

PROFILES

with

Jennifer Barr



Acton is thinking fall fair at this time of year and what nicer way to get us in the mood than a profile on 1979 Miss Acton Fall Fair Cathy McGrath.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tim McGrath of York House, Acton, and one of 10 children, Cathy is the epitome of a fall fair queen.

Natural, charming, and sunny she would convince even the most ardent women's lib types that beauty contests are not altogether bad.

Of course, the Miss Acton Fall Fair contest is not a beauty contest, as such. The girls wear street dresses and are judged on poise, speaking voice and general intelligence as well as natural physical appearance. Miss Acton Fall Fair must be a wholesome and healthy girl—and Cathy McGrath is certainly that.

Cathy says she has had a "great" year as Miss Acton Fair and she would like to encourage any girls thinking about going in this year's contest to go ahead—"It's lots of fun", she says.

The lithe honey-blonde, Cathy had little thought of entering the contest until her sister Tina, who had also entered, persuaded her. At the time Cathy was 18 and a grade 13 student at Bishop MacDonnell High School in Guelph. In a few days she will start her first year at the University of Guelph headed for a Master of Science degree and possibly a veterinary degree.

When it was announced that Cathy was to be the new Miss Acton Fair she says she was surprised and happy. She says sister Tina was thrilled.

"I said to myself 'okay I'm here to win but if I lose I'm going to have a good time'."

CNE Sweetheart Contest
It was the same attitude that took Cathy into the CNE Sweetheart contest for fall fair queens this past August.

"Of course I wanted to win but it was a good experience."

Cathy didn't win but she had a marvelous time with the 103 girls in the contest.

The contest really started in February at the Fall Fair convention at the Royal York in Toronto. The four day event taught Cathy a great deal as she was coached in poise, walking and general stage presence.

The day of the CNE Sweetheart contest, the McGrath car broke down and she was two hours late, arriving somewhat frazzled. Again she was trained in proper contest manner, taught how to walk and sit.

The contest consisted of a short interview with a panel of judges and a stage walk in streetlength dresses—no bathing suits. The girls also had to write a short biography and have a speech with an agricultural theme ready in case they were chosen as one of the ten finalists.

Cathy was very enthusiastic about the contest feeling it was "well-done". She enjoyed the luncheons, dinners, picture taking and general fuss—what girls wouldn't?

Other activities Cathy has attended in her role as Miss Acton Fair have included Back to Acton Days, the Beardmore Christmas Party, and a variety of fair oriented functions.

"I get recognized on the street, people are really nice," says Cathy in amazement.

Cathy is a real outdoors girl, a low key natural. Her big love is her horse Evel although at the time of interviewing she was suffering from a nasty wound on her foot caused by Evel's big hooves.

"He didn't mean it, he was scared", she excuses him.

Cathy shows her big hunter which she keeps at a stable near Guelph. The family have two horses and a lively boxer dog called Butch.

Sports are another big plus in Cathy's life. She plays baseball, volleyball, badminton and a wide variety of school sports.

"I just like being out there."

She worked this past summer at Acton Restaurant.

Two of her five sisters, Lisa and Tina took baton lessons in Toronto with Cathy for ten years. The whole McGrath family are singers, frequently entertaining senior citizens groups and filling St. Joseph's Church with their voices. They also fill a pew!

With an infectious grin, Cathy summarizes her year as reigning Miss Acton Fair.

"It's something to tell my grandchildren."



Cathy McGrath

Ebenezer

by Mrs. R. McLean

Sunday School resumed for the fall Sunday, under the superintendency of Mrs. Mildred Ward. A corn roast was held Friday night at 6:30 p.m. at John

Fisher bows out of race



Betty Fisher

Acton will have a brand new trustee on Halton Board of Education after the November 10 election

since incumbent Betty Fisher has changed her mind about running for the new ward one seat.

A Georgetown resident, Fisher won the combined Acton-Esqueing seat in the last election, narrowly defeating incumbent Bert Hinton and Esqueing resident Pam Sheldon.

Fisher announced two weeks ago she would run for the new Acton seat but revealed Monday a change of plans which will pit her against incumbent Barry Shepherd for the single Georgetown seat for wards three and four.

Assessment redistribution stripped Burlington of one of its eight seats on the 20 seat board and gave Halton Hills a third seat. Council decided to leave the wards three and four seat combined and split the ward one and two seat so both Acton and Esqueing would have their own representatives.

Fisher said she is coming home to Georgetown to run, noting she has lived there for 13 years and her children go to school there.

