

On the Leavell

With Helen



Belated birthday greetings go out to Arlie White who turned 77-years-old on Friday (September 30). Arlie is very well known around town and is very active in the Acton unit of the Canadian Cancer Society. He's also a former Citizen of the Year. Happy Birthday Arlie.

FOCUS, Arts Magazine, put out by the Halton Hills Arts Council has two stories on local artists.

A story by Carole Black is about Larry Davidson, a potter whose studio is two miles north of Acton. The article described his work and his studio, and mentioned his background in Wales and Japan.

The second story was about Heather Rennie, written by Heather herself. Heather has fabric and fibre creations in the Artisan Village at the old Hide House. The article explained how Heather finds inspiration in flowers and growth. Her work reflects this.

Also in the magazine is a short article on Doodles Restaurant in Rockwood. After a short précis on the menu, the story said owner Maureen McLeod is interested in hearing from local artists who may wish to show their work at Doodles.

Bill Coats, 31 Young St. has been listed among entries in the "Molson" Big Fish Contest, by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Bill's fish was caught at Kahshe Lake and weighed in at six pounds, eight ounces, and was 22 inches long. It was a large mouth bass.

Ian R. Sandy is a recent graduate of Sheridan College with his General Engineering Technician Diploma. Ian's name was released by the college this week.

Pete Papillon took a month's tour of Eastern Canada recently and dropped in to see Flo and Louis Charlebois in St. John, New Brunswick.

The former Acton residents send a merry hello and their love to all their friends in town.

Kay Kavanagh, at the McKenzie-Smith school library, would appreciate some parent assistance in the operation of her area. Anyone interested in helping out is asked to call her at 853-3830. Volunteers are also needed in other areas of the school as well.

This Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m., the Nassagaweya Women's Institute will hold a craft, bake, country finds sale and quilting demonstration in the Brookville Hall on the Guelph Line. Doors close at 4 p.m.

The CNIB needs your help. Because not enough canvassers could be rounded up for a door-to-door campaign, campaign chairman Vic Bristow had to resort to a mail-in method. Unfortunately, not everyone in town got an envelope and as a result donations are down by half over what they usually are.

Please give generously. Vic is still accepting donations. He can be reached at 853-2237 or at the Post Office.

Had a call from Don Grem last week in response to my comment about the driver who almost killed Betty McIntyre and myself at the Mill/Willow crosswalk. Don, and rightly so, pointed out there are just as many irresponsible pedestrians as drivers.

For the record, any personal observations in my column are just that—personal, unless otherwise stated. I can only write about my experiences, and my experience was, the traffic had come to a complete stop before we entered the intersection and, the second car from the crosswalk pulled out, drove down the wrong side of the road and almost hit us. Don's complaint was that we never write about the stupid pedestrians, only the stupid drivers. That may be true, but it was not a stupid pedestrian who almost claimed my life, or at least could have seriously injured me.

But in all fairness to Don's complaint, now that I have set the record straight on my own experience, there are many pedestrians who do step out too quickly, giving the unsuspecting motorist no time to stop. People assume because they are in the crosswalk, the motorists should stop. By law, he must, but let's face it, he needs more than three seconds notice. By pointing your arm or finger out, the driver might see you better and know what you intend to do.

And to further play the Devil's Advocate (are there any pedestrians still speaking to me), those who cross the street with a transport truck coming are downright inconsiderate. Some of those trucks have 16 gears and it is no easy task to come to a halt. Why don't you just wave him on and wait an extra minute or so.

While I'm on my soap box, let's go up a block to the Mill/Main corner—and the flashing green light. That flashing light is NOT for pedestrians—ask any policeman. This is the third or fourth time I have mentioned it in this column, and it probably won't be the last. That flashing light is for drivers heading south, to make a safe left hand turn before the oncoming traffic makes it impossible. Having to wait for a pedestrian to saunter across the street defeats the entire purpose of the special light, and to me, is more annoying than people stepping quickly into crosswalks.

But back to the crosswalks. There seems to be a simmering (at times boiling) feud in this town between motorists and pedestrians. This is very evident in the number of letters we receive here at the Free Press from both sides. Unfortunately, most of these letters aren't signed so we cannot print them.

But here's a suggestion to both sides—compromise. Not all motorists are speeding jerks. The majority are considerate, careful and intelligent. By the same token, not all pedestrians are idiots who step out into the street without looking.

Motorists, slow down a little. Use that few seconds while waiting for them to adjust a mirror, or get comfortable. Pedestrians, look before you step, and let the driver know what you are doing. And please don't dawdle.

