

The Ripple

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Shepherds' antics break new ground at Fourth Line

by Celia Hunter

With a primitive energy and a cackling tirade in Middle English apparently directed at me, the character Gill leaps across the forest path and clings firmly to my arm. I am conscious on the one hand that the babbling woman is one time Millbrook resident Susan Spicer, but the magic of theatre is working its spell and I become part of the plot.

Such is the exciting treat in store for theatre goers as the 4th Line Theatre under the direction of Robert Winslow launches its first outdoor winter production. The Second Shepherds' Pageant is a medieval mystery play, an early form of theatre that was performed outdoors by members of trade guilds. Guilds might loosely be described as a precursor to modern unions. Each guild undertook to interpret a story from the Bible, and it fell to the shepherds' or wool guild to produce a Christmas

pageant. In England, these dramas were popular in style, and to our post-Victorian sensibilities, somewhat risqué and racy.

Such is the Second Shepherds' Pageant; a tale acted out by labourers for their fellow citizens, of common shepherds and an unsavoury sheep stealer and his resourceful wife. The dialogue and antics are spirited and comedic; there is no shortage of laughs in this tale as cast and musicians lead the audience from scene to scene through field and forest. The walk is gentle and leisurely, and the scenes are played out in natural glens and quarries along the way.

This is a theatre experience to be enjoyed by all ages. While the dialogue is authentically presented in the original vernacular, program notes explain the plot and the energy and expression from the talented cast give the audience lots of clues to what's going on. Along

with Susan Spicer, other players familiar to 4th Line Theatre goers are Tim Crease and the 'hot' young Peter Ens, joined by Cynthia Lord as the three shepherds. Rob Fortin, a well known Theatre Guild personality, is brilliant as the conniving sheep stealer.

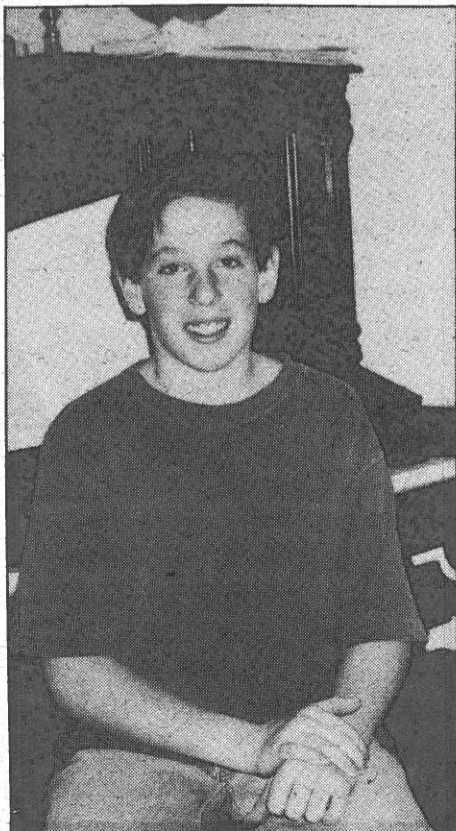
The outdoor performances will take place on Saturday and Sunday afternoons for three weeks in December. Tickets are available at the Millbrook Pharmacy or by calling the Ticket Hotline at 876-6323. In the event that weather makes outdoor performances impossible, the pageant will move to the Cavan Municipal Office Auditorium in Millbrook. In addition, there are two performances on December 19 and 20 at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains in Peterborough. All tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 3 to 14 years old.



Photo by Wayne Eardley

The Calhoun's IGA Team is all smiles, looking forward to the grand re-opening of the store on December 11. Standing, from left to right; Lynda Richards, Sherman Giles, Barry Redfern, Kevin Fitzgerald, Douglas Powell, Margaret Hughes, Cindy Johnson, Janice Ball, Lorraine Saunders. Kneeling: Dianne Reid, Diderica Calhoun, Keith Rushnell. Part timers absent; Aaron Fallis, Matthew Howe, Andrew Calhoun, Lynne Allen, Kim Reid, Debbie Buxton, Matthew Challice.

Cavan teen lands lead role



Ian Deemert sings lead in one-act opera as part of the fundraising campaign for Showplace Peterborough.

Ian Deemert is Amahl, the crippled shepherd boy with no flock to tend, living in a tiny shack with his mother. The future would be dim indeed were it not for the fact that this shack just happens to lie on the route the three kings take on their way to Bethlehem.

"I'm not going to tell you what happens," says Ian with a smile. "You just have to come and see it to find out!"

Confident and self possessed, Ian Deemert is a 13 year old Grade 8 student from the 11th Line near Ida. Along with hobbies such as dirt-biking and snowmobiling, Ian also enjoys playing the French Horn and is currently learning to play the trumpet so that he can join the James Strath School Concert Band. He has been singing in choirs since he was eight, when he joined brother Adam and his mother Connie who were active in choirs at St. John's in Peterborough.

Winner of numerous awards and scholarships at the annual Kiwanis Festival events, he has also attended summer choir camps held at Trinity College School in Port Hope. Dramatic roles have included the lead in Tom Sawyer at North Cavan School in Grade 5 and a part in last year's production of Home Bodies at the Lindsay Playhouse. Younger brother Michael is the actor in the family though, with experience this past season with The 4th Line Theatre, and has been generously offering Ian a few tips.

Amahl and the Night Visitors is a one-act opera by 20th century Italian-American composer Gian-Carlo Menotti. The lead calls for a male soprano, and Music Director Ian Cuthbertson's only reservation in awarding the role to Ian was, according to Connie, a fear that Ian's voice would break before December. However, Cuthbertson's feared have been allayed, and rehearsals have been going very well.

"There's one scene," says Connie, "where your emotions...well, I just don't know if I'll get through it without tears!"

The opera is part of an evening of Christmas music being presented as a fund-raiser for Showplace Peterborough. Performances are this Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday afternoon, December 2 - 4, at Northminster United Church in Peterborough. Northminster is located on Sunset Boulevard, just north of the Brookdale Plaza, right off Chemong Road.

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Volunteers In It For Fun

by Elaine Robb

The day had been planned months before. Who was to know it would rain all day?

Three leaders, fourteen Guides and one dad left to explore Medd's Mountain - in the rain. It turned out to be a great day; everyone had a fabulous time. Everyone learned something, including the leaders and the one dad.

This is just one instance of the commitment of the leaders involved in Girl Guides of Canada. Kawartha District has approximately 24 registered leaders, two Cadet leaders and two junior leaders-in-training.

In answer to the question of why she was interested in becoming a leader, one candidate responded, "because I want to have all the fun and learn all the things I missed as a kid by not being involved in Guiding."

The same is repeated by many, which must explain why so many stay on even after their own children have finished Guiding at their chosen level.

Leadership in Guiding provides the opportunity for personal growth, lasting friendships and lots of fun. Although we are all volunteers, our reward could never be compensated in dollars. How do you put a price on the smile of a child when accomplishing the impossible in their eyes?

To all the leaders in Guiding, full and part-time, heartfelt thanks from the 164 girls, ages 5 to 18, involved in Guiding in the Kawartha District area. Keep up the good work!

A gift for all

On Sunday, December 11, the St. Andrew's Church Board will once again present a Christmas concert as a gift to the whole community.

Everyone is invited to get together for coffee, tea and dessert before the concert,

in St. Andrew's United Church basement beginning at 6:30 p.m. The concert will follow, upstairs in the church, at 7:30.

Featured artists this year include the area's own Community Choir and Joyful Noise, The Country Four Barbershop Quartet from Orono, Jennifer Richards and Nancy Fallis, along with Amanda

Retallick from Sunderland. There will also be plenty of opportunity for the audience to sing a selection of favourite Christmas carols.

Each year a free-will offering is collected to support a worthy project. This year, all proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Medical Centre Hydraulic Lift Campaign.

Volunteers prepare for outdoor rink

by Maureen McElwain

With winter just around the corner, Bruce, Clive and Mike have made their Christmas lists. They have asked for a new shovel and some wood.

If Mother Nature co-operates, work will soon be underway up at the Fairgrounds. With shovel and wood in hand, these guys will be getting the Outdoor Rink up and running. Sorry Sherry, this year the hoses will be stored at the Arena; I know how

much you're going to miss them! Rick assured me that he'd take good care of them.

All joking aside, each year Millbrook Recreation tries to make it a little easier for the many volunteers who give so freely of their time. A tremendous amount of work goes into preparing and maintaining an Outdoor Rink. Please enjoy it and respect it!

Protect your property with Operation Identification

You can reduce the chance of your property being stolen - and increase the odds of getting it back if it is grabbed - by using Operation Identification, according to Millbrook OPP.

"Approximately 80% of all stolen property recovered by police cannot be returned because the police are unable to identify the owner of the property," police say.

Millbrook's Community Policing Committee has made available on a loan basis, engravers so that individuals can participate in the Operation Identification program. The engravers are available for loan through Bulger's Insurance in Millbrook.

Under the program, valuable items are marked permanently with an identification number known to the owner.

That number might be your driver's license number, Social Insurance Number, birthday date or any other number.

"The marks should be applied to non-removable and hidden parts of your valuables," police advise. "Keep a log of all your property and include serial numbers and the location of where your Operation Identification marks are."

To deter would-be thieves, Operation Identification stickers are also available at Bulger's Insurance and other independent insurance agents and brokers, for placing on your front door.



Photo by Maureen Wideman

The MacFarlanes: Hannah, Thomas, Rita, Rob and Alice.

