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Politicians, organizations, clubs have good year and are looking ahead to prosperous 1982

With 1981 history, and 1982 already here, local politicians and service organizations have taken a few moments to reflect on the past, and the future. Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy felt the opening of the seniors' apartments on Elizabeth Dr., was a highlight of 1981. He was also pleased with the completion of the urban boundary study which shows there is room for growth in Acton.

He sees 1982 as being "an extremely difficult year from a financial standpoint." Pomeroy warned it will be hard to stop taxes from skyrocketing.

He would like to see the import quotas on the shoe industry reapplied, and hopes to see federal finance minister Alan McEachen resign because of his budget. He feels elected officials all along the line will be shouldering the blame for the results of the budget.

Councillor Ross Knechtel was proud of the fact the municipal budget was balanced with only a modest increase in taxes. He would put the opening of the library, cultural centre in Georgetown as one of the highlights of the year, and felt council did an "extremely nice" job in the Terry Fox run in September.

His 1982 wish is for all councillors to look at the total picture of Halton Hills, and not just their one

little area. His other wish is to keep a hold on municipal expenditures.

Councillor Terry Grubbe was pleased to see the BIA downtown study completed in 1981, as well as the urban boundary study and the water and sewer study finished.

The opening of the olde Hide House and restaurant also played an important part in the shaping of 1981 she said, as did the Leathertown Association with their Monte Carlo night, Wintario Night and tourist designation of the town. The Cultural Centre in Georgetown was a highlight, as was the council drop-in meetings and the special meetings in town, such as the police open house. She was extremely happy to see the ActiVan get into operation.

Grubbe hopes 1982 will be just as successful. She looks forward to the implementation of some of the recommendations in the downtown study and hopes to see the tourism theme catch on for the town. The proposed new IGA store will be something to look forward to, she said, and she will work towards keeping the stone school alive. She also looks forward to phase three of the Lakeview subdivision sewer work completion.

"We won some and we lost some," she said, but overall, "I thought it was a good year."

Acton's third councillor, Dave Whiting looked mainly at the changes at the regional level. He feels the changeover in administration and the system to make staff more accountable for their spending was a good step in the right direction. He was referring to the huge budget deficit of a few years ago.

For the coming year, he looks forward to finalizing the sewer and water system unified rates, which will benefit Acton residents.

While Halton's MP Otto Jelinek is out of the country on business until the end of the month, Halton Burlington MPP Julian Reed was on hand to give his synopsis of the past year.

And he didn't have much good to say.

Reed is appalled by the provincial government's recent purchase of Sunco. He estimates 7,000 new jobs could have been created with the \$650 million dollars spent to acquire the company, which may or may not prove itself in the future.

As energy critic for the Liberals he took a tour of northern Ontario recently to see the impact of the closing down of many lumber mills, and was upset with what is happening because of provincial government actions.

Reed labels the government's latest method of taxation on fuel as "immoral", and feels any tax hikes on fuel should go through legislation, and not appear automatically as the price of oil is increased.

While the provincial government is encouraging the use of solar energy as an alternative fuel, Reed contends they are destroying more than they can create, with the closing down of at least three water power plants in Ontario.

Ontario has the potential to be a major leader in the Canada, instead of tenth in economic standing.

"But we aren't going to realize this potential if the government keeps buying oil companies."

Reed predicts interest rates and inflation will ease off a bit in the middle of 1982, but everyone will "still have to re-evaluate their priorities."

Acid rain is going to be a big issue this year, the energy critic says. He explains he has to get involved in the environmental impact of exporting power to the United States as sulphur dioxide is being pumped into the Canadian air to produce energy for the States.

He is pleased with the government decision to build a pilot plant in Ontario to produce Ontario-made motor fuel.

His party will also soon be electing a new leader.

Separate school board trustee for Acton and Georgetown, Irene McCauley, is grateful for the enriching and learning experience 1981 provided as her first year in office.

"I worked very hard for the people of Halton Hills, and look forward to my second year."

The opening of the new St. Joseph's separate school will definitely be the highlight of 1982 for McCauley. She feels the teachers, parents and students are looking forward to a proper learning environment.

Profiles

by Helen Murray

This week marks the end of a chapter in Jennifer Barr's life, and the beginning of a new one. After 12 years of working for this newspaper in one capacity or another, Jennifer hangs up her camera and goes back to school—to take a real estate course. She already has secured a position with Royal City Realty in Guelph.

Jenny is probably best known for this column Profiles, and it only seemed fitting that the very last Profiles should be about her.

Born in Liverpool, England in 1942, Jenny's was not an ordinary beginning, nor has anything been quite ordinary since. She made her debut into the world during an air raid. She thought all the sirens were on her behalf, but soon learned otherwise.

In 1953, her father, managing director of Rolls Royce Motors, was transferred to Montreal, forcing the pre-teen to make the transition from all girl schools and tunics to the cultural shock of boys and free dress.

Following high school, she attended Macdonald Teachers' College, part of McGill University, where she met and married a young agricultural student, Mac Barr.

Teaching jobs followed in Montreal and then the Ottawa Valley, where she also helped Mac out with the farming. She taught until the birth of son Patrick, now 17. Soon after, daughter Erica, now 16, was born.

