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Fourth Section

Women of Distinction winner

Brown Owl has many loyal fans

By CHRISTINE KOSERSKI
Staff reporter

More than a hundred wide-eyed owls of wood, ceramic, brass and china from places such as Mexico, Belgium and Russia sit in Bunty Webb's living room. They stand, staring, as testimonies of the high regard and friendship felt for the 2nd Markham Pack's Brown Owl.

Friends and family have brought owls from all over the world to add to a collection which began with one little clay owl Bunty found at her place setting at a 1967 Guide's conference dinner.

This year Bunty received the Women of Distinction Award for community service (along with Rosemary Outred), nominated by the Markham Brownies and Guides.

An honor

"To be nominated alone is an honor," she says. "It (the award) is a lovely idea — letting the rest of the town know what's being done by busy women."

"But when I heard about what a lot of women around town were doing, I asked myself, why was I nominated? Look at what these women have done."

A look at what Bunty has done shows easily why she was nominated. A Brown Owl for 20 years, she has devoted herself to the Guiding movement, this past year receiving a 25-year service pin.

In addition, Bunty was also nominated in the arts category by the Markham Little Theatre, for her contribution and direction since 1966 when she helped form the group.

But it was in the community service category that the selection committee felt Bunty deserved recognition.

A believer

She is a firm believer in Guiding. Through her capable hands hundreds of little girls have been shaped, nurtured and sent on their way, moral fibre intact, to become hardworking, upstanding, community-minded women.

"Guiding is a marvellous grounding — a good basic program to make any girl a good citizen," she says firmly. "If they can live up to their

Guide Promise alone, they're going to live a good life."

The future, she believes, bodes well for Guiding. "It has moved with the times," she says. "It's not just sewing with a little bit of camping any more."

Traditionally, Brownies have learned to sew, knit, and "deal with the stove" — basic homemaking skills.

But now Brownies can earn a Space Badge after completing a project on a planet or constellation. There is a World Friendship and even a Horsewoman Badge — something, she says, was "unheard of" before.

Born in Scotland as Isobel, she was dubbed "Bunty", a nickname Scots give to "fat, chubby babies" that she has never shaken. But then, she never tried.

"I look more like a Bunty than an Isobel," she says laughing. "I've never been called Isobel."

She lives with Ron, her husband of 27 years, and their two children on a quiet street in the village of Markham. Heather, 23, is the coach of the Markham Gymnastics Club. Ian, 21, is studying fire prevention at Seneca College.

No interest

When accepting her award, Bunty thanked, among others, her husband who, she said, "had no interest in Little Theatre and even less in Brownies and Guides... I hope."

Chuckling, she says later, "I was joking."

"There are not many husbands that would put up with what he has," she says. "He's a good cook, runs the house, has a wonderful rapport with the kids, but he's just not a joiner — he's a great homebody."

She explains what she said at the presentation was "actually very untrue." While Guide Commissioner for six years, "Mr. Brown Owl," as he was called, used to answer questions when Guide people called.

"Ron's carted things back and forth to camps," she says. "And he's helped with the sets at the Little Theatre."

Not shy

A pleasant, easy-going woman with a round, mother-



Bunty Webb examines one of the many owls she has received over the years as the Brown Owl for the 2nd Markham Brownie group.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

face, Bunty not only has the knack of making a visitor feel instantly at ease but is herself comfortable in any situation.

"I'm not shy," she admits. "I don't find it too hard to speak out — I guess that comes with making a fool of myself on stage."

In fact, she looks like the kind of person who could give you "that long distance feeling," which is no doubt why her face has been seen beaming from Bell Telephone ads and commercials.

She started working in commercials five years ago and has appeared in ads for Andre's Wines, Boots Drug Stores, and Anacin, among others.

Professional

She has also performed in The King of Kensington, The Littlest Hobo, and A Gift to Last.

"I thought I'd get to go to exotic places," she remarks on turning professional. "But I went to Unionville."

For Bell Telephone, her

first commercial, she sat in a rocking chair on the porch of an old house in Unionville.

The episode of The Littlest Hobo in which she appeared was filmed in Stouffville but the thrill of meeting film star Donald O'Connor who played the part of a clown turned school crossing guard made up for it.

The farthest she has gone afield in her professional endeavours has been Montreal where she played the part of a maid for a CP Hotels commercial.

A harrowing commercial occurred while shooting a Ministry of Transportation commercial about saving gas. With only two hours practice, Bunty drove a moped in downtown Toronto through morningtime, rush-hour traffic. Playing the role of a nurse, her cape was fixed to the bike to keep it from fluttering about.

"I was literally pinned to the bike," she says, astonished and delighted. "It was

scary, but I enjoyed it."

