

# The Ripple

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## A night of storytelling at the Millbrook Legion

by Celia Hunter

Clare Winslow and Harry McCamus will be among the featured guests at an evening celebration to honour Heritage Week at the Millbrook Legion on Friday, February 24 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The evening will feature a series of reminiscences and presentations on a variety of subjects focusing on our collective past. Harry McCamus and Clare Winslow will together look back at their own experiences, farming in Cavan in earlier days. Clayton Thexton will describe Millbrook's industrial past, and Dave Powell will take a look at the early days of the volunteer fire brigade. Several other speakers from the community will look at other aspects of everyday life in the past.

Both the Millbrook Cavan Historical Society and MACAC will be on hand with displays of local memorabilia. The Historical Society's collection is always growing,

with a valuable donation from Miss Jean Burnham of a large, framed Christmas greeting as one of the most recent additions. The beautifully preserved work features pictures of Millbrook's businessmen of 1889, each one clearly identified.

For young people, this evening will provide valuable background in understanding the local history of the community in which we live. It will offer a unique opportunity to be prepared for that school history project which is probably somewhere down the road! Indeed, the evening promises to offer everyone a chance to get together as a community and share stories and memories with friends and neighbours.

The Heritage Celebration is sponsored by Baxter Creek Enterprises, publisher of The Ripple. Admission is free, and everyone is invited. Light refreshments will be served following the presentations.



Left, Jean Burnham presents a photo composite of Millbrook's 1889 businessmen to Mary Sutherland, a member of the Millbrook Cavan Historical Society.

## Colleen Peterson guest artist at Give a Hoot Cafe

Colleen Peterson will be the featured guest artist at the Give A Hoot Café in Millbrook on Saturday, February 18, beginning at 8 p.m. at the Old Millbrook School.

The Give A Hoot Café is organized by the Millbrook Cavan Environmental Watch. Washboard Hank will be MC and the evening will start off with an Open Stage segment.

This month's guest, Colleen Peterson, has been all over the musical map as a recording artist and songwriter. Folk, rhythm 'n' blues, pop and country are all in Peterson's repertoire. Her single in 1991, "No Pain, No Gain", reached # 1 on Canadian country charts. Two Juno awards grace her bookshelf. As a writer, her songs have been recorded by Anne

Murray, Sylvia Tyson and Ronnie Prophet.

Peterson's most recent venture has been a collaboration with Sylvia Tyson, Caitlin Hanford and Cindy Church, who together with Peterson formed Quartette and released a CD of the same name. Quartette is described by one Toronto Star critic as "a superbly seasoned supergroup...it's brilliant."

The Give A Hoot Café is located on the main floor of the Old Millbrook School on Dufferin Street, off Gravel Road. Admission to the February 18 event is \$5 per person. Coffee and refreshments will be available. Proceeds from the evening will go towards plans for annual Earth Day celebrations, organized by the Environmental Watch.



Singer and songwriter, Colleen Peterson, will be featured at the Give A Hoot Cafe in Millbrook on February 18.



Photo by Heather Church

Courtney Bellis, from Barbados, and Margarita Vega, from Mexico, are pictured above in a quince built by the Outdoor Education class at The Bethany Hills School. Each student in the class is required to sleep overnight in this dwelling, and Courtney and Margarita braved a -18° C low on January 26 to accomplish this part of the course.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Maplefest plans ..... page 2

Getting the point -  
Youth Darts ..... page 3

Articles -  
John Ireland and Barb Walker ..... page 6

Stone Soup -  
Explosive Issues ..... page 7

An Australian adventure -  
"No worries, Mate!" ..... page 8



Some members of the Community Choir (left to right) Marion Guthrie, Hazel Woodward, Jessie Gillis, Anne Cruikshank, and Choir Director Ruth Warburton.

## Community choirs sing out

The hallway downstairs at St. Andrew's United Church in Millbrook is packed every Tuesday evening with men and women of all ages, standing quietly, waiting for their turn. They are listening to the giggles, claps and soaring voices beyond the closed door. Joyful Noise is living up to its name.

Ruth Warburton directs both the adult Community Choir and Joyful Noise, the youth choir. Both

groups are made up of individuals from five municipalities, various religious denominations, a variety of backgrounds and all ages. What they all have in common is a love of singing.

It is this love that brings them out each Tuesday to learn songs and pieces that range from folk, through jazz, blues, pop and sacred, to selections from the most popular musicals. For Joyful Noise, there's

more to the evening's fun than just singing. Under Ruth's twinkling eye, the group puts actions to some of the numbers, adding a few moves here and there and a lot of expression everywhere. Among the most recent additions to their repertoire are Gordon Lightfoot's Pussycat, Cattails, the song Little People from Les Misérables, and a musical medley of Hans Christian Andersen tales.

Once the members of Joyful Noise burst out through the door at the end of their hour long practice, the adult Community Choir gets a chance to mingle over music folders - it always seems to take a few minutes to find the one with your name on it - while new friends and old exchange a few words on the news of the past week. Then it's down to the serious business of the evening, with numbers such as Brian's Song, Stormy Weather and White Sports Coat (and Pink Carnation) to run through.

The members of both choirs enjoy the weekly sessions, but look forward most of all to sharing what they've accomplished with others. Their spring concert has become an annual event, this year planned for the end of May. Throughout the year, they appear at special events and sing for almost any group or organization that cares to ask them! They are currently welcoming new members. Joyful Noise is open to young people from age 8 on up. Anyone interested in joining either choir is invited to call Ruth, 745-8075, for more information.

## Looking for feedback

by Morgan Smith

The Millbrook Cavan South Monaghan Community Policing Association met on January 11 for their monthly meeting. Present was Inspector Keith Buxton from the Kawartha OPP Detachment, who performed the swearing-in ceremony of the Committee members. He also provided insight into the tasks and responsibilities of both the OPP and Community Policing volunteers.

The community is urged to contact the OPP Detachment, 932-2913, or your local volunteer to discuss any of your policing concerns, special needs, innovative or old ideas. Our local OPP detachment wants to know of any information you may have that could improve or add to their efforts.

Volunteers in South Monaghan Township are Mark Grove and Morgan Smith. In Cavan, representatives are Don Armstrong, Reg Egerton, Jane Martell and Dierdre Obey. Millbrook's volunteers are Carolyn Conrad, Jim Cooper, Steve Paul and Joan Stenner.

### Did You Know?

- ◆ Our local OPP detachment receives very few calls from residents regarding stolen property, traffic violations and other complaints. Please call if you have any concerns.
- ◆ It is illegal to shovel your snow on to the roadway.
- ◆ A dangerous situation was brought to the attention of a policing volunteer by a concerned citizen. As a result, our OPP will be actively watching for vehicles travelling at excessive speed past the Arena.
- ◆ Students attending our community schools have all had the opportunity to be fingerprinted and photographed for their families' own use. Approximately 80% have taken advantage of this I.D. program at no cost to them.

## Festival fun

The Millbrook Business Improvement Association is making plans for 1995, with two major festivals in the works: Maplefest in April and a Falling of the Leaves Festival in the Fall.

Working with Peter Kennedy and Connie Danielsen of Kennedy's Sugar Bush, the B.I.A. revived the Maple Syrup Festival that took place at the Kennedys' County Road 10 property during the 1970's and early '80's. It has run successfully for the past two years.

"The key to a successful festival," says B.I.A. chairman Brian Bulger, "is the participation of local community groups." Last year, over 400 people enjoyed a pancake breakfast at the Millbrook Legion. Millbrook Brownies looked after face-painting for the children, and the Millbrook Cavan Historical Society opened their museum at the Old Millbrook School. A chartered bus shuttled people between locations.

For the Falling of the Leaves Festival, still in the early planning stage, the B.I.A. is considering such activities as displays and demonstrations by local artists, and hot air balloon rides. The B.I.A. is again looking for participation from local community groups.

"These festivals can serve as fund-raising events for local groups," Mr. Bulger states, "while providing a day of festive activities for local residents and visitors to the area."

If you or your organization is interested in finding out more about these two events, Brian Bulger, on behalf of the B.I.A., invites you to attend an information meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 7 p.m. at the Lions Den, or call 932-2734.

## Local creates program for young people

Lynda Zakarow, Millbrook resident and owner of the Millbrook Deli, has spent the past few months looking into the various options and opportunities for young people in the area to get together for an evening once a week, and has come up with a proposal to use the Millbrook School gym for this night out.

Lynda bases her proposal on a similar program in Lakefield where basketball, ping-pong and cards are all part of the fun on Friday night at the school gym. The Lakefield program is a popular one, with attendance growing so much over the years that the group has had to be split into two, with separate times scheduled in order to accommodate the crowd. Lynda suggests that the Millbrook gym night would be designed for young people in grades 8, 9 and 10.

Stumbling blocks and details have to be addressed, and Lynda is looking for more input and help with organizing the program. One of the issues that has to be looked at is funding, for both rental of the gym, set at \$40 per hour, and for equipment. The draft proposal suggests groups of three volunteers act as program facilitators, taking turns to be present each program night to get games started, distribute equipment and oversee clean-up. A small fee is suggested to help cover the cost of the space.

Anyone interested in developing this program or any other is invited to get in touch with Lynda, either by phone, 932-2438, or by dropping in to the Deli during business hours.

## Muriel Morrison

## Donating funds for young authors

by Celia Hunter

The mayor of Peterborough, Jack Doris, will be among those who will be on hand at the gathering to launch Muriel Morrison's campaign to raise funds for young authors at The Melting Pot on Saturday, February 11.

Mrs. Morrison's book, Embers of My World from D to M, is a collection of seven stories tracing the author's progress through life. The book has already raised funds for a number of projects supported by the Millbrook author. Proceeds have gone to help Operation Vision for Blind Children with sales in Calgary, Alberta, as well as to the Lift Campaign at the Millbrook and District Medical Centre, to Community Care, and to St. Thomas' Anglican Church. In Mrs. Morrison's words, "This hasn't been a book to make money from; it's been a book to share."

According to Mrs. Morrison, her aim in raising funds is to encourage young authors up to age 20 by providing financial assistance to have work published.

"I feel the need for children to express themselves. We won't have senior writers unless we have junior writers," says the 92 year old author and poet, who was the subject of a profile in the first issue of The Ripple in November 1994.

The fund will be administered by the Peterborough branch of the Canadian Authors Association. The fundraising effort officially begins at The Melting Pot, a local artists' co-operative at 412½ George Street North in Peterborough, February 11, 1 to 4 p.m. Mrs. Morrison will be on hand to autograph copies of the book which sells for \$11. Millbrook artist Bruce Lepper who painted the watercolour used on the book's dust jacket will also be there. A number of his carvings will be on display.

**FESTIVALS**  
*anyone?*

The Millbrook B.I.A. invites all service clubs and other organizations based in Cavan Township to an information meeting to discuss the benefits of participating in two special events - Maplefest & Fall Festival - planned for 1995.

**Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m.**  
**at the Lion's Den on County Road #10**  
**or contact Brian Bulger - 932-2734**

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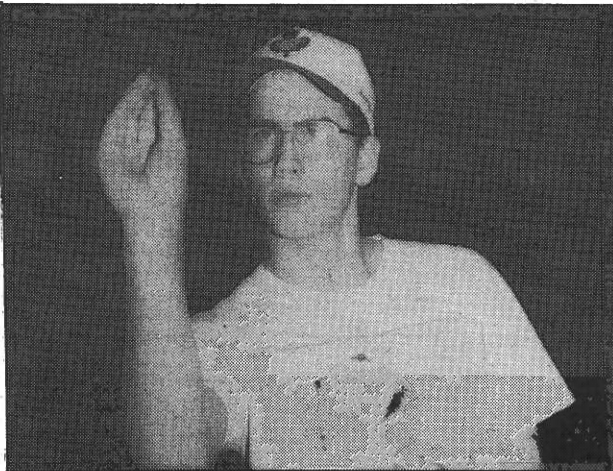


(705) 932-2653

## Tree burn on no matter what

No matter what Mother Nature has up her sleeve in the way of weather surprises, the Millbrook Recreation Committee, with Co-ordinator Maureen McElwain, is all set for the Second Annual Tree Burn and Chill Out on Saturday, February 11, starting at 7 p.m. at the Millbrook Fairgrounds.

This community event is a chance for people of all ages to get together for an evening of fun, laughter, sport and thrills under the lights, with the Fire Department in charge of the spectacular finale as December's Christmas trees become Millbrook's biggest bonfire. If the winter weather holds, the Recreation Committee has planned sleigh rides, skating and lots of snow-based activities for all. Hot chocolate will be in plentiful supply. Mindful of January's record thaw, which put a damper on many a winter carnival in Ontario, organizers have a line-up of alternate activities to suit the conditions. As a result, it's safe to mark this date on the calendar and plan to come out to an evening of fresh air and fun.



Cavan's Brent Gallimore, a member of the Youth Dart League.

## They get the point

by Maureen Wideman  
Monday evenings at the Millbrook Legion are filled with laughter and good times. Is it bingo night? Cards? Former soldiers getting together to swap stories?

It is dart night, but for the younger set. The Youth Dart League is for young people aged 9 to 18. For the cost of a mere \$1, these kids have the opportunity to mingle with friends and learn a different sport. It helps pass the time during those long winter evenings.

The league is run by Cavan's Lloyd Slack. At 73, (that's only 23 celcius, he jokes) Lloyd really enjoys his evening with the local young people. "We have a pretty good time. Everyone seems to enjoy themselves," he says. "At Christmas time we had the kids play their parents. That went really well."

Melody McIntyre, 12, of Cavan likes darts because it is fun.

Michelle Hutchison, 10,

of Millbrook says she likes going down to the Legion and meeting her friends.

Bill Fair, 11, also of Millbrook, says he likes to get out of the house and play darts. He likes the challenge of the game and the opportunity to be with his friends.

Have you got young people hanging around your house on Monday nights with nothing to do? Why not bring them down to the Millbrook Legion? They could learn the game of darts, a game that can take time to master, but one they will be able to play for the rest of their lives.

The universal appeal of the game cannot be denied, especially by the members of the Youth Dart League in Millbrook.

## Want to help?

Each April, a cheerful but determined band of volunteers take to the streets, the lanes and the back roads. Their mission inspires them to keep going, though sometimes the going can be tough. The late afternoons, their favoured time, can still be cool, and there can still be spring mud and late snow to scoot around. But that won't stop these folks.

This hearty band of volunteers are canvassers for the annual Cancer Campaign, which still goes from door to door, making contact with friends and neighbours, answering questions and providing information while asking for donations. Each canvasser is well equipped with information sheets and graphs showing where funds are spent and what

progress is being made.

New volunteers are always needed. With enough volunteers, each campaigner is able to complete his or her route in two or three outings. You may be able to think of a friend or two who has encountered cancer and who has had their experience made a little easier through funds raised in this annual campaign. You might then like to help keep up and even improve that level of service, as well as contribute to research funds. Please contact a Cancer Campaign organizer in your area. Anywhere in Cavan Township, north of Millbrook, call Beulah Robinson, 944-5352. In Millbrook and the southern part of Cavan Township, call Celia Hunter, 932-3130.

## Educational challenges of the future

"The Challenge of Change: Educating for the 21st Century" is a community forum being held on Thursday, February 2, 7:30 p.m. at Kenner Collegiate's "Pod", featuring author and commentator Maude Barlow.

The forum will offer an opportunity to discuss questions about public education such as "what is the truth about Canada's drop-out rates?"; "are students being adequately prepared for the future?" and "can communities reshape their schools?"

Barlow is a political activist, media commentator

and National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians. Recently she co-authored with Heather Jane Robertson "Class Warfare: The Assault on Canada's Schools", an original and penetrating analysis of the current struggle over public education.

Admission to the forum is free with one canned good food donation for the Peterborough Food Bank. To facilitate planning for the forum, the public are requested to pre-register with the PCBE's Program Department, (705) 743-7431, ext. 390.

## Community gatherings to celebrate local culture

The 4th Line Theatre is organizing a series of informal community get-togethers at the Millbrook Legion featuring Irish dancing, storytelling, Celtic folk music, singing and poetry-reading in anticipation this summer of its new production, The Winslows of Derryvore.

These ceilidhs, says organizer Jim Gleason, are designed for all ages to come out for an evening of fun, while learning something of the culture of many of the original settlers of the area. Both Cavan and South Monaghan are names that are reminders of the local Irish heritage. Ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee) is a Gaelic word describing a community gathering just like the ones planned by the 4th Line Theatre.

Director and playwright Robert Winslow says he hopes area residents will add their talents to the evenings, through story-telling, song or dance. Musician Brian Sanderson, who sings and plays regularly in 4th Line Theatre productions, will with fellow musicians provide the core of the Celtic music sound. Gleason plans to feature step dancers and set dancers, and will extend invitations to such noted Irish personalities as Moya Cannon, an award winning Irish poet and currently writer-in-residence at Trent University's Champlain College.

Admission to the ceilidhs, which begin at 8 p.m., will be by donation. The first ceilidh is planned for Friday, March 3.

## Bloodhounds will run in the fall

The CBC television program, *On The Road Again*, will complete work on the feature described in last month's issue of *The Ripple*, on the Kawartha and Region Search Dogs, in the next few months. The segment will air as part of *On The Road Again's* fall sea-

son line-up. The *Ripple* will publish the date and time of the program when it becomes available. The feature profiles the work of Cavan Township resident Deb Hancock and her two associates in training bloodhounds for search dog duties.

## TREE BURN AND CHILL OUT

February 11  
7 p.m.

Featuring:

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skating, sleigh rides,  
and other events

topped off by a spectacular

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**MILLBROOK FAIRGROUNDS**

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Millbrook  
Pharmacy

# The Ripple

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Celia Hunter..... Editor  
 Evelyn Raab..... Art Director  
 Maureen Wideman..... Production Manager  
 Christine Diaz..... Advertising Manager  
 Kim McLeod..... Business Manager

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## Lots to do in February

There should be no cases of the February Blahs around here. The stacks of notices for coming events and the number of projects on the go leave no room for excuses. There is no reason for anyone to be bored.

For the young, there are spaces to fill at the weekly practices of A Joyful Noise, the community youth choir for ages 8 and up. They sing everything from folk to jazz, and have a great time doing it. Or then again, there's Monday Night Darts at the Legion where young people can meet together with their friends and pick up a useful recreational skill at the same time. Plans are in the works for a night at the school gym once a week to play everything from basketball to ping-pong. For this to happen, all that's needed is for some people to show an interest and get involved in figuring out how to set it up. Go bowling; there are hours scheduled every week for any group to play. The Arena also provides entertainment and recreation; check the Community Calendar for dates and times of hockey tournaments and public skating times. Why not go down and just watch a game? Cheer on a home team or a friend.

For the youngest set, there are regular get-togethers through the Family Enrichment Centres' Outreach Programs. There are play schools and nursery schools. If the weather co-operates, Millbrook Recreation's outdoor rink at the Fairgrounds provides free skating time, just about any time! Back in December when the ice was 'in', there were some wonderful reports being handed around about young tykes dropping in at the rink while older ones were playing and being welcomed and included in the game. 'Way to go!

There are lots of community events planned that can bring us all together this month. Millbrook Recreation's Tree-Burn and Chill-Out will happen, no matter what, on Saturday, February 11. The weather won't get the better of this group! The Committee plans to be ready for pretty well anything Mother Nature springs on them. At the Millbrook Legion, the Darts for Hearts Tournament on February 12 is a great way for the community to support the Heart and Stroke Foundation's annual campaign. Then, later on in the month, the Legion is the location for the area's own celebration of Heritage Week. On Friday, February 24, everyone is invited to come out to hear some of our most fascinating friends and neighbours describe how things were, years ago, in our community.

February 18 is the date of the Coffee House, sponsored by the Millbrook Cavan Environmental Watch, at the Old Millbrook School. Special guest artist is Colleen Peterson. Don't miss this one!

Add all this to the regularly scheduled club meetings and recreational activities, card games and bingos, and you can see there is no excuse for being bored. There are opportunities for singing, dancing, playing a variety of games and sports, or just plain visiting. It's all right here; getting involved is up to you.

