



STARS OF A NEW BOOK Joanne and Tom Williams have recently moved to Acton from South America. The book, "Journey to Dodoland", written and painted by Della Burford, was created at the Williams farm north of Acton. Baby Barney also appears in the book but puppy Codroy wasn't born at the time.

Peace, contentment—plus Dodoland

by Jennifer Barr
In a red brick farmhouse on the corner of Highway 25 and Fifth Sideroad of Erin live the Seeing Eye Butterfly, Panda Bear, baby Barney and Codroy.
The first three are characters in a new book "Journey to Dodoland" partially written and painted in the old barn belonging to the red brick house. The fourth member of the family is a plump Newfoundland pup.
Tom and Joanne Williams bought the house and 12 acres from Roger and Loraine Johnson last summer settling down to find something of the peace they experienced in South America.
But the story is getting a little ahead. The Seeing Eye Butterfly and Panda Bear must first be explained.
"Journey to Dodoland" When Della Burford, author of "Journey to Dodoland", wrote her children's story to accompany the many brilliantly coloured imaginative paintings she'd created, she placed her good friends,

the Williams, in starring roles. Even the house appears as "Della's house."
Most of the paintings for the book were done in the barn floor of the huge stone barn on the Williams property. With big barn doors open wide to the summer air, tables made of straw, and paper butterflies flying from beams, Miss Burford found the inspiration to turn out the unique pictures forming the nucleus of a very special book.
"Della is a truly magical person able to look inside people and see them. She lives in a simple happy world and wants to share it with others," Joanne Williams describes her friend.
The book features a fold out map of Dodoland and a cut out Bird Helmet, without which the reader cannot travel to the mythical country.
As well as the paintings, the tenth chapter is written around some magnificent photographs of the inside of flowers done by Dale Bertrand.

"Journey to Dodoland" has been published in California and is now available in Canada. Tom Williams is Eastern Canadian distributor and will also handle mail orders for the beautiful book that will soon become a collector's item.
"It's one of our dreams come true," says Joanne.
Simple life
The other dream is finding the small farm and being able to develop the kind of life they want.
"We came to the country for the simple life" explains Joanne. Which sounds like the war cry of many romantic young people these days. However, Tom and Joanne are not your every-day-run-of-the-mill society dropouts. They are very enthusiastic about reinforcing a way of life still possible, a more self-sufficient way of life than they found being brought up in Toronto - the kind of life they experienced in Argentina.
Tom spent six months travelling in South America in 1973 searching for "some-

thing." He thought he found it but had to come back to Canada, he'd been on a holiday with time limitations.
He and Joanne were married and took jobs commensurate with their education.
Tom with his B.A. in Economics worked with a "prestigious and conservative investment firm."
"I was very good at it, too," he adds.
Joanne worked in an agency specializing in South American travel.
But the call of South America was too strong for them both and they took off once more.
They found a small community in the Argentine mountains and settled down to run a small tea house. Baby Barney was born there.
However, the peace and contentment Tom found originally escaped them in a changing Argentine climate. It didn't take them long to realize Argentina wasn't the country they wanted to live in. The Williams felt they needed a place with more stability and they were, after all Canadians at heart.
Home to Acton
Hence the move to Acton

and a joy in life they never dreamed they'd find so close to Toronto.
Joanne describes the past summer spending time with Barney, now ten months old, and working in the garden, as "a beautiful experience."
With some Yoga training she understood spiritual release and says she enjoyed the chance to throw off the shackles and open herself up.
"I felt I was given a most beautiful chance to learn to be as simple as a human can be."
"People asked if I was bored but I felt I did become bored there was something lacking in myself."
"All we're trying to do is be peaceful people - there's so much in living out here - everyone is so aware of life."
"We had to turn to the land for contentment," Joanne adds.
Self pick garden
"We have many projects in mind - all what we can share with people," explains Joanne.
Those projects include a pick-your-own raspberry patch and the expansion of the garden for the same pur-

pose. The Williams hope to receive council approval to offer refreshments in the form of small teas featuring Joanne's homemade bread and muffins baked in the wood stove - "all terribly corny and simple."
The Williams are also distributors for a South American poncho maker and wear their own product. Tom would like to work for local farmers and is starting to write. He would like to become a freelance journalist.
"I've got a lot to say," he grins.
Tom and Joanne Williams do have a lot to say and it's all good. The country always need more self-sufficient young people interested in contributing to the community and bringing a transfusion of new ideas.

