

Local woman wins research fellowship

by Helen Murray
An RR 1 Acton woman has received a major research fellowship, one of four granted to the most outstanding researchers in Canada.
Dr. Michele Heath, a Professor of Botany at the University of Toronto became the first woman ever to receive the E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).
Dr. Heath received her award last week in a ceremony at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, from His Excellency The Right Honourable Edward Schreyer, Governor General.
The coveted Fellowships are the Council's most prestigious awards and are made annually to outstanding young researchers in Canadian universities to permit them to devote their time entirely to research for a period of up to two years. The amount of the award is equal to the winner's normal salary. The fellows also

receive research grants from NERC.
At the present time, Dr. Heath splits her time between teaching 1,500 first year university students, and laboratory research. The fellowship will enable the university to hire a replacement for her for two years.
Dr. Heath is acclaimed for her work in the field of plant pathology. Through her research she is trying to find out why some fungus parasites attack some crop plants and not others.
With help from colleagues throughout the world, she has already discovered how plants protect themselves, but she is trying to find out why a plant's defense mechanism doesn't always work.
Dr. Heath's findings will enable farmers the world over to save millions of dollars worth of crops, that could be destroyed by rust fungi, or other parasites.
Dr. Heath is one of only a dozen women plant pathologists in the world.
Born and raised in Bournemouth,

England, Dr. Heath obtained the first B. Sc. given in Botany by Westfield College, University of London, England, in 1966. She had first class honors. In 1969 she received her Ph.D. in plant pathology along with the Diploma of the Imperial College.
Two years of postdoctoral work in plant pathology at the University of Georgia in the United States led her to Toronto in 1971 where she eventually made her way up to the ranks of a professor last year.
In 1979, she was awarded the Huxley Memorial Medal from the Imperial College (London) for research achievement. In 1981, she became one of four senior editors of the leading journal "Physiological Plant Pathology."
Dr. Heath has lived on the town line of Halton Hills / Milton for seven years with her husband Brent and five-year-old daughter.
Her husband is a Professor of Cell Biologist at York University, Toronto, and

was nominated for the same fellowship last year, but was not a successful candidate.
Dr. Heath can start her fellowship anytime after April, and has decided to remain in Toronto, although she could take it at any university in Canada.
Dr. Heath points out that since the Fellowship was first offered in 1963, only three people from the University of Toronto were recipients. This year alone that figure doubled as three of the four recipients were from that university.
Other recipients of this year's fellowships are: James Arthur, Associate Chairman of the Department of Mathematics, University of Toronto, and is considered to be a world leader in his field; Kelvin Ogilvie, Professor of Chemistry, at McGill University, Montreal; and Stephen S. Tobe, associate professor of zoology, University of Toronto.



Brent and Michele Heath

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Youngsters like Steven Beaton, Lorell Timmons, Andrew Franks and Russell Fleming love Curious George, a stuffed monkey and story book character at the Acton Library where a Curious George party was held for 14 children Saturday afternoon.

Colleen Oates murder case Delay setting date for preliminary hearing

Setting a date for the start of the preliminary hearing for the Colleen Oates murder case was delayed in Milton Provincial Court Monday.
Eric Howard Kellar, who is charged with first degree murder in connection with the stabbing death of the young Acton mother of two in October, appeared briefly in court Monday.
A date for the start of the preliminary hearing was to have been set Monday, but it has been delayed until next Monday, January 25.
Crown attorney James Treleaven and defence counsel Fred Leitch, of Oakville, asked that the set-

n-date be "set over" for a week and Judge Doug Latimer agreed.
Leitch said the one week delay was needed because he just received a copy of the Crown's trial brief, or details of the evidence, on Monday and needs to look it over to determine which witnesses he will insist be called for the preliminary hearing.
Kellar was returned to custody at the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre.
A preliminary hearing is held to determine if there is enough evidence to warrant a trial.

Pinball arcade concerns parents, church and school

A parents' group, school and church have expressed concern about a pinball arcade in a gas station on Highway 7 east near Churchill Rd. south and restrictions on the ages of players and hours of operation have been urged.
Earlier this month Halton Hills Committee of Adjustment deferred making a decision on arcade owner Bill Welsby's request for relief from bylaw 74-51 so he and his partners can operate an arcade at 364 Queen St. East. The committee plans to inspect the site as well as contact the bylaw enforcement officer regarding having a gas station and arcade at the same location before making a final decision.
Mark Edwards, who spoke for the owners, said when they opened last year they didn't realize they were operating illegally. The owners are going to put in windows and an office in the old service station building where they have installed 15 video games and 15 pinball machines. There is plenty of parking and a large field around the site. Edwards added they want to run a filling station in conjunction with the arcade.
In a letter Bethel Christian Reformed Church objected to the arcade and Pastor John Cooper spoke to the committee. The church didn't want a business which is a hang-out for youths located so close to schools and churches and noted sometimes children who are supposed to be at the church have been across the road at the arcade. The games also have an "addictive" effect on youths and can tempt them to "lie about their whereabouts, steal change wherever they can find it, and the influence of older children may have in smoking, drinking, drugs etc." are concerns.