MacFarlane Family takes Millbrook memories down under

by Maureen Wideman

Within a few weeks, Millbrook will be saying goodbye to their year-long guests. The MacFarlanes - Rob and Rita, and their three children Alice 7, Hannah 5, and Thomas 3, will be returning to their native Australia on December 18.

The MacFarlanes are finishing up their one-year exchange program. Rob has been teaching for the Peterborough County Board of Education for Millbrook's Janice Deacon. The Deacon family spent the past year in the MacFarlane home in a small town in South Australia.

The MacFarlane family has been keeping busy during their stay. They have travelled to a number of provinces. Rob points out there are many similarities between the two countries. "We are both multicultural societies, both originally made up of native people dating back a long time, both settled at a later date by the British. Your space is forest, lake and tundra whereas ours is bush and outback." He notes with interest the French influence in this country. "It has been interesting to observe the political situation between Quebec and the rest of the country."

Staying at home with their small children, Rita says she has little time to be bored or lonely. "The people have been very supportive. The first couple of weeks here I was not home much at all. People were always inviting me over for coffee! They have really made an effort to make us feel comfortable."

The children too have adapted well. "They enjoy playing in the snow and tobogganing," says Rita. "I take the girls to the arena for skating. They really like it."

At the mention of the pets the MacFarlanes left behind (the Deacons are looking after the dog and chickens) little Hannah cries out she wants to go home with an almost perfect Canadian accent. It seems the children lost much of their

Australian twang after being in Canada only three weeks.

Although the children have taken well to winter sports, Rob has not been as lucky. He recounts a story where he and Rita went downhill skiing. For Rob, it was the first time. During the introductory lesson, he felt competent enough to go on his own. While skiing, he found his speed accelerating and was unable to turn. He ended up crashing into the ski instructor's cabin, stabbing one ski into the wall and getting it stuck. Later he slipped off the tow bar and, unable to get up, was continually knocked in the back of the head by the tow handles moving past him. He said it was two and a half months before he could climb stairs without feeling pain in his knees. Being the good sport that he is, he is anxious to get in one day of skiing before the family flies home.

Rob has also grown to love hockey and the Toronto Maple Leafs. As with so many Canadians this year, hockey is a sport that will be missed.

For the MacFarlane family, life in Canada has been good. Rob has enjoyed teaching in Canada, including his present Grade 3 class at Millbrook South Cavan School. He finds the children very friendly. Commenting on the school system, he says he likes the concept of the resource teacher. This is a person who works with teachers in identifying children with special needs and assisting them to develop programs for these children. This is something not done to a large extent in South Australia.

The exchange has been a worthy experience, one they would like to do again.

"It's been really good," says Rob. "The people we have met have been very supportive and extremely friendly. We have been very lucky and have made some lasting friendships."



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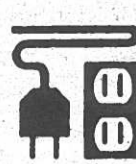


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Millbrook's IGA offers full service with smiles all round

By Maureen Wideman

Five months of construction and \$1.3 million later, the Millbrook IGA will be opened for business on Sunday, December 11. Wider aisles, more product space, additional parking, a Toronto Dominion cash machine to be installed any day, and much more, this store is a substantial investment in the community.

Designed by Anne Street architect Alexander Duthie, the new store was constructed around the old one - basically a box built around a box.

"I really must compliment him a great deal," said store owner Didi Calhoun. "This was difficult to make happen. He interpreted my concept and came up with the ideas." Peter Miller, an engineer from Oshawa Foods was the guiding force behind co-ordinating the project, and job superintendent Don Hellekamp of Rodger Neath Construction was instrumental in making things as easy as possible for both staff and customers throughout the renovation period.

"From the outside it looks like it's added on to the side and front," Didi points out "but beyond

that, not visible, is the addition out the back for more freezer and cooler space, a new electrical room and compressor room sitting on top of the existing loading dock. All the original wiring is gone. Essentially it is a new store on the old foundation."

Didi also gives credit to Oshawa Foods for co-writing the loan for the expansion. "No one has that kind of money; you need someone to back you up. I've been in this business for 21 years and they believe in me and what I can do. When you've got a loan like this to pay off, it ensures you will work real hard! It will keep us on our toes."

The store remained open during the construction, except for the last two weeks. Staff are taking this as holiday time, so the work was completed with no lay-offs. With the help of employees from Oshawa Foods, crews would come in and move shelving and goods from one area of the building to another as construction was being done. Trying not to inconvenience her customers was a priority for Didi.

In the new store, both dairy and meat space are one and a half times larger.

Produce and freezer space are both doubled. Didi is also adding a full deli and bakery as well as a prepared food counter which will be run by former Wives of Henry cook Jackie Brown.

"Customers just have to phone 932-GOOD to reach the bakery, the deli, or order something like a bucket of chicken. They can order ahead of time and take it home, or come in and have it made while they are shopping. We are going to have an elaborate menu," adds Didi.

Staff at the store will be doubled. Along with the regulars, both full and part-time people have been hired. Didi has also added a fourth cash register along with a second debit terminal which allows customers to pay by transferring the money from their bank account to the store. The store will be open longer during the week and also on Sunday.

There will be an Open House at the store on Centre Street in Millbrook, for viewing only, following the Santa Claus Parade on December 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. The store then opens its doors for business on Sunday, December 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Harry Williams with Mary Sutherland

Photo by Maureen Wideman

Harry Williams honoured

Harry Williams received a standing ovation from a packed hall at the Millbrook Library Centennial Celebrations held November 5; a fitting tribute to an outstanding community spirit.

Mary Sutherland presented a framed scroll to Harry on behalf of the Union Library Board as a gesture of thanks for the many years Harry has served on that board. The scroll contains a quotation from the 19th century English novelist Anthony Trollope, and was read aloud to the gathering in the Cavan Municipal Offices Auditorium by Harry;

"BOOK LOVE, my friends, is your pass to the greatest, the purest, and the most perfect pleasure that God has prepared for His creatures. It lasts when all other pleasures fade. It will support you when all other recreations are gone. It will last you until your death. It will make your hours pleasant to you as long as you live."

Harry rode into Millbrook in August 1951 on a motorcycle. For the next 29

years, he taught seven science disciplines to the students in the area. It was through his experience as a teacher that Harry developed a strong attachment to the Old Millbrook School where the high school was located until the new building was constructed.

Beyond his career as a teacher, Harry pursued the study of mosses and liverwort, travelling extensively to undertake field work. He is recognized internationally as a leading authority in this field. Trent University acknowledged his accomplishments in 1980 by awarding him an honorary doctorate.

Besides his long association with the Library Board, Harry has been active on the Millbrook PUC, acted as an advisor to MACAC, served as a municipal councillor, and has participated on various other boards and committees.

A true naturalist, Harry is a fount of knowledge; whether you are questioning him on trees, grasses, weeds or rocks, Harry can provide an answer, and when appropriate, without missing a beat, he will give you the Latin terminology as well.

Community Choir sings out

The Community Choir was the featured entertainment recently at the annual meeting of the Peterborough Business Women's Association at the Holiday Inn in Peterborough. The 28 voice choir is made up of men and women from Millbrook, Cavan, South Monaghan and the Pontypool area. They have had a busy year so far, with appearances at St. Andrew's United Church anniversary service and the Millbrook Library's centennial celebrations. The choir has grown and evolved over the years of its existence to a point now when it produces a rich,

well-blended sound, with a fused personality game to take on any style or rhythm.

The choir, under the direction of Ruth Warburton, is in full swing for Christmas now, looking forward to singing at the "Christmas at St. Andrew's" concert on December 11 along with its younger partner, the youth choir known as Joyful Noise.

As a finale for the season, both choirs will be getting together with groups in the community for an evening of carolling in Millbrook on December 20.

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The Ripple

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The Reason For Being

Last week I had the honour of being present to hear a very distinguished resident of Millbrook, Mrs. Muriel Morrison, describe the process by which humans direct the course of history. From among the many sources she quoted, was James Allen who had written, in a tiny little volume she held in the palm of her hand,

