



VIC BISTROW

Profile of a volunteer: Acton's Vic Bistrow

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer
All of February and September, Vic Bistrow has his ear glued to the phone. Then, in March, April and May, he's out roaming the streets.

The 63-year-old Acton man is very active with fund-raising campaigns. Mention you're planning a campaign and he can't refuse helping.

For the past 14 years, Mr. Bistrow has been Acton's campaign chairman for the CNIB and for the past eight years, he's also been running Acton's Heart Fund campaign.

Each February and September he picks up the Acton phone book and starts dialing number after number. It takes Mr. Bistrow about 300 calls

before he's lined up enough volunteer canvassers, he said.

Mapping out the town into residential blocks for each canvasser to visit, Mr. Bistrow then delivers the campaign kits that start the campaign ball rolling in the community.

But his job doesn't end there, for he leaves the commercial and industrial canvassing to himself. He is also responsible for picking up the money collected by the canvassers after the door-to-door drive is over.

"It's getting bigger because the town is growing," Mr. Bistrow said of his campaigns. "I used to be able to do it with 50 people, but the town has doubled and it now takes about 100 people."

As if it wasn't enough to be running the Heart Fund campaign in February and the CNIB campaign in September,

'People should try doing something for someone else.'

Mr. Bistrow also takes part in the Red Cross drive in March, the Cancer Society drive in April and the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded campaign in May. He works as a canvasser for the last three organizations.

"Once you get into one of these things it's pretty hard to get out of it, you know," Mr. Bistrow smiled. "I kind of kid and say I got talked into it,

but I enjoy it. If I can help in any way like that, it's okay for me."

The campaigns he leads take him two months from the time he starts calling up canvassers to when the money comes in, he said.

To be fair, Mr. Bistrow said he starts dialling at a different letter of the alphabet each year so different people are called upon to canvass and not always the same people.

"The kind of people who'll go out to canvass will do it for anybody," he said. "I try to stay away from getting the same people for both campaigns, where I can."

TRY TO HELP

For 22 years a member of the Lions Club, Mr. Bistrow said the club gave him the initiative to want to serve and

try to help whenever he can.

"People should live their life trying to do something for someone else," Mr. Bistrow said. "If I can help in any way, I will."

Actually, it was through his involvement with the Lions Club that he started up the CNIB campaign in Acton. The blind are one of the main club projects.

As for the Heart Fund, he got into that when a Hamilton branch representative came to visit him at the Acton post office where he's a clerk. She came to ask for his help in finding someone who would run an Acton campaign.

Unable to resist when he saw the need, Mr. Bistrow volunteered to do it for one year. He's been doing it ever since.

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Call delays police in bank heist

A ploy by an unknown bank robber diverted Halton regional police from the downtown area last Wednesday at 10:55 a.m., during a \$1,000 heist from the Toronto Dominion bank on Georgetown's Main Street South.

Police said five minutes before the robbery occurred, they received a call from a phone booth outside the Bank of Commerce, also on Georgetown's Main Street South. Criminal Investigations Bureau Staff Sgt. Les Graham called it a diversionary tactic that got police out of the downtown area.

The staff sergeant said the man, described as 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 10 inches tall, and approx-

imately 175 pounds, had been observed walking up and down Main Street for approximately 20 minutes prior to the robbery.

Police described the man to be in his mid-twenties, with unkempt straight dark brown hair over his ears though not touching his collar. He had a dark moustache and marks on his face, perhaps moles. The man was wearing silver-wired sunglasses, a blue peaked baseball cap, a blue and white plaid shirt, blue jeans and a khaki vest which was open.

If anyone saw a man fitting this description at the time of the robbery, they are asked to call police at 878-5511 extension 292.

Town stalls Acton land development

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

An industrial land development proposed for Acton's northwestern corner won't be approved until town council has more information from its engineer and planner.

Clients have already expressed an interest in the 200-acre site which shoulders Highway 25 and is easily accessible by rail, Hugh Bruce, representing the Ken Gibb Syndicate, told councillors Monday night.

The industrial park would not use municipal water and sewer facilities, but would have its own separate water supply and dispose of wastes through a septic system.

Only "dry" industries would be allowed to locate in the park, industries which do not use water or dispose of dangerous wastes as part of their manufacturing process.

