

Ron Birrell gives kids the skills to succeed

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Ron Birrell has spent his adult life trying to make the world a better place for the next generation.

That fact is evident when it comes to the cornerstones of his life: his family, Scouts and sports.

"My whole reason for being involved with kids is that they are our legacy," Ron explains. "It's not who has the most toys at the end of the game that wins, it's what we do while we're here, and if we have children, it's how well we give them the tools to take on this world—that is what is important."

Although Ron, wife Irene and children Shannon, Jamie and Jeff have lived in Acton for only three years, they have embraced this community. The family moved here from Regina when Ron took over as national products manager for Dover Elevator, a firm he's worked with for 20 years.

When the local scout troop needed a leader, Ron was there.

When the Acton YBA basketball program needed a coach, Ron was there.

When the Acton food bank needed to fill its shelves, Ron was there.

Why? Because Ron feels a profound responsibility to give something back to the community.

When asked what makes him tick, why he feels it's his job to help others, Ron says he tries to live up to a plaque, a gift from his wife, that hangs in his bedroom.

The plaque reads:
*That Man Is A Success
 Who has lived well
 laughed often and loved much;
 Who has gained the respect
 of intelligent men
 and the love of children;
 Who has found his niche
 and accomplished his task;
 Who leaves the world better
 than he found it,
 whether by an improved poppy,
 a perfect poem
 or a rescued soul;*

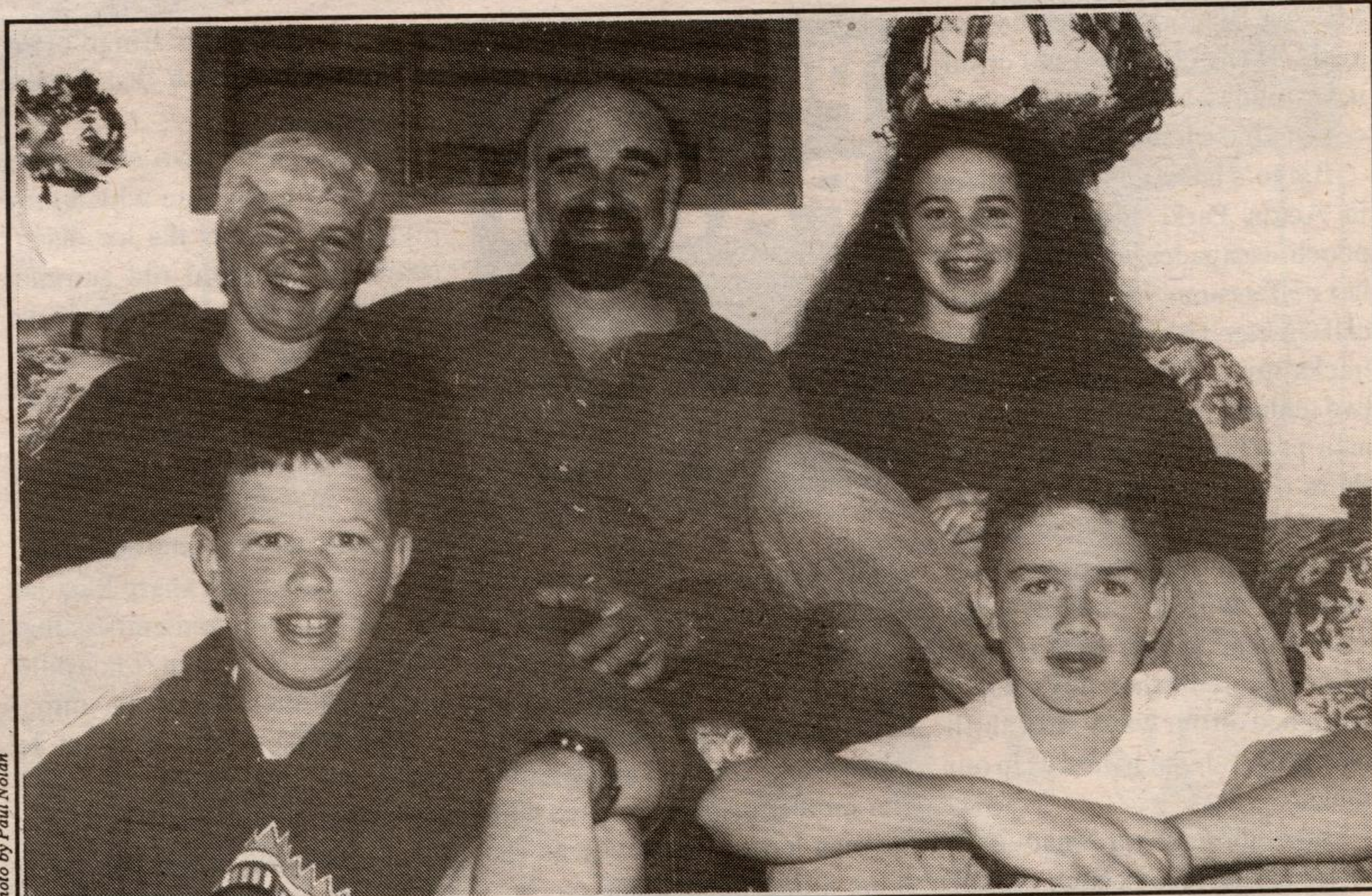


Photo by Paul Nolan

The Birrell family enjoys some family time. Top left: Irene, Ron and daughter Shannon. Front left: Jamie and Jeff. Missing: Trixie the dog. The family moved from Regina to Acton three years ago.

