



An estimated audience of 50 listened to award winning speeches by local students at the annual Optimist public speaking contest. Back row left to right: Victoria Rodriguez girls winner, Janet Reast, runner-up, Brad O'Neill runner-up in boys and Dave Hall president of the Acton Optimists. Front row left to right: Dana Richardson, third, Scott Nolan winner in boys category and Greg Leatherland, third. All spoke on this year's theme "commitment to share". Judges were Joan Walde, Arnold Townsend and Jeff Sansom. Mrs. Gord Chapman was timekeeper. Winners of the contest advance to the zones in April while the winners of zones go on to the district and becomes eligible for a \$600 bursary.

Pentecostal minister and family leaving for Africa



Pastor Brian Rennie

The roots which Evangel Tabernacle Pentecostal Assembly minister Brian Rennie and family have sunk in Acton will soon be cut.

The Rennicks are Africa bound where they hope to pursue an important task for the church: that of mission work.

Pastor Rennie, his wife Colleen and their children Carrie, who will be three years old in April, and nine month old Tiffany will leave Acton in June for Zambia. Pastor Rennie expects to remain in the central African nation for four years.

Mission work is an integral part of the Pentecostal Church. It was one of the main reasons for the church to organize in the 1800s. Not everyone is touched by the need to perform mission work. Brian's father, also a church pastor, has never moved from the church he built 27 years ago at Monkton, Ontario.

Why is mission work important to Brian Rennie? The 27-year-old minister tried a few times to explain the motive. It certainly is not money, or else he would not be in the ministry.

Pastor Rennie went on to say: "It is a desire to be involved in work that will change lives and influence society in general."

The decision to go "was very much a mutual decision" said the minister. Pastor Rennie and Colleen considered it for some time and he said "she felt that direction in her life long before I did."

In some ways the three-and-a-half years the Rennicks spent in town was a postponement of their missionary goal. When they settled in town, it was after they had checked on mission work in northern Ontario. Colleen was pregnant with Carrie, so the decision was made to stay in the south.

In their church work the Rennicks have followed the mission goal from a distance. "We've been involved indirectly in raising money for missions, Christmas parcels and clothing," said Pastor Rennie.

The timing of the minister's resignation may have surprised some

people in the church. However, he believes the mission aspect of the Rennie's life did not.

"I believe missions could be my work for the rest of my life or until I retire," said Pastor Rennie. "I can see myself in overseas service, maybe not entirely in Zambia but in other countries as well."

In Zambia the minister could be pastoring or teaching. Duties have not been spelled out yet.

The Rennicks will not be alone in Zambia. The nation has church assemblies and there is a Bible College. Pastor Rennie said he will be working in cities, mainly with educated Zambians.

What does the move mean? For one thing, the Rennie children will take some of their early education in Zambia. Pastor Rennie sees that as having some benefit. "The missionaries that came home say their children have a wealth of experience that Canadian children don't have."

There are some uncertainties connected with the venture. Food, for example, is something the Rennicks appear to be wanting to take care of themselves. Colleen experimented

with baking bread for the first time Monday.

"Likely there'll be a blockhouse provided and a vehicle," said the minister. "We're sending a freezer over. One guy said it's more important than a car."

Carrie, who will be seven when the Rennicks return, has her own concept of what it all means: "We're gonna teach all the boys and girls about Jesus."

PROFILES

with Jennifer Barr



Is there life after children? Our mothers filled their retirement years with volunteer work, bridge and coffee parties. Today's woman is going back to school.

Debbie Sankey raised four children, went back to university, got a degree in landscape architecture and is putting it to work.

Like most women of her generation she worked in an office before marriage, after attending McGill University in Montreal for two years. Her studies were interrupted when she met her future architect husband, Lloyd.

For the next 15 years, Debbie raised children, three sons and a daughter now nearly grown, and created a family home in various parts of Quebec and Ontario. When the family settled on their 76 acre property near Speyside, Debbie took a hard look at her future.

Always interested in children with learning disabilities she enrolled in Humber college for appropriate courses, but while checking the prospectus she found a course in landscape architecture. Her grandfather was a landscape architect and Debbie realized such studies would encompass horticulture, engineering, sculpture, social sciences - many of her pet subjects.

Off to the University of Guelph Debbie went to enroll and was refused.

Her grade 12 schooling from the States proved insufficient and she found it necessary to attend Acton High School to pick up grade 13 chemistry and physics.

She says she thought going back to high school with her children would be difficult but instead found it most enjoyable.

"It was good preparation for university", she comments, adding the high school courses awakened her brain.

Five years ago, with her study patterns updated, Debbie re-applied to Guelph and was admitted to a B.A. course. She made sure she had

many first year landscape architecture courses on her timetable so she wouldn't have difficulty when she was finally admitted into the course of her choice.

Her perseverance won out and she made it into highly competitive field of landscape architecture. She was off and running with a full schedule of three hour classes, homework and home-making.

"A lot depends on your family", she says, describing the support a student mother needs. She feels attitudes are different when a woman is working all day but not bringing home any money.

"A late supper cannot be justified" she states. A mother first, Debbie enjoyed hearing her children's news, problems and discussions before she settled down to her own homework often as late as 10 p.m.

She feels women are best equipped to take care of children so it's a woman's responsibility to make sure her decision to go back to school will work with the family.

Debbie advises a year be set aside for long term planning before classes commence. Women "have to take inventory, decide what price they are willing to pay, what they believe in and what trade-offs they are willing to make" she comments.

In Debbie's case, her family and school were on top of the priority list so her housework had to suffer - "we got used to a messy house," she chuckles.

"When I did have time to wash a floor it felt wonderful after taxing my head," she adds.

By trying to conceal her pressures from the children and sharing any "treats" (rewards) she got out of her courses, Debbie found her children were very flexible and supported Mom, the student.

Result of the family effort was a degree for Mom last June. (Debbie took a well-earned year off university between second and third year.)

Now she's a full fledged landscape architect and Debbie would like to get into residential landscaping. She feels landscaping should be more than cosmetic but should take into account lifestyle of owners, site location, windshelter and weather protection, orientating any planned extensions, landscape phasing and generally making the most of a site.

Interested in local beautification Debbie works with the Acton Beautification Committee and would like to see regional government take an

active interest in planning landscaping of all new buildings.

Opportunities for landscape architecture are many according to Debbie. Graduates may work in individual urban design, plaza planning, ecology and environmental fields, park and playground planning or a combination of them all.

At the moment, while she finds her feet (roots?) Debbie is shepherding. Caring for the family flock of Dorsets during lambing is no mean accomplishment. She hopes to organize a sculpture show on her property in the future in order to expose the art to local people and offer a showing opportunity for sculptors.

Debbie proves school is not the exclusive property of the young. Any woman can fulfill her ambitions if she overcomes the obstacles in her way and makes sure she has her priorities straight, she feels.

Talking to Debbie Sankey is an incentive for any woman who has ever wondered what to do with her life when her children are grown. As Debbie says, "people have a responsibility to be happy".



Debbie Sankey

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13 years & under	14 years & over
12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. Mon. March 23rd	1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.
12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. Tues. March 24th	1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.
12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. Wed. March 25th	1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.
12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. Thurs. March 26th	1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.
12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. Fri. March 27th	1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.

PUBLIC SKATING ADMISSION 50¢ each or \$1.50 per family

Saturday, March 21st	8:00 p.m. to 9:50 p.m.
Sunday, March 22nd	2:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.
Monday, March 23rd	2:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.
Tuesday, March 24th	2:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.
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