

THE GREEN HILLS Gazette

Free!
Published monthly

Thursday,
March 18, 1999
Volume 2, Issue 3

CELEBRATING LIFE IN CAVAN, MILLBROOK AND NORTH MONAGHAN

30 YEARS OF SCOUTING



As part of celebrations of 30 years of Scouting in Springville and 75 in Peterborough County, Springville Scouting groups took part in a smorgasbord on Feb. 25. Details on page 9.

Township reviews guidelines for home-based business

When is it appropriate to run a business from a residence, and what kind of restrictions should be placed on home businesses, to keep neighbours happy?

The Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan is currently collecting ratepayers' and small business owners' feedback on these questions, in order to update by-laws, establish guidelines for home-based business operations, and maintain the quality of life for all residents.

A notice was run in the February edition of The Gazette asking for written submissions on these issues from ratepayers and small business owners by March 5. According to planner Karen Ellis, "many (came) at the tail end. There's not been a lot to date, but we will accept written submissions for another two weeks." A public meeting/open house was held March 8 for the public to meet with municipal staff to discuss their questions and concerns, and to fill out a questionnaire form.

"We want to hear from everybody, from people who

run home occupations and from residents. Our goal is to get input from businesses regarding what's most appropriate. It's not our intention to shut down any home businesses — we're just seeking input as to what residents feel is appropriate (vis-a-vis home-based businesses)," Ellis said.

There are currently three by-laws concerning home-based businesses and restrictions on residential use for business, and some of these are placing restrictions on various types of occupations. "We'd like to give people the opportunity to incubate their businesses, and then move out (when they are stable)."

Any member of the community, businessperson or not, is welcome to share their thoughts on the matter by delivering their written submission to the Township office in Millbrook as soon as possible. All submissions will be kept confidential, and findings will be a part of Council's deliberations on future home-business zoning by-laws. For more information, call the Township office at 932-2929. ♣

Mystery construction at Kawartha Downs

By Michele Curran

According to Fraserville area ratepayers, something other than horses is moving at Kawartha Downs of late.

Several residents of Cavan Ward have ventured out to Kawartha Downs to photograph what, in their opinion, looks like the beginnings of a car racing track, and have called on the municipal planning department and members of Council for an explanation. At the time, no site plan had been completed or approved.

Ratepayer Pauline Plumbe called both municipal planner Karen Ellis and building inspector Doug Campbell to enquire about what was going on at Kawartha Downs. According to Plumbe, Ellis

expressed concern, as no site plan had been completed or approved. Campbell apparently told Ms. Plumbe that there was no racetrack construction in progress. Councillors contacted by Plumbe could not offer any explanation of the alleged construction preparations.

Plumbe questioned Reeve Cathcart during the March 1 Council meeting, enquiring whether he had been at the Kawartha Downs track recently. He replied that he hadn't been there, as he was afraid to go to the track because ratepayers would deem him guilty by association. He then added, "Anyway, the planner and building inspector know what is going on down there."

In her presentation to Council, Cavan Ward resident

The Reeve replied that he was afraid to go to the track because ratepayers would deem him guilty by association.

Sue Taylor also expressed concern regarding what appeared to be some sort of banking for a track at Kawartha Downs. She criticized building inspector Campbell for being "remarkably reluctant to stand up and acknowledge that unauthorized work is being done on the racetrack grounds."

Campbell replied, "They (Kawartha Downs) can move any amount of soil they want." Yet, when pressed repeatedly about the apparent

building of a track, he reluctantly agreed that something along the lines of racetrack construction was taking place. "It would appear to have the appearance of a race track."

Lawyer Robert Pakenham was present to answer letters sent to Council from Plumbe and Jan Rowland. He was adamant "nothing was going on that shouldn't be" at the grounds and added, "Anyone can bank themselves a racetrack, but they can't use it."

When Pakenham admitted he hadn't been down to see the track, Deputy Reeve Brian Squirrell asked, "Would you do me a favour and go down to Kawartha Downs? Because there is a major difference between moving dirt and constructing a track."

Continued on page 5



MPP Gary Stewart, librarian Vilda Nurse, and members of Council cut the opening day ribbon.

Bailieboro Library bigger and better than ever!

By Melanie Anderson

Patrons of the Bailieboro Public Library are thrilled with newly expanded premises.

Readers got their first look at the new and improved library Feb. 20. The Library was packed with people ready to celebrate the opening. Among the speakers present were Rev. John Peters and Rev.

Susan Sheen, M.P.P. Gary Stewart, Reeve Dave Nelson, Deputy Reeve Jim Wood, and former Reeve Anna Whittington.

Ms. Whittington was the first female council member in South Monaghan, and in 1976 began the library service in Bailieboro. Originally it was set up on the sun-porch of Mr. and Mrs. Carew across from Emmanuel United

Church in Bailieboro. When the Council bought the "doctor's house" in 1980, the library moved in with the Council because the collection had grown too large for the porch. Most recently, the amalgamation of Otonabee and South Monaghan townships has meant the library could move into the former council chambers.

Users are amazed at the difference one more room can make. No longer are the aisles between the shelves only wide enough to

be traveled sideways by one person at a time. There's a meeting area with a table and chairs, all reasonably spaced, and the books can now be removed from the shelves without a crowbar!

Thanks go out to all the volunteers who made the expansion possible, to Otonabee-South Monaghan Council for the space and for grants that make these kinds of improvements possible! ♣

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A tempest in a transfer station

By Michele Curran

What started out as concern regarding an over-run of cardboard at the Cavan Transfer Station became a war of words over waste management at the Feb. 15 Council meeting.

The heated discussion began when Council expressed concern with the overflow of cardboard and called in Bill Pickard of Peterborough County Waste Management to review the situation. Photographs taken in the spring and winter and distributed to Council at the February 15 county council meeting, provided damning evidence that the Cavan transfer station has become a dumping ground for corrugated cardboard.

Pickard was dismayed at the sight of cardboard sticking out from beneath the snow and a sign advising people to put their cardboard in the garbage since the recycling bin was full. He noted the cardboard container was two-thirds full and believed it was coming from commercial or industrial sites, which may be in direct contravention to the recycling act. He added this form of mismanagement defeated the purpose, and made it difficult to promote the recycling program.

According to Pickard, one way to solve this problem is by removing the recycling containers and promoting the use of curbside service through ade-



The offending sign at the Cavan Transfer Station which precipitated a war of words.

quate public education and proper access. The cost for this service per household per year is about \$37 for the collection and disposal of recycling materials, which is equivalent to the cost of the transfer station.

"Residents are happier with curbside pick up," he added.

Cavan Transfer Station manager, Glen Adamson, denied the bin was two-thirds full when questioned by Reeve Cathcart.

However, he did admit to the disposal of about 28 Baskin and Robbins boxes at the station, because he had offered to help someone move. The Reeve dis-

agreed with the number of boxes disposed of, and said when he had visited the site he counted more than 50 boxes. When Adamson tried to further explain his position and share other concerns, he was cut off by the Reeve. Adamson then declared his intention to resign. The Reeve told him he would have to do it in writing.

Not mincing words, and unhappy with Pickard's assessment, Adamson said, "Bill Pickard shouldn't be in charge of what he does, and he manipulates situations to best suit himself. If Pickard sees a problem at a transfer station, he blames the staff rather than look toward other reasons such as poor curbside service." Pickard shot back, "Until the County deems I am not suitable for the job, I will continue to stay on in my present position."

Adamson believes curbside service is not a viable alternative. Further addressing Council, he added he had received numerous complaints about the curbside service that currently does exist - such as blue boxes not being picked up or cardboard being dumped out of the boxes if the driver didn't like how it had been packed.

Despite Council's concerns, at press time Adamson has decided to stay on at the transfer station. ♣

"Trivial" accusations against members of Council

By Michele Curran

"Trivial," is what municipal lawyer Robert Pakenham called ratepayer Ken Greenberg's recent allegations against Reeve Neal Cathcart and Councillor Alex Ruth.

Not one to be thwarted by such opposition, Greenberg vowed to keep digging and 'remain in the faces' of Council. In consecutive Council meetings, Greenberg has requested Council act on alleged contraventions to the Municipal Elections Act and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, naming Reeve Neal Cathcart and Councillor Alex Ruth respectively. Greenberg has charged the Reeve with filing an incorrect elections expense statement. He has also charged Councillor Ruth with conflict of interest involving Maple Creek Christian Ranch.

According to Greenberg, the Reeve claimed to have a surplus and yet did not claim to have any contributions. "The only way to have a surplus is to have had contributions; but the Reeve claimed none. Even if the contribution came from the candidate's own pocket, it must be listed on the financial statement. The Municipal Elections Act, Section 66, Subsection (1) lists no exceptions," he added.

In his allegation against Ruth, Greenberg noted on numerous occasions that the councillor declared conflict of interest, in planning issues relating to the Maple Creek Christian Ranch, and did not participate in any discussions. Yet on Oct. 19, 1998, Ruth made a motion to refund taxes to the ranch under a by-law entitled, "A By-law to Provide A Property Tax Rebate

Township solicitor Robert Pakenham suggested that "the issues [raised by Mr. Greenberg] lack substance."

Program for Eligible Charities."

Greenberg then told Council he believed the ranch was not eligible for the tax rebate. He alleged while the ranch had charitable status, it did not occupy eligible commercial or industrial property required for the tax rebate. Greenberg asked Council to "thoroughly investigate the matter of the rebate and recoup taxpayers' money if my interpretation of the by-law is correct."

The only action taken so far by Council was a motion moved by Councillor Brian Fallis and seconded by Councillor Downer, asking the clerk to look into Greenberg's allegations.

In response to Greenberg's earlier request for the Reeve's financial statements, a letter by Council's lawyer Robert

Pakenham was sent to Gail Empey, stating she did not have to collect or dispense any copies of bank deposits or expense records of current or past council members. Pakenham suggested the absence of the word nil on the Reeve's financial statement was a "steno-graphical error or trivial matter [which] is not something the law concerns itself with. These issues lack substance."

Greenberg replied that the solicitor's comments were "very, very odd." He continued, "I remind this Council and visitors in the gallery that this Council has charged Deputy-Reeve Brian Squirrell with the same and similar types of violations, such as failure to open a separate bank account. Coincidentally, I understand that it is Mr. Pakenham who is conducting the prosecution of our Deputy Reeve," said Greenberg.

