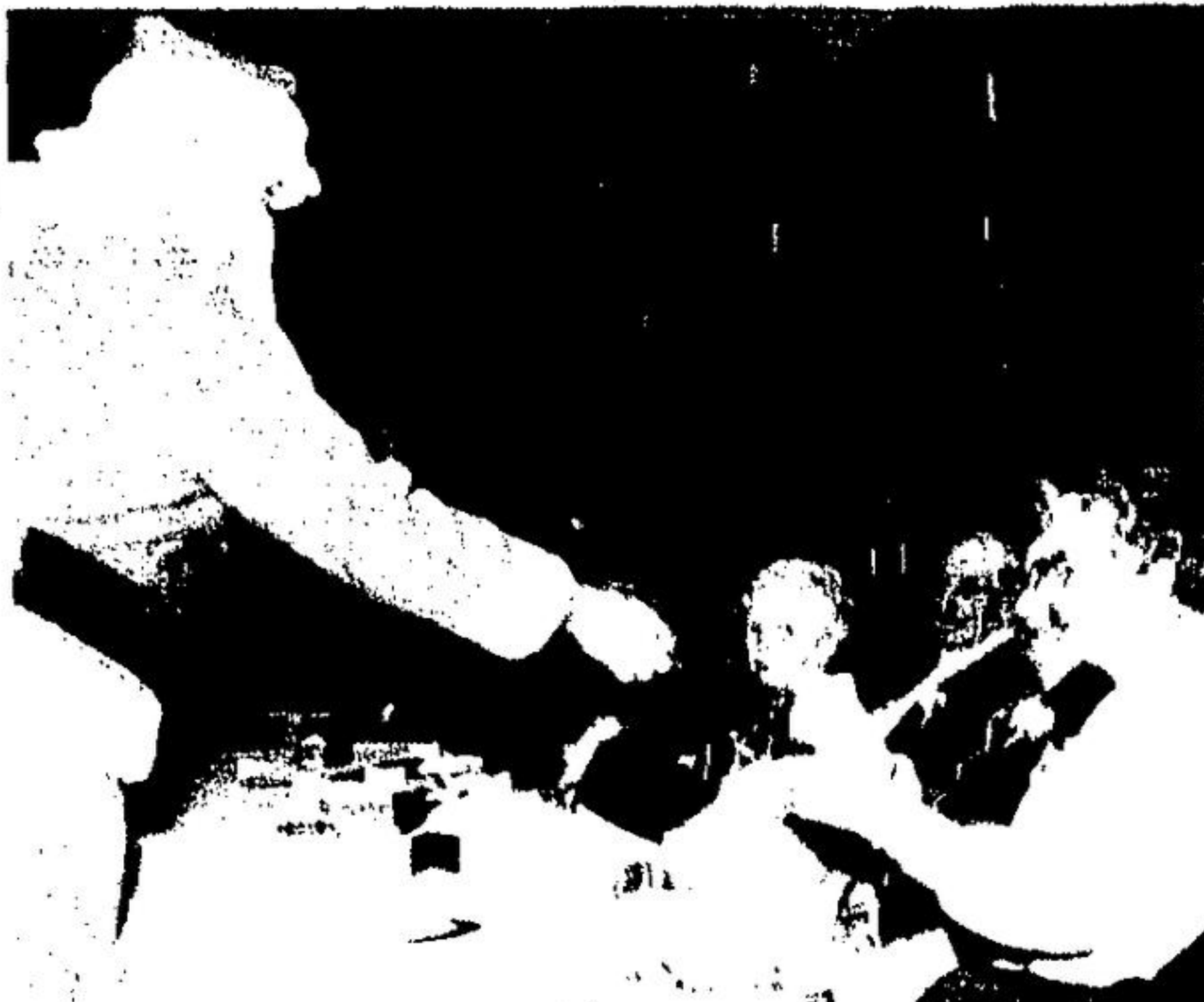
Few words  
All in all, we might not exchange a dozen words. If there's important instructions for me to do something, Gord knows better than to tell me—he writes a note. Anything that's told to me before seven is forgotten by eight. So much for the bright chatter.  
But mostly what makes the idea of shining up in the morning so laughable, is that no matter how lightly I brushed on a whisk of eyeshadow and a glimmer of lipstick (or is it a glimmer of eyeshadow and a whisk of lipstick?) the whole thing would be pointless.  
For, in the morning, my hair (which should be brushed sleekly back and tied