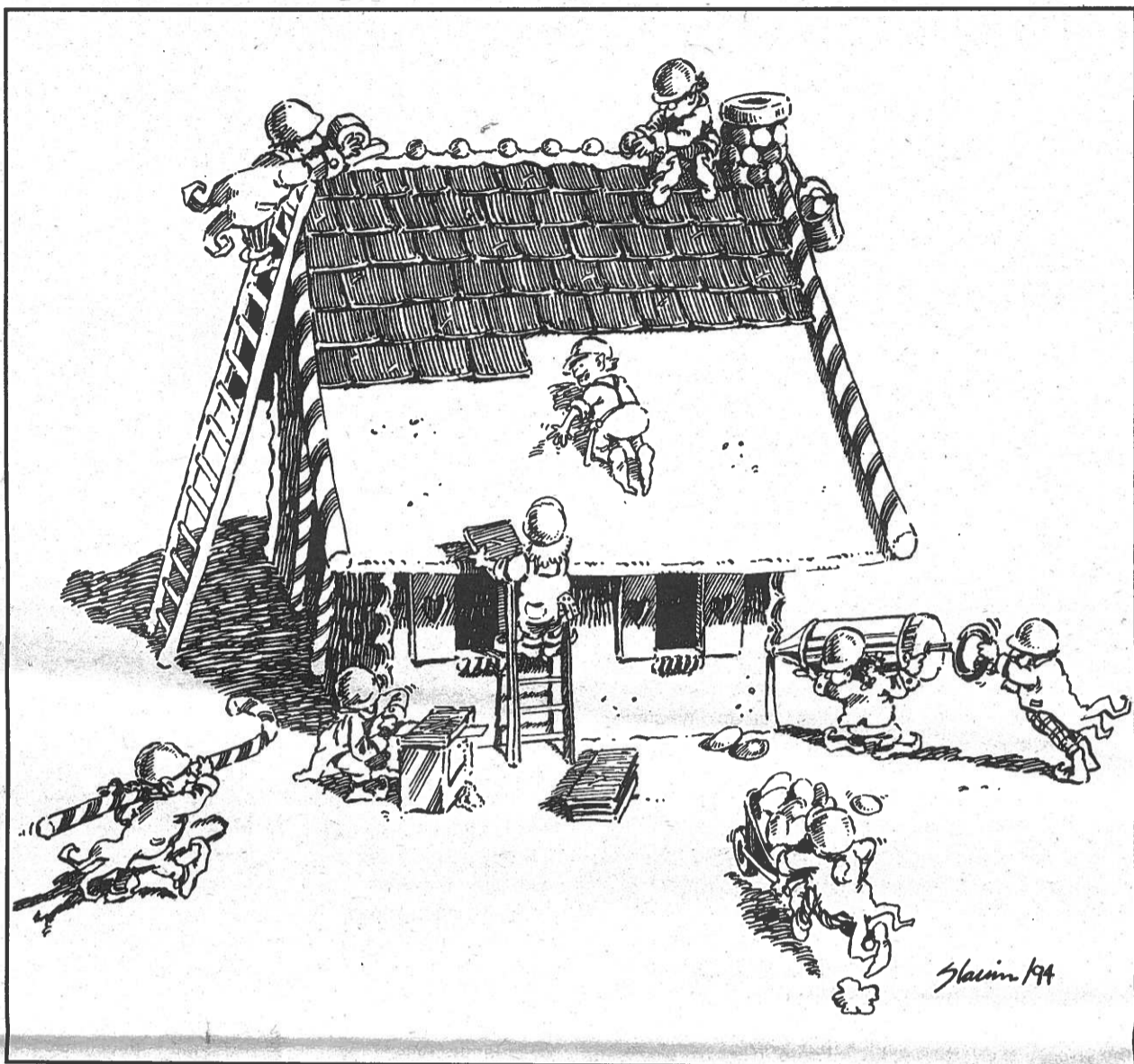
"As a man thinketh, so is he

As the world thinketh, so will we be!"

Mrs. Morrison was talking about mind sets. About global mind changes. She was talking about taking a step forward, for others to follow. And it occurred to me that she and I were thinking along the same lines.

It is time for us all to take a step forward. It is time to stand up, stand straight and proud, and point with chin held high at the beauty, the accomplishments, the challenges met and achievements counted right here in our own communities. We live in one of the most beautiful regions in the country. We are supported by a caring community, diverse in its culture and rich in its heritage. We are blessed with Class 1 farmland and opportunities for diversification. We have a local history carefully recorded and filled with lessons for the present. We have forests and wetlands. We have artists, artisans and theatre. And we have the luck of the Irish when it comes to geography: close enough to one of the great cities of the world to be useful when we need it, but far enough away to leave us be.

Someone said to me this week, "So I hear this paper is just about good news; that should be half a page worth." Not so. There's that mind set we talked about; needs changing all right. With very limited resources - there aren't many of us - we have filled page after page, and have had to put more great stories off until next month. What a great place to live.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to the community for a helping hand

You might think that adding up grocery tapes on a calculator would be a dull activity. Not so. Every time I picked up a tape, I thought of the good will of all you who dropped your tapes in my collection box. I am grateful to every one of you who supported the All Saints Choir Trip to sing at Peterborough Cathedral this past summer.

The cost of each member was subsidized. Room and board was reasonable since we stayed in a dorm of a boys' school, vacated for the summer. Brian Snell, our organist and director, had been organizing this trip for the past several years.

The trip was wonderful in every way. We were honoured to be able to call

a cathedral "home" for eight days. We rehearsed and sang the Evensong daily.

English church-goers are much like Canadians - attendance drops off during the summer, but our singing was appreciated by those who heard us. We truly felt like ambassadors as we sang in a famous English cathedral steeped in history. It was at the same time a humbling and uplifting experience.

We were impressed by several people we met. Simon Bowler, organist for the cathedral, played magnificently for our choir. He was charming, talented, and very young to be in his position - only 23 years old. We loved our hostess, Dierdra, the housemother and nurse for the school. She was cheerful and helpful always, taxiing choir members to and from the cathedral in her minibus.

The food was delicious. Some favourites were roast beef with Yorkshire pudding, mushy peas, treacle pudding with warm custard sauce, lamb and rosemary pie and plaice

and chips. The least favourite was fried bread with canned beans in tomato sauce.

There were the inevitable pranks. The Reverend David Montgomery had the sleeves of all his shirts stitched closed. One of the basses had his face decorated with lipstick while he slept during a bus ride to York. Another choir member had towel and robe disappear while in the shower and had to navigate back to his suitcase without being seen.

With the help of Peter Shewchuk (currently working on "Road to Avonlea") we recorded our music to produce a tape which is available to the public. It is aptly called "Peterborough at Peterborough". Anyone who is interested in obtaining this recording of a Canadian choir on tour should contact me at 932-2097.

In closing I would like to thank the Millbrook IGA shoppers and Didi Calhoun for your assistance and support.

Renée Paul

Please address your letters to The Editor, The Ripple, P.O. Box 279, Millbrook, Ontario L0A 1G0

All letters must be signed and bear the name, address and daytime telephone number of the writer; house and telephone numbers are not published.

The Ripple reserves the right to edit all letters for length, grammar, clarity and libel.

Enter The First Annual Millbrook Gingerbread House Contest

This contest is open to absolutely anyone, with first, second and third prizes to be awarded in the following categories:

Children - 12 and under

Adults - anyone else

Businessperson's Challenge - open to members of the Millbrook and area business community, including Reeves, Councillors and store owners.

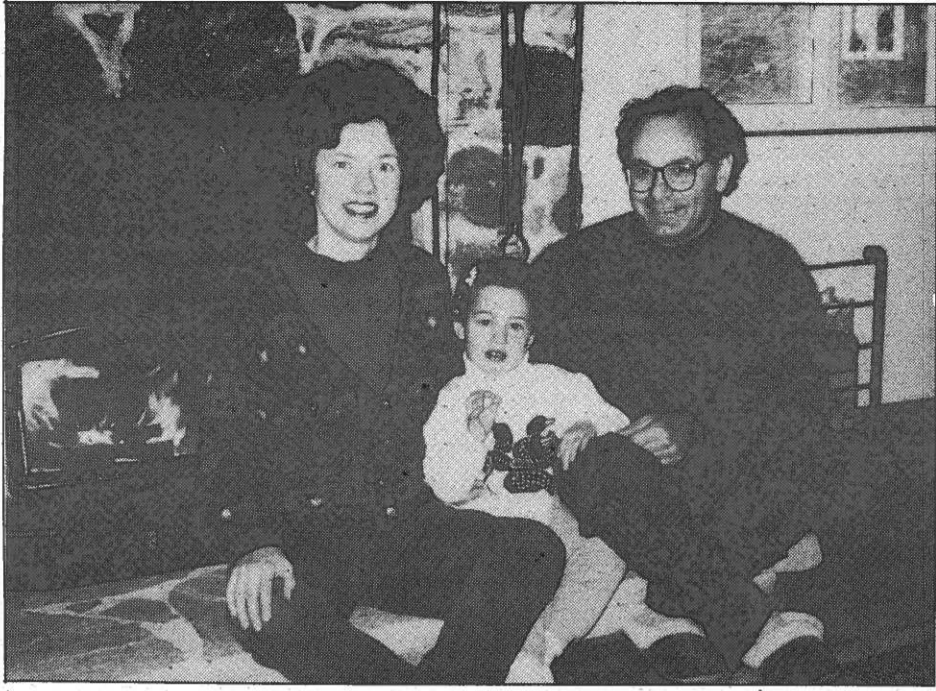
◆ Entries must be delivered to The Village Bulk Food Store by Thursday, December 15th, with entry form attached (see page 9 for form).

◆ They must be properly mounted on a sturdy base, and must be *totally edible*, with the exception of the occasional bit of decoration. So no cardboard houses decorated with caulking, guys. The gingerbread creation may be any size or shape - the wackier the better, as far as I'm concerned.

◆ Employees of The Ripple and their families are not eligible for prizes (awwwwww) but may just enter, anyway.

◆ Judging will take place on December 17, with the winners to be announced in the January 3rd issue of The Ripple. A list will also be posted at the Village Bulk Food Store.

◆ All entries must be left on display until Friday, December 23, after which they will be returned to their rightful owners. So, don't worry kids, you'll get it back.



Catriona Sinclair, daughter Gillian, and Angelo diPetta at home on the Zion Line.

NEW WAVE

New residents add to local artists' community

From the heart of downtown Toronto where in a short Sunday stroll, 27 restaurants alone can be counted in a single block, the Zion Fourth Line of Cavan has to be quite a change. But an interesting one, say Catriona Sinclair, who with spouse Angelo di Petta and daughter Gillian made the move this past summer.

Catriona is originally from Toronto, but two years spent in Caledon gave her a taste for life outside the metropolis. Since that taste, it was just a matter of time before she was looking for more.

"We spent weekends and holidays for the past couple of years near Brighton in a log home, at the end of a long dead-end lane. It was really remote." Too remote with a small child, so when this, along with their Toronto home, sold both within a matter of weeks, the search was on.

"It was a fluke really that we ended up here," says Catriona, who claims that they were just driving by on their house-hunting tour. However, they have taken no time at all to settle in.