Finishing his presentation, Greenberg requested the council show a consistency of action by charging both Cathcart and Ruth and allowing a jury to decide the outcome. ♣

NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CAVAN-MILLBROOK-NORTH MONAGHAN POLICE SERVICES BOARD

The Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan will soon sign a contract with the Ontario Provincial Police for the provision of policing services.

A requirement for this contract is that a Police Services Board be established, consisting of 3 members - one appointed by the Province, one member of Council, and one member appointed from the community.

Any resident interested in submitting an application for the Community Member on this Board must forward a detailed written resume to the undersigned by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 1999.

Candidates for this position should have an understanding of policing issues, experience in policy-making, some volunteer involvement in community organizations, and knowledge of the Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan.

All applicants should be aware that an interview may be required and that a police security clearance will be done as a condition of their appointment to the Board.

Gail Empey, C.A.O./Clerk,
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Round One: Schickedanz 1 Millbrook 0

By Michele Curran

"Council missed a great opportunity to play an active part in the design of our village."

Millbrook resident Grace Glass' comments expressed the feelings of several Millbrook residents, in reference to Council's recent 5-2 decision to pass a controversial rezoning amendment for Baxter Creek Estates. After an extremely lengthy meeting Feb. 15, Council passed a rezoning amendment allow the developer to proceed. The two dissenters on Council, Deputy Reeve Brian Squirrell and Councillor Brian Fallis, could not endorse the motion without first viewing a completed storm water management study.

Developer Bruno Schickedanz will now be able to proceed with the development, located on property behind the seniors' apartment complex, just off Tupper Street. Over the past 10 years that councils have deliberated the merits of Baxter Creek Estates, several residents have expressed their concerns about the loss of wetlands, a trout stream and the impact on the village's sewer system. A petition with signatures was collected last year to encourage Council to ensure Schickedanz complied with demands for a storm water management study, and to ask the developer to modify

plans to accommodate the existing wetland and trout stream. Schickedanz threatened Council with an Ontario Municipal Board hearing if the rezoning amendment was not passed.

On the flip side, the developer is happy that Council did not decide to pursue an OMB hearing to force him to complete the storm water management plan, or implement any further changes to the rezoning amendment. Though pleased with Council's decision, Schickedanz representative Greg Defreitas expressed disappointment with some councillors, who in his opinion continue to stonewall the development.

Resident George Raab expressed his dismay at "the destruction of a beautiful area especially in light of other (lots) in the village that are not so environmentally sensitive and yet sit vacant." He feels the development is detrimental to the quality of life in the village. Raab and ratepayer Sue Taylor felt the Council was cowardly in backing down from the OMB hearing, and in its refusal to protect the wetland area. Taylor condemned the public meeting prior to passing the rezoning amendment as "a meaningless sop by the Council to say that it cares what the people want, or are concerned about. Nothing could be further from the truth, judging by these subsequent actions."

Councillor Dean Cutmore, who, until this Council meeting had voted down the passing of the rezoning amendment, explained the reason for his turn-about in a recent interview. "Our advisors, such as the planner, the lawyer, ORCA and other consultants had said there was no reason to hold it up now, because the developer did all the things they were obligated to do. I was also concerned about the possibility that Council would have lost at an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing," he said.

Raab, on the other hand, felt they would have had a good chance of winning the hearing, as the OMB has become more sympathetic to preserving the health of communities. He also said anyone unhappy with council's recent decision had until March 18 to file and appeal with the OMB. In reference to recent provincial restructuring and downloading to the municipalities, Glass feels Council did not take advantage of the responsibility that has been given to them. "They could have plugged into having more control over their own destiny, but instead, let it pass by. Council did not take responsibility [to create] an exciting, innovative, environmentally sound development which would attract many people into the community."

Raab, too, mentioned the shifting of services but unlike Glass saw it as the "watering down of ministries and organizations, where concerns fall through the cracks and there is limited policing. It is only now the village is realizing that no one is going to look after them but themselves." ♣



COSMIC COMICS

Waving the red flag at Taurus

By Crystal Eyes

Normally, astrological columnists receive two types of correspondence, letters addressed to occupant and letters expressing objections to astrology for various reasons. So, you can imagine my delight when the Gazette received a fax, FROM AN ACTUAL READER, about last month's column.

If you did not read last month, you must know that I stated that a Taurus (April 21-May 21) would never notice if someone had

capped teeth. This is a very important point because as we all know, possessing this skill not only advances us socially, but is also very impressive on a resume. So who could blame the reader, by her own admission a true Taurus, for writing in to demand that we retract this statement.

Never, never, never argue with one born under the sign of the bull!

Now, I have studied astrology for close to twenty years, and if there is one thing I have learned, it is this: If a Taurus asks you to do something, do it! Never, never, never argue with one born under the sign of the bull!

Is this because they are always correct? Heck no, it's because they are so persistent. If a Taurus believes they are right, there is no hope that they will give in, and an even smaller likelihood that they will

leave you alone until they are convinced you understand just exactly how right they are.

And don't think if it's two a.m. and you are still debating with a Taurus that you can put on your 'jammies and go to bed peacefully. Some bulls have been known to continue arguing while their partners try to sleep (even if they don't live at the same house!) It is however, more common that the Taurus simply waits at bedside until the other person rouses at which time the argument is resumed.

Another good reason to immediately concede to a Taurus is that they will head butt you (especially if they are losing the debate.) They just put their head down and charge at you from the other side of the room. Some even snort. (Okay, I made that up, but it's a good visual isn't it?)

So along these lines I'll say this: I believe you, reader. I'm sure you do notice caps. And P.S. - thanks for reading! ♣

Greg Keelor of Blue Rodeo to perform locally

Greg Keelor of Blue Rodeo will be performing solo at the Give a Hoot Café on March 27.

Keelor recently played a wonderful sold-out show at Peterborough's Gordon Best Theatre and the Give a Hoot is fortunate to be able to showcase such a talented performer. Check out his solo album, *Gone*. Juno-award-winning Blue Rodeo's recent albums include *Tremolo*, *Five Days in July* and *Lost Together*.

This year's Juno Awards saw Jim Cuddy, also of Blue Rodeo, winning best male vocalist and local artist Willie P. Bennett (who will be performing at the June Give a Hoot) winning in the

Roots category. Unfortunately, little or no publicity emerged in the

mainstream media. Tickets available at the door for \$8. ♣

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EDITORIAL

Inadequate words for a friend and neighbour

She was a great friend, caring neighbour... A talented musician... A witty and warm, quietly supportive person who gave unstintingly of herself to everyone who was fortunate enough to cross her path.

Her spirit was so large, and her life lived so fully, that perhaps her body just couldn't contain all that she was.

And those that loved her best, her husband Brian and three children, have been left with an awesome gap in their lives where Marie Squirrell's loving presence had been. Words cannot express this kind of grief, and it's hard to know what to say in the face of such human anguish.

When I met Marie last spring, I was immediately touched by her quiet kindness, and seemingly psychic ability to know just what to say and do for others. She doled out lots of motherly advice about taking a break, and reducing stress when we talked on the telephone. As I got to know her better, I was in awe of what she could accomplish in terms of support of her neighbours and family, despite daily pain from lung disease. We shared an interest in alternative health therapies, and had deep discussions about spirituality on many occasions.

She couldn't stop loving and supporting those around her, especially those who were marginalized or hurting in some way. In this example is a message for all of us, to continue to assist and uphold the needy and broken in our communities, in whatever way we can.

In the wake of the sudden tragedy, many, many people came forward to assist the grieving family - food appeared magically at the door, letters, cards and phone calls poured in. Neighbours and friends stayed with family members in the long days leading up to the funeral, offering support and hugs. And still others came together, strangers to each other, to organize and facilitate a reception following the funeral. Regardless of political convictions, the support was evident at the beautiful funeral, where we said goodbye to Marie and wished her well on this next stage of her journey.

I never cease to be amazed at how this community pulls together to support families in grief, or in the midst of crisis. A death or a tragedy affects us all, in this extended family of neighbours, acquaintances and friends. Thank you for proving, once again, that kindness, decency and community spirit are alive and well in this community. ♣



Politicians should be responsible for environment

Public servants who do not use their position to combat pollution but instead endorse it should not be in public office.

On Monday, March 1, at the Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan township council meeting, Reeve Neal Cathcart voted "no" to any noise attenuation (ie. berming, fencing, planting of vegetation) as part of the proposed car race track site plan agreement at Kawartha Downs. Councillor Alex Ruth voted no to the motion that Kawartha Downs be required to have a license regulating days and hours of car racing. In January, Councillor Tom Jones made it very clear by his letter to the Approvals Branch that he wished further cutbacks be made to

the Ministry of the Environment through the removal of the requirement of a certificate of approval for noise.

For public servants to ignore pollution is deplorable, but to actually promote pollution is incomprehensible. The appalling actions of Reeve Neal Cathcart, Councillor Alex Ruth and Councillor Tom Jones show no regard for the health and well-being of the families who will be affected by the noise pollution, should there be car racing at Kawartha Downs.

Noise is defined as unwanted sound. According to Noisewatch, a non-profit organization to reduce noise pollution for a healthier and safer environment, hearing loss, sleep

deprivation, and stress are just three of the ways in which noise has negative effects on health. Infants, children, the sick and the elderly are the most susceptible to noise-induced illnesses.

Noise pollution also has adverse effects on wildlife, by blocking out acoustical signals for communication

and survival, causing disruption of social groups and displacement of animals from traditional feeding and breeding areas.

Reeve Neal Cathcart, Councillor Alex Ruth and Councillor Tom Jones, by endorsing pollution, become polluters.

Jan Rowland
Fraserville, Ontario

Congrats on renovations

The Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan LACAC would like to take this opportunity to recognize the work recently undertaken on two properties in Millbrook, 19 King Street East (a designated building), and 28 Anne Street.

The Millbrook Gallery at 19 King Street East has installed the name in gold lettering on the fascia board of the shop which is the correct, period location for a proprietor's name. All nineteenth century shop fronts were designed with a wide fascia board to accommodate the name of the business. Some fascias have disappeared, but most still exist under modern alterations. 19 King has also been repainted in appropriate and pleasing colours.

