

Rhoda and Bruce Shoemaker marked 25 years in Acton this week as well as their 25th wedding anniversary. The popular couple are pictured outside the historic funeral home.

## Shoemaker Funeral Home marks silver anniversary

Tomorrow, November 1, is the silver anniversary of Shoemaker Funeral Home. It was 25 years ago when Bruce and Rhoda Shoemaker took over the Rumley Funeral Home on Mill Street.

The beautiful house, now the Shoemaker's home and place of business, was built over 100 years ago by W.H. Storey, entrepreneur and owner of the famous glove factory then on the site of the present post office.

The elegant house was called Sunderland Villa, heated through pipes placed underground from the glove factory meeting radiators within the house. The radiators are still in use, although now connected to an independent furnace.

After serving some time as a boarding house and a hotel for old soldiers it was purchased in 1937 by Victor Rumley, then operator of Rumley Furniture store and funeral home on the site of Acton Home Furnishings. The movie theatre was right next door in what is now Mike Kinal's hardware store.

In 1953, Bruce Shoemaker came to Acton to work for Vic Rumley and ended up buying the business in 1954 in partnership with his father. The funeral home was known as Rumley-Shoemaker for many years out of respect for the former owner, Bruce explains.

### Active church members

However, this is a profile about people not a house and two well liked, respected members of the community are Rhoda and Bruce Shoemaker.

The business is family run with Rhoda taking care of the business end and Bruce as the funeral director.

Bruce, a lively, opinionated fellow, became an apprentice in the funeral business after graduating from high school when career guidance tests indicated he was looking for an area where he could help people.

Several courses in anatomy and psychology from the University of Toronto, Banting Institute, and Toronto General Hospital led Bruce to his provincial examinations and licence.

Strongly religious - he and Rhoda are active members of Trinity United Church - and descended from Mennonite stock north of Kitchener, Bruce was much affected by the stark austere funerals of his Mennonite grandparents. He felt there had to be more to help the family, the ones left behind.

He's spent the 25 plus years since proving there is indeed more that can be done to help a family grieving over death. He says different people have different needs but a funeral can provide a "meaningful tribute" for the family to the loved one.

"You can't start to heal till surgery is performed," Bruce says using the analogy of an operation and a funeral. "You have to work out grief taking one hurdle at a time."

Bruce says the more he sees the more he realizes a funeral has a therapeutic value and people refusing a funeral often feel incomplete.

The bereaved need strength and compassion, Bruce says and he tries to give stability, encour-

aging people to let emotions show. Tears are a release, he says, and come easier now there's a social change in attitudes. There's been so much research into grief and suffering Bruce feels people are realizing the necessity to grieve fully.

### Limit activities

In such a stressful business, Bruce has had to learn - the hard way - that there's a place past which his emotions can't go. Community activities plus business pressures put Bruce in hospital for several weeks a few years ago. At that point he had to re-evaluate and assess the situation. He found he had to limit his activities which involved several service clubs and church committees. His first duty was to his family, he felt, then to his business and the families he serves.

He stayed in the business and is glad he did, feeling he and Rhoda are doing a real service to the community.

"Grief shared is grief diminished," says Bruce, summing up his whole reason for being in the funeral business.

A large folder of "thank you" letters indicate what a well-received job the Shoemakers do.

### Changed lifestyles

Twenty-five years have shown a lot of change in lifestyle and attitudes, Bruce says.

In some ways the family has diminished. People used to be born at home and die at home. Now individuals are so mobile it's more practical to plan a funeral from a central home. Up until recently, older people had to spend their retirement years away from Acton because of a lack of enough senior citizen accommodation. So people were even more removed from family ties. However, Bruce feels the new senior apartments, presently being built on Elizabeth Drive, will help to bring seniors back into their own community and among friends.

Bruce is one of the few people content with their lot in life. He's seen too many people driving themselves and dropping dead prematurely - he doesn't want to follow that route!

He and Rhoda have a good business, two fine daughters, Sue and Nancy, son-in-law, Barry, and an adored baby granddaughter, Tara.

Bruce's only problem at the moment is a tendency to disagree with me when we get into our lively debates. I'm sure, when we get this little quirk straightened out, he'll be a completely contented man.

## PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



## On the Leavell

With Helen

A familiar face around Acton high school disappeared this week, when secretary Sheila Wilson left to be the office manager at Milton high school. Mrs. Wilson will be missed by both staff and students, and also by reporters who phoned or dropped in for information.

Tonight is Hallowe'en, the night when all sorts of ghosts and ghouls come out of the woodwork to trick or treat.

My best Hallowe'en was when I was six, and wrestling with a bout with the measles. Most of the neighbors knew I was sick and gave my blider brother and sister extra candy for me. When they had completed their rounds in the immediate neighborhood, they expanded to strangers' homes, and told my sad story. More luck. By the time they quit for the night they had more candy than I could eat - and I hadn't even left the living room couch.