Angelo is an accomplished ceramic artist, and has converted the small, unused barn on the property into a bright two-storey studio. Born in Italy and raised in Toronto, he is currently on a year's sabbatical leave from the Ontario College of Art. There he has held a number of posts over the past seven or eight years, most recently that of Acting Chair of Applied Art and Design and Head of Ceramics. He describes his work as non-functional sculptural and commissioned architectural work. He has recently completed a commissioned donor wall for the Children's Leukemia Foundation in Detroit, Michigan. One of his very first commissions, over 20 years ago, was the wall at the office entrance of Peterborough Square.

Both Angelo and Catriona are graduates of the Ontario College of Art. Catriona is

a textile design artist, and has brought with her a loom, a knitting machine, wools and dyes, and rooms full of materials packed away until renovation projects in the house allow for space. Meanwhile, both parents' spare time is easily filled keeping up with three year old Gillian!

Gillian is active and a happy participant in the program at Rollin' Acres on Cedar Valley Road. Puzzles, and listening to books being read to her are favourite quiet-time occupations, but Gillian has energy to burn as she gallops out around the pond and through the woods on the property. It is in part, says Catriona, for Gillian that we've moved out to the country; so that Gillian can grow up surrounded by nature.

Angelo and Catriona haven't been long in getting in touch with the community. Catriona is a member of the Community Choir, and Angelo is out on the volleyball court every Monday evening at the Millbrook School gym.

What would they like to see here?

"We miss the farm gate stands that are everywhere down near Brighton," says Catriona, "It seems silly to have to go all the way to the Peterborough market to buy something grown here just down the road." Both agree that a local farmers' market would be a welcome sight. Anything else?

"Well, a nice little restaurant, someplace nice to go for dinner, but also a place that you can take children to," says Catriona. "But, all in all, we're just happy to be here."

New Wave is a series of articles welcoming new folk to our area. If you have a new neighbour who you would like to introduce, please let us know. We are delighted to give a welcoming hand!

Have your say

This space will be offered to each municipal council in turn, to give our elected representatives a chance to keep their electorate informed.

by Mary Sutherland,
Millbrook

The men and women who have been elected to Millbrook Village Council represent a continuum of 194 years of local government and will form its 66th council. The new reeve is the 28th to hold that office.

That Council will be inaugurated in the Council Chambers at the Old Millbrook School on Monday, December 5, commencing at 7:30 p.m. This will not be a regular council meeting; instead the new Council will entertain all staff members and village employees, their families and friends, together with the public who are always welcome at any open council meeting. Invitations have also been extended to the incoming Councils of our neighbours in South Monaghan and Cavan Townships.

This will also be an occasion on which to

honour retiring Reeve George Branscombe and Mrs. Branscombe. Reeve Branscombe has served the village since 1983; his day by day work may be fully known to only a few of us, but it is worthy of the grateful thanks of us all.

We will also take the opportunity to say good-bye to Staff Sergeant Douglas Martin who is retiring from the Millbrook Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police at the end of November.

A major challenge facing not just the new Council, but in fact all-citizens of the Village, is the community effort that is required now to turn the tide of vandalism and desecration being carried out around us by some of our area youth. These young people have parents and neighbours who must take notice and take action. Please act responsibly and report incidents of vandalism to the police

when you see them happening. Everyone, including today's youth and young adults, must take responsibility for his and her own actions.

It is you, the parents, through your taxes, along with village merchants and everyone else, who pay the price for incidents such as the events of Hallowe'en night. *YOU* paid for the clean-up. *YOU* pay to replace the smashed lights at the Fair Grounds ball diamond. *YOU* pay for municipal employees to clean up the mess, including human faeces, left regularly in the children's playground behind the Legion. *YOU* will have to put up with the mess left at the Fair Grounds by youth who have largely torn down the brick base of the flagpole.

Excuses will not do. This is our village. It is the responsibility of us all to make it a safe and pleasant place. Let's do it.

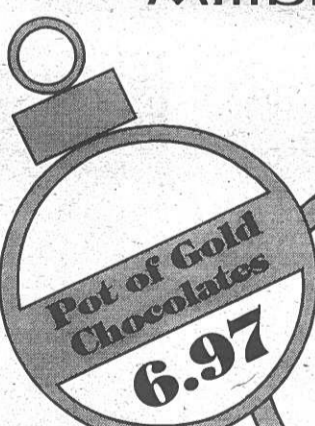


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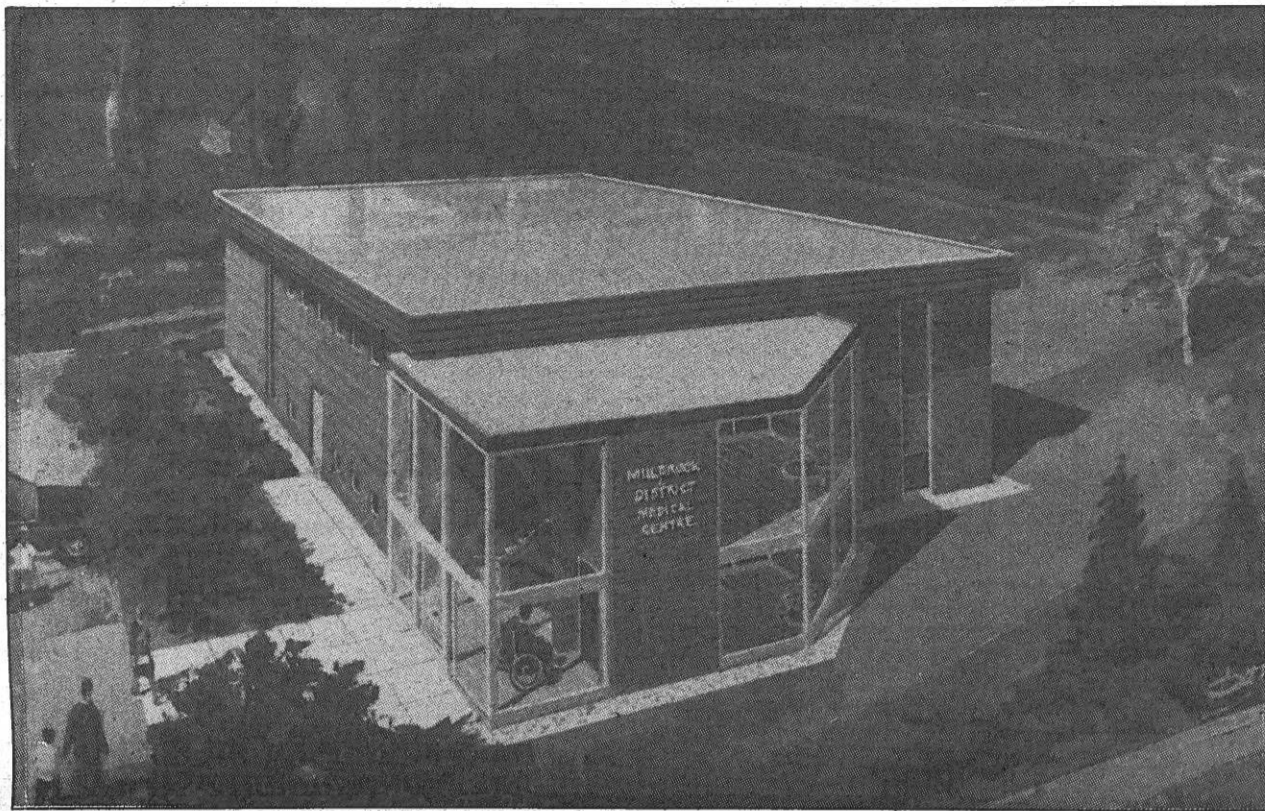
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Community project brings out the best



Architect's impression, designed by Alexander Duthie.

by Mary Sutherland

It has been an extraordinary undertaking! Just one year ago, the Medical Centre Board members literally said to one another: "Enough talking. Let's do it!"

The "it" of course was a fund-raising campaign for an addition which would not only enclose the existing stairways, but see the installation of an hydraulic lift to serve both floors as well.

Campaign Kick-Off

The lift must be large enough to hold a wheelchair plus one attendant; all access doors must be self-operating; access from the parking lot must be ramped.... When our 'wish list' was completed we obtained estimates which ranged between sixty-eight and seventy thousand dollars. To be on the safe side, we launched the campaign for \$75,000 between Christmas and New Year's. Within a month, more than \$4,000 had been received from area residents. We were on the way! Again.

Following a Tradition

'Again', because it was largely through public subscription of about \$35,000 that the Centre had been built in 1972. The Millbrook District Lions Club organized that first fund-raising campaign, and has consistently supported the Centre through Board representation in the 22 years since then. And, in 1972, there was a government grant.

Next month....

Short reviews, one each, of a recently released work of fiction, a non-fiction book, and a children's or young adult's choice of the month, will be one of the new regular features in The Ripple, starting next month. Reviews will be co-ordinated by Millbrook's librarian, Margot Loucks.

All on their own

However this time, the Board was repeatedly told that because the building is not used for public functions, no government grants were available. Money came in from unexpected quarters. Muriel Morrison, Millbrook author of *Embers of My World* from D to M, donated \$265 from book sales; Gladys Walker gave \$110 from foot care at Millbrook Manor; Sonya Ivey's gift of \$60 came from the Craft sale of her "Heat 'n Ease" bags (\$10 each; retail prices range between \$19.95 and \$29.95!). From Millbrook Youth Bowlers came \$300; Springdale Nursing Home staff Bowlerama raised \$419; the Community Choir and Joyful Noise Youth Choir sent in \$200.

