

The Ripple

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Robert Winslow (left) and Ken Greenberg are all smiles after the 4th Line Theatre performances at the Historical Society last week.

Historical Society helps local theatre

by Maureen Wideman

The Millbrook and Cavan Historical Society experienced a special evening last week when some members of the 4th Line Theatre performed two skits, then walked away with a pledge for \$1,000.

The performances were part of a fund-raising campaign. Bill Plewes, as a member of the theatre's board of directors, told the Historical Society of the loss of \$30,000 due to government cutbacks. A mail campaign has already begun, but, stated Plewes, more efforts are needed to bring in donations.

The Historical Society was quick to respond, pledging a donation of \$1,000 to the local theatre company.

Historical Society President Ken Greenberg said in response to the presentation, "The 4th Line Theatre is a fabulous organization under great pressure from government cutbacks. Its dedication to local history makes it a worth-

while cause for the Historical Society."

Those in attendance were treated to a scene from last summer's *Winslows of Derryvore*. The amusing story of Hurden and Durden delighted the audience. It was played by Susan Spicer, Mary Clare Preston and Nathan Govier and narrated by Robert Winslow, the theatre's founder.

Winslow went on to hold the audience spellbound with his telling of the story of *Lobo the Wolf* by Canadian author Ernest Thompson Seton.

Next year, the 4th Line Theatre will do three shows. In celebration of its fifth anniversary, the *Cavan Blazers* will be performed once again. Also on the program is a farm show, depicting life on a Canadian farm. Much of the information for the play will be based on local interviews. The third production will feature a play based on Lindsay author Ernest Thompson Seton, considered the most widely-read Canadian author outside Canada.

Locals want to start new mill committee

by Maureen Wideman

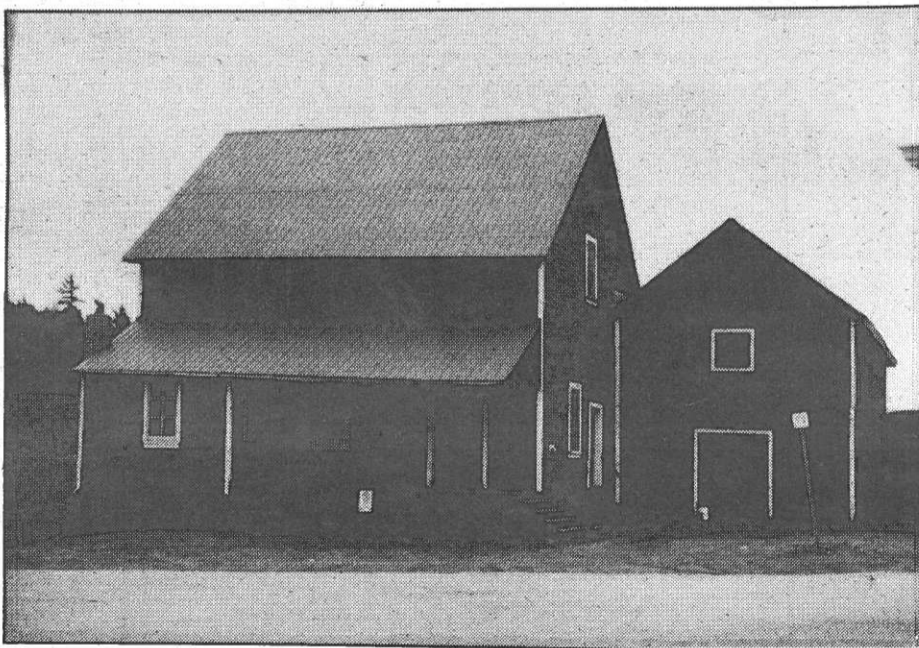
Momentum is gathering to re-establish a mill committee in Millbrook.

In response to a request from Friends of the Pond, the Millbrook and Cavan Historical Society last week voted overwhelmingly in favour of looking into the possibility of working with a new mill committee. A community-based mill committee would work in partnership with Millbrook Village Council and the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority.

Historical Society President Ken Greenberg read from a copy of a letter that was sent to the village council early in October. The letter, signed by Millbrook's Jacqueline Tinson, stated, "Many of us fear that because of shrinking resources there is neither time nor money to develop plans for the future of the mill and that maintenance of the building is done on a 'crisis response' basis. It would seem appropriate, then, for members of the community to once again partner [with] the municipality in the preservation of one of Millbrook's most important landmarks."

In an interview with ORCA General Manager Dan White, he said ORCA would welcome the opportunity to work with a community-based committee and village council. ORCA is the owner of the mill, but the management of the mill and conservation area is done by the Village of Millbrook.

Mr. White said although there is no funding available for the conservation of



Many local citizens want to establish a new mill committee which would work in partnership with Millbrook council and ORCA.

the mill, ORCA has much expertise and many resources available to assist with projects.

"The Authority has an unwritten philosophy to assist community groups in conservation projects where these things are beneficial to the cultural heritage of a community. Although the Authority owns the land, we do encourage municipalities to work with local groups and the Conservation Authority to see what needs to be done," he said.

Millbrook Reeve Mary Sutherland said the village council, "has no intention of setting up another mill committee. We've had several committees and they didn't even meet."

The original mill committee was established in 1980 in response to ORCA's decision to demolish the mill. A plebiscite had been held and the majority of the residents wanted the mill saved. A fund-raising campaign began and over a number of years, the mill was restored. More

than \$175,000 was raised through federal grants and private donations.

Kay Fallis, who worked on the committee for more than 10 years, points out this work was done without the help of the village council or at the expense of the local taxpayer.

In 1992, without warning and to the shock of many of its members, the mill committee was disbanded by Millbrook council. This created many hard feelings in the village.

"There was no acknowledgement given to the many hours of work we all had put into this committee or even a thank you for the restoration of the mill," says Mrs. Fallis.

Mrs. Sutherland, who was a council representative at that time, said the committee was disbanded, "because they never met."

Mrs. Fallis agrees that meetings at that time were on an as-needed basis. While the mill was being renovated, the committee met once per week, but after the work was completed, meetings were held less frequently.

Mrs. Sutherland said council has plans for the mill. When asked what these plans were, she said, "Those plans are not finalized and I am not at liberty to say at the moment."

Brian Fallis, Vice Chair of the ORCA board of directors, says an alternative may be to get an outside facilitator involved to get council and concerned citizens talking again.

Art Gallery plans for Christmas show

The Millbrook Gallery is busily planning a new show in time for the holiday season. The opening reception will be from 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 2 and the show will run until Christmas. Once again the gallery artists are inviting their neighbours and friends to come and take a look at the new and exciting work being produced in their artistic community.

"In some ways, it will be a different kind of show," says Jo Ellen Brydon, curator for the gallery as well as one of the participating artists. "For many of the artists, the idea of a Christmas show has presented them with new challenges. Many are turning their hands to producing smaller, more intimate works suitable for gift-giving, things such as Christmas cards, small books and miniatures.

Coming up with the ideas has been a lot of fun for the artists."

As well as new work, the gallery will also be inaugurating The Back Room Gallery, a new space at the back of the Gallery prepared for special exhibits. The first show will be a display of artwork by children of the gallery artists.