Are You New-To-Town Or Do You Know Someone Who Is??



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Free Press Family Page

Offer workshop at Y on physical activities

The Halton Hills Recreation Department and the Acton YMCA, are co-operatively offering a one-day workshop to expose women in the area to the different physical activities that are available to them. The workshop combines many of those that are already taking place through the community activity programs both at the Y and in area schools during the evenings.

The workshop will take place on Thursday, February 2 at the Acton YMCA beginning at 9 a.m. with registration and coffee to start the morning. At 9:15 the first session with Janet Armstrong on "Exercises you should and should not do" will begin. Anne Lepik will instruct "Modern Gymnastics" and Linda Craig will finish out the morning with "Exercises to Music."

The afternoon session will include a lesson on "Disco Exercises" with Stephanie Lister, "Modern Jazz" with Michelle Goodeve and your choice of "Yoga" with Marcia Wilkinson or "Synchronized Swimming and Aquatics" with Judy Patterson.

The department will also be arranging babysitting at an additional fee for mothers with small children. For those women who work, a noon hour fitness test will be

held. The recreation department and the YMCA have carefully planned every aspect of this program to make it enjoyable

and informative for those attending. Interested women can contact the recreation department in the Y building or phone at 853-1540.



MR. AND MRS. HOWARD BRIGGS of Ballinafad and Mr. and Mrs. Robin Brigden of Acton are proud to announce the engagement of Phyllis and Allen on December 24, 1977.

World Religion Day celebrated by Baha'is

To celebrate World Religion day, Baha'is and friends from this area were invited to the home of Wynn and Peter Morgan R.R.1, Erin on Sunday. Guests came from Mississauga, Halton Hills, Erin Township and Milton.

specialist from Toronto and an auxiliary board member for South Western Ontario, was the speaker. His topic was "Why the world needs a world religion". He said "Regardless of a man's color or his religious beliefs, we all basically believe in one God, although we may call him by different names". The afternoon was enjoyed by young and old.

The afternoon started with a terrific pot luck lunch. Dr. David, Smith, an eye

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On ice
The outdoor rink at the McKenzie-Smith school is getting plenty of use these days. It was well filled with skaters last weekend, despite the cold.

Daughters of Knox plan for coming year

The first meeting of the Daughters of Knox for 1978 was held on Monday evening Jan. 9, in the Mary Ellen Anderson Room of Knox Presbyterian Church.
President Mrs. William Toth was in the chair, and the meeting was opened by the singing of Living for Jesus, and the repeating of the club motto.
The annual reports were given by Mrs. Tom Watson (Secretarial) and Mrs. Jack

Pink (Financial). Mrs. Toth commented on the club's progress throughout the year and thanked the members for their assistance and co-operation.
Mrs. Watson mentioned that it was a great help to have a committee in the Daughters of Knox behind her in her work in the Church's Christian Education program.
Rev. A.H. McKenzie conducted the installation of officers for the year 1978. He also made a few helpful suggestions to follow, for the betterment of the organization. Mr. McKenzie also announced that there would be a new curriculum in the Sunday School this year.
The Bertha Buchanan affiliated Young Women's group, which was formed a few years ago, were unable to carry on because of small membership. The remnant of this organization joined the Daughters of Knox last year. Mrs. A.H. McKenzie is going to endeavour to assist the

younger women's group to become a separate organization again.
Group leader Mrs. E.A. Hansen and her group conducted the worship portion of the meeting.
The meeting was then closed, and refreshments served. At an Executive Meeting earlier on Monday evening, plans for fund-raising projects were discussed.

Guests on TV shows

Arthur Meunier, long time prisoner, now living in Acton, will be speaking on alternatives to prison on Channel 79's television program Shulman File Sunday night from 10 to 11:30 p.m.
Mr. Meunier was a challenger on Front Page Challenge last week. The panel was unable to guess his identity.

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