Altogether, a very striking restoration on the main street!

28 Anne Street, home of Julie Rouse and George Kirkpatrick, is not a designated building, but Julie and George last summer restored the verandah, which had been missing for some years and repainted the woodwork. The change was astonishing. The house has regained its authority and poise, and takes its place among the other "grandes dames" of Anne Street!

LACAC would like to commend Julie and George, and the artists' co-operative for their careful stewardship of our community's built heritage.

Jackie Tinson
Chair, Cavan, Millbrook,
North Monaghan LACAC

Thanks for support

The Otonabee Conservation Foundation's Annual Conservation Auction of February 6 was a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of everyone involved.


Chairperson Meredith Carter would like to thank the Auction Committee members for all their hard work: Andrea Normabell, Ailie Torrance, Kathy Reid, Ron Scott, Steve Hazen and Dan White. The goal for this year was reached, and the proceeds will be directed to the Normabell Conservation Trust, and the Medd's Mountain/Baxter Creek Millennium Project.

The success of the event is owed to those who attended, and to the many supporters of the auction. Our major sponsors Nesbitt Burns and Wine Not made significant contributions to the event's success. Thanks to Keith Furevick and everyone at Nesbitt Burns and John Morrirt of Wine Not, as well as the many volunteers who gave their time and energy: Mark and Susie Stanley, Katimavik, the Auction Committee, OCF Board of Directors, OC staff, friends, family, artists, craftspeople, Millbrook Millennium Project folks, and Market Hall staff. Thanks to Bodhanna Sofia Monton for her beautiful watercolour painting and of course, a big thank you to all the restaurants, florists, and local businesses for their donations. Last but not least, thanks to Maxwell and Tah-Dah!, Tim the Juggling Fool, Kerstin Scott and String Souffle for providing us with the magic, music and entertainment for the evening.

Thanks to all, we couldn't have done it without you!

NEXT DEADLINE

Our deadlines are altered for the April 15 issue, to accommodate Easter weekend. Please note: Thursday, April 1—advertising deadline
Monday, March 29—editorial copy deadline

Volume 2, Issue 3  March 18, 1999

Published monthly by
The Millbrook Media Group Inc.
69 King Street East, Millbrook ON L0A 1G0
Tel: (705) 932-2175 Fax: (705) 932-4041
E-mail: gazette@nexicom.net

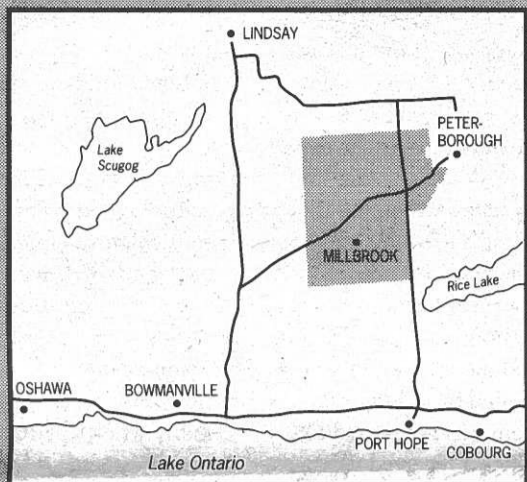
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RANDOM SAMPLING

By Margaret Monis

I've just finished an article in *The New Yorker* about a woman named Judith Rich Harris. Mrs. Harris is much touted these days in psychological circles because of a theory she has put forth in a book entitled *The Nurture Assumption*. Judith Harris was researching a psychology text recently when she had a "Eureka" experience. The paper she was using at the time asserted that teenagers smoke and rebel as a way of trying to gain the same autonomy and privileges that adults have. Mrs. Harris suddenly realized that quite the opposite was true; that teenagers are not trying to be like adults when they defy their parent's rules, but rather are trying to be more like, and gain acceptance with, each other when they do forbidden, adult things. Well, dah!

From this one startling realization, Harris then went on to speculate that peers play a much larger role in a child's development than parents do. In fact, the only real impact a parent has on their child's character is in the genes they pass on, while parenting style and home environment have nothing to do with anything. How else

Parents: Who needs 'em?

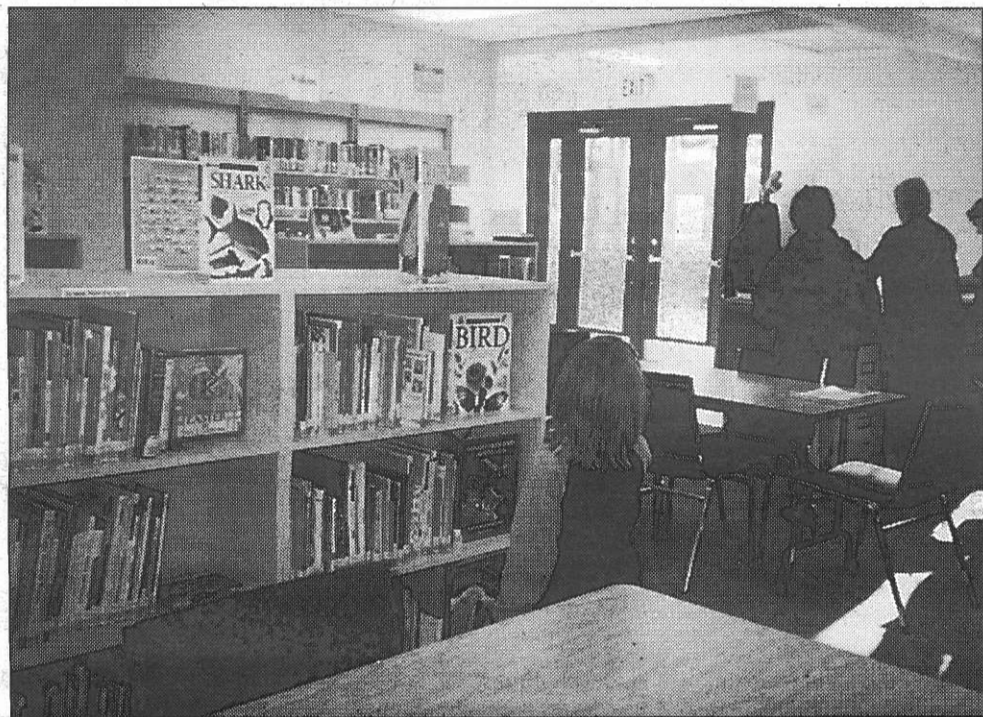
Mrs. Harris suddenly realized that teenagers are not trying to be like adults when they defy their parent's rules, but rather are trying to be more like each other. Well, dah!

can you explain that researchers have found no "causal link between the specific social environment parents create for their children and the way those children turn out?" Children from homes with lots of books do not "consistently" differ from those who grow up without books, nor is a child who grows up in a smoker's home any more likely to smoke than one who grows up smoke free. Well, even if researchers haven't documented any difference between children who grow up with books and those who do not, empirical and anecdotal evidence prove them wrong. And I could be mistaken, but I always thought smoking was more a nasty addiction than a character trait.

I think the real problem here is that Mrs. Harris makes the same mistake as many psychologists in asserting that the study of human nature is a science. If something isn't consistent and hasn't been proven in an extended, multi-million dollar study, then it simply cannot be true. But the human psyche is not quantifiable. Sure there are certain stages most of us go

through, and the works of Piaget and Freud should be acknowledged and studied, but while these documented phases of growth provide a very broad outline in which to frame the course of any one life, there are always anomalies. The fact is that there are just too many forces which come to bare in the maturation of each and every one of us for any one theory to hold true across the board.

It is patently ridiculous to suggest that parents do not play a large part in the way their children develop - you see it everyday in the world around you. Perhaps parents are not quite as almighty as the recent psychological Zeitgeist would have us believe (until Mrs. Harris came along, that is), but there is no denying that our behavior and example do make a difference in the way kids turn out. Psychologists would do better to acknowledge the myriad elements which make up a person's character than to try and make any one influence supreme. You simply cannot deconstruct and explain human beings so conveniently - and I say thank goodness for that! ♣



Patrons make use of the spacious, sunny premises of the new Bruce Johnston Branch Library in North Monaghan Ward. The library, moved from Mount Pleasant to Davis Road, is located in the former municipal offices and is intended to better serve the needs of north Township residents.

New library named for stalwart municipal employee

By Melanie Anderson

The Mount Pleasant Library has made a momentous move to the former North Monaghan Township building on Davis Road, and has a new name to greet the next millennium.

The library opened its doors on March 2, with a grand opening planned for later this spring. When I arrived late in the afternoon the Library was bustling. I got to spend several hours there that day, due to the mysterious disappearance of my car keys,

and it really is a fabulous building with lots of room for great books. (Thanks to Ms. Bulloch, the librarian, for her help in the search for my keys - they were, of course, locked in the car underneath a pile of junk!) While I was flipping through the many magazines available in the library's new digs, I overheard a number of people commenting they could not believe that all those books had fit in the space they were in before. There must be a lot more room to move around now!

The name Bruce Johnston was taken from the old North Monaghan municipal building on the corner of Lansdowne and Brealey in Peterborough, which was named after a man who worked for the township for 51 years. Bruce Johnston was the Township Assessor from 1908 to 1911, and Township Clerk from 1911 to 1960. Since the municipal building is no longer in use, it was decided to remember name of this legendary employee by attaching it to the library. ♣

Kawartha
Continued from page 1

In the past, there had been four injunctions against Kawartha Downs for not following proper procedure regarding site plans. Councillor Gerry Downer wondered if Council may have dropped the ball this time by not renewing the injunction.