"We are trying to get the kids to do most of the work on this one," says Brydon. "We want to give them as much experience as possible in planning their own show. They have designed and will distribute their own invitations, make decisions on artwork and help decide what goes where. Our main input will be in preparing the space for them."

Future use of The Back-room Gallery is still under discussion. Ideas that have been floated include

using the space for future showings of other children's artwork or displaying more adventuresome artwork that does not easily incorporate into the main gallery space. The Gallery welcomes any suggestions the community might have for the use of this space as well.

"There is a real feeling of permanence developing in the Gallery, these days," says Brydon, when asked about future plans. "We are all working together amazingly well, as a team. We are planning long term, trying to develop a full slate of exhibitions for the upcoming year, as well as readings and work shops. We have just completed our biggest mail out yet, inviting people to the Christmas show. And we are reaching out to the community for their support, inviting them to participate and help us to continue to sustain and promote the arts locally."

Jo Ellen Brydon and Barbara Walker, Gallery artist and administrator, will be interviewed on CBC Ontario Morning, sometime in the near future, talking about the upcoming show, the gallery, and surviving as an artist in the nineties.



Greg Petit (left) of the Millbrook Razorbacks takes the face off at a tournament in Bewdley. The team won that game 6-0 over Peterborough.

Razorbacks on winning track

by Maureen Wideman

Who says 35 is old?

When some men from the area turned 35 last year, they decided to take their hockey game to the Oldtimers Association.

Many of them had been playing in Millbrook in the Sunday Night League, the rest ran into each other frequently at the arena when their children were playing hockey.

"A bunch of us decided to put a team together and join the Kawartha Oldtimers Association which has 40 or 50 teams. We play twice per week against teams from all over, like Omeme, Bewdley, Manvers and Peterborough," says player Jim Woodcroft.

These 17 guys, known as the Razorbacks, do more than just play. To date, they are undefeated in the league with 13 wins and two ties.

What's the secret of their success?

"These guys are fairly good hockey

players," said Woodcroft. "We try pretty hard. We have quick shifts so the guys keep skating pretty hard. We also have one of the best goalies in the area, Clive Higgins. Even if we are having a bad game, he keeps us in there."

The Razorbacks are sponsored by Peterborough's Bannerman's Casuals. Mark Bannerman also plays for the team and is its leading goal scorer.

Always good for a laugh is their defenseman Mike McElwain. "He's our stay-at-home defenseman who never gives up the puck," said Woodcroft. "That can be an advantage to the other team."

The Razorbacks also share their expertise with others. In September, they held a hockey school for kids. Seventy-seven participated. "It was very successful, and we're going to hold another next year."

You can catch the Oldtimers at the Millbrook arena on Tuesday nights at 10 p.m.

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Local artist nominated for excellence award

Angelo di Petta, ceramics artist and participating artist at the Millbrook Gallery, has been nominated for the Saidye Bronfman Award, a prestigious Canadian award for excellence in crafts. His nomination was submitted by the Ontario Crafts Council, one of twenty nominations drawn from all over Canada. Nominations for the award include works in wood, glass, ceramics, and textiles.

Angelo has been exhibiting since 1972 and his work has appeared in more than twenty publications. He has produced several prestigious commissions, both in Canada and the U.S. Presently, Angelo is Head of Ceramics at the Ontario College of Art, and Chair of the Material Art and Design Program.

Angelo di Petta's work can be viewed any time at the Millbrook Gallery.



Community pitches in to help

When Millbrook needs a Christmas tree, it seems everyone in town pitches in to help.

On December 9, the Recreation Committee is holding its tree lighting ceremony at the Old School. Carollers and sleigh rides with Santa will add to the Christmas party.

But how can you have a tree-lighting ceremony without the tree?

There were complaints that last year's tree was too small, so Recreation Coordinator Maureen McElwain was on the look out for a large tree.

As luck would have it,

Frederick Street in Millbrook, wanted to get rid of a 45 foot evergreen that was taking over the front of their house. What had once been a nice tree on which to hang Christmas lights had grown to such as size that even the tallest ladder couldn't reach the top. They decided to donate the tree to the Recreation Committee.

Now Maureen had a large tree, but how was she going to get it up to the Old School? She investigated having it dug up and moved, but the cost was astronomical.

It was Brian Gordon to the rescue. He has a tree

business and donated his time and equipment to cut down the tree, load it on the back of a truck, drive it through the village to the Old School, and place it in a deep hole.

Sherry and Clive Higgins then donated all the lights that they used to hang on the tree. These

were strung by the fire department and plugged in at the Old School, all in time for the tree-lighting on December 9.

Thanks to Maureen's resourcefulness and the kindness of those in the village, the ceremony at the Old School should be quite a success. Hope to see you there!

Outdoor Theatre follows the star

The Bethany Outdoor Theatre is marking this Christmas with their outdoor production entitled "Follow the Star". The production is the story of The Three Wise Men and features live animals.

It will take place December 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m at Bethany Outdoor

Theatre's home at the M.R. Art Gallery. The M.R. Art Gallery is located on the south side of Highway 7A just west of the village. Admission to the play is \$2.00 per family and a donation of non-perishable food items will be accepted. Food donations will be given to the local food bank.



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A time to care

This year, Peterborough's United Way slogan certainly hit the mark. It is indeed 'up to us' now. Ontario's Progressive Conservative government is passing along to us the responsibility for looking after our own, and if we fail to pick up the slack, then we lose.

Our area libraries have just been informed that they will lose \$4500 in provincial allocations towards their budget next year. This means that without local support, the Library Board will have to cut both hours of service and the purchasing of books and other materials. For the Mount Pleasant branch, reducing hours can mean falling below the provincial standards set and becoming ineligible for the grants available, surely the death knell for library service in this particular neck of the woods.

For the 4th Line Theatre, the largest seasonal employer in the area, the cuts are proportionately even greater, with the company facing a \$30,000 loss in funding. The list of those facing cuts is of course enormous. The impact will be felt not just provincially but nationally, with many of Canada's foremost cultural institutions and organizations based in Ontario having to rethink how they operate, or if they can at all.

The budgets for local institutions such as the libraries and the 4th Line Theatre are not large. They do not pay for frills and bureaucratic red-tape jugglers. Each is administered by a volunteer board. This is comforting news, because it means that any contributions and donations, whether financial or in kind, go directly to where the need is. Donate a twenty to your local library board and you'll know you are buying a book or two, or keeping the doors open for one more hour. Contribute to the theatre and you know you have helped to mount one of next summer's hits.

The chopping is going far beyond our cultural institutions though, and with the holiday season upon us, The Ripple has been looking into some Christmas shopping ideas to suit the times. Focusing on cuts to social services, we approached our advertisers with a proposal to donate 5% of the advertising revenue for this issue to the Christmas Hamper and Food Bank programs that service our region. The response has been enthusiastic and warm. This donation, made on behalf of all our advertisers, will help purchase food staples, fresh produce, turkeys and trimmings, and children's gifts for those in our own communities who would otherwise go without.