While acknowledging that there are sewage and water studies which need to be done before companies can move to the site, Mr. Bruce said the Gibb Syndicate is anxious to generate more interest

and possibly secure some commitments to the site.

Council's approval in principle of the firm's plans would help, he said, adding that the firm didn't want to spend any more money on studies until it had the "blessing of the municipality" for the project.

WATER SUPPLY
Some councillors Monday night expressed concern about how a large industrial development might affect the community's tenuous water supply.

Bill Morrison, a water supply consultant hired by Gibb Syndicate, said his consulting firm had reviewed regional information about the water supply in the area surrounding the park.

He said he believes there is plenty of water in an aquifer running below the property and may produce as much as 500-600 gallons of water a minute.

Firm conclusions about the supply won't be available until test wells have been dug, Mr. Morrison commented.

The industrial park's
Continued on Page A7



IN STEP

Formed only last year, the Air Cadets Squadron 758 band put out a marching air for their fellow marchers, lightening their steps along the parade route. With 29 cadets and a drum major, they've worked hard to keep in tune and in step. The air cadets are gearing up for three May events - tag days on May 5, 6 and 7 to raise money for their programs, the Optimist Club's Bang-a-rama at which the band will play May 22, and for their last parade of the year May 30 at their annual inspection.

(Herald photo)

Volunteer Week

Stories on pages A8, A9

ABOUT THE HILLS

New contracts

Varian Canada Inc. has been awarded two more federal government contracts, Supply and Services Canada has announced.

The Georgetown firm will supply electron tubes to the defence department. The contracts are worth \$154,500 and \$118,349.

They were two of 322 contracts, worth \$26.9 million, contained in the latest bulletin of business opportunities.

Albums stolen

A 20-year old man who stole an album collection worth \$100 from a Mountainview Road South residence was charged with theft under \$200 and will appear in Milton provincial court May 16.

The theft of 31 albums by the Georgetown man took place April 9.

Too many curves

A Hillsburgh driver was taken to Milton hospital with minor injuries April 12 following an accident on Sideroad 10. David Tucker Jones, 51, failed to negotiate a slight curve near the Third Line, drove off the roadway left of centre and hit a tree.

Student centre opens

A Canada Employment centre for students will open in Georgetown Friday (April 22). Supervised by Deborah Finnegan, the centre will help students find full and part-time summer employment and offers a wealth of advice on the types of jobs available this year, as well as job-creation programs which offer employment opportunities.

The centre is located at Guelphview Square (corner Mountainview Road South and Guelph Street) in office space adjacent to the Royal Bank.

Miss Finnegan spoke to the Georgetown Rotary Club Monday night about student employment prospects and she'll be registering students Wednesday at Georgetown and District High School and Friday at Acton High School. The centre's office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Clocks forward

Yes folks, it's time to spring forward. Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday morning at 2 a.m. Clocks must be moved ahead one hour and, technically, we could lose an hour of sleep. But we'll get it back Oct. 30, when Eastern Standard Time returns and the clocks "fall back".

COED decision

Halton Hills is still awaiting a decision from administrators of the COED job creation program

about whether or not renovations to 6 Church St. are eligible for funds.

The administrators have been sent a written response from the town to some questions they had. Meanwhile, town clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said that if there is no approval this week of the \$20,000 project, electrician Jeff Allworth may drop his proposal to renovate the building into office space.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Entertainment

With just two days before the opening of 'Deathtrap' the suspense is already building. Page A12.

Sports

The Gemins held their annual awards banquet with Mike Doucette and Peter Haller sharing honors for the team MVP. Akers-Clark are threatening Norval's Hollywood Tavern. Page B1

Features

A demonstration of the bewildering practice of divining was shown to curious onlookers at the Georgetown Public Library. Diverting waterways is one element in the art of divining. Page A11.

Townhouse development

Construction begins for co-op project

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Three bedrooms, one and one-half bathrooms, a basement which can be renovated into a rec room - a home like that may no longer be out of the question for many Halton Hills residents.

Construction has already started on a rather unique housing development in Georgetown's River Run area on a co-operative housing venture. The 46-unit townhouse development which is being built by Home-starts, a private non-profit firm which builds co-operative and non-profit housing throughout the Toronto area, expects to see its first residents in July, with another wave of filling completed homes in August.