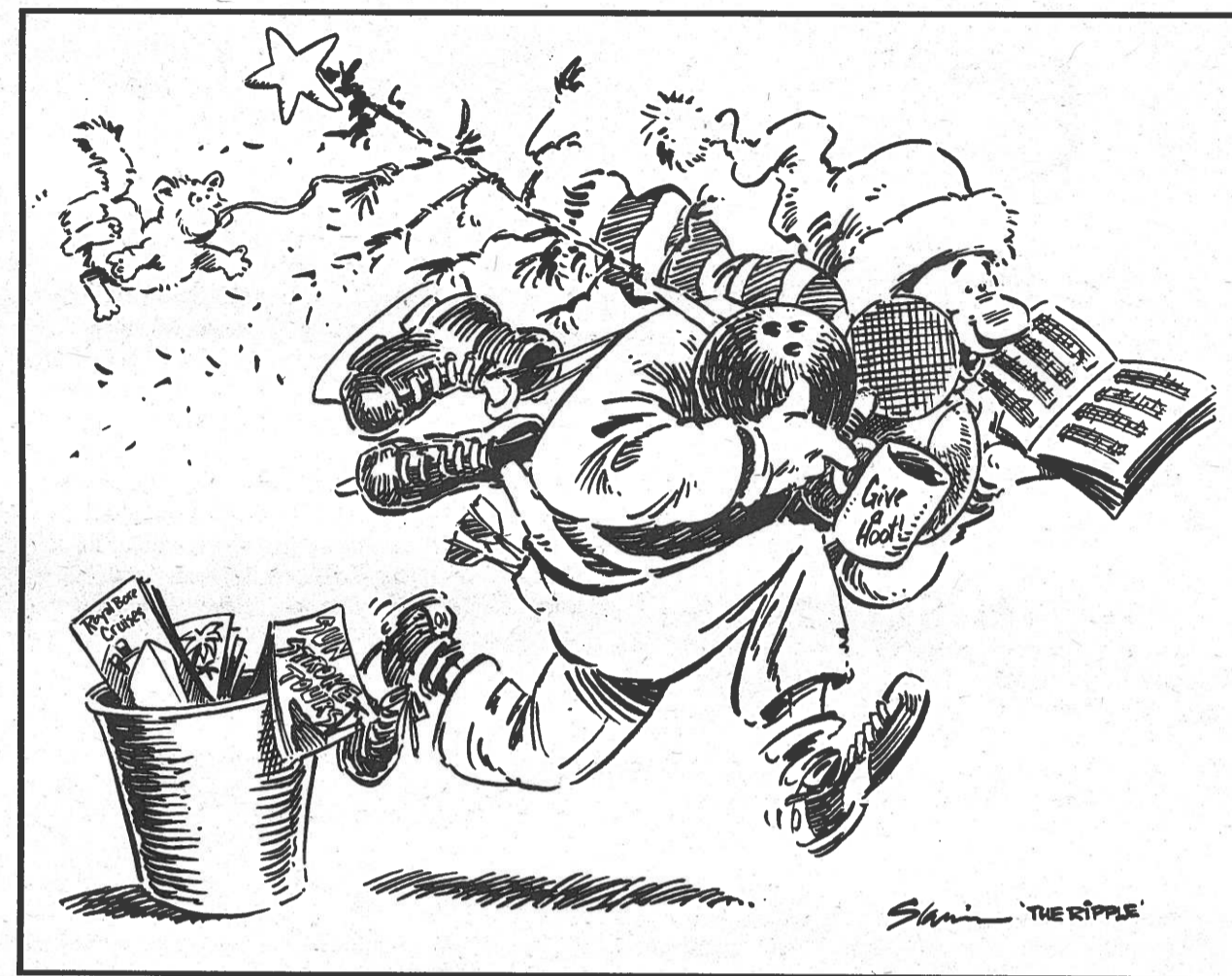
## Tell me about your community

by Maureen Wideman

Your help is needed. I'm not asking for much. I just need you to tell me what it is about your community that is important to you. Why?

February 20 - 24 is Heritage Week in Ontario. This is a time when we reflect on the importance of heritage in our daily lives. Organizations such as Lang Pioneer Village put on special events. Baxter Creek Enterprises, publisher of The Ripple, is sponsoring an evening of story-telling, where long-time residents of the area will take the spotlight and have the opportunity to tell us about some aspect of their lives in the community.

But why is heritage important? During the past few years of the recession, heritage has become a social luxury. There is virtually no funding left for heritage projects in Ontario. Heritage has not taken a back seat; it has been thrown off the bus.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### First issue making waves around town

Ripples have a way of turning into waves. And after looking over your first issue I'm willing to bet that your newspaper will be making waves in and around Millbrook for a long time to come.

You should feel justly proud of your first efforts. I know how much hard work is involved in getting a newspaper up and running. That you have taken your idea from dream to reality proves you have the sticking power and the ability to build a thriving community newspaper.

Congratulations on a fine first edition. Please call on me if there's anything I can do to help. I'd love to get a close-up view of your operation.

Joan Latimer  
 Pressing Matters  
 Scarborough, Ontario

### Everyone welcome at outdoor rink

I took my young children skating at the Millbrook Fairgrounds one evening and was dismayed to see a couple of teenagers playing hockey. I remember

when hockey always reigned supreme at outdoor rinks and recreational skaters used the ice at their own risk. How refreshing it was when my children were invited to participate, and the game was toned down to accommodate their level of play. Thank you, Jeff and Randy Remington and their friends, for making the local rink a place where everyone is welcome.

Larry Wideman



Preserving old buildings links us with our past. It gives residents a sense of continuity. They understand why they are here and where they have come from. This does not mean that you have to live in a community all your life to appreciate its heritage. Old buildings give a sense of nostalgia, they evoke a sense of the past in what they represent. For example, a mill is important to residents and visitors alike because it represents a piece of Canadian history. Canada was founded on the enterprising settlers who built mills throughout this country.

Experts in the United States are stating that the lack of heritage is one of the many reasons there is so much civil unrest in American inner cities. Old housing has been demolished and replaced by projects, high rises and the like. Concrete and glass has replaced what they built, what they knew and what they were familiar with. There is no link with the past in many of these communities. There is nothing in their daily lives to explain their own history, to give them pride in their past.

But heritage goes far beyond the preservation of build-

ings. These buildings mean nothing if the history or the stories associated with them are not there. This is one reason Baxter Creek Enterprises is organizing its Heritage Night. It gives long term residents the opportunity to talk about what life was like in the community when they were younger.

This is where I need your help. I am a student at Trent University studying heritage. For my research project, I need to know why you love your community. What it is about your community that is important to you? Is it the buildings in town or is it the little traditions that are part of your life here? You don't have to be a long-term resident to respond. Every opinion is welcome.

You can mail your response to The Ripple, P.O.Box 279, Millbrook, L0A 1G0, or you can leave a message on our answering machine, 932-3700, and I will get back to you. I do want to hear from as many people as possible. The number of responses I receive will indicate the level of interest in the heritage of our community. Take the time to contribute and we will print as many responses as possible in our next issue.

The next issue of The Ripple will be published on Tuesday, February 28. Deadline: Monday, February 20. Call 932-3700



Anna Whittington.

## 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.

# South Monaghan to celebrate 150th

by Dennis Hannah,  
Reeve, Township of South Monaghan  
1995 marks the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the Township of South Monaghan. Council is planning to recognize this event and asks South Monaghan residents to submit any ideas they may have to mark this milestone. Please address your ideas to the Municipal Office in writing or call 939-6079.

The Rabies Clinic is planned for a Saturday towards the end of March at the South Monaghan garage on the 3rd Line, just past Buckham's. We hope to have the confirmed date established and the information accompanying your tax bill.

The Landfill Study, which was required by the Ministry of the Environment, has now been completed. Their requirements were that the Township continue to monitor for leachate twice a year. As a result of the study, the landfill site was given a life expectancy of approximately 12 years. However, if the volume decreases, the life expectancy will be longer.

Mrs. Eileen Nolan, a volunteer from the Lakefield Environmental Action Forum recycling group, made a presentation to Council on January 9. Council is looking into establishing a similar volunteer program called "Beyond the Blue Box". This scheme is intended to divert from the landfill such items as cardboard, styrofoam and plastics which are not, at present, recycled through the County Waste Management program.

At the beginning of Council session, the following were appointed to the various boards and committees. Council very much appreciates these volunteers and representatives.

Millbrook-Cavan-South Monaghan

Community Centre (Arena Board): Councillor Jack Arthur, volunteer rep. Mark Grove;

Otonabee Region Conservation Authority rep. Deputy-Reeve James K. Wood;

Cavan-Millbrook-South Monaghan Union Library Board: Councillor Liz Coleman, and volunteer reps Barbara Bull and Debbie Chilton;

Millbrook and District Medical Centre Board: Councillor Malcolm Syer;

South Monaghan Recreation Committee: Reeve Dennis Hannah and Councillor Liz Coleman, with volunteers Linda Berry, Angela Lloyd and Lorraine Homewood.

The School Board trustees are, for Public School, Angela Lloyd, 939-6967, and for Separate School, Bill Keating, 742-8298.

Council has adopted a winter control policy for Township roads maintenance.

As with all municipalities in Ontario, we are faced with maintaining community services on ever-decreasing government funding. Council is endeavouring to do their utmost to maintain the standards which have been established.

The Peterborough County Council is looking into the establishment of 911 services for our area. As street numbering and addressing has been in place since 1983, this is one expense we will not have to incur.

Council meetings are normally held on the first and second Monday of each month, and are open to the public. Delegations are heard on the second Monday. Appointments must be made with the Township Clerk. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

## MAKING WAVES

# Retiring after 20 years

by Debbie Chilton

After a full and enjoyable 20 years on South Monaghan's Council, Mrs. Anna Whittington has retired from the political spotlight. She looks back on it all with fond memories, and remembers the wonderful residents who have crossed her path over the years, some now departed and some still asking her opinion on the issues concerning the community. One thing she does say about it all: "It was fun!"

Anna Thomson was born in Gamebridge, Ontario, a relatively small community. So small in fact, that she'd rather say she was born in Beaverton, because most folks know where Beaverton is! She came to South Monaghan in 1945 when she married Jay Whittington, and moved into the Whittington home.

While her husband worked and served on Council, Anna stayed at home, venturing into the unknown territory of farming. She has three children; Catherine, John and Margaret. As the children grew, she grew tired of being at home on the farm all the time, so she answered an advertisement, which she just happened to see one Monday, announcing a vacancy at the Bewdley Public School. The next day her application was answered and she taught for a grand total of 24 years at three different schools.

In 1974, Jay Whittington, then Reeve of South Monaghan, passed away. Anna knew of many projects he was involved with, and feared that they

may be overlooked or dismissed without him to persist, so she ran for councillor that December. She was the first woman to run in South Monaghan and get elected to Council.

One of her pet projects was and still is the library in Bailieboro. She was instrumental in getting Bailieboro involved with the Union Library Board which today consists of Cavan, Millbrook and South Monaghan.

In 1979, as Deputy-Reeve, Anna became a part of Peterborough County Council along with four other women. The headlines were big and bold, proclaiming "Women Invade Council!". Anna still has the newspaper clipping. In the early eighties, she petitioned Wintario and the John Turner government to get a grant to have an addition put on at the back of the Municipal Office, which is where the library is today.

In 1986, Anna Whittington became Reeve, following the retirement of Mr. George Dean. With almost 10 years' experience on Council, she was ready, willing and able to take on this new challenge.

In 1988, the Olympic Flame stopped in Bailieboro on its way to Calgary. South Monaghan was joined by Cavan, Millbrook and North Monaghan in the ceremonies, which included the presentation of awards to local residents for Women's and Men's Sportsman of the Year, team sponsorships and like categories. Her Council was also responsible for putting into motion

the completion of County Road #2 to Bailieboro. The biggest challenge to be faced, however, became the amalgamation issue.

When the election for a new Council came up this past November, Anna Whittington decided to step down. After two decades on Council, 24 years as a teacher and many more years as farmer, she decided it was time to take a break and have some time for herself. As with all things throughout her life, Anna has steadfastly stood by her convictions throughout her career as Councillor, Deputy-Reeve and Reeve of South Monaghan. She leaves a legacy of excellence and honesty in her direct approach to leading South Monaghan; a legacy that any Council representative who follows will surely wish to emulate.

### Birthday congratulations to pass along...

Mr. Eldridge White celebrated his 89th birthday at the end of December. Congratulations, and many more!

