



Photo by Fred Loek

Outlaws

In his recent book, *Pirates and Outlaws of Canada*, Ed Butts tries to liven up Canadian history with interesting tales of local rowdies.

Canada's pirates and outlaws come to life in local author's book

By JO ANN SMITH-GIBSON
Staff Writer

A high-rise apartment building is a long way from the frontier world of Jesse James, but Mississauga author Ed Butts has done his best to bring the world of outlaws into the living rooms of all Canadians.

A book entitled *Outlaws and Pirates of Canada*, co-authored by Butts and Harold Horwood, has just hit the bookstands and by all indications should be a smash success.

Butts comes to this book from a life-long interest in outlaws. Since first hearing of Robin Hood and Jesse James, Butts has had a burning desire to know the full story behind any outlaw.

It wasn't until he got to university that the 33-year-old father of one realized that Canadian history seemed sadly lacking in the usual run of rowdies and outlaws that color the history books of most other nations.

"Every country has its outlaws, but while Canada had a few political characters like Louis Riel, as far as wild and woolly badmen, there was no material on them," said Butts.

While completing an undergraduate

research project on the subject, Butts quickly found that Canada had more than its share of outlaws.

His University of Waterloo project included a play and essay on outlaw Simon Girty, one of the bad men included in Butts' recent book.

Since deciding to collaborate with Harold Horwood, a former writer-in-residence at Waterloo, and expert on Canadian pirates, Butts has discovered a colorful list of Canadian characters that could make Jesse James pale by comparison.

Montana Charlie Wallace, leader of an intrepid gang of bootleggers, tops the list of outlaws. Wallace ran a successful bootleg operation out of a small northern town, Michipicoten, during the construction of the CPR.

Another interesting chapter includes the tale of a gang of rowdies from the Hanover area known as the Campbell Gang who were notorious for their horse stealing.

"We certainly haven't sacrificed any entertainment value in them," said Butts. "Canada doesn't have a dull history, it's just recorded by dull writers."