

# Profiles

with Jennifer Barr



Maggie Hall has been involved with beauty pageants all her life. When she was too young to protest, she won the baby show at Georgetown Fair. She was runner-up for Miss Snow Queen and in 1966, she was Miss Acton Fall Fair. The damage was done, show business was in her blood and Maggie has been organizing the Miss Acton Fall Fair contest ever since.

Maggie had the honor of being the youngest contestant to win the Acton title. She was just 15 and didn't turn 16 until half way through her reigning year. Now the minimum age for entrants is 16.

"It was great," says Maggie remembering her year as Queen, "people knew you and you had no problem getting dates."

Maggie was also one of the many Miss Actons who attended Erin District High School. Although an Acton mailing address is essential for contest entrants, many country bred girls live north of Acton in Erin Township and still have an Acton rural route number. Maggie was one of the famous five Given sisters living on Sixth Line near Ballinacra.

"I was so sick when I won," remembers Maggie, explaining the 1968 contest was held in two stages and she had a bad cold by crowning time. Prior to '66 the contest had been held a week before the fair, but in '66 an unprecedented tie necessitated a second judging and it was decided to hold this event on Friday night of the fair. By then Maggie was sniffling but she won anyway.

It was the prizes offered and the enthusiasm of former Miss Acton Linda Ferguson that encouraged Maggie to enter. Prizes are getting better every year and include gift vouchers, cash, and merchandise from local merchants. All entrants receive a wallet from Beardmore and runners-up (princesses) usually receive jewellery.

Maggie likes to have about 15 girls in the contest but never knows 'till rehearsal day (Thursday) exactly how many have screwed up enough courage to phone her.

The contest has changed over the years from a simple walk-through before the judges to a full-fledged beauty pageant on the lines of Miss Canada, thanks to Maggie's showmanship. Girls are judged on poise, personality, and appearance wearing day and evening dresses (no bathing suits).

Judges consist of a representative from a female business (fashion, modelling, etc.), a

radio or television personality and an agriculture representative. This year judges are Johanna Renee, international model, fashion show coordinator and freelance writer; Vic Cummings, Channel 11 news broadcaster, and John Wiley, General Manager of the Royal Winter Fair.

Pageant excitement builds this week as Maggie prepares for Thursday's rehearsal. She teaches contestants how to walk, when to pause and "show lots of teeth."

"The girls usually turn up in jeans so I ask them to bring high heels—those stairs can be murder in heels if you're not used to it—I'm a drill sergeant," grins Maggie.

Friday, contestants have a private interview with the judges then proceed to the arena for the day-wear judging. While the audience is entertained the girls are bussed rapidly to Knox Church for a quick change into evening dress and corsages. Maggie "answers a thousand questions," repairs hair, offers needle, thread and extra nylons from her "pony box" and hustles the girls back for the remainder of the show.

Five finalists are announced and have to star in an unrehearsed skit or answer impromptu questions to complete the judging. The queen is crowned by the previous year's winner while the queen from two years before crowns the princesses. This year winners will be able to keep their tiaras.