Mrs. Tina Sanderson celebrated her 90th birthday at the end of December. Many, many happy returns, Mrs. Sanderson!

Mr. Herb Dawson, life-long resident of the community, celebrated his 97th birthday at the beginning of January. Congratulations and keep 'em coming!

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## Thank you

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the ratepayers of South Monaghan Township, for their continuing cooperation and support over my term in Council. It has been a pleasure to serve you. I wish the new Council every success during their term in office.

*Anna Whittington*

The Corporation of  
the Township of  
**Cavan**

P.O. Box 189, MILLBROOK, Ontario L0A 1G0

### 1) NOTICE RE - 1995 DOG LICENSES

Please be advised that it is the responsibility of all dog owners to purchase dog licenses for the 1995 year. The fees for licenses are as follows:

	spayed female or neutered male	untreated male or female
1st	\$8.00	\$11.00
2nd	\$11.00	\$15.00
additional	\$15.00/each	\$22.00/each

The above fees apply up until March 31st, 1995. After that date the fees will double. Residents are encouraged to purchase dog licenses before March 31st in order to take advantage of the reduced fees.

Licenses may be purchased at the following locations:

- ▶ Mount Pleasant Convenience Store, Mount Pleasant
- ▶ Jones Restaurant & Store, Cavan
- ▶ Jones Restaurant & Store, Fraserville
- ▶ Bailieboro Grocery Store, Bailieboro

All dog owners must ensure that their dogs are kept under control and not permitted to run at large. Owners of dogs found running at large may be liable to fines as provided for under the Township's Dog Control By-Law.

Inquiries concerning dog licensing should be directed to Gord Brotherton, Township Dog Control Officer, at 932-2169 or by contacting the Township office at 932-2929.

### 2) NOTICE RE - 1995 RABIES CLINIC

There will be a Rabies Clinic held at the Township Garage on County Road #10 just South of the Village of Cavan on:

**Saturday, March 4, 1995 from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon**  
**Wednesday, April 5, 1995 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Related Fees per animal are \$8.00

# THE WAY WE WERE

By Ken Greenberg

## Who owns this old house anyway?

When our elderly guests began to cry at the supper table, I knew then that our dinner party was a big success. Oops, maybe I should back up a bit.

The story begins six months after my wife and I had moved into our 130 year old house in Millbrook. One Sunday afternoon we noticed a car had stopped on the road in front of our home. The occupants, an older man and woman, looked somewhat confused and we thought perhaps they were lost and needed directions.

Being friendly and helpful, we approached the car and asked if any assistance was required. "No," replied the slightly embarrassed lady with a sheepish grin, "I grew up in this house in the 1930's and just dropped by to see the old homestead". She said her name was Betty Jewison, daughter of Russell and Eve Smith.

"Would you like to come in?" my wife generously offered. "Can we!" exclaimed the little, grey-haired lady, her grin transforming into a broad, warm smile. I caught a twinkle in her eyes.

Once inside, Betty and her husband Lloyd glanced nervously about, sort of like blue jays at a winter feeder. As we showed them around, we were treated to an endless series of "look how they've changed this" and "look what they've done here" and "that used to be over there".

I suppose they felt they were imposing on us, perhaps because their visit was unplanned and unannounced, and so they bid us farewell after only a rather brief time. But we knew they had a truly

marvellous visit; the semi-sweet melancholy in the vestibule, as they said good-bye, was dripping off the wallpaper.

What to do next? It was obvious; we'd arrange a dinner party in the summer for Betty and her brothers and sisters. We'll make a trade too; they'll spend an enjoyable evening reminiscing in their old home, and my wife and I will learn about the history of, and changes to, the house. The admittance fee for our planned turkey dinner would be copies of any photographs of the house's interior and exterior they might have. Seemed very fair. Seemed very fun.

Over the next few weeks we burned up the phone lines, inviting all the Smith "kids" and their spouses. Betty would come from Peterborough and bring her sister Mary Freemanle. Jean Burn and her minister husband Jim would come from Toronto. George, a retired OPP officer, would arrive from Prescott with wife Anne. Charles, who lives in St. Catherine's, sent his regrets, as did Gloria, now living in Edmonton. (Brother Harry was deceased.)

With great impatience we awaited the approach of the party date, but it finally came and we cheerfully, heartily welcomed the Smiths back into their former home.

They had the most wonderful time poking around from room to room - "this was my room" - and identifying walls which had been moved by later owners. They remembered the two-seater outhouse just around back, and huddling around the fireplaces on cold winter nights. Lov-

ingly, they recalled lunching in the kitchen with mother and father, and illicitly "spooning" with their fiancées on the front porch behind a propitiously placed hedge of shrubbery.

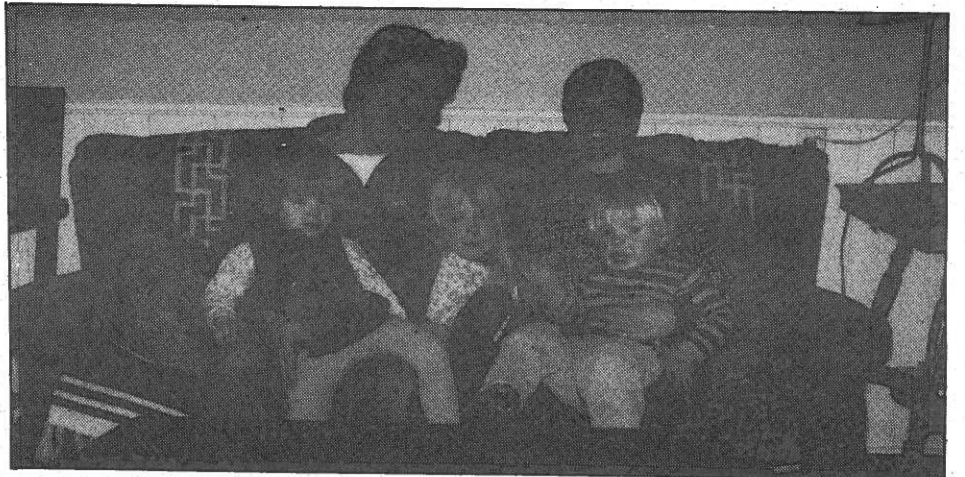
They strolled around the property and surrounding few blocks, telling stories that harked back to childhood. They remembered sneaking out of the house at night through an upstairs rear window to do whatever it was that kids did way back then, and that the well water was clear, crisp and tasty. I was also advised that their first septic tank, when plumbing was eventually installed, now rests comfortably under my neighbour's front lawn.

My wife and I ogled the photos they brought for us, showing in detail that which has remained the same and that which has been altered. I realized that the house was already 70 years old when the Smiths moved here in 1936, and a curious sensation came over me. I no longer felt like the sole and exclusive owner of this house, but rather a temporary resident - one in a long, long line of people, both past and yet to be. The day was getting late.

Time for dinner. Time for tears. The turkey was hardly sliced when Jean began to weep. "I never thought I'd have supper with my family in this house again," she sobbed. It spread. A heartwarming outpouring of real, deep emotions. The men had to hide their faces. It was beautiful.

My wife and I still keep in touch with the Smiths, by phone, by mail, and in person. They're free and welcome and drop in anytime; after all, it's their home as much as ours.

Ken Greenberg is President of the Historical Society.



John Ireland and Barb Walker, with their children (from left) Caiflin, Shannon, and David.

## ARTSCAPE

By Loretta Pompilio

# Artists love it here

"Unlike Toronto, it is refreshing that our professions are not the prime source of interest in Millbrook," say Barbara Walker and John Ireland.

Rather, the community focus is reflected in the most frequently asked questions. Where is your farmhouse located? Do you have any children? How long have you lived in Millbrook?

Barbara and John describe themselves as "refugees" from Toronto, having discovered Millbrook by chance six years ago. They live happily with their three kids on the 4th Line of Cavan in an early 1900's farmhouse with a "shop" out back.

The "shop" is where John designs and produces fine woodwork for residential and commercial use. It is fitting that he works on an ancient lathe, circa 1902. John has shunned more modern machinery because the quality doesn't approach the early equipment. John already knew in his teens that he wanted to be a carpenter so he went about teaching himself cabinet making. This was formalized in his early twenties when he immersed himself in a three year design and furniture course at Sheridan College.

Design is a theme in this family, as reflected in Barbara's work. However, her creative output comes in the form of weaving. Her studio boasts a giant 60" loom as well as one about half that size. Of late Barbara has been weaving on a part time basis, since much of the past five years has been dedicated to raising their three children, all under the age of five.

"Anxious and frustrated is how I feel when I'm not working, and yet I enjoy being a mother as this is an important stage in both my life, and my children's lives." Luckily, John is able to relieve Barbara for several hours during the day so that she can design and work on some smaller pieces. Her craft is very time consuming, often taking up to two hours to complete one linear inch of weaving.

John's craft is also very time consuming, as illustrated by an armoire that required two solid months of seventy hour weeks

to complete. Since almost all of John's work is commissioned, he has had to learn how to read his clients, recreate their ideas, understand their needs, and know how the finished piece will look in its environment. This is a talent that is not taught in school.

Sadly for some, artists are often judged by the length of their curriculum vitae or quantity of accomplishments. This however works to the favour of these two artists. Together, it requires an impressive ten pages to list awards, exhibitions, teaching positions, client lists, publications, etc. These accomplishments date back to when they were both trying to make a name for themselves in the Toronto Art Community. John shared a studio with three other woodworking designers which allowed them to pool their money for various things, including extensive marketing. Media events triggered collectors to visit the studio to view the work, and commissions were the eventual result. Over the years John has designed and crafted everything from elaborate dining room tables, desks, chairs, to a hand turned staircase. You name it, John has probably done it. Presently he is working on a special cabinet to hold sheet music for a musician. John likes a challenge and will often spend up to two weeks working on one small detail. This is one of the traits that ensure that John is kept busy with new commissions.

When asked about leisure time, John replied "What's leisure time? My occupation is my hobby and I spend a lot of time with my kids." Barbara enjoys cross country skiing with her oldest daughter and her "survival" is attending a weekly play group for moms and kids. Both Barbara and John enjoy cooking and socializing with small groups of friends, and recently they have started a dinner club.

Some might say that the work of both Barbara and John could be classified amongst 'Millbrook's best kept secrets.' Yet, though they don't actively promote themselves, many local residents have managed to uncover one of our communities most valuable creative assets and have subsequently commissioned pieces. It seems that when you are good, people will find their way to your door.

Loretta Pompilio is an art consultant and artist living in Millbrook.

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# STONE SOUP

By Evelyn Raab

## Microwave pop-off an explosive event

It kills me. I invite a bunch of friends over. I do munchies: some flat pastry things with cream cheese and veggies on top, a bowl of home made dip with some pita chips, a batch of brownies. I vacuum the living room. I change into something that doesn't have grease spots on the front. I rinse the dishwasher residue out of my good glassware. I lock the ferrets in the laundry room. This takes three hours. Then, I nuke a bag of popcorn and dump it into a bowl. This takes 3.5 minutes. Friends arrive. *No one notices* the clean living room. *No one appreciates* the lack of dried rice fragments on the wine glasses. *No one mentions* my understated, yet tasteful, hors d'oeuvres. Chris comments on the popcorn. *The popcorn!* The stuff that takes 3.5 minutes to make! The stuff that is so idiot-proof a three-year-old could make it. The stuff that can only be ruined by deliberately putting it in the microwave upside down for ten minutes.

