

PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



A compulsive collector, Agnes has tiny miniatures, dishes, models and accessories to fit any era.

Some work for sale

Agnes rarely sells her handcrafts, making them mostly for gifts. While I was there she showed me a beautiful crocheted layette set for a new baby (a nephew, I think). Beautiful work but made special by a wee crocheted stuffed teddy in the same colors as the clothing trim tucked in the box for baby.

However, her hobby has "gotten out of hand" so much, Agnes now sells some of her work and will do custom handcrafts. She's finding people often have a favorite doll they'd like to have dressed in a special costume.

With this in mind, Agnes will man a booth at Acton and Milton Fall Fairs displaying her talents. She has also entered many of the handcrafts classes in fairs. In 1971 she won top handcrafts points at Erin Fair, and has a silver tray for her efforts.

Hard to slow down

It's not as if Agnes has extra time on her hands. She's a busy lady with a farm, husband, horses and pets to care for. And she's always surrounded by a bevy of fascinated nieces in and out of the house. For many years, Agnes showed and competitive trail rode her horse, Topaze, a palomino Quarter Horse. Now Topaze grazes the paddock while his mistress stitches tiny dresses, but once in a while he comes out of retirement to attend an equine function with his rider. Mo McGinnis is a well-known local horseman, with a display case full of trophies and ribbons.

The needlework is a relaxation for Agnes but she's also the type of person who must have something going all the time. As a former factory worker on an assembly line, she says.

"When you've pushed yourself all your life, you feel guilty when you slow down."

Agnes McGinnis hasn't slowed down yet and won't until she has her 100 doll century collection completed—maybe not even then.

Look for her at the various fall fairs coming up in the next few weeks.



Agnes McGinnis and niece Jayda Bullough

Most people never really outgrow their interest in dolls. Not only are dolls the playthings of childhood but form a very real part of history.

Agnes McGinnis has been "playing" with dolls for the past few years and now has the makings of a formidable collection (234) of uniquely dressed models. Not only does she have a large collection of hand-dressed character dolls, but she is well on her way to having a 100 doll "Century" doll collection of fashions through the ages.

Always handy with her hands, this Rockwood resident has a house full of her handiwork. Doors are decorated with her wood carving; tooled leather pieces are in evidence; crocheted plant hangings, beautiful hand sewn appliqued potholders, towels, cushions, embroidered cloths—all make the home of Agnes and her husband Mo a special tribute to the hand crafter.

But everywhere, there are the dolls—cuple dolls in dipped fabric national costumes; papier mache dolls, cleverly fashioned; display cases; an elegant bride doll and her attendants; shelves of dolls in crinolines and garters; baskets of dismembered dolls; dolls with their hair in curlers; fabric and beads spilling over tables.

Agnes says she rarely sits down without something in her hands. She likes to work on several different things at once. At the moment, her century dolls are on the priority list, with 45 completed she figures she has only another 55 to go before the set is complete. However, in a quiet week she may design, sew and dress ten dolls.

Authentic fashion replicas

Using history fashion books Agnes has authentic replicas of styles from cave-days to now. She really does have a little Neanderthal doll dressed in a skin tunic with tiny fish skeletons—a pair of fun earrings—dangling from the front.

Many of the dolls represent famous queens and their costumes. Intricate hand-stitching goes into each costume decorated by bits of costume jewelry, beads, braid, and tiny accessories imported from the States.

Small scraps of fabric or one earring will dictate which costume is attempted next. At one time, Agnes found an ancient brocade fabric under part of a cushion she was re-upholstering. It now adorns a queen.

Dolls are complete even to underwear and removable bustles—for sitting down, you know.

Her displays have been to school. Agnes is frequently asked to take a few dolls for exhibition and talk on fashion through the ages, a subject she's become well acquainted with. In fact, it's all become so interesting to her she plans to do a small book describing and illustrating the dolls and type of fashion.

Not only does each doll have her own authentic costume, but to add to the look many have a model dog on a lead or a horse with "McGinnis" made saddle and bridle.

Secrecy question sparks disagreement

Two regional councillors disagreed on the meaning of secrecy Sept. 5.

Halton council normally hold in-camera meetings to discuss personnel and land purchases but last Wednesday's regular meeting of council saw a verbal war between planning committee chairman Roy Booth of

Halton Hills and Burlington councillor Walter Mulkeiwich on the procedure for hiring a replacement.

Former planning director Ed Cumming left his job of Sept. 1 and the region has been looking for a replacement.

At the meeting Mr. Booth said he wanted to go into secret session to

discuss a letter sent to all members of council by himself.

Mr. Mulkeiwich objected to this saying that he had read the letter and found it discussed hiring procedure, not personnel.

He then demanded to know what was so secret and why it was not to be a matter of public record.

"That's kind of awkward," Mr. Booth said.

"I would like to go into camera to discuss it later."

"I do not wish to discuss this in public," Mr. Mulkeiwich countered with. "I see nothing in here that involves staff, just how we go about hiring staff. Why go in camera..."

Mr. Booth said he would "refuse" to discuss it, admitting "that it does deal with

procedure but after that, it starts to get into personnel."