And then there were donations in kind, as when the Brownies and Girl Guides made posters for the Fashion Show and the Strawberry Social;

Didi Calhoun donated the turkeys for the Lions Club dinner; John Stenner initiated the idea of "In Memoriam" gifts.

The Millbrook Heritage Fund gave some \$800, and the Community Centre Association gave the bank balance a recent boost with just over \$6800. Ten there was Lyn Lepper's "Millbrook Maple" quilted wall hanging which by raffle brought in over \$1600, and Judith Greenberg's "Signature Quilt" which to date has raised over \$1000.

From the April Fishing Derby, the Firefighters' Association gave \$500. Mike and Mary Ann Belanger and Susan Novak donated \$100 from their yard sale.

The important - the heart-warming thing about all these donations is that with the exception of those in kind, they were the inspiration of the donors, individual or collective. They were not solicited.

The Board moves ahead

Encouraged by this support, and a bank balance of over \$63,000, the Board solicited tenders in September, and were considerably chastened to find that the lowest was about \$114,000. The high cost of the required reflective glass and aluminum accounted for the major portion of the difference. Obviously our desired termination date of December, 1994 was not going to be met. The temptation to sink into gloom and doom was strong; the determination to persevere was, fortunately, stronger.

November '94 finds the fund a mere \$3000 short of the original goal. If that estimate had held, success would have crowned the efforts of so many who had been so generous with time, hard work and money.

When the shortage became public knowledge, new sources of possible grants came to light. If one or more should be productive, the December deadline might just be achieved after all.

To every person, every entity whose name appears on the Donor List or who has contributed by other means, our heartfelt thanks. You ARE making it possible!



Sod turning for the Millbrook and District Medical Centre, April 10, 1972. From left: Charlie Burrison, Councillor, Hamilton Township; Russel Honey M.P.; Luther Olan, Reeve of Cavan Township; Kelly Munroe, Lions Club; Earl Liesmer, Bank Manager, a Lion; Jay Whittington, Reeve of South Monaghan; Don Pritchard, Lions Club; Howard Quantril, Reeve of Hope Township; Percy Hamilton, Lions Club; Ken Blair, Lions Club.

A very special thank you

The following individuals and groups have donated to the lift campaign:

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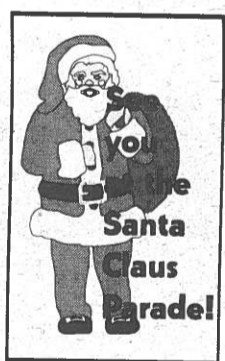
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Ken Greenberg with author, Muriel Morrison.

Photo by Maureen Wideman

MAKING WAVES

Millbrook author leads tour through history

by Celia Hunter

With a twinkle in her eye and a spring in her step, Muriel Morrison takes the floor as the guest speaker at the Millbrook Cavan Historical Society at their November 21 meeting. Her well prepared and beautifully delivered talk leads her audience through human history as a record of human thinking.

Visiting such luminaries as Plato and Aristotle, through Dante, Copernicus, Galileo and Michelangelo, to name only a few, Muriel describes the phenomenon of change in global thinking. Her talk is positive and hopeful, citing the recent surge of interest in the spirituality of the human being as a step forward towards the evolution of a thrifty, healthful, peaceful existence in the next century.

Muriel Morrison moved to Millbrook in 1990 in her late '80s, after spending six years in a Seniors' Residence in Oakville. The change has presumably done no harm. A sprightly figure who regularly walks from her home at the west end of Frederick Street to the shops of Millbrook and to church, she earlier this year launched her fascinating book, *Embers of My World From D to M*. The volume is an autobiographical collection of stories spanning the ninety years of her life so far, through birth and childhood, student days and professional years, family life and travel. Her considerable accomplishments in music, poetry and prose and her insatiably curious mind and boundless energy are evident in the very readable style and content of this book.

It is somewhat daunting to attempt to list the accomplishments of this extraordinary

woman. As a student, she went far beyond the requirements of her profession, pursuing her interest in music while at the same time attending Normal School. As wife and companion of 50 years to Wallace, she shared many experiences and travelled extensively throughout Ontario, across Canada and around the world. As a parent, she fostered a love of music and literature in her children, and passed along her sense of wonder and curiosity.

Muriel taught for many years, led choirs, and became deeply involved in the development and promotion in her area of school libraries. She spent a number of years as a volunteer Librarian for the Native Canadian Centre and pioneered various projects and special events.

What strikes one most about Muriel is her love of learning. As she speaks, she picks one book up after another, fondling each one with love and respect. Whenever she needed to know more in order to reach a goal, she enrolled in courses and set out on the journey. In 1959, in order to address the need to encourage reading in schools, she enrolled in library science. In 1976, Muriel began a four year course of study in creative writing, ranging from journalism to poetry and writing for children.

Muriel is currently taking a course in the history of human thinking, and maintains her skill as an accomplished pianist, practicing several hours a day. She has hinted that she has one or two story outlines for works of fiction in the works. Copies of *Embers of My World* are available at Knit One Purl One in Millbrook.

THE WAY WE WERE

By Ken Greenberg

Historical and hysterical artifacts

It was with great anticipation that I moved into my 130 year old house several years ago. Other owners of century homes had filled my head with wonderful stories of discovering a trunk in their attic filled with marvellous, historic artifacts, or a chest in the barn loaded with old photographs, newspaper clippings and turn-of-the-century clothes. Me? I found an odd shaped rock in my cellar.

It's twice the size of a goose egg, with smooth, undulating sides. This may not seem terribly unusual for a basement that has dirt floors and a three foot thick stone foundation, but this particular, mysterious little rock was resting incongruously on top of a rather massive wooden support beam.

Gravity affects rocks like everything else, and I learned in school that rocks don't walk; therefore, many, many years ago, someone intentionally placed it there. Of the dozens of former, unknown residents of this old, old house, who put it there? And more intriguingly, why?

I first noticed it about six months after moving in. It was squatting placidly on its ancient perch, peering

out into the musty, mouldy dankness. I hadn't seen it earlier because it's only visible from one very acute angle while negotiating the rickety basement stairs. You must be attentive when going down these stairs or you risk banging your head on low hanging floor joists. Yet I did catch a glimpse of it that day, and I had two, rising bumps on my head to prove it.

The rock was hidden, yet not completely hidden. It appeared to have been placed with meticulous care. Even then it struck me as a curiosity, but my head throbbed and so I continued on my way. I soon forgot about it.

About a year later while puttering with some faulty plumbing pipes, I noticed it again. Bravely reaching through a filthy and quite repulsive black mass of primeval cobwebs, I seized it and held it in my hand. For some reason I thought it would be warm, but of course it was "stone" cold. How long had it been since it was last touched - 30 years, 50 years, 100 years?

It was an unremarkable medium gray colour and weighed about as much as one would think a rock of that size would weigh. It was oblong-ish, though asymmetrical, with several randomly-spaced, graceful indentations. I felt it was a

friendly rock. There are those, like me, who believe that inanimate objects have personalities.

Had it been someone's good luck charm, or was it just casually placed there by someone merely too lazy to throw it out? Did it have special meaning or conceal some ancient secret? My imagination exploded! Did it hold magical powers - could I rub it and make a wish come true? Had it been used ceremoniously by a coven of white witches? A chill went up my spine.

Over the years my wife and I have uncovered numerous, moderately interesting artifacts in and around the house - a 1939 25 cent piece under the main staircase runner, rusty metal ice skates from the 1920's found between two walls, all sorts of broken, blue pottery, a horseshoe in the raspberry patch, and a child's Dinky Car buried in the herb garden. We collect them all and keep them in a shoebox in our closet. But no great treasures.

The friendly, odd little rock, however, remains quietly on its perch in the basement waiting to greet and perplex the next owners of our house.

Ken Greenberg is the President of the Millbrook and Cavan Historical Society

The next issue of *The Ripple* will be published on
Tuesday, January 3, 1995

but

so that we can take into account Christmas holidays
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STONE SOUP

By Evelyn Raab

Yes! It's a contest!

Quick, lock me up! Tie my hands behind my back! Hide the mixmaster! It's gingerbread house season, and I can't help myself. Like a deranged monomaniac, at this time of year I find myself driven by irresistible forces which compel me to perform this annual culinary ritual. Zombielike, I roam the aisles of the bulk food store in search of building materials: gumdrops, pretzel sticks, smarties. Green, chewy, tree-shaped mint things. Sprinkles. Candy canes. (*Oh no! It's happening again. I can't stop myself.*) Gummy worms. Licorice allsorts. Marshmallows. (*It's too late! AAAAAAGH!*) Surrendering to the inevitable, I drag out the baking pans and begin the procedure.

Those of us who suffer from this bizarre affliction (and I know I am not alone) are utterly defenseless in the face of the irrepressible cheeriness of a gingerbread house in all its sugary glory. Emblazoned across every December magazine cover is a stunning photograph of some professional gingerbread house, constructed by a person who does this sort of thing for a living. Deep in our heart of hearts, we know that this is not a realistic goal for us. We know that our gingerbread house will definitely not look like that. We know that six minutes into the decorating process, our children will invade the kitchen and expect to be allowed to help. And, kind souls that we are, we will let them. They will put all the blue smarties in one row on one side of the house. They will stick licorice pieces all over the roof, at random. They will eat all the red gum drops. They will decorate the telephone receiver with icing. They will put marshmallows into the microwave. They will feed sprinkles to the goldfish. We will end up with a gingerbread house that looks exactly like the one in the magazine after the typhoon hit. And we will be proud. And then, alas, we will clean up.

