

Profiles

with Jennifer Barr



For a dozen years our zoo of animals was kept healthy by Dr. Ben Wingrove, Dr. Ben to the kids and Gentle Ben to the animals. Farmers, back-to-the-landers and those of us who can't live without a houseful of cuddlies looked upon Ben as a friendly old-time vet who would doctor anything, stay for coffee and apologetically leave a surprisingly small bill.

Ben Wingrove retired last week, selling his Osprey practice to Dr. Mill Wain of Terra Cotta to be operated by Dr. Jan Dadson. He'll be assisted by Dr. Carol Graham, a familiar face to Wingrove patients. However, other familiar faces at the clinic, Dr. Bob Hampson and receptionist Jean Whiting, are gone.

Ben and his nurse-wife Mabel will still be living on their 60 acre farm just west of Osprey, working Hereford beef cattle as always. Ben may have more time for flying his Piper Tri Pacer, conveniently stored behind the barn, or for playing his organ and fishing.

For the past 32 years of practice, Ben has had precious little time for hobbies although he's kept active with the Royal Shriners of Guelph where he has been president and has served on the executive for many years. He's also past master of Royal City Lodge of Perfection. Being a farm vet with a mixed clientele covering many miles from Erin to Guelph, Acton to Hillsburgh, has given Ben plenty of sleepless nights.

He didn't always want to be a vet. At one time Ben wanted to be a physicist, but it meant travelling away from his Aberfoyle home to university and funds were scarce. So Ben stayed close to home and went to OVC at Guelph following in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, a Scottish blacksmith who settled in Aberfoyle to do a little horse shoeing and doctoring. Ben's grandfather was the butcher of Aberfoyle working in the slaughterhouse that is now a popular restaurant. His father was a farmer.

In 1949 Ben and his Erin bride Mabel set up practice in Erin purchasing a \$6,000 house with no amenities whatsoever. Another house available with all conveniences sold for \$8,000 but was just too expensive for a struggling vet.

In those days Ben looked so young he had to grow a mustache. His patients consisted of mixed farm animals. A good practice was built necessitating a clinic be added onto the house by 1953. However, in those days of the early 50s there was not a lot of money around says Ben and he got tired of trying to collect old bills.

A move to Toronto took him to Canada Packers in Islington then to the purchase of the Yonge Street animal hospital.

Life with small animals was interesting enough at first, Ben says, but he didn't like being indoors. Fortunately, life was enlivened by mix-

ing the Riverdale zoo animals with everyday cats and dogs. Adventures with orangutans bent on infanticide and llamas insisting on being born like a pretzel added to Ben's experience.

A large bird, monkey and chinchilla practice flourished out of the small animal clinic and Ben found himself tackling chinchilla caesareans. "Baby chinchillas are miserable little devils," grins Ben. "At two minutes of age they can sink their teeth right through your finger."

Missing the farm, Ben and Mabel came home in 1965 purchasing the farm on Highway 24 and settling down to a quiet farming life with a little vet work on the side. It didn't work out that way and eventually Ben built his clinic on part of the farm.

Working with farm animals weighing upwards to a ton has left Ben with some scars. He remembers trying to worm one ungrateful horse who reared up on his hind legs and bashed Ben in the skull with a shod hoof. With blood pouring down his face Ben conceded defeat—"I just didn't bother to worm it," he says ruefully.

Another horse story involves a Presbyterian student minister who spent the summer travelling around with Ben. While castrating a four-year-old work horse, Ben put the minister to work holding up the horse's tail over a beam, a popular method of restraining a horse during gelding in earlier days.

This time the horse sat down after the first incision swinging the little minister off his feet—"that's the one time I heard a preacher swear," Ben chuckles.

Life may look sweeter to Ben now that he doesn't have to answer the phone in the wee hours of the morning but veterinarian Ben will be sorely missed. However, flyer, farmer, musician, curler and Shriner Ben will still be around.



Dr. Ben Wingrove shows his wife Mabel the horse-doctoring bag belonging to his great-grandfather.



Margaret Buchanan with her grandson Barry and great-grandchild Tara.

101st birthday marked Mon.

Margaret Buchanan celebrated her 101st birthday quietly Monday surrounded by her family, in Guelph General Hospital.

Mrs. Buchanan has been in hospital since last October, when she suffered a stroke a few weeks after a gala 100th birthday party at her home, Maple View Lodge.

Mrs. Buchanan was born September 7, 1880 in Scotland. She was planning to come to Canada to join her husband in April, 1912, aboard the maiden voyage of the Titanic. An ill child postponed her plans.

As a child, Mrs. Buchanan made dairy products for Queen Victoria's country home, delivering the goods to

Councillors' drop-in returns

The Ward One (Acton) Councillors' drop-in will resume this week with a session this Friday afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Acton Social Services and Information Centre (take the Y entrance at the side of the building where the police station and Halton Hills office is located on Mill St. East).

The drop-in was born early in the winter of 1979 on a weekly basis and ran through the summer of 1980.

Earlier this year, because of lack of interest, the drop-in started operating just twice a month and was cancelled for the past summer.

At times the drop-in, which affords local citizens the opportunity to discuss concerns with their local councillors in Acton, has been quite popular with several residents visiting and other weeks nobody has come in.

Usually all three Acton councillors, Dave Whiting, Terry Grubbe

CNE win

Acton area resident Ronald McLean was a winner at the CNE.

His white leghorn bird was declared Best Cockerel in Show.

and Ross Knechtel, are in attendance and often ward two regional councillor Russ Miller and Mayor Peter Pomeroy are on hand.

Interest in the drop-in was boosted for one June session by a visit from Halton Regional Chairman Jack Raftis. Quite a number of ratepayers attended to raise regional concerns with the chairman.

