

# PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



Bob Stewart may be 80 years old but he's still a flirt—and a charming flirt to boot. Originally an Acton lad, employed by the Acton Free Press in his youth, he's back home in Acton after gallivanting all over with the Bell Telephone Company. He's been retired 15 years and has been living on Rosemary Road for seven years, gardening, raising geraniums and still getting into mischief. I visited Bob Stewart to do a story on his basement full of geraniums and ended getting an interesting story of a fascinating, lively man. Born in the lovely red brick house on Highway 25 south of 25 Sideroad, Bob spent his youth until World War I around town. He tells stories of Acton's early days when the century was new, going to the Stone School with kids who are now Acton's seniors, learning from Miss Minnie Bennett. Miss Bennett was always proud of her zero failure rate, getting pupils through that last year of public school. Bob is very proud that he was almost her only failure—he left school before he could fail, he says. In 1913 he went to work for H.P. Moore, that grand old man, editor of the Free Press. Every morning at 6.30 he stoked the fires and readied the offices for the day's business. He was there two-and-a-half-years and received \$1.50 a week during the first year, with a raise of a dollar a week for each successive year.

World War I intervened and off went young Bob to serve three years. Returning home in 1919 in one piece, he once more went back to the Free Press working with Arlof Dills, the new editor. By 1920 Bob was with the Bell Telephone and there he stayed for 45 years, travelling the country.

Another three years were spent serving in World War II, being lent to the Canadian Air Force to build telephone lines in Newfoundland. Twenty-six years were spent in Peterborough with wife Ruth, three sons and two daughters. (The Stewarts now have 11 grandchildren.) Since returning to the home of his youth, Bob has taken a real interest in gardening. He maintains he gardened in Peterborough, but his wife Ruth says all he ever did was "pull up the perennials I planted."

The Rosemary Road house sports a brick drive laid brick by brick by Bob three years ago. An immaculate lawn, symmetrical flower beds, and geometric paths form a setting for the famous geraniums which make up the greater part of the Stewart garden.

Bob got the bug a few years ago back when he started hauling his plants indoors in the fall. One thing led to another and now he's got 200 geraniums arrayed on swinging tables under fluorescent light.

He's pinching them like mad trying to keep the blooms off before they go outside—they're bushier that way.

His varieties include all colours from white, coral, pink and red to apple blossom and fuschia. Some are kept for their variegated foliage a few are lemon-scented.

"You gotta feed them", says Bob with emphasis.

He feeds his plants so well they look like small bushes. And he plays music for them through a speaker wired to the family room stereo. He also talks to them, he says.

Although the house is full of plants, all types as well as blooming geraniums, Bob is most pleased when he gets to put his basement plants in the garden and stands back to watch them burst in bloom.

"They flower better outside." Knowing the tender loving care they receive from their master, Bob Stewart's geraniums will flower well anywhere.



Bob Stewart

## Educators aiming for two-year pact

A two-year contract will be the result of a slint of negotiations between a mediator-arbitrator and Halton's high school educators.

A date is to be set for the approximately week long of contract talks between the Halton Board of Education and District 9 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF).

A two-year contract, expiring on Aug. 31, 1981, will result from the talks. Both sides in the seven-month dispute voted to send it to binding arbitration.

Mediator-arbitrator Martin Teplicky will work the parties through to conclusion on as many outstanding issues as possible. If there is a

Famed Canadian Sir Donald Mann was born on March 23, 1858, just outside Acton.

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# Need more martin houses keep Acton from being bugged

by Jennifer Barr  
Spring is here and any minute now Acton residents will start being eaten alive by mosquitoes. It's the same every year.

Sprays, electric bug snappers, and bug repellants are used to relieve the plague but it's still virtually impossible to garden after dusk without slapping and swatting the minute pests.

One Acton resident who thinks she has the answer to the mosquito problem is Elizabeth Snels of Mill Street West who has purchased a martin house.

These multi-family bird houses attract the purple martin in great numbers, and the only thing a purple martin snacks on is mosquitoes and other flying pests.

Gus and Ellie Snels live in an area plagued with mosquitoes and hope to spread the word of the

martins' efficiency to encourage their neighbours and other Actonians in the endeavor.

