

# PROFILES



with

Jennifer Barr

Liverpool gave birth to the Beatles and Acton has delivered a new musical group who hope to make it to the top with their newly released single.

The group, consisting of three Acton lads and a Cambridge guitarist, goes by the unlikely name of Stranger. It's a name you will be hearing considerably more of as group vocalist Ian Stone and drummer-manager Clive Diggins steer the quartet straight to the top.

Confidence is this group's number one talent, although they certainly have a good sound to back up their hopes.

Their first record, a haunting song described as "rhythmic rock with latin-blues overtones", features a number titled "Inflation" written and sung by Ian who says his girlfriend Carri Russiani inspired the idea (the singer couldn't cope with inflation if "it hadn't been for you girl").

On the flip side is a lively pop rock number "So Much Trouble", also written and sung by Ian. Ian plays rhythm guitar, Clive Diggins drums, Bobby Wilhelm lead guitar and Dave Black bass.

Canadian talent Ian and Clive have been raised in Acton and now live in Fergus. Ian is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Stone, Clive's father Bill Diggins may play sax on the group's planned album.

Both young men have been playing all their conscious lives. I remember Ian strumming guitar and singing to rhythmic spoons (for real) at parties. Clive started playing on a \$35 set of drums at the age of 12. Now his drums cost \$4,000.

Clive and Ian have been playing together for two years and have dreamed of doing their own music since the days when they are part of the D.W. Blues band playing the hotel circuit.

Between them they have polished songs that Ian has had running around in his head for years - they've also found time to write new pieces in collaboration.

Bobby Wilhelm of Cambridge has been playing for five years and comes from the group Chevy Dirt. He plays solo in "So Much Trouble" and is told he sounds "evil" (for non-music fans, this is a compliment).

Dave Black hails from Acton and manages Main Street Billiards. He has only played with the group for this record and since left.

After two years of hard work and raising money, Stranger is able to release their first record on November 25.

It took 30 hours of recording time to produce, most of it at odd midnight hours at Captain Audio Studios in Toronto - always strapped for money, the group chose the cheaper studio rental times.

Going for broke Clive is full-time manager and is running around southern Ontario making sure everyone hears the sound of Stranger before they get much older. Radio stations have received 170 copies of the record.

The production of 1,000 records is financed by the group, who are looking for a distributor and hope to get backing for their next project - an album.

"I sang 'Inflation' with two empty pockets," grins Ian. "I was going for broke".

The group have enough material for one and a half albums on tape and they're hoping interest in the single will generate backers.

"We'll do it without backing, but it'll take longer - we have some good music," Ian comments.

Clive and Ian have what it takes to succeed - absolute belief in their inevitable success.

"We're the next big one (recording group) around", they agree.

"We're ready for the top" states Clive with authority. "We've got enough good music to do it".

For those interested in acquiring a copy of Stranger's first record, drop a line to: Grand River Records, Box 249, Fergus, Ont. Add some real Canadian talent to your vinyl collection.



Dave Black, Ian Stone, Clive Diggins and Bobby Wilhelm of Stranger. Photo courtesy Grand River Records

## Halton Hills Credit Union sold

Halton Hills Credit Union is slated to disappear and become a branch of Halton Community Credit Union by

the start of the new year. Last Wednesday night, December 10, the membership of Halton Hills Credit Union ap-

proved the purchase and sale of the business to Halton Community Credit Union at a special meeting. Halton Com-

munity Credit Union has its head office in Milton with branches in Milton, Georgetown and Oak-

ville. Halton Hills Credit Union general manager Bill Lavergne said the merger will result in a trimming of operating costs and ensure the credit union continues as a business in Acton.

He said hopefully all arrangements involved in the purchase and sale will be completed by January 1, 1981.

The name of the credit union at 273 Queen St. will become Halton Community Credit Union and the operation in Acton will be that firm's fourth branch.

"It (the purchase and sale) is a good thing. It is a trend now for smaller credit unions to amalgamate with larger credit unions."

Basically there will be no changes in the operation here in Acton, though there will be some expansion of services.

The forerunner of Halton Hills Credit Union, Acton Community Credit Union was born in December 1963. The name was changed to Halton Hills Credit Union in December of 1973.

## Town hall fund over \$33,000

Over \$33,000 has been raised so far for the restoration of the Acton town hall Halton Hills council learned Monday night.

## Town backs surcharge

Halton Hills wants the region to continue charging for sewer services in the form of a sewer surcharge on water bills.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy reported to Halton Hills council Monday on the latest region report on water and sewer rates.

He noted the region says sewer charges could be collected in each area municipality through a sewer surcharge, a tax over the entire town or a tax just on urban residents.

Until this year sewer services were collected through an urban tax levy. Since the equalization of water and sewer rates across Halton sewer charges have been part of water bills.

Council decided it prefers the sewer surcharge on water bills method of collecting for sewer services.

so far "assured" for the town hall.

The financial statement he provided shows sale of Actario tickets has brought in \$54,100 while the lottery has liabilities for 37 weekly \$350 draws and 12 trip prizes totalling \$27,350.

Elliot described Actario as a "qualified success." If all 1,000 tickets had been sold he said Actario could be branded an "unqualified success." Elliot added as the price goes down each month more Actario tickets are sold, a few more each week, though organizers would like to see them selling more briskly. But, every ticket that is sold now is clear profit.

Besides the prizes Actario must still pay for lottery licence fees, bonus prizes and a five

per cent commission to organizations which sold tickets.

The restoration committee has raised 6,866.66, including \$2,600 in pledges like Mayor Peter Pomeroy's donation, which will be turned in once total funding is secured or the restoration project begins, Elliot noted.

Sale of plates and hangers, which have been brisk, will bring in at least another \$189. Elliot observed and prints, 700 of which will be sold for \$3 each, will raise another \$2,100.

Methods of getting the prints on sale are being explored now by the committee.

The aim was to raise \$50,000 so the restoration fund is over half way to the goal.



Over \$1,000 raised

Draws raised over \$1,000 for school field trips at Saturday's M.Z. Bennett parent-teachers' association bazaar. Here president Lynn Koprowski makes a draw for a fruit package held by principal Doug Magwood.

# Season's Greetings

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Town Club 4 lb. Average

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Wed., Thurs., Fri., Dec. 17, 18, 19 9 a.m.-9 p.m. ★ Sat., Dec. 20 9-6 ★ Sun., Dec. 21 12-5  
Mon., Tues., Dec. 22, 23, 9-9 ★ Wed., Dec. 24 9-5 ★ Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day

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# A-B WOODLAND MARKET

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• CHRISTMAS STORE HOURS •  
December 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 30 - 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
December 24, 27, 29, 31 - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
December 25 & 26, Jan. 1 - CLOSED  
January 2 - 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.