My first Hallowe'en in Acton, former Free Presser Jan Marshall, Carolyn Artem (Duvall) and I made the rounds in costume. Few recognized me dressed in an original turn of the century dress loaned to me by Marguerite Taylor. I topped the outfit off with ski boots.

Was reading the newspaper one day last week while keeping one eye on the television. A familiar face on the boob

tube caught my eye. If it wasn't Sir Editor Hartley Coles. Closer scrutiny of the set revealed it was Yves Berube, Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources. Hartley's resemblance to the Quebec cabinet minister is a sort of joke around the Free Press as a newspaper clipping of Berube on our bulletin board has people thinking our boss works on the Toronto Star.

Free Press Sports Editor Robin Incoe's sister Sandra won the Acton Pathfinders Haggedy Ann doll draw Saturday at the Acton Brownie, Guide and Pathfinders' bazaar.

High school commencement is this Friday evening. It is a good time to catch up on lost friendships.

After several months of my writing this column, Alma Swet'n finally asked me what the title meant. She was reading it, as most people might as "On the lee-a-vell". Actually, it reads "on the Level". Leavell, pronounced level was my maiden name. When it came time to name this space, there was nothing catchy we could do with Murray. Does that explanation help Alma?

## Sally Ann kettles throughout town

The Acton branch of the Salvation Army has been given permission to place Christmas Cheer kettles throughout Halton Hills during December. The practice is new to the town, and funds raised will be spent on Christmas hampers and winter relief.

## Retirement Home for Active Senior Citizens

Senior Citizens - Home Comforts - Be Yourself

2 minutes downtown Acton, semi-private rooms, male and female. 24-hour coverage, home-like atmosphere, all inclusive rates. Owner qualified nurse.

853-1020

25 IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE PERSONALLY THE FAMILIES OF ACTON AND AREA FOR

25 Years

BRUCE and RHODA

Shoemaker funeral home

SATURDAY NIGHT BINGO

from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 3rd ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION 15 WRIGHT AVE., ACTON

By Popular Demand Our Previously Announced Game Plan Has Been Rescheduled As Follows:

- 18 Regular Games at \$50.00 each (White & Pink Cards)
- 2 Specials - Top Line \$15.00 each (Yellow Cards) - Bottom Line \$15.00 each - Full Card \$50.00 each
- 1 Poppy Special - \$100.00 (Green Card)
- 1 November Special - \$300.00 (Blue Card)

EXTRA CARDS 36¢ each or 3 for \$1.00 THE ADMISSION PRICE OF \$5.00 PER PERSON PROVIDES A PACK OF 13 CARDS SNACKS AND SOFT DRINKS AVAILABLE All Proceeds For Community Projects

## Legion draw winners

Penny Sale winners at the Legion Ladies Auxiliary bazaar Oct. 20 were: basket of groceries, Helen Lesueur; box of groceries, Hennie Van Dam; hanging turtle, Marion Keelan; wall hanging, Bertha Ryder; tea towels and dish soap, Bert Holladay; two steak boards, Rachel Haggitt; nutcracker set and salt and peppers, Jean Binden.

Two mugs and vase, George Fitzner; oven mitts and pie plate, Florence McIsaac; cigarette filters and perfume, Terry Masales; dishcloths, Gwen Hollet; two dishes, Flo Water-

### Tories pick

The Halton-Burlington Progressive Conservative Association held its annual meeting Monday and two local men made places for themselves in the association's management.

Brian Cargill was elected as an executive member of the provincial association while Vince Whelan was elected a director. The term is one year.

house, coasters, Ed Smith; cake plate, Lilly Higgins; cushion, Jenny Flinders; wallet and necklace, Judy Henstridge; teapot and tape measure, Bertha Ryder; dog ornament and apple decoration, Christy Bullough; towels, LeBlanc; cream and sugar set, Judy Henstridge; hand saw, P. Bonner; macrame hanger and plant, Roger Ward. Money draw winners were: \$150 Lil Bradshaw; \$100 Ann McMillan; \$50 Angela Purrier; \$25 Larry Tellefer. Miscellaneous winners were: cake draw, Crissie Toth; macrame ows, Mary Daigle; doll, Marnie Dick; centre-piece, Patty Drexler.

