

## For cartoonist Blake work can beat talent

Dennis Blake, who regularly creates cartoons for The Acton Free Press, is of the threshold of a career which could keep him on the editorial page, shift him into satire work or propel him into the booming field of comic books.

Mr. Blake, of 289 Peel St., just completed his first year of a two year course on cartooning at Sheridan College.

"I don't think I've really started," Mr. Blake said in an interview. "I know how to do it, it's just getting down to it," he said.

Sometimes the ideas for cartoons for the Free Press come quickly. However, when the notion for a drawing is not so obvious the 20-year old Blake walks around his room to try and get an idea.

Normally he said he will look at the headlines in the paper. If nothing worth while jumps out from the pages at

him, he may resort to an old standby, such as the weather cartoon he did with Noah's Ark a couple of weeks ago.

Once I get an idea, it's a matter of three or four hours before I put the final touches on what's to go into the paper.

So early in his career, Mr. Blake has worked out a simple formula for success. "It's all the work in it, all the practice. Talent is involved, but so much of it is work. Many talented people just don't go anywhere."

The best editorial cartoons are the ones which successfully combine entertainment with a message.

For status within the cartooning world, editorial work ranks at the top. The other end of the scale is mostly taken up by the people who draw get-well cards, according to Mr. Blake.

Mr. Blake is a graduate of the Acton High School. However he looks on his school

days this way. I've been drawing horses' heads since I was in kindergarten, but there is very little room for drawing in the education system now. College is better. There, there are commercially oriented instructors, people in the field.

Of the editorialists Mr. Blake said he likes the work of The Toronto Star's McPherson. The comic strips featuring the Wizard of Id and BC attract his eye or sense of humor.

On the subject of money Mr. Blake said that when he has it he spends it. "It's important. I'm going to be in a field where there are many ups and downs and you're gonna get short changed a lot."

So if someone asks Mr. Blake if he knows how to do something, the answer will be: Yes. And if he doesn't know, he'll learn pretty fast.



ACTON FREE PRESS cartoonist Dennis Blake is half way through cartooning course at Sheridan College.

## CVCA to toughen up decisions

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) will continue to make decision in public concerning construction in the floodplain, a full authority meeting decided, Thursday, at Erin.

But the CVCA will also try to be more strict in applying its rules.

The feeling seems to be we carry on in open session, CVCA chairman Grant Clarkson summed up after a brief airing of the issue. The thing seems to be to make it (the rules) stick. If we can't we may as well pack up and go home, said the chairman.

Clarkson warned the CVCA to be more careful in making its decisions because the authority could lose

credibility before the courts if a case is pressed that far.

The chairman floated the notion of making such decisions and taking votes in camera.

The responsibility for making landfill decisions rests with the executive, Clarkson informed the meeting. The executive decision does not come before the general body for ratification.

The authority made a decision concerning approval for a garage which is six feet on the flood plain in Terra Cotta, Clarkson said. He continued by saying he felt the decision should not have been passed.

Precedent was used in this

particular case, Clarkson wants to use it as precedent, said the chairman. Now the next applica-

## Cool, wet spring didn't halt migrants

by Jeff Harvey  
The spring of 1978 can be summed up as one of the wettest and coolest in recent years (where, oh where, are the leaves?); yet these conditions have not seemed to have had an adverse affect upon the spring migratory period of songbirds.

Arrival dates for over-wintering tropical species have not been retarded by the conditions, and in fact I have noted many early arrivals amongst the "Carolinian" songbirds.

"Carolinian" refers to those species of plants or animals which reach their northern limits of distribution in southern Ontario and are more numerous south of the Great Lakes (in the U.S.).

Take for example, the scarce Yellow-Throated Vireo, a five inch songster with a bright yellow breast and "spectacles". This southern bird normally arrives in this area as late as the latter stages of May, yet I was fortunate to record six of them over a two day period (May 11-12).

The Blue-Winged Warbler is one of the rarest nesting

songbirds in Canada, nesting only in extreme southern Ontario. I had assumed that the cold spring would hold these small (four inch) bright yellow rarities south of Lake Erie, but I was pleased to report Golden-Winged Warblers, similarly rare in Canada, has also popped up here and there. The buzzy songs of both are an aid in identification.

In 1977 both of these warblers were seen on several occasions by myself in one of only a few of their suitable breeding grounds in Canada; the Speyside Escarpment Forest, south of Speyside.