Because of the success of that visit dates are being lined up for Raftis to return and appearances by Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, Halton police chief James Harding and Halton MP Otto Jeimek.

Besides the session this Friday there will also be a drop in on September 25.

Councillors are hoping residents with any complaints or concerns will

attend the drop-in so it will be worth their time change of information keeping it going as a regular forum for the exchange of ideas.

Acton Figure Skating Club

REGISTRATION

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 12 and 26

at the

ACTON ARENA

9 a.m.-12 noon

For More Information:

JOYCE FREHS

853-1361

CAROL CAMPBELL

853-1014

Free skate sharpening to first 100 that register.



RESIDENTS OF HALTON

Your comments and reactions to the REGIONAL DAY CARE STUDY FINAL DRAFT REPORT are being sought.

You are invited to an Open House on WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16, 1981 AT 7:00 P.M.

ACTON SOCIAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION CENTRE
42 MILL STREET
ACTON

For a copy of an Executive Summary of the Regional Day Care Study Final Draft Report, please call:

853-0501 Ext. 303

Regional Day Care Study Steering Committee
Councillor A. Mulvale, Chairman

Car fire

Acton Volunteer Firefighters responded to a car fire at 274 Elmore Drive last Wednesday evening. An estimated \$2,000 in damages resulted according to deputy fire chief Bob Hyde. The fire was started by a short circuit under the dashboard.



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SCHOOL BELLS ARE RINGING IN A-B

Prices effective Sept. 9, 10, 11, 12/81.
We reserve the right to limit quantities.

Fresh Ontario Pork!

- regular loin chops lb. **1.89**
- centre cut chops lb. **1.99**
- brown 'n serve chops lb. **2.09**

- fresh meaty side spare ribs **1.79**
- sweet & sour ribs **1.99**
- Schneider's 1 lb. pkg. skinless wieners or red hots **1.99**
- Schneider's 500 g pkg. Oktoberfest sausage **2.49**
- store pak small link pork sausage **1.39**
- store sliced lean cooked ham **2.19**
- Town Club sliced 500 g pkg. side bacon **1.99**
- Rose 24 oz. jar sweet mixed pickles **.99**
- Old Mill 16 oz. loaf white bread **2/99**
- Weston pkg. of 6 cinnamon butterhorns **.99**

- McCain DEEP N DELICIOUS 18 & 19 oz. asst. flav. frozen cake **1.89**
- LIBBY'S 28 oz. in tomato sauce spaghetti **.99**
- 19 oz. with pork, in molasses, or in tom. sauce Deep Brown Libby's beans **.79**
- WINDSOR 1 kg. rectangle salt **.49**
- CATELLI 500 g. ready cut long spag. or mac. pasta **.69**
- for only VS8, dry VS12, reg. VS10 200 ml. V 05 shampoo **1.59**

- KRAFT 500 ml. Miracle Whip **.99**
- 1.8 litre bleach Javex liquid **.89**
- MONARCH 9 oz. assorted flavours sponge pudding **.59**
- McCain frozen 24 oz. Super Crisps or Super Patties **.69**

- Lipton chicken noodle dry soup **1.39**
- Green Giant Niblet 7 oz. kernel corn **.39**
- Green Giant fancy cut green or wax beans 10 oz. **.39**
- Peak Froan assorted biscuits 400 g. **1.49**
- Nabisco Shreddies 675 g **1.49**
- Black's assorted whole 1 litre dills. **1.39**
- Robin Hood all purpose 25 kg. flour **2.49**
- Old Dutch 400 g. cleanser **.49**
- Puritan beef, Irish, meatball 24 oz. stew **1.69**
- Facello-Royale 4 roll pkg. toilet tissue **1.39**
- Schwartz 500 g jar peanut butter **1.99**

NEW! Exclusive In-Store Coupon Promotion With Instant CASH!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS!

- Saver Books are issued to every customer.
- One Coupon is issued to customers for every \$1.00 purchase which they save in their own book.
- As savings books are filled they are immediately redeemed for cash or merchandise. (NOTE: Books must be completely full to be redeemed.)
- In addition, if a specially marked coupon appears, the customer receives INSTANT CASH ranging from \$1.00 to \$100.00.

NOTE: Due to the fact that a discount coupon is given every day with every \$1.00 purchase the Senior Citizen Discount on Thursday will be discontinued.

COME AND JOIN THE FUN! EVERYONE IS A WINNER!!

MISS ACTON FAIR COMPETITION

1981 Winner will be eligible for the 1982 Miss C.N.E. Sweetheart of the Fair Contest.

JUDGED ON APPEARANCE, PERSONALITY AND POISE

1980 Winner - Lisa McGrath

Friday, September 18th
AT THE FALL FAIR
Entertainment: Family Variety Presentation

Two Runners-Up Will Act As Queen's Attendants
PRIZES FOR ALL CONTESTANTS
Donated by local Merchants and Industry
SPECIAL PRIZES FOR WINNER AND ATTENDANTS

Deadline for Entries
Wednesday, Sept. 16th at 7 p.m.

There will be an informal rehearsal on Thursday, Sept. 17th at the Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m.

REQUIREMENTS

- Single Girls 16 years of age and over
- Wear street length dress & formal evening dress for judging - contestants to be at Presbyterian Church for judging at 6:00 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18th, in daytime street length dresses and to bring a long formal dress for formal dress judging.
- Must live in the area serviced by Acton, Rockwood and Limehouse Post Offices and or attend Acton District High School.

— Entries accepted by members of the Miss Acton Fair Committee —

MISS ACTON FALL FAIR COMMITTEE 1981
Chairperson: Maggie Hat, John Chapman, Russell Murray, Bill Lashy, Karen Malton, Cathy McGrath, Roy Topolko, Lisa McGrath and Norm Shea.

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