

# Georgetown Man Heads Halton County Gun Club

by Agnes McKeena  
It is an irresistible temptation to state that the Halton Association is going great guns - because it's the truth.  
When the gun fanciers' group was proposed a year and a half ago secretary Hank Ruppert of Acton said he didn't know if anyone would even come to the first show. Yet the first gun display held in the Acton music centre "overflowed."  
The shows for displays, sales and trades were moved to the bigger Acton community centre and are now held half a dozen times a year. An ordinary show on a Sunday morning in this quiet, little town will draw 1,000 visitors, some from as far as Victoria, B.C. Soon the community centre may not be large enough.

**MOST IMPORTANT**  
"This is fast becoming the most important gun show in Canada," says Ruppert. "Other shows at Burford and Oshawa which are considered important have about 80 display tables while we now have 200 and the number continues to increase. In the Association alone there are 180 paid-up members."  
Ruppert admits that the scope of the club has been expanded to include "edge weapons" like daggers, bayonets, swords and other allied interests such as coins, badges, shells and uniforms but firearms are still the major interest.  
**STRICT ON RULES**  
Ruppert emphasizes that the club is strict about the safe handling of weapons and the observance of all firearms regulations. He believes there should be heavier penalties for careless hunters and that immigrants should be quizzed on their knowledge of our firearms and hunting laws before being given a licence.  
Club members are leery about giving their addresses lest they attract burglars and Ruppert says that as a result of unrelenting vigilance not a single weapon of the hundreds

displayed at the show has ever been stolen.  
**OWN FAULT**  
He thinks that if gun collectors are robbed it is their own fault. He points out that it is difficult to keep a gun collection a secret and if the owner goes on vacation and simply locks the door behind him he is gunning for trouble in more ways than one.  
"Ruppert's interest leans to pistols and revolvers of World Wars 1 and 11 and he estimates he has about 50 weapons which he keeps locked in a special room at his home."  
**BURGLAR ALARM**  
"I am going to get a burglar alarm installed," he says, "and when I go on holidays I deposit my gun collection in the vault of a local bank."  
Association president C. L. Magloughlen of Georgetown says he has been collecting guns for 25 years and now has about 600 weapons. He admits that it is an expensive hobby.  
"I wouldn't take \$100,000 for my collection," he declares. "Yet I know collectors who have as many as 1,600 weapons."

**MAKE OWN**  
Although he is cautious about saying too much about his collection Magloughlen's array of arms is not likely to attract would-be bank robbers. He specializes in muzzle loaders and they are not the most convenient weapons for stickups.  
Real devotees even make their own guns and that's a project Lloyd Johnson of Brampton is working on now. He started with a length of crowbar steel which he had bored on a gun-drilling machine.  
However, he rifled the barrel by hand and is now lovingly fashioning the stock of maple with brass inlays. The rifle he is making is a replica of a long-barrel, Kentucky, muzzle-loading rifle of the 1840s.  
It features a built-in patch-box in the stock and takes a .31 calibre ball. Johnson says he has spent only \$14 on materials but has been offered \$200 for the half-

finished weapon which already represents a year's work.  
**LITTLE CANNONS**  
Ron Hargreaves of Oshawa is a handcraftsman of a different sort. He makes miniature cannons. Since he took up the hobby about four years ago Hargreaves says he has completed 40-50 models and sells them about as fast as he can get them made.  
They are perfect miniatures of 18th century English and French field pieces, one of them a replica of the nine-pounder which helped Wellington give Napoleon his come-uppance at Waterloo.  
The workmanship in black walnut, oak and brass is exquisite and the models are complete down to tiny ramrods, miniature brass buckets and the royal cipher engraved on the

barrels. They work too.  
"They will fire a 50-calibre ball 300 yards," says Hargreaves.  
**KEEPS YOUNG**  
A special attraction at a recent show was the collection of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Steeth of Brantford. Mrs. Steeth, 78 and her husband, 80, and they maintain that their hobby "keeps us young."  
Their prize piece is a small cannon on wheels which was used by the mountaineers of Afghanistan against British invaders. The wheels permit it to be dragged over level ground but it is light enough to be carried on mountainous terrain.  
Some collectors are really specializing specialists. Bill Waters of Oakville collects only cartridges, Canadian, circa 1890. He figures he has about 1000. He says he would like to collect guns but hasn't room in an apartment.  
**CARTRIDGES**  
William Torrens of Oakville also collects cartridges but he favors British 303s. A rare cartridge can cost as much as \$500, he says, and adds that he has some worth \$35 apiece.