"This is great popcorn", she says. "How did you make it?" I consider lying: "Oh, it's an old Hungarian secret, actually. You take the popcorn and soak it in brandy for a month. Then you drain it, reserving the marinade, and..." I resist the temptation. "It's microwave popcorn. The cheap kind. Butter flavour." Figures. You knock yourself out entertaining, and what do they notice? The popcorn. Right away I could see that this situation had Stone Soup potential.

For sure, the microwave popcorn market is a jungle. With all the different brands out there, how do you know what kind to get so that you can *really* impress your friends with your culinary skills? Is the fancy kind *actually better*? And what does "Zesty Butter Flavour" mean, anyway. Clearly, this is an area that is simply begging to be investigated. Hence, the Stone Soup Microwave Popcorn Taste-Off. The following is a full report on our findings.

It was a snowy Sunday afternoon when our *highly qualified* panel of popcorn experts assembled for the tasting. It was a motley crew, but what would you expect, really? The two token adults on the panel were chosen primarily on the basis of their having nothing better to do. The kids, on the other hand, practically fought for the chance serve on this select panel. Ranging in age from ten to sixteen, all have had extensive experience with Microwave Popcorn Technology. Ten year old Jared, begging to be chosen, assured me that his tastes were sufficiently mature for the task. I believed him. In all, it was a truly impressive group of connoisseurs. And so we began.

We limited our tasting to six brands of butter-flavoured microwave popcorn. Not light. The butter flavouring, we felt, would be the true test of quality. All are easily available in Millbrook. Each bag was nuked for 3 minutes and 25 seconds, then briefly shaken (just like the package tells you to do) in order to evenly distribute the salt and whatever other weird stuff they put in. We then numbered each bag, and served the taste samples in correspondingly numbered paper cups to avoid any possibility of cheating. Not that we would suspect such a thing from our esteemed panel. (Although, at one point a certain panel member was overheard to remark that he knew what number four was, and would be willing to part with that information for a price. No one was interested.) The samples were rated on a scale of 1 to 5 in five critical areas: appearance, texture, flavor, salt level, and grease level - with 1 being least satisfactory, and 5 being most satisfactory. The point scores were then added up, and a total for the entire panel was then calculated. Now, I ask you, is this scientific, or what?

The results were *very interesting*. First - surprisingly - there was no real correlation between price and poppability. With one exception, they all popped to almost the identical volume, with pretty much the same number of duds left in the bag. I also popped one batch of home-made microwave popcorn, produced from bulk kernels popped in a special microwave popcorn popper, with a little oil, salt and drizzled with real butter. You'd think that one would be really easy to pick out. It wasn't. Here are the results, in order:

### #1 - 150 points

#### Act II Butter Flavored, Regular (\$2.19)

The all around favourite (except with Debbie who just *had* to be different) Act II looked good, and was tasty

without being overly greasy or salty. Kate says: "wicked corn!" But then, she's a teenager.

### #2 - 140 points

#### Orville Redenbacher Buttery Flavoured, Regular (\$2.79)

Jared and Sophie were overwhelmed by this one. Kate thought it was gross. Go figure.

### #3 - 137 points

#### IGA Brand Butter Flavoured, Regular (\$1.99)

Nancy loved this one. She is now *completely* convinced that cheap store brands are *always* the best. Others on the panel were not so sure. On a technical note, this particular bag resulted in the smallest volume of popcorn. But very good looking, according to Jared.

### #4 - 128 points

#### Pop Secret Butter Flavoured, Regular (\$2.49)

Seemingly having no outstanding qualities whatsoever, good or bad, Pop Secret garnered a very mixed reaction from our panel. The scores were totally inconsistent: according to Debbie, it was the best, but Rachel and Lisa (who, incidentally, were *sitting next to each other and are good friends*) rated it the worst. Not that I am suggesting anything.

### #5 - 117 points

#### Orville Redenbachers "Redenbudders" Zesty Butter Flavour (\$2.79)

YEEEEEECH. While *unbelievably* not coming in dead last, this one was variously described as "really bad", "very weird", "too spicy", "horrible", and "sucked because of flavour." We all, I think, felt somewhat misled by the name on the box. Zesty Butter Flavour, I figured, meant that it was *enthusiastically* butter flavoured. You know, like Super Butter. But this stuff really did taste weird. I'd never buy it again, no matter how cheap it was. And it wasn't all that cheap.

### #6 - 108 points

#### TADA! Homemade! (.59 per pound or .39 for exactly the same amount of popcorn that's in one of those boxes of microwave stuff. Makes you think, doesn't it?)

Give me a break, guys. This just goes to show how warped our sense of taste has become, that regular food doesn't taste right to us anymore. Can you believe it? Popcorn, popped in vegetable oil, with salt and actual real butter. What could be bad? Well according to Nancy it had an "artificial, weird taste." I can't stand it.

Released from their Official Duties, the decorum of our Expert Tasters deteriorated rapidly. It took exactly seventeen seconds for all the remaining popcorn to be devoured, and believe me, it was not a pretty sight. Dustin and Kate were swigging the stuff, Jared was performing brain surgery on individual kernels, and the kitchen smelled disgustingly like Redenbudders (eeech!). Even now, two days later, the aroma of popcorn wafts thickly from my microwave whenever I open the door. Frankly, it's starting to make me sick.

How ironic. A pantry full of popcorn - and I don't think I'll ever be able to face the stuff again. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to go eat an apple.

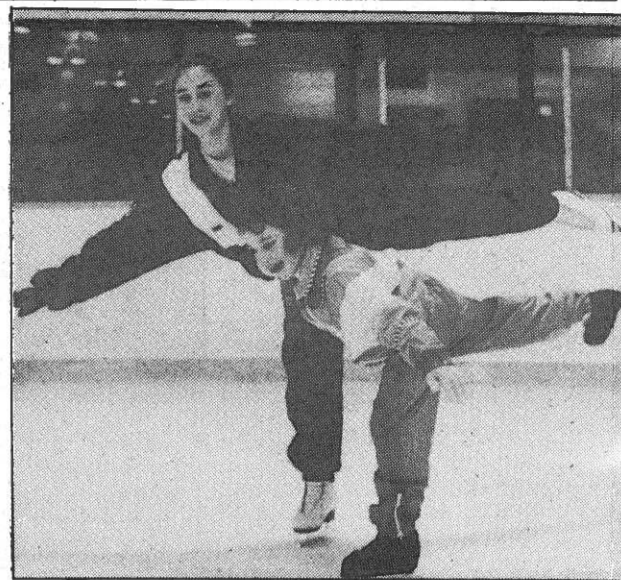
*Evelyn Raab is a food writer, graphic designer and teacher. She has lived in Millbrook for 14 years, with her artist husband, George, two kids, three horses, numerous peacocks, chickens, turkeys, cats, goldfish, and, oh yes, two ferrets. She used to love popcorn.*

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Arden Doidge-Flynn (left) and student, Nichole Fallis

## Winter sports put her on ice

By Maureen Wideman

If it has something to do with ice, you can bet Millbrook's Arden Doidge-Flynn will love the sport. Arden is involved in both figure skating and hockey, and she shows a real talent for both.

Arden, 13, has been figure skating for eight years. Although she is not sure how far she is willing to go, she would like to reach the gold levels in the dance category. Dance is something she really enjoys and has reached junior silver.

But not only is she learning to figure skate, she is helping out her community as well. Arden, along with a handful of other girls in the area, is a skating coach in Millbrook. From 4:30 to 7 p.m. two nights per week, Arden can be found at the Millbrook arena helping younger skaters improve their skills. This is a job for which she is not paid. She has taken two courses which enable her to coach children younger than herself.

"I really enjoy coaching. I like to see the kids learning. It also gives me a chance to give something back to the community."

When Arden hangs up the figure skates, out comes the hockey equipment. After playing two years in Millbrook, Arden moved into the Peterborough leagues where she is now a left winger on the East Peterborough Lions All-Star team. The team is doing well. They have played in three tournaments so far this season, and won all three.

When asked which sport she prefers, she's hard pressed to decide.

"I like figure skating, but I realize to go anywhere in the sport you have to be an Olympic star. I have a better chance of going somewhere with hockey, like getting a scholarship to an American university," she says.

Her coach, Terry Cranley, would agree. There are a lot more opportunities for women in sports these days. With the AA women's hockey leagues in Peterborough, the Olympics and world class tournaments, scholarships to universities are a possibility. "Women can travel the world playing hockey," he says.

Arden is the assistant captain of her peewee team. "She's one of the leaders of the team," says her coach. "She's a good hustler and digger. She's not afraid of going into the corners. She is a real team player. That girl can do it all."

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The family at Port Arthur, Tasmania. From left: Jenna, Jane, Teresa, Janice, and Bob.

## An Australian adventure No worries, Mate!

"We lived in South Australia in a small town called McLaren Vale. It was a town of 3000. The house was one storey high without a basement. We lived close to the beach. For school, we had to wear a uniform. You had to wear a hat. If you didn't, you couldn't play at school because you would get sunburnt. My favourite thing was going to the beach because of going swimming in the ocean."

So writes Jane Deacon, age 8, of her year-long experience of living in Australia. With mother Janice Deacon, father Bob, and sisters Teresa, 16, and Jenna, 13, Jane had the opportunity to live on the far side of the world as participants in a teacher-exchange program. Below are the impressions and experiences that each family member brought back to Millbrook this past month.

*From Jenna, age 13:*

Before our adventure to Australia, I attended Millbrook South Cavan Public School. In Australia, high school starts at the grade 8 level. It was decided that I would be put into a grade 8 class at Willunga High School. The school was on a rotary programme which meant I was taking seven classes a day. There wasn't a big range in sports there, but I tried netball which is a game similar to basketball, tennis, and my favourite which was an aquatics programme which I took on my last week of school. We were taken to a nearby beach where they had an aquatics centre. There I learned how to canoe, fish, boogie board, snorkle, wave ski and

surf! I really enjoyed the day we snorkled out to one of the few remaining reefs off the coast of South Australia and saw lots of different underwater sea creatures. It was lots of fun and a great experience.

*From Teresa, age 16:*

Spending the past year in Australia has been an eye-opener for myself and the rest of my family. We found changes in lifestyle, climate, industry and scenery, and have enjoyed all the differences between the two countries.

Being a high school student at a school called Willunga High changed my opinions of school altogether. Discipline was limited in the classroom. Teachers spent more time with the kids that didn't want to learn than with the kids that did. There were very few school sports. The sports that they did have were mainly for the male gender. Teachers did not care that much about their students, students didn't care that much about their work, and a lot dropped out of school after Grade 11.