So it is with pride in our caring and supportive community that we can wish, on behalf of each and every one of our advertisers, a safe and happy holiday season to all. The real challenge is to extend this spirit of sharing and caring beyond this special time. It is up to us all to ensure that the things that enrich our everyday lives and give our communities substance and depth survive to feed our spirits and keep our rural communities alive.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Libraries struggle to maintain service

At the November 8th meeting of the Cavan, Millbrook, South Monaghan Union Library Board, the budget for 1996 was discussed at length. The board has been advised to plan for at least a 20% cut in provincial grants. Since provincial and municipal grants provide nearly the total operating budget for the libraries, considerable hardships are foreseeable.

Elevating taxes is out of the question, so we examined areas in which money could be saved. There are only two: hours of operation and materials (books and videos).

This caused great concern. Anyone who uses the libraries is aware that they are already too busy and not open enough hours. The book budgets in the last 5 years have not come

close to keeping pace with increasing costs. The board decided rather than make cuts that would severely decrease the effectiveness of the libraries, an appeal would be made to library patrons for a donation.

The facts are simple: to ensure continuation of the present level of library service, the decrease in grants must be made up through donations.

Please consider the value your family places on the service the library provides. There is a box in each library to receive donations. Tax receipts are available for donations over ten dollars.

Thank you for your support.
 Kate Nieman
 Co-chair
 CMSM Union Library Board

J.K. program could disappear

If you are planning to send your child to junior kindergarten next year or in the years ahead, you may be in for a shock. The Mike Harris government is presently considering whether to withdraw funding for this important early childhood education program. Without operational grants or capital funds to support junior kindergarten, most school boards will be forced to cancel these programs.

The Harris government claims that it has a clear mandate to deliver on the election platform contained within *The Common Sense Revolution* and it is taking the position that there is therefore no need to consult.

Over the last decade there has been growing recognition of the value of early childhood education programs. An expanding research base has supported the first-hand knowledge of teachers that

young children benefit from enrolment in nurturing and stimulating educational environments. The recommendation to make junior kindergarten universally accessible was included in a task force report commissioned by former Progressive Conservative Education Minister Bette Stephenson. The Early Primary Education Project reported in 1985 that "school boards are increasingly recognizing the benefit that all children, not just the disadvantaged, can derive from junior kindergarten programs."

If you are concerned about the possibility of junior kindergarten programs being cancelled in your community, then I would urge you to tell Premier Mike Harris and your local MPP.
 Reg Ferland
 President
 Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation

The Ripple is delivered free of charge to 4700 households in Millbrook, the townships of Cavan, (including Fraserville) and South Monaghan, Bethany and Pontypool, Campbellcroft, Garden Hill, and Elizabethville.

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We welcome letters from our readers on issues of local interest. Please address your letters to The Editor, The Ripple, P.O. Box 279, Millbrook, Ontario, L0A 1G0. All letters must bear the name, address, and daytime telephone number of the writer. The Ripple and Baxter Creek Enterprises Inc. reserve the right to edit all letters for length, grammar, clarity, and libel.

THE WAY WE WERE

By Ken Greenberg

Don't tell me my house is haunted

If there's a ghost residing in my 130 year old house, I don't want to know about it!

Undoubtedly, the age of a house is directly proportional to the chance of it being haunted. As proof I ask you, when did you last hear unearthly, blood curdling screams wailing from a two-year-old, vinyl sided bungalow? Never? I thought not. And if you did, was it a spook you heard, or merely a wife's reaction to her husband's new, fluorescent Bermuda shorts?

It's only logical that given enough time something very nasty might occur in a house to spawn a lost soul; a terrible household accident perhaps; maybe a gut wrenching, unrequited love affair; or even the (justifiable) murder of someone who wouldn't stop talking about the referendum.

My own highly scientific and absolutely rigorous investigations reveal that Millbrook, with its many, fine, large, century homes, is a veritable breeding ground for all types of phantasms - our village is positively teeming with scores of disembodied spirits. In fairness to the luckless, plagued homeowners, I cannot publicly divulge which houses are reputedly haunted; after all, we have some skeletons hidden in our closets. But the stories I've heard! Those folks with ghosts living (living??), in their homes relate that it's really quite difficult to evict them.

And my own house? Well, I know for a fact that in the 1930s, former owner Mr. Byres lamentably died while changing a light bulb in the dining room chandelier. He fell off a chair imprudently placed on the table, and fatally skewered himself on a chair leg. Horribly sad, but unfortunately, very true.

No, we've not seen his spectral body in the wee hours of the night. Nor heard bumps or knocks or the unnerving rattle of chains. Zilch. My wife and I assume that good Mr. Byres was a fine and decent man, at peace with the world. We guess that the suddenness of his departure was insufficient reason for him to remain attached to his corporal world of tangibility and substance.

However, I do submit that each and every house has a unique, ethereal quality to it; a distinct, shall we say, aura. When visiting someone else's home, surely you've noticed how it "feels". It's more than just the smells, the looks, the sounds. Some Far East cultures believe that a house absorbs and accumulates the, um, Karma radiated by its occupants.

While house hunting several years ago, my wife and I toured many homes. Some felt friendly and inviting, others cold and harsh. Upon entering our current home, the initial feel was overwhelming congeniality and warmth. We placed an offer to buy within five minutes of having entered.

It turns out, however, that one room feels conspicuously different than all the others - the guest bedroom. It feels cheerless. We don't dwell on this, but curiously, (and I just realized it now), it's the only room that we almost always keep closed.

So when my wife phoned me in a panic at the office last year, scared to death that some unknown person or thing had invaded the guest room, I raced home faster than a sailor to his fiancée after six months at sea. "I was cleaning the room and went out for a minute, leaving the door open," she gasped, "but when I returned, it was shut!"

I felt like a tub of tapioca pudding in a paint mixer as I approached the door. My mouth was filled with sawdust. Better to die with my eyes open I assured myself, turning the handle. The door swung open, slowly, noiselessly. I paused a second or two. Nothing happened. No headless, bloody ghost. No knife wielding maniac. No Twilight Zone Monster. Just our cat. He had pushed the door closed.

We were fortunate it was a false alarm because we know that other folks in town occasionally have very unsettling and totally (un)real surprises. We'll just play it safe and stay put for a while right here in our quiet, cozy house.

Ken Greenberg is the President of the Millbrook and Cavan Historical Society which meets monthly at the Old School.

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STONE SOUP

By Evelyn Raab

It's our Gingerbread House Contest--again!

It's baaaaack. Just when you thought it was safe to throw out that old leftover Halloween candy, it's time for the Second Annual Stone Soup Gingerbread House Contest. Yesiree, get out those cookie sheets, and that icing sugar, and those gummy bears - this year YOU are going to win the big one. Set aside all your usual nutritional scruples, try not to think about what, exactly, it is that makes black licorice black, and don't even mention the word "diet". It's time, once again, to prowl the aisles of the bulk food store in search of Building Materials: gumdrops, pretzel sticks, smarties. Green, chewy, tree-shaped mint things. Sprinkles. Candy canes. Gummy worms. Licorice allsorts. Marshmallows. Then go home. And go crazy.

