



Sideroad 5
with JENNIFER BARR

When I was small, brought up in the aftermath of the Second World War, I used to think every generation had to suffer a war. Fortunately, we haven't had a third great holocaust yet but we are reacting to the war on inflation in a similar way.

The 'back-to-land' movement may seem like a fad to city folks but it's a good one—one that'll stick with a great many people, even after some have fallen by the wayside trading in their fork and hoe for a down-town parking lot. Many women who went out to work for the sake of extra money are now back at home saving and cheating—cheating the government out of those taxes, cheating the grocery moguls out of profits, from cake mixes and hamburger helper, cheating the gas companies out of problems with excess profits.

Beating high costs
I'm not advocating a return to the wife beating, kitchen slave days. But trying to beat the high cost of living by getting a mundane job and then finding yourself trapped into paying for all the extra expense just isn't worth it. There's something very satisfying about becoming more self-sufficient and being able to thumb your nose at high food prices; rising cost of home heating (if you have solar heating or even a good old wood stove); and, best of all, the Great God Hydro, (if you happen to be lucky enough to have a working wind generator).

A garden is something most land owners can enjoy—a vegetable garden, that is. If you've been noticing the cost of produce in your friendly supermarket lately, you'll appreciate your own. It's also good exercise, a source of fresh air, a way to "keep busy", and a religious experience for those who happen to worship Mother Earth (well some do).

Even the simple procedure of making cakes, cookies and bread from scratch helps enormously with living costs—especially if your kids go through food like mine do.

I'm constantly surprised at the young friends who meander through our kitchen and stop to watch fascinated as I throw together a cake saying, "My Mom never does that." After some years practice it takes less time than opening boxed mix to whip up a simple batter—it tastes better—and I KNOW WHAT'S IN IT!

Hedge row wine
Had a letter from my aunt in England who has recently retired from teaching and is rediscovering the joys of self-sufficiency, somewhat necessary due to a smaller fixed income but also fun and rewarding. She writes that she loves making her own tea from raspberry, blackberry, tansy, comfrey, and balm leaves after noticing a quarter pound packet of store stuff had gone from 8½p. to 37p. in six months. She's having a party preserving blackberries, crabapples, wild cherries, and elderberries. She chuckles over mushrooms, wild quinces, sloes and alpine strawberries found in the meadows and hedgerows, "all for free". She's back to making her own wine—a reputedly potent potion.

She says she's halved her housekeeping bills and notices many many people living around them in urban St. Alban's have turned their gardens into kitchen gardens or are acquiring allotments. There's also a vast increase in the numbers of chickens, goats, and bees populating the outskirts. Right back to the post-war years.

So get smart. Stop complaining about the billion dollar corporations squeezing the life out of us. Try cheating them for a change. It's fun.

Ma Bell is expanding

Ballinafad and area residents will receive deductions on Bell Canada's option of a two party or a private line by this December, with the advent of a Ballinafad locality Rate Area.

Bell Canada has spent \$600,000 for the new L.R.A. project which was started in 1975 and meant recabling the Georgetown telephone office and underground cable installation to Ballinafad.

An area is required to have 40-50 private telephone lines before they can be established as an L.R.A.

Ballinafad has approximately 40 private lines, according to Bill Barnes, Public Affairs Manager for Bell Canada, Oakville.

Bell has hopes for further acceptance from the Ballinafad area because of the future telephone bill deduction on two party and private lines.

