

People On The Inside

A man to bank on

By Gerry Landborough

In a week or two from now, if you live in the Georgetown area of Halton Hills, you might open your door one morning and meet a bank manager who represents one of the new trends in Canadian banking today. No dark, conservative suit here. The dress is sporty with a casual elegance. There's a dark, neatly trimmed beard and dark, curly hair cut in a modish style. This is a banker who believes in door-to-door canvassing.

The man is Dave Peach, manager of the Georgetown branch of the Bank of Montreal. A banker who believes in taking his service out to the public, not necessarily waiting for the public to come to him.

Dave started out in banking in England, some 15 years ago. He had always wanted to be a banker, and started on his career directly from school. Upon coming to Canada he quickly rose to the post he now holds. Still in his early thirties, he is a man with some very definite ideas on what banking should and should not be.

"I believe our first priority is to provide the best financial advice available to our

customers, even if sometimes the best advice is to send them somewhere else than that's what I believe we should do," he stated firmly. Now that would certainly seem to be unusual advice coming from a bank manager, but that attitude is typical of the kind of banking Dave Peach believes in. A genuine concern for the customer - not just the bank account.

Dave wants his bank to be a place that people like to come to, not necessarily have to come to. He refers to branch banking as "grasshopper banking", you do a little of this and a little of that but always something different. The answer for Dave is the constant challenge, "something different everyday."

Back in 1973 when Dave was the manager of a newly opened branch in St. Catharines he initiated his door-to-door sales approach. "The response was fantastic," he said. "I would most heartily recommend it to anyone." Typical of the kind of attitudes he met was that of a man who said Mr. Peach was the only man from a bank to come to see him in 25 years.

Why the door to door sales approach, we wanted to know? The answer was quick and easy. "Basically we are a service industry,

we provide a service for the public but sometimes people are unaware of just what that service can do for them, so we believe in going out and telling them," he said with a quick smile. "That's the only kind of banking I believe in," he said as he leaned back comfortably in his swivel chair obviously pleased with his own positive approach.

Dave is a family man, the father of an 18-month-old son who is very much the "apple of his father's eye." When he isn't busy solving the problems of the financial world he takes on the role of a struggling writer. He has had one of his articles published in the bank periodical Concordia, and now and again glances at his unfinished novel.

An avid reader he manages to go through from eight to ten books a week. "I'll finish my novel someday" he said. "When I began it I thought that it might go on forever and sometimes I'm almost sure of it," he said with a laugh.

Everything about Dave Peach is different from what one would imagine a banker to be. He is very animated. As we said, no stiff conservative here. Quick to laugh, and yet just as quick to be serious when the conversation warrants it. One of the subjects that brings about the serious approach is

when he speaks of something that is not generally known as one of the biggest crimes in Canada today, fraud on banks.

"People just walk in here off the street, and can't understand why you can't cash a cheque for them." Another fact that is not generally known is that banks are not covered for cheque frauds. Insurance companies can't handle that sort of thing because the cost would be phenomenal" he said. The person coming in off the street believes that when he shows identification that is enough, yet when a person steals a cheque he often steals the wallet too so he has identification. We provide a cheque cashing service for our customers," Dave said, "but we charge for that service, yet someone comes in off the street and expects that service for nothing, it really isn't fair to our own customers if we did that."

Dave Peach is a very confident individual who believes very much in fair play. Behind his desk are the framed certificates that speak of his accomplishments, yet his manner comes across unaffected.

His manner is approachable, friendly and casual. It's topped with a quick wit and a winning smile. A confident man you could easily place your confidence in. One of the new breed of bankers, representing the new trend in Canadian banking today.



Dave Peach

There's something fishy in there



THINGS ARE A LITTLE FISHY but fresh none the less. Mrs. Carolynne Hawkins manages the Maritime Fish Mart while her husband maintains his full-time job.

When you've got talent, use it to your best advantage. That is what Roy and Carolynne Hawkins decided to do when they opened Georgetown's first Maritime Fish Mart on Main Street. Roy is originally from Newfoundland and knows that half the fun of fishing is eating the fish.

Few people today can afford the time to sit by a sleepy Newfoundland inlet and wait for the fish to bite but almost everyone can afford to buy fish once someone has already gone to the trouble to catch it for them. It is also easier than waiting for the type of fish you like to bite.

"You'll find every seafood and Newfoundland product but 'screech' at the fish mart.

"Someday we'll put sawdust on the counter and have a real Newfoundland party," laughed Mrs. Hawkins.

The wide range of food products have been selected carefully by the Hawkins to represent a true taste of Newfoundland with its dulse, (dried seaweed, eaten as potato chips are eaten here),

baked apple jam, canned turnip tops, and partridge berry jam.

Even to the non-Maritimer, fresh salmon, trout, shrimp, oysters scallops and any fish you can think of will be represented to satisfy the most exotic tastes of seafood connoisseurs.

Fresh, live lobsters are flown in twice a week for sale at the store. You can pick your own to take home and cook yourself or, for those that lack the courage to throw the ugly monster into a pot of boiling water, Roy will cook them for you.

"We brought in over 100 lobsters for our grand opening," explained Mrs. Hawkins.

Perhaps it is just one of the mysteries of Newfoundland that something as ugly as a lobster could taste so good.

In addition to the refrigerated display cases, necessary to keep the fish as fresh as possible the walls of the store are lined with packaged products ranging from seal meat to jam. Many

of these products are difficult to find, even in the most specialized stores but the Hawkins brought all their favorites with them to share with the rest of Georgetown. They have lived in town for six years, but enjoy a chance to get "down home" to get some fresh seafood. Much of the food the Hawkins stock is as common to the diet of a native Newfoundlander as the hamburger is to us.