with ribbon) stands straight up on end, not a tumbled or bushy top, but a complete disaster area! And nothing can be done with it!  
I can't suppose that Gord is used to it. If I still get a shock every time I look in the mirror, then HE must get a worse jolt.  
My Minnie  
But he doesn't say anything usually. Yesterday, though, he did. After looking at me closely he said "You know, you look just like Minnie!" I probably did.

MEET MINNIE! The Thomsons' new ferret enjoys the trip from barn to house in her favorite mode of transportation. Sight-seeing is easy from somebody's pocket.



But you don't know about Minnie, do you? Well, a few weeks back, Gord bought a ferret—not a friendly little character like our old Andy-ferret, but a young semi-friendly one. She has bright beady eyes and—you guessed it—a topknot that stands straight up on end.  
Minnie lives down at the barn as a deterrent to rats and is brought up to the house, now and then for an outing. Often, rather than take her back to the barn, the men stalk her in a kitchen drawer overnight.  
I have a feeling that one morning I'm going to be looking for garbage bags or something, open a drawer, and there'll be an old work sock with Minnie's face peering out. I don't know who'd get more of a shock considering the appearance of both of us.  
Now there's an article that hasn't been written yet that has enormous possibilities—"How Not to Frighten a Ferret."



SANTA CLAUS handed out Acton Centennial coins at the Golden Age Christmas banquet on November 26. Mrs. D.G. Robertson was one of the first at the head table to receive the gift from the jolly old fellow.



MEMBERS OF the Golden Age club enjoyed a turkey supper at legion hall on November 26. Ninety-four people attended the dinner which was sponsored by the Rotary Club and Branch 197 of the Royal Canadian Legion.

## 50th anniversary for Brittons

More than 400 friends and relatives attended open house at the Legion on Saturday to honor the Golden Wedding anniversary of Willard and Mary Britton, of R.R. 4, Acton.  
Mr. Britton delivered mail for 39 years on route 1, Acton. This took in the Sixth line Nassagaweya, and the Esquing and Nassagaweya townlines.  
The Brittons have four children, Betty McIntyre of Acton, Ross, of Acton, Eledu Thomson of Moffat, and Shirley Swackhammer of Acton. They also have ten grandchildren.  
On November 26, 1924, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mattheus Jobe on the 15th Nassagaweya Sideroad was the scene of the marriage of Mary Jobe to Willard Britton. After their wedding, the newlyweds moved to a home near Speyside. A short time later they moved to another house near the Guelph line. Here they stayed for two years until they moved to the house they are now living in.  
Farming  
During the 50 years since their marriage, farming has been their main occupation.



WILLARD AND MARY Britton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the legion hall with a large crowd attending.

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## Golden Age Club banquet brings crowd to new Legion hall

By Mrs. D. G. Robertson  
With the ladies in their colorful dresses and the men in their Sunday best, 94 members of Acton Golden Age Club were guests of the Canadian Legion and Rotary Club for the annual Christmas dinner. It was held in the spacious auditorium of the new Legion building, which was gay with Christmas decorations and a lighted Christmas tree.  
Cushions for the ladies and handkerchiefs for the men were provided.  
Len Duly as Master of Ceremonies introduced the host table, along with the club officers. They were Father Morgan, retired priest and beloved by all, Fred Wright, a Legionnaire and Calben of the Year.  
A beautiful dinner, turkey and all the trimmings topped off with mince tarts, was served graciously by the hosts.  
The choruses led a song, "A Christmas Carol" by John McHugh.  
Mrs. Mavis Milne gave her recitations, "Centennial Thoughts and Christmas of Long Ago." Mrs. John Post, accompanied by Ted Hansen, sang two numbers: "Star of the East" and "Mary's Boy Child." Several numbers by Isabel Moore and Agnes McIntyre, with guitar and harp accompaniment, were enjoyed.  
Santa appeared and presented each one with a silver dollar commemorating the day's Centennial.  
Mrs. L. Symons, president of the Ladies' Legion Auxiliary, presented R. L. Davidson with a cheque for the Club, to be used for anything the members desired.  
Thanks for a wonderful evening were expressed by Tom Harris, president and R. L. Davidson, president elect.  
Mr. Davidson noted the local Golden Age Club was ten years old, and going strong and called on the charter members to stand. All seven were present.  
Transportation was kindly provided by Legion and Rotary members.