In reply to Downer's query, Pakenham replied, "Since Kawartha Downs is willing to play by the rules, there would

be no need for an injunction." Councillor Brian Fallis brought up another contentious issue, related to any car race track to be built in the township - an outdated noise by-law. The by-law has not been updated for 15 years, and may not provide adequate protection for ratepayers from noise pollution. Pakenham assured Council that the municipality has the tools to address noise problems by updating the noise bylaw, and licensing businesses

through regular hours of operation. The municipality can license, regulate and govern Kawartha Downs (and potentially, noise pollution). Fallis made a motion asking that the site plan agreement include structures and fences to mitigate against noise emissions coming from car racing at Kawartha Downs. The motion passed and is a directive to solicitor Pakenham, the municipal engineer and planning department. ♣

North Cavan students "travel the globe"

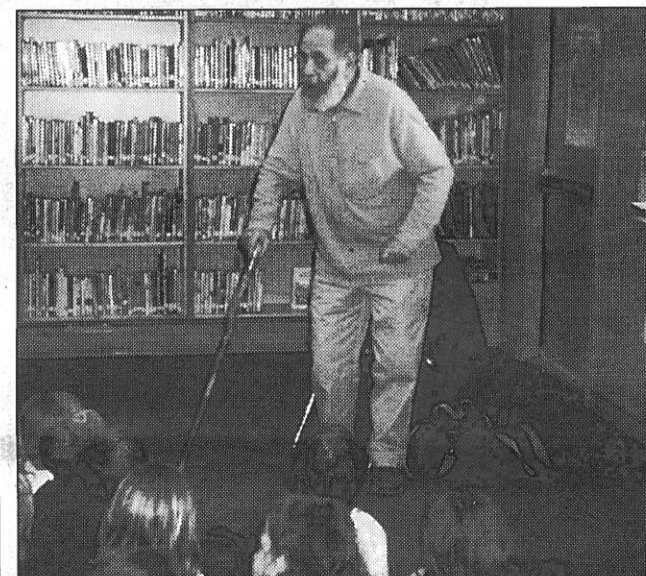
By Deborah Luchuk

North Cavan Public School students went to the Philippines and Africa on February 22.... at least, in their imaginations.

Storyteller Vince Wall regaled the youngsters with several fables from around the world, transporting the group to much warmer climes. The Guelph native has visited a number of Peterborough County schools over the past few years, and was delighted to be asked back to North Cavan for an encore stint this year.

Mr. Wall has been telling stories since 1992, and has an extensive background in camp counselling and social work. "I like telling stories, and I do secondary schools as well. I've always liked kids, and worked as a social worker for 25 years."

As I sat, transfixed, with the children listen-



Vince Wall entertained "fellow travellers in the imagination" with stories and fables from Africa and the Philippines.

ing to Mr. Wall tell his tales of lions, fireflies and the pigeon and the turtle, it became clear to me the power and magic of storytelling. "There's a real power to stories, and I'm always surprised at which children pay attention. I think children learn

better through emotion. The biggest charge I get is from seeing the light come on in their eyes, and hearing the questions afterward." Wall has also written an adult book, "What If The Stars In Heaven Were Just Another Bureaucracy?" ♣



SEEDS OF SOUL

Steps to positive change

By Christine Soligo

Can people really change? As a therapist trained to help people make changes in their lives, I believe the answer is paradoxical. People can change ... when they stop trying to change. It is the acceptance of who we are that begins the process of transformation. The interactions between the way we think, feel and act combine to make each of us a unique and distinct individual. Being unique makes us special, but it also makes us different — and we want to know that's okay.

As children, we learned that some parts of ourselves were not okay, some feelings not acceptable. Some of us learned to be "good," to hide our anger, or to be strong, to hide our tears. Some chose to be angry, to hide their sensitivity. For some, being brave necessitated denying their fears. In some way, we each felt that it was necessary to deny a part of ourselves in order to be accepted, to be loved, or in extreme cases, in order to survive.

However, what was necessary for survival as a child becomes a limitation as an adult. People feel the effects of repressing a part of themselves in many different ways. Some go through life without allowing much feeling; something seems to be missing — they don't have passion, excitement or creativity. Others feel that they can't trust themselves to keep control — they have

explosive outbursts of anger, unexpected tears, or feelings of unaccountable anxiety or depression. Still others find the same problems or themes occurring over and over, only with different names and in different places. The effects of repression are often experienced in the body, resulting in muscle tension, stomach pains, shortness of breath, headaches, or even life-threatening diseases.

The process of change is set in motion by a willingness to explore those parts of ourselves that seem unacceptable. But when you've worked so hard to keep something hidden, how do you explore it in a way that is safe and manageable? By moving slowly, taking small steps.

The first step is a willingness to explore; a receptive attitude invites opportunities for exploration. You may be drawn to a yoga class where you will get to know your body in a new way. Meditation may promote a stillness that allows new insights and different perspectives.

Through massage, or other types of bodywork, you may make connections between tension in the body and images or memories from the past that contributed to the tension. There are various exercises intended to increase self-awareness such as journaling, dream interpretation, creative self-expression. Many find psychotherapy to be helpful when attempting to understand fears and doubts; it provides a safe and accepting environment in which to explore them.

When we start to accept and understand those parts of ourselves which seem unacceptable, the process of change begins. Energy that was used for holding down feeling is now released for feeling more life. We become more than we were, opening up possibilities for realizing our potential. ♣



THE EDUCATION FILE

By Peter Ford

Competition is learned behavior. For young people today, competition is a larger part of their daily diet than it ever was in the past. No-one can live in our current society without being affected by life's competitions. They're stressful, costly, and often unnecessary.

Nature's creatures compete for food, territory and mating privileges. Winners receive 'prizes' - losers go hungry. Winners enjoy temporary euphoria, however short lived, then lose to another, younger, 'better' temporary winner, who soon loses to another... In other words, 'winning' is illusionary. Sooner or later, all competitors lose.

We all compete. Children develop an early awareness of competition and this is an important part of life. Dogs, beetles and humans are all nature's creatures, and all compete for physical territory, mating privileges, food, and survival. However, having bigger brains, humans add intellectual competition to this list, and thus compete in business (a bigger 'gross national product' indicates winning), and in finance (more money = more happiness), and education (higher grades = more degrees = better job = more income = ...).

Where and how do we learn to compete? Competition is an integral ingredient of every child's core curriculum at home and school, by example and subject, from life's work and street experiences, on TV and CD. It's on our mental food-plate every day, at home, at school, at work, at 'play'.

Decades ago, it was considered healthy for young people to learn how to win

Challenging competition

(losing was learned from experience). Like others, I won some and lost lots. I remember liking the experience of winning, but somehow can't remember that feeling. However, I do remember the pain of losing - it hurt. I lost music competitions which I thought I should have won, and was rejected by girls whose attentions I expected to attract. I received very average school test and report grades that weren't as good as others' grades. The list goes on and on. The difference between losing and winning involves memory, pain and self confidence.

Is there a benefit from graded tests or report cards that compare students with numbers? No!

If I remember the pain of losing, why not the joy of winning? Was it real? Later, as a teacher of competing students, I became aware of HOW we won and lost - what was being mentored, what learned. I was aware that there are no winners without losers; few winners,

many losers; much temporary elation accompanied by much long-term psychological damage. Is this beneficial? No! Not through school based competitions, musical, academic, or social competitions. Is there a benefit from graded tests or report cards that compare students with numbers? No! Not for the many who experience loss of self esteem.

Today, there is growing concern regarding the damage being caused by constant competition, resulting

in a shift from competition to cooperation. Let's encourage this. Competition separates people: cooperation brings them together. An education system that promotes competition seeks to mold its youth in its own 'dog-eat-dog' image. Let's change this.

Tomorrow's schools will focus on recognizing each individual's inner uniqueness and encourage self development through cooperation - a much needed change. ♣

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GOD TALK

Why go to church?

People who claim to follow the way demonstrated by Jesus may gather anywhere and be the church.

Q I find I experience God in nature more than in a church building. Can I still be a Christian if I don't go to church? What if I have a group of spiritual people I hang out with? Does that count as church?

A Often people's questions have several parts, so it is best to respond to this question one part at a time.

First, congratulations on finding God in nature. It was in the garden where people first experienced God, according to Genesis. Also, prophets from Moses' to Jesus' time sought God in the open spaces. So continue to find God wherever you may, for we are not whole people unless we

make that connection.

We must note, however, that Jesus also went to the place of worship, as was His custom! He gathered regularly with those who sought God's Way. Being part of the faith community and connecting with people as well as God is the other thing that makes us whole and healthy.

In early days, believers often met by the river simply because they had no buildings.

But do not confuse church with church buildings. "The Christian Church" is people who claim to follow the way demonstrated by Jesus. These people may gather anywhere and be the church.

In early days, believers often met by the river simply because they had no buildings. And in some countries, that still happens. Believers gather under a tree or in a field. So the church is not the building, it is the people who meet together to worship God.

If you want to be a soldier, you join the army but you may be a soldier and be a coward. Similarly, you may be very ethical without being a Christian. Or, you may be a Christian and fail to be ethical at all. In short,

one can be a very good person without going to church, but one cannot be a real Christian without desiring to be part of a gathered fellowship. The Bible clearly instructs in Hebrews 10:25, "Don't forsake the assembling of yourselves together...."

Finally, if you have a group of friends with whom you associate, who help you grow spiritually and support you on life's journey, you are fortunate indeed. Chances are the group may include people of various faiths that give you a broad perspective and helps you live in this multi-faith country of ours. It can also help reduce racism and prejudice. However, unless they are avowed followers of Christ who join together to learn, practice and proclaim His way, they don't constitute the church.

You alone can decide which way your life will go and who you will worship. Then having done that, why not put your faith into practice? If you choose to follow the Lord Jesus, we urge you to find a group of spiritual Christians who will support you on the way. Let them be your friends. Join with them for worship in some gathered assembly. Proclaim your Christian beliefs and begin to actively demonstrate where your allegiance lies. ♣

This month's column was written by Rev. John Peters, Springville United/Emmanuel United Church, Bailieboro Pastoral Charge, and Rev. Fred Futers of the Millbrook Christian Assembly. Questions for God Talk are received in confidence, and you need not supply your name. Send questions c/o The Green Hills Gazette.



OUTDOORS WITH GEORGE

By George Luchuk

Here's a puzzler for you. When does a hill stop being a hill and become a mountain? (I hope someone can answer this for me.)

