

Ex-convict sells store to work in Ontario prisons

Jim Beaulieu has been to hell and back, and now he wants to show others like him there is something worth living for.

The successful Acton businessman has sold his store, Acton Photo and Camera and will be travelling throughout the province on a Prison Fellowship program, spreading the word of God in Ontario prisons.

Eight years ago, the former Limehouse resident reveals, he spent four years in jail after being convicted of drug trafficking. He was an alcoholic and speed freak and felt the only way his family would ever be free of him was if he killed himself.

Jim recalls his marriage was all but over, even though his wife Cathy was pregnant with their first child. He was unemployed following his release from prison and saw no future for himself.

He admits he had gone to church a few times for help, but received none. On the verge of suicide, he tried church one more

time. He remembers walking into the building and shaking hands with the minister, who looked past his long hair. "He (the minister) preached on guilt," Jim says, and Jim had a lot of it to preach upon.

Jim says he bowed his head that morning and quietly asked God to forgive him. He asked Him to take away the alcohol and the drugs, and even more important to give him a love for Cathy that they used to have.

"I remember when I lifted my head and looked at Cathy I said 'Thank You God, I love this woman so much. And that's when I knew God honored his end of it.' He hasn't touched booze or drugs since that moment.

Jim returned to school and took a photography course. Shortly after graduation he opened Acton Photo and Camera while doing volunteer work with the Prison Fellowship. However, he now feels the time has come for him to devote his life full-time to showing those as cursed as he was that

there is hope.

Not too many people in Halton Hills are aware of Jim's past, he says. If they did he feels he would not have been accepted and as successful in business as he has been. There's a lot of people who will be surprised by his revelations, he chuckles.

A member of the Maple Ave. Baptist Church in Georgetown, Jim explains he is on salary with Prison Fellowship, but the program depends solely on the various churches for funds. There is no government money or fund raising drives. But he believes the money will be there to continue the program and keep a roof over his family's head.

Prisoners' reactions vary, Jim states. Many are skeptical and curse and abuse Jim and his colleagues. But Jim thinks he has earned a right to talk to them because he has been there himself. "I'm not a Bible thumper," he stresses. "That would scare

them."

While many he has spoken to have ignored him, Jim reports that he has had some very positive reactions and some people have committed themselves to Christ. If he can help just one person the way he himself was helped, then he will feel his life will have been worthwhile, he points out.

Jim's strong belief in God has brought him back from the living dead. His love for his wife, Cathy, and children Almee, 7, Andrew, 3, and Amanda 2 and their strong religious convictions have given him a purpose in life. Now, he wants others to be as happy as he. He feels the Prison Fellowship is the best way to spread his knowledge and his experience.

Jim plans to remain living in Acton. As of June 1 the Willow St. business will be under new ownership, but he says the level of service should not change with the new management.



Jim Beaulieu has sold his business and is getting into the ministry of prison fellowship.

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Ed Wakefield flicks the Doulton bowl to hear its distinctive ring. This bowl hand-painted about 1891, is only one of many fine pieces of pottery, and bone china which adorn every wall in his house.

No flying saucers... but Plenty of plates and mugs

A slight earth tremor would be a shattering experience for Ed Wakefield.

Fine bone china plates, Wedgewood bowls, Doulton, Spode figurines, and porcelain ornaments line every wall, and fill several glass-fronted cupboards all over the house front hall, bedrooms, dining room, living room and den are covered with pottery—some rare, some costly, some unusual, but all beautiful.

The house speaks for itself. Ed is one of that breed of enthusiasts, the collector, who cannot bear to part with one of his prized possessions.

Perhaps he's doing what comes naturally, since Ed comes from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, the home of fine pottery, and the place where Josiah Wedgewood built his first factory in 1759. Since then his fame and fine products have spread all over the world.

Ed insists Wedgewood should be spelled without the "e" in the middle. He claims that was the original name and the middle "e" has crept in unauthorized.

When Ed says he has been a collector all his life, it's no exaggeration. His first mug was given to him when he was three years old by Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother. In 1940 a mug was given to every nursery school child in Stoke-on-Trent. On it is inscribed "A present from her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 1940." Of course, he still has it.

