

# Profiles

with  
Jennifer Barr



Every year about this time the village of Rockwood kicks off its boots and skips into second childhood. The occasion is Pioneer Days a 30 hour celebration of homespun fun involving most of the community.

Three of the people responsible for this temporary madness are Barb Wynneck, Marla Reid, and Liz Stevens—the Eramosa Pioneer Day committee.

A brainchild of Barb's and Marla's five years ago, Pioneer Day grew out of the annual Rockwood carnival run (mostly) every year by the Rockwood Lions for a bit of local fun. The event was noted for being totally homemade with no imported fair rides or entertainment.

It's still that way, even though Pioneer Day has grown to a considerable size and occupies all of the picturesque Rockwood Ball Park and much of the surrounding area.

Games consist of such goodies as a watermelon seed spitting contest, nail hammering, log sawing, frog jumping and sponge throwing. Lots of good homemade calories are available, craft items to be purchased and displays to be enjoyed.

Barb and Marla conceived the idea in 1977 when grants became available to assist small communities in such festivals. Planned in conjunction with Canada's 110th birthday, the first Pioneer Day was celebrated at Rockmosa Community Centre on Dominion Day weekend.

Subsequent Pioneer Days suffered from rain-out but last year the event took on renewed vigor when it was moved to the tree-lined ball park and the date upped to mid-June to avoid conflicting with Back-to-Acton Days celebrations at the end of June.

Liz Stevens joined the organizational team three years ago and is still hanging in there despite nearly getting electrocuted on her first Pioneer Day.

"There were in a terrible thunder storm with Marla trying to make me hold on to a metal tentpost," laughs Liz.

Committee work starts in February when letters go out to 50 or more groups interested in the project. The day is looked upon as a chance for local fund-raising groups to fill their coffers—no charges for booths or tables are made and no park admissions are required for spectators.

Although support and enthusiasm run high on Pioneer Day the organizers are always surprised. They never know until that day just who is coming. Even this year, with organization at an all time high the group isn't sure whether township

crests will be available in time for sale or if Maureen McLeod has made her special pottery Pioneer Day medallions or whether the rules will come for the 300 frisbees in the International Frisbee Contest—"but it's only Sunday," shrugs Marla (Pioneer Day is this Saturday, June 20th).

"We never know if there's going to be a parade," cries Barb. The annual parade planned for noon on Pioneer Day is always made up of homemade floats, kids on decorated bikes, ponies, dogs and assorted people. Most entrants have no idea what they are going to do for the parade until the last minute. Barb and Marla wait anxiously on Rockwood's Main Street wondering if a parade will materialize over the hill from the Rockmosa Community Centre.

"We always breathe a sigh of relief when it comes," they chuckle.

"Nothing is guaranteed—there are many surprises," Barb comments playing down the amount of work it takes to put this day together. Although the women smile about their various "surprises" it's no surprise to the community that Pioneer Days always works. The committee work very hard and receive valued help from people like Paul Belcourt.

This work is rewarded when entertainment groups such as the Green Fiddle Morris Dancers of Toronto and the Acton Citizens Band agree to return engagements.

Rockwood Centennial School Band will be part of the parade and entertainment again this year. "They are well appreciated," says Barb.

Two of the most well-attended events are the pet show and the frog jumping contest. The pet show seems to attract every domestic animal in the township and takes a good part of the afternoon to judge. The sight of huge hairy dogs in dresses and goats in socks is enough to break up the most pessimistic person.

The frog jumping contest is great fun with contestants training their own special entrants. Marla recalls testing kindergarten finger paint on a frog as a marking medium and having the frog leap into the paint tray and all over the house leaving tiny white pawprints.

Not all the fun happens in the daytime. Two dances act as bookends to the festivities. Friday night before Pioneer Day an old time dance takes place at Eden Mills Community Centre providing an opportunity for all family members of any age to enjoy some of the old style dances where people actually touched. A more traditional dance at Rockmosa sponsored by the Tennis Club acts as a finale Saturday night and usually completes a full and friendly day.

"We're after community participation rather than spectators and we really want to maintain community involvement," says Barb Wynneck.

Rockwood residents would agree, community involvement is fun when it takes the shape of Pioneer Day. Every year kids come up to Barb and ask her when Pioneer Day will be held this year and "that's what keeps me in it" she agrees.

Eramosa Pioneer Day, June 20, Rockwood Ball Park—come along for some old-fashioned anti-inflation fun.



A small twister struck the First Line just south of 22 Sideroad last Wednesday afternoon ripping up trees and in one case blocking a driveway with a tree. There were no reports of property damage but hydro wires came crashing down in the area.