Now, if this doesn't sound familiar, then you have obviously never done The Gingerbread House Thing. Well, here is your big moment: **The First Annual Millbrook Gingerbread House Competition.** Now, not only can you experience the sheer joy of producing an edible work of art, have some quality family time with your kids (if necessary), and gain considerable admiration from your friends and neighbors, but you can also win stuff. All sorts of stuff. We don't know what yet, but trust me, it'll be good. All the entries will be displayed in store windows around town (to give everyone a chance make rude remarks about everyone else's creations), after which the winners will be determined by the decision of a panel of very competent judges (we don't know who yet, but we'll try to find some). There are prize categories for children and adults, and a very special Businessperson's Challenge wherein our local business community can compete with one

another - as if they don't already have enough to do. But, never mind, this is fun.

You must not even try to resist. If you have never made a gingerbread house (or castle, or barn, or garage, or whatever) before, the following is a basic recipe with some building instructions. I have not included details on how to decorate the darned thing. That I leave to you. This is, after all, a contest.

Making a Gingerbread House A Drama in Three Parts

Part I: The Pieces

Because this house is constructed out of what is basically just large flat cookies, the dough: 1) must produce a sturdy result (yet not so sturdy as, say, drywall); 2) must be able to withstand considerable abuse without becoming inedible; and 3) really ought to taste good. The following works for me.

- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup solid vegetable shortening, melted
- 1-1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 2-1/2 cups flour
- 1/4 tsp. ground ginger
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

In a large bowl, mix together the egg, molasses, sugar, shortening and soda. Beat well.

In another bowl, stir together the flour and spices. Add flour mixture gradually to the egg mixture, blending well. Refrigerate several hours or overnight.

When ready to bake, roll the dough out thinly (about 1/8") on a well floured surface. Cut out your pieces and transfer them carefully to a lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350o for 5 to 7 minutes, watching them carefully so that they don't burn.

Transfer to a rack to cool completely before proceeding with the endeavor. This recipe makes enough dough to bake all the house pieces, plus an extra each of the roof, front, and side. Just in case.

Part II: The Dreaded Assembly

First of all, you'll need a base. A 12" square of styrofoam works best since you can stick stuff into it.

Next, you'll need some glue. I use melted sugar because it gets really hard, and dries fast. Some people stick their houses together with icing - that's their business. To melt sugar, put about a cup of sugar into a heavy skillet and stir it over medium heat until it gets syrupy - about 5 to 10 minutes. Be careful, this stuff is really hot. Also, you'll need to keep it warm during the entire construction process, so that it remains liquefied.

OK. Keeping some toothpicks close at hand to use as support posts, begin the assembly. Working as quickly as possible, dip the bottom and side edges of one house wall into the melted sugar and place it upright in position on the base. Do the same with the adjoining piece, making sure it sticks together at the corner. Repeat until you have the four walls standing (more or less) upright. Now the roof: coat the top edges of the house walls with sugar cement and stick one roof piece in place.

Do the same with the other one, securing it with dabs of melted sugar along the top. Don't worry about drips, they're edible, and besides, you can cover them with icing later. Assemble the chimney, hang the door and shutters, pour yourself a cup of coffee (or whatever) and take a breather. The worst is over.

Part III: The Decorating

Finally! The fun part! Here's a recipe for an icing which hardens when it dries, so keep it covered when you're not using it. It's also excellent for cementing on smarties, making drippy icicles, and drawing squiggles on the kitchen chairs. Fortunately, it washes off.

- 1-1/2 cups icing sugar
- 1 egg white
- 1 tsp. lemon juice

Beat all the ingredients together with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. The more you beat, the better it gets.

OK. So what are you waiting for? Get out the gumdrops and start building.

THE OFFICIAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST ENTRY FORM

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Phone number _____

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 adult
 businessperson

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See page 4 for
Gingerbread
House
Contest
details

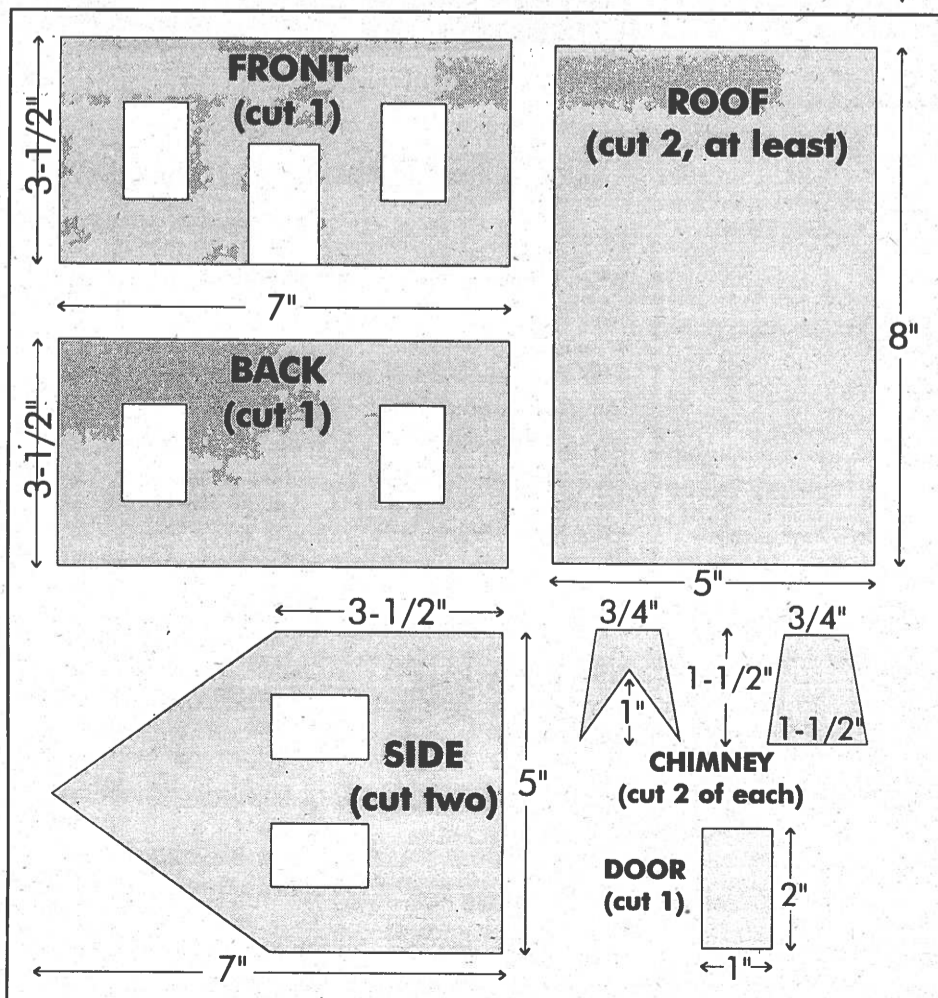
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OVER THE FENCE

By Charlene Rostkowski

AALP explained

For the past year, I have been part of a dynamic leadership training program intended to broaden my skills and knowledge to help rural residents meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Over a two year period, 30 Ontario residents from varied agricultural backgrounds, attend nine three-day seminars and two extended travel sessions. Two sessions include spouses and focus on issues important to rural families today.

On this course, we are exposed to many things we ordinarily would not be familiar with. For example, we had an in-depth tour of the Nuclear Power Plant near Owen Sound with a panel discussion afterwards on the effects on the community. We toured and investigated mining and logging operations near Sudbury to view their efforts to lessen environmental impacts. We took an underground tour of a Saskatchewan potash mine.

In July 1994, we spent 12 days travelling through Saskatchewan and North Dakota. We met with local leaders, industry people and farm families to discuss various problems they were facing. We found common ground on several rural community issues: schools and bussing, rural health care, safety and child care for shrinking farm families, and the loss of community

centres in sparsely populated areas.

We did find a spirit of optimism among young innovative farmers and community leaders. Farmers are diversifying their operations and attempting to attract businesses to rural areas to improve the economy and provide much needed jobs for rural young people.

We recently attended a busy four day session in Ottawa and upper New York State. We were joined by members of the New York State Agricultural Leadership program (LEAD). Sessions in Ottawa included briefings on the probable effects of NAFTA and GATT on Ontario agriculture, and on how our federal banking system operates. We were coached on the finer points of federal parliamentary government from the perspective of a Senator, our federal Deputy Minister of Agriculture, a professional lobbyist, and my own M.P., the Hon. Peter Adams. We were even treated to a live, colourful performance at Question Period in the House of Commons.

In March 1995, we will undertake a two week International Study Travel session to southern California and Mexico. Hopefully, the political, economic and cultural comparisons gleaned from this trip will give me further skills to help creatively manage the changes facing our rural communities.



Marg Clifford, of Good Fortune Treasures

New on the block

Just in time for Christmas shopping, a brand new shop, Good Fortune Treasures, has opened on Millbrook's King Street, next to Something Special. Proprietor Marg Clifford has stocked her gift store with a tantalizing variety of wonderful things.

From Lyn Lepper's handmade Teddy Bears to paintings by Bent Reinert, Ruth Brooks, Don Staples and Marg herself, the store offers variety and quality. Beautifully made children's clothing, hand weaving, jewelry, and copper enamel wear decorate the shelves. From handmade Donini chocolates to handmade Barbie doll clothes, all the merchandise is unique and of the highest quality.

Stained glass pieces and pottery by Jane McIntosh of Little Britain make choosing a gift an enjoyable challenge!

