

# “Entertainment Tonight” Star Growing up in Acton played ‘role’ in success

By Chuck Tysoe

Roz Weston laughs when asked about the hair. In his imposing 6'4" person, the one-of-a-kind style might provoke a shaved-headed Zen Buddhist monk to break a vow of perpetual silence. It is, he admits, “the one thing I pay for myself,” in his now one-year old role as a senior entertainment reporter for “Entertainment Tonight Canada.” Global Television hired him away from Toronto One’s “The A List” to launch a Canadian version of the Hollywood-based “world’s most watched entertainment program” a year ago this month.

The hair was on exhibit last Friday evening at the Acton Fall Fair. The personable Montreal-born, Acton-raised Toronto resident was Celebrity Judge for the Ambassador Contest. He was winding down from a frenetic ten-day trip, his twelfth, through the Toronto International Film Festival, conducting up to fifteen interviews a day with the likes of Penelope Cruz and Michael Moore. Mr. Weston greatly looked forward to the Acton event, telling The New Tanner it is “super important” to him. His mother lived in Acton until recently while sadly his father was buried here, becoming the victim at just 54 and barely retired, to a lifetime of unknowing asbestos exposure.

His career is tinged with sadness that his dad was never able to sit down and watch his son on television. Despite the travel, the “great stories” he covers and the fun, he says “it just kills me” that his father, whom he knew would have been so very proud, was taken from him so young.

Growing up in Acton



**FUN JOB:** Entertainment Tonight Canada senior reporter Roz Weston flashes one of his infectious smiles before heading out for a TIFF interview. - Chuck Tysoe photo

played a “huge role” in his success, said Mr. Weston. “It’s something you can’t explain to anyone, which no-one can understand unless you grew up here and moved away. In a small town, what you do matters. How you treat people matters. It shapes you. You can’t just walk into a store and be an (deleted). You behaved well for fear that your mom would find out. I thought I hated the town and all I wanted to do was to get out.” Now the world-travelled entertainment reporter easily and confidently develops rapport with his famous interview subjects, and gives most of the credit to the “small town niceness” he learned in Acton.

But Acton’s smallness and apparently limited options “drove me to want something bigger, to see the big field. I worked at the flour mill (his first job, as a “rat exterminator”) and, like a lot of people, four summers at BP, and felt I didn’t want to get ‘stuck’ here.” He “always knew” he wanted to work in media – but ironically in production, not on-air. Fascinated

by radio, he was producing for Q-107 while still attending Acton High School, then left Humber College without completing the first year, for New York City: an internship with “Shock Jock” Howard Stern.

Curious about the mythical Stern, this period was for him the “luckiest and best thing that ever happened to me.” His “On Air” personality was birthed at KISS-92 when the hosts began to incorporate off-air chats into the programming.

Regarding his on-camera success: “No one ever told me to ‘act natural’ or ‘just be yourself’ on TV, which is the worst advice anyone can give, but people do it all the time anyway. Normal people don’t behave the way you need to behave on TV.”

ET is “huge and visible” lending a credibility and privileged access which Weston prepares for by prodigious reading. He says he has no real interviewing technique other than to “listen very hard to know what to say next, to grab onto something for the next transition.” The stars can be “very reluctant to talk about themselves. I get them to talk about what they don’t want to talk about, to reveal their vulnerable areas.” He maintains a professional detachment: “I know we’re not friends. We don’t have to like each other. I don’t have to agree with them. It’s our job to be supportive. There’s a mutual expectation of honesty and trust. I don’t get paid to critique. It’s work, with the same rules as the rules of news. When the camera goes on, you can tell who the real people and who the phonies are. I think I’m good at reading people. When

*Continued on page 20*



**SERIOUSLY:** Roz Weston, affable, fun-loving ET Canada reporter, strikes a serious pose on set of the widely watched program. - Chuck Tysoe photo

## Not too late to participate

It’s not too late to enter a team in Relay for Life at Rockmosa Community Centre, Rockwood this Friday night. The event is being sponsored jointly by the Acton, Erin and Rockwood branches of the Canadian Cancer Society. All proceeds go to the fight against cancer.

Teams can be as many as 10 people from all walks of life with smaller numbers in a team also acceptable.

The evening begins with a continuous roast beef dinner for cancer survivors from 6 to 9p.m. with the opening ceremonies at 7p.m. which will be followed by a candlelight Survivors’ Walk around the Rockmosa course.

“Let’s Spend the Night Together” is the theme of Relay for Life which will have continuous entertainment and goodies (food) all evening.

Acton organizers are hoping there will

be a strong representation from Acton and area for a night of “fun, friendship and fundraising” in the battle against the scourge of cancer.

Entertainment includes: Master of ceremonies: Lisa Richards CJOY.

5:30-6p.m. – fiddlers. 6-6:30p.m. – Robert Little School dance group. 6:45p.m. – Oh Canada sung by Larry Melton. 7p.m. – Opening ceremonies, Survivor Lap. 7:45-8:30p.m. – Larry Melton. 8:30-9:15p.m. – line dancing.

9:15p.m. – DJ plays soft music. 9:30p.m. – Tawnie Holmes – Luminary Ceremony. 10p.m. – Wendi Hunter. 10:30p.m. – Alysha Brooke. 11:15p.m. – Larry Melton.

12a.m. – DJ. 2a.m. – Karaoke. 2:45-4a.m. – Scavenger Hunt. 4-5:30a.m. – Movie time. 6a.m. – Breakfast and closing.



**EARLY SUNDAY:** Fall Fair President Dale Hewitt cuts the ceremonial ribbon to start Acton’s Marathon of Hope on Sunday iwth Miss Acton Fall Fair and her court assistance. The Run raised \$28,000 in the fight against cancer, organizer John Hurst, left said. More next week.

The family of  
**Isabel Murray**  
invite you to a  
90th Birthday  
Open House Tea  
**Sept. 23rd, 2006**  
2:00-4:00  
Knox Presbyterian  
Church  
Acton, Ontario  
Best wishes only

## YOGA

Monday, Wednesday and Saturday  
Mornings 8:30 – 10:00 am  
Monday Night and Wednesday nights  
7:30 – 9:00 pm

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Night Workshops:  
“The Enlightenment Series” 7-9 pm  
Workshops on the Philosophy of Meditation  
and Proper Breathing. \$25 per class. Please  
RVSP as seating is limited.

Glen Simmons, Healing Facilitator, Zen Shiatsu Therapist, Yoga & Medication Coach  
Cynthia Simmons, Homeopathic Health Coach, Reflexologist and Aromatherapist  
Tina Luna, Child & Youth Worker

519.853.8950 [www.heal-thyself.ca](http://www.heal-thyself.ca)



Our  
Gramma

**GOT A HOLE-IN-ONE!**