Once again, we here at The Ripple are delighted to offer you the opportunity to experience the sheer joy of producing an edible work of art while spending some quality time with your kids (if necessary), not to mention gaining considerable admiration from your friends and neighbors. Also, you can win stuff. All sorts of

stuff. We don't know what yet, but it'll be good. All the entries will be displayed in store windows around town (to give everyone a chance make rude remarks about everyone else's creations), after which the winners will be determined by the decision of a panel of very competent judges. There are prize categories for children and adults, and a very special Businessperson's Challenge wherein our local business community can compete with one another - as if they don't already have enough to do. But, never mind, this is fun.

You must not even try to resist. For those of you who have never made a gingerbread house (or castle, or barn, or garage, or whatever) before, the following is a repeat performance of the basic Stone Soup Gingerbread House Recipe with some building instructions. I have not included details on how to decorate the darned thing. That I leave to you. This is, after all, a contest. I will, however, offer you the following Top Secret Tips from a veteran Gingerbread House builder. Maybe they will help:

- ◆ Consider baking an assortment of lumber (rather than house shapes) and then using it to build your ginger bread creation. Sort of like the way that moron you hired built your garage 5 years ago.

- ◆ Pretzels make good fences.
- ◆ Don't overlook the potential for bribing the judges.

- ◆ Always buy twice as much candy as you think you will need. Especially the fuzzy peaches.

- ◆ Don't even consider using a gingerbread house kit - the judges weren't born yesterday.

- ◆ Don't try to keep your gingerbread house past, say, mid-April. There are few sights as pathetic as a sagging, dusty gingerbread house in July. Eat it by New Year's and be done with it.

This recipe makes enough dough to bake all the house pieces, plus an extra each of the roof, front, and side. Just in case.

Part II: The Dreaded Assembly

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

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

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

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

Part III: The Decorating

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

Fortunately, it washes off.

1-1/2 cups icing sugar

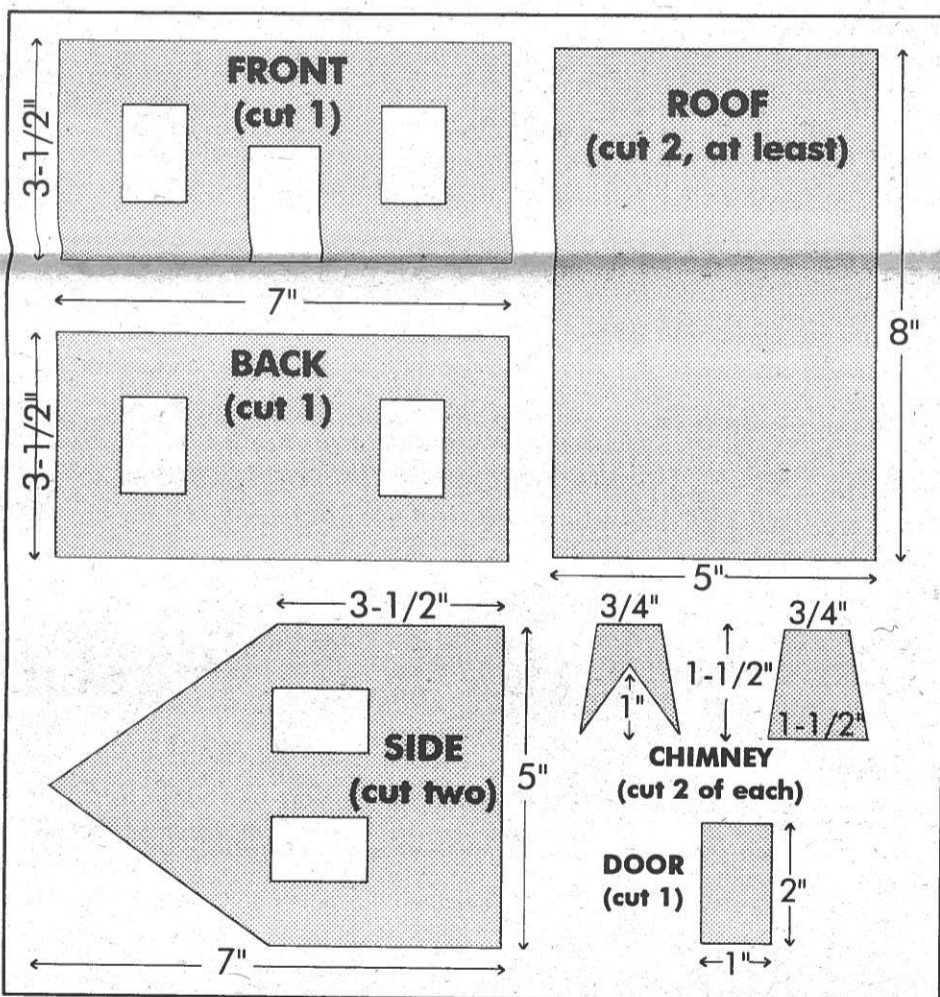
1 egg white

1 tsp. lemon juice

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

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

Evelyn Raab is a food writer, graphic artist and teacher. She has lived in Millbrook for 14 years with her artist husband and two sons. Her gingerbread tree houses have to be seen to be believed.



Making a Gingerbread House

A Drama in Three Parts

Part I: The Pieces

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

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

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

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

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

Transfer to a rack to cool completely before proceeding with the endeavor.

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Bring In This Ad, See What You Get!

Blood Donor Clinic at Millbrook Legion sets goal for Gift of Life

A blood donor clinic will be held at the Millbrook Legion on King Street on December 11 from 3 to 7 p.m. This year's goal is 80 units and organizers are urging all who can to come out and give the gift of life.

It usually takes just one hour to get-registered, donate blood, rest and take refreshment. The blood

donation itself usually takes just ten minutes.

Donors are required to be between 17 and 70 years of age. First time donors must be 60 or under. They are to be in general good health and feeling well, be at least five feet tall and weigh more than 100 pounds. Donors should be well

rested and have had something to eat. A photo and signature identification are required. Keep in mind, donors must wait 56 days between donations.

Donating blood will give you the satisfaction of knowing you have helped someone in need. Help this community reach its goal.

Christmas-time Variety Show has entertainment for whole community

The Community Concert held each December in Millbrook is a highlight of the year, and this year's program, planned for Sunday, December 10, promises to give everyone a big boost into the Christmas spirit, and provide a great evening of entertainment with a talented lineup of guest artists.

The concert, held each year at St. Andrew's United Church, provides

the opportunity for neighbours and friends to come together for an informal evening that begins with coffee and dessert served in the Church Hall, beginning at 7 p.m. The concert follows at approximately 7:45.

There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be received for the local Christmas Hamper Fund.

Once again this year the

area's Community Choir and the youth choir, Joyful Noise, will perform both carols and Christmas songs to herald the yuletide season. They will be joined on the program by a variety of entertainers both home-grown and from "away". Everyone is invited to come and join in this community event and enjoy an entertaining evening out.

Here's how to enter our Gingerbread Contest

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

- Children - 12 and under
- Adults - anyone else
- Businessperson's Challenge - open to members of the Millbrook and area business community, including Reeves, Councilors and store owners.

Entries must be delivered to Village Bulk Food by Friday, December 15. They must be properly mounted on a sturdy base, accompanied by a completed entry form, and must be *totally edible*, with the exception of the occasional bit of decoration. So no cardboard houses decorated with caulking, guys. The gingerbread creation may be any size or shape - the wackier the better, as far as I'm concerned.