There were some positive aspects to high school life in Australia. The kids were great and very curious toward overseas visitors. Life was very easy going, and there was no real pressure put on you. Looking back at my school year in Australia I feel very lucky that I attend Crestwood Secondary School here in Canada.

Overall, the past year has been a great opportunity to see another part of the world and to meet all kinds of different people. I thank my parents for taking me and I will cherish the memory forever.

*From Bob Deacon:*

The trip to Australia offered me a break from Millbrook, my home for the last 10 years or so. Leaving both the quiet comfort of my old house and the overly hectic pace of my electrical business were disorienting, yet the distance from friends and this special community proved more difficult to adjust to.

After brief stops in Vancouver and Hong Kong, we landed in Adelaide, South Australia. We had crossed 13½ time zones to reach an entirely new culture and an opposite season in just under 20 hours.

Thrust into the middle of summer (in January), we experienced 45 days without

rain - just sun! So it was that our family, very pale of face, drew closer as we tried to make sense of our odd yet fascinating new world. This was a place of accents...ours!?, of driving on the other side of the road, of looking the other way when crossing the road, of warm north winds. Just about everything was confusing to us.

To begin with, all the voices seemed very odd, but behind the words were smiles, curiosity and interest about us and our country.

Soon enough the girls were all in school and Janice had started teaching. This left me at home as house husband, cook, cleaner, cheer leader and planner of our weekend excursions to the country and seaside near McLaren Vale.

In March I tried to find electrical work but there were no openings in the area. As McLaren Vale is famous for its wines, I decided to look for employment in this industry. In the next ten months I gained experience in picking, pruning, irrigation, bottling and finally the laying out of a new 15 acre vineyard. This was both exciting and rewarding and I took great pride in these accomplishments.

As time went on, we met and travelled with some wonderfully generous Australians. We were the recipients of unbounded hospitality from both friends and virtual strangers alike. Long after the details of names, places and trips have blurred, I will recall this Australian sense of giving. These people responded to us, and we to them. They have a real pride in sharing both their country and its customs.

I certainly miss Australia with its warm, dry weather and for the many "mates" I left behind whose lives are governed by the phrase "no worries". I learned a great deal from this last year and would recommend an exchange to anyone.

*From Janice Deacon:*

I envisioned a year's teaching in Australia would be a challenge. I saw it as an enriching opportunity for myself and the other four members of my family. When we first arrived in South Australia, it was summer and we had 3½ weeks to enjoy and explore before the school year began. We had no greater challenge for 3½ weeks than deciding what we were going to do each day. The notion that we were in paradise was further heightened when we got a call from my brother telling us the pipes to our house had frozen due to the record-breaking low temperatures. Peter said he would call the village, and we headed off to the beach.

On January 31, the first day of school, the notion that I was on a year's holiday came to a screeching halt. I soon realized that the 'opportunity' I had so clearly envisioned could only be realized by coming to terms with the incredibly huge risk before me. I didn't know how to do anything, know where anything was, and I didn't speak the language! Language? Australians always say 'toilet'. When I entered into my first negotiations with a student regarding the washroom, he looked at me blankly and said, "I don't need to wash my hands." When I received my supervision schedule with my

name appearing next to the "bottom oval"

I asked some students where and what the oval was. They gave one another several sideways glances as if to say, "She's our teacher and she doesn't even know what the oval is!" What about 'playground', 'yard' or 'playing field' I thought to myself. I leave you to ponder what "tutas" are.

The organization of schools is very different in Australia. The school is composed of several buildings, sometimes at some distance from one another. The gym or "hall" is almost always a separate building. In my school, the office or "administration" area was a separate building. My classroom was one unit in a "transportable" which housed three other classrooms. It was also quite a hike from the "toilet", the principals, photocopying machine, general supplies and instant coffee. Instant coffee? What about the freshly perked Columbian with the 'Beckers' half and half cream? It just doesn't exist in Australia. Instant coffee is the order of the day everywhere you go. Now, you may think coffee is pretty insignificant on the scale of things, but frankly it's one of the few things that really helps me face my risks!

Slowly, I learned where things were and how to do things. I was learning the language. It was around this time that I learned I was to have an open house for the parents. I set my classroom up with samples of students' work and I even had a "handout" for the parents. I was at the front of the classroom with my best outfit on, setting out the instant coffee, when a fellow teacher arrived and asked where my casks of wine were. My astonished look said it all. She quickly hustled me off to the nearest "bottle shop" where I purchased two small boxes of wine. The evening proceeded, I at the front of the room nervously talking curriculum, while the parents sat sipping the wine. I stopped after a while and invited questions. Few of the questions were about education; most were about me. Had I ever seen a polar bear? What was my husband going to do in Australia? When you do a teacher exchange such as this one, do you sleep in one another's beds? That kind of thing. When I think back on that night on the other side of the world, I realize that it was on that evening that I first glimpsed the ease with which Australians live their lives. The oft repeated phrase "no worries" really says it all.

It took me much longer to stop worrying and relax, but I did. Throughout the year, I enjoyed the support of a community of parents who were warm and friendly and interested in me and my family and our travels. Anyway, I regaled my captive audience with tales of how cold it gets in Canada, and all the polar bears I've seen, and then I made my way over to the Char-donnay table.

My year in Australia was a real opportunity. It was also a huge risk. But we all learned and grew a lot as a result of risk-taking. There were times when I would have gladly jumped on the next plane had Rob said the word, but I didn't, and I am very proud that I stuck it out and arrived home with my sense of humour still intact.

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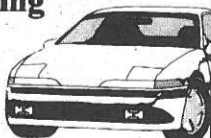
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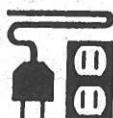


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# OVER THE FENCE

By Charlene Rostkowski D.V.M.

## Guard dog - what about guard donkey?

The sun was just beginning to glint on the horizon as I finished helping a neighbour whose cow needed assistance at calving time. While packing up my gear, we both heard an unusual noise break the crisp morning stillness. Recognizing the source as being from our home farm, I exclaimed "Wow, I didn't know you could hear her from here!"

"What is that noise?" queried the farmer, "I've been hearing it on and off for two months now - thought it might be a new Cavan commuter train..."

"Oh no," I laughed, "That's Elisha, our new guard donkey. She's just sounding off her early morning warning, I guess."

He looked at me suspiciously. "Guard donkey?! Why, your place is nearly two miles from here. What a racket!"

"Well, we've got to try something different - and so far, no more sheep kills. Come on over and see her sometime."

That conversation took place over three years ago now, and I must say, it seems like a lot more traffic detours down our side road in the pasture season, slowing to nearly a halt as they watch Old Long-Ears shepherd her charges in our fields. Even more attention came her way this past summer when she was joined by her new colt 'Skippy', who looked like ears on stilts as he bobbed about among his fluffy white friends.

Since the arrival of Elisha, we have been spared the gut-wrenching sight of sheep left mangled by stray dogs or killed by wily coyotes. Like many farmers, we took a proactive stance in predator control

on our farm. We had at first tried five strand electric fence, but continued to suffer some predator losses.

Why do donkeys have this affinity for protecting livestock? (It should be mentioned that not all donkeys are suitable for guard work.) Many have a natural dislike of canines and will readily dispatch a dog or coyote that strays into their territory. Starting with a warning bray, they follow up with serious foot stomping. If the approaching canine fails to take the hint, the cartoon image of the sleeping Mexican burro transforms itself into a grey flash of giant ears and bared teeth moving with lightning speed in full bray towards the invading canine. Most dogs and coyotes are wise enough to exit rapidly. A loyal guard donkey will do whatever it takes to protect their companion herd or flock.

Most donkeys are sociable animals and especially if brought up with a flock of sheep or herd of cattle or goats, will bond to the stock and become naturally protective. In general, females and geldings make better guardians than males, who may be took aggressive around young livestock. However, our own male, 'Freddy', takes his job quite seriously and is gentle around youngsters.

We have noticed that the females tend to be more maternal in their guardian behaviour, staying closer to the flock and actually rounding up the sheep during impending danger. They may use strategic positioning to protect weaker or injured animals. I know that if Elisha is not with the main flock now, that I will probably



Sparks, the youngest level of Girl Guides, enjoy a hot chocolate after an evening of tobogganing. Left to right, leaders Lisa Thertell and Michelle Loyst, with Lasya Rennie, Emily Walsh, Emily Thackerey, Ayla McPhee, Annie Walkowitz and leader Kate Hunter.

find her off near a ewe who has separated from the flock to lamb, or perhaps with a lame one who couldn't keep up with the rest.

Freddy, in contrast, likes to "patrol" his territory, keeping a sharp eye out for intruders along the fenceline. If the sheep are alarmed by strange sights or noises, they will stampede towards the donkey for protection.

Just how serious is the predator problem in Ontario? According to government figures, in 1992-93 there were 2,654 reported incidents with \$729,000 worth of claims for damage done by coyotes and wolves alone. In 1993-94, there were 1,878 claims with \$544,000 compensation from coyote and wolf damage. About 75% of these incidents involve sheep, 24% are cattle and the remaining mostly goats and poultry. These figures do not include the damage done by stray or renegade dogs. Many people are unaware of the severe damage a larger dog can inflict

upon a flock of sheep. What starts out as a game to the dog can end up in a carnage of disaster for the nearly defenseless sheep. Often the post attack stress on the flock results in poor flock health with weak lambs born, early abortions, poor mothering, and other problems for several months following a dog attack. Do you know where your dog was last night?

For more information on guard donkey management and health care, please contact the author or the Canadian Donkey and Mule Society, Box 6805, Peace River, Alberta T8S 1S6.

*Charlene Rostkowski is a veterinarian who lives and works on a family farm in South Monaghan with husband Garth Beebe and their three sons, where they raise cattle, sheep, draught horses, and assorted goats and chickens. She is area representative on the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program.*

## Pesticide use declines 30 percent

Ontario farmers have reduced their overall use of pesticides by almost 30 percent over the past 10 years, according to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). And significantly, this trend is expected to continue at a rate of 2 to 3% a year.

OMAFRA has documented pesticide use on Ontario farms since 1973. In 1988, survey results concluded agricultural pesticide use decreased by 17.4% over the five preceding years. The 1993 survey, completed as part of OMAFRA's Food Systems 2002 program, registered a further decline of 13.3%.

The figures were compiled from a summer 1993 survey of growers, and pesticide sales figures sup-

plied by member companies of the Crop Protection Institute. OMAFRA staff completed the survey in consultation with personnel from the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy and Agriculture Canada.

"This achievement by Ontario farmers shows that we are on track towards achieving the goals of the Food Systems 2002 program", stated Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Elmer Buchanan.

Why the decline? "The days of farmers spraying their crops on a recipe basis, year after year - whether they needed it or not - are long gone", stated AGCare Chairman Jeff Wilson at a Queen's Park news conference held to announce the survey re-

sults. "Through the Grower Pesticide Safety Course, improved techniques like Integrated Pest Management, and the availability of newer, safer, more target-specific pest control technology, farmers are now spraying for pests on an as-needed basis.