She said she has been proud to represent Acton and Esqueing, but since now both wards will have their own representatives on the board she believes it is only fair to give Acton the opportunity to choose a trustee from their own community. She said she is sensitive to Acton's community pride.



It's our birthday! And to help celebrate a balloon for everyone. Acton's favorite triplets, the McIntyre boys held their very first birthday party Monday night. Mom and Dad, Elly and David McIntyre were invited of course. From left to right, Phillip, Derrick and Brian. Or is that Brian, Derrick and Phillip. . . ?

Celebrates 100th birthday Sunday

by Helen Murray

An ill child postponed a planned trip to North America for Mrs. Margaret Buchanan in 1912, and made it possible for her to celebrate her 100th birthday on Sunday.

Mrs. Buchanan, of Maple View Lodge, was planning to journey to her new home from Scotland, on the ill-fated Titanic. Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, her baby, Andrew, became ill and was unable to leave the country. Mrs. Buchanan was forced to cancel her plans to sail in April of 1912.

She was able to sail later that year to join her husband Andrew, already in New York awaiting her arrival.

On September 8, 1880, Margaret Carrolle was born to James Carrolle and Elaine Jane MacKay, in the county of Wigtown, District of Stranraer, in Scotland. At a very young age, young Margaret would take fresh butter and cheese she had made herself, to the nearby lords' and ladies' castles each morning. She was up at 4 a.m. milking cows making the dairy products herself.

For over 12 years, the young lass was a regular face in a nearby castle frequented by Queen Victoria. Years later she would relate to her grandchildren how she was often caught sneaking around parts of the castle where the "help" weren't welcome.

Mrs. Buchanan is full of hundreds of stories of the past—after all, she lived through the reign of six kings and queens. However, the test of time has stolen most of the memories for her and it is up to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren to pass them on. They try, but admit the tales are not the same as when Granny tells them.

Details of her life are sketchy for many years. One thing that is for sure however is that she and her husband moved to Acton at least 67 years ago. Andrew worked until his retirement in the beam-house at Beardmore Tannery. The couple had three children, Andrew, now of Guelph, William, deceased, and Margaret (Gamsby) now of Saskatoon. When he died in 1955, Margaret moved in with son William at R.R. 2, Acton, where she helped raise four grandchildren.

Mrs. William Buchanan, her daughter-in-law, credits Mrs. Buchanan's long life with having children around her entire life.

Margaret never saw her parents again after that day in 1912 when she bade them farewell. They too enjoyed a long full life, although it is not known exactly how old they were when they died. In 1956, she returned to her homeland and was satisfied with herself and her life. She has never wanted to go back since.

A great babysitter and dishwasher, Mrs. Buchanan was also an avid knitter, crocheter and embroiderer. She belonged to the Acton W.I., the Legion Ladies Auxiliary and Knox Presbyterian Church.

The Legion Ladies' Auxiliary contributed \$100 towards a birthday party at the Lodge Sunday. Mrs. Buchanan, and Margaret's daughter, Margaret Gamsby, as well as Maple View Lodge all made the day possible. The Buchanan family and Mrs. Gamsby served supper to the 13 residents of the home and the staff later in the evening.

Mrs. Buchanan is the first resident of the Lodge to reach her 100th birthday. Owner and operator Joan Waldie noted everyone was very excited about the milestone and hopes there are many more.

Fall fair . . . (Continued from page 1)

Light horses will be competing all day on the track and this traditional show includes harness horses and ponies and draft classes. Master Feeds six horse Percheron team will be showing.

Saturday is beef day with hundreds of fine beef cattle being shown in addition to the junior 4H show. President Brian Evans reports he expects five herds of belted Galloways to be showing this year. Shorthorn herds are even coming from Saskatchewan.

A model boat show, display and races will be held on the water both Saturday and Sunday. An expected 25 entrants will compete in five classes. The event is organized by the Toronto Model Power Boat Club.

Sheep will be shown Saturday afternoon and entries are up this year. Classes are expected to be well-filled.

Always a grand event, the baby show starts at 1.30 p.m. in the arena. Over 100 babies are expected to compete.

Old tyme fiddlers in the Old Tyme Fiddlers Contest will hope to win a portion of the \$1,200 in prize money. The contest will begin at 6 p.m.

Saturday night, all who are still walking are invited to attend the Fall Fair dance at the Acton Curling Club, dancing to B. J. Wright and his band.

Sunday, the gates open at noon on a wide array of activities.

Both English and Western senior horse shows will be going on in various rings all afternoon.

Rabbits will be judged and shown in the poultry barn. Pigs will be also judged.

The mini and antique tractor pull starts at 1 p.m. on the track.

