

PROFILES

with Jennifer Barr



If you're a patron of the Acton library you must know Esther Taylor, slender, dark-haired, amusing and outspoken.

Perhaps you know her as a crossing guard on Main Street North—she's there twice a week bundled up in a snowmobile suit and toque, joshing the kids.

Or maybe you see her daily feeding the wildlife on Fairy Lake, sorting out the bossy ducks and protecting the little ones.

Talented stringer

But there's more to this lady than meets the eye. Ever since she was a young girl, Esther has been writing and taking pictures for newspapers and magazines. She refuses to dignify her sideline profession with the name of journalist. She refers to it as "stringing"—free-lancing for a variety of publications.

Although she says she's tired of writing now and can't stand the sight of a typewriter, she has worked for the Globe and Mail as free-lance correspondent and photographer from Acton. For years she wrote and submitted pictures to the Family Herald. The now defunct Toronto Telegram benefited from her contributions. So did the Guelph Mercury where she was on staff as Acton correspondent for 15 years.

The writing habit started in school, as it does with most literary people. Esther feels her writing interest was fostered and encouraged by two of her Acton teachers, Isabel Anderson and Minnie Bennett.

Entering writing contests, Esther learned how to win—and lose—at an early age. She usually won the IOE essay contests but once lost with a superb essay on Florence Nightingale because she spelt 'Florence' wrong throughout. It was a lesson she never forgot. But she was "a poor loser," she says.

At that time, the Globe and Mail ran a "Young Canada" page featuring the efforts of students writing under pen names. "Mercutio" appeared under many poems and stories that were mailed in Acton. "Mercutio" also won the yearly contest but Esther Taylor spent the four dollar prize money.

She also supplemented her allowance by winning essay prizes writing for the United Church publication, "Canadian Girl."

Prize winning photographer
As Esther matured, so did the jobs. Toronto daily newspapers started to buy her pieces and she

learned photography. When she talks about writing for the Family Herald, a now defunct Canadian farm magazine, Esther's face lights up.

"You'd get letters from all over Canada," she remembers.

The well-known author—broadcaster, H. Gordon Green, then story editor of the Family Herald, speaks of Esther with affection, delighting in her lively wit.

"I was a fair photographer by then," comments Esther with undue modesty.

She was such a "fair" photographer she won the \$200 prize for eastern Canada in the Canada-wide Family Herald cover contest.

From 1967 to 1972, Esther covered the Acton scene for the Guelph Mercury, occasionally contributing editorial pictures to the Acton Free Press.

Sounds like a pretty busy life, and it certainly was (still is), especially when you consider she has also spent the last 25 years working in the public library.

At the moment Esther divides her time between the library, the crosswalk and the wild fowl. Her crossing guard salary buys the feed she needs to see the several hundred Fairy Lake ducks and geese who stay through the winter.

However, "you never know what I'll do next," she says. "I may be a late bloomer like Grandma Moses."

She jokingly (?) threatens to write a book about Acton—"a lot of scandals and drama—well disguised of course."

Esther Taylor could do anything she set her mind to, I've no doubt about that. I've always been impressed with her unpretentious honesty. She calls a spade a spade, a necessary attribute for a writer.

Me, I'm going to keep an eye open for a "well disguised" book about Acton Place by Mercutio!



Esther Taylor



Progressive Conservative candidate Otto Jelinek, left, was mainstreering in Acton yesterday and dropped in to visit local merchant Mike Kinal of Acton Home Hardware. Mr. Jelinek's Acton campaign manager Brian Cargill accompanied the candidate.

Campaign fever strikes Jelinek

Halton Progressive Conservative candidate Otto Jelinek kicked off his campaign seconds after Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's announcement of the May 22 election.

In a visit to the Free Press offices Tuesday, Mr. Jelinek explained his party workers were holding a rally with the national P.C. president Bob Coates and as the floor was opened for questions, the announcement came through. Immediately, the some 300 present began revving up for the election.

Signs went up the next day and everyday since then, except Sundays, Mr. Jelinek and his campaigners have been out knocking on doors and meeting the people. He has also been busy speaking at various organizations' meetings, luncheons and other functions.

Next Monday, Mr. Jelinek points out, he will be speaking at the Eden Mills Rod and Gun Club discussing the present government's law restricting the use of firearms. Mr. Jelinek insists this issue goes beyond the restriction itself. "It entails civil liberties of individuals," Mr. Jelinek says the average person's human rights have been restricted.

