

# THE GREEN HILLS Gazette

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CELEBRATING LIFE IN CAVAN, MILLBROOK AND NORTH MONAGHAN

## Council impasse after resignation

By Michele Curran

North Monaghan councillor Gerry Downer has left his seat on Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan council as of November 1.

Reading from a prepared statement, the North Monaghan Ward councillor said his departure is due to health problems and the recent sale of his home.

Reeve Neal Cathcart asked Downer why he didn't just resign. "I didn't consider it a resignation," replied Downer, but more of a disqualification, since he would be no longer living in the area he was elected to serve. "I would have liked to have continued in office, but there is no gray area (according to the Municipal Affairs Act, for living outside of the electoral area). If I resigned, the public would have thought I had quit — I am not quitting. I would have preferred this had not happened, but I had no choice."

Councillor Brian Fallis thanked Downer for his efforts, and was sorry to see him go. Deputy-Reeve Brian Squirrell said he was concerned about Downer's health. Councillor Alex Ruth approved of Downer's

decision, stating it was an honourable thing to do. Fallis said later, "I have a lot of respect for Gerry. He is a very fair-minded individual, who thought about things before making a decision. He took everyone's interests into account. He was a real addition to Council." Squirrell added, "He's a loyal councillor and has real dedication to the people. He can't be swayed, because he makes his decisions based on what he believes."

The ramifications of Downer's departure quickly became apparent that same night, following a closed session. Councillor Fallis put forward a motion to direct solicitor Russell Christie to draw up a licensing by-law on motor vehicle racing within the boundaries of the municipality, as well as a noise by-law.

The Reeve queried Fallis, wondering why the councillor had requested Mr. Christie for the legal work, as a previous motion had municipal solicitor Robert Pakenham drawing up the by-laws. Fallis replied, "I don't have faith in Pakenham regarding his guidance as a solicitor for Kawartha Downs." He also

said Christie would have better objectivity regarding noise at Kawartha Downs and Peterborough Speedway than the current solicitor.

Deputy-Reeve Squirrell said, "Pakenham never told us he had been a solicitor for Kim Wallace (owner of Peterborough Speedway)." Fallis said, "This would be a conflict of interest." Councillor Tom Jones reasserted there was already a motion in place which has Pakenham dealing with licensing and noise.

Fallis asked that the previous motion involving the lawyer be rescinded. His motion was defeated in a recorded vote of 4-2. Pakenham will continue to draw up the licensing and noise by-laws.

Squirrell, who was obviously agitated by the outcome, said, "This is a lame duck council. Our hands are tied, because if motions are split 3-3, the motion is then thrown out."

Both Squirrell and Fallis said they would be contacting the Upper Law Society of Canada regarding Pakenham's possible conflict of interest. ♣

**Gerry Downer Interview**  
page 6

## Don't miss the gala of the year!

There's only a couple of days left to get in on the event of the year!

The Old Millbrook School Family Centre's Starlight Dreams Gala Dinner and Auction is set for this Saturday, November 20th, at the Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan Community Centre (Millbrook Arena). The festivities begin at 5:30 pm, with cocktails, live entertainment and review of auction items, followed by a buffet dinner and a silent and live auction.

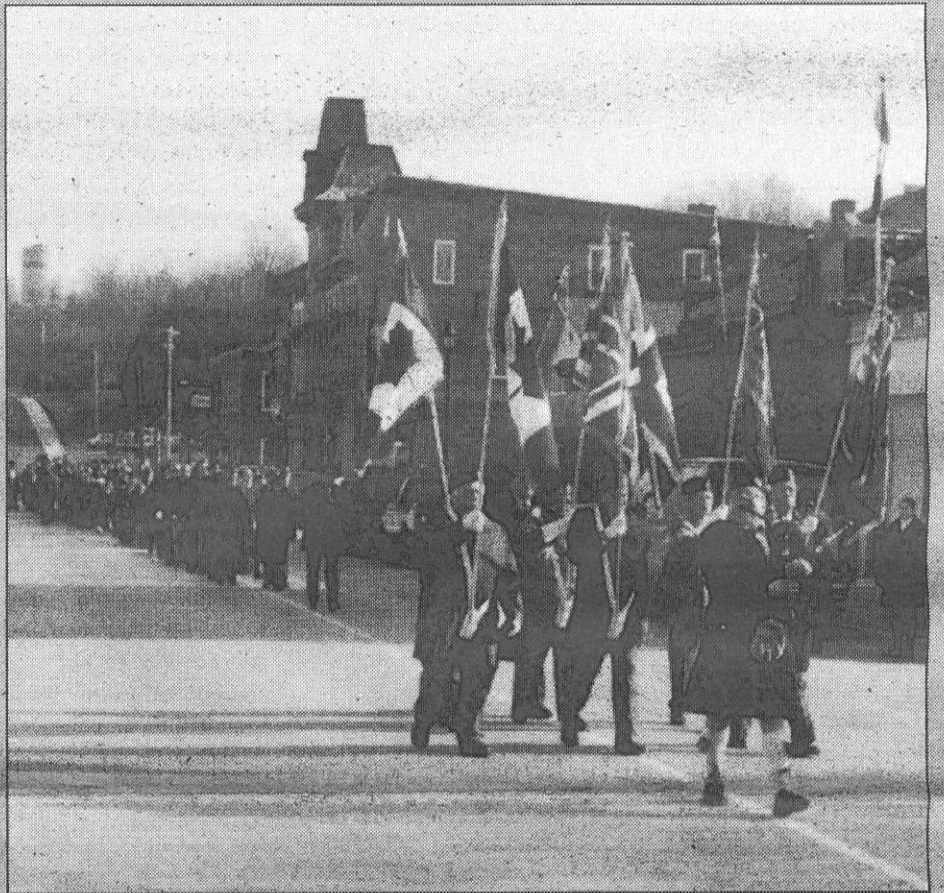
Over three hundred items have been donated to the fundraiser for auction, including autographed hockey sticks, Christmas decorations, golf passes, limited edition plates, firewood, radio and print advertising, Peterborough Singers tickets, oil changes and service, buffet dinners, garden decorations, a millennium coin collection, a romantic getaway, toys and more.

