

# PROFILES

with Jennifer Barr



Right hand flashing, quivering, and whipping in circles with a mind of its own, Mrs. John Sprowl predicted where we'd find water on our undeveloped property.

Mrs. Sprowl, well-known water diviner who's lived in and near Acton all her life, had agreed to help us find the best spot for a well on our ten-acre parcel north of town seven years ago.

Rain drizzled as Mrs. Sprowl in gumboots, mackintosh, and hairnet tramped energetically back and forth waving a bit of television antenna (instead of the traditional hazel twig. Any pointer will do, says Mrs. Sprowl, the power comes through her hand anyway).

When her arm started its wild gyrations, Mrs. Sprowl calmly stated, "There are two crossed streams here. You'll find water 20-25 down. There's a stream at 17 feet but it isn't enough. At about 21 feet, you'll have more water than you need. The rock is over 100 feet down and there's a small spring 150 feet with two larger ones at 165 and 175 feet."

We settled for the closer water and hired a well-boring outfit sceptical of our reason for digging in this spot.

"Water diviners, pooh," they said. "We have to go 30 feet, lady it's part of our contract."

At 17 feet down they hit water, a small trickling stream. At 21 feet they hit a stream that halted digging, the water poured in so fast. Sloshing in the torrent, the diggers continued to find another crossed stream around 23 feet down going in the direction predicted. They couldn't dig the required 30 feet, there was just too much water!

Mrs. Sprowl had been correct.

### Power since eight

Born five miles south of Acton as Beatrice McElsaco, Mrs. Sprowl became aware of her powers at the age of eight when a water diviner came to her father's farm.

Later she married John Sprowl and came to live on the Sprowl homestead at Third Line and Highway 7. Marrying a well-digger and storing information from courses at the University of Guelph have helped Mrs. Sprowl's knowledge of underground water but there is no explanation for the uncanny antics of her arm.

When it starts to go, there's no holding it. It certainly feels as if an unseen force were pulling it around. I know, I've tried to hold her arm under these circumstances.

As we talk in her living room, her right arm often takes off in circles of its own. "Is there water under the floor?" I ask. She looks at her arm and laughs then gives me a demonstration in the corner of the room nearly knocking drapes and pictures off the wall as her flailing arm tells her there's water down there somewhere.

Mrs. Sprowl keeps trying to retire as her husband did in 1974 (Son Calvin keeps the family well-digging business going). However, she's still getting calls for her work and has recently had to up her extremely modest fee to ten dollars—"I think it's worth it". Many times she doesn't get paid and

doesn't even get a 'thank-you' she comments, but she keeps going anyway saying it's a good hobby.

Our diviner has been featured on many television programs. Some by the CBC have been seen all over the country and the United States. Newspapers have written stories about her. Mrs. Sprowl is well known and is respected as a knowledgeable lady. But she doesn't like the publicity, feeling she's been written about enough. She gives me the impression she feels too much fuss is made over a very ordinary (to her) power.

After one of those television programs, two men approached Mrs. Sprowl with a contract to work all over the world. However, she turned it down figuring she's rather "stay here with John and the boys."

### Gold fever

One thing Mrs. Sprowl does wish she'd had more time to do and that's divining minerals such as gold and silver—"I'd like to have had a spell at that."

She had 'marked' a few gas wells but hesitates to get into anything that usually means large amounts of invested money; she doesn't like the responsibility.

To find a gas well she has to concentrate on it telling her brain 'we're after gas this time not water.'

"You have to think in hundreds of feet—think deeper and you'll find the gas."

Sounds simple.

"Water is the easiest thing to find", she states but the primordial pull of gold is in her. She would have like to have gone north to mark a few veins but she feels she wasn't meant to get rich.

"I'd sooner take life easy," she says.



Mrs. John Sprowl

## Children dance at special day

Students of the Acton Y's dance classes took part in a Parents' Day Saturday afternoon, and showed their Moms and Dads what they had learned.

Rebecca Bates, Lara Kempton, Lisa Beaton, Michelle Quick, and Tracy Teskey danced to Sweet Gypsy Rose. Lisa Denton, Michelle Beaton, Beverly Anne Dyke, Michelle Pilgrim, Shannon Pawlikowski, Tracy Teskey, Jodie Coleman,

Michelle Quick, Cheryl Devlin and Ann-Marie Kinnon performed to Spiders and Snakes.

Boogie Shoes was the song danced to by Tara Bacchus, Lurline Newberry, Debbie Lawrence, Kristie Bullough and Paula Mitchell.

Catherine Kinnon, Lana Lampkin and Jane Mathson danced to Jive Talkin. Words of Love was danced to by Jennifer Quinn, Julie Wal-

lace and Jaydie Bullough.



JoAnne Robbins soloed to I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing. Beverly Anne Dyke, Jaydie Bullough and Jennifer Quinn performed to Love's Theme.