By far my rarest find of 1978 has to be that of the Yellow-Breasted Chat, the largest member of the warbler family and perhaps the "craziest" singer in the bird world. The chat is about six and one half inches long, has a brilliant yellow breast, plain brown wings and a moderately large bill (in comparison to the bills of other warblers). The host distinguishing feature of this bird, however, is the amazing

song it possesses. It appears to consist of mews, grunts, cackles and hisses, frequently given in flight, and even in the heart of night at certain times.

It was the song that clued me to the whereabouts of the bird. Chats are southerly birds, and in Ontario they do not nest north of the Goderich-London boundary. North of this line, where they rarely wander, chats are very scarcely seen. Thus I was most fortunate to see one at all, and it is the first to be seen in this area I think. On Thursday, May 11, all of southeastern Canada was under the influence of a "Bermuda High," a phenomenon of weather where warm air is drawn northward over the Great Lakes around the clockwise rotation of a high pressure zone. Consequently many birds are carried northward with the warm air wedge.

Thus, the appearance of the Chat and other southerly species can be partially attributed to the circulation of the air masses.

## CVCA weighs tenders

There is a \$7,147 spread in the tenders to be considered by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) for a portable building that is to be attached to the authority's main office at Meadowdale.

Three tenders were opened at the full CVCA meeting at Erin Thursday. The tenders will be considered by the authority's staff or recommendations which are to be presented at Friday's executive meeting.

The lowest bid came from Canadian Portable Structures for \$18,278. The middle tender came from Regis Investment Ltd. for \$21,353 and the highest quote was presented by Danar Development Co. for \$25,423.

The one storey building is about classroom size, 24 feet by 40 feet. The building is to house the staff for about five years, according to CVCA chairman Grant Clarkson. The structure has self contained heat, but no plumbing.



PAM AND JOHN MITCHELL master a new step at last week's final Scottish Country Dancing session of the 1977-78 season. The group of about 30 met regularly in Esquesing Community Centre at Stewarttown.

## Today's recipe

Oyster Roll  
2-8 oz. Philadelphia cream cheese  
2 or 3 cans spiced oysters  
1-2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
2-3 tbsp. mayonnaise  
1 tsp. garlic powder  
1 tsp. onion salt  
Salt to taste  
Cream mayonnaise into soft cheese the mix in the Worcestershire sauce, garlic powder, onion salt and salt. Spread on wax paper 1/2" thick in a rectangular shape. Cook 2 hrs. in fridge. Chop oysters and spread them over the cheese mixture. Roll as a jelly roll. Cool until ready to serve with crackers. (The taste improves if made in the morning to be served at night.)  
Maureen Burrows  
Milton, Ontario.

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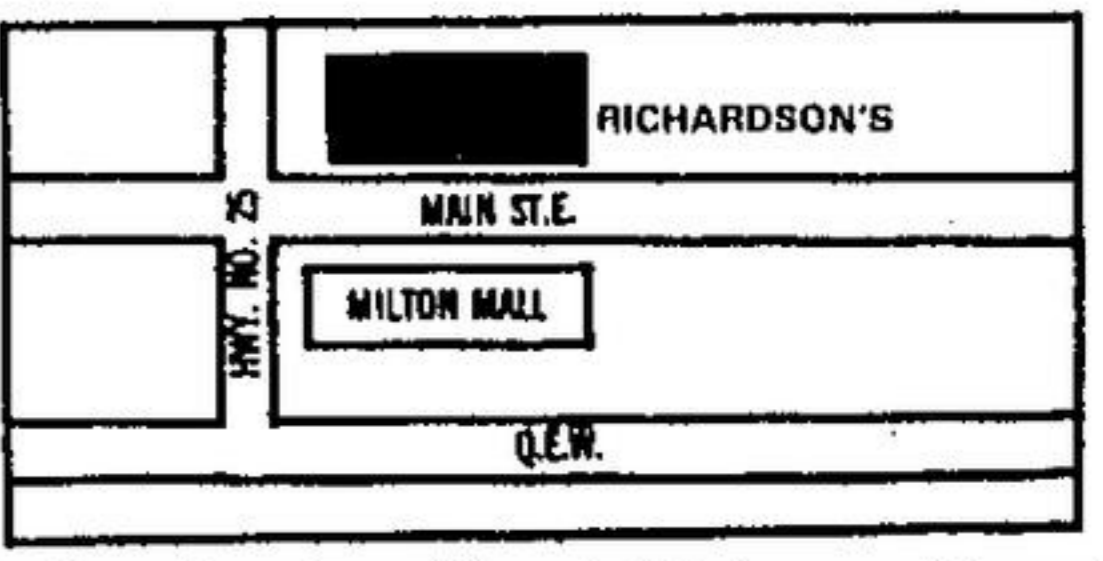
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