A more offbeat display at the most recent show was presented by Veronica Airth who operates a novelty shop in Toronto. She was born in Argentina and her "novelties" include South American and Oriental weapons.  
Among them was a gaucha's elaborately carved boot knife which is clipped to the side of the wearer's boot when he is riding the pampas.  
Another was an Indian officer's swagger stick. An officer wasn't supposed to carry a weapon off duty, Veronica explains, and he affected the ostensibly harmless swagger stick of wood covered with intricately braided leather. However, the stick comes apart to reveal a long and wicked blade.  
**LABOUR DAY**  
A six-foot spear from ancient Taiwan was trimmed with grass and has a blade several inches wide. Not a weapon but simply a curiosity from the Argentine was a tea-sipping gourd. The natives made a tea called yerba mate and sipped it from the gourd through a perforated, silver "straw" which strained the tea leaves, Veronica explained.

The gun exhibition will be all important attraction at the sportsmen's show being held at Acton over the Labor Day weekend. The aficionados are trying to whip up some real color with a black powder shoot with participants in old-fashioned costume.  
If this organization's aim is success they seem to be right on target.  
**BRIDGE CLUB**  
There were ten tables of competitive duplicate bridge playing at the Canadian Legion Auditorium on Tuesday, August 10.  
North-south winners were, first, Art Norris and Sid Heller; second, Joe Maurer and Fred Allen; third, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Blehn; fourth, Cam Sinclair and Mrs. Helen Atkinson.  
East-West - Mrs. Vi Naylor and Bob Beddie; second, R. Dickson, R. Harper; third, Jim Sargent and Tom Warnes; fourth, Frank Martin and Mrs. Lorene Norris.

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## Carol Arthurs Becomes Mrs. William Laing

White baby mums decorated the altar of St. George's Anglican Church on July 17th when Carol Arthurs, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Sam Arthurs became the bride of William Laing, son of Mae and Fred Laing, Acton.  
Rev. Robert Gallagher officiated at the double ring ceremony and George de Kleer was the organist. The bride's uncle, Gwilym Evans, Brampton, sang "The Lord is my Shepherd" at the beginning of the ceremony and "O Perfect Love" during the signing of the register.  
Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a long dress of white faille over taffeta embroidered with guipure lace. Her cathedral train was trimmed with matching lace. The full length veil of tulle illusion fell from a spray of white flowers. She carried a bouquet of white daisies and wore her great grandmother's heirloom brooch.  
Judy Arthurs was maid of honour for her sister and the bridesmaids were Rene Laing, sister of the groom and Patsy Arthurs, sister of the bride. They were gowned alike in Empire style iced mint green crimplene trimmed with guipure lace, seed pearls and iridescent. They carried bouquets of yellow daisies and wore matching flowers in their hair.  
Ken Sidebottom, Milton, was groomsmen and the ushers were the groom's brother-in-law Frank Anthony, Limehouse and

the bride's brother, Steve Arthurs.  
At the reception held in the parish hall, the bride's mother received guests assisted by the groom's mother. Mrs. Arthurs was dressed in deep aquamarine, white accessories and a corsage of yellow roses. Mrs. Laing wore a lavender dress, matching accessories and a white gardenia corsage. The wedding cake was made by the bride's grandmother, Mrs. A. Finbow, 20 Byron Street.  
Guests attended from Toronto, Burlington, Guelph, Brampton, Meadowvale, Acton and Georgetown and area. Among the honoured guests were the bride's great aunt and uncle, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Cross of Essex, England.  
Following the reception, the couple left for a honeymoon at Wasaga Beach, the bride wearing a multi-colour hot pants suit with white overvest.  
Prior to her marriage the bride was honoured at several showers—Mrs. Francis Hulme was hostess for a shower given by the members of the Georgetown Girl's Pipe Band—Mrs. Jerry Collison held a neighborhood shower and co-workers at Northern Electric held a presentation. Mr. & Mrs. Ken Ella hosted a Jack and Jill shower at their farm at Hornby. Mrs. Laing entertained the bridal party following the rehearsal.  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Laing are making their home in Peel Village, Brampton.



—Photo by Bill Stuckey  
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM LAING



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