

PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



Ten Days for World Development starts February 1 and runs through February 11. It's theme this year is "The right to make a living."

The chairman of the Acton board and one of the innovators of Ten Days is Eldon Comfort of Acton. A retired schoolteacher and principal, he is now chairman of the board at Trinity United Church.

A believer in world federalism, Eldon became concerned about the plight of third world countries when he spent two years in East Africa early in the '60s. Under the sponsorship of the Canadian Department of External Affairs, Eldon, his wife Betty and three young children, then aged 9 to 15, lived in Tanzania while Eldon trained Tanzanian teachers.

At the time Eldon was teaching in Toronto and North York. The Comforts didn't move to Acton until eight years ago, when Eldon retired.

Tanzania proved enlightening. The years in Tanzania proved very enlightening for Eldon. For one thing they convinced him we don't have problems in Canada.

"By comparison our problems are trivial," he comments.

"Here we have unemployment insurance if you can't work, a pension when you're old, medicare if you get sick, free education. It's not so in Tanzania."

The Comforts lived in an open house of good standard with electricity from dark until bedtime, a country wide practice. Water had to be boiled and the Comfort children did their school lessons by correspondence. Eldon didn't want them taking school places badly needed by native Tanzanians.

"We fraternized with the Africans more than was traditional," says Eldon. He was in Tanzania at the time of independence in 1962 and found he had to work around British prejudice as well as African.

He and Betty found they had to hire two African servants even though they didn't need them. They had to help create jobs. The morning after they arrived in the settlement, the Comforts awoke to find 20 or 30 native men clamoring at their front door in Swahili wanting jobs.

Roughing it more than teaching colleagues, the Comforts often struck off in their Peugeot and travelled. They drove across the Serengeti Plain, seeing wildlife most of us just dream about. One night they awoke in their tent to find themselves part of a zebra herd. Their car was chased by an exceedingly fast elephant and they were attacked by swarming tsetse flies when their car was stuck in a swamp, fortunately with no ill effects.

Chairman of Acton Ten Days
Such feelings led him naturally to the International Affairs Committee of the United Church on his return. He was chairman of the sub-committee on Africa, interested in OXFAM, when the Ten Days program was developed seven years ago.

A church organization, Ten Days involves five churches.

In Acton, the committee consists of members from Presbyterian, Baptist, Catholic, Anglican, United and Churchill Community Churches. Eldon is not only chairman for this board but on the board for the Region of southwestern Ontario.

Several events have been planned for this year's program. A Roman Catholic priest from Chile, will be speaking at Trinity United Church, February 3 and 10 a.m. followed by a talk with St. Joseph's congregation at 11 a.m.

An essay contest is being sponsored in the schools. A panel discussion and film with local representatives of church committees will take place February 8 at Knox Church.

Eldon is busy and involved with them all. For a retired person, he doesn't sit down much, but then most caring people don't stop when they retire. Not content to farm his 30 acres on 17 Side-road and work his maple sugar bush, Eldon is also on the board to hear unemployment insurance appeals in Halton and he loved to play tennis, wearing rude tee-shirts.

Ten Days for World Development would not be so far ahead in Acton if it weren't for Eldon Comfort.



Eldon Comfort



The 1980 board of directors of the Acton Chamber of Commerce. Front row, left to right, John Allison, Bert Hinton, Dave Whiting and Janet Fleming. Back row, Elmer Dunn, Gary Barton, Jake Kuiken, Terry Grubbe, Donald Rankin and Norm Mylrea.

Hinton Chamber president

A former president of the Acton Chamber of Commerce, H.H. "Bert" Hinton, was elected president at the Chamber's annual general meeting Monday night at the Acton Legion. About 100 people attended the dinner.

John Allison is the first vice-president of the Chamber and Dave Whiting is second vice-president. Janet Fleming was returned as secretary and Steve Clarke is the new treasurer. Terry Grubbe, Norm Mylrea and Elmer Dunn continue as directors, joined by newcomers Pat Wood, Gary Barton, Donald Rankin, Angus MacPherson and Charles Auger.