"My husband used to do a lot of fishing when he was young and needless to say we all love fish," explained Mrs. Hawkins. "A week seldom goes by without fish on the table."

Now the Hawkins can have all the fish, lobsters, and oysters they want and hopefully the rest of Georgetown will also get acquainted with some of the foods from "down east."

For those natives of Newfoundland that suffer from homesickness, the Newfoundland Signal a Newfoundland newspaper is available and a book of "Newfie Jokes" are left on the counter of Hawkins Fish Mart.



INSTANT FRIENDS. Premela Singh, the administrative assistant for the 'YWCA' of India visited Georgetown last weekend. Staying in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Milton, Mrs. Singh made instant friends with Janet and Sean Milton.



JUST FOR YOUTHS. Grade Five students of St. Francis of Assisi School in Georgetown raised \$49.04 to donate to the Youth Branch of the Red Cross. Receiving the cheque is Crystal Thorogood and (from left to right) Sheila Cannon, Valerie Longo and Michelle Mieh.

Good people to know

Ten Georgetown youths have been presented with certificates for completing a six-week introductory first aid course. Theresa Robinson, Nancy Lieder, Bernice Bolsomneault, Jeffery Thome, Kim Thome, Godfrey Thorogood, Tracy Randall, Brenda J. Jinks, Bonnie Van Horn and Debbie Findlay received certificates from Dan Scarborough, chairman of the First Aid courses.

The first six mentioned received their certificates at the second annual workshop of the Red Cross held at Holy Cross School. Instructors of the first aid course were Mrs. Crystal Thorogood Youth Chairman for the district youth branch, and Mr. Frank Kirk of the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service. Another special event which took place at the workshop Saturday was the presentation

of a \$49.04 cheque. Students from the St. Francis of Assisi School raised money for a donation to the Youth Fund. Sheila Cannon, Valerie Longo and Michelle Mieh, all Grade Five students of the school made the presentation. A dinner and social evening for the youths and their parents concluded the workshop.

YWCA welcomes Indian visitors

A very special visitor warmed the hearts of the Georgetown YWCA last Friday afternoon. Premela Singh, the administrative assistant of the YWCA of India came to Georgetown as part of her three-and-one-half-month learning and training session in Canada.

Staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Milton, Mrs. Singh took time out from her busy and active schedule to speak with the Herald. Mrs. Singh explained that her group is now celebrating 100 years of service in India and that their aims are primarily the same as those of Canada's "Y".

"We are helping women become more aware of themselves. We try to give women a wider range for personal growth. I have found that 'Y's' all over the world are very similar with the only differences being the various needs and adjustments needed in the different countries," said Mrs. Singh.

As in other countries, the India's 'Y' meets the needs of the country when and where no other organizations can.

Giving a brief insight of the "Y" in India, Mrs. Singh outlined the large and important organization. There about 60 YWCA associations in India with approximately 16,000 members (this does not include participants in the program). "We have as members, a cross-section of all the classes in India."

"We aim at educating women on such things as literacy and education for social change. We try to point out the necessity of learning about nutrition, health and mother and child care," commented Mrs. Singh.

"This being her first visit to Canada, Mrs. Singh stated that, "it is what I expected. People have been so very kind to me."

However with her present home base being in Toronto Mrs. Singh did notice one dramatic difference between Canada and India.

"The first thing I noticed about Toronto was the amount of noise there. Toronto is just a totally different experience to me. We don't have cities like that in India." She did say that she was not discrediting the city, for a comparison could not be fairly made between the two countries.

Mrs. Singh planned to visit St. John's United Church in Georgetown during their 50th anniversary celebration last Sunday. Touching on the topic slightly Mrs. Singh explained that religion still is an important factor in family life in India.

Even though being of Hindu faith, Mrs. Singh felt no qualms on visiting the United Church.

"I was raised with both faiths. God is where you wish to find him, whether it is in a temple or in a church. Words

spoken are only words. It's how you interpret them which creates meaning."

Delighted to have Mrs. Singh stay in her home Marilyn Milton stated: "We feel honored to have Premela visit us. It gives us just that tiny link with India. She is such a beautiful, vibrant and outgoing person. It's a real thrill to have her here."

Mrs. Singh graduated from the Allahabad University with her B.A. and then took a secretarial course. After working for an airline for some time she felt that she needed a more challenging job.

Beginning ten years ago working as a secretary for the "Y" she has worked her way up to the position she now holds.

Why does she enjoy her work so much?

"It's interesting. I feel that I am contributing something to the world even if it's in a very small way. It is such a rewarding career."

Marilyn Milton will join Mrs. Singh at the World YWCA Council meeting which will be held in Vancouver.

Mrs. Singh will touch the hearts of many and will be remembered by many while she visits the numerous cities planned for her, just as she touched the hearts of everyone who had the opportunity to meet her during her stay in Georgetown.



Cheers! WHAT A TIME! Gob Collier pours one of the many refreshments served at the Lions Club 'semi-annual' garden' held last Saturday evening at the Georgetown arena.

Work on Guelph Street

Proposals will have to be forwarded to council for approval before work can begin on Guelph Street at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

In order to accommodate the increased volume of traffic it

will be necessary to widen the existing roadway to five lanes and align the entrance to the Georgetown Market Centre with the arena entrance to facilitate control of the traffic by signal lights.

The works committee

studied the plan as prepared by town engineer Peter Morris before it was taken to council. Approval has been granted by the ministry of transportation and communications for the work and will pay 90 percent of the construction costs.