

Profiles

with Jennifer Barr



"Beardmore Company has been my life outside my family" says former Beardmore president Wes Beatty. Before retiring in 1968 Wes poured his heart and soul into first keeping Acton's central industry alive and then flourishing for 40 years.

1930 was the beginning of the depression for Canada and Beardmore Tannery was facing bankruptcy. Wes was appointed secretary-treasurer and challenged with saving a company that owed a great deal of money.

By 1936, Beardmore head offices were moved to Acton from Toronto and the President of the Bank of Montreal visited to congratulate Beardmore after paying off the "last nickel" that was owed. Wes is justifiably proud of that day.

Wes' business career took him to general manager of the company, then vice-president under S.G. Bennett, and by 1948 he became president to serve for 20 years.

His impressive list of business coups include serving as president of the Tanners Association of Canada; leading a Canadian trade mission to Europe for three weeks in 1960; co-founder of the Halton-Peel Trust and Savings Company of which he was vice president and then director after the company amalgamated with Canada Trust. He was also co-founder of the National Management Accountants Association.

As a community worker, Wes was sponsor of the parent-child golf tournament still held at the Guelph Cullen Club, on the board of Trinity United Church for many years, member of town council in 1939 and has served as president of the Cancer Society, master of the Masonic Lodge, Rotary Club and Y's Men's Club "as they came up".

This partial list indicates Wes has been intensely involved with business and community work all his life. However he's also an enthusiastic family man.

He and Nellie have been married 56 years and tease each other like newly-weds.

"I'm assistant manager in my own home - I won't mention the bosses name," Wes jokes.

For the past 35 years Wes and Nellie have lived in period splendor in Judge H.P. Moore's house on Church Street. Moore, Publisher of the Free Press, built the house which for some time was a

centre of the Methodist Church when Moore's brother T. Albert Moore was moderator. Wes still has H.P. Moore's desk and keeps the room used for court sessions pretty much intact.

Surrounded by antiques of an elegant era, Wes says he's very comfortable in the large house and considers it just roomy enough for him to get away when "Nellie starts throwing pots and pans at me".

One of Wes' major contributions to the town of Acton was greatly minimizing odor from effluent runoff at the tannery. It was Wes who inaugurated the currently used spray irrigation system of sprinkling sewage water on fields to be purified by natural processes.

"When I first came to Acton, tanneries in general made no effort to control odors... now Beardmore and Company is the least odorous tannery in the world," Wes states proudly.

Reduction of hard labor in the tannery process was another major change brought about by Wes' efforts.

"Our slogan became lift nothing up only lift it down", he explains describing the relief for men dragging heavy hides around when power equipment was introduced.

Cleanliness was extended to the hide house, originally a stinky smelly place. Wes says even though a hide house is usually humid and wet he felt there was no reason why it couldn't be humid, wet and clean. Under his management it was cleaned every day by 5 p.m. and all fleshings (cleaned off the hides) were taken automatically and immediately to a sealed truck.

Acton itself has changed since Wes first saw it in 1926 (he spent a year here as office manager for the Acton Tanning Company before joining Beardmore in Toronto).

"It was a tiny place then with Toronto two hours away on muddy roads" Wes remembers. Beardmore was one of the three largest employers in Acton (the other two being Superior Glove and Force Electric), providing work for 500 people. The company still employs 500 but puts out three to four times the production, Wes comments.

Wes Beatty presents the picture of happy man. He and Nellie enjoy a little travel, considerably less than when they sailed the oceans to Europe on business, but enough to keep life interesting. Wes enjoys tinkering in his shop, playing golf and driving Nellie crazy.

"I'm so nice I could make you sick" he grins. "You already have," rejoins Nellie.

Their family of three children - Gordon in Guelph, George in Richmond Hill and Eleanor in Salt Lake City - "A flock of grandchildren" and three great grandchildren provide a focal point for their lives.

Wes Beatty is a part of Acton's history and I hope he stays a part of Acton's present for a long time yet.

Town, Union close Rumor 90¢ hike

The Town of Halton Hills and the outside workers have reached a tentative agreement, with only the wording of a clause on long and short term disability yet to be ironed out.

Last week the 37 members of Local 73 Canadian Union of Public Employees voted to accept the contract offered by the Town.

The agreement won't be official until council accepts it July 6.

While no-one would confirm the actual wage hike in the settlement rumor has it the hourly increase is 90 cents immediately and an additional 11 per cent in April.

If this is correct, a basic laborer would go from \$7.32 an hour to \$8.22, an equipment operator from \$8.35 to \$9.25, and a mechanic from \$8.45 to \$9.35.

The projected April 1 raise would add approximately one dollar to each classification.



