

## Pigeons fascinate bird man of Acton

By Peter McCusker  
The saying, 'birds of a feather flock together' was upheld by the formation of the Acton Racing Pigeon Club recently.

One of its members, Colin MacColl, 69, of 42 Cameron St. has been raising pigeons since the age of 10. He arrived in Canada from Doune, Perthshire, Scotland in 1914. Today he feeds and takes care of over 200 Moss Strain and Science Strain pigeons.

Mr. MacColl said raising pigeons has been the biggest part of his life. "I told my wife I had my pigeons before I met her" and he plans to keep them.

Besides being a member of the newly-formed Acton club, Mr. MacColl is a member of the Guelph club and the Wellington-Waterloo Pigeon club.

"It's better than going out and getting drunk. I'd rather have a bunch of pigeons I could go out and have fun with," he laughs.

Mr. MacColl explained that you get to meet a good bunch of fellows who keep pigeons and "even the Queen in England keeps them!"

When questioned about pigeon droppings on home roofs, Mr. MacColl exclaimed, "You never see them sitting on my roof or any place around here. Most of the time it's the common

birds and we fellows get blamed."

He said he feared that there may be trouble with kids playing around the pigeon coop but, he said, there is no trouble at all. "In Guelph and Hamilton they have trouble with pigeon stealing and vandalism."

"I only fly them on weekends between May and the end of September, and never fly the young and old pigeons together."

He said that you should keep a male no more than seven years and a female no more than four or five. The reason is that birds produced by old couples don't fly as well as offspring from younger birds.

A few of Mr. MacColl's pigeons are 19 years old.

"It cost quite a bit to feed those birds and feed's gone up so bad," Mr. MacColl explained. "I used to pay \$30 for a ton of corn and now it costs over \$140."

I take about four or five hours a day in the summer with the pigeons but not in the winter. They can take the cold but you can't." He remarked how some fellows here have their coops heated and in the old country "they keep the pigeons damn near in the house!"

He said the Acton club will hold its first meeting Jan. 6 and all interested people should come out.

## Norval organizes to solve problems

Residents of Norval intend to get more involved in the problems of their community. First step in a formal organization to deal with them was a nomination meeting for a Norval Community Association January 8 in the United Church Sunday School room.

Those nominated for the committee were: Hugh McFarlane, who accepted the nomination for chairman, Dorothy McLean, Pearl Guthrie, Marie Carney, Julian Reed, Randy Fendley, Ken Gould, Michael Lawlor, Tom Pettingill and Bob Crawford.

It was decided a nominal membership fee should be charged to cover any expenses incurred by the committee.

After nominations the meeting broke into small groups for a discussion of the problems of the community. Some of the items discussed concerned lighting, especially over the new bridge; signs at the entrance to the village identifying the community; the drinking water situation; clearing of snow and sand from sidewalks and roadways; garbage collection; and recreational activities within the village.

The newly elected committee will meet on January 14 to elect officers.

## Children enjoy themselves at Honey Pot nursery school

Blocks and toys and paints line the shelves in the basement of the Glenlea Drug Mart. Books and tables and miniature chairs fill the room, all obvious evidence that the place is designed for children.

Honey Pot Nursery School is just that. A place designed for youngsters three and four years old.

Mutual feelings  
More than a year ago, Gail Vukovich started to wonder what her small child was going to do when he was too young to go to school but old enough to be associating with other children. Her friend, Judy Paterson, felt the same. As they inquired they discovered the feeling was mutual among many.

With husbands and hammers in hand, the group of concerned parents conceived Acton's first day care centre.

Other participating women were Marilyn Hutchinson and Lorene Barton. All the painting and building was done by themselves and their husbands and the funds coming from their own pocketbook.

On September 9, the doors of the nursery school were open to the public.

Three programs  
Three programs on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in both the morning and the afternoon, and on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

The goals of the nursery school is to provide an even balance between spontaneous behaviour and conformity to society's standards.

Lee Febel, supervisor of the school, strives daily to meet this goal. She treats the children individually and becomes their friend, not only their teacher.

The youngsters are taught responsibilities. They are not allowed to start into a new project without putting away the first one. They are also reminded of their manners and how to treat each other.