They site the example of a town in Illinois that was so inundated with the biting bugs all residents purchased martin houses and a local service club erected a large martin complex in the town square. By fall fair time the same year, the town's huge standing order of mosquito spray was cancelled—the town was virtually mosquito-free.

If Acton residents cooperate and erect martin houses in their back yards, the Snels feel Acton would become bugless as well.

Martin houses can be purchased from a variety of manufacturers. It's possible to make your own but the Snels say the aluminium ones are lighter to handle, maintenance free and stur-



Karen Vanitem and Carla Snels lower their martin house to check the nestboxes. Purple martins eat their weight in mosquitoes every day and the Snels family of Mill Street West intend to have a mosquito-free summer.

established, they'll return every spring.

One martin can eat up to a thousand flying insects a day. If a homeowner has a 10-15 family house raising one setting of three or four young per season, it's easy to see how few biting bugs will be around one house.

Another advantage of having the pleasant birds around is their spiritly songs and chirping. They are very clean birds, re-



Janet Flemming and John Allinson of the Acton Chamber of Commerce present Jim Beaulieu (Centre) with a plant to mark the opening of Acton Photo and Camera Shop in Leathertown.

## New camera store

Acton has a camera shop thanks to Jim Beaulieu who has recently opened the Acton Photo and Camera Shop in Leathertown.

The first shop to locate in downtown's newest collection of shops, Leathertown, on the corner of Willow and Mill Streets in the old Pro Hardware building, the camera shop features much more than picture-taking equipment.

A freelance photographer from Limehouse, Jim has worked with photographic studios and has run a photo store in Mississauga. This is his first venture with his own store.

A two year course in camera repair at Humber College qualifies Jim to service cameras as well as sell them. In addition to a full line of cameras, Jim carries a wide variety of photographic accessories. He says "if I haven't got it I'll get it for you fast."

The Acton Photo and Camera Shop features instant passport photos shot with a special lighting technique that Jim says "at least makes you look half-decent".

Jim is proud he can offer one day film processing on most colour film.

He still photographs weddings, family por-

traits and children's photos as well as volunteer work for social services.

An active member of the Maple Avenue Baptist Church in Georgetown, Jim says God is his silent partner.

"This business is totally committed to God. We opened all the doors. My customers can expect nothing but honesty (from me), I'm a straight shooter."

Jim states he came to Acton because he saw the potential of the town. His wife Catherine is a school teacher and is expecting the couple's second child. Their first, a daughter Aimee Catherine, is 3½ years old.

## Speeding big problem

Something has to be done about speeding on a number of long streets in Acton Councillor Ed Wood told Halton Hills council Monday night.

He noted a resident from the Churchill Road North and Norman Avenue area came to the Ward One councillors' drop-in Friday complaining about the speeding. The resident, Tom Oliver, reported a child was hit by a fast moving car last week after he rode his bike out from between two parked cars on Churchill Road North. Fortunately the child wasn't hurt.

The problem is particularly bad because a rise north of Norman Avenue creates poor visibility and speeding cars make the situation all the more dangerous. Oliver suggested a stop sign is needed at Churchill Road North and Norman Avenue and noted there have been a number of accidents in the area causing property damage and it is only a matter of time before a child is badly hurt or killed.

Firefighters hustled through seven fire calls since Saturday. None of them were major. Firefighters were called twice to extinguish grass fires on Dr. David Van Der Bent's property Monday morning.

There were two car fires. About \$600 in damage resulted in the one at 81 Nelson Ct. Saturday afternoon. The fire started in the distributor wires.

Sunday there was a \$300 car fire on 25 Sideroad.

There were two other grass fires on Main St. S. on Saturday.