These six St. Joseph's School graduates walked off the hardware. Front row, left to right, Narvey Henojosa, Principal's Award; Paul Barrett, Top Athlete; Victoria Rodriguez, Top Student. Back row, Lynn Graham, Citizenship Award; Peggy Anker, Christian Living Award; and Andrew Ferguson, Most Improved Student.

Man sets clothes on fire

An RR 1, Campbellville man is in stable condition at Hamilton General Hospital after he accidentally set his clothes on fire.

Bob Croft, 40, of the Guelph Line just south of Eden Mills was burning brush Saturday morning when he got gasoline on his clothes, according to Halton

Regional Police. Croft's clothes caught fire, resulting in second and third degree burns to his forearms and back, police say. He was rushed to Guelph General Hospital and immediately transferred to Hamilton, where he was first listed in critical condition.

CLEARANCE!

Ladies/Teens'

SUMMER TOPS

\$1.00 ea.

Assorted Styles Outstanding Value

Infant Sun Dresses	3.99	Beach Balls	.99	Macrame Cord	3.00
Teens' Denim Shorts	2.97	Toddler's Summer Shorts	2 pair 1.00	Knitting Yarn	.30
Picnic Table Vinyl	1.00	Draperly Fabric 84" wide	1.00	Quilt Batting	1.00
Donum Fabric	2.00	CHARGEN VISA		Pelon Lining	.50
				Macramed Cotton Prints	1.47

