

PROFILES

with

Jennifer Barr



"It's a prerequisite to be crazy," laughs Mark Rowe as he describes his 10 years as an Acton scout leader. The son of John and Helen Rowe, Mark has spent 17 of his 24 years in scouting. Although Mark has spent almost all of his life in Acton he and his wife Kelly are now making their home in Georgetown and Mark will be leaving the 1st Acton scout troop he loves so much. He'll not be leaving scouting, however. As a grade four teacher at St. Francis of Assisi School, he'll still have time to join one of the many Georgetown troops. And he has young Matthew, his five-month-old son, who was christened on Lord Baden-Powell's birthday and is already being trained as a Beaver. Tall and handsome, Mark is the personification of a leader of boys and his sense of humor attests to his enjoyment of scouting. "They're (scouts) fun—you never know what they're going to do. If you expect a lot from them, they produce," he comments, unconsciously capsuling the reason for his success as a leader and teacher. "Scouting's too good for boys," he chuckles, "we always say it should be for leaders—we have too good a time." The hikes, camps and jamborees provide many happy memories. Mark remembers having two hikers become temporarily lost when they had trouble lighting their fire and used their map as kindling. He rolls his eyes as he tells the story of a canoe trip on the Grand River. The boys were taking a rest under some trees when they became the object of curiosity from a herd of cows. Watching the approaching herd with alarm the group noticed a couple of bulls in the bunch and they "hightailed it out." On the same trip, the troop pulled ashore on a sand bank. An enthusiastically tidy scout discovered a large dead fish on the bank and threw it back in the fast-running water before he realized the fish was the prize catch of a nearby—and angry—fisherman. Calling "sorry, sorry", the troop had to "hightail it out" of there, too. A highlight of Mark's scouting days occurred in 1977 when he took nine scouts to the Canadian Jamboree in Prince Edward Island. They spent 10 days noisily meeting 15,000 other scouts. Mark was also banqueted by a troop of Acton, England scouts when he was in London. Scouting has changed over the 17 years Mark has been involved. In 1963, new age groups and awards system were developed. Prior to this cubs were aged 7 to 12 and scouts were 12 to 17. Now Beavers (youngest scouts) are aged 5 to 8; cubs 8 to 11; scouts 11 to 14; and Venturers are the oldest, 14 and up. Mark has seen little change in parent involve-

ment over the years. It's still the same now as ten years ago, he says, more involvement at cub level and less at scout level.

He also notices a big difference in interests of boys from Acton and Georgetown—even country kids are different, he says.

Camping, a large part of scout activities, is changing with the times. Originally scout camping meant a base camp of standing eight-man tents. Now the trend is toward lightweight camping, on the move with light two-man tents.

"We're more conscious of not disturbing the environment," Mark states. "We don't dig grease pits or trench tents any more."

Scouts and guides are now camping jointing and having a "great time," Mark says.

As a 17 year veteran of the 1st Acton Scouts, Mark was inducted under Hank deVries, then scout leader. After completion of his scouting years, Mark was asked to come back as a SIT (Scouter in Training). Since then he's served as assistant scout master with John Sharples.

Not only does Mark speak highly of his various scout leaders but he sings the praises of Mansel Nellis who always opens his Ponderosa property for scouting activities.

His largest accolade goes to Don McDonald, head of the scout group committee who, according to Mark, "has kept things going." "We wouldn't have had the scout hall addition if it wasn't for him—he's a great organizer and is good at keeping costs down," he says.

"I enjoy the scouts—the boys know whether you like them or not."

Acton scouts know Mark Rowe likes them and they'll miss him.

Town workers gear for strike

Halton Hills works force, members of Local 73, Canadian Union of Public Employees, are in a legal position to strike and could walk out around the second week in June.

The 36 member local voted 99 per cent in favor of strike last week, and are now awaiting notice of a no-board report from the Labor Board. Seventeen days after receipt of the notice, the union can go on strike.

Kelth Smiley, President of Local 73, said the dispute had gone to conciliation, with no solution, so now the Labor Board must notify the union of the "No board" report.

A strike will affect garbage pick-up, road work, parts, maintenance, and grave digging.

No-one would confirm the increase the union is seeking, but it is understood to be 12 per cent, of the top rate.