Each area of his riding, Mr. Jelinek says, has its own campaign manager and workers. Brian Cargill, a well known Acton and area P.C.'s local manager.

The advantage of having his riding divided the candidate says, is because he does not want Acton workers to feel as if Mr. Jelinek is barging in and telling them how to do things. "Each area must be run separately," he said.

Mr. Jelinek feels the firearms restriction is the only real local issue, because of all the gun owners in Milton and Acton areas. All the other national issues, he says, affect local people.

His government is committed to helping the home owner with the proposal to deduct mortgage payments and municipal taxes, off federal income taxes.

This, Mr. Jelinek says, will result in a boom in the construction business, and other offshoots such as furniture stores. Mr. Jelinek admits that although he is interested in all issues, his specialty is small businesses. Some 65 per cent of all business is the small businessman, yet "the Trudeau government insists on helping the large, multi-national companies."

The Tories plan to open up the case of rapid transit to Milton and hopefully eventually to Acton, something which was stopped by the Liberals, he said. He also foresees a more open government, with no secrets, no behind closed doors meetings.

On emotional issues, Mr. Jelinek says, he can only follow the feelings of his constituents and vote in Parliament the way his people want him to vote. "An elected representative must abide by the wishes of the majority of his constituents."

Mr. Jelinek strongly favors capital punishment in the case of first degree, pre-meditated murder. "Not by the old inhumane methods of yesterday, but by some medical way," he explains.

Mr. Jelinek was the P.C. member of parliament for High Park, in Toronto, before redistribution completely eliminated the riding. When this happened, he was asked to run again, someplace else. He decided to choose the area he knew best, where his family and friends are, and where he lives—Halton.

"We must reduce government spending. We must get Canada working again," he concluded.

Centennial's principal heading for Acton

Georgetown's loss is Acton's gain according to school board trustees after release last week of principals' transfer list.

Georgetown's Centennial School is losing principal Ron Chatten to Acton.

Chatten is an excellent principal, in the opinions of trustees Barry Shepherd, Georgetown, and Betty Fisher, Acton and Esquesing.

"Centennial will be sorry to lose him," Shepherd said after Thursday's announcement at Burlington.

Ambivalence marked trustee Fisher's reaction. "I hate to lose him because my children are there". However, she also said she is pleased for Acton. "I hope parents will bring their concerns to him."

Chatten, who has been at Centennial about five years, replaces Hazen Allen who died earlier this year. Larry Cigen was appointed as acting principal.

Chatten will be replaced at Centennial by Len Kay from J. M. Denyes of Milton.

Another Georgetown school is losing its experienced principal, but this one to Nassagaweya. Mrs. Azolyn Fisher leaves George Kennedy School for Brookville-

Campbellville. Mrs. Fisher will be replaced by Jack Reed from E. J. James School.

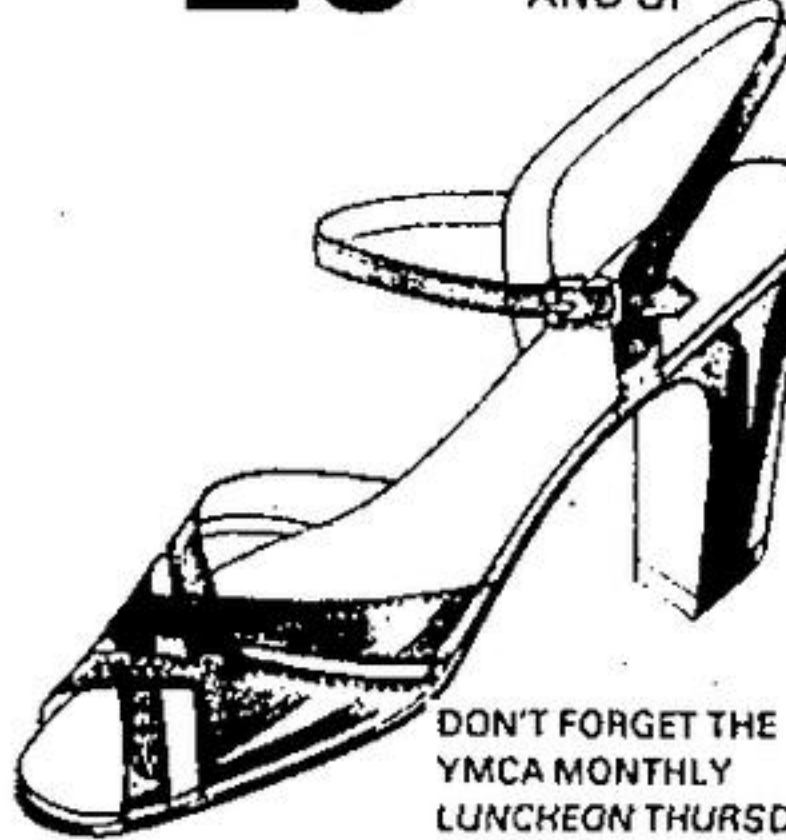
Stewarttown's principal Logan MacDonald is heading for Park school where he will take over from Al Leaper.

