

PROFILES

with Jennifer Barr



Are you completely fed up with the food price squeeze? Tired of getting less for more of your money, that is? You keep hearing about huge profit margins on food that is now somewhat less than nourishing but you don't know what to do about it?

Carol Brooks of Ospringe felt the same way, joined a student-funded group called OPIRG (Ontario Public Interest Research Group) and ended up as part-time chairman of the Guelph branch.

It's not as if Carol needs something to fill in her time. She works part-time at the University and is studying towards a B.A. degree. This semester she's taking economics and politics. She's also a busy homemaker and mother of Jennifer, 11.

However, she gets very angry about some of the unfair things happening in this world and isn't shy about fighting for her beliefs. One of her concerns is equality of nourishment and food value for everyone in this world and fairness for the farmer.

She hands out an informative booklet called "The Supermarket Tour" published by provincial OPIRG organizations—an educational book resulting from years of research. It's designed to be a supplement for an actual supermarket tour taken by interested consumers with an OPIRG guide.

We're paying too much! Some of the startling facts included in "The Supermarket Tour" prove what most of us have suspected all along. Our grocery shopping is controlled by a very few firms dominating the market, oligopolies.

Research indicates \$250 million or four per cent of our food bill, is an overcharge as a result of the degree of concentrated ownership at a retail level alone.

Third world countries do not benefit by exporting their native products according to the booklet. For instance, 70 per cent of the world's \$2.1 billion banana trade is controlled by three companies, Del Monte, United Brands, and Castle and Cook (Dole). When bananas are selling at 29 cents a pound, the producing country gets only three of those cents.

The use of instore brands, the information tells us, actually increases costs and increases unemployment by wiping out smaller companies and reducing consumer choice.

Some other fascinating and frightening information brought out by the booklet includes the fact most sugared cereals actually consist of up to 54 per cent sugar.

Did you know that "Wheaties", considered a nutritional cereal, costs less to produce than the box they are in? Total cereal is "wheaties" sprayed with a half cent worth of vitamins and

put on the shelf at an additional cost of 22 cents, the OPIRG claims.

Your chocolate bar is shrinking, too, for twice the money—or did you notice that? A publicly funded research department of the University of California was asked to breed a smaller almond for Hershey because normal-sized almonds made their shrinking bars look as small as they actually were. They did, too.

OPIRG is an offshoot of Naders Raders, a consumer education group from the United States. It was started five years ago at McMaster University in Hamilton. There are now six offices around the province.

Carol Brooks worked in student government at the U of G four years ago when Canadiens hockey star, Ken Dryden, called to see if there was any chance of setting up an OPIRG group at Guelph.

The group, now in its fourth year, is concentrating on research but hopes to set up actual educational supermarket tours by July. Actually, the organization is concerned with all world development problems and has been studying a variety of things from the effect of mercury pollution on Indian population to a focus on energy. A five to ten year project on energy is planned for the future.

But the main object of OPIRG is to educate, making people aware of top level manipulation in many areas.

Back to the food issue—OPIRG, and Carol Brooks says it's possible to do something about the problem of monopolies and prices. They feel the problem must be understood before it can be overcome, then people can act together to solve this common problem.

The People's Food Commission is one active group and is affiliated with OPIRG.

Anyone interested in information on the Supermarket Tour, booklet, or addresses of related organizations, may contact:

G-OPIRG
214 Old Engineering Bld.
University of Guelph
Guelph Ont.



Carol Brooks



Acton Lions Club presented its officers for the new year Monday. Front row left to right: Cory Van Merkesteln, lion tamer; Peter Papillon, director; Ray Evelan, director; new president John Dennis; past president Haiga Assadourian; and third vice-

president Robert Bradley. Back row: second vice-president John Marcotte; director John Greifender; Donald Murdy, tail twister and first vice-president; and secretary Vince Whelan. Mr. Assadourian is also the club's treasurer.

Install new executive at Lions

Outgoing Acton Lions Club president Haiga Assadourian handed the gavel of authority to John Dennis, president for the new year, during the club's annual meeting Monday.

The Lions have done quite a bit of work on community projects in the past year. Mr. Assadourian said. The club spent \$1,749.53 on community projects. Some of the funds went to senior citizens' groups and some minor sports.

Looking ahead, the club will participate in this month's Back-to-Acton Days celebrations. Also the Acton Lions have prepared draw tickets for a snow blower during the fall fair, according to the out-going executive.

District Governor Ron Lacey, Georgetown, supervised the installation of officers for the 1979-80 year.

Vincent Whelan is first vice-president. John

Marcotte second vice and Robert Bradley third vice president. Mr. Whelan is also club secretary.

Mr. Assadourian, in addition to being past president, also has the function of club treasurer. Acton Lions Club Tail Twister is Donald Murdy while Cory Van Merkesteln took on the role of Lion Tamer.

The club's two-year directors are Neil Miller and John Greifender. Ray Evelan and Peter Papillon are one-year directors.

This month also marks the promotion of Acton Lion Vic Bristow to the position of zone chairman. Mr. Bristow's area includes Chingquacousy.

Georgetown, Erin, Acton and Brampton.

Mr. Bristow and wife Penny recently represented the club at the district convention at Niagara Falls. Later this month Mr. Papillon and wife Louise represent Acton Lions Club at an international convention at Montreal.

Doole retires from paper

Erin—Long-time editor and publisher Bill Doole is retiring from active duties with the Erin Advocate. He will act as a contributing editor while a new publisher and a new editor fill his shoes. William Dalley is the new publisher and Tom Holland is interim editor. Mr. Holland edits the Fergus-Elora News Express. A member of his staff, reporter Brian Hayter, will be named the Advocate's new editor in August.

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Bruce Lietzke

Defending Champion Bruce Lietzke will be hoping to make it two in a row. Be there.

Peter Jackson presents the

Canadian Open 79

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June 18th-24th: The Glen Abbey Golf Club, Oakville, Ontario.

Boards consider future dual school

Halton separate and public boards of education may one day jointly build an elementary school suitable for the needs of both.

Recently the Halton board of education approached the separate school board about the possibility of building a facility together.

At the May 1 meeting of the Property and Planning committee of the separate school board, Director of Education Cliff Byrnes was instructed to advise Emerson Lavender, public school board director, the separate Board would not be opposed to considering such a venture if future circumstances permit.

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RC students bus to Guelph

Separate school students from Georgetown and Acton may be bused to Guelph's Bishop Macdonell High School following action by Halton's Roman Catholic school board this week.

Local trustee Hartley Sherk predicted the next separate high school will be built in Oakville, and likely the one after that near Milton. The increase in Milton's population helps, Mr. Sherk said. He went on to say the Halton board is not locked into buying education in Wellington County.

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Women die in crash

Erin—A 32-year old area woman was one of two pronounced dead at the scene of a two-car head on collision on the 17th Sideroad near Heart Lake Road north of Brampton last week. Dead are Lesley Stewart, of Erin, and Ursula Christen, 29 of Brampton.

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