

# PROFILES

with

Jennifer Barr



Aaron, son of Jacob, lives in Israel, on the outskirts of Bethlehem and recently experienced a "close encounter of the third kind."

His out-of-this-world experience is best described in his own words.

"I am Aaron. I have been a shepherd most of my sixteen years of life. But now, after the happening some time ago, I am not so sure I want to remain in the mountains with my sheep."

"That night and the strange things that happened to me—to my brothers—have made me curiously restless. I feel as if I have to travel—follow something I cannot explain."

"But I digress. First I must tell you of my life."

"As the sixth son of my father Jacob and the second son of my mother Naomi, it was pre-destined I become a shepherd. The younger and lesser sons of our tribe are chosen to mind the animals on which our life depends. Although I would prefer to be a scribe such as my older brother Joshua, or an important leader like my cousin Joachim, I am content with my lot."

"It is a responsible job, caring for the tribe flocks. Without shepherds, the fat-tail beasts with little brain, would fall prey to the wild lion, bear or jackal."

"The five of us who mind the sheep consist of my older brother, Ephraim, and three tribe brothers who have taught me the trade. I am the youngest."

"Every morning I rise, don my heavy goats-wool great cloak, fastening it to my head with the special circlet of goats hair given to me by my mother, and hasten to the hills and the flocks. Some nights I stay all night watching the flock. Other nights, I may come home at sunset and my brothers will take my place."

"Before I proceed to the hills I must remember to attach my flute and my sling to my girdle and take up my staff. Without my staff and sling, I would be helpless against prey animals. Without my flute, I would be miserable."

"I also take up a small pouch containing unleavened bread, olives and a small vial of olive oil. The food I supplement with wild fruit for my mid-day meal. The oil is to anoint the many scratches we shepherds suffer in the course of our day."

"All day we are busy. Our lands are sparse and we must lead the flocks to fertile valleys where the grass is sweet and still waters run. We have to be alert for predators lurking in the rocky crevices and paths. Many days lambs become lost and we must find them before they are eaten."

## Police plan...

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and utilize the citizens to cut crime.

Dobertien said he felt the concerns he has voiced represent the view of 99 per cent of Actonians.

Harding said he and the force would like to deal directly with the residents, but if Dobertien and others in the community must be the medium to make the police aware of concerns then that would be fine. He added people sometimes talk to their councillors and urged the councillors take complaints and concerns they hear to Inspector Ray Andrews who has been appointed to communicate with councils in Halton.

Harding said he doesn't really care how the force finds out Acton's feelings but, "we must hear people's concerns and complaints or we can't tailor our service to the community needs."

All three councillors were impressed with the efforts Harding and the force are making to improve the force and its image here.

They said they hoped Actonians would turn out for the open house in large numbers so the police will know the people are serious about their complaints and concerns.

Following the meeting Dobertien said he was "encouraged."

"The police have put the ball in our court now. We must go to the meeting next month in larger numbers and voice our concerns. It's all up to the people of Acton now."

Since the controversy erupted last month he thinks residents are noticing the police more and the heat is on the officers here. What people are seeing more these days are the police doing their job.

"On the surface it certainly seems they are doing a better job."

"You have to sell yourselves to the people," Dobertien urged. "Do some PR. Be salesmen."

Improving police relations will have to start at the grass roots, Grubbe, a supporter of the police who says she also sees some problems, stated.

She suggested the force publish a phone number for the Acton police station so residents can call and talk to specific officers once they get to know them. She also thought there should be a supervisory officer on duty at the Acton office part of each day.

Harding again said he fully understands why people want the station open more hours. "It's a comfort blanket. People won't use it much and it is an expensive comfort blanket, but perhaps for Acton it would be the right thing to do to spend money on a comfort blanket. Maybe the region should be looking at spending the money to extend the hours of operation of the Acton office."

Grubbe said residents assume there won't be anyone at the police office and so don't stop by. The police should be informing people of the times officers will be in the office. She also urged the force consult with Doris Townsley who is the office receptionist and must be hearing complaints and concerns from the public.

The police will make more use of the bulletin board outside the station and take up VanMerkestein's offer to use his store window for displays, Harding said. Also, Harding promised, the force's new trailer for mobile displays will visit Acton next year.

"It is a good life and a pleasant one. I was quite at peace until the happening that night. I must tell you."

"It was a clear night close to the midwinter solstice. It was cool and we shepherds had our cloaks pulled fast around us. I was to stay all night but I did not mind. The stars were bright and I welcomed the chance to play my flute."

"All was quiet when suddenly a voice came out of the sky. At first we all thought it was one of the others having a dream. But the voice did not belong to any of us. It came from the clouds."

"We saw a light filling the sky as if the sun was rising, but we knew it was midnight. I was very frightened. At first I thought some strange things were inside my head until I saw my brothers so afraid also."

"The light took on a shape, the shape of a robed man, and a voice told us not to be afraid. He said he brought us great news and I'll not forget the sound of his voice or his words. He said,

"For this day is born to you a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

"He directed us to go and find the child lying in a manger wrapped in swaddling bands."