Leaper, who had been at Park for about five years, is on his way to Lawrie Smith school at Burlington.

Brookville-Campbellville principal Bob McCaw will take up duties at Stewarttown.

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NATURALIZER.

Farmer's bottle explodes in case

By Rod Lamb
A pig farmer was hoist with his own petard.

Bob Merry, a pig farmer objecting to a proposed 14-home estate subdivision to be located next to his 450-acre farm north of urban Milton, brought a bottle of liquid pig manure in a briefcase to the Ontario Municipal Board hearing at town hall Wednesday, Apr. 11. His intent was to give

the board members a whiff of what residents in the subdivision could be smelling.

Alas, The bottle exploded in the brief case. Nevertheless, Mr. Merry outlined his opposition to the subdivision.

Being the only one to oppose it, his action prompted the OMB hearing.

The projected subdivision is owned by

Southwood Estates. It is to be located southwest of the intersection of Five Sideroad and the Fourth Line.

Lawyers for Halton and Milton councils said the development conforms with official plan policies.

Owners of new homes will have to acknowledge on agreement to purchase they are aware of

surrounding farming operations and will not be able to object once they buy, the lawyers said.

Milton planning director Bob Zsadyani said the area is ideal for rural residential development.

Mr. Merry disagreed.

He said, "How would you like to live within sight of an open-top liquid pig swill tank?"



Jason Bowers, Main Street N., won an Easter treat when his name was drawn during the egg decorating contest at the library Saturday. Ann Duncan, centre, won the prize for the most beautiful entry, while Kim Bouclair, right produced the most original entry.

Easter egg contest draws youngsters

Acton library held its first Easter Egg decorating contest Saturday with greater results than librarian Margaret Merrin hoped for last week.

Many imaginative and colorful entries were made.

Ann Duncan, 7, won the prize ribbon for the most beautiful entry. Her matched king and queen eggs were topped off with

gold paper crowns and hair of thread. Ann traced the facial features onto the shells.

Nine-year-old Kim Bouclair took the blue ribbon for the most original entry. Kim mounted three eggs to make a statue of a rabbit.

Jason Bowers did not win a prize in the contest but his name was drawn as the winner of a choc-

olate Easter treat.

The youngest contest winner was three-year old Amy Leslie who made a furry rabbit. Amy was absent for the photograph.

Employee leaves

The Acton Hydro Commission is looking for a new meter-reader, groundsman.

Audrey Urquhart, secretary-treasurer of the commission announced that employee George Cook is leaving their employ to head out west to Edmonton, Alberta.

Commissioners expressed their disappointment, but wished him the best in the future. They decided they would advertise the job opening.

Applications should be into the hydro office on Alice St. by closing time, April 25. Commissioners will conduct interviews the next day.

MARSH THIEF

The mink is a strong agile swimmer and appears more at home in water than on land. It preys on small mammals, birds, eggs, frogs, fish and snakes. The mink is prized for its rich brown fur.

Board wants lot levy share

Halton Hills library board feels if town council will not give them the money to set up a reserve fund, they (the board) should at least get a portion of the lot levies gathered by the municipality.

Upset over the cutting of their budget, board members felt the town was hindering their chances at getting the reserve established.

"I have a funny feeling that councillors think if you have a reserve fund, you don't need the money as much and it gets cut," surmised head librarian Betsy Cornwell, at the board's monthly meeting Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Cornwell also admitted she is worried that if a new library ever becomes a reality, council will not give them anything again. She used Milton's situation as an example. "They are going to say, 'you have your new library, what more do you want?'"

SHIPS CLOTHING

During 1977, the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada shipped 284,682 lbs. of new and used clothing valued at \$806,019 to Vietnam, Lesotho, Botswana, Cyprus and Bangladesh. USC head quarters is located at 56 Sparks Street, Ottawa.

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