Dancing to the music of The Entertainers were JoAnne Robbins, Shelly Donston, Cynthia Donston, Lisa Nadhazi, Paula Mitchell, Kristie Bullough and Lisa Sansom.

Introductions were by Lisa Sansom, Lurline Newberry, JoAnne Robbins, Tara Bacchus, Michelle Quick and Lana Lampkin.

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## Talks in limbo . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

sent at the meeting, said the blame for breaking off talks lay with the board because the board's salary committee sent the caretaker on duty to the teachers' caucus room to ask the teachers to leave because he was going home. "The board's committee had left the building," the letter said.

The board, meanwhile, says the teachers' chief negotiator left the discussions and the board committee waited until after midnight for resumption of negotiations.

Salary committee chairman Bill Lawson reiterated the board is anxious to get back to the bargaining table but realized it is going to be more difficult to re-establish communications now classes are finished and vacations started. He said the board was discouraged by the request for third party intervention so early in negotiations, a situation the board had not met in previous contract rounds.

Halton's 2400 teachers take about \$58 million of the board's \$92 million budget.

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## Teacher transfers

Halton Board of Education approved several teacher transfers. The following are the transfers which effect Acton and area: Nancy Boyce leaves Limehouse for Robert Baldwin while Nadine Eaton heads for Martin Street from Spey-side.

Patricia Gudgeon comes to McKenzie-Smith Middle School from Harrison. Anne MacDonald is going to J.M. Denyes from Robert Little while Robert O'Driscoll leaves McKenzie-Smith for Martin Street and Katherine Platt leaves Robert Little for J.M. Denyes.

## Area dogs tops

Two R.R. 4 Acton dogs are the first ever to walk away from a Detroit dog show with top prizes, and belong to the same person.

The dogs, two Rotterweilers owned by Shirley Rose took top breed in both the male and female category in

Detroit recently. Their next stop is a show in Chicago.

Mrs. Rose runs an obedience school for dogs in Acton at the Canadian Tire Store Wednesday evenings. Dogs from Limehouse, Georgetown and Acton attend the classes.

## Back to Acton Days . . .

(Continued from Page 1)  
planned by the firefighters continued as planned. The horseshoe pitch was cancelled as was the waterball contest. The Green Morris Dancers from Toronto showed up for their performance, but found an almost empty Prospect Park. However, in true show business fashion, the show went on for an audience of two—Terry Grubbe and Herb Dodds.

Fireworks scheduled for Sunday evening, were finally set off Monday night.

Weekend organizer Terry Grubbe said that although Sunday was rained out, she felt the weekend was even more a success than last year. Eighty degree temperatures brought thousands to the downtown area in 1978.

"For people to come out and hang around in that rain—it's just super," she told The Acton Free Press. "Last year, people could either sit around their pools and soak up the sun shine or come downtown and do the same thing. These people this weekend could have been home in a nice dry house in dry clothes, but instead they came and they stayed." Wet weather showed Mrs. Grubbe, she said that the people of Acton care about their country and their town. When she was ready to give up, others encouraged her to continue.

Mrs. Grubbe is already thinking towards next year's Canada Day weekend. She has booked the Green Morris Dancers and is open for suggestions for booths, games, etc.



Date of sale July 4, 5, 6, 7/79  
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<p>Foodland poly <b>Kitchen Bags</b> 12's</p> <p><b>.55</b></p>	<p>Delmonte crushed, dessert bit or sliced <b>Pineapple</b> in juice 14 fl. oz.</p> <p><b>.58</b></p>
<p>Foodland 25"x36" 1.5 ml. <b>Garbage Bags</b> 10's</p> <p><b>.89</b></p>	<p>Anacin jar of 100 <b>Cricket disposable betane Lighter</b></p> <p><b>.79</b></p>
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<p>Farm House <b>Apple Pie</b> 24 oz.</p> <p><b>.99</b></p>	<p>Birdseye Awake <b>Orange Drink</b> 12 oz.</p> <p><b>.69</b></p>
<p>Reg. 14 oz. deluxe <b>Pizzas</b> 15 oz, supreme 17 oz.</p> <p><b>1.89</b></p>	<p>McCain straight cut <b>French Fries</b> 3 1/2 lb.</p> <p><b>1.29</b></p>

<p>Duncan Hines Angel Food <b>Cake Mix</b> 14.5 oz.</p> <p><b>1.19</b></p>	<p>Crisco salad &amp; cooking <b>Oil</b> 3 L.</p> <p><b>4.98</b></p>
<p>Neilson <b>Iced Tea</b> 24 fl. oz. tin</p> <p><b>1.98</b></p>	<p>4 var. Super Dri <b>Deodorant</b> 150 ml.</p> <p><b>1.69</b></p>
<p>Prem <b>Lunch Meat</b> 12 oz.</p> <p><b>1.29</b></p>	<p>Ingersoll Can. process <b>Cheese Spread</b> 16 oz.</p> <p><b>1.68</b></p>