*Who never lacked appreciation
 of earth's beauty
 or filed to express it;
 Who looked for the best in others
 and gave the best he had.*

Irene Birrell says she gave the plaque to Ron because it suits him so well. Ron modestly says he only attempts to live up to its ideals.

Ron says the chose to move to Acton despite a real estate agent's attempts to steer them away from the town.

"The agent told us the town was tough with an unsavory crowd hanging around on the street. We found a beautiful town with the schools, facilities and open space that we want our children to have.

"When Irene and I moved to Acton we wanted to get our children involved in the town and make the transition to this community as smooth as possible. We spent time with all three kids to determine what kind of events and

activities they wanted to be involved with. The list included basketball. When we checked into the Acton YMCA program it was evident they needed coaching help, so I had the chance to get involved. We coached soccer as well and Irene became heavily involved with the Sunday School program at Trinity United Church and with the schools.

"We wanted a positive introduction to the town and we also wanted to help where we could," Ron explains.

The desire to give something back to the community is a responsibility Ron learned through the Scouting program.

"Scouting is something that I was involved with for a couple of years when I was kid and it was the first time in my life that any adult male, other than my father, had taken any time with me on a volunteer basis to do something constructive.

"After going through the program I found it was something very special to me because it gave me the opportunity to take on challenges that I typically wouldn't have had the chance to do.

"Both our boys were involved in scouting out west and when we moved here we joined the local troop. The Scout leader was also leading the Beaver colony so I offered to help and within about five minutes I was the new leader.

"Scouting combines fun and service to your community and provides that avenue for learning and experimenting with things in a group environment. It is also very physical and that is an important attraction."

Ron says while the Scouts are learning to be part of a group, and to depend on themselves, they are also learning one of Scouting's cornerstones—service to the community.

Please see next page



PRICES IN EFFECT WHILE QUANTITIES LAST UNTIL JUNE 28/92

HOURS
 MONDAY 12-5
 TUES. 9-5
 WED. 9-6
 TURS.-FRI 9-8
 SAT. 9-6
 SUN. 12-5

OPEN SUNDAYS 12 TO 5 P.M.

BREADED CHICKEN BREASTS
 3 lbs (1.36 kgs)
\$10.79
 SOLID BREASTMEAT

BEEF BURGERS
 25 - 3.2 oz 5lbs **\$7.99**
 SAVE 55 pcs. - 11 lbs
\$15.99

BY THE LB. OR BY THE BOX

BACON-WRAPPED BEEF FILLET MIGNON
 6 - 4 oz. **\$10.99** lb.
 SAVE 12 for **\$19.99**

MAPLE LEAF HOT DOGS
 JUMBO OR **\$1.79** lb.
 REGULAR 11 lb. box
 SIZE **\$19.69**

MEAT AND CHEESE TRAYS

SALMON STEAKS
\$3.99 lb.
 approx. 8 oz. portions

CHICKEN MEATBALLS NEW
 2 kg. (approx. 4.4 lbs.) **\$12.99**
 135 PCS SEASONED, FULLY COOKED

FREE SAMPLES EVERY DAY

DUTCH MILL DRINK CRYSTALS
\$1.29
 asst. flavours MAKES 1 GALLON

GOURMET CHEESECAKES
 ALL NATURAL
\$7.99 for 2.5 lbs.
 asst. fruit toppings

CAKES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

SHRIMP RINGS
 40 pc. approx.
 THAW 'N SERVE
\$7.99

CHICKEN BREASTS
 3 lbs. 1.36 kgs.
\$12.99
 PLAIN, LEMON & HERB, TERIAKI, & B.B.Q.

ACTON'S FIRST AND FINEST
 5 MILL ST. BOXED MEAT STORE 853-0101

Herrington graphics



Quality graphic suppliers of

- BUSINESS CARDS • LETTERHEADS
- ENVELOPES • SINGLE COPY FORMS
- NCR FORMS • CONTINUOUS FORMS
- BROCHURES • MAIL FLYERS • POSTERS
- NEWSPAPER INSERTS • TAGS • LABELS
- PROGRAMS • PRESENTATION FOLDERS
- MENUS • CHEQUES • PERSONAL STATIONERY • WEDDING INVITATIONS
- RUBBER STAMPS ...

for over 20 years.

CALL (519) 853-2401
FAX QUOTE (519) 853-1439

100 FREDERICK STREET SOUTH,
 HALTON HILLS (ACTON) ONTARIO L7J 2C2

NOW AVAILABLE!
2 COLOUR COPIER SERVICE