Tickets for the gala, as well as for a raffle for a \$1000 prize, can be reserved by calling Angela (944-5789) or OMSFC (932-7088).

All funds raised will go toward the renovation of space at the Old Millbrook School for a family centre, where children and their families will benefit from a wide range of programmes and activities. Sometime early in December, the OMSFC will launch the next part of their fundraising campaign, a "Buy a Brick" campaign. According to spokesperson Angela Penello, businesses, groups and individuals will be encouraged to purchase a brick (or more!), to generate needed funds for the development of the centre. Stay tuned for the launch date of this exciting campaign!

Donations are always gratefully accepted, and will go a long way in "raising the temperature" on the OMSFC thermometer at centre ice at the Millbrook Arena. For more information on the gala/auction, raffle tickets, and upcoming fundraising initiatives or more about the Centre, call 932-7088.

## REMEMBERING OUR WARRIORS



We remember: on November 11, members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 402 and the community paid their respects to men and women who fell in defence of our current freedoms.

## Kawartha Downs gets green light from MOE

By Michele Curran

Kawartha Downs will be able to race motor vehicles legally, as the province has recently endorsed exemptions to noise pollution regulations.

On October 21, the Approvals Exempting Regulation (AER) of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) was passed by the provincial government. The AER exempts race tracks and similar activities from the provisions of the Section 9 of the EPA.

The downloading of Section 9 of the EPA (which pertains to the regulation of noise pollution) onto the municipality indicates the provincial government feels noise is a local issue, and better dealt with at that level.

It also means that Kawartha Downs, or the other local race track, Peterborough Speedway, does not require Section 9

approval to race motor vehicles legally.

According to Ministry of the Environment (MOE) District Manager Bruce Hancock, official posting of the AER on the Bill of Rights Registry was during the week of November 8. At the same time, notice of the new regulation would have been sent to the municipality, as well as area residents who commented on the proposal. When contacted a week later, MPP Gary Stewart was unable to provide confirmation that the AER had passed.

While the noise issue at Kawartha Downs may have been settled, at least from the Ministry of the Environment's perspective, the agency is still investigating the use of paper sludge at the race track. "The utilization of waste paper sludge has not been completely addressed and is still under investigation,"

Hancock said. "The MOE will be seeking expert advice as to whether or not paper sludge is an appropriate use of application for under the race track," he added. ♣

## INSIDE

### Intersports bogged down

Page 2

### Police presence increased

Page 3

### Xmas gift guide

Page 12

# Intersports bogged down by utilities

By Michele Curran

The proposed development of a multi-million dollar sport complex in Fraserville has been delayed, due to concerns about water and sewage services at the site.

The municipal official plan cannot be amended for the Intersports development without the consent of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). The ministry is delaying its approval until sewage and water concerns raised by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) are addressed.

Intersports sent their proposal to the MMAH for review, and in keeping with standard procedure, the ministry sent copies to all government agencies for additional comments. Ministries such as the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and the Ministry of Natural Resources reviewed the proposal and made recommendations, based on information provided by the MMAH. Following

...the [Ministry of the Environment] has determined Intersports has yet to adequately address issues of water and sewage.

review of the hydrogeological study included in the Intersports proposal, the MOE has determined Intersports has yet to adequately address issues of water and sewage.

Concerns arising from the report have to do with the quality and quantity of water, and whether or not the transportation of waste water off-site was an acceptable means of waste water management. Until these issues are dealt with satisfactorily, the MOE will not be giving its stamp of approval to the MMAH.

Jeff Walker, one of the partners of Intersports, initially had no comment. Walker did say the company's engineers, contracted

from the firm Marshall, Macklin and Monaghan, looked after these concerns. He added he didn't feel these concerns were newsworthy, as most developments in the early stages of planning have to go through a similar process, where commenting bodies will make suggestions or ask for further clarification.

The City of Peterborough also added their name to the list of agencies who have questions about the feasibility of the development. The City generally supports the proposed application, but has said its approval is conditional upon completion of a life safety study (in accordance with the Ontario Fire Code) for both phases of the project. The City also wants additional information on the water servicing strategy, including clearance from the Peterborough Utilities Commission (if, in fact, the water treatment plant plays a role in the ultimate servicing solution). As currently written, the City's Official Plan prohibits the extension of municipal services beyond its boundaries.

Intersports will have to address these agencies' concerns before any amendment to the Official Plan will be approved by MMAH. ♣

# Residents opposed to Cavan "hovels"

By Michele Curran

There goes the neighbourhood' is the view of some Cavan residents, who feel a proposed conversion of a barn into a dwelling is an inappropriate use.

The barn in question belongs to Cavan resident Sue Taylor, who over a year ago approached the Planning Committee to consider her proposal. At a November 8 public meeting, the Planning Committee heard comments regarding a proposed zoning by-law amendment which would allow Taylor to convert her barn into a single dwelling.

One of the residents opposing the zoning amendment was Ray Challice. "I am totally opposed to any chicken barn or barn being used as a residence in Cavan [Ward]. It should not even be considered. It is detrimental to the (future) widening of the road." However, Challice had no objections to the barn being torn down, and a dwelling built away from the road. He also expressed concern regarding "the calibre of people" who might move to the community. "What once was the green and pleasant land of Cavan will become the hovels of Cavan," added Challice.