His next acquisition had to wait a few years, until he was working. At age 16, making a princely 33 shillings a week, roughly three or four dollars, as an apprentice, he saved his money and bought a Doulton Toby mug, "The Gladiator"—and he was hooked.

In Stoke-on-Trent everybody worked in the pottery plants or the coal mines, so for generations both Ed and his wife Jean's family worked in the pottery plant, and were so used to the fine china and porcelain that at home the slightest chip meant they were tossed in the garbage.

As always where familiarity breeds if not contempt, at least indifference, Ed's mother was surprised—when her son started collecting and doubly surprised in later years when visitors praised his outstanding collection.

Ed and Jean came to Canada in 1965 and started haunting auctions, picking up pieces, sometimes for very little, when their value was not recognized. There's little in name pottery he doesn't have, from Doulton, Moorscroft, Royal Worcester, Almage, Coalport, Susie Cooper and, of course, Wedgewood. Most are limited editions and he even has some signed by the present Lord Wedgewood, whom he has met several times.

In one spectacular meeting, in St. Petersburg, Florida, a stunt to show the strength of bone china, a van was lowered on to four bone china cups and saucers and Lord Wedgewood climbed into the van and had tea.

Beats that glue commercial all hollow, doesn't it.

Ed says people are nervous of handling bone china but it is anything but fragile, and claims earthenware breaks much more easily.

A trivia point he made explained why bone china is called bone china. It seems it contains 50 per cent ground-up animal bone.

Ed is a recognized authority on the subject and has written many articles for magazines, especially collectors' magazines and had lengthy correspondence with Wedgewood, so getting to know the present Lord Wedgewood was not difficult.

One of his more amusing and rarer plates, was created solely for a cricket match. In 1882 for the first time England was defeated by Australia in the test matches.

To commemorate this sad event this

special plate appeared. On it it said "In affectionate remembrance of English cricket died August 1882, deeply lamented by a large circle of sorrowing friends R.I.P. Body cremated and sent to Australia."

The ashes are at Marleybone Cricket Club and every four years the matches are played for the ashes. Reminds you of the two Englishmen who used to be in movies, who in the midst of dire murders and spy chases, spoke only about the cricket matches.

And for all the haters of washing dishes, who are wondering how he keeps them clean, he puts them in the dishwasher. But it has to have a crystal setting on the dishwasher. His has.

The Wakefields eventually hope to open a shop in Niagara On The Lake where Jean will sell her embroidery, which matches Ed's porcelain collection, in beauty.



There are a lot of mugs in this room. In fact two walls of the den in Ed Wakefield's house are lined with these character mugs. Every wall in the rest of the house has plates, bowls or figurines hanging from them.

Plan to spend over \$300,000 to repair roads, clean streets

Halton Hills plans to spend over \$300,000 repairing roads in 1984.

According to the recently passed Halton Hills budget the Town will spend \$96,700 on hot, cold and spray patching of hard surfaced roads.

Sweeping the streets isn't a cheap job either, the budget calls for \$22,500 to be spent on this service.

Crack sealing of roads should cost \$15,000

and shouldering of roads work is pegged to cost \$8,400.

Pickup of leaves is to cost \$4,650 and flushing \$5,300.

Gravel patching has been budgeted for \$36,500 and grading \$50,300. Putting calcium on roads to control dust has been pegged at costing the Town \$60,180 this year.

The province subsidizes the Town to perform these jobs.

\$1,250 fee per lot for parkland fund

The owner of a new lot in Town will have to pay a fee of \$1,250 for the future purchase of Parkland.

In the rural area the fee will be \$750. The lower rate for rural lots is based on the theory the Country dweller does not use park and recreational facilities as frequently as the town dwellers.

In subdivisions it has been mandatory for many years to demand either 5 per cent of the land or cash-in-lieu for parkland, but the practice has scarcely been used in the case of individual lots.

Planning Director Ian Keith says the Town had the authority to do so under the Planning Act but seldom implemented it.

The fee for new lots can be charged without any new bylaw, but another innovation,

the upping of the amount of parkland demanded in high density developments such as apartment buildings, needs a bylaw. The bylaw must be backed up by a study, which will be done by planning staff.