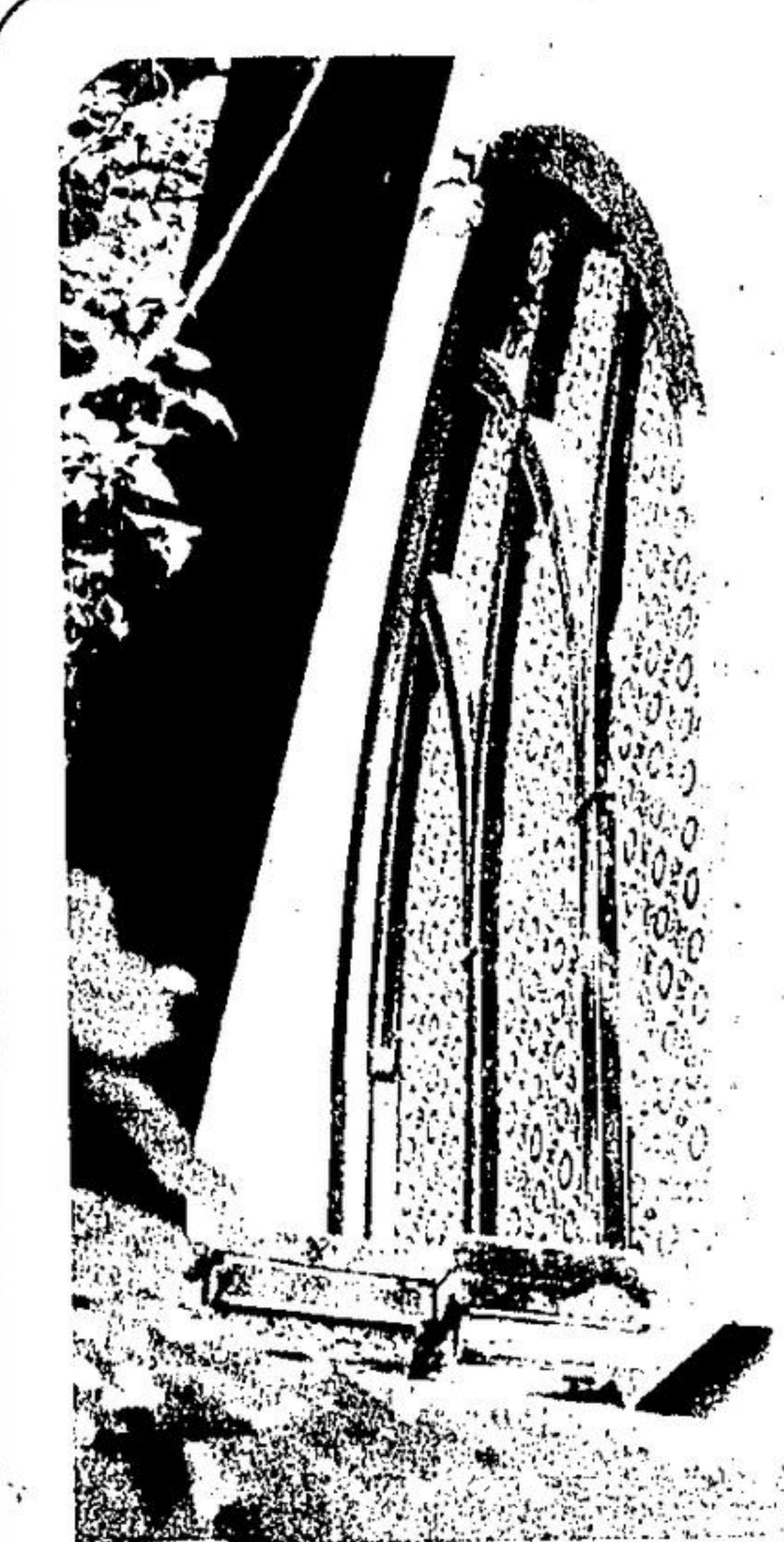
Ballinafad's L.R.A. will extend along Esquing Town Line and the 7th line Esquing, where the two intersect. The official boundaries will be made later. Residents of Ballinafad pay for a private line \$5.00 a month plus a mileage charge, of 70 cents, based upon mileage from Georgetown's L.R.A. boundaries to their homes for

a total of \$17-\$18. The L.R.A. will mean these residents will pay the same \$5.00 monthly bill plus a 25c-40c charge, (at the telephone rates prior to June 15). The same will apply for a few party lines at \$4.40 a month, plus the 25c-40c charge, instead of the 55c mileage charge, on top of the \$4.40.

Residents outside of the L.R.A. boundary will pay the same monthly amount, plus the mileage charges, (from the new Ballinafad L.R.A. to their home.) The only type of telephone line where no mileage charge exists is a multi-party line (with up to 10 parties on a single line) with a monthly charge of \$4.

Barnes states Bell Canada will be contacting Ballinafad and area residents in November to discuss switching to a two party or private line, but people can remain with a multi-party line.

The 100,000 feet of new cables have been laid underground starting at Georgetown's Bell office, on the corner of James and Main Streets, west of Highway 7 to the 6th Line, then to Regional Road 20 to the 7th Line. Another cable route is from Wellington Side road 5 east to



PATTERNED MAC-TAC is affixed to the stained glass windows behind St. Alban's altar, preparatory to removing them and taking them to Milton for re-leading. The glass is beginning to shift and crack due to the poor condition of the lead.