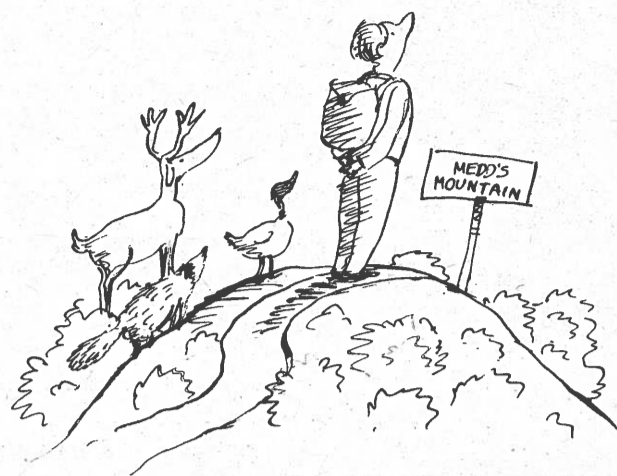
On February 25th, I attended a meeting about further developing the Medd's Mountain trail network south of Millbrook, and one of my more significant questions was why we call, what I would think is a large hill, a mountain. The only answer I could glean was that it's probably because it sounds great with Medd. Let's face it, Medd's Hill does not have the same resonance. But is it really a mountain?

This sounds like another one of life's profound mysteries, similar to the question of when a boat stops being a boat and becomes a ship. The answer to that was made very clear to me many years ago. The difference between a boat and a ship is that you can put a boat in a ship, but you cannot put a ship into a boat.

Anyway, getting back to the meeting of February 25th, I found myself at first surprised and then quite encouraged by the amount of interest our community has with ecological issues. This particular group, chaired by Councillor Brian Fallis, is at an early stage of developing an interconnecting network of multi-use trails in and around our community.

The ultimate goal, I believe, is to become part of, and connected to, a national trail system. Right now though, the issues are very local, like finding an appropriate name for the trail. Everything from the Cavan Blazers Trail, to The Millbrook Valley Trail, or my favourite, Medd's Mountain Trail, are up for consideration.

Is it a hill or is it a mountain?



Creating a Dream: The Medd's Mountain Trail Project

Two students from Sir Sandford Fleming College are also participating in the project. Their task is to identify and catalogue all the flora and fauna that occur in and around the trail corridor. It is also important to note, from a local taxpayers' point of view, that so far a potential grant of \$30,000 from various funding agencies, such as the Millennium Fund, will be provided to kick start the whole project.

But really, the largest contribution will ultimately have to come from people like you and me. As I've said before, there is a large community interest in everything connected to a healthy ecology. Here then is one project we can literally get our hands and feet on and into by volunteering some of our precious free time.

If you're not already involved, get in touch with Brian Fallis through the Cavan-Millbrook-North

Monaghan Township Offices, 932-2929. Be a part of the dream, be a part of the solution.

You can also get additional information by calling the Trails and Tourism Development Project at 749-5530, ext. 2245. Ask for Gwen Brice. ♣

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COMMON GROUND

Cure for the winter blues

By Jill Williams

So, are we tired yet of hearing how the bulbs are already blooming in B.C.? Lately, I've been hearing breathless British Columbians on the radio, telling me all about their annual blossom count (in February!), and of course, about how their lovely spring is well underway.

Around this time a couple of years ago, a friend from Saltspring Island sent me a bunch of snowdrops by express post. These small flowers, wrapped in a damp cloth, survived their coast-to-coast journey remarkably well. Of course, when the snowdrops arrived, we were still knee deep in ice and snow with no hint of spring in sight. Did I feel like sending my friend a truckload of snow in return? Of course I did! Unfortunately, the cost of this was prohibitive.

There is no doubt that this is a nasty time of year. It doesn't quite feel like winter

with longer sunnier days, but it isn't really spring either. I can think of few ways to bring a little spring into the house early, though.

One tried and true method to get a little early greenery is to cut branches of shrubs like lilac, willow, forsythia or elderberry. Bring these into the house, put them in water and you'll get a wonderful display of tiny green leaves and flowers to brighten up late winter days.

Don't overlook those pots of daffodils, tulips or primulas that are in all the supermarkets at this time of the year. Potted bulbs usually have flowers that last a couple of weeks, and then can be saved to plant in the garden in the fall. After the bulbs are finished flowering, put the plants in a sunny window for a couple of weeks and keep them well watered. Stop watering when the leaves start to turn brown and when the whole thing has dried out, put it away to plant in the fall. Primulas, too, usually have long-lasting flowers, and can be planted out in a partially shaded area of the garden in May.

Late winter or early spring is a good time to plan gardening projects for the upcoming season. If you've always wanted your own rustic arbour, raised beds or

temple of Apollo, now is the time to plan it on paper. If you're short on inspiration, there are lots of gardening magazines and books with lots of pictures and ideas.

Of course, along with all the good ideas in the glossy gardening dream books, there are some ludicrous ideas as well. In the March issue of Martha Stewart Living, Martha makes a herb planter out of a huge piece of granite, placed in position beside her house with a crane. Surely there is an easier way to plant herbs, Martha! And we won't be making the print chandelier, either. You do have to sift among the practical and impractical suggestions in all the glossies, but I usually manage to find something interesting.

Don't forget the spring gardening shows for inspiration. Canada Blooms is March 10 - 14 in Toronto. I'm looking forward to seeing all those flowers and writing about what I see in future columns. More catalogues: The Lily Nook, Box 846, Neepawa, Manitoba R0J 1H0

www.lilynook.mb.ca, catalogue \$2. Florabunda Seeds (wildflowers, cottage garden, heirloom and unusual varieties) Box 3, Indian River, Ontario K0L 2B0, catalogue \$2, www.florabundaseeds.com



CREATIVE PARENTING

By Trish Boyd-Reininger

A couple of weeks ago, two young children were reported missing from our arena. Children abducted in Millbrook? It was unbelievable.

Yet there we were, townspeople searching, police checking all outgoing and incoming vehicles, prison personnel joining those searching for the children. All staff at the arena manning [STAFFING] the phones and eliminating the many possible hiding places inside and out, and a terrified mother running the preceding circumstances over and over again through her head, being comforted by caring friends.

"It would NEVER happen in Millbrook!" And thank God that this statement rings true this time. It was a simple mistake, a lack of communication, that's all. It was, in fact, a few Millbrook residents who spotted the two children in Peterborough with Dad. Tuulikki, Bill and Sarah spotted the yellow jacket reported to be worn by the young son. Sarah approached the car, spoke with the father, lent her cell phone for the long-awaited call for mom, and breathed a sigh of relief, knowing that two little children were safe and sound with dad. WHEW!

We as a community are so fortunate that there is a happy ending. In so many circumstances, the ending is all but happy. Coming from Toronto, my life has been touched by the horrors of losing a young child to a terrible person. A friend's daughter was abducted and killed when she was only nine years old. As is the case in many such incidences, she knew her killer. She was only out of sight for about five minutes, in her own neighbourhood, and amongst friends and people who cared about her - so how could this have happened? How?

Who can even attempt to understand this - but the fact is that this does happen. I think our question as

Some thoughts on keeping children safe

keepers of young lives (which is a community responsibility) should be how do we stop it from ever happening?

We as adults must educate our trusting, unsuspecting little people. We must tell them about the perils of people, places and traffic. It may scare them, they may become clingy for a time, but in the long run, it is for the best. Better scared than dead, and that's the bottom line. Children must know how to keep themselves safe, and we must show them how to do this. In our house, we have discussed different situations and have come up with what I think are pretty reliable ways of handling them. Tell me when you're leaving, even if it's with the other parent. Never talk to strangers when you're not with mom or dad. Have an emergency quarter on hand. If you are walking home and feel threatened or are being followed, go to the nearest house, knock on the door and ask for help: "Please phone home for me, I'm scared." Do not go inside the house, do not accept a ride home. If the person is not being helpful, makes you feel afraid, or wants you to use their phone inside, say, "I'm okay now," and go to the next house.

Set guidelines when going to the mall or the city or a new town, etc. Decide on a designated meeting place. Suggest to the children that a cashier can help. The children should never go outside the store to look for you. Children should never wait by the door (easy access to be grabbed). Never leave children unattended in a shopping cart. I heard of a situation where a mom was in

shopping, and realizing she had forgotten an item in the previous aisle, zipped around the corner to get it, and a minute later, her child was gone. This woman kept her cool, went to the store personnel and told them what had happened. The doors in the store were locked and the search began.

They found the little girl asleep in a storeroom, ten minutes later. Her hair had been cut, her clothes had been changed, and she was wearing a baseball cap. This child had been drugged. Who would suspect a little boy asleep on a mother or father's shoulder as being abducted? Especially when you are looking for a little girl. Look for shoes, earrings, they're not so easy to change. Look for earring holes, or earrings, and nail polish.

It happens so fast, - it only takes 30 seconds to lose your child, whether to a stranger, the water or the road. If you stand and watch the second hand tick away 30 seconds, it really is longer than it sounds.

There was a tragic accident on Parkhill Road a few years back, resulting in the death of a young child. The reporter who covered the story said something that stuck with me (I've forgotten who wrote the story.)

"Kids are footloose and fancy free. Although many of them know better, they often don't have the time or the inclination to think before acting. We have to watch for them; we are their eyes and ears. It's a responsibility that should never, ever be taken lightly."

Hold your little ones close to you. Teach them to trust themselves. Be there for them. After all, they are our future. ♣



HASH N' BEANS

By Arden Myers

Well, since all my recipes come with a story that seems to have no relevance to what's being cooked, I thought - why change now? So this story is about maple syrup.

Once upon a time, my uncle took his daughter and I to a sugar bush to see how

Death by maple syrup: Iced Maple Mousse

maple syrup was made. First, I have to tell you about my uncle Chid, whose real name was Merrick Chidley. We all called him Chid, which I thought was odd - why did his parents name him Chid Chidley?

Anyway, while tramping bush in our old gum rubber boots I got frostbite on my feet. I cried and cried, and needless to say, I didn't think making maple syrup

was that much fun.

Actually, this recipe and story do line up, because this recipe is for Iced Maple Mousse (no, I didn't see a moose in my state of heat deprivation!).

Iced Maple Mousse

Boil 1/3 cup water with 7 oz. of sugar. While still hot, pour in a trickle over seven whisked egg yolks. Add six tablespoons of dark maple syrup, whisk, then slowly add two cups whipping cream and 2/3 cup of cold whole milk. Pour into a bowl or copper mold. Freeze for four hours or overnight. Dip in warm water to loosen, and invert on a plate. Serve right away. Tastes like Haagen-Daaz Maple Walnut Ice Cream! ♣

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SPORTS AND RECREATION

Intersports — A new star on the horizon

By Michele Curran
With the approach of the millennium, it appears there is a new star rising in Fraserville, in the shape of a multi-million dollar sports and entertainment centre, the likes of which has not been seen this side of the border.