In the development or redevelopment of high density projects the requirements can go as high as four acres per 1,000 persons, or one hectare per 300 dwelling units.

The study will require a review of the Official Plan, the Master Parks Plan and the present standard or parkland, in order to justify the increased demand for parkland for high density developments.

The \$1,250 fee for parkland acquisition for a new lot will be an additional cost to the owner, who must already pay \$4,489 in lot levies on a single family home.

Board may extend '84-'85 school year

The Halton Board of Education is poised to add an extra day to its 1984-85 school year despite protests from the two teachers' associations.

The Halton Elementary Teachers' Association (HETA) and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) have expressed their opposition to staff recommendations that the coming school year should consist of 195 days, including nine days each for elementary and secondary professional activities.

In a rationale presented to the school board Thursday night, employee services officer Peter Noble pointed out that professional activity (PA) days include those set aside for school openings and closings, parent interviews, student counselling, program planning and professional and curriculum development.

"The topic of PA days evokes strong feelings in the public, trustees and professional staff," he acknowledged. "There is much confusion about the need for staff to do anything other than 'teach'. Since most students

do not attend school on PA days, parents must make arrangements for their children to be cared for, and many wonder how valuable these days are."

Nevertheless, Noble said, there is "good evidence" that PA days are used productively, with principals preparing detailed plans for each staff member and superintendents checking them. Teachers could use even more than the nine days allotted for professional activities, he said.

The teachers don't agree.

"There is no reason to extend the school year to 195 days," OSSTF District 9 president Joyce Bradley wrote the board. Two HETA officials joined her in citing provincial regulations requiring a minimum of 194 days per school year.

Nobel countered that 80 per cent of elementary school principals surveyed in Halton agreed that good use could be made of an additional PA day. The extension, he said, would enable the board to "put wheels on dreams" by allocating additional time to meet outstanding demands on professional development.

Deer hunt too close to schools, trustees say

The Halton Board of Education may soon take action to ensure that hunters keep their distance from the region's schools during the annual fall deer hunt.

Halton Hills trustee Dick Howitt served notice at the board's Thursday night meeting that he'll be introducing a resolution to keep hunters at least a half-mile away from school properties.

He expressed concern over two separate instances of hunters being seen near Acton High School and Speyside Public School during last fall's four-day controlled deer hunt.

Stressing his belief that the board should not become involved in the public controversy over the need for the hunt, Howitt said

he will also recommend that signs be posted in the vicinity of schoolyards.

Howitt told this newspaper that he and fellow Halton Hills trustee Arlene Bruce, as well as board chairman Betty Fisher, received complaints from the Speyside Parents' Association after children attending that school reported they'd seen hunters drag a freshly-killed deer carcass past the schoolyard.

Although the children didn't witness the actual shooting, Howitt said, the kill took place in the forest near the schoolyard while the students were at play. Hunters were also spotted in the wooded area near Acton high school.

Closed door policy angers councillors

If council can hold its discussion in public so can Halton Hills Committee of Adjustment, councillors maintained this week.

Council had made it clear they did not approve of the closed door discussions by the committee of adjustment and asked for an explanation, but the reply didn't satisfy them.

The committee of adjustment hears the application in public and gives their decisions, with reasons, in public, but holds the discussion and evaluation behind closed doors. This is the practice which council is criticizing.

In a letter from Committee of Adjustment Chairman Grant Lee, he notes the committee's decisions do not require council approval, and claims evaluation could be limited if there were interruptions or intimidations from the public "leading to unsound decisions and unnecessary OMB hearings."

Lee argues committee members are not elected and are not obligated to debate applications in public. He emphasized few of their decisions are appealed to the OMB. He added the chairman and one of the members would investigate procedure in other municipalities.

Asked what council can do, Clerk Administrator Ken Richardson explained they could pass a resolution stating council opposed the procedure, but warned the committee of adjustment is an autonomous body.

Councillor Mike Armstrong suggested when time for appointments or re-appointments comes along the applicant could be asked if he or she was willing to hold the debate in public.

The Clerk Administrator said Milton, and Brampton and former Chinguacousy Committee of Adjustments were always open.