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

Judging will take place on Saturday, December 16, with the winners to be announced in the next issue of *The Ripple*.

All entries will be returned to the rightful owners after the contest. So, don't worry kids, you'll get it back.

THE OFFICIAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST ENTRY FORM

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Address _____

Phone number _____

- Category children
 adult
 businessperson

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THROUGH MY EYES
By Lynda Harries

Making connections easy in the country

Call it Karma, synchronicity, fate, whatever. I've always believed in connections of some sort. Since I moved to South Monaghan, I've been delighted to experience a new kind of connection that I think is unique to living in the country.

For example, if it weren't for the cow that we found happily munching apples from the tree just outside our kitchen, I might not have met the Johnsons, our neighbours and its owners.

If it weren't for electioneering for the Township Council, I wouldn't have discovered that Reeve Dennis Hannah used to visit our house as a kid. It seems that the house was pretty derelict then and was kind of a "haunted house" to him and his friends. Deputy Reeve, Jim Wood, was also able to tell me that an old uncle of his used to live here. And Betty Howson, who collects for the Canadian Cancer Society, gave me the names of previous owners, including the Watermans, which

would account for the initials carved into an old grain bin in our barn. These connections have inspired me to trace our farm's history, and I'll keep you posted (and I'll accept any other connections any of you may have!).

The article also led me to a new connection with a former Millbrook resident, Esther Might. Esther and I have been connected for years through our golfing. But, when she read the article, she called and we connected at another level.

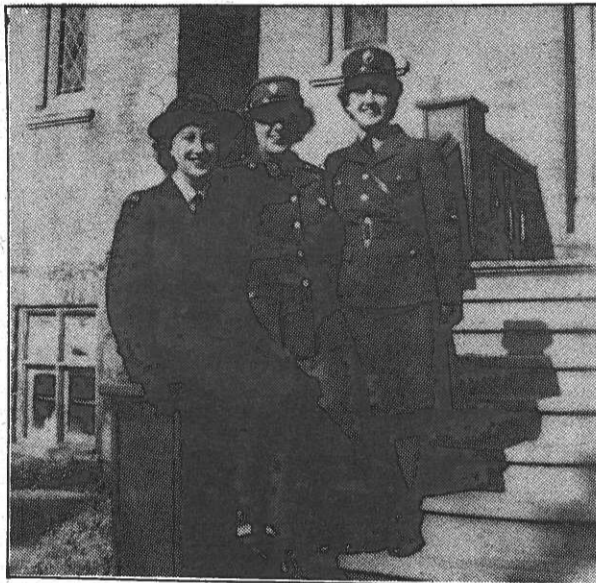
Esther's family used to own the farm at the corner of "28 and 28". That farm and her family represent a great deal of Cavan Township's history. Esther is a bit of a historian herself and contributed to *This Green & Pleasant Land* with a segment on the Might family. When we met recently, she shared a copy of that book with me, and I have spent some happy moments learning more about this area.

She also shared a bit of more recent history. Since November is a time of remembering, Esther dug out a picture of three Millbrook women on their way to three different branches of the Armed Forces in 1943. Esther served with the R.C.A.F., Mary Dawson with the C.W.A.C. and Nan Fallis with the Navy.

Esther was also able to draw a connection between my husband, David, and another branch of her family, the Corderys. They were previous owners of David's father's farm on Lakeview Road. She remembers a great strawberry patch there, and so does he. That memory rankles with David, as we have thought about starting our own patch, and the cost of plants is so high. Would that we had taken cuttings.....

It is not that I haven't had connections before when I lived in the city. I did. But they were never as interesting, unusual and meaningful as those I have been making here. I look forward to many new country connections.

Lynda Harries teaches at Sir Sandford Fleming College and learns new things every day about living on her South Monaghan farm.



From left to right, Esther Might RCAF, Mary Dawson CWAC and Nan Fallis Navy.

WORSHIP
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United Church of Canada

Millbrook Cavan Pastoral Charge
Minister: Rev. John Sloan
932-3263 / 932-3055

Sunday Worship
Cavan Church - 9:45 a.m.
St. Andrew's Millbrook - 11:15 a.m.
Sunday School in both churches

Christmas Eve Service at St. Andrew's
December 24 All Welcome 7:30 p.m.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
PARISH OF CAVAN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

7 p.m. FAMILY SERVICE Christ Church, Bailieboro
9:30 p.m. HOLY EUCHARIST Trinity Church, The Marsh
11:00 p.m. HOLY EUCHARIST St. Thomas, Millbrook

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST St. Thomas, Millbrook

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

11 a.m. CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS,
Trinity Church, The Marsh
11:30 p.m. NEW YEAR'S EVE WATCHNIGHT SERVICE
St. Thomas, Millbrook

Incumbent: The Reverend Susan Sheen 932-2233

Concerned citizens form committee to communicate their concerns

A number of individuals in Millbrook, concerned with the future development of Millbrook, have formed the Millbrook Conservation Association. Its mandate, according to spokesperson Bill Slavin, is to communicate concerns and establish a platform for dialogue with

council and other sectors of the community. Its goal is to contribute towards building a sustainable community, that can continue to prosper into the future.

To preserve the unique environment of the village, Association members support the principles of full-cost accounting, where all costs, financial, environmental and social are taken into account in

the decision-making process.

The Millbrook Conservation Association will meet once a month to discuss issues of concern. The group, according to Slavin, hopes to help build consensus in the community in regards to growth.

"We believe" says Slavin, "that as a group drawn from all over the village and representing various sectors of the

community, we can provide a valuable and ongoing vision of this community."

Slavin continues, "In the future, there will be less resources to go around, and we believe strongly that the community itself, acting as a fully participating democracy, will be its best advocate for preserving what they hold dear and the building to the future."

The group's immediate concern is the proposed Schickendanz development of 80 homes on the north side of the village, with an expected increase in the village population of 25 per cent. The group is concerned that there may be flaws in the plans submitted to council to date, citing the proposed construction of some houses in what they identify as swamp land.

The Millbrook Conservation Association will be making a delegation to Council at the Old School, on Nov. 27 at 8 p.m.

The Association is inviting anyone who shares its concerns to become a member. Its success, Slavin points out, relies on community support from all sectors of the community, business and residential, oldtimers and new-comers. Anyone interested can call 932-3330.

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Village Yuletide events added to Parade Day

The Santa Claus Parade in Millbrook is always a grand and exciting occasion, and this year, on December 9, the village is going all out.

The Parade begins at noon, proceeding from the Medical Centre to downtown. Merchants there

will be featuring in store draws, specials and give-aways.

Evening festivities will cap the day with a tree lighting celebration, caroling and refreshments at the Old Millbrook School, starting at 7 p.m.

Oddfellows' novel idea honours past friends

The members of the Millbrook Lodge #308 have come up with a novel idea to remember deceased members. In consultation with the librarian they bought books that in their opinion reflected the interests of the members they wished to honour.

The result has been that five new books are now available to the patrons of the library. In memory of Roy Greer the Oddfellows bought a large, illustrated volume called, *The Practical Guide to Gardening in Canada*. For Jimmy Johnston the book choice was *Home Medical Encyclopedia*, while a handsome edition of *Who's Who in The Bible* was bought to commemorate Zella Bentley. Two books on home repairs, *The Family Handyman Easy Repairs* and *Family Handyman Outdoor Projects* were ordered for Russell Reid.