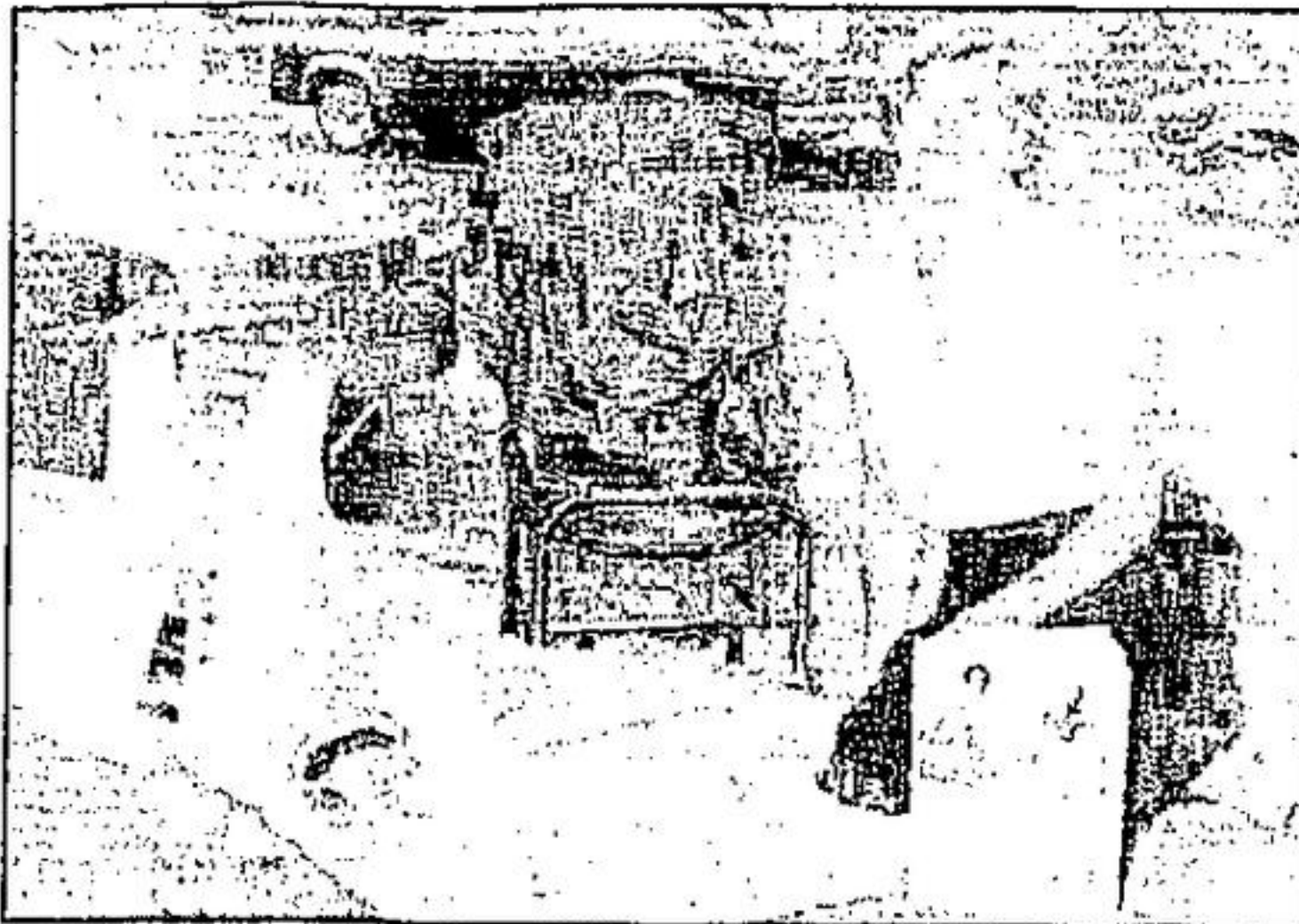
When the CNE started their Miss CNE pageant in 1972, organizers approached Acton Fair Board for advice on set up. Miss Acton automatically enters the Miss CNE show during her reign.

"All the girls have found it (their year as queen) a good experience. It really helps with personality development and it's fun" Maggie comments.

Without Maggie Hall it's unlikely the Miss Acton Fall Fair contest would have become the crowd pleaser it is. Maggie Hall is Miss Acton to most of us.



Maggie Hall and son Gavin.



Time is running out to purchase tickets for the Acton Social Services and Information Centre draw to be held at the fair. Director Peggie Balkind sits amid the prizes: a leather vest from the Olde Hide House; a quilt, from the Trinity Quilting Ladies; a \$25 voucher from Desmond's Tack Shop; a back pack from Canadian Tire; a brass pot and holder from Hulsman Holland Shop; a book of tennis from the Book Nook; and a barbecue from Acton Home Hardware.

## Acton Cancer Branch Declares independence from Georgetown unit

Acton will soon have a Canadian Cancer Society unit of its own.

