

# And Bingo was his name-O

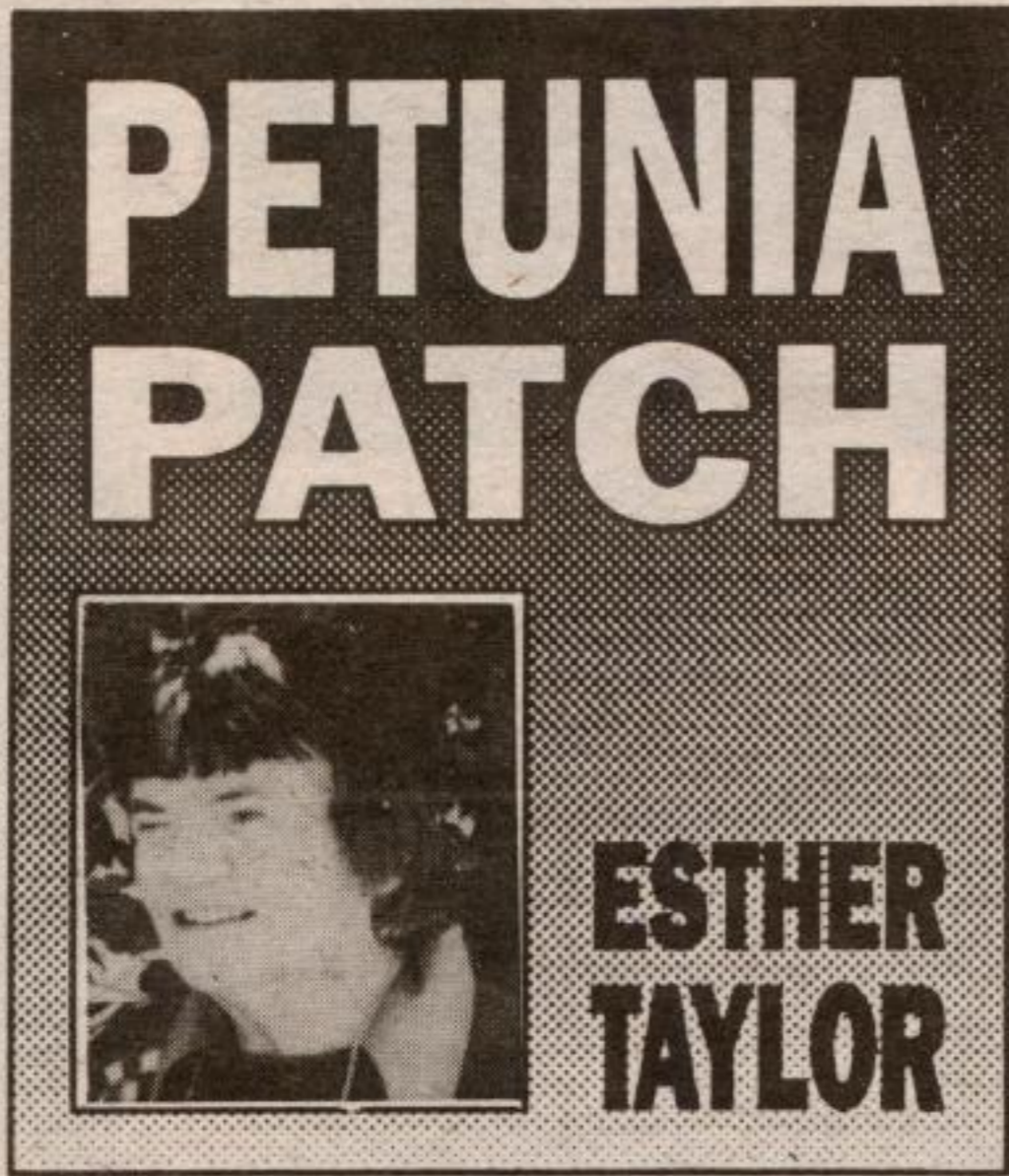
My dog Bingo has disgraced me again. If she continues her criminal activities, her fast-aging owner could wind up in the cooler.

Bingo's latest caper took place in Acton Park, scene of many pooch escapades, due in part to her self-assumed role of unofficial Greeter. Hiking along the race tracks my canines and I spotted two elderly Vietnamese gentlemen peacefully fishing from the shore of Fairy Lake. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Bingo wig-waggin' over to say Halloa, complete with formidable grin. Accustomed to this kind of performance, the other dogs and I continued on our way until a shrill masculine scream halted us in our tracks.