Hinton said he expects to be able to build on the fine work the board of directors past-president Jake Kuiken headed and he looks forward to an "exceptional year." He called for more Chamber involvement by industry and professionals in Acton, adding he hopes to see a president's club formed in Acton to eliminate duplication of services.

Kuiken was presented with a retirement gift by Mayor Peter Pomeroy.

Reviewing the highlights of his year in office Kuiken pointed to the success of the Citizen of the Year award to Rev. Andrew McKenzie, a new loitering by-law, federal and municipal meet the candidates nights, Back to Acton Days, the phone blitz for a fund for Acton triplets born to Dave and Elly McIntyre and paid tribute to the hard work of Mrs. Fleming, whom he presented with flowers. Kuiken also thanked 1979 retiring directors Louis Charlebois, John Worthington, John McNabb, Cory Van Merkestein, David Swetman, Paul Neilsen and Kevin Conroy who retired at the end of 1978.

RCMP nab smugglers

The RCMP have charged one man and charges are pending against another in connection with commercial smuggling of Mexican jewellery and selling it in Halton Hills, Thursday.

Constable Ray Porter of the RCMP said Friday the men were caught at Murt Allison's equipment dealership on Highway 7 after a helpful citizen sent them there for the RCMP to nab.

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Rec co-ordinator likely fill

Acton has been without a recreation co-ordinator since a shake-up in the municipal department last September, but that position should be filled again some time this year. Mayor Peter Pomeroy says.

Speaking to the annual meeting of the Murray Memorial YMCA last Wednesday night, Pomeroy said there is a need for better municipal recreation service in Acton.

He said he expects the town will decide to fill the vacancy in Acton in the future. The mayor admitted council in the past felt the people filling the post were "under utilized" but he now feels someone is needed.

Pomeroy said the replacement will be stationed in Acton and handle recreation co-ordination through the Acton municipal office. The person would assist

community groups involved in recreation and handle bookings of facilities like municipal parks, buildings and schools. Pomeroy assured the audience that the town recreation department isn't there to compete with volunteer groups, but to assist them.

After both former recreation director Glen Gray and ex-Acton co-

ordinator and then Georgetown co-ordinator Anne Pickering both resigned in the fall, Acton co-ordinator Jennifer Linton was transferred to Georgetown. In a recent interview Miss Linton said there has been someone left in Acton to answer the phone, and although she has been handling Acton from her Georgetown office she still feels a co-ordinator is needed for Acton.

Burns' supper success

The honored haggis graced the dinner table at Acton's Knox Presbyterian Church at Saturday's Burns' Supper for the first time in many years.

Isobel Anderson, who read an account of the last big Burns' Supper in Acton from a 1948 issue of the Acton Free Press to the packed audience, said she thought there was a small Burns' Supper while Rev. Armstrong was at the Church. Before the evening began co-Master of Ceremonies Glen Findlay said he thought it was about 25 years since haggis was last piped into Knox.

An Acton resident and member of the Georgetown Girls' Pipeband, Linda Pilgrim, piped in the haggis and later performed a number of Scottish tunes for the gathering of about 200 people.

John Watson and Ian Findlay served as haggis bearers while Fay Robertson offered a stirring address to the haggis. Rev. John Robertson gave the Selkirk Grace.

Following the supper Mr. Findlay led a rousing singsong of old tunes including Roamin in the Gloamin, I Belong to Glasgow, A Gordon For Me, Loch Lomond, I Love a Lassie and A Wee Deoch and Doris. He also told the audience a bit of the history of Robert Burns. He said Burns was born

January 25, 1759, at Alloway, and as a hard working farmer took great delight in the pleasures of love, friendship and the companionship of the tavern. It was of these three pleasures that Burns wrote in his poems and songs. After a broken love-affair he went to Jamaica for a year and during that time his books began to sell. When he returned his Jeanie was waiting for him, they married, and had nine children. They lived in Dumfries where Burns worked as a tax collector, leaving him lots of time to write. Burns died at the early age of 37.