Jim Seymour was also opposed to the conversion, because he felt it would set a precedent for similar conversions in the area. He also shared Challice's concerns regarding the proximity of the building to the road.

Rick Wilson, another opponent, said he too had concerns regarding the location of the barn — especially in winter time, when he has seen cars become stuck, and sliding into the ditch. He also suggested the structure of the building be looked into very carefully before approval of a building permit.

None of the residents present spoke in favour of the proposed by-law amendment. Councillor Brian Fallis moved to adopt the by-law, but there was no second, and the motion was lost. Fallis reminded Council the County had approved the application, and that the application conformed to the official plan. Township planner Karen Ellis agreed the official plan does permit the conversion of the barn, and the amendment put forth does conform. She added, if the motion is defeated, "This may put

(council) in a difficult position with the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)."

Reeve Neal Cathcart objected to passing the amendment, because setback requirements (which are part of the zoning by-law) were not met. Ms. Taylor then addressed the meeting, and said renovations to the barn would primarily affect the back end of the structure, and that the front part nearest to the road would be torn down, allowing the setback to increase from 5 to 35 feet.

Addressing Ms. Taylor's comments, Councillor Alex Ruth said, "We can't make a decision based on hearsay." Chairperson Deputy Reeve

Brian Squirrell said, "We are going to go to the OMB. This lady has done everything we have asked her to do. It is your call. If we go to the OMB, it will cost us money."

In a recorded vote of 3-2, the motion was deferred. Councillor Tom Jones said he wanted more time to review the matter, and to find out if township legal counsel would have won at the OMB.

Following the motion, Taylor said, "At no time, except for Squirrell, did anyone ask me about my plans to renovate the barn." She said the barn had not been set foot in since last fall, and she has had to deal with rumors suggesting unauthorized work was being done to the barn, and that someone was living there. Apparently, both the building inspector and the fire chief paid her a visit, and found nothing. Sending the building inspector out again is tantamount to harassment, Taylor asserted, and she may seek legal counsel. ♣

## NOTICE

Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan  
Official Plan and Zoning By-law Update

### Invitation

**Public Information Session  
November 30, 1999 at 6:30pm  
Municipal Offices, Millbrook**

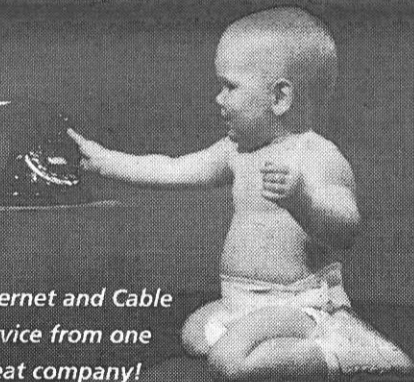
Members of the public are invited to attend a Public Information Session to be held on November 30th, from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Municipal Offices to learn about the update program and provide their comments on the future of the municipality and issues to be addressed in this program.

For additional information, please contact:

Gail Empey, C.A.O. 705-932-2929  
Bob Clark, Consultant Team 1-888-852-5619

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# Increased police presence in Millbrook

By Michele Curran

With the recent rash of store breaks-in and acts of vandalism, residents of Millbrook are concerned about the safety of individuals, homes and businesses.

Shelly Manley, president of the Business Improvement Association, is concerned about what she feels is a lack of policing in the Village. She said some business owners believe the criminals have become more daring because they know the police station is gone. (The OPP's head office is now located in Orillia.) The business community also believes it is an outside element causing most of the trouble, rather than someone from the area.

One local resident wondered aloud, "Once you catch a thief, how do you detain him while waiting for the police to get here?" She added, "Some women in the area are frightened to come downtown in the evening, because of the kids who roam the streets. It isn't that the kids are necessarily violent, but they are rude."

The woman scoffs when it is suggested that teens living in the village have nothing to do. "I lived here all my life, and there never was anything to do, but you did find something to do. There is more money spent today on youth activities than there was in the past. The parents should take some responsibility, and be more aware of what their children are doing out at night."

Answering concerns of councillors at the November 1 Council Meeting, Senior Constable Jeff Lavallee of the Ontario Provincial Police force gave assurances there has been an increase

in foot patrols, with special attention on weekends. He also provided crime statistics for both the Municipality and the Village of Millbrook. The statistics for the Municipality, spanning a nine month period from January to the end of September, indicate there were 39 reported incidents of break and enter. There were eight break and enter incidents in Millbrook alone, from June to October. Unfortunately, the statistics are slightly skewed, as an attempted break and enter is recorded in the same way as an actual break and enter.

After Lavallee's presentation, Councillor Brian Fallis commented the police have responded well to community concerns. However, he suggested a meeting should be planned between business owners, concerned citizens and the police to discuss recent break-ins. Fallis also felt some of the crime may be attributed to "youth issues". Reeve Neal Cathcart expressed his sympathy for the youth, saying there is nothing for them to do. Lavallee said the community center has public skating from 9 to 11 pm Friday nights, which may provide a diversion for some village youth.

In an interview following our last issue, Constable James Searle, media relations officer for Kawartha OPP attributed the increased criminal activity in the village to a couple of criminals, and vandalism to disaffected youth. He related that these crime waves are often the result of one or two criminals who have moved into an area. As for an increase in minor vandalism, much of it is carried out by disaffected youth,

Searle said, adding they usually get caught and/or grow out of their destructive impulses.

According to Searle, Kawartha OPP have increased police presence within Millbrook and surrounding area, and resources have been redirected from other townships in the Kawarthas. Crime throughout Peterborough County, other than in Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan, has been in decline recently.