Intersports Incorporated is hoping to forge strong ties with the residents of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan, by providing high calibre sports for the entire family to enjoy, hiring local firms and providing at least 1500 jobs when the project is up and running.

The mandate of two proponents of Intersports, Jeff Walker and Chloe Black, is to attract world class athletes by providing year round training facilities and promote the centre as a

regional tourist attraction for high performance sports. Black, a well-known local cyclist, is also thrilled the Intersports Centre is being considered as the future home for the national cycling team.

Intersports is not only active in the Canadian sports scene with strong ties to sports organizations - the corporation also sponsors a bike racing team, competing on national and international levels. They have also sponsored the 1998 World Junior Track Cycling Championships in Cuba.

The first phase of development targeted for completion by next year includes a full-sized, covered velodrome, an aquatic centre, hockey arena, and hotel. Property will be set aside for associated retail, restaurant and office use. Over a 10

year period, there will be a total of three phases which will include the construction of outdoor sports facilities, athlete housing, a dormitory and a school.

To complement these facilities, the complex will also feature an international food court, a ballroom/convention centre, high-end restaurants and an amphitheater.

As the community learns of Intersports' ambitious plans, the number one question on most people's minds is the choice of location for this project.

Originally, the venture started in 1993 as an idea that needed a location which would draw on a large population, and where there would be enough space to build everything the proponents wanted to build without spending \$200 million. The proposed location across from Kawartha Downs, in Fraserville, fits the bill.

Before buying the land, however, Intersports spoke with the Otonabee Regional Conservation Authority to discuss any concerns the Authority might have with the property. There was a concern regarding one wetland area in the furthest southwest corner of the property. The proponents have already determined it will be left untouched.

The public is welcome to meet all the proponents of Intersports, and ask questions, at a public meeting on March 26 at 7 p.m. at the Orange Hall in Fraserville. ♦

Sparring her way to the top



Barry Larock

By Barry Larock

Nicole Bird is no featherweight when it comes to boxing.

In fact, the middleweight is punching her way to the top following a recent silver medal finish at the Canadian National Boxing Championships in Sudbury.

Bird, a 31-year-old Millbrook resident, lost to the current National Women's Champion Doris Hackell of New Brunswick by a points score of 13-7. Enroute to the gold medal fight, Bird defeated six other boxers, turning a few heads at the competition.

"My goal was to box at Nationals and I am very happy with my performance," noted the 60-kilogram boxer who serves the residents of Lindsay and area as a detective with the Lindsay Police Service.

"At my age, it's difficult to look any further, such as Olympic aspirations, so my goal right now is to make it back to provincials next year and then possibly to Nationals again. I'd like to see what I can do as a 32-year old."

According to Bird, the sport of women's boxing is making huge waves in the United States and the media attention the sport is attracting is phenomenal. She notes there are approximately 300 female fighters in Ontario currently, and the numbers are growing.

"It's really starting to take off," Bird said, who trains at Blue Horizon Boxing Club in Peterborough under the watchful eye of coach Kerry Hendron.

"I'd say about 70 per cent of our boxers at the gym are female. Now, not all of them are active fighters, but the sport is slowly gaining some skilled boxers." One such boxer is Bird's sparring partner and friend, Tanya Robertson of Belleville. Bird notes that if the sport of Women's Boxing should become an Olympic Demonstration Sport, Tanya Robertson would most certainly represent Canada.

"Most experienced boxers have about 10 or more fights under their belt and they're always hungry for more, trying to make a name for themselves," adds Bird. "Tanya, on the other hand, has about 25 fights under her belt to date and there is no doubt in my

mind, as a southpaw, that she'll represent Canada."

With four years of training under her belt, Bird is currently preparing for next season. She will continue to train throughout the summer to maintain physical and cardiovascular condition, but the real fight training begins approximately three months before the Provincial and National Championships.

"What happens then is what we call interval training," explains Bird.

"We work out approximately six days per week

with two hours of technical training in the gym and an interval run, long and short, alternating every day. A boxer has to train this way to be able to peak for 30 seconds of intense punching and blocking, and then a period of rest. For someone who has never boxed before, it may seem a little different, but I assure you, for a boxer, it is absolutely necessary to train the way a real fight takes place."

And so what next after the sport of boxing?

"Seeing that the sport is booming, I think I might consider coaching," added Bird. "I think there's a lot I can offer to women's boxing and I'd be glad to provide assistance to those up and coming in the ring." ♦

30th birthday for Springville Scouts

By Melanie Anderson

1999 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Scouts in the Peterborough area. This year is also the 30th year of Scouting in Springville, and the 25th anniversary of Beavers there.

The Beavers, Cubs, Rovers and Venturers from Springville (there weren't enough kids in the age range for Scouts signed up to have a group of them this year), will be participating in the activities of Peterborough-area Scouting groups celebrating the anniversary this year, as well as their own events.

To mark the 75th anniversary, the Peterborough-area Scouts' Anniversary Committee has planned a number of special events for this year, in addition to the usual activities. An event which has been going on yearly for almost 22 years in the Peterborough area is the Cub Car Rally. In that time period, the rally has been won by the Springville pack a record eight times, and

twice in a row by the same boy from that pack.

A Sing-a-Long was held at Portage Place on February 25, and the Springville Scouting groups were well represented. Starting at 6:30 pm, a large group of boys and girls, Scouts, Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Sprites, and other groups gathered and sang camp songs, led by four or five adults with guitars. The youngsters were sorted by coloured scarves, and had a great time with their friends, even when the singing didn't seem to interest them.

Upcoming events include a display at the Peterborough Centennial Museum, which will be free to the public into May. On display will be examples of the old Scout uniforms, and other Scouting memorabilia. On the weekend of May 1, there will be an "encampment" on Armour Hill. The older groups will be sleeping there overnight, while the younger ones will make it a day trip. All of the Scouting troops will be participating in tree planting activities on May 1. ♦



*Sunday,
April 4th,
1999*

Free Skate with the Easter Bunny

1:00-3:00pm
at the Millbrook Arena

Refreshments and goodies will be served.
Free admission. Everyone welcome.

Sponsored by the Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department.

Millbrook Minor Hockey Stats

(As supplied by the hockey teams, and the Minor Hockey Association.)

Millbrook Mytes

Feb. 1/99 Mytes vs. Keene at Millbrook Millbrook 7, Keene 4
Feb. 7/99 Mytes vs. Norwood at Norwood Millbrook 8, Norwood 6

Millbrook OMHA Stars - Peewee

Jan. 21/99 Stars vs. Bobcaygeon at Millbrook Millbrook 11, Bobcaygeon 0
Jan. 24/99 Stars vs. Omeme at Omeme Millbrook 11, Omeme 0
Jan. 28/99 Stars vs. Bobcaygeon at Bobcaygeon, Millbrook 3, Bobcaygeon 0
Feb. 1/99 Stars vs. Haliburton at Millbrook Millbrook 5, Haliburton 0
Feb. 2/99 Stars vs. Haliburton at Haliburton Millbrook 7, Haliburton 6
Feb. 10/99 Stars vs. Brighton at Brighton Millbrook 2, Brighton 1
Feb. 11/99 Stars vs. Brighton at

Millbrook Millbrook 3, Brighton 2

Millbrook Bobcats - Peewee

Feb. 3/99 Bobcats vs. Mill. Spitfires at Mill. Bobcats 1, Spitfires 4
Feb. 7/99 Bobcats vs. Keene at Keene Bobcats 4, Keene 6
Feb. 8/99 Bobcats vs. Mill. Atom Stars Bobcats 3, Stars 3
Feb. 10/99 Bobcats vs. Keene at Millbrook Bobcats 1, Keene 2
Feb. 15/99 Bobcats vs. Ptbo. St. John's (Ptbo) Bobcats 5, St. John's 4
Mar. 2/99 Bobcats vs. Mill. Gators Bobcats 1, Gators 2

Millbrook Stone Cold Stunners - Peewee

Feb. 5/99 Stunners vs. Douro at Douro Millbrook 4, Douro 1
Feb. 7/99 Stunners vs. Millbrook Chaos Stunners 5, Chaos 4
Feb. 11/99 Stunners vs. Mill. Chaos Stunners 1, Chaos 5
Feb. 25/99 Stunners vs. Mill. Chaos Stunners 4, Chaos 3

Millbrook Novice Stars -

Novice

Jan. 24/99 Stars vs. Woodville at Millbrook Millbrook 2, Woodville 4
Jan. 30/99 Stars vs. Ennismore (exhibition) Millbrook 7, Ennismore 5
Jan. 31/99 Stars vs. Cannington at Millbrook Millbrook 6, Cannington 2
Millbrook Novice #2 - Novice
Feb. 7/99 Novice 2 vs. Apsley at Apsley Millbrook 3, Apsley 2
Feb. 10/99 Novice 2 vs. Apsley at Mill. Millbrook 4, Apsley 4
Millbrook Gators - Peewee
Jan. 31/99 Gators vs. Otonabee at Keene Millbrook 2, Otonabee 0
Feb. 7/99 Gators vs. Mill. Spitfires Gators 1, Spitfires 1
Millbrook Stars - Atom
Jan. 30/99 Stars vs. Newcastle at Newcastle Millbrook 4, Newcastle 5
Feb. 1/99 Stars vs. Haliburton at Millbrook Millbrook 3, Haliburton 1

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ARTS & CULTURE

Maplefest 1999 — Taste the sweetness of spring



Ah, the sweetness of spring.... a tramp in the woods, the warmth of the sun on your face, dreams of blossoms to come, and tapping into the bounty of maple trees.... celebrate the coming season at this year's Maplefest!

Pancake breakfasts, music, craft and art shows, and sugar bush tours are all part of the fun at this year's Maplefest!

By Sue Guthrie

Oh, how sweet it is! Just imagine... fluffy golden pancakes, dripping with butter and maple syrup. Are you drooling yet in anticipation? Deny yourself no longer. Bring the family and enjoy the sweet taste of spring at the 1999 Millbrook Maplefest, Sat. April 10 and Sun. April 11. Activities run from 8 am through 4 pm.

