

# Local boy, 14, already a pinball wizard

By LORI TAYLOR  
Herald staff writer

Many university and high school students complain there are no summer jobs for students; and then there's Mark Edwards, who, at the age of 14, holds down four part-time jobs and owns a pinball machine and a jukebox.

Mark, who will be entering grade ten at Georgetown District High School next week, works part-time at C and S Printing, helps deliver mail on a rural route, works at the

Arcade, a pinball gallery on Mill Street, and babysits for neighbors.

Between these activities, Mark manages to fit in sufficient spare time for some bowling, television and sufficient practice at pinball to place second in two tournaments.

Delivering mail every morning is Mark's regular summer job. He is the passenger who puts the mail in the boxes. In his job at C and S Printing, he goes in for two and a half days

a month to collate magazine pages and staple them together.

Mark has been working at the Arcade for three years, making change, and supervising the players, enforcing the rules about smoking and shaking the machines.

Mark has been involved in buying and selling jukeboxes and pinball machines for about three years. Presently, he owns the jukebox in Kenter's Dairy Bar and one pinball

machine in the Arcade.

"About three years ago, my father lent me \$300 and I went to Woodbridge and bought three baseball machines," Mark said in explaining how he began buying and selling pinball machines. "I fixed them up in my garage, and then I put two on location in Glen Williams, and sold them at a profit."

Mark put the third machine in the Sportsman's Bowl on Mill Street, and later sold it in an auction in Ballinacra. With the proceeds from the sale, he repaid the loan from his father.

Mark also bought two more pinball machines, and sold them to people for their homes.

New jukeboxes can cost as much as \$2,000, and often look more like a stereo than what most people would visualize. Mark said he buys new records for his jukebox himself, and replaces the records once or twice a month.

Mark has no definite plans for another venture in the immediate future. He would like to attend a two-day seminar being held by Curries' on the new solid-state machines, which Mr. Edwards said are much more complicated and sophisticated than the machines on the market now. So far, there are only two or three models, each of which is designed for four players.

"Once I get this machine paid off, I might buy an electronic game," Mark said. "And my dad said he might eventually sell me the Arcade."

But pinball machines and jukeboxes will probably remain more or less a hobby with Mark, as with his father. When asked what he wanted to do when he is finished school, Mark said he wasn't sure.

"I might become an accountant, like my father," he said.

Mark put the machine in the Arcade for a time and later sold it to a man who wanted it for his home.

Following the sale of the pinball machine, Mark went into partnership with his sister Anna, who was trying to raise money for a school trip to Germany. The two bought a jukebox which had been located in Kenter's Dairy Bar, and moved it into the Arcade.

Mark later sold his half of the jukebox to his father and with the proceeds and another bank loan, bought another jukebox, which is presently located in the dairy bar.

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Mark Edwards gets a few more opportunities to practice his pinball skills than most people — he owns the machine he is shown with here. Mark has placed second in two tournaments in Georgetown. He also owns his own jukebox, and is considering buying an electronic game in the future.

**Hearing scheduled**

Robert Bilodeau is scheduled to appear at a preliminary hearing before a provincial court judge November 1 in connection with charges on 14 counts of fraud.

The former director of Countryside residence for the mentally retarded has been charged in connection with the "misappropriation" of over \$5,000 in from the residents' monthly allowances.

At the preliminary hearing, evidence will be heard, Mr. Bilodeau will be asked to register a plea, and a decision will be made as to how the case will be tried.

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