Pastor Cooper asked if the owners had tried to locate anywhere else in town and were told when they set up there was no other facility to rent in town. They felt the location was good because neighbors wouldn't be disturbed. The owners also feel the location near schools and churches is beneficial because the youngsters can be easily found. Edwards said they have invested about \$100,000 in the operation.
Edwards noted McKenzie-Smith Middle School principal John Simpson has complained about children skipping classes and coming back late after lunch, but felt the arcade wasn't to blame. He suggested if they received detentions for lateness then they'd get back to school on time.
The arcade is open 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday to Wednesday; 9:30 a.m. to 12 midnight on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; and 1:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Sundays. Edwards said they couldn't close for the hours school operates, noting some adults play the games during the day.
Simpson said there are five or six children late for school every day and the arcade infringes on "his right to have them there (school)."
Edwards noted neither of the other two schools in

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Snow controversy rages. Turn to pages 2 and 4.
Acton Red Cross celebrates its first anniversary. See page 3.

Japan treating Denise well

by Helen Murray
Acton's Denise Dilbey is "having a wonderful time" in Japan, and has applied for a university scholarship so she can spend a few more years in her adopted country.
Denise is in Japan for a one year Rotary Exchange program. She left in August, just a few days after her 17th birthday, and will return home in July.
Denise's mother, Jan, told the Acton Free Press that she speaks to Denise at least once a month on the telephone, usually on Sundays when there is a discount. A ten minute conversation costs about \$22 she explains, around \$33 if there was no discount.
Her father, Ron, is the letter writer, Mrs. Dilbey says, and writes his eldest daughter every week.
Denise is so happy, according to her mother, that she has applied for a scholarship to a university so she may return for two or three years education. However, she plans to return home for at least a year before going back, if she obtains the scholarship.
Life is much more expensive in Japan than Denise ever imagined, Mrs. Dilbey says. A special kind of mushroom costs \$100 a pound, and silk is hundreds of dollars a yard, she says.



Denise Dilbey

The Rotary homes she is staying in are very well off, Denise tells her mother, and she is learning a lot about the Buddha religion.
While attending high school, Denise also has a private tutor for the Japanese language. She has become good friends with the tutor and is readily making friends. Her parents are proud of how easily she has adapted to the language as she writes several sentences in Japanese in her letters home. She is also able to carry on a conversation in Japanese, Mrs. Dilbey says. Denise does a lot of public speaking which helps her Japanese.
Being blonde has caused quite a stir in some of the

smaller centres for Denise. While she loves the country she will not travel on the train alone. Mrs. Dilbey explains that people are always pulling her hair because they have never seen fair hair. Sometimes she is even dragged off while waiting on the train, by people wanting to spend a few minutes with a real "caucasian".
Because Denise will be getting no credits for her time spent in Japanese schools she had the entire month of December off while regular students were writing exams. It was then that Denise had a chance to tour the country and see different towns. So far, though, her mother says, she has not left the country, even though her parents have given permission for her to do so. Mrs. Dilbey says she hopes her daughter will have a chance to visit Korea or China.
Meanwhile, Denise has tried her hand at deep sea coral diving, and has stayed in everything from very old hotels with straw mats to sleep on, to the modern hotels with regular beds. She has also become a vegetarian, Mrs. Dilbey says, partly due to the fact a lot of the meat is horse.
When Denise gets home in July, she will start preparing for a college course she has already been accepted into at Seneca College. She has completed grade 12 at Acton High School.
But if Denise receives the scholarship, once she returns to Canada she must make a big decision—whether or not to return to the land which she feels so much at home in or stay in her home country.
She was selected for the year abroad by the Acton Rotary Club.

12% wage hike for town staff

Non-unionized Halton Hills staff have been given a 12 per cent wage boost.
Monday night council passed a "bylaw to amend bylaw 75-9 (it was passed in 1975) to establish a policy and procedure for wage and salary administration for employees of the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills."
Councillor Harry Levy said he wouldn't support the bylaw which gives a 12 per cent wage hike for 1982 to the over 60 non-unionized municipal employees. The wage hike is retroactive to January 1.
The bylaw also provides for foremen to receive stand-by pay of up to \$50 a week as well as overtime at time-and-a-half.
Employees driving their own cars will receive 20.4 cents a km for the first 8,000 kms a year and 18.5 cents a km after that while department heads will receive a flat rate of \$115 a month.

Four day work week for Beardmore chrome division

Workers in the chrome or upper leather division at Beardmore have gone on a four day work week.
Personnel manager Donald Rankin said 160 workers will be off either on Mondays or Fridays for an indefinite period of time. Which day a worker is off depends on which part of the division the employee works in.
In the past few weeks 15 workers in the chrome division have been laid off on a temporary basis.

The remainder of the plant, the vegetable division where tanned leathers are made, will keep working five days a week. There are approximately 150 employees in the vegetable division.
Rankin said the lifting of import quotas on footwear by the federal government late last year and the depressed Canadian economy are to blame for the layoffs and four day work week.
In early December 175 workers in the chrome division were put on a two week rotating lay off.

Lay-off nine at Ajax Engineers

Nine of 14 workers at Ajax Engineers Ltd., 238 Queen St., will be out of work sometime in the next few weeks.
Alex Fraser, plant manager, confirmed reports Monday that a lay-off is coming up at the plant

where water cooling towers are manufactured.
The workers are being laid off temporarily, but for an indefinite period of time.
He noted it is the first staff reduction in several years and explained orders are down because of the poor economy.



Acton resident Janice Ellerby, a third-year business administration student at Sheridan College, was recently the recipient of an award provided by Canada Packers for outstanding academic achievement. Here, Janice receives a certificate of accomplishment and a cheque for \$400 from Phil Renouf of Canada Packers (right), while Oakville Dean of Business George Serena offers congratulations.