Acting souvenirs

The walls in a room downstairs in the Webb's home are covered with souvenirs of Bunty's acting career: a Bell Telephone ad, a picture of all the Littlest Hobo canine actors, and posters from plays she has performed in professionally. Upstairs a Thea award, won by herself, Gail Weir, and Anne Robinson for their 1980 performances in Neil Simon's Plaza Suite, stands gleaming in a corner.

Inevitably, Bunty's theatrical experience and knowledge has seeped into her method of leading Brownies.

"I'm not a crafty person,"

she says and extends her hands. "I'm no good with my hands."

So she has her "girls doing a lot of skits and using their imagination."

She isn't sure why she has kept at Guiding so long, but it is obvious Bunty takes great pleasure in helping children develop and watching them grow.

"I get so much enjoyment seeing a shy girl come out of her shell," she says eagerly. "And I get a kick out of opening the paper and seeing one of my girls win something at let's say, a Kiwanis Festival downtown."

Her long involvement with Guiding means she'll be

seeing the daughters of former Brownies soon.

In fact, at a Little Theatre's performance of The Women, three generations of Brownies were represented on stage by an expectant former Brownie, another younger girl who had just become a Guide, and Bunty.

Smiling, she recalls a favorite story about a quiet little girl who came up to her and earnestly asked if she could work on her "Thrift" badge.

Taken aback, Bunty asked what she meant.

"You know, the badge where you save up for something and mend something," the little girl answered, referring to the Thrift badge.

This motivator sounds reveille

By LISA PARTSA
Staff Reporter

Most people live their lives in a deep sleep. If they could only wake up, they would be confident, rich and successful and best of all, live happy and fulfilled lives.

This is the philosophy of motivator Bob Proctor, who says he has awakened thousands of people throughout North America in his self-awareness seminars.

Ninety-five percent of people in today's society do not think for themselves, he explains. We are conditioned from birth and in school to have a "mass-minded way of thinking," but it doesn't have to be that way.

"Most people never achieve their anything because they think they can't, or aren't worthy of it," said Mr. Proctor from his new office in Markham. "The only thing that is stopping you from reaching your goals is a lack in your level of self-awareness."

Mr. Proctor has been studying the phenomena of the human mind for more than 25 years. Once a \$4,000 a year East York firefighter he was consumed with a desire to make money after reading a novel by Napoleon Hill entitled Think and Grow Rich.

Way of thinking

"I thought if you had money it would solve all your problems," he says. "Of course I found out different."

"He started to do anything for money. Just one year later he was making \$175,000 with an office-cleaning business."

This dramatic change of consequence made him stop to think. He had to adjust to this new life, and subsequently developed a new way of thinking — a way of thinking that would help thousands lead better lives.

"You don't earn money working," he realized. "You earn money thinking."

Today, after years of studying the works of psychologists expert in human behavior, he says he has "put the pieces together" and is helping others to solve the puzzle of success and self-fulfillment.

He and his partner of 12 years, John Kanary, have had seminars in every major city in the United States. The demand is high for both corporation and public sessions. It seems every body wants to see if Bob Proctor's seminars can really help them change their lives.

Guaranteed

Mr. Proctor is so sure he can convince people to believe in themselves, he has offered a money-back guarantee for those who aren't entirely converted.

Instead of complaints, letters pour into the office thanking the men for helping them become more confident, successful, and more and even more popular.

Mr. Proctor also says Mr. Kanary, who has been a successful seminar leader for over 10 years, has received a number of offers to do seminars in other cities.



BOB PROCTOR
Unlocking potential

Owners of corporations realize if you want to build a company, there's only one way to do it; you have to build the workers within it," he said.

Mr. Proctor originally lectured only for corporations, but there was an increasing demand for public seminars in which the spouses could attend. Today, the lectures everyone from business executives to truck drivers and their children.

"Many times the people will attend a one-night seminar, then decide they will take a more in-depth program of four to eight sessions. Each seminar has a theme. Mr. Proctor said people can sit and listen to him for six hours without becoming restless because they are hearing about themselves."

What can one expect to learn at a seminar? "We will help shatter a lot of myths people believe to be true about themselves," explained Mr. Proctor, adding that he believes many "have built mental cages around themselves."

Perfect memory

He said he will also teach individuals that they have a perfect memory, but never learn to properly develop that memory. When individuals leave the seminars, they will leave with a perfect memory, he claims.

Markham residents will have a chance to attend a seminar on March 20 at the Firefighters Club on A East Park. The seminar is scheduled to start at 8 a.m. and will last for two hours. The fee is \$10. Those who are interested should call (708) 444-1111.

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By MARGARET DEORSA