However, if the increase in criminal activity is not contained and dealt with in this municipality, Searle said the criminals may move to another area after a while. Residents can help by reporting any evidence, suspicious activity, or sightings to the police. No matter how insignificant the information may seem, it is often the smallest pieces of information that lead to an arrest.

Residents and local businesses can protect themselves by taking a few precautions. To secure residences, be sure to keep the garage or shed locked, so criminals can't get tools to break in. Secure the basement and ground level windows. Use curtains on basement and garage windows, to prevent would-be thieves from "shopping for goods". Timers on radios and lights will help give the impression someone is home. Get adequate home and contents insurance.

Businesses can lower the risk of criminal activity by greeting or assisting each customer as they come into the store — a robber will not want to be identified. Maintain adequate lighting inside and outside of the shop. Have all side and service doors locked at all times. Keep float levels to a minimum. Make bank deposits at regular intervals, but vary the times, to avoid setting a pattern a criminal could follow.

More detailed advice and literature can be obtained from Kawartha O.P.P. by phoning 742-0401.

# Council defers downsizing

By Michele Curran

A move to reduce the number of councillors on Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan Council has been deferred, pending more public input and discussion.

Only three people attended a public meeting at Council Chambers Nov. 1 to discuss the proposed reduction from seven to five council members.

In September, Reeve Neal Cathcart asked Council to consider a motion to reduce the size of

future councils. "Under Section 29 of the Municipal Act, Council may pass a by-law changing the number of its elected members. The head of Council shall be elected by general vote, and the other members may be elected by general vote, by ward or by a combination of the two," said Cathcart.

The proposed by-law would see the deletion of the two Councillor-at-Large positions in the next election. The Reeve opened up the floor for public comment, but none was forthcoming. He then asked for Council's input.

Deputy-Reeve Brian Squirrel said he doesn't have a problem with the reduction if it saves ratepayers' money. Councillor Dean Cutmore agreed, but would like to keep the ward system so each area is fairly represented. Councillor Brian Fallis said he didn't think the savings would be

substantial. However, he would like to have more public input, and possibly present some alternatives to residents by way of a referendum or on the ballot at election time.

Councillor Alex Ruth said ratepayers who spoke to him are split 50-50 regarding the change, and added he didn't think the ward system should be changed. Economically, he agreed it would be a good idea, as the rest of Peterborough County is going to five-member councils. Cathcart said he would like to see the Council reduced by five, and Councillor Tom Jones said he didn't support the motion. Council then decided to defer the motion.

In order for the by-law to in effect for the 2000 election, Council must make a decision prior to December 31.



COSMIC COMICS

## Gemini for a day

This month's topic is full moons. I know, I know, you're probably sick of hearing about Monica Lewinsky's thong underwear, but wait, that's not the full moon to which I refer. I am talking about that beautiful monthly phenomenon with the dubious reputation.

Dubious, of course, because the legend of werewolves is associated with this event, and also because madness is linked to the moon. (As most people know, the origin of the word 'lunatic' is the french word for moon 'la lune'.) But regardless of reputation, we are exposed to this celestial happening every twenty eight days or so

without any major problems and/or facial hair. So one might wonder, really what is the deal with the full moon?

In astrological thinking, the moon is symbolic of our emotions and moods. When we talk about a full moon, we talk about a prevailing attitude or public energy. In general, astrologers believe that people get 'charged up' emotionally during the full moon. We think we are right, and if you want to check into it yourself, talk to anyone who works with the public and ask them for their opinion on the matter. (Make sure you query hospital staff, teachers and customer service representatives of all kinds, and if you feel so inclined, wear garlic around your neck as you do so.)

In addition to this, astrologers also believe that the sign the Moon is in at the time it is full, gives us a clue as to the manner in which the public will respond. For example, a

full moon in Cancer will bring out the emotional side in people, as well as cause them to hang on to their money. A full moon in Taurus gets everybody's head out of the clouds, but also contributes to stubbornness, and so it goes.

This month's full moon occurs in the small hours of the 23rd, in the sign of Gemini. (The sign of the full moon is always opposite to the sun sign for that date. November 23rd is Sagittarius, and its opposite sign is Gemini.) So on that day, we can expect people to be far more sociable and talkative than usual. You might receive more phone calls and e-mails, and it is probable that you (like a Gemini) will not want to concentrate on any task for very long that day.

Play around with the energy a little bit and see what happens. Leave more time in your routine for the unexpected, and that way even if a werewolf drops in for a chat, it won't throw your schedule.

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Tyrone United Church & Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee of Clarington presents

# A Yuletide Tour Of Tyrone Country Homes

Tyrone, a picturesque village, located 15 minutes southwest of Millbrook, invites you to celebrate the flavour of Christmas Past and to share in its' rural heritage. Homemade Holiday Fare, Live Music and Traditional Decorations are some of the touches that make this tour unique.

**Sunday November 28th, 1999**  
**11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Tickets \$12.00. For further information contact Janie Dodds 1-905-983-5926  
Tickets available at The Book Studio 20 King St. W. Bowmarville; Newcastle House, 210 King St. W. Newcastle; Archibald Orchards & Winery, 6275 Liberty St. N. Tyrone; Lukes Country Store, 29 Simcoe St., Oshawa and 207 Queen St., Port Perry; Mardi's Flowers, 106 Byron St. S. Whitby.

**Tickets are limited, so reserve early!**

**EDITORIAL**

**Don't let the Grinch steal your Christmas**

**H**ow many of you are totally dreading Christmas this year? I bet many of you have your hands raised, at least in spirit.

How is it that we have come to be so stressed about what, at its origin, is a religious holiday, and in a more secular sense, a time to share with family and friends and enjoy each other's company? Somehow we have perverted the notion of Christmas into a contest to prove our love by buying the biggest, most expensive gifts.