Marg and her husband Gordon have owned the building on King Street since 1958 when they came to the village. Marg retired from teaching two years ago, and has just completed a term serving the community as Public School trustee on the Peterborough County Board of Education. She joins a new and growing revival in Millbrook's business community which has seen the recent opening of Cranberry Creek and Yeast of Eden Bakery, and the reorganization of Olan's as a True Value centre.

OFAC course offered

The Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC) is offering their course "Animal Agriculture: Issues and Action" on December 5 and 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Lindsay.

This course is ideal for anyone who is interested in improving their communication skills on the sensitive issues in animal agriculture. As the issues and trends are constantly changing, this course provides some effective techniques that can be applied to any issue. Practice sessions will involve answering questions and presenting information to a variety of audiences ranging from the media to a grade 2 class! This program is a great opportunity for anyone who would like to be a more effective spokesperson and agricultural ambassador.

The 12 hour training program consists of 4 sessions of 3 hours each. It is an information-packed, interactive program which will encourage creative thinking and lots of practice time in a relaxed environment.

To register or for more information, call Lindsay OMAFRA at (705) 324-6125.

Congratulations to Royal winners

The Millbrook, Cavan, South Monaghan and Manvers areas were well represented this past month at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

Among the participants were Debbie Young Van Duelman, RR 2, Bethany (goat class); Jack and Pat Cook, Cavan (hackney and harness ponies); Sandy and Alecia McQuarrie, RR 2, Bethany (Belgians); Richard Heeringa, RR 1, Fraserville (milking shorthorns); Ann and Bob Frame, Seven Springs Farm, RR 1, Millbrook (Southdowns); Julia B. Pogue, RR 1, Cavan (American Saddlebred stallions); T-Bar Farm, Cavan (Blonde d'Aquitaine); Glen Armstrong, RR 3, Millbrook (Intermediate Showmanship and 4H Youth); Don and Pat Wood, Otonavista Farm, RR 1, Fraserville (Simmenthals). Congratulations to these and all other area participants.

Did You Know?

Today, farmers make up less than 3% of our population. On average, each Ontario farm family produces enough food to feed over 100 people.

Agriculture generates more than \$17 billion a year for the provincial economy and the agri-food sector directly employs nearly 570,000 people, or 12% of the Ontario work-force - making it the second largest employer after the automotive industry.

means the responsibility for food production rests largely with individual farmers not big corporations.

(Information provided by the Ontario Farm Animal Council)

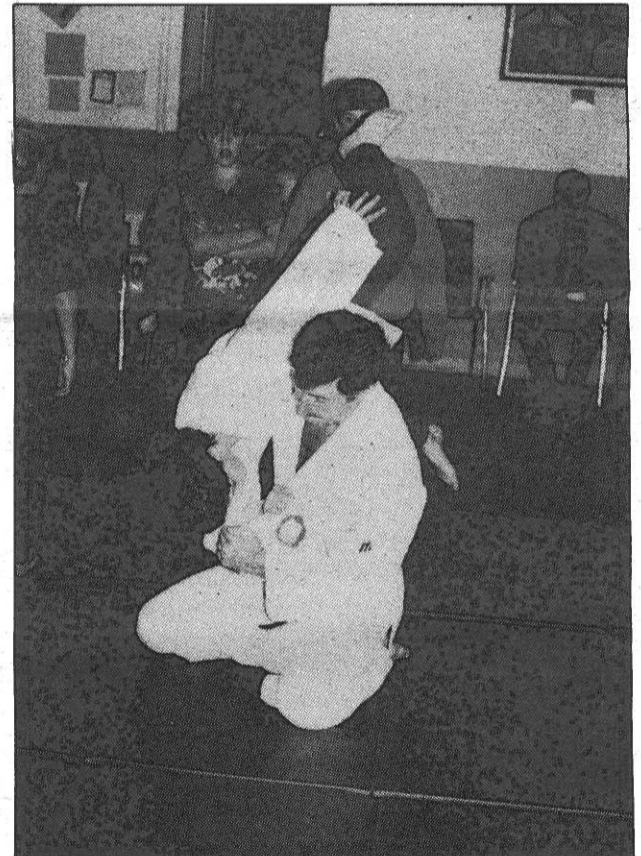


Photo by Maureen Wideman

Judo instructor shows students the art of technique in recreation program at Old School.

RECREATION ROUNDUP

By Maureen McElwain

When I first became Recreation Co-ordinator, I memorized two phone numbers. One was Celia Hunter's; the other was George Branscombe's. Celia's was for obvious reasons. As I soon came to understand, George was

the man to call. If work needed to be done at the Old School, George was the man to call. If grass needed to be cut, George was the man to call. If things needed to be fixed, George was the man to call.

Now that George is retiring from politics, I will soon have to memorize another number. But George's number I will not forget. As for Celia's, I still call.

Congratulations to Renate, Peter and Emilie Spasov. Welcome baby Hannah! We look forward to seeing baby pictures at the next Recreation Committee meeting.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1994

2
FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTRE at Cavan Community Hall - Mobile Outreach
10 am - 12:30

3
THE SECOND SHEPHERD'S PAGEANT at the 4th Line Theatre. Tickets at the Millbrook Pharmacy 1 pm

4
THE SECOND SHEPHERD'S PAGEANT at the 4th Line Theatre. Tickets at the Millbrook Pharmacy 1 pm

6
FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTRE at Bailieboro United Church - Mobile Outreach
10 am to 12 noon

6
MILLBROOK PLAY SCHOOL at Millbrook Christian Assembly Church
\$1.50/week, \$5/month
9:30 am - 11:30

7
GARDEN CLUB meets at Old Millbrook School
7:30pm

10
SANTA CLAUS PARADE Millbrook. Route from Medical Centre to Downtown. Floats meet at Medical Centre at noon.
1 pm

10
THE SECOND SHEPHERD'S PAGEANT at the 4th Line Theatre. Tickets at the Millbrook Pharmacy. 1 pm

11
THE SECOND SHEPHERD'S PAGEANT at the 4th Line Theatre. Tickets at the Millbrook Pharmacy.
1 pm

11
CHRISTMAS AT ST. ANDREW'S at the United Church in Millbrook. Community concert follows dessert and coffee. All welcome.
6:30 pm

13
MILLBROOK PLAY SCHOOL at Millbrook Christian Assembly Church.
\$1.50/week, \$5/month
9:30 am - 11:30

15
GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST deadline!

17
THE SECOND SHEPHERD'S PAGEANT at the 4th Line Theatre. Tickets at the Millbrook Pharmacy.
1 pm

18
THE SECOND SHEPHERD'S PAGEANT at the 4th Line Theatre. Tickets at the Millbrook Pharmacy.
1 pm

20
FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTRE at the Old Millbrook School.
10 am - 12 noon

20
COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING with community choirs.
7 pm

22
SCHOOL IS OUT 1 hour early across the board

23
SKATING AT THE MILLBROOK ARENA
3 pm to 4:30

27
SKATING AT THE MILLBROOK ARENA
1 pm - 2

Obituary

Helen (Armstrong) Morton, née Rutherford
Helen Eileen Rutherford passed away on November 23, 1994 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Helen was born and raised in Bailieboro. She lived in Peterborough when she worked for the Bank of Nova Scotia prior to marrying Murray and moving to Millbrook, where she raised her family.

Helen was an active member of the Millbrook and area community, always willing to lend a hand wherever she could. A member of St. Andrew's United Church in Millbrook, she was very active in the U.C.W. At almost any Church event, Helen could be found, hard at work in the kitchen. Food shopping and preparation, and planning for catered events was what she really enjoyed. She liked putting food entries in the Millbrook Fair.

For many years she was a 4H Leader, and along with her sister-in-law, Audrey Morton, she led groups through many units, and attended Leader Training and Achievement days.

Helen's first husband, Murray Armstrong, died of cancer over 12 years ago.

They farmed west of Millbrook, where their two sons, Brian and Scott, still live and run the family farm. Their daughter Diane works at Agrico on County Road 10 and lives in Peterborough.

After Murray died, Helen sold Tupperware at home parties and then later worked as a Red Cross Homemaker. She served many clients in this work, and made many friends while helping with their needs. She easily combined a friendly chat with getting the work done.

Three years ago in September, Helen married Mel Morton and moved to his home of the 8th Line of Cavan. The two of them enjoyed many activities together, including square and round dancing. They travelled throughout the area to these social events and had many friends who shared this and other interests with them. Mel

has five daughters and a son, and Helen enjoyed them as her extended family.

Helen will be greatly missed by all who knew her and had their lives touched in any way by her. She was a true friend. The church community and all the groups she was active in will feel the loss. Her family and friends will miss her phone calls and chats over coffee, and the moral support she always provided. She very much enjoyed her grandchildren Grant and Amanda, the children of Brian and JoAnn; they brought much joy to her life.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson Rutherford, predeceased her, as did her brother Art. She is survived by two sisters Jean and Betty, as well as her husband Mel, her three children and two grandchildren Grant and Amanda.

(Marice Collins)

Obituary

Ben Hogendoorn

It was with great sadness that the community heard of the passing away of Ben Hogendoorn, husband of Joan, and father of Jason and Lee-Anne, on November 25, 1994. Ben was active in the community particularly in

the area of sports. He was a key figure in the organization of slow-pitch softball at Maple Leaf Park, and regularly donated proceeds from the league to improvements at the Park. His interest and aptitude in sports is reflected in the achievements of both Jason and Lee-Anne in

their athletic endeavours.