The Knox Choir, with soloist George Singleton and accompanist Ted Hansen, performed several numbers and Isobel MacLean sang songs of Scotland.

Rev. Robertson told an amusing tale entitled Mac Allister and Mac Sprowl thanked everyone who made the evening such a great success.

Rev. Robertson said goodbye to the crowd, noting it was an evening when "time stood still."

Mr. Findlay informed the audience that January 25 was not just Burns' birthday, but also the day long-time Acton resident Fred Wright turned 87.

The evening concluded with the guests joining hands and singing Auld Lang Syne.

A-B FOODLAND MARKET

Prices effective Jan. 30 to Feb. 2
We reserve the right to limit quantities

SHOULDER ROAST	89¢ lb.	Maxwell House Coffee	3.29
BUTT ROAST	99¢ lb.	1 lb. bag	SAVE 1.10
SHOULDER or BUTT CHOPS	\$1.19 lb.	Foodland Margarine Parchment Wrap	.48
PORK LOIN ROASTS 3-4 lb. Average		1 lb.	SAVE 7¢
Rib End	\$1.19 lb.	Gold Seal Sockeye Salmon	1.89
Tenderloin End	\$1.29 lb.	7 1/2 oz.	Javex Liquid Bleach 128 fl. oz. 1.09
LOIN PORK CHOPS		Green Giant frozen Niblet Kernel Corn	.99
Regular Chops	\$1.29 lb.	2 lb.	
Centre Cut Chops	\$1.49 lb.	FROZEN FOOD	
Brown 'n Serve Chops	\$1.69 lb.	McCann regular or crinkle cut Superfries 2 lb.	.88
Fresh SIDE SPARE RIBS	\$1.39 lb.	Green Giant kitchen cut Green Beans 2 lb.	1.28
SWEET & SOUR RIBS	\$1.59 lb.	Green Giant Fancy Sweet Peas 2 lb.	.99
Fresh Store Sliced PORK LIVER	49¢ lb.	Green Giant Mixed Vegetables 2 lb.	.99
Burn's Pride of Canada Side Bacon	1.49		
Schneider's 2lb. bucket Frozen Bucket Chicken	3.69		
Schneider's 12 oz. pkg. Head Cheese Bowls	1.19		
Schneider's 16 oz. pkg. Frozen Sausage Rolls	1.79		

Country Crips Bars 9 oz.	1.29	Mustard	.49
Shredded 4 1/2 oz.	1.09	Sponge Puddings 9 oz.	2.39
Whip Topping 7 1/2 oz.	.79	Yeast	1.49
Cascade 9 1/2 oz.	2.65	Peanut Butter 1 1/2 lb.	1.49
Ivory Liquid 1 1/2 lbs.	2.59	Cat Litter 4 lb.	2.29
Cookies 1 1/2 lb.	1.38	Corn Oil 1 liter	.88
Pampers 24 pkgs. (30 Diapers or 24 X-All-in-One)	2.98	1-1/2 lb. pieces & stems Mushrooms 10 lb. oz.	.69
Toothpaste 150 ml.	1.98	Facial Tissue 100	1.48
Deodorant 2 1/2 oz.	2.19	Bathroom Tissue 4	1.29
Sandwich Bread 24 oz.	2/1.09	Paper Towels 7	1.79
Twin Rolls 12	.59	Rice 2 lb.	2.29
Lemon Filled Buns 6	.69	Fabric Softener 128 fl. oz.	.98
Date Turnovers 9	.89	Macaroni, Spaghetti, Spaghettini 2 lb.	.98
		Spaghetti Sauce 28 fl. oz.	.98
		Hot Chocolate 500 g.	2.29

Fresh Produce

U.S. No. 1 Lettuce	2/1.00
U.S. No. 1 Large Size Celery Stalks	.69
U.S. No. 1 1 lb. pkg. Cello Radish	2/1.00
U.S. No. 1 Green Onions	2/49
U.S. No. 1 Cucumber	3/1.00

WEDDING INVITATIONS

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