I breathed a prayer for strength before daring to look back. One of the fishermen was doing a Rumpelstiltskin as he yelled and waved his arms. Where was Bingo? Far out on the green park to the left of us, gallumphing in giddy circles. In her jaws she carried a cardboard box, which on command she brought just close enough for me to grab it. Hoping the carton did not contain a fisherman's lunch, I peeked inside. It was full of juicy worms — precious bait for the hopeful anglers.

As the Vietnamese could not speak English, nor I their language, I apologized in sign language, trying to keep a solemn face. As I returned the purloined box, I grabbed Bingo by her collar and walked her a safe distance out of temptation's way. Then reaction set in. I laughed all the way to the Point, while the dogs compared notes, not for the first time, on the wackiness of their mistress.

Bingo is a Godknowswhat breed, built like a horse, with the



black and white colouring of an old English sheep dog. Her face is neatly divided into black and white sections, with matching eyes, which with bristly chin whiskers makes for a criminal appearance. Her mother may have mated with an Irish terrier. However, as she came minus papers, her ancestry will always remain dubious.

What she lacks in bloodlines, Bingo compensates with personality and heart. This idiot dog loves everybody, from babies in strollers to senior citizens, greeting each human being with affectionate gusto. Sometimes her sociability proves embarrassing when she meets a stranger who dislikes pooches or is afraid of dogs — especially those with wide grins displaying bone-crunching teeth.

When Bingo was younger, her favourite sport was stealing baseballs from innocent urchins enjoying games of catch while waiting for a summons from the team manager. I aged noticeably in her puppy years, from hearing accusatory laments: "Hey, your dog stole our ball!"

Bingo also prized tennis balls — especially colourful and expensive new balls lobbed over the court fence. It was a race between owner, dog and me to retrieve

straying spheres, as Bingo operated on the premise that finders are keepers.

Bingo and my two other dogs love Fairy Lake, into which they plunge as soon as the ice disappears. In the good old summer time, they dash in and out of the water, trying to outdo the ducks and geese, who accept their dunking with reasonable calm. Sometimes, I suspect Bingo imagines she is a waterfowl as she paddles among the quackers and the swans. Mind you, I keep a sharp lookout lest she suddenly remembers that she is, after all, a Dawg, who could swallow a duckling in one gulp.

When Bingo first arrived to grace our household, life was merry hell! She was a thief, whose sneaky pilfering was as natural as breathing. Her felonious instincts were sharpened by an acute sweet tooth. She could sniff out a chocolate bar at the bottom of a grocery order. Bags of muffins and cookies had to be stored pronto before Bingo sleuthed them out and devoured them. She had a marvelous reach even as a pup, which enabled her to lift plates from the table without breaking a dish. The poor cats suffered lean times until the hungry new arrival finally learned that feline dinners were forbidden feasts.

Gradually, with the passing of time, Bingo learned discretion within limits. She will never be a model pooch nor will her love for humanity ever change. She still considers it her duty and pleasure to welcome rugby, baseball and hockey players to the park. A park crowded with people makes her day. I am seriously considering an application to have Bingo inked on the Recreation payroll. She rates official recognition. ■

## HEY!

What are your holiday plans for the summer?



"I'm going to Montreal. And I'm going to play a lot with my motor-bike."

**MATTHEW NEWMAN**  
*Matthew Court, Acton*

"I'm going to Florida to visit friends for three weeks this summer."

**BARBARA LEECH**  
*Roseford Terrace, Acton*



"We will be going to Cullen Gardens (miniature world) and Canada's Wonderland. We'll also visit my sister in Kitchener."

**KEN RICKETTS**  
*Mill Street, Acton*

"I plan to visit my family in Sarnia. I'd like to travel but I'll probably stay home and watch over things."

**MARJORIE LANDBOROUGH**  
*Alice Street, Acton*



## Acton Rotary's proud record

The \$700 donated to ASSIC's Meals on Wheels program Thursday by the Rotary Club of Acton will help provide a fresh fruit supplement to go with the regular, daily meals delivered to seniors. The donation is the most recent in a series of contributions which the Rotary Club has made to the program over a period of 15 years.