At present the basic laborer is paid \$7.32 an hour, a heavy equipment operator gets \$8.35 and a mechanic \$8.45 an hour.

The union president said he hopes it will not come to a strike, and an agreement will be reached.

Sets off Home alarm

Halton Regional Police are investigating a break-in attempt at Acton Home Hardware early Saturday morning. Police say an alarm was activated by the thief when he attempted to remove the door to the building.



Pat McKenzie, former Acton principal was guest drawer at the Actario draw Saturday.

Acton day care opens August 1

Plans for a day care centre in Acton have been finalized with the signing of a lease on the Alteo building, Main St. North and a tentative opening date of August 1st.

David Crompt, administrator of the Village School is preparing for a June 1 opening in Georgetown and says if renovations go as planned the Alteo building at 103 Main St. will open August 1, as the Acton Village School.

The centre will offer day care services, Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information on the Acton day care Centre call 877-7310.

St. Alban's sale

St. Alban's will hold a bedding plant and bake sale this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Actario winners

Susan McCallum and Mrs. Irma Schupp, 271 Main St. No., were the big winners in the weekly Actario draw for \$350.

Mary Swanick, Downsview, and Stella Brunelle, 16 Acton Blvd. won the merchant bonus prize of lunch at the Wooden Heart Restaurant plus vouchers for \$10 at Nielsen's Clothing Store and Jolliffe Shoes.

Vouchers for Acton Family Cleaners, Jug City, Toddlers to Teens and the Acton Deli were won by E. Jennings, Eden Mills, and Ena Gibson of 120 Mill St. W.

Lee Colero, Islington, and Stella Brunelle, 16 Acton Blvd., also won vouchers from Acton Family Cleaners, Acton Deli, Family Shoes and Ed's In and Out.

Muriel Savage, Richmond Hill, and Susan Sale, RR 3, Acton collected the package of super shopper vouchers. It contained vouchers for IGA, Acton Bowling Lanes, Canadian Tire, Superior Shoe Repair, Acton Family Cleaners, Family Restaurant, Acton Photo and Camera, Stedmans and Freezer Frenzy.

Know what a former Actonian is doing these days? Tell everybody, call Helen for 'On the Leave!' at 853-3224 or 853-2010 or drop a note around at the Free Press.

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chicken-in-a-basket (whole chicken cut up)	1.09 lb.
Grade 'A' fresh 5 lb. average jumbo roasting chickens	1.19 lb.
fresh chicken legs	1.19 lb.
fresh 'boneless' chicken breasts	3.49 lb.
Maple Leaf 1/2 cryovac s.p. cottage rolls	1.59 lb.
Swift's Premium 1 lb. pkg. skinless wieners	1.49
Swift's Eversweet 500 g pkg. sliced bacon	1.59
Store Pak breakfast sausage	1.39 lb.
Sara Lee frozen ass't. flav. 13 oz. layer cake	1.59
Selco mandarin 10 oz. oranges	.79
Nelson's Ass't. Flav. 3 1/2 g. drink crystals 32 oz.	1.19
100's #1200 Q Tips	1.19
Weston pkg. of 8 sour dough English muffins	.69
devoport Bold	3.59
Libby's in tomato sauce 10 oz. assorted pastas	.69
Bravo plain spaghetti sauce 14 oz.	.89
Maple Leaf Flakes of Ham or Flakes of Turkey 6.5 oz.	1.49
lyncheon meat Kam 12 oz.	1.39
Kraft plain 1 kg Cheez Whiz	4.49
Libby's 10 oz. mixed vegs. peas & carrots or fancy peas	3/.99
Aqua Fresh with fluoride toothpaste 100 ml.	1.39
Brighty fancy apple sauce 14 oz.	.59
Tang poly pack 3 1/2 oz. orange crystals 4's	1.59
fabroc softener Bounce sheets 60's	4.29
Kellogg's Rice Krispies 725 g.	1.89
Lancia ready cut assorted pastas 1 kg.	1.29
Old Mill 16 oz. loaf white sliced bread	2/99

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Proctor & Gamble Zest soap (reg. 4 pak) **1.99**

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Weston chocolate swiss rolls **.89**

Granny pkg. of 12 bran muffins **1.69**

Bird's Eye 12 oz. frozen Awake orange drink

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Maxwell House 1 lb. bag ground coffee

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Bright's choice pure 48 oz. apple juice

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