When completed, it will be the town's first co-operative housing development and is already known as the Morley Mills Co-Operative, after a well-known community worker and a director of the new project.

There are only 17 co-operative housing projects in Peel and Halton regions, including the one in Georgetown. Co-operative housing developments are already found in Oakville and Burlington and two more projects are planned for those cities, as well.

SHARE

Members of a co-operative housing development actually share in the ownership of the project each paying a monthly share towards the development's mortgage and upkeep.

It's against the law for any individual member of the co-op to build up equity - that is turn a profit from his role in the co-op; but members over the age of 18 have full voting rights when decisions are made regarding the co-op's future.

Through committee and a board of directors, a system of checks and balances is in place to ensure that the best interests of co-op members are looked after.

"There's nothing new about co-operatives," Karen Stenberg, a Home-

starts director, told The Herald, "because they've been around for ages. Grain co-operatives have been formed out in the prairies for the joint benefit of farmers and co-ops of other kinds exist all over the world."

Everyone has a role in keeping the development in top shape. Co-op members often steer away from the exorbitant maintenance cost faced by condominium dwellers by doing their own maintenance chores rather than hiring professional outside help. However, when certain tasks need special help, the decision to hire a contractor is made by a committee of the co-operative.

At the Morley Mills Co-op, residents can expect to pay about \$550 a month as their share of the mortgage. While at first glance, that may not seem much of a savings over other townhouse rental schemes, there are long-term savings to be enjoyed in the co-op, Ms. Stenberg said.

"The co-op operates on a non-profit basis," she explained. "After the first year, only the increased costs of maintenance and home insurance are added on."

"In some co-operatives, increases this year were only four per cent and that's with a lot of padding - saving up money for roof repairs and other things years down the road."

ALTERNATIVES

Co-op housing isn't simply for low-income families: It's a way of life and owning a home which is enjoyed by residents with widely different annual incomes.

There are many residents whose rents to the co-op are subsidized by government programs, but Ms. Stenberg added, people who can afford to pay the full monthly amount move into co-ops because they are attracted by the concept of co-operative living. Since the Georgetown project got underway several weeks ago, Home-start's Mississauga headquarters has had about 30 applications for the 46 units.

(One of the homes is specially designed to accommodate a physically-handicapped resident).

Not all of these applications will be accepted by the time they've passed through the careful screening process, largely carried out by volunteers from other co-operative developments in the area.

The application form asks why the applicants want to live in a co-op development. Applicants later attend an orientation meeting explaining how the co-operative system works and what's expected of them if they are eventually accepted.

Co-op volunteers who have been on a special training course, meet with applicants for interviews. Applications are then reviewed by a membership committee and recommendations passed on to a board of directors which eventually makes

the final decision.

With new co-ops, the membership of committees and boards of directors is filled by residents living in other co-op developments.

Once the fledgling co-op is built and people start to move in, management is turned over to its own residents.

Many co-op residents, Ms. Stenberg said, like the "control over their lives" they seem to re-

gain in co-op housing. They are no longer tied to rent increases decided arbitrarily by landlords or mortgage rates which can soar in a matter of months.

By participating in the co-op's decision making process, residents have a say in their annual house fees.

If you want more information on the Morley Mills Co-op, call Home-starts at 270-4366.

Fisher gains delegate seat on 5th ballot

Betty Fisher was the sole Georgetown delegate selected to represent Brampton-Georgetown for the Tory leadership convention in June.

Mrs. Fisher, vice-chairman of the Halton board of education, won on the fifth ballot, narrowly defeating Everett Biggs 121-119.