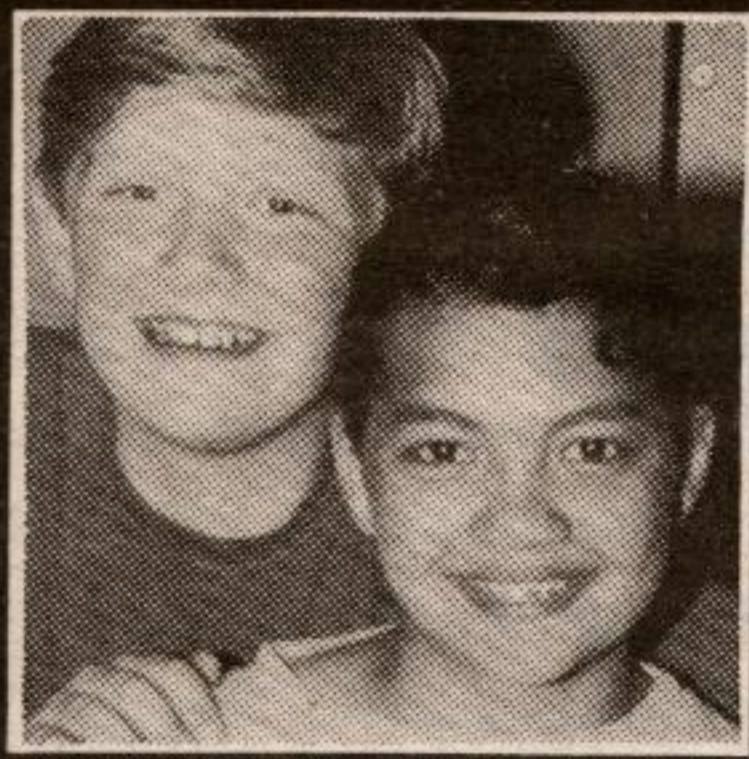
Members of the club have worked with a will to enhance the quality of life in our community by contributing towards a variety of good causes including:

- Providing scholarships and awards of excellence to students.
  - Sponsoring Acton High's gymnastic team.
  - Supplying playground equipment to local schools.
  - Donating towards the restoration of the Town Hall building.
- The annual Easter Seals Campaign has also been conducted by club members for the past 43 years and they have been involved in the Arthritis campaign for 11 years. Rotary's record in Acton is a long and honourable one. ■



**YOU'RE OUT! SAYS WHO?** Pat Giguere gives umpire Bill Riddle a piece of her mind at the Acton Seniors' Picnic in the park on Wednesday. Luckily, Village Constable Riddle had back-up available in case of emergencies such as this one.

### McKenzie-Smith Report With Matt Schiller & Roshini Kassie



On June 1 at 7 am, many Grade 7 and 8 students at McKenzie-Smith pulled out of the parking lot on

board a coach headed for a fun filled week in Ottawa. En route they made a stop at Morrisburg where they toured Upper Canada Village.

Once the group arrived in Ottawa, many exciting events awaited them, including a tour of the Parliament Buildings, a visit to Laurier House, stops at the Museum of Aviation, the Museum of Science and Technology, the Canadian War Museum and of course the new National Gallery!

The students also had the opportunity of touring the Hershey

Chocolate factory and taking a journey through the past at historic Fort Henry.

Teachers who accompanied students on this trip felt that it was a very successful event. Comments shared by staff included: "I was pleased to see the students conducting themselves in such a positive way," and "It was great to see the students taking such an active interest in the Canadian art at the National Gallery."

All in all it was a wonderful experience for both staff and students!

## Acton Legion Branch 197 News



BY MIKE MATTOCKS

A Newfie Night held recently was sold out and was a great success. Thanks to all who participated.

Ray Thornhill's name was pulled for the weekly Loonie Draw on

June 6. Unfortunately Ray had not signed in. The carry-over amount is now up to \$1,394.

The winners of the June 6 draw are: Early Birds — Eva Cutting and Dot Norton; Regular Prizes — Lucy Synnot, J. Higgins, A. Willmott, Leo Synnot, P. Cripps, L. Thibeault, D. Dakin, G. Jeffrey, J. Jansen, F. Andrews, G. Clayton, and K. Verbeek. Large Prize: F. Andrews.

Sick at home: F. Jones, H. Adams, H. Otterbein.

Georgetown Hospital: Marg Clayton.

Coming Events: June 20 — Beef barbecue at 7 pm.

Tickets are \$7.50 each and are available at the bar.

First come, first served. Don't miss this event, it's always a highlight of the summer season. Come on out and enjoy the Branch. ■