St. Alban's stained glass taken out for refurbishing

Age has taken its toll on the stained glass in St. Alban's church, and the windows are being repaired and refurbished there this summer. Some of the windows were completely removed on Tuesday afternoon and the leading will be replaced. Other small windows are being given new life right in their window frames at the church.

In charge of the restoration project is Bruce Sharland of Milton, the owner of Classical Glass company. He is a glazier by profession, specializing in stained glass. Half of his work is in restoration and the other half in creating new windows and other items. He has a workshop and sales outlet on Mill St. in Milton.

He particularly enjoys the kind of commission he has here in Acton. He is very fond of old glass, and gets a great sense of accomplishment in restoring the windows to a safe and sure condition.

Window broken
He was contacted at first when a stained glass window right on Willow St. was broken by a vandal. However as Mr. Sharland checked over all the windows in the church he was able to point out to the church officials that the lead has oxidized and is in crumbling condition. The windows

Labor of love

behind the altar are in the worst condition of all. Mr. Sharland is not sure whether this is because the glass in them is older, or because they catch the main gusts of the prevailing westerly winds.

It was decided that all the work should be undertaken; to make sure there is no further deterioration of the windows.

Remove completely
The big windows behind the altar are reached by scaffolding. Mr. Sharland placed mac-tac contact paper against all the panes and constructed sheets of wood the exact size. Then the entire panels of stained glass will be lifted out of their frames and laid carefully on the wood. These will be taken to his studio in Milton where each piece of glass is taken off, one at a time, and set aside in the same pattern.

Then the leading will be completely replaced. Some of the panes of glass have cracked already, since the crumbling leading caused the panes to shift and settle.

Other small windows, including those facing on Willow, will be repaired right on the site.

They will have new putty to add strength. Where glass is missing, Mr. Sharland will match new pieces to add to

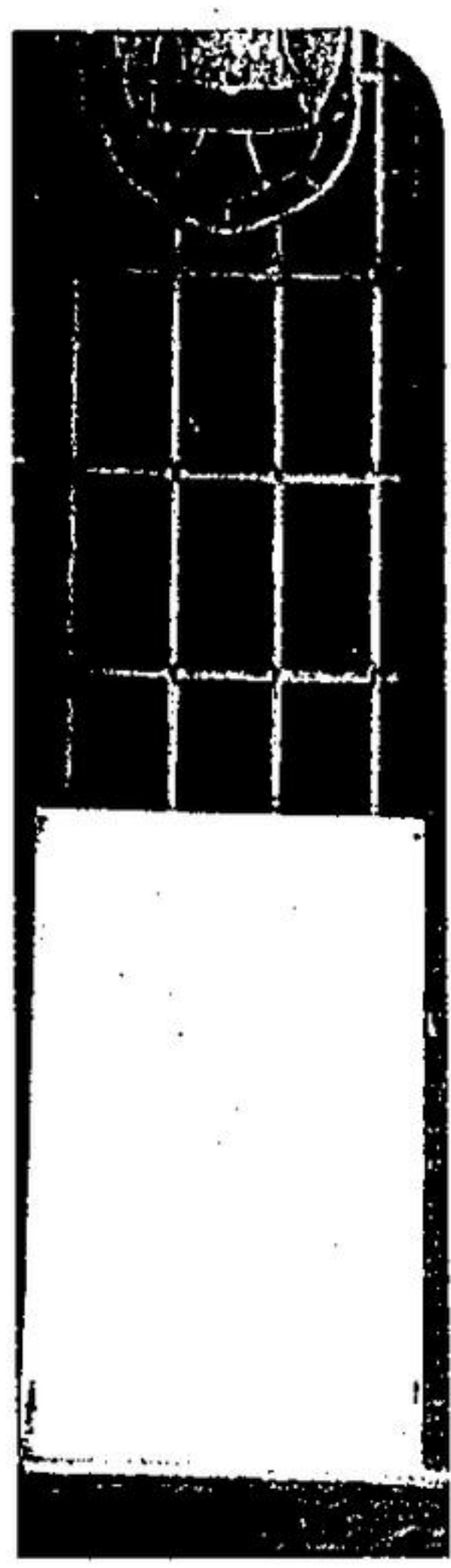
the pattern. Mr. Sharland learned his trade from books, watching others and from practice. He has done this work for other churches.

Business growing
He has been in Milton two years. He has three full-time people working in the business as well as a student for the summer.

He and John Fraser are undertaking St. Alban's restoration project. The oldest part of St. Alban's church dates back to 1873, but the stained glass windows behind the altar were probably incorporated into the building about 70 years ago.