Mr. Mulkeiwich said he was not appeased and noted a six-member council committee had been formed to talk about Mr. Cumming's successor.

"How can a meeting take place when it hasn't even been approved yet?" Mr. Mulkeiwich asked.

Regional chairman Jack Hafitis interjected, saying the meeting was held to expediency and then quickly called a vote on whether council favored going into secret session.

The vote passed 14 to eight. Councillors would not comment on what had transpired in the meeting.

500 expected at regional congress

An estimated 500 Salvation Army members from across central western Ontario will meet in Guelph Thanksgiving Weekend, Oct. 6 and 7, for a regional congress.

While specific details of the weekend are now

being finalized several activities are scheduled including a visit by Lt. Col. and Mrs. R. Yarde, Territorial Commanders for Italy.

The weekend program is tentatively scheduled to be held in three Guelph

locations: The Guelph Corps Citadel on Waterloo Avenue, at the John F. Ross C.V.I. and at the Kivans Band Shell in Riverside Park.

The program will also include an open air outreach program and

women's rally on the Saturday (Oct. 6), a festival of music including a youth presentation and Thanksgiving Wellness Services in the morning and evening on the Sunday.

Among the Salvation Army Corps in Southern Ontario to attend the congress are: Acton, Guelph, Brantford, Cambridge, Kitchener, Listowel, Orangeville, Six Nations, Paris, Wingham and Simcoe.

ACTON MINOR SOCCER CLUB ANNUAL General Meeting

September 19 - 8:30 p.m.

at the Acton Legion for Election of Officers

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Acton women hurt

An Acton woman was taken to Georgetown hospital by police following a two car collision on number five sideroad, September 6.

Reina Morrison, R.R. 2, Acton, received major injuries when her 1969 Pontiac was in collision with a 1979 Plymouth driven by Peter Cann of Norval and owned by United Breeders in Guelph.

The Cann vehicle was eastbound on number five sideroad and was struck by the Morrison car which was northbound on the eighth line, the police report stated. The point of impact was determined by the abrupt skid of the Morrison vehicle.

Cann was taken to hospital by an ambulance. Damage to his car is estimated at \$5000. The

Morrison vehicle received an estimated \$1500 in damages.

40 more students at Catholic schools

Enrolment is up at all separate schools in Halton Hills with the exception of Holy Cross in Georgetown, according to statistics released from the Halton separate school board.

Head counts which were taken the first day of school showed St. Joseph's separate school in Acton with the largest increase in Halton Hills. An additional 33 students are attending the school, bringing the school population to 199 students.

In Georgetown, Holy Cross school showed a decrease of 14 students. Sacre-Coeur an increase of three and St. Francis of Assisi increased by 18 children. Halton Hills now has a total Catholic education count of 888 pupils, 40 more than last year.

The figures obtained from the first day head count were compared to those taken in June.

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Try for policy on relief funds

After repeatedly receiving and filling pleas for funds to aid disaster-stricken areas, Halton Hills general committee recommended a policy be set up before next year's budget, and possibly a fund with a maximum amount.

The recommendation came after requests from the City of Nepean for their flood relief fund, and from the Oxford, Brant, Haldimand-Norfolk Disaster fund set up after a tornado wreaked havoc on August 7.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy said there is no money in the budget, but noted the City of Toronto gave two and half cents per capita to a disaster fund, and wondered if a fund could be set up on that basis and kept at a constant amount, only replenished when it went below that.

Councillor Harry Levy agreed it might be a way out of the dilemma when municipalities sought help.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said she always feels guilty when the requests are simply received and filed.

Councillor Roy Booth suggested the treasurer be asked to report on the idea of levying so much per capita for this purpose for next year's budget, and perhaps could pledge an amount to be paid when next year's budget is set.

Councillor Mike Armstrong said he knew he would be unpopular for not being benevolent, but said he would oppose doing out taxpayers' money. "It is not my money to dole out", he commented.

New minister . . .

(Continued from Page 1) help them, he said.

After three years, the minister went back to the ministry, serving at York Memorial. After two years there, he received a call to a congregation in Scotland, and he and his two youngest children went back home for a year.

The family arrived back in Canada last October, and he has been filling in for ill or vacationing ministers ever since. He conducted the services in Acton one Sunday in June, and again last week. He will be at church this coming

Sunday, but will not be back until he is officially inducted into the church, hopefully at the end of the month.

For the first few months, Rev. Robertson said, he plans to just sit back and listen to the plans of the congregation. He has his own plans, but explains they are one or two years down the road. Right now he wants to get to know everyone and be friends.

"That comes first," he said.

Charges

Two males have been charged with the September 10 theft of six sheets of plywood and three bales of fibreglass from J.B. Mackenzie and Sons Limited in Acton. Loss is estimated at \$190.

The window at the Bank of Montreal was reported cracked to police, September 8. Damage is estimated at \$150.

Police received a report this week of an attempted entry to an Acton Blvd. home through the sliding door

Fire loss

There have been 20 more fire calls this year until the end of July than there was last in Halton Hills, but the fire loss is down \$100,000.

The July report from Fire Chief Mick Holmes points out last year fire loss at the end of July totalled \$477,345.

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