A free shuttle bus service is available to visitors to enable them to enjoy food and entertainment in the village proper and at Kennedy's Sugar Bush (located on County Road #10 just south of Millbrook).

Entertainment for all ages is "on tap" at Kennedy's Sugar Bush throughout the weekend. Admission to the Sugar Bush is \$2.00 a person or \$6.00 for a family.

Live musical entertainment includes the unique musical stylings of "The Messy Fergusons". Tempting culinary treats include "Fritters From Heaven" (Sunday only). There will be taffy pulls, wagon rides and sugar bush tours.

A delicious pancake breakfast will be served at the Lions' Den, located on County Road # 10 and the 7th Line of Cavan, on Saturday and Sunday from 8 am to 2 pm. The cost is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12 years of age. (Try to avoid drooling here — the Lions will be busy enough cooking and serving without having to mop up after pancake fanatics!)

Why not try your luck, and possibly take home a tasty memento of the Maplefest? Maplefest Raffle prizes include sweet rewards: 1st Prize- one gallon of maple syrup, 2nd Prize- 1/2 gallon of maple syrup, 3rd Prize- 1 litre of maple syrup. Tickets are \$1.00 each, available from Millbrook businesses and from members of the Millbrook and District Chamber of Commerce.

The first draw will take place on April 1, with draws for the liquid gold continuing throughout the weekend. Ticket buyers' names will stay in the draw throughout the weekend.

A roundup of other exciting events includes opportunities to listen to

fabulous singing, to shop 'till you drop, reminisce about childhood past and present, and check out heritage quilting, among other things! The Joyful Noise youth choir and the Community Choir will perform at the Legion on Saturday afternoon. A Craft & Flea Market will be held at Millbrook/ South Cavan School on Saturday, April 10 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. A Toy and Doll Show (part of ongoing celebrations of the Millbrook Fair's 150th Anniversary) featuring playthings past and present, will be hosted by the Millbrook Fair Board at the Municipal Offices located in Millbrook.

A Heritage Quilt Show will be featured at the Millbrook Masonic Lodge on Sat. April 10, from 10 am - 6 pm & Sun. 10 am - 4 pm. Admission for this event is \$4 adults, \$1 children over 6 and is sponsored by Karen Reddy and Sabine Sayle of "From My Sewing Basket." Visitors can look forward to viewing a selection of 30 to 50 quilts, including wall hangings, lap quilts and full size quilts. Quilts created by students of the shop will also be on display. The public is invited to view a demonstration of quilt making and try their hand at quilting techniques. Organizers look forward to displaying a large percentage of local older quilts. If any readers out there have any quilts that they would kindly loan for the weekend, please contact Karen or Sabine at the shop: phone: (705) 932-2700, Fax (705) 932-3918, E-

mail evereddy@pet.aura.com.com.

For the sports and fitness minded in your Maplefest party, the Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department will present a demonstration of Taoist Tai Chi on Saturday afternoon at the Old Millbrook School. Judo demonstrations will take place at the Arena on Sunday, as well as dance demonstrations. Or perhaps bowling is more your speed. Take in a game of bowling at the Millbrook Bowling Centre (932-3070).

Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm for only a loonie a game.

Are you a card shark? There's even something for you on Maplefest weekend. The Millbrook Legion is sponsoring an Open Euchre Tournament on Sunday, April 11. Registration is at 12 noon, with play at 1 pm. A light lunch and refreshments will be served, admission is \$5 per person.

For those with an artistic bent, or those who only wish they were great artists, The Millbrook Gallery will celebrate their 4th anniversary with an exhibition of gallery members' work in a wide variety of media. Hours are Saturday 10 am- 5 pm and Sunday 12 pm- 5 pm.

This year's event is the result of the hard work of many dedicated volunteers and sponsored by the Millbrook and District Chamber of Commerce. For more information about activities and events, look for schedules and posters in the village of Millbrook, or clip this page! Volunteers to assist with Maplefest would be appreciated. Please contact the Chamber at 932-7007 if you can help out.

Millbrook Gallery celebrates 4th Anniversary

The Millbrook Gallery turns four this year, and will celebrate its anniversary with a special group exhibition which opens Friday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. The first art exhibition held at this downtown location coincided with the 1995 Maple Fest weekend, and was the brain child of Maple Fest events organizer Jim Gleason. The exhibition was held in the vacated premises of the Yeast of Eden bakery, and was hung by Jo Ellen Brydon of Mount Pleasant. Many of the artists who displayed in that first exhibition went on to form the Millbrook Gallery collective, which officially opened its doors just two months later.

The gallery has seen many changes since those early days. Some of the original group have left and new artists have joined. Renovations and improvements to the space, inside and out have improved the appearance of the building. And throughout the years the gallery has continued to attempt to fulfil its mandate, promoting and raising the profile of the arts in the artists' own community, hosting arts-related events such as readings, book launchings, concerts and film nights, and providing a forum from which the artists may show and sell their work.

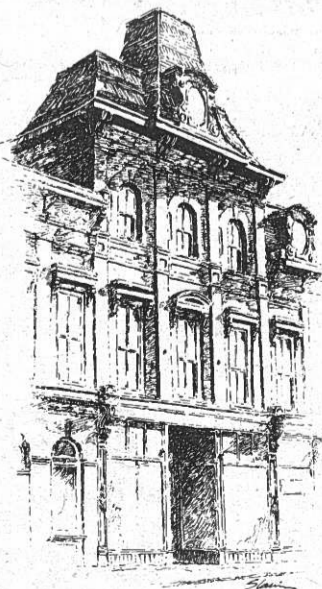
The gallery continues to be financed and operated by the artists themselves.

Support by the community, locally and from a wider geographical area, stays strong, with approximately 3500 people visiting the gallery annually, but new challenges continually arise as the gallery members work to keep their doors open.

And 1999 promises to continue to be an exciting year, with an ambitious schedule of solo and group shows slated throughout the summer and fall.

The Millbrook Gallery invites everyone to come and celebrate with them at the opening of the 4th Anniversary Show, and extends its thanks to all its patrons in the area for their continued and valued support.

The MILLBROOK GALLERY



presents its
Fourth Anniversary Show

The Gallery is turning four, and will celebrate its anniversary with a special group exhibition which continues until Sunday, June 6.

Opening reception
Friday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Hours: Saturday 10-5
Thursday, Friday & Sunday 12-5

19 King Street E., Millbrook, Ontario
(705) 932-5482

MILLBROOK MAPLE FEST

Saturday and Sunday, April 10th and 11th

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
TOURS OF THE KENNEDY SUGAR BUSH
WAGON RIDES AND TAFFY PULL
EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK
PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT THE LIONS DEN,
CTY. RD 10

Parking in downtown Millbrook, free shuttle bus service to all events

Sponsored by
The Millbrook and District
Chamber of Commerce
& Kennedy's Sugar Bush



Community Calendar and Cultural Events Listings

Tear out this page and post!

KEEP THIS CALENDAR ON YOUR FRIDGE OR WALL FOR QUICK REFERENCE TO UPCOMING EVENTS. IF YOU KNOW OF A COMMUNITY EVENT THAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT CALENDAR, PLEASE FAX THE INFORMATION TO (705) 932-4041, OR CALL (705) 932-2175, OR MAIL IT TO THE GAZETTE, 69 KING STREET EAST, MILLBROOK, ONTARIO, L0A 1G0.

Community Events

Easter Ham Supper
At Cavan United Church, Hwy. 7A and Cty. Rd. #10 Sat. Mar. 27, 4 pm.
Enjoy a scrumptious seasonal dinner with neighbours and friends! Adults, \$10; children 6 - 12, \$5. Hosted by Cavan United Church Women.

Low Impact Aerobics, Body Toning & Step Classes
Old Millbrook School Begins Monday March 22-March 27
Contact: Barb 277-3694, Lyn 944-5599 or Lynda 799-6690

"Joyful Noise" Children's Choir
Girls & Boys ages 8-14 are invited to join this choir Practices are Tuesdays at 6:30-7:25 at St. Andrew's United Church, Millbrook For more information contact choir director Nancy Gimblett 939-1954

Pancake Supper
At Springville United Church (Cty. Rd. 28 at Springville) Mar. 20, 5:30 pm start Springville Scouts host this fundraiser, tickets sold in advance. Adults, \$7, children \$3.50, preschoolers free, family rate \$15. For more info, call Libby Todd at 939-2084.

Euchre Tournament
At Millbrook Legion Mar. 21, play begins at 1 pm
For more info, call the Legion at 932-2837.

Skate with the Easter Bunny
At the Millbrook Arena Apr. 4, 1 pm
Skate with the Easter Bunny, and enjoy refresh-

ments and goodies, everyone welcome. Free admission.

Millbrook Maplefest
In the village of Millbrook and at Kennedy's Sugar Bush, Cty. # 10, south of Millbrook Sat./Sun. Apr. 10 and 11 Pancake breakfast, tours of the sugar bush, live entertainment and much more. Free shuttle bus to all Maplefest sites.

Craft and Flea market
At Millbrook/South Cavan School Sat. Apr. 10 from 9 am to 3:30 pm.
Event sponsored by the South Cavan School Council, tables \$15 to rent. For more info, or to book a table, contact Cathy McIntyre at 932-3124 after 6 pm.

Toy and Doll Show
At the Township Office, Millbrook During Maplefest Hosted by the Millbrook Agricultural Society, featuring toys and dolls from past and present.