## Student Manpower taking registrations Tuesdays



Caroline Buchanan



Jan Crowe

Student Manpower will be operating in Acton on Tuesdays for an indefinite period of time. Barry Goodwin, Caroline Buchanan and Jan Crowe will be at the Acton Community Centre on

Tuesdays for at least a few weeks from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. posting student jobs, taking registrations and conducting interviews. Goodwin explained if there is a strong response from Acton students for a

once a week service it will continue for the summer.

He said there are 100 to 120 high school and college age students registered from Acton already.

However, they have received only a few job orders for students from Acton employers. Some Acton students have been placed in jobs in Georgetown and elsewhere. Most stores and industries have been visited by Student Manpower counsellors but there hasn't been a lot of interest.

Counsellors need to see every registered student at least once before they can be sent out on jobs. If

students don't go to the once a week Acton service then they'll have to go to the Georgetown office.

The counsellors were in town this week visiting local firms, Goodwin reported.

Student Manpower plans to be represented at Back to Acton Days.

## Approve 44 semis

Halton Hills planning board gave draft approval last Tuesday night to a plan for 44 semi detached homes on 22 lots on Churchill Rd. North for P. Civerio Investments.

The 22 lot development

would be located between the Acton Curling Club and northern limit of the Bovis subdivision. There would be 60 foot frontage on the lots. Councillor Harry Levy said he thought the minimum frontage for semis was 70

feet but planner Mario Venditti noted the original plan was for 70 foot frontage but an updated version called for 60 foot frontage and his report noted frontage of 60 feet "is a current standard."

Engineer Robert Austin favors a road design for the development which hooks into an extension of Acton Boulevard.

Most of the development is within the existing urban boundaries of Acton. The region was against the plan receiving any approval until it is determined if it can be fully serviced for sanitary sewers. It was noted a small part outside the urban boundary could be left for future development.

Venditti noted the zoning amendment bylaw won't go to region for approval until the urban boundary study dealing with Acton sewage capacity is completed.



Checking their last minute lists, Maria Reid, Elizabeth Stevens and Barb Wynneck plan Rockwood Pioneer Day.



Lilly Higgins is questioned about her shopping habits by Barbara Dragicevic. Consultants studying downtown Acton had staff out asking shoppers their views on a variety of questions.

## Board decides Lunch supervision needed

For the first time in its history the Halton Board of Education may face a deficit to pay for noon hour supervision.

In spite of accusations of "irresponsible budgeting" by Oakville trustee Bill Herd, the board agreed to spend approximately \$241,000 a year for schools and communities to set up and maintain a lunch supervision program, beginning in September.

A committee was set up in March to investigate the suggestion of paid supervision.

Youngsters sitting on gym floors to eat their lunch, and teachers using their lunch hour to provide the needed supervision were concerns of parents in some Halton communities.

Burlington Trustee Marg Bullock told the board she did not feel paid supervision was necessary when the committee was first formed, but now after looking into the matter, she has seen a point of view now previously considered.

Teachers, Mrs. Bullock said, will be doing their own job more adequately if they have an hour's rest and relaxation at

lunch rather than looking after the children the entire day.

A letter sent to the Board from the Pineview School staff explained they run many extra curriculum activities during the noon hour. "These further erode the time during which any staff member may have an opportunity to relax, eat lunch, mark papers and prepare work."

The letter stated the Pineview Parents' Association approves of the idea of paid supervision as an aid to teachers.

"The contribution of a teacher who has had 40 minutes in which to eat lunch, gather thoughts and regain their equilibrium, will undoubtedly be reflected in their work with and attitude towards each of their students," the letter concluded.

Florence Meares of Burlington, noted the notion was defeated during budget negotiations in the spring, but the

committee was directed to seek alternatives to the situation.

Georgetown Trustee Betty Fisher pointed out there is a provincial regulation providing 40 minutes of lunch for the staff. "Therefore we are going against the law and we better put in supervisors for lunch."

Fisher also objected to the suggested number of supervisors, saying it was too many. The guideline stated 1-60 pupils, 1 supervisor, 61-120 pupils, 2 supervisors, 121-200 pupils, 3 supervisors, etc.

The Georgetown trustee felt that if all the lunch students were sitting in one big room, a lot of supervisors were not needed. She could see many supervisors if the

students eat in various classrooms.

students eat in various classrooms.

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**Biathlon approved**

Plans for the Acton Y Men's Club biathlon June 28 to be held in conjunction with the Back to Acton Days celebrations to begin and end at Prospect Park has been approved by council. The two man marathon race will involve Park Avenue, Mill Street West, Duby Road, Kingham Road, Cobblehill Road, Victoria Avenue, Brock Street, Agnes Street, Church Street, Highway 7, Longfield Road, Churchill Road South, Westcott Road, Meadvale Road, Acton Boulevard, McDonald Boulevard, Wallace Street, Bower Street, Willow Street, School Lane, Elizabeth Drive and Elmwood Drive. Halton Hills council has given their permission.

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