September 29 is the day when the Acton Branch of the Georgetown Unit separates from their cross-town colleagues, and goes out on its own, according to Susan Sale.

Acton people have been involved with the Cancer Society for the past 25 years. Mrs. Sale said, explaining that Velma West was the first worker and Ted Taylor Sr. the first volunteer driver.

Everyone is welcome to attend the first meeting of the new unit, September 29, at Trinity United Church which will be a party to celebrate their independence. Especially welcome are all the volunteers.

On hand will be the first executive of the Acton Unit: president Arlie White; vice president and treasurer Hugh Patterson; second vice president and daffodil convener Cathy McGillivray; Service to patients Jayne Telford; transportation Lynda

## Reed at drop-in to hear Acton's voice

Want to let Queen's Park know how you feel about high interest rates, the last provincial budget and its tax hikes, new taxes on gasoline, proposals to move to user pays health care, or any other provincial issue? If so then the place to be on Friday, September 25, is the ward one councillors' drop-in from 1 to 3 p.m. at the rear of the Y Building (town and police office) when Liberal Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed will be on hand to hear the voice of the people of Acton. This will be the first time our provincial representative has come to town just to hear Acton's concerns and complaints, though he is often here for community events.

## Wintario checks AHS

Wintario and Global Television officials surveyed space and technical requirements at Acton High School Monday to see if a draw could be held here. Leathertown chairman Chip Petrillo joined the Wintario and Global people for a tour of the school. There was no commitment to hold a draw here from Global and Wintario as some more tests must still be run. The tentative draw date is November 26.

### 68th annual

## Fall fair shaping up, town readies for fun

It's starting to look like fall fair time at Prospect Park this week.

The larger rides for the midway pulled into town yesterday (Tuesday) for the 68th annual Acton Fall Fair this weekend. Smaller rides will arrive tomorrow from the Beeton fall fair. This year Albion-Happyland will be providing the fun.

Fair president Brian Evans said he saw the midway at the Owen Sound fair and was very impressed.

As if the fair did not have enough for everyone of all ages to do, the Acton Minor Hockey Association has assured their booth will be one of the most popular. Thanks to Carling-O'Keefe, two Toronto Argonaut Sunshine Girls (cheerleaders) will be on hand Saturday to join in the fun and good spirits at their dunking machine. Hockey executives feel this will be a terrific drawing card to their booth. They will also be at the booth Sunday showing off the 500 Club car.

Secretary-Treasurer

John Rowe says entries are coming in strongly and he feels it's going to be a good show all around. He especially feels the cattle will be successful as there are already lots of entries. There is still room for poultry and many other entries he said.

For the second year, the Belted Galloways, a special breed of cattle are expected to provide a good show says president Evans. "Everything is going very well," the president says. "Fair board members have been at the park all week and work has been ahead of schedule."

Concessions are very much in demand, according to fair publicity director Jennifer Alton. Board members are very encouraged with this, she says.

The Miss Acton Fall Fair contest is falling into shape also. Already nine young women have entered the contest, according to chairperson Maggie Hall, which is encouraging so early. More are expected to take part. Any

one can enter, up until the rehearsal Thursday evening at Knox Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. Judges have been chosen, and prizes gathered. Among many gifts and vouchers, the new Miss Acton Fall Fair will receive \$180 in cash. There will be special gifts for the first and second runners-up. All contestants will receive a Buxton wallet compliments of Beardmore, and Miss Acton will receive the traditional silver charm from the fair board.

All the local florists are busy this week preparing the corsages, bouquets and floral arrangements.

Jack Carpenter will once again be the master of ceremonies for the variety show Friday night. The audience will be entertained by everything from magicians, dog acts, and dancing. Ron McKnight, Acton's Citizen of the Year for 1981 will open the fair at the beginning of the program. The Acton Citizens' Band will perform

entertain early arrivals. "Right now, all we need now is a weekend like last," Mrs. Alton told the Free Press.