He and Joan were counted as great friends by many in the community. Ben was always ready with a helping hand, and enjoyed a game of cards with friends or just a nice, leisurely chat with neighbours. He will be greatly missed.

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GREENSPACE

By Richard Miller

Have a green Christmas

Welcome to the first of a series of columns dealing with the environment. I hope to present you with news, views, tips, and gossip about environmental issues facing us in the mid-nineties, especially as they relate to this area and to the readers of *The Ripple*.

Before I start though, I tell you now: I want feedback.

I want to hear from you, what you think I should write about here.

I want to hear from you if you think I'm wrong.

I want to hear from you if you have questions, either about something you've read here, or elsewhere.

And I especially want to hear from you if you have ideas or knowledge about any aspect of environmentalism to share with your neighbours and fellow readers.

Some of the subjects I hope to write about include waste reduction (for obvious reasons), energy & resource conservation, air & water pollution, soil science, natural pest control, edible landscaping, wildlife management, non-toxic home economics and arts & crafts, etc. If you think of other topics, please feel free to let me know. If you know anything about these subjects, let me know as well. I need all the help I can get.

The approach will be non-scientific in that I will

try to avoid using five dollar words and abstract concepts (although a little philosophy might creep in). I will try to keep the column light, friendly, and informative. I sincerely hope that you will keep me on my toes by constantly commenting on my subject matter, my style, and my point of view (more about that later). Don't hesitate to tell me you think I'm off my rocker if you think I am! And if you think I have forgotten something, or you have a better solution to something I suggest let me know let's talk! In the meantime, here are some things to try for this holiday season.

Instead of purchasing rolls of gift wrapping paper, use your imagination to find or make a distinctive alternative. For example, the coloured comic section of the weekly paper is fun for kids' presents. Try to assemble the papers ahead of time so that the inks have time to dry properly; your fingers will stay cleaner when wrapping the gifts and so will the kids' when they unwrap. I have heard (but never tried) that you can cover the newspaper page with some waxed paper, cover that with clean paper or a tea towel, and using a household iron on a low setting, iron the stack of papers which will transfer some of the wax onto the comics so that the inks won't smudge. If you try

it, let me know how it turns out.

Or how about newspapers of other languages such as Chinese or Arabic. If you find an outlet for such newspapers you can usually buy a stack of back issues for a song. They can be tied with colourful yarns left over from knitting or crochet projects, or how about grape vines, or baling twine? They get lots of attention. The beauty of using newspaper as a wrapping material is that the wrapping can be used to start the woodstove or recycled through the blue box, where the colourful commercial paper shouldn't be burned and can't be recycled.

Other ideas for gift wrap include wallpaper, kraft paper (like parcel-wrapping paper or paper grocery bags), inside-out pet food bags, out-of-date maps or posters of faded rock stars, colourful magazine pages for smaller gifts, linen tea towels or pillow cases tied with ribbon, and more. My wife, Anne, made a number of small drawstring bags from leftover materials several years ago and those bags are still being reused by members of our family. If you have lots of art supplies around, you can really have some fun and be creative with acrylic paint, crayons, oil pastels, watercolours, spray paints, etc.

wouldn't notice at all if you brought her home a pretty poinsettia from Something Special.

Hey Santa! Don't you need a license for that fancy sleigh? You can get it at the Pharmacy. Don't stray too far though; right next door are snacks and nibbles right in with all the baking supplies Mrs. Claus'll ever need; Wanda's got it all! But for 'convenience' sake, we've got a couple of places you can stop in at too.

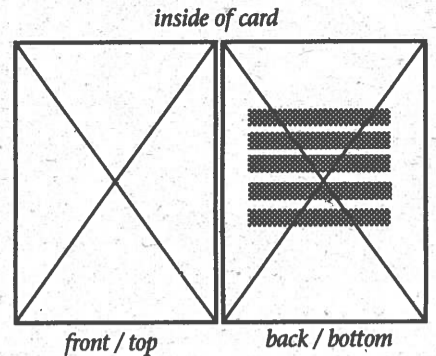
C'mon Santa, tell the truth; isn't that sleigh just a little old-fashioned? You want to test drive one of those four-wheel drive vehicles through all that snow at the North Pole, I just know it. So go see John Tinney. You can gas it up right here in town; why, you even have the luxury of choice! Just leave Rudolf and his pals grazing over 'cross the street, at the Farm Supply store. Or rent them a movie; there are even ones about you over at Showtime.

We can buy you a house or sell you a house. Stu at the Building Supply will even help you build a house! If you didn't pack your tools, never fear - go see Ian at the Lawn and Garden Equipment store.

Company's coming? Hundreds, you say? Delectably Delicious can take care of that.

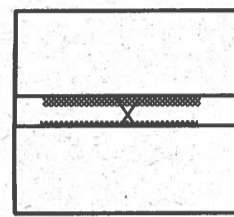
We have lawyers and artists and doctors and

Open the card, cut apart along the fold, then draw an X from corner to corner

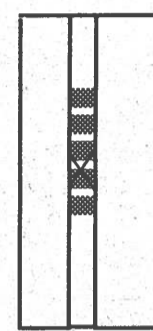


Greeting Card Gift Boxes

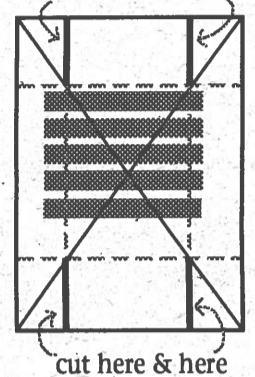
Fold top & bottom edges right to the centre of the X, not the way it is here



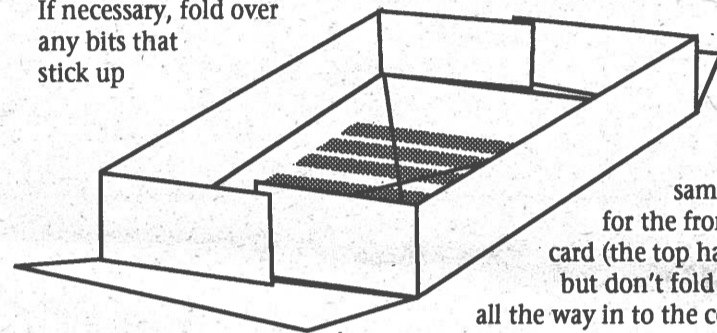
Unfold, then fold sides right to centre



Unfold, then cut 4 times: cut here & here



Fold sides up and flaps in, then fold top & bottom ends up. If necessary, fold over any bits that stick up



Follow the same instructions for the front half of the card (the top half of the box) but don't fold the four sides all the way in to the centre of the X

This makes the top half fit over the bottom half

Eliminate the wrap altogether by putting your gifts in a container such as a wicker basket, a flower pot, or a Tupperware container. Wrap gifts in tea towels or T shirts. Try giving gifts that don't require wrapping such as potted plants or jars of jam.

Handmade gifts are always appreciated (with the possible exception of another pair of knitted mittens from Grandma) so why not handmade gift wrap? And don't stop

there, make your own decorations and ornaments for the tree or the mantel.

Recycle last year's greeting cards either by cutting and pasting parts from different cards onto a new piece of folded paper or card, or by making gift boxes from them (see illustration). These all can be great family projects and a source of enjoyment away from the TV.

Don't forget to dig a hole in your garden before the ground freezes so you can

buy that living tree you've been promising to do. Save your bread crusts and cookie crumbs for our feathered friends, along with cranberry or popcorn strings from the tree. A little tinsel doesn't hurt either as some birds will weave them into their nests. Compost all your orange peels and nut shells. Write or call me with your questions or suggestions. And have a safe and joyous holiday and a happy new year.

Pssst.....Santa!

by Christine Diaz

It has been almost a year since Santa flew through and the word is out - he will be back December 10. Things have changed since he last came to town, and we think the jolly old fella will like what he sees.

Just a quick note, Santa, from all of us here...

If those busy elves have been slacking off, Santa, you can stop at the True Value or at one of the other new 'shoppes' to pick up that special gift. Just look at the gifts we've got now, all set to go, in Cranberry Creek and Good Fortune Treasures. At Sears, you can order it all - one-stop shopping!

The window at the Deli reflects the season, and inside the Senate can always give you a tip or two on just about anything. If they aren't much help, go check out the crowd at The Country Corner. And just in case there's no pizza at the North Pole, Donna at the Plaza serves them up hot.

Dessert? Why, the Bakery of course! Don't worry, we won't tell Mrs. Claus. Besides, you can drop a few calories at one of two ski hills just roof-tops away. Maybe Mrs. Claus

dentists (it's those candy canes that can be a problem, you know) and we even have vets in case you have trouble with those reindeer.

There are canoes (that sleigh can't really be practical in Amsterdam and Venice), and for those hard-to-uncover chimneys - I sure hope they've been cleaned - in the blizzards on the Prairies, we've got snowblowers; just go on up and introduce yourself at Todd's - not just a Tractor Trader!

We can fix your crossed wires, or paint you a sign. We can give you a trim; spruce up that beard a little. In fact, maybe you should bring those elves along; Joseph, Sylvia and Linda could each take a few and have them all trimmed up in no time. If your driving's a little rusty - getting out just once a year really doesn't sound like enough - just call Roly.

And then, when the last gift is wrapped, and you're fed up to HERE, you can stop in at Mandy's for a meal and some cheer. But only one; it's a long way home. And then, again, you could stay over a day or two, take in the sights, browse through the stores. Maybe you should check to see if the B & B at Westmacott House could put you and those reindeer up for a while. We'd sure love to have you.