When the work is completed, clear storm windows will also be considered. They would provide protection against breakage as well as insulation.

Mr. Sharland is particularly looking forward to a trip to the British Isles soon to visit relatives and see examples of stained glass he has often heard about. He is particularly interested to see the new cathedral in Liverpool, which has huge expanses of glass. It will be the first trip for him.



BROKEN window at St. Alban's is due to be repaired. New pieces of glass will have to be matched to repair the old window, broken by someone unknown.

These census takers tramp the swamp

By Jennifer Barr
If you see two creatures from outer space tramping through the swamp on Five Sideroad of Erin just east of Highway 25, don't be alarmed. They're probably Mirek Sharp and Terry Tobias

dressed in hip waders and mosquito netting, armed with binoculars and cameras. The young University of Waterloo environmental students are taking a bird census and coming up with some surprising findings.

Using the Sharp's 12-acre property, Mirek and friend Terry are conducting their census in approved fashion using the methodology taught them in their course. Mirek is a fourth year student in environmental studies while Terry has his Bachelor's degree in the same area.

The eight week study means the young men have to observe the entire property one day a week taking sightings in the early morning and evening. The area of wood, swamp, bush, and open plain has been divided by trails into sections so the census takers can walk back and forth covering as large an area as possible without overlapping.

Books containing descriptions of the various birds and records of their songs help the students to identify each species. Three sightings or song hearings in the eight week study period are sufficient to establish that bird is actually living in the area. Many more species are sighted passing over or as visiting transients but only birds actually in residence are counted.

Some birds are very alike and only their song identifies them as different types, which is where the records and tapes come in handy.

Each sighting trip took Mirek and Toby two and a half hours to complete at first but now they've got it down to a mere two hours.

It's surprising just how many different birds the students were able to identify

in their first few sightings. Most people don't realize how very many types of birds there are in the area.

Ruffed grouse are nesting on the Sharp property. So are the usual redwing blackbirds, grackles and starlings. ("There's tons of these," says Mirek.) There are quite a few Baltimore orioles and summer orioles, the counters say, robins, meadow larks, song sparrows, and king bird bobolinks. Woodpeckers include flickers, downy woodpeckers and hairy ones. They've heard the wood pecker and four warblers. The black and white warbler and the northern water thrush are resting on the property.

Other birds counted include the killdeer, cedar waxwing, yellow throated warbler, bay-breasted warbler, white breasted nuthatch, American gold finch, veery, cowbirds, black capped chickadee, great crested flycatcher, an epidomax flycatcher, morning doves, rock doves, blue

jays, barn swallows, savannah sparrows and several unidentified ducks.

Any wildlife is of interest and the students have also heard wood frogs, spring peepers, chorus frogs, northern leopard frogs, green frogs, and tree frogs.

They've even seen garter snakes, milk snakes, and the rare secretive red belly snake.

How's that for two trips into the swamp? Think what they can count after 14 more trips!

Mirek is quick to label Toby and himself as census takers rather than bird watchers. He stresses the environmental study aspect of their work rather than merely tramping through the woods looking for birds.

However, birdwatchers or census takers, it's still a formidable amount of birds to find on an ordinary 12 acre property north of Acton.



BIRD CENSUS is being taken near town by students Mirek Sharp and Terry Tobias. The study takes eight weeks.

Ballinafad's Town Line. Splicing the cables testing them in underground manholes and installing terminals still has to be done. The effective date for the new telephone lines is December 7.

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OMB grants library hearing

The Ontario Municipal Board has granted a public hearing July 20 on the Georgetown library question. They have also rescinded a previous order, which would have allowed a \$400,000 debenture to be used toward a new library.

According to the July 7 O.M.B. order, the \$400,000 debenture can now only be used toward an addition to the present library, until the hearing is held.

The debenture was issued in 1974 when an addition to the existing library was planned, but was never used. Then

later in April 1977, the O.M.B. approved the switching of this debenture to a proposed new library in Cedarvale Park.

Upon receiving application for a review of this decision, by John Ferguson and Betty Fisher, representing 3,500 petitioners, the O.M.B. revoked the order.

The group, who have now retained lawyer Bert Arnold, are also protesting the use of parkland, and the location of the proposed building. They also claim they did not receive a fair hearing from Halton Hills council.

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Choice	RUMP ROAST	\$1.39
	lb.	
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	lb.	
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