All of the books have proven to be very popular. This is a unique way to remember the deceased while at the same time helping the community.

The Millbrook and District Minor Hockey group have placed a number of videos in the Millbrook Library. The videos illustrate both defensive and offensive tactics and will be useful for both coaches and players. Any member of the community is welcome to borrow these videos.

With funds donated from a former library board member and the Microsoft company the Millbrook library is planning to purchase a stand alone computer that will be accessible to all its patrons. Various CD-ROM software will be available and it is hoped that this will enhance reference services in the library.

Community Care celebrates Christmas

Community Care Millbrook is pleased to provide a complete turkey dinner this holiday season. The meal will include turkey with all the fixings. Volunteers will be providing buns, jellied salads, and pie for dessert. The turkey meal will be frozen. These meals are available for any qualified client of Community Care. Please call the Millbrook office at 932-2011.

Thanks are extended to the local Girl Guide troupe for their gifts to the Community Care clients. Thoughtful contributions by such groups are always most welcome by our volunteers and clients.

Community Care Millbrook and Keene take this opportunity to say thanks to the many volunteers who help support the programs and services. May

this be a safe and happy holiday season for you all.

Millbrook and Keene volunteers celebrate the holiday season by taking part in special events. In Millbrook, a potluck lunch was held at the Lion's Den, and in Keene, a luncheon was held at Otonabee Court. Both events were enjoyed by all who attended. Special thanks to those who helped organize these events.

Both Millbrook and Keene offices will have coverage over the holiday season so feel free to contact the office for services. Meals, hot and frozen, will be delivered as usual except of course, for the statutory holidays, which are December 24, 25, and January 1, 1996.

A fond farewell to the Browns of King Street

Celebrated artist Huntley Brown and his wife Maureen are busy packing suitcases, trunks and crates after a 12 year stay. During that time, the couple have made their mark on Millbrook, restoring their beautiful home on King Street East near County Road 10 and making it a showcase property, and contributing in many ways to the life of the village and surrounding community.

Huntley is well known as a painter both in watercolour and in oils. He has also served as editorial cartoonist on the all-volunteer staff of The Millbrook Highlighter in the early '80's, and more recently for The Millbrook Times. He and Maureen were among the founding committee members to save the Old Millbrook School when its future was threatened soon after they arrived in the village. They were also active on the Local Architectural Conservancy Advisory Committee (LACAC), and members of St. Thomas More Parish.

"We will especially miss the house," Maureen says, "and our neighbours, the Klarers and the Griegers." Also remembered fondly, she adds, will be the many good times they have had here. However, the lifestyles of this creative couple will continue unchanged, with Maureen carrying with her those long-practiced skills as a quilter, knitter and seamstress for her grandchildren, and Huntley taking up his brush in his new studio in Lindsay.

A Salute to our Advertisers

By advertising in The Ripple this month, every one of our advertisers has contributed to area Christmas Hamper programs and Food Banks.

5% of all advertising revenue has been donated on their behalf to these causes.

We thank them, and wish them all peace in this holiday season.

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Armstrong and Rydzik Take top 4-H honours

Many outstanding Peterborough County 4-H members and volunteer leaders were recognized for their achievements and contributions at the Annual 4-H Awards and Recognition Night on Saturday, November 18 at Kenner Collegiate. The event was co-sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Peterborough, the Townships of Peterborough County and the Peterborough County 4-H Association.

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Award, considered to be the highest 4-H award in

Peterborough County, was presented to Glen Armstrong of Millbrook, a ten-year member of 4-H and completing 30 4-H projects. The Peterborough Kiwanis Challenge Trophy, for the 4-H member with the highest average score on competitive clubs was won by Scott Cornish of Indian River. He has completed 24 projects in his 10-year 4-H career. The Outstanding Junior Member Award, sponsored by Paul Walsh & Family for 4-Hers under 14 years of age, was given to Brad Rydzik of Pontypool.

It's time to go a-wassailing at Dorothy's House Museum

Dorothy's House Museum will host their Christmas Wassail Bowl on Sunday December 3. Wassail Bowl is a British term. The occasion will feature displays, refresh-

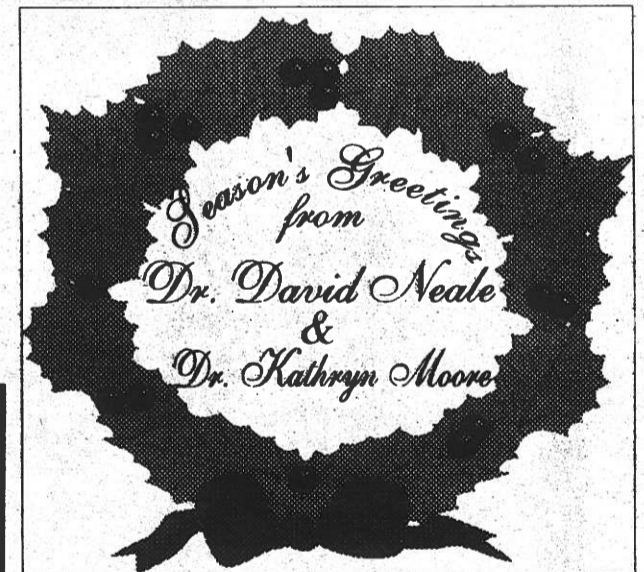
ments and Carol singing. Dorothy's House Museum is located in Garden Hill just west of the village on the north side of County Road 9.

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DOWN TO EARTH

By Anne Powell

December's Garden



As nature's perfect mulch piles up over our gardens, we can turn our attention to next year's garden plan. What better way to get some inspiration than to read great gardening books? The books that follow are my favourites, and can be found in the library as well as in bookstores.

Tottering in My Garden by Midge Keeble
Camden House - \$9.95

This is a funny, inspirational book written by a woman who has created six outstanding gardens over forty years. Subtitled "a gardener's memoir with notes for the novice," the book is full of practical tips on such things as the easiest perennials to grow in Ontario, seed germination, and the usefulness of a garden journal. A very easy read, I recommend it highly for all the gardeners on your Christmas list.

The Harrowsmith Perennial Gardener by Patrick Lima
Camden House - \$19.95

This is an essential resource for perennial gardening in Ontario. Full of beautiful colour photographs of the author's garden in Central Ontario, the focus is on planning a garden which will bloom from April to October. There are also plans to help the gardener deal with shady and dry areas, and a source guide for seed and plants available to Ontario gardeners.

The New Organic Grower by Eliot Coleman
Old Bridge Press - \$19.95

This was my first gardening book, and remains one of my most important references. It is a complete guide to small scale vegetable gardening, and includes information on crop rotation, green manures, soil fertility, weed and pest management and season extension. In short, the perfect resource for anyone contemplating a serious vegetable garden.

The Ontario Gardener by Trevor Cole
Whitecap Books - \$24.95

Trevor Cole is a professional horticulturalist and the curator of the Dominion Arboretum in Ottawa. He has compiled an excellent introductory book targeted at new gardeners with a city or village garden. His topics range from soil structure to home landscaping and include a section on rose gardening. I recommend it as an excellent guide and reference book.