In 1968, Mac was offered a job at the University of Guelph in the science department. Jenny prides herself on the fine job she did in moving kids, horses (three of them pregnant) and furniture to Elora on about 12 hours notice.

It was after moving to a farm north of Rockwood that she met then Free Press editor Hartley Coles who was doing a Christmas story on donkeys. It was Hartley who suggested Jenny write a horse column, thus the birth of Let's Talk About Horses.

Eventually Jenny started to write feature stories about horses for the Dills Printing and Publishing group of North Halton newspapers.

The Barr's eventually purchased 10 acres of land north of Acton and built a Pan Abode log house on Sideroad.

Mac was in the construction business by now and Jenny went nuts for a few years having all sorts of pets. There were pigs (who thought they were dogs), sheep, peacocks, horses, rabbits, pheasants, ducks and of course the usual dogs and cats, and even a soccer playing cow. Mac unwittingly built a barn to house a giraffe, but Jenny never managed to acquire it. A llama was promised, but unfortunately it was stillborn.

After her horse column ran its course, Sideroad Five was born. She also started writing for several rural magazines while working part-time in the Georgetown Independent office for three years. To help out she also supply taught. She eventually became known as "The Erma Bombeck of the Septic Tank Set."

In 1977, Jenny's beloved donkey Annabel died and she wrote her first book "And The Lord Rode a Donkey", which was very popular locally.

But as the economy started to take a set back, her freelance jobs became fewer and fewer. Mac bought into a cab company in Guelph and the family decided to sell all the animals and move to urban Rockwood. At that point, Jenny was offered a job in the advertising and news department of the Free Press. Sideroad Five vanished and Profiles was born. She even wrote the Rockwood news for a while.

Now, two years later, Jenny has decided to sell bigger things and venture into real estate.

But leaving her job is not easy, she sighs.

For Jenny, her newspaper career is over, gone into the memory book with her farming days and teaching time. And now, looking ahead, the real estate business will never be the same as Jenny plunges into it.

To Jenny, from everyone at the Acton Free Press, we wish you well in your new life.



Jennifer Barr

Pruning seminar

Want to learn more about gardening? Then Acton Library will be the place to be on Wednesday, January 20, at 7:30 p.m. when Colin Dickenson of Grass Roots will present a free program on plant pruning. The secrets of successful pruning, when, where, why, and how to prune will be discussed.

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Elliott's organ...

(Continued from page 1)

tapped with a hammer, causing the pipe to spread and shorten. To raise the note, the cone was reversed and the pipe tapped, causing it to narrow and lengthen. The wooden pipes were tuned by raising or lowering a plug.

The Tracker was the second organ for the church. The church was built somewhere between 1823-25 and the original organ was eventually moved to another church.

Bought by Rev. William Macauley and his wife in 1854, the Tracker cost 130 Pounds Sterling. That was a princely sum considering an entire 200 acre farm with house, barn and outbuildings sold for 500 Pounds in the same time period, MacDermald says.

The reverend's daughter signed her name inside the organ when she was 12-years-old in 1867 and the 1874 annual financial report MacDermald found tucked away inside the instrument reported the organist received \$174 a year and the organ blower \$13 annually.

The organ stands about 10 feet tall and is approximately six feet wide and four feet deep. It has many interesting features and the back is covered by plexiglass so the interior can be viewed.

Playing the organ remains a two person job. On one side there is an independently operated lever which works the sheepskin bellows. Rocks were placed on the bellows to increase the air pressure. Leather flap valves connecting the chamber and bellows open and close automatically as the air forces its way towards the pipes.

The pipes are mounted on a horizontal air chamber. By pressing an ivory key, the musician unplugs the corresponding pipe, which in turn allows air to rush out and sound a measured note.

The organ is unique because of its age and type and Elliott believes it is the only playable Tracker in the province.

Of the entire restoration project, Elliott says, "what a pleasure it was to work in a community which appreciates its history," an obvious reference to his disappointment Halton Hills decided recently not to restore the town hall.

She would also like to see something developed in the pre-kindergarten direction.

All service groups seemed to have a good 1981.

Bob Bradley of the Lions club points out the club made their regular birthday visits to seniors' residences each month, and donated a wheelchair to a handicapped child. They also donated funds for landscaping of the Elizabeth St. parkettes, and held their annual Christmas and fall fair draws. They have no concrete plans for 1982, he said.

Both the Optimist club and the Y's Men are having membership drives this year.

The Optimists had a busy year with their Valentine brunch, their Youth Appreciation Draw, a party at the Seniors' apartments, an oratorical contest, a yule log draw, their respect for law week, their hike safety week in conjunction with their bike rodeo, a soapbox derby, their Back to Acton Days dance, and the three blood donor clinics they sponsored. In addition they sponsored softball and soccer teams.

Next year has a similar agenda, but with a "Now" breakfast where selected Acton residents will be treated to breakfast, and given a chance to join the club.

The Y's Men club sponsored their annual Santa Claus parade in 1981, as well as the Blathon and their annual giant auction. They also had a pig draw, provided the health hustle at the Back to Acton Days celebration and had a booth at the fair. There was a substantial sum of money spent on repairing the Y roof, according to president Lyle Pruetter.

This year should see the same projects, but with extra emphasis on gaining new members.

Acton Rotary also had a busy year. They sponsored Australia's Jenny Numan's exchange year in

(Continued on page B4)

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