## CORRECTION

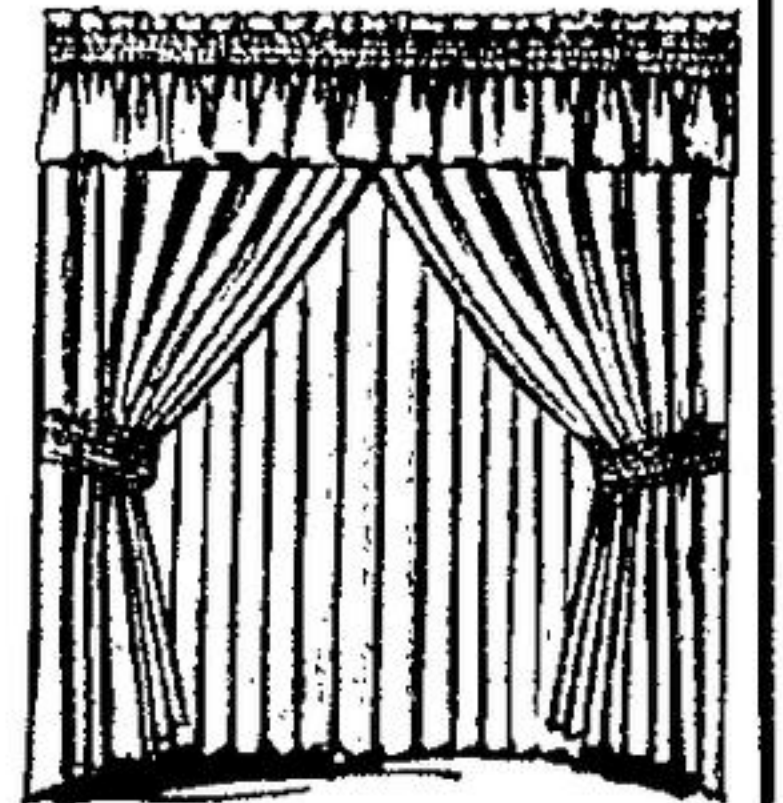
Due to an error on the part of Dominion Stores, the following prices were incorrectly advertised in this newspaper last week.

- "Pork Loin Chops", advertised at \$1.34 lb. should read \$1.38 lb.
- "Rib End Pork Loin Roast", at \$1.16 lb. should read \$1.19 lb.
- "Tenderloin End Pork Roast", at \$1.22 lb. should read \$1.26 lb.

Dominion Stores apologizes for inconvenience this error may have caused.



## WAKE UP YOUR WINDOWS WITH Custom-Made Draperies



CHOOSE YOUR MATERIAL RIGHT IN YOUR OWN HOME

WE SPECIALIZE IN COURTEOUS SERVICE, LOW PRICES, PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION

## CARPET CORNER

SHOP-AT-HOME SERVICE



853-3620

## Car lot dispute costly

A personal dispute between neighbors could cost an Acton man his livelihood.

Dave Wilson read in the Georgetown Independent he was to be given five to six months to vacate his used car business from its location on Highway 7 near Kingdom Hall, Halton Hills council had agreed with a planning board decision.

Mr. Wilson is extremely upset the matter was discussed, and a decision was reached without his knowledge. He says he was not notified his property was being discussed and was not called upon to offer his side of the story.

A letter to planning board from neighbors James and Jeannette Fiddler said they bought the property understanding a strip of land north of them would be used as an entrance road to the industrial land behind, but there are now 25 cars, and storage of buses, boats trucks and wrecks on the land. The letter claimed trees were cut and pruned on the Fiddler property without their permission.

The letter also complained of roaring engines, slamming hoods, an old car driven around the back with no muffler, an outside bell on the telephone, and cars and vans parked on the road allowance. It was because of these complaints

council decided to back planning board's decision. The planning department ruled the dealership illegal on the site as it was zoned industrial.

Mr. Wilson disputed the complaints to this newspaper saying neighbors had a grudge against him. Formerly they were friendly-lending him a saw to prune the trees between their properties, which helped clean up the place.

There are no wash or repairs on his property

and the bus on the land is his own recreational vehicle.

Mr. Wilson went on to say he has had his business at the site for two years, and had never had any complaints from anyone, including the Fiddlers. He started out with one car, he said, and has built the business up to the present 25, but there has been that amount for over one year.

The Wilson's family dog accidentally killed one of the neighbors' ducks. Ever since Mr. Wilson

said, there has been a feud going on.

Mr. Wilson is upset the neighbors did not approach him with these complaints, but is more angered at not being notified by any of the groups which openly discussed it.

Mr. Wilson has looked into renting another site to continue his business, but has failed to find a place. He will be forced to pay over \$2,000 a month to rent, or \$250,000 to buy, he said. He is afraid he will be forced out of business.



## THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON PUBLIC NOTICE

### PROPOSED PROVINCIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE REGIONAL PLAN

Please be advised that the letter from the Ministry of Housing outlining the Proposed Provincial Modifications to THE REGIONAL PLAN has been received and may be inspected at:

The Regional Clerk's Department Regional Administration Building 1151 Bronte Road Oakville, Ontario

These proposed modifications will be discussed at the November 13, 1979 meeting of the Planning Committee to be held in Committee Room No. 1 at 1:30 p.m. in the Regional Administration Building.

Anyone wishing to appear before the Planning Committee as a delegation may do so by advising the Regional Clerk's Department by 12:00 noon, November 8, 1979.

Planning Committee's recommendations on this matter will be made to Regional Council at its subsequent regular meeting of Wednesday, November 21, 1979.

Dated at Oakville this 24th day of October, 1979.

Garfield Brown Regional Clerk

TELEPHONE: 827-2151 Ext. 333