**The Premier MILTON Cinemas**

**HELD OVER - 10TH WEEK!**

HARRISON FORD KAREN ALLEN  
**RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK**  
DAILY 7:00 & 9:15

**STARTS FRIDAY**

A STEP BEYOND SCIENCE FICTION  
**HEAVY METAL**  
A COLUMBIA PICTURES RELEASE  
7:15 & 9:30

**HELD OVER - 2ND WEEK!**

Starring Alan Alda and Carol Burnett  
**THE FOUR SEASONS**  
Daily 7:05 & 9:25

## Hospice Care meeting Sept. 24

The opening season of a second season of public forums for the North Halton Hospice Care Interest Group will be held at Milton Hospital on September 24 at 7:45 p.m.

Dr. Adam Grzeslo of Joseph Brant Hospital Palliative Care Service in Burlington will speak about the program at the hospital.

The North Halton Hospice Care Interest

Group is also going to run a course dealing with "Developing Resources for Supporting the Dying and Bereaved" on Tuesday evenings from October 20 to December 1. The course will be held in Glen Williams from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. There are only 10 openings, those interested should call Karen Ferguson at 877-3431 before the end of the month.

**NEED NEW CABINETS?**

**CENTURY WOOD CRAFTS**

Manufacturer of the latest in kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Try our free estimate and design service before you buy. We install everything we sell.

348 GUELPH STREET, UNIT 12  
**877-1258**

**MAZDA 1982**

**WE SET THE STANDARDS IN VALUE.**

The new 1982 Mazda models have arrived at your Mazda dealer, and there's plenty for you to see. The remarkable front wheel drive GLE is available in several models including a two- and four-door hatchback and four-door Sedan. Match the GLE you want to your budget, and your style.

And there's more with the surprisingly affordable 626 Coupes and Sedans. Consider the well-appointed Deluxe 626 or the 626 Luxury Series. Both models will amaze you with the number of standard features and quality available for such a reasonable price. Of course RX-7, Mazda's legendary sports car is ready and waiting to take you into 1982 with a level of style, performance, and luxury you may have never experienced before.

We're very proud of the 1982 Mazda lineup. We think you'll agree that all of our products are exceptional values, built and engineered with quality as our first priority. Inspect the fit and finish. Check the standard of workmanship. Judge for yourself.

Stop in soon at your Mazda dealer because, the more you look, the more you like.

**mazda**  
THE MORE YOU LOOK, THE MORE YOU LIKE.

**am Achilles Motors Ltd.**  
SALES and SERVICE  
347-361 Queen Street, Acton 853-0200

**CHATELAINE LIGHTING**

SERVING GUELPH & AREA SINCE 1959

lighting fixtures of distinction

OVER 1000 FIXTURES ON DISPLAY

SEE IT ON DISPLAY... NOT IN A CATALOGUE

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL FIXTURES

OPEN MON THUR 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM FRI 9:30 AM - 5 PM SAT 9 AM - 5 PM

**824-0401**

248 YORK RD  
A CROSS FROM FIBREGLASS

**A-B WOODLAND MARKET**

**CHECK OUR SUPER FOOD VALUES IN OUR FLYER DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR THIS WEEK!!**

**BY THE FREE PRESS CARRIERS!**

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR FLYER CALL THE FREE PRESS OFFICE AT 853-2010

*Lakeview Centre*

# Presents

**7th ANNUAL SPRED SATIN FACTORY SALE**

**Glidden FAMOUS Latex Wall Paint**

- Beautiful, flat finish
- Scrubs clean, stays colorfast
- Easy water clean-up

**Inflation fighter**

**SAVE \$8.00**

**\$15.99** GALLON\* REG. \$23.99

\*May be underfilled for tinting—see label for net contents.

**Glidden WHEN YOU MAKE A VERY GOOD PAINT, IT SHOWS!**

PLEASE NOTE: We will CLOSE at 12 Noon on Saturday, September 19th so that our staff may attend the Acton Fall Fair.

*Lakeview Centre*

126 MAIN ST. NORTH, ACTON 853-1190