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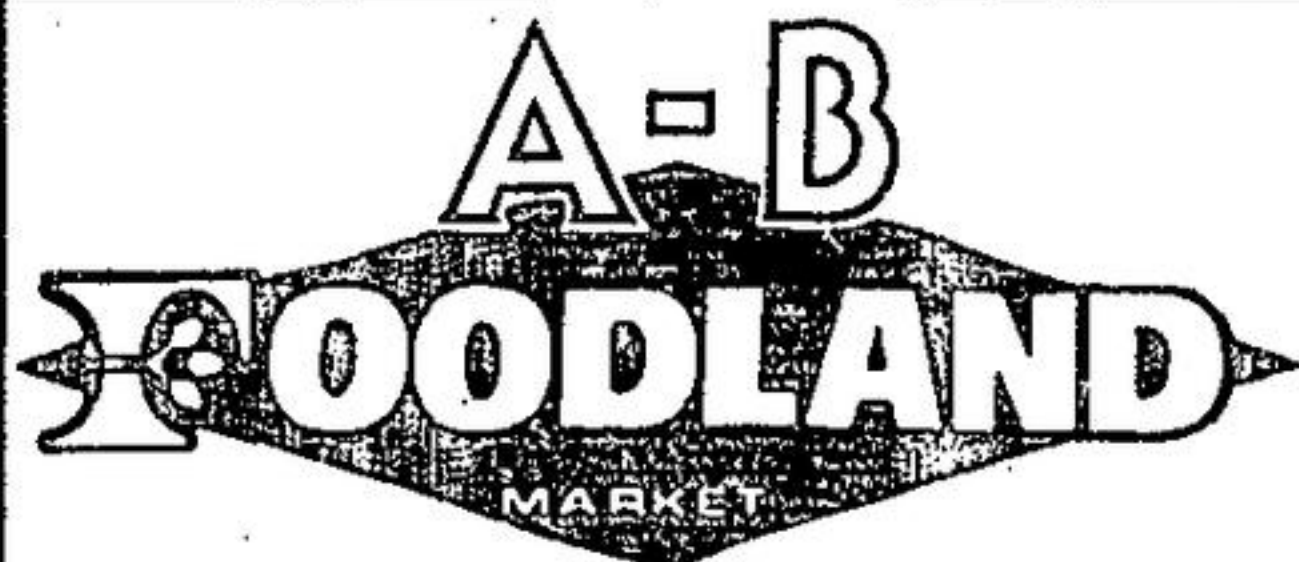
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Glad economy garbage bags #2 .....20s **2.88**  
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new size ex absorbent diapers Pampers .....60s **7.79**  
Chex king size detergent .....6 L **3.59**  
Habitant pea or veg soup .....28 fl oz **.68**  
Salada tea bags .....120s **3.59**  
McNair choc flavoured chips baking .....340 g **1.09**  
Kellogg's Special K .....475g **1.75**  
Kellogg's Raisin Bran .....525 g **1.39**  
assorted flavours unit **Kool Aid** .....8 g **2.25**  
sugar sweet assorted flavours **Kool Aid** .....4 oz **2.79**  
Facelle-Royale 4 roll pkg toilet tissue .....1.29  
Silverwood 2 lit carton ice cream .....2.59  
Ivory liquid detergent .....32 fl oz **1.69**

19 fl. oz. Aylmer choice  
**tomatoes**  
**.59**

Clark with pork 14 oz.  
**beans**  
**.49**

Aylmer fancy rosebud beets .....19 fl oz **2.79**  
Aylmer choice cream style corn .....19 fl oz **.48**  
Aylmer choice with carrots peas .....19 fl oz **2.89**  
Aylmer straw or rasp jam .....1.29  
Purina dry dog chow .....8 kg **6.89**  
Shariff instant mashed potatoes .....500 g **1.29**  
Weston plain crusty bread .....24 oz **.59**  
Weston plain filled buns .....6s **.79**  
Downy fabric softener .....3 L **3.49**  
Palanda crushed light or pineapple sliced .....9 oz **.68**  
Dietrich Country Style rolls 12's .....**.69**  
Granny's butter tarts 12's .....**1.29**  
Aylmer 15 oz jar gherkin pickles .....**.79**  
Aylmer 48 oz tin tomato juice .....**.79**  
Pantry Shelf 10 oz tin whole mushrooms .....**.79**

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**cake**  
**1.59**

ea.  
Totinos crispy deluxe or pepperoni 4 pack 360 & 370 g.  
**pizza**  
**1.68**

Maple Leaf 175 g pkg. Tendersweet ham steaks .....**1.49**  
Maple Leaf assorted varieties 500 g pkg side bacon .....**1.49**  
New Zealand frozen whole or half Spring leg o lamb .....lb. **1.89**

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