"The reality is that growers will always have to protect their valuable crops from harmful insects,

weeds and diseases", stated Wilson, who grows fruits and vegetables near Hillsburgh, Ontario. "But the pest control solutions don't always have to be chemical ones."

AGCare First Vice-Chairman Bill Allison noted that Ontario growers are to be applauded for making this significant reduction in pesticide use at a time when many have


also adopted reduced tillage methods, to conserve energy and soil resources. He also expressed the appreciation of Ontario crop growers for the ongoing provincial and federal government research that al-

lows farmers to access new technology, and learn about farm management techniques that can help to reduce pesticide use without loss of crop productivity or quality.

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Wet, muddy weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the crowd who took part in the Medd's Mountain walk earlier this month.

## Mountain view

by Christine Diaz

It was cold and wet but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of this hearty bunch. Mountaineers from age 3 to 63 took part in a hike on Medd's Mountain January 21. The walk was hosted by Fern Koenig of Friends of Medd's Mountain.

In our house, the mere mention of Medd's Mountain sends us scrambling for our boots. But after two weeks of rain, the thought of dragging myself away from a challenging puzzle set up beside the fire, to slip-slide my way around the Sheep's Trail and come home to wring myself out over the laundry room drain, sure didn't appeal to me!

But the calls came! First a neighbour, then a friend, reminding me of the day's event. So off I went with Cleo, Jenna and Jenna's friend Jane, half hoping that the organizers of this absurd event would do the sensible thing and chicken out. But, oh no! There they were, a crowd of people, waiting at Needler's Mill for the trek to begin.

As we walked up through the meadow and into the forest, I turned as I often do to encourage Cleo, age 3. My lily-livered reluctance fell away in an instant as I took in the splendid view of the pond and the village below.

About two thirds of the way along the upper trail there is a connecting path that turns back and heads upward in the direction of the OPP station. About 50 feet along this other trail stands a grand oak tree. As I turn again to look for Cleo, I glance up at it. It is as though if I don't acknowledge its presence, it will one day be gone. Harry Williams once told me that it is 80 years old. Not 70 or 90, but 80. This looking back for the kids sure has its advantages.

The lower trail is wet and muddy. Time for some slip-sliding. This part of Medd's Mountain has been named Snake Valley by my kids for the layers of roots that entangle themselves above the soil's surface, resembling the slithering reptiles. It is so

## MANE CONCERNS

By Richard Conrad D.V.M.

## The waiting game

Is your mare going to have a foal? It's a waiting game for 11 months of gestation, despite how anxious a horse owner may be.

Your mare will be noticeably larger once she is about six months pregnant, and the udder enlarges usually in the last month of pregnancy. It is important not to overfeed pregnant mares as fat mares have difficulty foaling. The tendency is to overfeed pregnant mares and to underfeed lactating mares. In fact, the lactational energy demands are much greater than those of pregnancy.

You know when your mare is close to foaling when she is "waxed". This is a horsey term describing a clear sticky secretion similar to honey present at the end of the teats. Generally speaking, expect your mare to foal that night once she is waxed.

Mares are quick and shy at delivery. Most mares will foal within a half hour during the early hours of the morning. They seem to wait until your back is turned or until you can't stay awake any more. You must provide a clean environment for your mare to foal in, i.e. lots of clean bedding.

Immediately before foaling, a mare will "break her water" standing, then will lay on her side for delivery. A normal foal presentation is two hooves and a nose. Once you see that, relax and leave the mare alone to deliver her foal. If you do not see two hooves and a nose, or if you suspect there is a problem, call your veterinarian at once. We're always awake! Your vet may tell you how to assist the mare until he or she arrives. If your mare seems to be taking a long time to push the foal out once you have seen the two hooves and a nose, you may assist her by pulling on the two hooves. Once the head

is out, remove the membrane from the foal's head if the foal has not already removed it.

is out, remove the membrane from the foal's head if the foal has not already removed it.

Once the foal has been delivered, apply iodine to the foal's navel to disinfect it and protect it from being contaminated. Now, relax again. Most mares will remain recumbent for a few minutes to "catch their wind" so to speak. The mare will pass her afterbirth within an hour of delivery. The foal will normally stand within two hours and nurse within four hours. If your foal has not nursed within the four hours, you must intervene, by either gently helping the foal find the nipple or by milking out the mare and then feeding the foal with a baby bottle. It is critical for survival that a foal receive a minimum of 8 oz. of colostrum (the mare's first milk loaded full of antibodies) within its first 8 hours of life. If a foal does not nurse within 12 hours, it begins to fade and can succumb to infections as it has no antibodies at birth to protect it from all the normal challenges in life. The colostrum is the foal's only source of antibodies at birth. If you cannot nurse your foal, call your veterinarian. There is an art to this challenge.

Everything having gone well with or without your presence, then call your vet first thing in the morning. I make a point of seeing all newborn foals that day, no matter how busy we are, to make sure the new foal is healthy and to check mom out too.

After all this, you're probably saying that you never want to ever get involved in foaling a mare; well just remember that there's nothing cuter than a newborn foal.

*Dr. Rick Conrad is a veterinarian, specializing in horses, with a clinic located in Millbrook.*

**Please call us at The Ripple  
932-3700**

**If you have news of stories you'd like to see  
in an upcoming issue, or send information to  
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- Golden Retriever puppies** - Registered, health certificate, shots, home raised with children. Ready to go February 24th. Cute and cuddly. Phone 932-3129.
- Siamese kittens** - shots, health certificates. Chocolate point mother, seal point father. Ready for March 6th. 932-3129.
- Bunk beds for sale.** Solid maple. One new mattress. \$175. Phone 932-2097.
- Bricks for sale.** Recycled old Dutch style. Approx. 1000 - 25 cents each. Phone (905) 436-2457.
- 80th Birthday Open house** for Pearl Moore of Cavan. February 4, 1995, 2 - 4 p.m., at the Lion's Den Community Centre. County Road #10, between Cavan and Millbrook. Best wishes only.
- Peacocks for sale** - young birds, males and females. \$50 each. 932-3221.
- Van for sale** - 1991 Chev AstroVan - Loaded and well maintained, certified. 7 passenger. Phone 939-6140
- Wanted** - Ladies x-country ski package - size 9. Mens - size 11 or 12. 932-2371
- Mahogany fireplace for sale** - 1930's, with oval bevelled mirror. \$200. 932-2582

**To list an event  
in the  
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phone  
932-3700  
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drop the  
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Knit 1 Purl 1  
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Complete the attached form and drop it off, with payment, in a sealed envelope to the Ripple Classified box, located at Knit 1 Purl 1 - 30 King Street East, Millbrook

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 1995

### wednesday 1

**Euchre** - Millbrook Legion  
1:30 p.m. - \$1.00  
**Bethany Athletic Society**  
Bingo at Manvers Arena  
7 p.m.

### thursday 2

**Public Skating** at the  
Millbrook arena  
3 to 4:30 p.m. - Free  
**Bingo** - Millbrook Legion  
7:30 p.m.

### friday 3

**Family Enrichment**  
**Centre** at Cavan  
Community Hall - Mobile  
Outreach  
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Public Skating** at the  
Millbrook arena  
3 to 4:20 p.m. - Free

### saturday 4

**South Monaghan Adult**  
**Baseball Registration**  
South Monaghan  
Township Office  
10 a.m. to 12 noon  
For more information call  
Trudy Lonsberry - 939-6416  
**Edgerton Oilers Men's**  
Hockey Tournament at the  
Millbrook arena  
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

### sunday 5

**Public Skating** at the  
Millbrook arena  
2. to 2:50 p.m.  
\$1/kids - \$1.50/adults  
**Chocolate Sunday** at the  
Ramada Inn, Peterborough  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
\$3/adults, \$1/kids under 12

### monday 6

**Junior Darts**  
Millbrook Legion  
6:30 p.m. - \$1.00

### tuesday 7

**Family Enrichment**  
**Centre** at Bailieboro  
United Church - Mobile  
Outreach  
10 a.m. to 12:30

**RRSP Seminar** at the  
Millbrook Legion - book  
your seat at the TD Bank.  
Sponsored by the TD Bank.  
7 p.m.

**South Monaghan Council**  
**Meeting** - Township Office  
7:30 p.m.

**Information Meeting re:**  
**Millbrook Maplefest**  
**and Fall Festival** at the  
Lion's Den - County Rd. 10  
7 p.m.

### wednesday 8

**Euchre** - Millbrook Legion  
1:30 p.m. - \$1.00

**Peterborough Family**  
**Enrichment Centre**  
"Winning at Parenting"  
with Barbara Coloroso, at  
St. Thomas' Anglican Church,  
Millbrook - 7:15 - 9:30 p.m.  
\$4 donation

### thursday 9

**Public Skating** at arena  
Moms & tots - 10 a.m. to 12,  
and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Everyone - 3 to 4:30 p.m.  
Free

**Bingo** - Millbrook Legion  
7:30 p.m.

**Cavan Ratepayers Assoc.**  
Cavan Community Hall  
8 p.m.

### friday 10

**Public Skating** at the  
Millbrook arena  
3 to 4:20 p.m. - Free

### saturday 11

**Millbrook Super B's** Old-  
timers Hockey Tournament  
Millbrook arena  
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**South Monaghan Adult**  
**Baseball Registration**  
South Monaghan  
Township Office  
12 noon to 2 p.m.  
For more information call  
Trudy Lonsberry - 939-6416

**Tree Burn and Chill-Out**  
Outdoor family fun - skating  
refreshments, huge bonfire  
Millbrook Fairgrounds  
7 p.m.

**Valentine's Day Dance**  
at Cavan Community Hall  
\$8.00 per person  
Hosted by Cavan-Millbrook  
Nursery School. For tickets:  
Michelle Sharpe 944-5962  
Cathy Finlay 277-1149

### sunday 12

**Darts for Hearts**  
Dart Tournament  
Millbrook Legion Br. 402  
9:30 a.m.

**Public Skating** at the  
Millbrook arena  
2. to 2:50 p.m.  
\$1/kids - \$1.50/adults

### monday 13

**Junior Darts**  
Millbrook Legion  
6:30 p.m. - \$1.00  
**North Cavan Community**  
**School Association**  
**Meeting**  
North Cavan School - 7 p.m.