"Just then the whole heavens were split and a host of angels sang to the glory of God in the highest, wishing peace on earth."

"We were as if turned to stone, so afraid were we."

"The sky returned to normal and we gathered together, marvelling at the wondrous event. Jonas said we must go and find this special babe but the remainder of us were concerned about the sheep."

"It was decided I would remain with the flock but I felt a stirring in my breast and knew I had to go. It was against our ways but we all left the flock and started down the hill together. We didn't know where we were going but thought we would start looking near the town."

Bethlehem is not large and we knew we would find a just-born babe before daybreak.

"As we came down from the hills, Jacob pointed out a bright star hanging low in the sky. It was one we hadn't seen before."

"Perhaps it has something to do with our special babe," he said.

"We all agreed to follow the star and see what we could find."

"As we approached the outskirts the star seemed to be suspended over a building. We followed and found ourselves stumbling through an alleyway behind an inn toward a small roughly built stable."

"Not knowing what to do we gathered outside the stable door talking low. Suddenly the door was pulled open and a worried man peered out demanding of us our business."

"Jacob explained our errand and asked if a new babe was born."

"Yes," replied the man with reluctance.

"Is it a man-child of the House of David?"

"The man appeared afraid and tried to shut the door."

"Jacob pushed his way in and we saw a young woman clutching her robe around her."

"The hut smelled of recent birth and the woman was anguished. A light was glowing from a cattle manger, and when we pressed closer we saw a newborn babe wrapped in swaddling clothes surrounded by a light none of us could understand."

"Peace and joy flooded our breasts and we fell on our knees. I know not why we acted so, but the occasion warranted it."

"Knowing we should give a gift to a new babe I pulled my beloved flute from my girdle and laid it by him in the manger. He smiled at me—that

new born babe, really smiled.

"Since that time I have been filled with a desire alien to my soul. I no longer want the life of a lowly shepherd. I must wander and search—for what I know not."

"The smile of that babe is with me—it haunts my nights—I must go."

Merry Christmas, Aaron.



Kindergarten class at St. Joseph's school can't get over the surprise visit from Santa Claus Thursday morning. He took time out from supervising the toy making to hand out candy canes.

## Legend of Befana

Families of Italian origin are familiar with Befana. In these days of woman's lib, it is interesting to hear about this legendary lady.

When the Three Kings were on their search for the Holy Child, they passed the house of Befana as she was sweeping and cleaning her house. In answer to her inquiry, they told her of their search. She asked to go with them, but they continued on their way without waiting for her to finish her chores. When Befana tried to overtake them she failed, and so was unable to worship the Holy Babe with them.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Best wishes to all of our customers & friends

Elaine, Cory, Linda, Debbie & Kathy

**CHICKEN & PIZZA**  
29 MILL STREET EAST  
853-2450

## A Christmas Wish

We join those who sing out the many praises of this special season, and wish you and yours have a most memorable Christmas holiday!



ACTON  
**Toddlers to Teens**  
DOWNTOWN ACTON

## Girl hurt in crash

An 18-year-old Acton girl is in hospital for Christmas following a two-car collision Sunday evening at Main and Mill St.

Kelly George, driving a 1979 Chevette, was taken to Georgetown Hospital following the accident and will be hospitalized for approximately two weeks according to police.

Police say a 1974 Chev driven by Steven G. Johnston of Rockwood was southbound on Main when the accident occurred with the Chevette, which was eastbound on Mill.

Police say the George vehicle was totalled in the accident while the Chev sustained an estimated \$350 damage.

## Tyler wins Optimist draw

Ted Tyler, master of ceremonies for the preceding draw on Saturday morning, Actario, was the big winner of 10 glass Yule Logs in the Acton Optimists draw. Tyler's ticket number was 93. The second prize winner was rural Acton resident H. Rensma with ticket number 682 and F. Sheppard of Milton won third with ticket number 788.

## Sinterklaas goes Dutch

For centuries, the Feast of Sinterklaas has been unique as a Dutch and Flemish event, honoring St. Nicholas' Calendar Day on December 6, but celebrated on the eve, December 5.

Why is St. Nicholas' influence so strong in Holland? Primarily because he was the patron saint of merchants and sailors.

The actual Saint lived from 271 A.D. to December 6, 342 or 343, so that his Calendar Day honors the date of his death.

From our home,  
to your home  
A Merry Christmas  
and  
A Happy New Year!

Ken, Terry & Kevin Grubbe

May this festive, bright Christmas fill your hearts with song and mirth.

Merry Christmas from Sandy, Brenda, Joanne & Connie at

The Looking Glass  
18 Main St. S., Acton 853-3040



MERRY MERRY MERRY  
Christmas



From the Staff of

The Acton Free Press

# YULETIDE GREETINGS



Though times may ever change, replacing old customs with new, one thing that will never change is our warm wish to you... Merry Christmas!

from **BECKER'S PLAZA**

Marg Wilson & Staff <b>Becker's Milk</b>	Ed & Pat Wood & Staff <b>Family Cleaners</b>	Jake & Jennie Kulken & Staff <b>Halton Hills Furniture</b>	Management & Staff <b>Double Happiness</b>
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