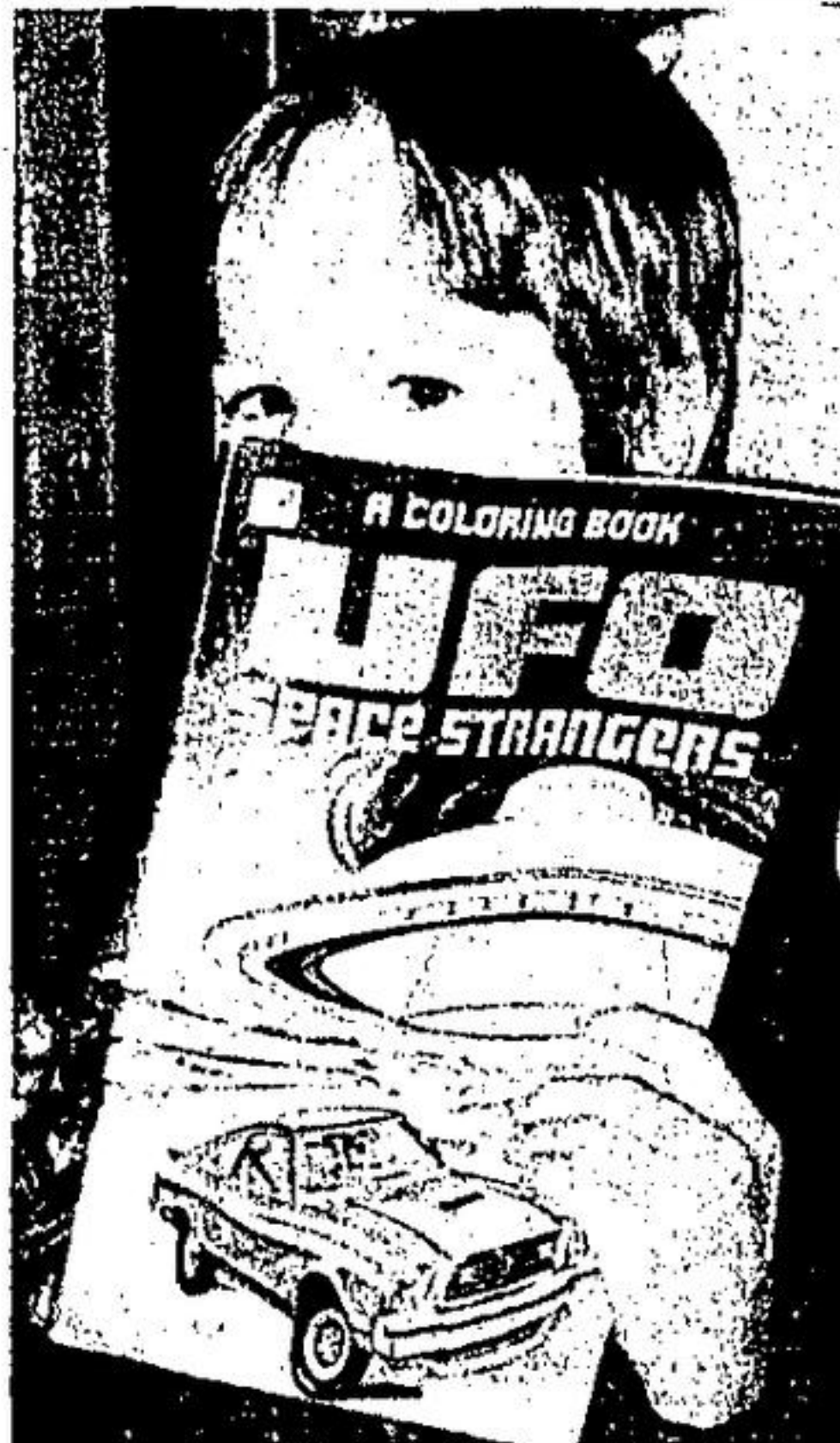
Of the four delegates selected Wednesday night at Chinguacousy Secondary School, Mrs. Fisher was the only committed delegate, placing her support behind leadership candidate John Crosbie.

The other candidates selected were Lois Rice, Tom Hendy, and Phil Upshaw, all long-time members of the riding association.

Elected as alternative delegates are Dianne Sutter, Graeme Goebelle of Georgetown, Everett Biggs and Morris Smith.

Besides Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Goebelle, Georgetown was represented by delegate candidates Rick Morrow, Kevin McLean, Ab Tennant and Eric Stone. There were 18 delegates represented at the riding association meeting where 354 members cast votes on the first ballot.

Mr. Goebelle lasted until the fourth ballot when he dropped out of the delegate race, trailing Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Biggs.



PRIVATE EYES

Action and adventure are everywhere in the mind of six-year-old Mark Helmmler, who picked up a 'UFO' coloring book at the Joseph Gibbons School garage sale on Saturday. Young Mark paused between chapters for a momentary check of his surroundings.

(Herald photo by Gerry Timbers)