A typical day begins at 9 a.m. The children are allowed a free time during which they may paint, do puzzles, make crafts, or play with the school's slides, teeter totters or other toys.

Responsibilities  
A book-reading time is scheduled for a few minutes while Mrs. Febel and her assistants get ready for juice and cookie time. The children are given the responsibility of handing out the napkins and cookies to each other. This is considered quite a privilege, and is given to a different child each day. They even clean up their own garbage, which is the favorite job.

A 15 minute rest period is next. Each child brings his own towel to lie on. Music is played while they either sleep or just rest.

Once rest period is over, a special time is held. Mrs. Jayne Telford is usually in charge of this time. A show and tell, (without the show, as Mrs. Febel says) is popular. At this time the children can tell their friends of things they did or saw. Circles are also popular with the children. This is when the children form a circle around the teacher or person in-



PIGEONS FILL the air as they swirl and swoop over the home of Mr. and Mrs. Colin MacColl. Peter McCusker photographed the birds in flight.



THE BIRD MAN of Acton, Colin MacColl, feeds his birds and works with them four or five hours a day. He has been raising pigeons since the age of 10 and says it was the biggest part of his life.

### Churchill

## Brother killed in explosion

Its Mrs. Fred MacArthur deepest sympathy is extended from the Churchill community friends and neighbors to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Turner and family in the sudden passing of her brother Dr. W. Garnet (Gary) Julian of North Bay. He was killed in the tragic explosion and fire in which seven others also perished and many were injured.

Dr. Julian's funeral was on Saturday in St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay, the interment in Brampton on Monday.

Dr. Julian is survived by his wife Peggy and two little children, Trevor, four, and Marta, six.

Besides his parents Mr. and Mrs. Julian in Brampton, he also leaves his sister Joanne and three other brothers, Richard, Brighton; John, near Woodstock and George in Toronto.

Dr. Julian practised dentistry in North Bay. Mr. and Mrs. John Lightle and girls Elizabeth, Marilyn and Sheila spent Christmas at her mother's home, Mrs. Annie Steele, R.R. 3, Rockwood. On Boxing Day they were with his parents in Acton.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lightle and granddaughters held a surprise birthday dinner in honor of his mother Mrs. John Lightle Sr. on Dec. 29.

Church  
Churchill Community Church morning worship service and Church School was very well attended. Rev. A. W. Fashury's sermon subject was The Kingdom of God. The Quest of the best was the choir anthem.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Metcalfe of Georgetown were guests on Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Ward Hamilton. Mrs. Chris Hines, Michael

and Jennifer spent Christmas with her father Mr. Eggers in Brunswick, Georgia.

Mr. and Mrs. David Bremner and two children Karen and Bob of Montreal, also Mrs. Margaret Roach and daughter Ann of Montreal were Christmas guests with Mr. and Mrs. J. McAdam and family. Also their son John was home for the holidays from Kingston University.

Mr. and Mrs. McAdam spent the New Year weekend with their son in Kingston, viewing the Kingston University and city where John has been the past year and will be continuing his studies.

Miss Muriel McNichol of Weston spent Sunday at her sister's home with Mr. and Mrs. Ward Hamilton and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Barry MacArthur returned home after three weeks holidaying in Florida.



ANGELA BRIDGE sits quietly with her book at the Honey Pot Nursery School during reading time. Angela is one of the many children who attend the school and learn to cope with other children.

## Books and toys for little girls and boys



JUICE AND COOKIE time is a big favourite at the Honey Pot Nursery school. Left to right, Doug Dawkins, Andy Scott and Jeffrey Feenstra enjoy their morning snack.

The March of Dimes acts as an advocate on behalf of disabled adults to ensure they receive any and all benefits to which they are entitled.

### Guelph dam

The Grand River Conservation Authority reports that work on the Guelph dam fell about three weeks behind schedule during October but has been speeded up since.

Some of the materials for gates, hoists and other parts of the vertical lift gates are on the site and work is progressing on the realignment of Hwy. 24.

GRCA says the proposed diversion of Township Rd. 6 has been cancelled. The road will now be rebuilt in its present location.

**The ANNUAL MEETING of the ACTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21st  
at the Acton Community Centre  
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