And yet, as I write this, I am aware of how much retailers rely on this season to make their money. After all, we all have to make a living, and this is the season that makes or breaks many businesses, small and large. Therefore, to disparage the efforts of retailers to improve their bottom line is also inappropriate.

There's really no point in kvetching about the decorations that have "magically" appeared, along with the cheesy Christmas carols in stores. I would be a hypocrite if I complained about the new stock in the clothing stores, having recently indulged in a beautiful taffeta skirt (I have big hopes for a glamorous New Year, but still haven't any idea what I'll be doing then!).

And yet, I am disturbed, year after year, about the needless stress we put ourselves through. Remember the old adage, "It's the thought that counts"? Well, it's really true, if you allow yourself some peace and quiet to think about it. We are one of the few countries in the world where people go into significant debt to buy presents no one really needs anyway. We have lost our way, having commercialized most of the holidays where families gather and share their love and caring.

This year, I have made a commitment to buy as much as possible from local businesses. These are our neighbours and friends, and if my money is going to go anywhere, it will be to these entrepreneurs, craftspeople, non-profit groups and churches (bazaars!), all right here in the municipality. There may be a few items I need to brave a mall for; specific things that family members have requested. However, I imagine this stress will be mitigated by having strolled through local shops and visited with friends at bazaars.

Beyond that, I am thinking about what kind of toys I will buy for the Millbrook and District Food Share Christmas Hamper Drive, and will pick up a bag of groceries to contribute to the cause. I think we are sticking to our usual tradition — swapping names, buying only one meaningful present for the sibling in question, and then sharing a wonderful meal.

The more I have opportunity to see how others "do" Christmas globally, the more this approach makes sense, given our cultural approach to Christmas and the consumer trap. Enjoy this coming season, take time out to ponder what's really meaningful, buy thoughtfully (AND LOCALLY!! where possible), and consider others beyond our own families — who might not be able to even consider this ethical dilemma. ♣



**Old School a victory for citizen action**

**To the Editor,**

Your interesting editorial of September 16 is another of your reminiscences which I have clipped for local history records because personal recollections are always of interest and often of value.

In retrospect, the preservation of Millbrook Old School was an undertaking of awesome proportions. When the School was closed (and there is an interesting tale of how that happened), it was sold to the Peterborough Board of Education for the princely sum of \$1.00 which, in its collective wisdom, decided to put both the building and the several acres of land on which it stands on the market. It was local resident Fran Fearnley who spearheaded the drive to buy back the School from the Board whose asking price was \$40,000. It was Fran who attracted like-minded citizens to form the Committee informally known as the Friends of the Old School, who sought out grant sources, tirelessly attended meetings in Toronto and Ottawa and carried through the detailed and time-consuming business of preparing grant applications.

Shortly after I moved to Millbrook some 15 years ago, I was invited to sit on that Committee; among the members I recall were Bob and Janice Deacon, Janet Honsberger and Tom Quinn, David Jackson, Bruce and Lyn Lepper and the indefatigable Harry Williams. (That same Harry Williams who, until very recently when ill-health

prevented it, went every morning and back every evening to raise and lower the flag). I believe that Dorothy Stevens and the late Kay Dalgleish were also members of the Committee.

That same band of dedicated citizens (and note that with the exception of Dorothy and Kay) were all 'from away' managed to raise funds to re-roof the building, to get all the hardwood floors and stairs sanded and cleaned and the interior painted. This latter project was made possible through the then-existent policy of the Millbrook Correctional Centre to permit prisoners under supervision to do such work within the Village.

The Committee rented out space for commercial and recreational purposes. From the commercial aspect, photographer Wayne Eardley is a long-time supporter of the Old School by continuing to have his studios in the building. Millbrook would have been hard pressed to have recreational facilities available for classes in aerobics, fitness, judo, Taoist Tai Chi and ballet had the Old School not been available during those years. Community Care had its first offices there and the building was designated by MACAC. There will be other names, other activities which I have unintentionally omitted.

In the fullness of time grants dried up and the Committee, individually and collectively, began 'to weary in well-doing'. In the early nineties, as a Village Councillor, I persuaded Council to take over the building and adjacent property in which more than one developer had expressed serious interest. Council at that time had no budget for the building but during my term as Reeve we

had the parking lot paved when all the Village streets were done and work was undertaken to improve drainage from and around the building together with on-going maintenance as required but serious improvements were beyond our financial capabilities.

A glance at the Fall and Winter Leisure Guide reveals that one quarter of all Village-located events which it lists are held in the Millbrook Old School. You are quite right to express thanks to those responsible for the School's preservation; through shortsightedness the Village lost the beautiful old railway station but happily, thanks to a mere handful of dedicated citizens, history was not allowed to be repeated where the Old School was concerned. I deem it right and proper that where individual names are known, they should be publicly recorded.

— *Mary F. Sutherland Millbrook*

**Reeve & Councillor warned**

**To the Editor,**

As reported in this paper on August 19, 1999, regarding the derogatory comments made by Councillor [Alex] Ruth, I must report the verbal abuse is still continuing.

As one of the people from the ratepayers' group, I seem to be a thorn in the side of Councillor Ruth. At the

October 4 council meeting for Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan, it was a situation of verbal diarrhea again from Alex Ruth, with yet another sarcastic remark made.

These remarks are rude and inappropriate, and contravene any appropriate standards of behaviour expected from a public official. Councillor Tom Jones offered to bring me a sponge brick at the next meeting, and Councillors Gerry Downer and Brian Fallis asked Ruth to be quiet.

This behaviour is surely a poor example being set by a member of the Ida church, and as an elected representative (not by my vote) for Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan.