## Knox ladies hold meeting

Knox Ladies' Aid held their Christmas meeting at the beautiful new home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Murray on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 26.  
The president opened the meeting with a poem entitled "The Christ of Christmas," which was followed by a hymn and then prayer by Mrs. McIntyre. The roll call was answered by 18 members. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurer gave a report for the past month and also a full report for the year 1974. A short business period followed.  
Lesson  
The scripture lesson, Luke 2, verses 1 to 22, was read by Mrs. S. Matthews and Mrs. J. Berry led in prayer. The collection was taken and Mrs. McIntyre led in prayer. A poem entitled "The Mother of Our Lord" was read by Mrs. S. Morrison.  
After the Christmas gift exchange, a happy birthday was sung to Mrs. A. Murray who celebrated her birthday later in the week.  
The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer repeated in unison.  
Lunch was served by the

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## Free Press Personals

Jane Elliott last month received her B.Z. B.A. degree in Sociology from the University of Toronto. She's a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Elliott, Bowser Ave. Her friend Joan Hoy who's a frequent visitor here, also received her B.A. degree in Psychology from York University.  
Both teach school in Toronto.

The women of St. Paul's United Church in Milton held a well-attended crafts and antique show and sale Saturday. Among those with antique booths were Jane Elliott assisted by her mother Mrs. R. H. Elliott of Bowser Ave., and Vivian Smith of R. R. 3, assisted by daughter-in-law Mary Ann Smith.

Milton District High School English teacher Mrs. J. T. (Nan) Hurst was in New Orleans last week attending the National Conference of Teachers of English.  
She was one of three secondary school teachers from Halton Board and one of 75 delegates from across Canada.  
Nan attended several sessions relating to her particular interests and brought back to her school considerable information on curriculum, methods, evaluation, etc., as well as many complimentary copies of new novels, several of which were autographed by the writers themselves.  
Her greatest delight was meeting and chatting with the main speaker of the conference, author Richard Adams of England, whose "fantasy" "Watership Down" is on the best seller list.  
During her stay in New Orleans, Nan visited Nelly and Justin Callens of that meeting there for the first time. Mrs. Callens is the sister of the Hursts' daughter-in-law Jeanine, of Paris, France.  
Unfortunately, the pleasant trip was partly spoiled by an exceptionally cool Saturday in New Orleans, and a delayed return flight because of weather conditions on Sunday.

Acton Citizens band paraded in Milton Saturday afternoon when Santa Claus arrived in town. It was a long parade with over 40 entries, and there were four bands. Acton's appearance there was sponsored by the Milton weekly paper, The Canadian Champion.

Former Acton resident Sandy McLean observed his 94th birthday Nov. 15 at Maple View Lodge. A party was held in his honor. Congratulations from many friends!

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Swallow had as guests this past weekend, Dr. Stanley Walters, Mrs. Walters (Mr. Swallow's sister) and two children from Mount Pleasant, Michigan, where Dr. Walters is on the staff at the University of Michigan.  
Together they attended a double celebration at the home of Dr. Donald Bastian, first Canadian Bishop of the Free Methodist Church, and Mrs. Bastian (another sister of Mr. Swallow) in Toronto. This occasion took the form of a house-warming for the Bastians and also a party to celebrate the 81st birthday of Mrs. Norma Swallow of Niagara Falls, their mother.

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