

Message from the editor.

# Our 'good news' newspaper

A community is only as strong as the people who make it work. In Halton Hills we're blessed with a mix of personalities and individuals that make life here so interesting and enjoyable.

Quite often newspapers are criticized for bringing news to your doorstep that is of the



by DAVE ROWNEY

Herald editor

sensational or negative variety.

It's left a lot of publishers and editors wondering what should be considered news.

Newspapers can't print only good news to people - that would be distorting fact.

But there's always more that can be done to highlight some of the people around town that make our community work and grow.

In the following pages The Herald will be profiling a series of residents picked at random. They might be police officers, town councillors or volunteers in the community.

One of the purposes of this edition is to let you know we haven't forgotten the positive, enjoyable stories that often don't make page one in a weekly newspaper. Everyone has a story to tell.

This isn't the end of a series of profiles. We're always looking for more candidates to highlight regularly in our newspaper.

If you know of anyone who leads an interesting career, or might have some tales of the past worth telling, give us a call. We're always keeping a list of feature stories and looking for fresh ideas. Call us at 877-2201.

## Jo and Bob Walterson

# Off to the lands of elephants

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald staff

They're off to the land of the elephants.

Jo and Bob Walterson are packing their bags and selling their house after 12 years in Georgetown to go to Nairobi, Kenya.

The local artist, well-known for her monoprints and water colors, is taking her paint brushes with her, anticipating art supplies will be difficult to get in Africa.

Her studio at the Forge Gallery in Terra Cotta is being taken over by another local artist, Gretchen Day.

Jo is the second Forge Gallery artist to leave in the past year. Agnes Olive left for Pakistan with her husband in the fall.



Jo and Bob Walterson prepare their packing for their stay in Kenya.

The reason for the big move by the Waltersons is a two year job with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Mr. Walterson, a Ministry of Energy employee has been granted a two year leave of absence to develop programs in energy conservation in Kenya. The programs will concentrate on conserving energy in government buildings and industrial transportation.

"Fuel's very expensive," Mr. Walterson said. "They pay over \$4 a gallon for gas over there."

There are eight Canadians working on this project, all to be living near each other.

Mr. Walterson leaves Friday for Nairobi, and his wife joins him June 10.

The couple have been learning the country's national language Swahili since the fall.

Recently, there were in Ottawa for a one-week briefing which taught them what to expect in Kenya in terms of customs, climate, culture.

"We were told that if you're female, you're not supposed to be making eye contact with men. It suggests another thing," Mrs. Walterson smiled.

Her husband said men were also told to avoid making eye contact with other men because it's interpreted as being aggressive or confrontational. Looking the other way while talking to another person shows respect for them.

With the country's average take home pay being \$700 a year, there's more poor than rich in Kenya, Mr. Walterson said.

The couple were told it would be safe to eat the food and drink the water in Nairobi, but to be careful when they go to the villages outside the city. As well, they were told not to swim in the fresh water.

The local beer is supposed to be very good, Mr. Walterson said. Hard liquor is difficult to obtain and expensive as there is no distillery in the country, he said.

"We're looking forward to touring the country and seeing the natural game parks," Mr. Walterson said. "Apparently, they're within five minutes of the city."

Occasionally, elephants make their way into the city, where law says they have the right of way, he said with a chuckle.

"They don't shoot them, just herd them out," Mr. Walterson said.

# Sports topic favourite with barber Rod

By ROBIN BAKEWELL  
Herald staff

When Rod Presswood started cutting hair over 20 years ago the kids used to cry.

"It used to be a real stigma. I think they thought I was a doctor because I'd wear one of those white smocks," he said.

Mr. Presswood said that was when a hair cut cost about .75 cents. Although the price has risen considerably over the years Mr. Presswood said the kids hardly ever cry anymore.

Mr. Presswood quit school early and on his parent's advice went for a trade which he obtained through the Provincial Institute of Trades (now George Brown College).

He's worked in various locations in downtown Georgetown and says the number one topic arising from the barber-shop chair is sports.

"Politics arises sometimes but it usually leads to more problems than a good discussion," the veteran said.

Mr. Presswood has seen a lot of styles come and go and said during the long hair era of the 1970's a salesman told his 50 per cent of barbers folded in the Hamilton area.

"Every couple of years the hair cuts will take a trend one way or another, but there are only so many things you can do with it," he said.