**Millbrook Council**  
**Meeting**  
Old Millbrook School  
7:30 p.m.

### tuesday 14

**South Monaghan Council**  
**Meeting** - Township Office  
7:30 p.m.

### wednesday 15

**Euchre** - Millbrook Legion  
1:30 p.m. - \$1.00

### thursday 16

**Public Skating** at arena  
Moms & tots - 10 a.m. to 12,  
and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Everyone - 3 to 4:30 p.m.  
Free

**Bingo** - Millbrook Legion  
7:30 p.m.

### friday 17

**Public Skating** at the  
Millbrook arena  
3 to 4:20 p.m. - Free

### saturday 18

**CPR Recertification**  
Old Millbrook School  
\$25 to register - call  
Maureen McElwain for  
information 932-2327

**Give a Hoot Cafe**  
**with feature artist**  
**Colleen Peterson** at the  
Old Millbrook School  
8 p.m. - admission \$5.00

### sunday 19

**Public Skating** at the  
Millbrook arena  
2 to 2:50 p.m.  
\$1/kids - \$1.50/adults  
**Lang Heritage Festival**  
Lang Pioneer Village  
1 - 5 p.m.

### monday 20

**Junior Darts**  
Millbrook Legion  
6:30 p.m. - \$1.00

### tuesday 21

**Family Enrichment**  
**Centre** at the Anglican  
Church, Millbrook  
Mobile Outreach  
10 a.m. to 12 noon

### wednesday 22

**Family Resources of**  
**Victoria County**  
at Bethany United Church -  
Mobile Outreach  
10 a.m. to 12 noon

**Euchre** - Millbrook Legion  
1:30 p.m. - \$1.00

### thursday 23

**Public Skating** at arena  
Moms & tots - 10 a.m. to 12,  
and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Everyone - 3 to 4:30 p.m.  
Free

**Bingo** - Millbrook Legion  
7:30 p.m.

### friday 24

**Public Skating** at the  
Millbrook arena  
3 to 4:20 p.m. - Free

### saturday 25

**Midwinter Blues Dance**  
at the Bewdley Arena  
8 p.m. - 1 a.m.  
\$5/person - tickets at door  
Sponsored by South Mon-  
aghan Athletic Recreation  
Committee

### sunday 26

**Public Skating** at the  
Millbrook arena  
2. to 2:50 p.m.  
\$1/kids - \$1.50/adults  
**Heritage Night Program**  
at the Millbrook Legion  
Guest speakers, displays,  
and refreshments.  
7 p.m. - All welcome.

### monday 27

**Junior Darts**  
Millbrook Legion  
6:30 p.m. - \$1.00  
**Millbrook Council**  
**Meeting**  
Old Millbrook School  
7:30 p.m.

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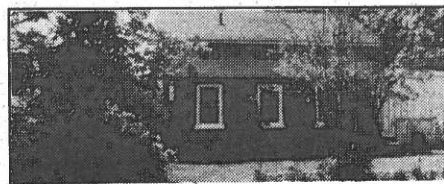
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Cavan Forest Glen - \$89,900



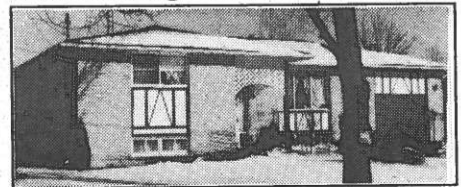
Older Viceroy style, 3 bedroom, full  
finished lower, airtight, large master,  
country size lot with trees at rear. M.L.S.

Cavan - Once a school - \$99,000



Set amongst farm country. Renovated  
with care and extras. Large upper,  
finished lower, all on a tree lined lot.  
Act now! M.L.S.

Millbrook Neighbourhood - \$116,000



Family room with wet bar, 2 pc.  
washroom. Has office or fourth  
bedroom. Main floor, 3 bedrooms, full  
bath, w/o to deck, gas heated. M.L.S.

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MILLBROOK-CAVAN

**GREENSPACE**  
By Richard Miller



# Labour's Love, Not Lost

I had the pleasure of working Christmas and New Year's weekends at the Transfer Station, something I haven't done for a while. It was great to see many familiar neighbours and catch up on events in each others' lives, tell a few jokes, a few lies; generally celebrate the season and a sense of community. It also reopened my eyes to the magnitude of the waste management problem: visualize the amount of garbage being collected each week in Cavan, then multiply that by hundreds of thousands of communities throughout the so-called civilized world, week after week, for years. It is staggering!

I have been busy at other business between then and now, but the need to write this column brought the experience to mind, and the fact that this is February, led me to the following:

1. I love people who smile, especially when the weather is miserable.
2. I love people who, if they are doing something wrong, and you correct them, they listen, and say thank you.
3. I love people who don't put tops back on empty bottles, who separate the metal from the plastic or glass they are recycling; the metal can be recycled too, but not together.
4. I love people who flatten their cardboard boxes not by stomping on them, and who remove styro-foam, wax paper liners and other junk (like pizza crusts) from inside the boxes first.
5. I love people who know that broken window glass and lightbulbs cannot be recycled, and should go in the regular garbage.
6. I love people who are cooperative and reasonable, who don't treat staff/people-like servants.
7. I love having a staff who, in spite of a thousand reasons why they shouldn't, are still friendly and cooperative and helpful.
8. I love people who are patient when there are line-ups or delays, and who try to stop their car or truck so that it doesn't block the steady flow of traffic.
9. I love people who turn off their engines if they are going to be more than 30 seconds out of the car.
10. I love people who, if they don't know the answer, ask someone who does, rather than doing it wrong.
11. I love people who take their garbage right to the

- back of the dumpster so that others don't have to walk over it.
12. I love people who make a conscious effort to reduce what they have to throw away.
  13. I love people who dispose of propane cylinders at propane dealers.
  14. I love people who know that animal litter should not go in the garbage, but should be buried on their own property.
  15. I love people who reduce the volume of their garbage by flattening plastic jugs and other bulky items, and by reducing as much air from their bags as possible.
  16. I love people who take advantage of curbside blue box service.
  17. I love people who make an effort to collect other things that won't go in the blue box, even though they may have to drive to Peterborough, or elsewhere to recycle them.
  18. I love people who take the time to listen.
  19. I love people who don't put three-ring binders full of school or office papers into the newspaper recycling bin.
  20. I love people who stack their tires neatly and who don't avoid paying for their disposal.
  21. I love people with new ideas, or even old ideas that are appropriate.
  22. I love people who bring good stuff to the re-use centre instead of throwing it away, believing that resources should not be consigned to landfill.
  23. I love people who take stuff from the re-use centre, justifying its existence.
  24. I love people who can help when someone else's car breaks down.
  25. I love people who ask if they can help in any way.
  26. I love my family and friends for their constant support.
  27. I love people (you know who you are) who take the time, month after month, to talk about garbage issues and make community-based decisions for responsible waste management.
  28. I love people who have read through this entire list; bless you.

*Richard Miller is a book artist, environmentalist, and Waste Management Co-ordinator for Cavan Township.*

## Winter Complaints in Monaghan

by Eldridge White and Melville Wood Bailieboro

In days of old when snow blew cold  
And snow ploughs weren't invented,  
We hitched the team and drove to town,  
And home again, contented.

It used to be when roads were blocked,  
We stayed at home and fed the stock,  
The women stewed and fed the chickens,  
Then in the evening read some "Dickens".

But things are very different now,  
They sit at home and curse the plow!  
They curse the wind! They curse the snow!  
Tonight there'll be no dance or show.

The foreman has his troubles too;  
He really doesn't know what to do,  
'Cause in these days of snow congestions,  
To please them all is quite a question.

The farmer tries to do what's right,  
He shovels snow both day and night.  
The plowmen too, will do their share,  
But they're giving up in great despair.

So cheer up boys, the days are longer;  
Old Sol is slowly getting stronger;  
He'll melt it all by next July,  
And you'll forget it, by and by.

Then, snowplows basking in the sun,  
The days of argument are done,  
The snow is now turned into dust,  
To sit at home is not a "must".

*Used by permission.*

## RECREATION ROUNDUP

By Maureen McElwain

# Volunteers make it all possible

Only a month ago we said good-bye to 1994. It was a busy year for the Millbrook Recreation Committee. Not only did we organize programs and events that have been popular in the past, but we were also able to offer many new ones. Judo and gymnastics were very well attended in the fall. We are now running the second session of both programs.

The Free Skate on Christmas Eve Day was a hit, attended by more than 100 people. Santa was his jolly old self. He was kept busy listening to children's Christmas lists as he skated around the rink. Thanks again to Millbrook Minor Hockey who donated the ice time. The Arena staff was as helpful as always.

The Recreation Committee is anticipating another busy year, starting with the Annual Tree Burn and Chill-Out now scheduled for Saturday, February 11 at the Millbrook Fairgrounds. We would all like to thank everyone for their continued support. Without it, it just wouldn't be possible to provide the wide variety of activities that we do.

A CPR Recertification Course will be offered in Millbrook on Saturday, February 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Call me at 932-2327 for information and to register.

The Outdoor Rink at the Millbrook Fairgrounds has been a challenge to maintain over the past month or so. From boards and gravel several weeks ago, the dedicated volunteers have worked to ready the rink for the Second Annual Tree Burn and Chill-Out. Many thanks to Dave King, Clive and Sherry Higgins, Blair Tibble, Mark Bannerman, Bob Stevens, Andrew Powell, Colin Robb, Mike and Lynda Zakarow, Bruce Denley, Darcy Schier and Marty Hutchison. To Mike, my most supportive volunteer; I couldn't do it without you.

Anyone interested in helping out up at the Outdoor Rink, please call me at 932-2327.

# A Place to Park

by Claude Boyd

*(The following poem was submitted by Joyce Brown of R.R. 1, Bailieboro, accompanied by the following note: "Several months ago I had the unpleasant task of sorting out my late mother's effects and came across this poem which was written in my father's own hand. My dad passed away several years ago so I have no idea where the poem came from or who wrote it. I do know that my father made up songs and poetry from time to time and the paper this poem was written on came from the Lambert Hotel in Staynor and is very old.")*

I'm just one of those country hicks  
Who came from way out in the sticks  
To voice my woe and make a plea  
For all the other boobs like me.  
We work like heck six days a week  
And when we're done we like to streak  
To our home town to buy our eats  
And meet our neighbours on the street.  
We can't take off one working day  
and if we do there's hell to pay.  
You folks in town don't do that;  
You do your buying every day,  
And that's why I don't think it's right  
To hog the streets on farmers night.  
You've got your cars parked on the streets  
Before we hicks sit down to eat.  
Then we must slop hogs and feed sows,  
Coax all the juice from bossy cows,  
Pick up the eggs, coop up the hens,  
Shave off the whiskers (if we're men),  
Dress in overalls and Calico since

Wheat has gone so gosh darn low,  
Crank up the fliver and give her juice,  
Then start for town. But what's the use?  
The streets are lined both up and down  
With cars of folks who live in town  
Who seem to think it's quite a treat  
To see us hicks stagger up the street  
With butter crocks, and eggs, and cream  
But say, it takes a lot of steam  
To lug that stuff six blocks or more.  
You walk until your feet get sore,  
Your shoulders ache, you're steaming red.  
You wish that you were home in bed  
And then you spy that yellow paint  
That's put just where the autos ain't;  
There's two cars where there should be three -  
They've straddled that there mark you see.  
It's our town too, so please be fair;  
We want to spend our nickles there.  
You've watched us long enough to see  
We need a parking spot by gee.