Yes, I will continue to attend council meetings, and if Alex Ruth is feeling uncomfortable with my attendance, so be it. He seems to forget that we, the ratepayers, are his boss. I have also sent a letter to Council, and informed them that I will take control of the situation if I see the Reeve encouraging this behaviour in Council Chambers again. I will have Councillor Ruth charged with harassment in Council chambers. I make this plain — this is not a warning, this is a promise!

Seeing and hearing Council members check Councillor Ruth recently about his inappropriate behaviour certainly highlighted the Reeve's inability to keep order, whether it be in a meeting or during a coffee break in Council chambers.

— *Pauline Plumbe Cavan*

**NEXT DEADLINE**

**Deadlines for the December 9 issue:**

Monday, Nov. 29 — advertising deadline

Monday, Nov. 22 — editorial copy deadline

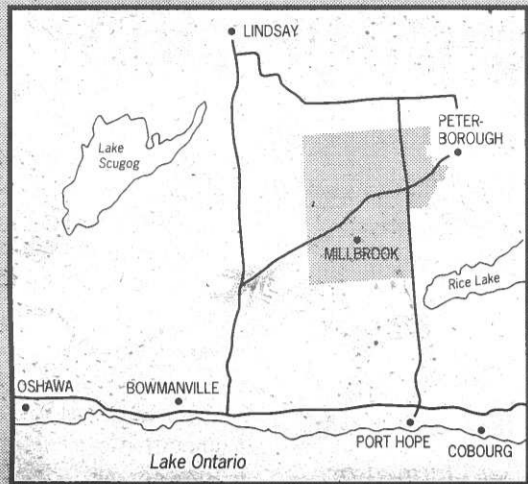
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**Copy Editor:** Louise Luchuk  
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## School days

By Margaret Monis

I'm pushing 40, and yet here I am back at university, rubbing shoulders with people born the year I graduated from high school. There are advantages to returning to school at my advanced age, mainly as I am more mature and balanced than many of my younger classmates. While they are running around, sweating every little detail of their assignments, I can't help but look at all their frantic activity and ask myself, "Why bother?" I'm not worn out or cynical, it's just that I've learned from experience that panicking never helped anything. The wisest course of action is to thoughtfully allocate your time, do the best job you can, and then once you've handed your paper in, let it go.

But I don't mean to give the impression that I am above this whole experience. While it's true that I'm not being academically challenged by my classes, I am finding the social aspects of campus life to be quite difficult. I am fortunate in that I've inherited my mother's genes and am aging well, but I don't know if I can stand to hear one more fresh-faced, firm-breasted 24 year old exclaim, "But you don't look that old!" Okay, so maybe I don't appear to be 38, but being here makes me feel every micro-second of my age. Like last Friday night when I went to the faculty Hallowe'en party.

I dressed up as a mime for this event, got to the pub promptly at nine (like, who ever gets anywhere social on time?), then pro-

ceeded to Velcro myself onto a classmate until more people arrived and she managed to lose me in the crowd. So there I stood, listening to the soundtrack from Grease and ABBA (they're back!), watching all the cool people effortlessly work the room, feeling just as misplaced and uncomfortable as I had at 17. Sort of gave me a whole new appreciation for Janis Ian. Talk about *deja vu*, though — same smoky atmosphere, same throbbing music, same sinking feeling. I was one of the mere three people there who knew that ABBA actually disbanded over fifteen years ago, and the other two were working the bar.

I find some of my classmates uncomfortable as well. I've worked in a variety of places with a host of co-workers both male and female over the past twenty years, and never in all that time have I seen such open sexual manipulations as those I encounter when I'm at school. Maybe people who work in offices find this same dynamic at play, but classrooms are just unbelievably competitive. There is all this speculation and subtle maneuvering — I don't know, it's like students exist in some cosmic fishbowl where the imperatives of evolution are continually acted out. I guess it's the natural consequence of putting young humans of both sexes in a confined space, but I don't like it. It just reminds me of all those popular girls in high school I hated and envied in equal measure, and all the boys I liked who never knew I existed or, worse yet, just wanted to be friends. Some feelings are better left in the past.

All in all though, I'm content here in Ottawa and have ferretted out some decent people in my faculty. I figure I can either focus on the good or bad aspects of this experience, and have chosen the former. At my age, I now know how to do this. ♣



### THE EDUCATION FILE

## Life lessons

By Peter Ford

Centuries ago, 'teachers' were hired privately to instruct children from wealthy homes. These tutors were servants and 'known' material was limited: languages, math, some science (probably for boys), and the important skills of music, dance, and drawing. Today's education system has evolved from here. Youth are still expected to ingest what adult authorities consider important information, but our system is unhealthy. Why? Here are three ideas:

1. No one can teach another anything. Teachers can only present information. We encourage students

to make informed choices and then, from presented curricula, they choose what they wish to use and reject the rest. The need to know comes from within.

2. Today's vast supply of information is all available outside of school classrooms.

3. Education authorities still decide what is important for students to know, but by the time curriculum material is developed, printed, passed down the line to teachers, it's often both boring and/or obsolete (and we won't even mention the possibility of there being a political bias). If students find it uninteresting, they won't learn it. The students' main concern has often become their marks. 'Learning' in the true sense, assimilation into one's body/mind complex, never occurred.

Where does this leave students, parents, taxpayers?

For some students, school is a joke. Those who learn easily quickly learn to jump through the academic hoops as the system requires,

but live their real lives in the halls, at work, at home, on the streets. Those who jump hoops poorly do their real learning on the streets, too. For both groups, it's an ineffective process. Guided by their inner need to know, they follow their interests with or without school curricula. Today, they can choose, and they know it.

Parents are experiencing the difficulty; our children want the great Life Lessons that are learned from life experience and self-testing, and aren't part of prescribed curriculum. (Sometimes the test comes first, and learning follows!)

