



**BIRTHDAY BONUS:** Acton artist and Ladies Auxiliary member Renee Gadd presents an original painting to Branch 197 President Joyce Buchanan recently, in commemoration of Canada's 125th birthday.

## Nov. is wife abuse prevention month

November is wife assault prevention month in Ontario. Marion Boyd, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, launched Ontario's seventh mass media campaign last Monday with some encouraging news.

A survey commissioned by the Ontario Women's Directorate after last November's public education campaign shows significant changes in the public's awareness of wife assault. Seventy-two per cent of the people in Ontario say that men bear the responsibility for ending wife assault. Another eighty-two per cent now agree that destroying a woman's possessions or keeping her isolated from family and friends is abusive behaviour.

But research also tells us that six out of 10 Ontarians know either an abused woman or a man who abuses his partner. We can't afford to ignore these statistics. Hundreds of thousands of women in this province — our neighbours, business colleagues, the mothers of our children's friends, our relatives — are routinely beaten, humiliated and

threatened by the men with whom they live. Some are literally beaten to death. We can't allow this violence to continue.

The Ontario Women's Directorate is re-broadcasting two TV commercials first aired last year. Both ads reinforce the campaign theme that "no man has the right to assault a woman." The Directorate will also broadcast radio ads in 11 languages and run newspaper advertising in 14 languages across the province. Funding has been provided to 114 organizations to carry out their own public education campaigns.

Since 1990, funding aimed at the prevention of wife abuse and sexual assault has been increased by more than \$25 million. Plans are underway to integrate the Wife Assault and Sexual Assault Prevention Initiatives into a combined strategy by 1994 to prevent violence against women. The Minister will consult with those who need to play a role in framing the initiative — survivors of violence, service-providers and advocacy organiza-

tions. She will also involve francophone women, cultural, racial minority and immigrant women, and women with disabilities. First Nations groups have already completed their discussions and their recommendations will be considered by the Minister.

The responsibility for ending violence must include the community as well as the government. As individuals we need to openly discuss and condemn wife assault. Marion Boyd has sometimes compared the wife assault campaign to the anti-drinking and driving campaign — advertising that helped change attitudes and behaviour toward drunk driving. Friends and colleagues took car keys away from those too drunk to drive. Businesses held education sessions for their employees. The community, in effect, assumed its share of responsibility. Although wife abuse is a more complex social problem than drinking and driving, we need to talk about the violence and start taking action. We have to reinforce the unacceptability of wife assault. Men need to tell other men that their abusive behaviour is wrong. And we must stop believing that assaulted women are somehow responsible for their victimization.

There are shelters in Guelph and Milton where abused women can seek refuge. Their crisis lines are 416-878-8555 in Milton and 1-800-265-7233 in Guelph. Please call them if you are the victim of abuse.

*(From the office of Noel Duignan, MPP)*

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## Voyageurs Canada '92

BY LORI FOSTER

On Sunday, Oct. 13, Acton High School students waited nervously for the arrival of their exchange visitors from Craik, Saskatchewan. During the next week we took our twins to the C.N. Tower, Sky Dome, Niagara Falls, and on an exciting tour of Halton. By the end of the week we all became good friends. The only good thing about our tearful farewell the following Sunday was that we all would be reunited in just three weeks.

Time flew by, until the Thursday we were to leave. Somehow we all managed to be on the plane at seven that night when it left. In Regina, everyone was glad to be back on the ground and reunited with their twin.

The next morning we woke up to bright sunshine (they don't use Daylight Savings Time). We spent the morning in their school which has 200 students ranging from K-12. That afternoon we visited a Hutterite colony and spent time seeing their farming operation.

On Saturday we spent the day in Saskatoon, which is a bit bigger than Guelph. Sunday we each spent the day with our twin and their family since it was Thanksgiving. On Monday we toured the countryside, saw the Gardiner Dam, a sod house and even an aquaculture site. We ended the day with a barbecue and campfire at one of our twins cabins.

On Tuesday in Regina we visited the R.C.M.P. headquarters, Government House and saw Blue Planet at the Imax Theatre. Wednesday we had a tour of Craik, which is smaller than Acton. Approximately 500 people live there. We saw their hospital and grain elevators, and we then walked to their museum where we were all recorded on video tape. We all agreed that Saskatchewan was flat, cold and windy. That afternoon we had a car rally. Half of us were lost and the other half didn't know where to go. But we all had fun.

The next thing we knew it was Thursday and we had to leave. After our visit to the Airforce base in Moosejaw, where the Snowbirds train, we went for some last minute shopping. We were then taken to the airport where we had a sad farewell, because this might be the last time we would see each other. Somehow we all made it through the good-byes and arrived back home in Acton tired but richer after gaining ten more friends from Saskatchewan.

Note: Voyageurs Canada 92 is a national travel exchange program which provide Canadians between 16 and 21 an opportunity to visit different regions of Canada and to learn more about their country, their communities and their fellow citizens. The program was created by the Federal Government in partnership with Air Canada.



**ACTON ACTORS:** Acton's Nicole Lee, Brian Banyard and Gillian Banyard are now in rehearsal for the Georgetown Globe production of "Oliver".

## Acton father and daughter treading the boards

From chauffeur to "Dr. Grimwig" was an unexpected step for Acton's Brian Banyard.

Banyard and his 11-year-old daughter Gillian are both appearing in the Georgetown Globe Productions' "Oliver" but Banyard said he got his small cameo part quite by accident.

"I went to a rehearsal to pick up Gillian, who had been cast in the production as an orphan and a chorus dancer. The musical director heard my English accent and asked if I wanted to audition," Banyard said in an interview Wednesday.

"I hadn't acted since my college days but I decided it would be fun. I have the very small part of Dr. Grimwig. My daughter Gillian had

done some school acting and then auditioned for the Globe's 'Grease' but she was too young. They called and asked if she wanted to be involved in "Oliver" and I was lucky enough to be her driver."

Another Acton resident, Nicole Lee, is also featured in the production. Thirteen-year-old Nicole has acted for two years with the Halton Hills summer theatre camps and has taken dance and piano lessons for five years.

The Globe's "Oliver" runs Nov. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 and Dec. 2, 3, 4, 5 and a special Sunday matinee Nov. 29 at the George Elliott Theatre.

For more information readers can call 877-9167.

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