At the same time the waterball contest splashes into being at the rear of the park.

The dairy show will take place, attracting some of the finest Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey, Ayrshire and Milking Shorthorn cattle in the province.

Woolly pets of all shapes and sizes can be seen in the arms of their small owners as they are judged for the big pet contest.

Woolly men will be seen tugging their hearts out in the centre of the grounds as tug-of-war teams see who is the strongest.

The Royal City Ambassadors, a chorus of 55 barber shop singers from Guelph, will be entertaining in the arena at 2 p.m.

LDC decision scuttles Houston family's plans

An Acton woman who failed to gain a severance for a house from Halton's Land Division Committee (LDC) was more than disappointed.

"I think it's disgusting. I can't understand it," said RR 4 resident Susan Houston last week. It was the second appearance for Houston at the committee this year.

At the February meeting LDC members wanted proof that the Houston property, on Highway 25, was two separate parcels. Houston was unable to supply that information in writing. However, she's convinced that there once was two properties.

"We know of four houses on the 52 acres." She went on to indicate that years ago there was a family separation which was unfortunately not registered. The property was bought with one deed.

In between the older owners and the Houstons was another owner, Rolling Acres Farms, which received a separation from the committee five years ago.

Houston first applied for a technical separation and then last week asked for one as a family consideration. The technical severance would give Houston what Rolling Acres had.

The Rolling Acres separation, however, was denied by the Ontario Municipal Board in 1977. No reason was given.

"It seems like a natural separation, but we have the problem of precedent when the OMB denied it," said LDC member George Harrington.

Houston has recourse to appeal the LDC decision to the OMB.

Aside from the lack of evidence concerning the question of two lots on the property, Houston was able to parry contrary reports from government authorities.

She had, in fact, an old letter from John Hall, planner with the Halton Region Conservation Authority which gave a favorable report on the property. The letter was significant because a more recent report from the same man at the same authority was not in favor of the application.

Traffic mess after school

The corner of River and Willow Streets is a traffic mess at the end of each school day Robert Little principal Ron Chatten told Councillors Terry Grubbe and Ross Knechtel at Friday's drop-in.

Because buses arrive at different times in the morning it isn't a problem, but at the end of the school day the corner is a mess with five buses loading, students walking and parents waiting to pick their children up.

Chatten has suggested parking be prohibited from the corner of Willow about half-way down the library parking lot on River from 3-4 p.m. Monday to Fridays. Chatten

also urged there be no stopping allowed on the other side of the street.

There are two buses from Kingham, two for St. Joseph's and one Little bus for the country students all jammed into the area at Willow and River at the bridge from the school yards. That is the only place where the two schools where buses can load and unload.

"It's a bad scene," Chatten said of the traffic jam after classes.

Knechtel said no parking on either side of River should be considered for 3-4 p.m.

He and Grubbe will take the problem up with the town engineers.

Friends-in-Deed Attended corn roast

by Mrs. Emily Price
Organizations are starting up again for fall, and ours will be too on Sept. 30. Our June meeting closed with a pot-luck supper and a good attendance.

On August 24, some members of our group went to the Fergus Steelworkers' Hall and enjoyed a corn roast. Handicapped organizations from Stratford, Guelph, and Fergus joined in for a singsong and heard guest speaker Bob Waterhouse, secretary for the Social Services Development in Toronto. He outlined the many benefits coming through for the handicapped such as employment and compensation. He also mentioned other advantages for the

handicapped to be recognized as being an individual capable of doing most anything a person with all their faculties can do and doing a job as well as anyone else. It brings dignity to that individual. Anyone wanting information can write him at 700 Bay St. 3rd Floor, Toronto.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday September 30 at 7.30 p.m. at M.Z. Bennett school. An invitation is extended to any adult handicapped people.

There will be no handicapped swimming until Sept. 21 while repairs and cleaning are being done to the pool. We are still saving Dominion and Zehrs tapes and hope to soon have enough for a wheelchair.

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Bus safety

The Canada Safety Council has declared Sept. 24 to 30 School Bus Safety Week.

This is the second annual campaign which is designed to educate everyone about the need for understanding the problems faced by school bus drivers.

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Maplehurst escapees

Halton Regional Police are searching for two escapees from Maplehurst in Milton, believed to be in the area.

Police say Glen VanderBrook, 19 and Steven Lloyd, 20, disappeared while in a work party at Bronte and Derry Road in Milton. VanderBrook is 5'11", 155 pounds with brown hair. Lloyd is 5'7", 160 pounds and also has brown hair. Lloyd was serving time for armed robbery while VanderBrook was convicted on several break and enter incidents.