The Complete Gardener's Almanac by Marjorie Willison

Nimbus Publishing - \$24.95

A fact filled book for both flower and food gardeners in which the premise is that "successful gardening is the satisfaction and enjoyment of doing the right thing at the right time." The author describes, on a month-by-month basis how and when to choose, plant, and nurture and harvest a wide variety of flowers, vegetables, fruits and herbs. This book is an excellent resource for both novice and experienced gardeners.

Taylor's Guide to Perennials

Houghton Mifflin Company - \$27.95

Have you ever been given a potted perennial labelled something like "Callirhoe involucrata" and looked in vain for more information such as colour and growing requirements? If so, this is the book for you. This comprehensive listing includes common and botanical names for each perennial as well as a colour plate. There is also information on hardiness, water and light requirements, height and width for each perennial listed. Because the listings are grouped by colour range, it is also a useful planning tool.

The next Garden Club meeting will be December 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Old School in Millbrook. Lin Given, the wild bird specialist at Johnston's Greenhouses in Peterborough will be speaking on attracting winter birds into the garden. She will include a discussion of the best plants, shrubs and trees to provide food for birds over the winter. After the discussion, there will be a Christmas social, so please bring a mug and a plate of goodies to share.

Anne Powell is an obsessive gardener living in Cavan. She gets her seed money through her job as Professor of Accounting at Sir Sandford Fleming College.

Knit 1 · Purl 1

20% off all sweatshirts until December 13

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The Village in the Valley

LIONS CLUB RAFFLE WINNERS

Lions Club of Bewdley and District

The Bewdley and District Lions Club are pleased to announce the winners of the Annual Turkey & Ham Roll Draw of September 29.

1st Prize: Bob Fudge, Campbellcroft; 2nd prize: Alex Pandoff, RR1, Port Hope; 3rd prize: Maurice Cruse, Campbellcroft; 4th prize: Clarke Stephen, Port Hope; Special prize: Wally Young, Warkworth.

Thank you to all our supporters. Lion John Ogden

The Ripple

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PAYMENT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

1986 Toyota Camry.
222,000 kilometres.
\$1800. It just keeps going and going...
932-2582.

Old cast iron parlour woodstove. Chrome trim. \$100. 932-2371.

FOR RENT

Apartment for Rent, 1 and 2 bedroom. Oil heat, water, sewer included. References. Millbrook 932-2926.

PETS

Dogs for adoption - abandoned dogs looking for good, caring homes. Call Purespring Kennels - 939-6967

SERVICES

3 R's Childcare - Responsible, Reasonable, Reliable. All ages welcome. Full-time, Part-time or on a casual basis. Country home on school bus route. Jeanette, 932-3259.

WANTED

Girls skis (downhill) to fit 11 year old. 932-2371.

Used batteries wanted - Turn those used batteries into cash. Call Kawartha Battery, 741-6097. 1040 Lansdowne Street, Peterborough.

In Memoriam

Hogendoorn, Benny
In loving memory to a dear husband and father, who passes away November 25, 1994.

It's lonely here without you.

I miss you more each day. For life is not the same to me since you were called away.

Many a silent tear I shed when I am all alone, For the one I love so very much,

The one I called my own. I remember the day God took you,

I will till the end of time. Through loneliness and heartaches,

One thing makes me glad. That you chose me to share with you,

Those wonderful years we had.

Sadly missed by Joan, Jason and Lee-anne.

The next issue of
The Ripple
Tuesday, January 2
Deadline for Advertising, Columns
Community Calendar, Press Releases:
Friday, December 15
Call (705) 932-3700

Peace
on Earth



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1995

FRIDAY 1

Ptbo Family Enrichment Centre Mobile Outreach
Cavan Community Hall
10 a.m. - noon

SATURDAY 2

Pontypool Santa Claus Parade

Village of Pontypool
11 a.m.
followed by hot-dogs and visiting with Santa at The Pontypool Community Centre

Jackson Studios

Christmas Open House

Artist and Knitwear designer
Debra Jackson
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
call 932-3190 for info.

Millbrook Gallery

Christmas Show opening

12 noon - 5 p.m.
King Street
Millbrook

SUNDAY 3

Dorothy's House Museum

Garden Hill
Christmas Wassail Bowl
Displays, Caroling,
Refreshments
2 - 4 p.m.
County Road 9

Jackson Studios

Christmas Open House

Artist and Knitwear designer
Debra Jackson
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
call 932-3190 for info

MONDAY 4

Youth Darts

Millbrook Legion
ages 9-17, 6:30 p.m. \$1.

TUESDAY 5

Millbrook Play School

Tots & Caregivers
Millbrook Christian Assembly
\$2/morning \$10/week
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Ptbo Family Enrichment Centre Mobile Outreach

Bailieboro United Church
10 a.m. - noon

WED. 6

Take-a-Break

Games, cards, conversation
St. Thomas' Church
9:30-11:30 a.m.

Euchre

Millbrook Legion
1:30 p.m. \$1.

WED. 6

Garden Club Meeting
Old Millbrook School
7:30 p.m.

Speaker Lin Given
wild bird specialist at
Johnstons Greenhouse

Manvers Historical Society Christmas General Meeting

Carols, history,
refreshments
all welcome
8:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church
Bethany

Open Darts

Millbrook Legion
8 p.m. \$2

THURSDAY 7

Bingo

Millbrook Legion
7:30 p.m.

Pontypool Shotokan Karate Club

Pontypool Community Centre
6 p.m.

Millbrook Play School

Tots & Caregivers
Millbrook Christian Assembly
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

SATURDAY 9

Pontypool Shotokan Karate Club

Pontypool Community Centre
10 a.m.

Millbrook Santa Claus Parade

Downtown Millbrook
12 noon.

Visit downtown merchants for in-store specials, draws and give-aways.

Evening festivities include tree lighting celebration, community carolling, sleigh rides with Santa (weather permitting). Refreshments.

7 p.m. Old Millbrook School.

Hamper Bingo
Millbrook Legion
7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY 10

Christmas Variety Show - Community Concert, everyone welcome. St. Andrew's United Church, King St., W., Millbrook. Songs, carols, entertainment. Come for coffee, tea and dessert at 7 p.m. Show starts 7:45. Admission free. Free will offering to Hamper program.

MONDAY 11

Blood Donor Clinic
Millbrook Legion
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Target 80 donors

Youth Darts

Millbrook Legion
ages 9-17, 6:30 p.m. \$1.

TUESDAY 12

Millbrook Play School

Tots & Caregivers
Millbrook Christian Assembly
\$2/morning \$10/week
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Kawartha Woodturners Guild

St. Peter's Secondary School
7 p.m.
749-2459 for info.

WED. 13

Victoria County Family Resources
Mobile Outreach
Janetville

Take-a-Break

Games, cards, conversation
St. Thomas' Church
Centre St. Millbrook
9:30-11:30 a.m.
all welcome

Euchre

Millbrook Legion
1:30 p.m. \$1.

Open Darts

Millbrook Legion
7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 14

Millbrook Play School

Tots & Caregivers
Millbrook Christian Assembly
\$2/ morn \$10. month
9:30-11:30 a.m.