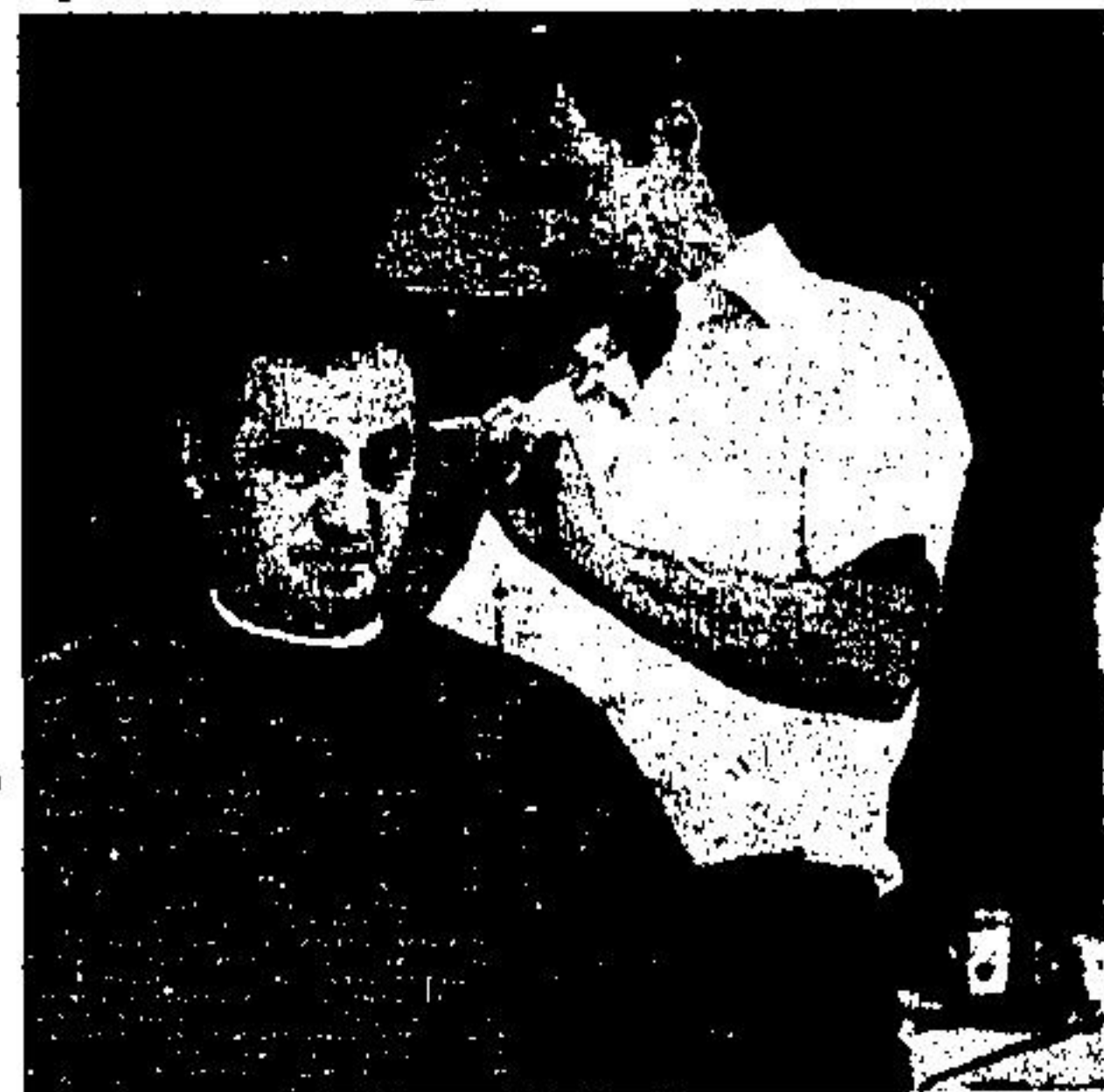
Mr. Presswood said a half dozen guys from the high school rugby team had visited him for the old beanie cut recently which he said was a little different.

He said it has to be the people which he enjoys most about his job and told of one unique gentleman who used to visit him years ago.

"This one old guy, who I think was senile, would get his hair cut then say he has to find his wife to get the money from."

"Although it wasn't intentional, he'd never return with the money," Mr. Presswood laughed.

When not behind the chair of his Main Street barber shop the life long Georgetown resident may be found enjoying his hobbies of squash and fishing.



Tom Roberts prepares for the scissor treatment from Georgetown barber Rod Presswood. Mr. Roberts said he has had his hair cuts from Mr. Presswood for the past 10 to 15 years. Sports was the first topic arising from the chair.