And taxpayers? We're paying highly for what has become a very questionable product. We're at a crisis point. If our education system is ineffective, can it be fixed? If not fixed, replaced? Replaced with what and at what financial and human cost?

We all learn all the time. There is no age limit for learning about ourselves. We self-teach and self-test. We give ourselves daily gifts of LIFE LESSONS, a self-selected curriculum chosen to suit our personal physical and spiritual needs.

What are these lessons? They're familiar: humility, patience, tolerance, acceptance and respect for self and others, knowing self, non-discrimination, non-

judgment, integrity, truth, 'now' is all there is, personal peace, happiness, and probably our greatest and toughest lesson — death.

These are the lessons that count. We learn them by personal use, over and over. We try countless ideas. We keep what works, and reject the rest. This is the area where our school system registers as obsolete. Students sit in classrooms, are attracted to some ideas and not others, then choose for themselves, one idea at a time, one individual at a time. There is nothing that a politician, principal, or teacher can do to change this. There was a time when most students cooperated by trying to absorb ideas and prove their 'learning' by writing correct answers on test papers. Authorities still use such test score to laud their own success, thus perpetuating their vast, highly controlled political illusion.

The difference emerging today is that students are much more knowledgeable, honest, and open about what is acceptable to them. Ask them about the relevance and personal importance of what is being presented to them in classes. Many will tell you point blank: "not much!"

...So the question for all of us grows larger by the moment... what now? ♣

## Correction

A typographical error was made in the letter to the editor, "Of danger and irony".... Paul Adamson's address was listed as Bank St. E. at the end of the letter — his address is, as noted in letter, Bank Street South. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

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COMMON GROUND

## Wrapping up the fall garden

By Jill Williams

Every year at this time I say the same thing. I won't buy any more bulbs (as in daffodils and tulips) and I won't buy any more lilies. This year, I managed to keep the first part of that resolution. I did give in on the lilies.

I've said before in this column that oriental lilies are one of my favourite perennials. So I couldn't resist buying another ten or so oriental lilies in mixed colours from Gardenimport in Thornhill. I like the idea of being surprised in the spring by the colours, so I never pick named varieties. I'd just have to wait until June to see what I've planted.

As for the bulbs, I think the reason I didn't buy any more wasn't willpower. I was just too busy at home to do much shopping. Not going to garden centres at this time of the year isn't such a bad thing. It means that I didn't buy those shrubs which are 75% off regular price. I usually find when I get these home, I wonder why I've made all that extra work for myself.

I did, however, divide my daffodils this year. I can't imagine fall without at least some mucking about in the dirt. Every year I say I'd arrange the bulbs so they

look so much better than they did last year. And, of course, when you're kneeling on the ground, pulling out masses of stuck together daffodils, you end up with those great wet black knees. I know they have knee pads in the Lee Valley catalogue, but I don't personally know anyone who has actually ever bought any.

I put a few daffodils back in the beds from whence they came, but most of them are now naturalized. That's a posh way of saying planting outside of a flower bed. In my case, I've planted them under a grove of poplars on a hillside. If all goes well, in the spring there will be a mass of daffodils dancing in the breeze... maybe not the ten thousand that Wordsworth saw, but it's a start.

The vegetable garden is a depressing sight at this time of the year. The clay pots which were filled with basil and brightly coloured annuals have been put back in the basement. The remains of the summer vegetables were long ago added to the compost. Zucchini is only a distant memory. Remember zucchini? Wouldn't it be nice to have some now as we contemplate a winter full of California broccoli?

The only green spot in the otherwise bleak fall vegetable garden is the small patch off Tyee spinach. Planted in August, the fall rains co-operated to make it successful enough to provide lots of fall salads.

Finally, for those of you who aren't totally sick of mucking about in the dirt, there's still the Winter Garden Show at the Royal Winter Fair. See you there!

# Gerry Downer: activist to councillor

By Michele Curran

Looking very relaxed amid the unpacked boxes and remnants of his recent move to his new home in Peterborough, Gerry Downer shared his thoughts on the events which led to his stepping away from Council.

For Downer the decision was a hard one, but for the sake of his health, and owing to the sale of his home, he really had little choice. His decision puts an end to a 14 year career which began in the mid-1980s. Coincidentally, considering the current controversies surrounding race tracks, it was a proposed raceway in North Monaghan that pushed Gerry into politics in the first place.

Downer's decision to become politically active, as he tells the story, began this way:

"At that time it was rumoured offshore money was going to be used to put a race track literally in our back yard. It appeared there was some validity to it. The developers wanted to bring it up to our backdoor, was my understanding, but they didn't want to buy our property. There were people who lived in the area who were not interested in selling their property. Yet no one can expect a community to remain stagnant. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee when you buy a property, let's say for the view, it will remain that way. Yet you certainly don't expect a racetrack in your back yard either.

So, we formed a citizens' group to oppose the development and we went to (North Monaghan) council and received absolutely no satisfaction at all. It appeared to us council's attitude was, "Well, if the city of Peterborough wants it, it is going to go, and we are not going to oppose it."

The investors were not happy there was opposition — next thing we knew the project had been cancelled. Our inside sources told us it had not been cancelled — it had been 'back burned.' Nothing ever materialized on the race track. So we decided as a group, with the upcoming election, and owing to the poor response from council, we needed someone to run to make sure the ratepayers were represented properly. Fortunately, there was one member of the group who had past political experi-

*"So I ran, simply to be involved, and in a position that you know what is going on. Unfortunately, I was elected... I have either being acclaimed or elected in every election since."*

ence, and so I approached him, and told him we would run his campaign for him — all he had to do 'was go and sit there' and make sure our interests were being looked after. He said, "No, but I will do the same for you." I told him I had no experience. He replied, "Well Gerry, it's like you tell me — all you have to do is go and sit there."