Music

Give a Hoot Cafe
At the Old Millbrook School Sat. Mar. 27, 8 pm
Greg Keillor of Blue Rodeo is the feature act. Admission \$8, \$4 if you sing in the Hoot

Folk Under The Clock (Market Hall)
The Paperboys (traditional fiddle, accordion, flute, mandolin, banjo) Saturday April 17 8 p.m. Tickets \$16.00 advance, \$18.00 the door, including \$1.00 per seat Market Hall levy Contact: 743-3372 or e-mail: barkermojo@ptboigs.net

Freshwater Trade: Heritage Waterways Music
Sat. Mar. 27 9:30 p.m. \$5 or pay what you can Cosmic Charlie's, Hunter Street, Peterborough

The Cowboy Junkies
Friday March 26 Showplace Peterborough 290 George St., Ptbo. Contact: 742-7469

Peterborough Concert Association "Victoria Scholars Choir"
Saturday March 27 Showplace Contact: 742-7469

John McDermott
Saturday April 17 Showplace Peterborough 290 George St. Contact: 742-7469

Peterborough Jazz Society
Sunday April 18 Showplace Peterborough Contact: 742-7469

Carried Away, Felix & The Swing Cats, Stephanie Bird
Music and Live & Silent Auction for The Learning Disabilities Association of Peterborough Fri. April 16, 7 - 11 p.m. Peterborough Naval Club Tickets: \$20 (include: food, auction, entertainment, \$10 tax receipt per ticket) For Tickets contact: (705) 748-9455

The Best of Barbershop '99
At Bridgenorth United Church Sat. Mar. 20 at 8 pm. Featuring the Liftlock City "Aces of Harmony" Barbershop Chorus. Tickets \$10 at the door. OR At the Capitol Theatre Port Hope

Sat. Mar. 27, at 8 pm. Tickets \$15 from members or at the Box Office. Only pre-show ticket sales.

Hank Williams III
At Millbrook Arena May 29 (NOT 25), 2 pm and 8 pm, matinee/evening show, tickets \$15 advance, \$17.50 door. For more info, call Bill 932-2450.

Dance

Ballet "Romeo & Juliet"
Tuesday March 23 & Wednesday March 24 Showplace Peterborough Contact: 742-7469

Peterborough New Dance
Monday April 5 - Sunday April 11 Market Hall, Peterborough For Information & Tickets: Contact: Bill Kimball 745-1788

Arts

4th Anniversary Show
at the Millbrook Gallery April 9 to June 6 New work by Gallery artists. For more information phone 932-5482.

Workshops

Map Compass Reading Workshop
Sunday March 28 Canadian Canoe Museum 910 Monaghan Rd., Ptbo. For workshop prices & to register call 748-9153.

Craft

One of a Kind Market
At Knox United Church, Reid and Wolfe Sts., Ptbo. Sat. Mar. 20, 11 am - 4 pm. Featuring used items, clothing, baking, crafts, books, health and skin care products and much more. Food donations accepted for Peterborough Food Share. Admission free. Call 749-3910 for more info.

Film

Forward Into The Past
A four part film series from the Dan Fewings Archives At the Millbrook Gallery Fri. Mar. 19, April 16, May 21 7:30 p.m. 932-5482

Trent Film Society Series
Friday March 19 **Dr. Strangelove** Sunday March 21 **2001: A Space Odyssey** Friday March 26

On-Going Events

Regular Council Meeting First Monday of each month at 7:30p.m.

Millbrook Playschool Every Tues. and Thurs. (except third Tues.) at Millbrook Christian Assembly, call Wilma at 932-5547 for more info.

New to You Used clothing on sale at the Millbrook Community Care office, Mon-Fri 11 am-noon, Sat 10 am-noon.

Shuffleboard Every Thurs. at the arena, 1:30 pm.

Bingo Every Thurs. at the Legion at 7:45 pm.

Baillieboro Library Boutique Tues noon-3:00 pm, Sat 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Proceeds to the Baillieboro Library.

Municipal Planning Mtg. Second Mon. of the month, at 7 pm

Creative Card Making Every Mon. at the Community Care Office from 9:30-11:30 am

Bridge Every Mon. at the Millbrook Legion at 1 pm

Millbrook and District Food Share at the Old Millbrook School, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Tues., 3 pm-6 pm.

Cavan Nursery School Tues., Wed. 9 to noon at Cavan Community Centre. Info:Christina Shantz

Euchre Every Wednesday at the Legion at 1:30 pm

Millbrook Green Exchange Every second Sat. at the Municipal yard in Millbrook. Take or give

what you like for a loonie.

Committee of Whole Council Meeting Third Monday of each month at 7:30p.m.

MADCAP Millbrook - Mon. to Thurs. 12am to 8pm, Fri. & Sat. 10am to 5pm Mt. Pleasant - library hrs.

Millbrook Cavan-Historical Society Every third Wed. at St. Thomas Anglican Church Hall, Millbrook.

Public Skating Mon., Sun. 3:30 - 4:20 pm, at Millbrook Arena

Seniors' Skating Mon. and Tues. 1 - 3 pm, at Millbrook Arena

Seniors' Puck and Stick Mon., 10 am - noon, at Millbrook Arena

Joyful Noise Junior Choir Tues., 6:30 pm, at St. Andrew's United Church, Millbrook

Kids in the Hall Youth Group Fri., 7 - 10 pm, at the Cavan Hall. Ages 15 and under, \$1 per participant plus a donation to Foodshare. For more information, call 944-5414 or 277-1269

Parents'/Preschooler Skating Fri., 10 am - noon, at Millbrook Arena

Ladies' Hockey Fri., 1 - 2 pm, at Millbrook Arena

Fraserville LOL Dance Second Sat. monthly, 9 pm. Featuring Harold Davidson Country. Admission \$6, bring a lunch. For more information, call Roy Best at 799 - 6482.

Monday April 19 1999
Trent Cinema, Ptbo
Tickets \$8
Call Centennial Museum 743-5180

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Consultants wanted! Earn your kit free. Free training. Great gifts earned. For half-hour, no obligation interview, call Lynn (705) 944-5428 from Explosive Sales, authorized Tupperware Distributor.



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FINANCIAL PLANNING

Planning Retirement

By Bob MacLeod

How much money will I need to retire? This is a question I hear a lot, especially these days when the baby boomers are starting to get serious about retirement and the future of government positions, and even company pensions, is being questioned more than ever before. Surveys have consistently shown that people underestimate the amount of savings they will need to retire comfortably.

Determining how much you need to retire, and how best to accomplish this, are the key elements in the retirement planning process. The retirement plan must be tailored to each individual, because each will have unique retirement goals and objectives. But it is still useful to illustrate the process with some basic facts about the amount of money needed.

Let's consider an individual aged 60 who can expect to live until age 85. If, for simplicity, we assume that estate values are not important, how much money would he/she need to produce \$10,000 of annual, before tax income for life? We can easily compute this, but need to make one more assumption. What rate of return will his savings earn while he's retired? Let's assume he invests his savings at 5%. He would need to have saved about \$148,000. If he needed \$20,000 per year, he would need twice this much or about \$296,000; for \$30,000 of income, he needs almost \$450,000 in savings. How much he actually needs depends on whether he has a private pension, CPP and OAS, and his desired lifestyle, but for most people seeking a comfortable retirement

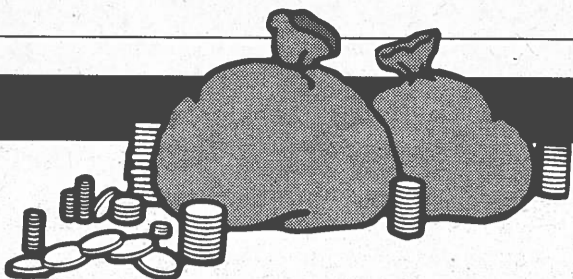
income, the savings required are considerable.

But there are other things to take into account. The above figure does not include any increase in annual income for inflation. This is important. Not many will be happy living on a fixed income for 25 years. We can build in a 3% annual increase in income to compensate for inflation. This increases the total savings needed to \$198,000 for every \$10,000 of income. Inflation protection is expensive.

The amount required can be reduced by delaying retirement. But besides this, the biggest single factor you control is the rate of investment return. Keeping your money working after you have retired is very powerful, and for many people, could represent the difference between retiring comfortably, and just retiring. In our example, if money earns 7.5%, the total savings required drops to \$119,000, at 10% it falls to \$99,500 per \$10,000 of annual income. Even a small increase in return is significant.

There are a lot of numbers, and assumptions to consider. But the key message isn't complicated. A comfortable retirement requires a substantial amount of savings, and it is important how these savings are invested. It is also very useful having a personal retirement plan. This applies equally to those just retired, and to those not retiring for many years. The plan helps you clarify your objectives and tells you what to do to achieve them. ♣

Bob MacLeod is President of Money Concepts Peterborough, 223 King St., Peterborough, Ont. K9J 2R8, (705) 876-6086, fax (705) 876-7882, email rmacleod@nexicom.net. All information in this article is taken from sources we believe to be reliable, but cannot be guaranteed. Opinions are those of the author. Affiliated with Money Concepts Group Capital Corp. and NFMS Insurance Inc.



Behind every cloud, there's a silver lining!

By Rick Teather

It may have been the worst day of your life. A couple of years ago, your boss said the company was downsizing, and that you would be receiving your "package". Not only would you not have a paycheck - your pension was gone too. The only positive thing was that the company would be giving you money from your pension to put into something called a "locked-in RRSP".

Well, there's more good news. Every year, because you belonged to a pension plan, the amount of money you could put into an RRSP was reduced by something called a "pension adjustment". This figure represents the amount of money "contributed" by your employer to the pension plan on your behalf. If you belonged to a "defined contribution" plan, ie. a pension plan where you knew how much you and your employer were supposed to contribute annually, this

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figure was the actual amount of money contributed by you and the company. However, if you belonged to a "defined benefit" plan, ie. you didn't know how much the company was contributing, but knew how much you'd get when you retired, this figure could be completely out of line with the amount you actually received when you received the commuted value of your pension. This is because of the way PA figures are calculated in a defined benefit pension plan.

To even out the difference, the federal government has asked pension administrators to calculate PARs, "Pension Adjustment Reversals", for affected individuals. The bottom line? If you left your job in 1996

(and received your pension's commuted value in 1997), or left in 1997 or 1998, you may be eligible for a PAR. The plan administrator has until March 31, 1999 to calculate and inform you of your pension adjustment reversal, or face some heavy penalties.

So what does this have to do with RRSPs? As mentioned, the PA reduces available RRSP contribution room. Conversely, the PAR increases the amount of money you can contribute to your RRSP, and will be allowed to be carried forward as any RRSP room would be. Here's the best part - if you are notified that you are eligible for a pension adjustment reversal, you have until April 30 of this year to contribute to your RRSP and have it applied against last year's income! This is a once in a lifetime deal, and offers a substantial difference on this year's tax return. Remember that your taxes have to be filed by April 30 as well, so the time window on this is pretty narrow.

If you get a PAR, call your financial advisor to go over short and long-term plans.

Just don't let this go by without looking at all your options! ♣

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