



Smoke could be seen for miles as a barn belonging to Jerry Veerman of R.R. 2, Acton was levelled by fire last week. Acton firefighters responded to the call and were joined by Hillsburgh firefighters. No animals were killed in the blaze, according to Hillsburgh fire chief Bob Cheyney.

Cosmo in a world of its own

Cosmopolitan is one of my favorite magazines. It portrays a world so far removed from my own. I love reading all the recipes for beautiful living, the diets, exercises and massages I can use to prepare myself for my continental holiday.

Even the foods are "beautiful"—moist scrambled eggs served in popovers with caviar and silvered smoked salmon for breakfast. If I served that to Mack, cosily ensconced in our unstylish queen-size, he'd just KNOW I'd been doing something guilt-making.

Fresh air high
This month, I'm told how to get high on deep breathing. Quite frankly, one breath of this frigid air at seven in the morning when I tramp to the barn, is all I can take. If I got any higher I'd never make it through the barn door.

As I'm mucking manure, I'm supposed to murmur, "I'm a beautiful person, I am worthy of myself, I like myself" in order to increase my self esteem. Sometimes I do that and the chickens stop cackling long enough to stare quizzically at me with heads to one side.

I'm also told how to get myself in shape with fun exercises such as tennis, jogging, and swimming—very valid information. However, when I'm through thawing all the waterers in the barn, clearing the snow, carting cast iron buckets with three inches of ice in them to the house for thawing, wrestling horses, donkeys and sheep, I'm not much good for tennis.

Exposing my skin to the elements is another thing bad for me, I'm told. Unfortunately, I'm about 36 years too late to protect it now.

This month's Cosmo also tells me how to be the best lover on my block—enough said about that!

Mogul, I'm here!
But it's the horoscopes I love. Who writes those things anyway?



During February I'm a scintillating soubrette. Good grief. How do you scintillate with your elbows deep in bread dough? There's supposed to be a magnetic mogul on the horizon who will snare me to a string of glitzy gals. Well, it's the 22nd of the month and I haven't seen my mogul yet. Yoo-hoo, Mr. Mogul, I live on Sideroad 5.

Another section tells me how to make myself gorgeous for an after-work date in 40 minutes. Try eight-and-a-half—If I can get the bathroom!

I'm usually hopping around on one high-heeled shoe with half my hair done and no eyebrows while Mack is asking "What should I wear?". The kids are fighting, the dog is throwing up, the cat is lying on my black velvet slacks (shedding white hair), Mack is complaining that he doesn't have two blue socks and I'm running around like a blue bottle fly wondering if it's all worth it.

But, once in a while, I have a lovely afternoon when I can read my magazine, cream my elbows, give myself a pedicure and lie in the sun on the living room carpet pretending I'm a beautiful person on the beach in Jamaica.

That's why I love my Cosmo.

Barn levelled in Thursday blaze

Over \$16,000 damage was caused in a blaze which ripped through an Erin township barn

Thursday, completely destroying the building.

Hillsburgh fire captain Dave Sherratt told the Acton Free Press firefighters could do nothing to save the structure, owned by Jack Veerman, R.R. 2, Acton. It is located on the Fourth Line of Erin township, just north of the Erin twp.-Halton Hills townline.

Halton Hills fire department responded to the call first, as part of the mutual aid agreement between the two communities. The Acton trucks, Mr. Sherratt said, got stuck in the ice and snow in the long driveway leading to

the barn. However, he noted, there was nothing to do but keep it under control by this time anyway. By the time his men got to the scene, the walls and roof were caving in.

The barn was empty at the time of the fire, so no animals or equipment were lost in the blaze, the captain pointed out. Fire insurance covers only \$16,000 of the damages, but he estimates there was more than \$20,000 in structural damage.

Because of the direction the wind was blowing, Mr. Sherratt said, there was no danger of the house starting on fire. "In that sense we were lucky," he said.

Area girls at Quarterama

Mae Robinson and Donna MacLeod will be representing the Acton area at Quarterama '79 in the Coliseum, Exhibition Park March 8 to 11.

Mae, 340 Orville Rd. is entered in the Youth division and Donna, R.R. 1, Acton in the Performance.

Over 2000 entries from as far away as Arizona, Florida, Alberta and the Maritimes will be participating in this year's Quarterama, making it Canada's largest horse show and the second largest Quarter Horse show in North America.

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Staff to recommend on program

Halton Board of Education staff continues to check into a proposed parenting program, but not much can be expected prior to the next school year.

"Little progress will be evident by September," superintendent of program R. T. Dixon told trustees during Thursday's board meeting at Burlington.

The provincial Ministry of Education will not make parenting a mandatory program for high school students and the Halton board has not been able to get a consultant for a parenting program through the ministry, Dixon told trustees.

The appointment of a consultant is seen by staff as a key element in setting up a parenting program in Halton. Halton wanted a consultant from the province as payment for prior services. The consultant was not to cost the board any money. The board is pursuing the matter, according to Dixon.

Making a parenting program a must subject for every student's education and the consultant were recommendations by Georgetown public school principal Eric Balkind in a nine-page brief he presented to the board in October.

The program mainly is envisioned as using schools to teach students how to rear children. Parenting programs, as seen by Balkind, stress the significance of a child's earliest years.

Balkind also asked the board about using middle and high schools for teaching parenting and also as nursery centres. The board found that responsibility for day care service is under the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

According to Dixon's report the Ministry of Education "would welcome opportunities to confer with other ministries to develop guidelines and criteria."

Dixon's report was a description of efforts to follow the board's recommendations from last

November. The staff is to return with specific recommendations for trustees' consideration. Shepherd said he was also disappointed the ministry will not make a parenting program compulsory for students.

Burlington trustee Elaine Riehm's observation that the need for gested the board may want to talk to Balkind.

Trustees learned from Dixon, North York has a credit course in parenting using the existing

family studies guidelines. Burlington trustee Cam Jackson said he would like to see a staff recommendation to make parenting a credit course in Halton's secondary system.

Instruction on how to raise children is coming into the community from outside schools, was seen by Shepherd as serving a small percentage of young people.

Milton trustee Ivan Armstrong also said he thought other agencies,

such as night school, could take on the parenting program. He also expressed a fear of a regular school course being dropped if a parenting program became mandatory.

Acton-Esqueing trustee Betty Fisher said she thought the parenting program is basically a good idea, but that it also may have some inherent problems that could cause conflicts in the home.

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