Pontypool Shotokan Karate Club

Pontypool Community Centre
6 p.m.

Bingo

Millbrook Legion
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 16

Pontypool Shotokan Karate Club
Pontypool Comm. Centre
10 a.m.

SATURDAY 16

Bethany Outdoor Theatre "Follow the Star"
M.R. Art
Hwy. 7A
\$2.00 family

SUNDAY 17

Cavan United Church Christmas Evening and Carol Sing

Cavan United Church
6:30 p.m.

Bethany Outdoor Theatre "Follow the Star"

M.R. Art
Hwy 7A
\$2.00 family

MONDAY 18

Bailieboro Womens' Instute

Euchre, Emmanuel Church
Hall
8 p.m.

Youth Darts

Millbrook Legion
ages 9-17, 6:30 p.m. \$1.

TUESDAY 19

Peterborough Family Enrichment Centre

Mobile Outreach
St. Thomas' Church
Centre Street Millbrook
10 a.m. -noon

Pontypool Shotokan Karate Club

Pontypool Comm. Centre
6 p.m.

WED. 20

Take-A-Break

St. Thomas' Anglican Church
Centre St. Millbrook
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Games, cards, conversation

Euchre

Millbrook Legion
1:30 \$1.00

Open Darts

Millbrook Legion
8 p.m. \$2.00

THURSDAY 21

Millbrook Play School
Tots & Caregivers
Millbrook Christian Assembly
\$2. morn \$10. month
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

THURSDAY 21

Pontypool Shotokan Karate Club

Pontypool Community Centre
6 p.m.

Bingo

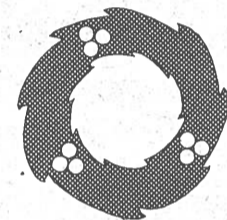
Millbrook Legion
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 23

Pontypool Shotokan Karate Club

Pontypool Comm. Centre
10 a.m.

MONDAY 25



CHRISTMAS DAY

WED. 27

Take-A-Break

Games, cards, conversation
St. Thomas' Church
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

THURSDAY 28

Pontypool Shotokan Karate Club

Pontypool Community Centre
6 p.m.

Bingo

Millbrook Legion
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 30

Pontypool Shotokan Karate Club

Pontypool Community Centre
10 a.m.

SUNDAY 31

New Years' Eve Dance

Millbrook Legion
Buffet, D.J.
9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
\$35.00 per couple
includes finger food,
party favours
no. of tickets limited

GREENSPACE

By Richard Miller

Bah, Humbug! or, Capt. Bringdown strikes again

I was hoping to write a Christmas-oriented column this month, something warm and friendly, but frankly, I'm not yet filled with Christmas spirit as I have other things on my mind.

One is the new County landfill selection process. By now most of you have heard that the Smith site has been removed from the short list leaving candidates in both Asphodel and Cavan. This means of course that there is now a 50/50 chance that Cavan will be chosen. The thing that really worries me though is, now that so much time and money has already been spent, when the time comes to actually construct the landfill, the County will likely try to get it built as quickly and as cheaply as it can. And the successful low bidder for that contract will likely try to cut as many corners as possible while building it. Wherever the thing is built, and I sincerely hope it isn't in Cavan, it should be constructed by the most conscientious workers using

the absolute best materials and methods, not by a low bidder being pressured to save money.

Another thing on my mind, not just lately, is the amount of garbage we continue to produce. I was reviewing some statistics earlier and although 1994 saw less garbage going to landfill from Cavan Township than 1993, it becomes less impressive when I tell you that 1993 saw the most garbage sent to landfill since I began keeping these figures in 1990. The 1995 figures so far are not encouraging either: from January to October, only three months saw decreases from last year. One month was roughly the same and all the rest show increases.

This is worrisome for several reasons. First, if this increase is part of a general trend, it may turn out that the County's projections for the lifespan of the new landfill are woefully inadequate and we may be searching for yet another new landfill (or incinerator)

in 10 or 15 years instead of 20 or 25. Secondly, because we are disposing of more it costs the Township more, both to haul it and to landfill it. But Council, under pressure from the Province, keeps asking for reduced expenditures: find new ways to save money so we don't have to increase taxes.

In an effort to do just this, the Waste Management Task Force, after five years of looking at all facets of the problem, made a recommendation to Council that it change both the billing and the delivery systems in the Township. Council agreed in principle with the recommendation but at a public meeting held last May, a number of vocal residents disagreed with the plan loudly. They appear to want to keep things just as they are, in spite of the fact that disposal costs continue to rise. Nonetheless, Council is going ahead with calling for tenders for the curbside collection of domestic waste throughout the Township. If Council decides to

go for curbside collection, it is quite possible that a modified user-pay system would be introduced at the same time. Making these two changes would shift the responsibility for waste reduction from government to its citizens exactly where it belongs.

Council only has two choices when it comes to managing the Township's finances: cut expenses or raise taxes. If we can't reduce the waste we produce, it's going to cost us more. There is no other option.



THE LAST WORD

Bringing Christmas into your home

By Sam Kinnard

And The Long Range Forecast is...

Grandma had some great ideas! Winter is here for more than a few short weeks and she dressed her home accordingly. In olden days, the rugs were put away and the slipcovers changed during spring cleaning, only to reappear

with the onset of cold weather, changing room wardrobes from light and cool to warm and cozy. The room suited the season!

Slipcovering was visibly re-introduced a few years ago, with the unpretentiously, pretentious "shabby chic" look. And what a welcome return! Cover your comfortable yet shabby, "very unchic" loveseat...and voila! Purchase yards of your favorite Christmas fabric, that coordinates with your existing decor and ask your designer to measure-up for your festive season slipcovers while at your home. They're inexpensive, versatile, easy to clean and store and they make even thrift shop furnishings look brand new while making your living space look well thought out and inviting!

For elegance have them brush the floor. Dress them up with tassels and

cording. Make them in neutrals and use them as year-round canvasses for displaying your seasonally changing accessories. Timeless, simple furniture pieces treated with neutrals will conform easily to a variety of room settings and work well as a background for an ever-evolving display. Seasonal pillows, baskets of pot-pourri, dried flowers and grasses, ceramic jars, bowls of fresh flowers, even lamp shades, pictures and artworks can be easily changed to rejuvenate and alter the mood of the room.

Here's an idea on how to make your Christmas Tree a beautiful addition to your winter home wardrobe that you will want to leave up for winter's duration. A Topiary Tree can be made to fill a large room or a tiny cozy room. The scale is up to you. Most of us are familiar with the "skeleton" of a

Topiary - a dowel rod pushed through the centre of Styrofoam shapes of your choice. These shapes or forms are then covered with the materials of your choice, dried mosses, German status, eucalyptus, dried flowers and grasses, twigs covered in berries, greenery such as cedar, pine or spruce boughs. You may also use an artificial or everlasting evergreen tree, divide boughs, top to bottom into three sections, scrunching these sections of boughs into rounded shapes and lading them with everlasting fruits. Cover your Topiary with your Christmas Tree ornaments and then remove them after Christmas, leaving a beautiful Topiary in Christmas' place for your continued enjoyment.

The Last Word will feature a guest writer each month, as space permits.



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