

Barry Coe, broadcaster

He likes to serve the public

By Nelson Gareau
Champion music columnist
The aspiration of any individual is to succeed in life.

But when a person becomes a success, luck has little to do with it. It's the determination that counts.

Barry Coe has reached the point in his life where he can look back and reflect on sheer determination in his struggle to succeed. Barry, a Milton resident, is music director at CHWO Radio in Oakville.

While growing up in Montreal, Barry wondered why his father worked all day and then attended night school. But he watched his father move from the stock room to become a director of his company—Steinberg's. Barry soon realized he had learned the key to success—motivation!

After completing high school Barry enrolled in Humber College at Toronto in communications and journalism. He had visions of becoming a serious writer, until he saw the school's radio room, that is.

When Barry said "Let me try it" and spun Elvis Presley's hit "Hound Dog", his career as a radio personality took one giant step forward. He finished two years of the three year course but felt the time had come for him to gain some needed experience.

His first on-the-job training came at CKOX Radio in Woodstock where, during a 14 month stint, he learned the practical tools of the trade and learned to "be yourself on the air". He developed his self-assurance and self control by watching his idol, Walter Cronkite, on television.

One night, however, he found his self control challenged. His director had just returned from a holiday in Florida and wanted to play a practical joke on somebody, and Barry happened to be in the broadcasting booth when his boss arrived at the station. Barry recalls "he walked in wearing a Mickey Mouse suit—ears and all, with a long tail—spaced right out!"

"I was reading the news, at 2 o'clock in the morning, and here's this guy dressed up like Mickey Mouse, eating a piece of cheese, sitting next to me," recalls Barry. "I couldn't stop laughing."

Barry decided to leave Woodstock and found a job for \$100 a week (\$15 over his CKOX salary) at CFCO Radio in Chatham. He spent two years there but a personality clash grew between him and the program director and he grew anxious to leave. Then his mother, who had been bedridden with stomach cancer for some time, died July 12, 1974. Barry took it hard. He knew she was going to die, but it still comes as a shock when death finally happens.

He says he had always wondered about death and thought it was something that happened to others. But losing his mother made Barry realize that life does come to an end, and sooner or later everyone will lose a loved one.

When he moved again it was to Mississauga, to work with CJMR and be near his father, who was living in Brampton. After six months there he moved to the mother station, CHWO in Oakville. Today, he is the mid-morning host and operates the Saturday morning "Milton Morning" show in addition to his full time duties as music



BARRY COE

director. Barry has found a home in Milton and he calls the town "a happy place". He doesn't want Milton to outgrow itself and lose the small town atmosphere it still possesses.

Miltonians are good neighbors, too. During the February snowstorm that paralyzed Milton and most of the area, Barry's George St. neighbors dug out his driveway before he awoke one morning. They weren't going anywhere, but thanks to their help, Barry was able to get to work.

Barry views his own particular field of endeavor as "a responsibility, a service to the public"—not just a job. He feels that

being the host of Milton Morning offers him an opportunity to focus on a warm and friendly town and hopes that, by doing his part, he can make the town an even better place to live.

He honestly cares what happens in Milton!

Not an egotist, Barry is more a private person. He would rather be fishing on some quiet lake than being the focal point of attention. His idea of a perfect evening is "sitting by the fireplace, drinking some beer and eating chips while I watch the hockey game."

When he's not working, Barry paints or reads books on history. He's also active with the Optimist Club of Milton and as an Optimist, is responsible for publicity for the Optimist-sponsored Air Cadet Squadron.

He also does some writing, in his spare time.

Christmas is the happiest time of year, he says. Now that he has a son, Ryan, Christmas will mean even more. Barry is married to his high school sweetheart, Susan Campbell of Brampton.

An individual's future is like an unplotted course. He can only speculate on how things will turn out. Barry is a highly motivated person, with goals he has yet to reach. His ambition is to become a program director and if dreams can ever be realized, he would love to operate his own radio station.

"Money motivates me to a certain extent, but what really motivates me is added responsibility."

I asked Barry Coe one final question at the end of our interview: "If you were given the power, what would you do of importance?"

Giving it some thought, he finally said: "Losing Quebec would be destroying Canada...so I would keep Canada together!"

A smart answer from a young man with a head on his shoulders.

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The Rock Scene

By Nelson Gareau

Picking Canada's most important rock group
In my opinion, there can be no doubt! The most important rock group to ever emerge from Canada is the Guess Who. If anybody can lay claim to have given our country a name in the recording industry, it would be this group from Winnipeg. They were responsible for giving other Canadian talent a chance to be heard outside of Canada. Before the Guess Who made everything happen, any Canadian entertainer who had ability quickly crossed over to the U.S. and forgot where they came from. For some unexplained reason our country will acknowledge only those Canadian performers who make it big somewhere else first!

In 1962, Randy Bachman, Chad Allen, Jim Kale and Gary Peterson formed a rock band, called Chad Allen and the Expressions. They never amounted to anything big, but this group had one hit record: "Shakin' All Over", under a new name... the Guess Who. Allen decided to leave the band and his replacement was a dynamic singer, by the name of Burton Cummings. Cummings had been with another struggling band: the Dead Runs.

The Guess Who were given national exposure, by the CBC, in a two year series called: Where It's At. Through this exposure, they began having successful tours across Canada and their records were selling well. Such songs as "Clock on the Wall," and "Heyyouge Hardy" clearly demonstrated their potential. Becoming Canada's best-known band was important! Or was it?

The Guess Who wanted to prove that a Canadian group could make it big and still keep their Canadian identity. The song "These Eyes" made that dream, a reality. RCA signed them to a contract in 1969. Two songs followed, with both becoming million selling singles: "Laughing" and "Undun". In 1970, the Guess Who made the big time. They were one of the groups making rock music. In fact, the Guess Who sold more records than any other group in the world! Their next song "American Woman," a put down of the U.S. became one of the year's best songs. They toured North America, with great success and even played at the White House.

Randy Bachman left the group that year, because he was tired of the strenuous touring and other reasons. In 1973, he and his Bachman Turner Overdrive group began gaining recognition and are the most popular Canadian band, since the Guess Who. He was replaced by two Winnipeg guitar players, Kurt Winter and Greg Leskiw.

The "new" Guess Who sounded just fine and the singles that they recorded sold well. Some of those songs were: "Share the Land," "Hand Me Down World," "Hang on to Your Life," "Albert Flasher" and "Raindance."

In 1972, Leskiw and Jim Kale went their own ways. They were replaced by Don McDougall and Bill Wallace, both from Winnipeg. The reorganized group still turned out a number of hits: "Bus Rider," "Guns, Guns, Guns," "Running Back to Saskatoon." Don Toranio replaced McDougall and Wallace, before the Guess Who finally called it quits in 1975.

When a history of the Canadian rock scene is compiled, you can be assured that the Guess Who will be remembered-as the group that made it happen!

Drumquin

By Mrs. Cecil Patterson
The weekly euchre party at Hornby Centre was held Saturday March 26, with eight tables in play. Prize-winners were Ellen DeForest, Mrs. Martha Richardson, Mrs. Florence Parsons, Wilbert Nix, D. Featherston and E. Brown-ridge. Birthday greetings to Andy Trischle, Jack Simpson and Greg Eves. Congratulations and good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley May on their wedding anniversary this week.

Bruce Apts hold social

The monthly social of Bruce Apartments was held March 10 with music and buffet in a St. Patrick's Day theme. Progressive euchre winners were R. Kopec, K. Lindsay, J. Nugent and F. Jones. Sandra Lynn Baynton of Campbellville performed two dance numbers and there was an Irish sing song with Olive Massey at piano. Robert Laking brought the evening to a close with the solo "Guard Me Lord While I Sleep" assisted by Olive Massey on the piano.

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