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Want to find out more about these programs?
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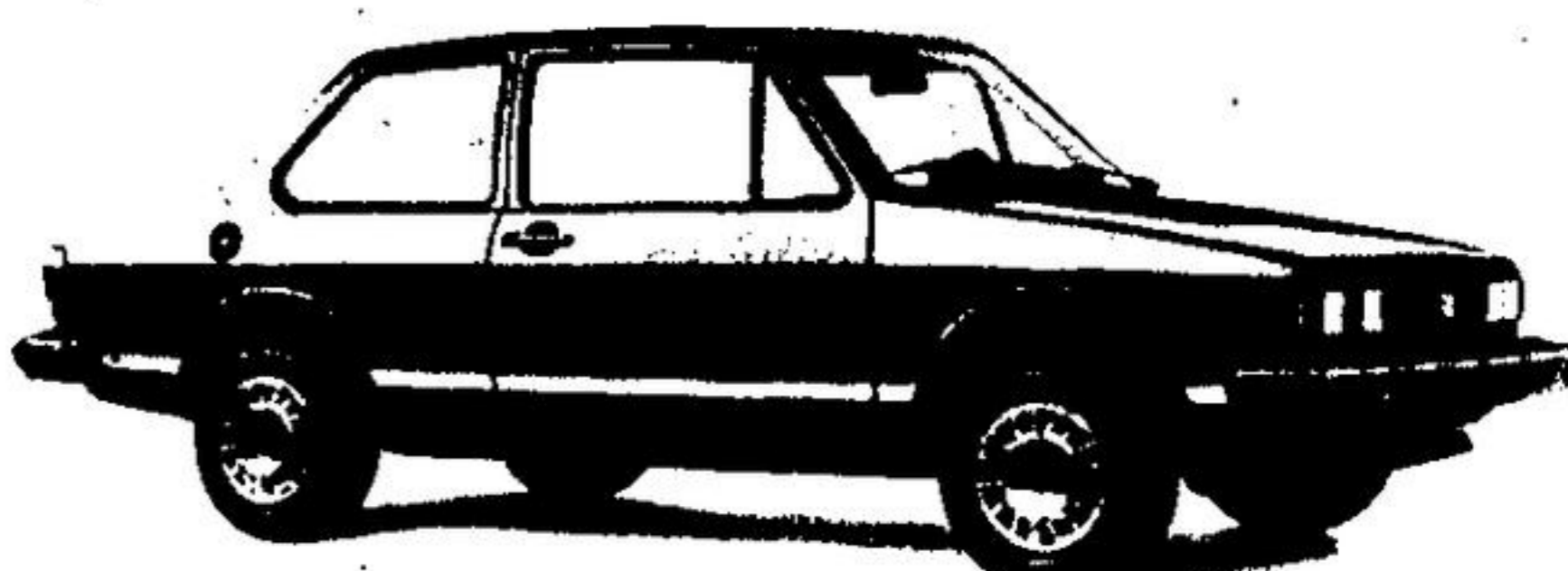
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HANDs group at Ottawa conference

by Eldon Comfort and Linda Bober

Eldon and Betty Comfort of Acton and Linda Bober of Georgetown attended Operation Dismantle's annual conference on Nuclear Dismantment at Ottawa University recently.

Comfort and Mrs. Bober are members of Halton Hills' new Action for Nuclear Dismantment group (HAND), and were active in last year's "Vote Yes for Dismantment" referendum campaign, which was begun by Operation Dismantle. The Comforts combined their attendance at the Operation Dismantle conference with a visit to their daughter and family in North Gower, and Linda stayed with a billet in Gloucester.

People attended from across Canada and from as far away as Australia. One man walked from Vancouver to the conference to demonstrate his commitment to the cause. Over

300 people attended the sessions on Friday evening and Saturday, and 500 attended the Saturday evening banquet. Noted speakers and panelists included such internationally known figures as James Stark (Founder of Operation Dismantle), Tom Gervasi (former counter-intelligence officer and author), Mike Zandyrczyk (Director of Dismantment and co-ordinator of the Nuclear Weapons Facilities Project), Bonnie Greene (Staff Officer on human rights for the United Church of Canada), Father Poirier (Director of the Social Action Dept., Diocese of Hull), Clyde Sanger (international affairs journalist and author), Mel Hurlig (Book Publisher of the Year 1981), K.P. Fabian (Deputy High Commissioner of India), Pauline Jewett M.P., Mel Watkins (noted political economy professor at University of Toronto and Canadian-born actress Margot Kidder).