So I ran, simply to be involved, and in a position that you know what is going on. Unfortunately, I was elected. I never turned back. I have either been acclaimed or elected in every election since."

When asked about his response to the recent amalgamation, Downer said it was tough on North Monaghan residents, owing to a 58% tax increase on the municipal portion of their taxes. "They took a real hefty increase, and that is why I was so against a tax increase this last go around. This time, we didn't have a tax increase municipally, but rather a tax reduction that most people are probably not aware of — but there actually was." He added, "Amalgamation has been difficult. It has been difficult at a ratepayer level, because they don't totally understand the picture. It's difficult to bring three governments together and form something cohesive and fair to everyone. I think, for our community in the long run, the amalgamation will serve us well. I think this community has a lot of potential, but you can't sit there and wait for things to come — you have to go after it. I think our council is working well in that direction. I'm not saying we can't do things better, but I don't have any suggestion as how we could do it better at this point."

Gerry had words of praise for municipal staff. "I am pleased that, with the staff's cooperation, things are really working out. I think all staff are

working really hard to make things work, but it is a difficult task."

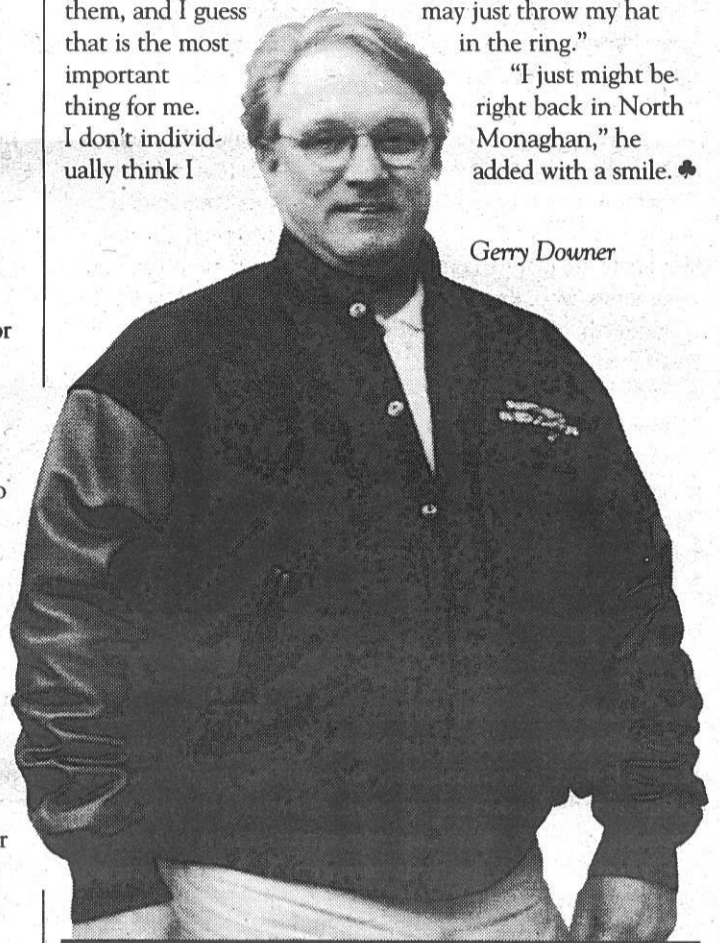
When Downer was asked if he felt he had left a legacy, he said, "I hope the ratepayers recognize I was there first and foremost for them, and I guess that is the most important thing for me. I don't individually think I

have done anything outstanding. I have basically done the job the ratepayers have asked me to do to the best of my ability."

And as for his political future, Downer replied, "Well, it will depend on the issues of the day. If I feel there is something where I can make a difference, and I feel it is not properly being handled by the current council, when an election comes up, I may just throw my hat in the ring."

"I just might be right back in North Monaghan," he added with a smile.

Gerry Downer



# NOTICE

Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan

## Council Vacancy

Take notice that pursuant to Section 38 and 45 of the Municipal Act, R.S.O., 1990, c. M. 45, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan is accepting applications from qualified individuals to fill the office of:

### Councillor (1) North Monaghan Ward

Applicants are requested to provide a brief resumé of their experience and interest in local government.

All applicants for Council must on the date of the application:

- be a Canadian Citizen
- have obtained the age of eighteen years
- be either (i) a resident in the Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan, or (ii) the owner or tenant of land in the Township or the spouse of such an owner or tenant and
- not be disqualified by the Municipal Act or any other Act from holding such office

The successful applicant will be expected to serve on Council until the next municipal election in November 2000.

Applications marked "Vacant Council Position" will be received, in confidence, at the Office of the Clerk until 4:30pm on Friday, November 26, 1999.

Gail Empey, C.A.O./Clerk

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# Fight the Grinch with food hampers

By Melanie Anderson

“And the stockings were hung by the chimney with care, with the hope that St. Nicholas soon would be there...”

We've all grown up with these words, the immortal “Night Before Christmas” story. However, for some people, Santa will not arrive with gifts and treats — unless we, as a community, assist in providing goodies and necessities most of us take for granted each Dec. 25.

There are many in our community who, through the economic hardship caused by a job loss, prolonged illness, and family break-up cannot adequately feed their families. In response to the increasing need for this support, Millbrook and District Food Share was established in 1998.

Christmas is a particularly difficult time for these neighbours, who dream, like the rest of us, of a delicious, festive meal and presents on the big day. Food Share's 1999 Christmas Hamper Drive is now underway, with donation drop off locations at the Millbrook Library, the North Monaghan Library, the Anglican, United and Pentecostal Churches, The Millbrook Times, