

"Bubblegummers" Amy lives on Arnold Cres.

By DIANE MARSHALL

Jeff and Carol Wakefield (of 41 Arnold Cres., Richmond Hill,) found out the hard way that if you want to get something done, you must do it yourself and that is one major reason they decided to create the only all-Canadian cartooning syndicate in the country.

Great Lakes Publishing Features Syndicate is their "baby", so to speak, and even though the idea began as a joke, it is now very real to them and the 10 other cartoonists who joined the co-op type operation.

Included in these, is Jim Simpkins creator of "Jasper" and Jim Craig, who illustrates "Spiderman" comic books.

Jeff is the creator of "Bubblegummers", which is a single frame comic starring freckle-faced Amy. She was born in 1962 when Jeff began cartooning for the Toronto Telegram.

Later on, he decided, as many people do, that the action was not to be found here but in the States so he headed to New York to see if his product was salable.

"I went down with a writer I was working with at the time and we really lived hand to mouth. In fact, we used to sell blood for a bit of money and a free meal," Jeff said.

"The result of this trip was that we were told our



Jeff and Carol Wakefield

idea was good but it needed the proper promotion and they were not really interested at the time."

Cartooning in a lot of ways is a dead end profession and it is necessary to make your own jobs which is what a syndicate is supposedly for.

However, Jeff found it difficult to work with the Toronto Sun syndicate because they were not promoting his work to a large enough degree.

He criticized the existing "Canadian" syndicates because they blatantly promote American comic strips while the editorial section is declaring Canadian nationalism.

Great Lakes Syndicate is a non-profit organization in which members use their own resources and share the work load although Jeff and Carole say they get stuck with most of the paper-work.

"This is the first time anyone has attempted to make something out of Canadian cartoons and it is a necessity that we succeed," Jeff said. "We cater to local weekly papers so they can have something different from the dailies."

It costs newspapers \$1.75 a week to run "Bubblegummers" which is circulated to 50 papers across Canada and will be appearing in a North

Dakota newspaper in September.

The syndicate was granted free mailing privileges to anywhere in Canada and has also been helped out by Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association and Miller Features, a Canadian clip-art service.

Besides this venture, Jeff and Carol have interests in many other artistic endeavours.

She is a commercial artist and writer who drew the posters for the Grey Coach campaign and has had drawings published in Toronto Life, Miss Chatelaine, the Toronto Star and Weekend Magazine.

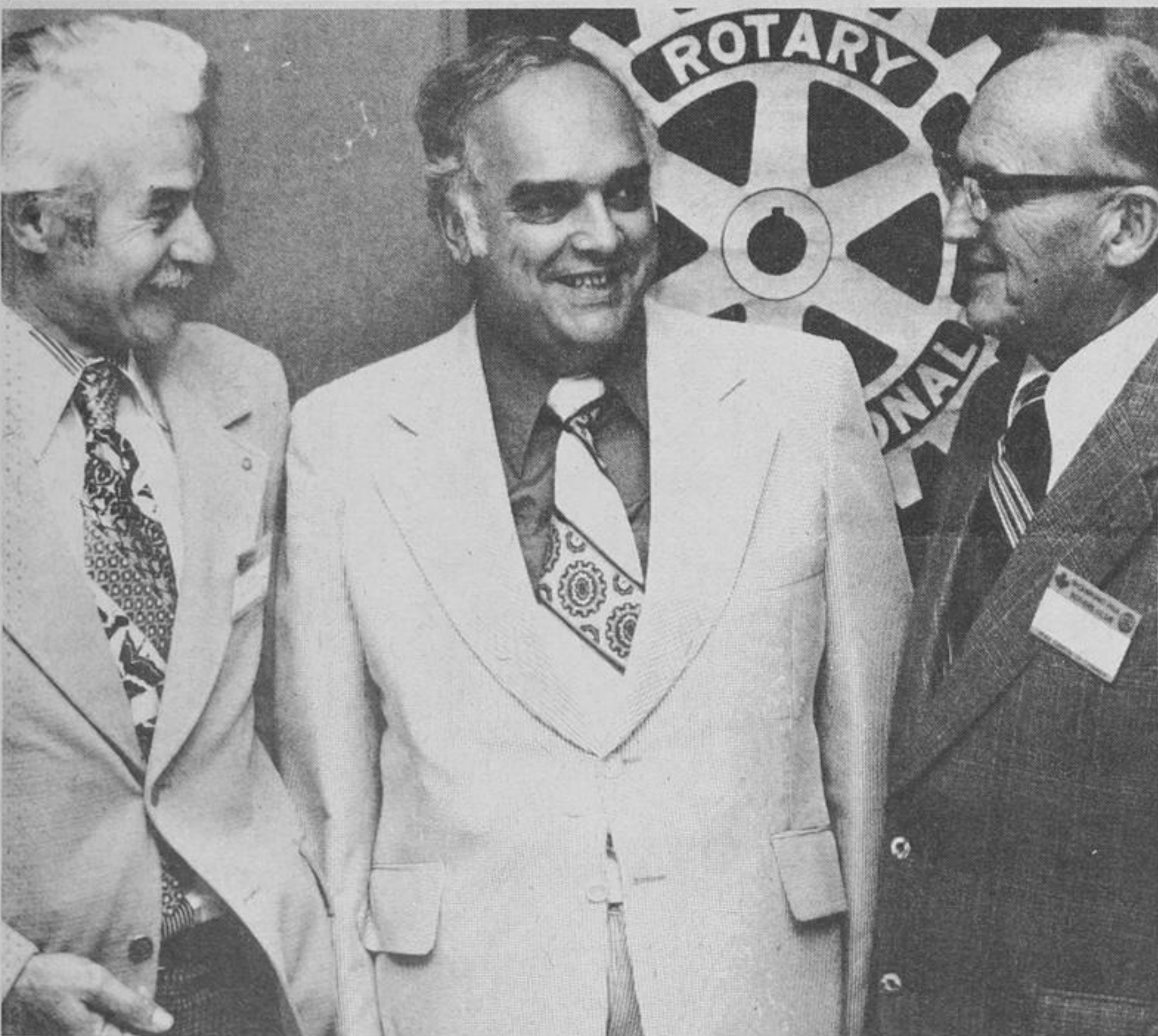


She has designed the covers for "The Viewer", a guide for Pay TV which she and Jeff collaborate on.

Jeff has been teaching cartooning at Sheridan College for three years and works at the Hospital for Sick Children drawing medical charts and graphs.

They have worked on various advertising campaigns which have been quite successful and Jeff is sure that he could use Amy successfully as a bearer of public service messages if given the chance.

The Wakefields live at the corner of Elizabeth and Arnold Sts. with their five-year-old son, Tim, and quite a large feline family of eleven cats.



District Governor Bill MacKay, centre, was guest speaker Monday at the Richmond Hill Rotary Club's regular meeting. Enjoying his company are Ed Nokes, left, the club's public

relations officer, and Len Jones, recently named president of the organization. Governor MacKay has been in Rotary 18 years and is presently a member of the Belleville club.

Region won't get involved with more transit studies

A request from York Region engineering committee, calling for the region to play a bigger role in carrying out existing and future transit studies within the area, was defeated with a resounding thud at a Region meeting Thursday.

The request, was contained in a 14-page report by the committee, along with similar recommendations, which would see staff working in conjunction with Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications in bringing about a co-ordinated transit system.

The report said that at present the region did not have enabling legislation to provide public transit services.

However, it wasn't necessary for the region to make any changes in existing legislation in order to assume the additional responsibilities in public transit that were being sought.

Mayor George Timpson of Aurora, said that the matter was not the region's responsibility and urged council not to adopt the report.

Chairman Garfield Wright said that it was important the technical staff of the region be "involved" and so

council should see that it was. There was no authority on his part to send staff members to the transit discussions.

Richmond Hill Councillor Lois Hancey suggested the members go on their own.

Engineering Commissioner Bob Hodgson, said there was "a definite role" for region to play in the co-ordination of services. They were not looking to build a bureaucracy, but to build a good transit system.

T.A.T.O.A. was "set up" for inter-regional movement.

Mayor Bob Forhan of Newmarket said the region didn't have the population density, or

demand necessary to support inter-regional transit.

Said Hodgson: "All we want is the region to get involved. We have no jurisdiction at the moment when we attend meetings. We want some direction from council."

Councillor Hancey said that no one had mentioned that staff shouldn't get involved, where there was an issue.

"I hope that staff has the authority to get involved, but not this way," she said.

Said Forhan: "They should bring it to the attention of council when they feel there is a problem."

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