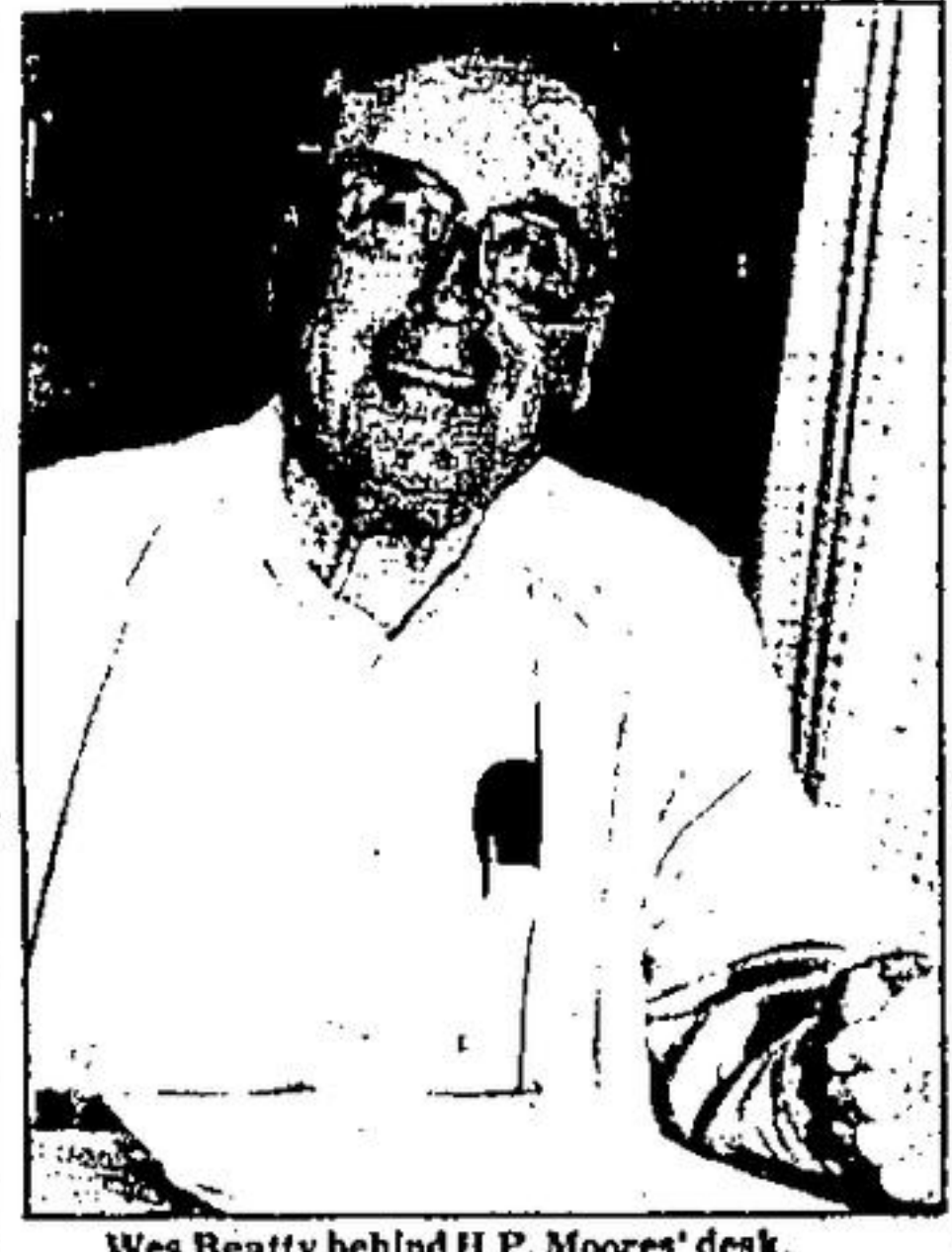
Ontario & Arthur

LEN'S MILL STORES

GUELPH

Moore & Union Sts

WATERLOO



Wes Beatty behind H.P. Moore's desk.

Settle contract

Halton Board of Education non-teaching staff will receive a 90 cent raise effective today, with an additional 95 cents July 1, 1982.

School board officials recently reached a Memorandum of Agreement with 230 CUPE Local 1011 full-time employees, giving them an 11.7 per cent for 1981 and 10.9 for 1982.

Got an interesting tid-bit of news about Acton or area. Call Helen at 853-2010 or 853-3224 for On the Leavel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA!

SALE

Prices effective July 2, 3, 4, 81. We reserve the right to limit quantities.

Grade 'A' Fresh 3-4 lb. avg. chickens	lb. .99	3 lb. coloured Blue Bonnet margarine	2.19	Old South frozen Florida 6 & 6.25 oz. white grapefruit juice or orange juice	.49
chicken-in-a-basket (whole chicken cut up)	lb. 1.09	2 kg bag white granulated sugar	1.59	Rich's 500 g. Coffee Rich	.39
Fresh chicken legs	lb. 1.19	Blue Bonnet		Maxwell House 1 lb. bag ground coffee	2.68
Maple Leaf 1/2 cryovac s.p. cottage rolls	lb. 1.69	2 kg bag white granulated sugar	1.59	Rose 24 oz. jar sweet mixed pickles	.99
Devon 1 lb. pkg. side bacon	1.59	Blue Bonnet		Gold Seal 6.5 oz. chunk light tuna	1.29
Burr's 1 lb. pkg. skinless wieners	1.09	Blue Bonnet		McCain Parisienne or Florentine vegetables 2 lb. frozen	1.89
Counter Served store sliced cooked ham	lb. 2.19	Blue Bonnet		Sara Lee asst. flav. 10.5 & 14 oz. frozen cake	1.79
York peameal back bacon	lb. 2.29	Blue Bonnet		400 g. cereal Weetabix	1.39
Burr's ready-to-serve boneless dinner pork shoulders	lb. 2.09	Blue Bonnet		Clark 19 oz. beans with pork	.79
Maple Leaf 175 g pkg. assorted cold cuts	.89	Blue Bonnet		White Swan coloured or white serviettes 60's	.65
Del Monte fancy sliced or halved, cocktail 19 oz. assorted canned fruits	.99	Blue Bonnet		Alcan 45 cm. foil wrap 10 m.	2.49
Del Monte assorted flavours 4 x 5 oz. puddings	1.29	Blue Bonnet			
6's apple snack buns	.99	Blue Bonnet			
Black Diamond 500 g cheese slices	2.59	Blue Bonnet			
Noble's brand or Green Giant cream style whole kernel or fancy sweet summer corn or peas 12 & 14 oz.	2/1	Blue Bonnet			
Del Monte unsweetened 48 oz. pineapple juice	.99	Blue Bonnet			
6's hamburger & wiener rolls Nelson pkg. of 3	.79	Blue Bonnet			
fruit flavour crystals	1.19	Blue Bonnet			
Gil Time 10 lb. charcoal briquets	2.39	Blue Bonnet			
Old Mill 18 oz. scone white bread	2/99	Blue Bonnet			
4's raspberry swiss rolls	.89	Blue Bonnet			

Free Press delivery on rural routes

Free Press mail subscribers on Acton rural routes will continue to receive the paper at home despite the postal strike.

The newspaper has made special arrangements for delivery on the rural routes. Of course the Free Press will continue carrier delivery and will be available in stores.

Other readers who receive the paper by mail will get their copies by mail once the strike is over. Any mail subscriber who wished a copy of the paper can pick one up free at the Free Press office at 59 Willow St., North, Acton.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS Authorized as Second Class Mail Postal Registration Number - 0515

Glidden

BIGGEST SALE EVER

Glidden BEST Latex Flat House Paint

18.99 GALLOW

SAVE 8.00

Glidden BEST Latex Gloss House Paint

21.99 GALLOW

SAVE 8.00

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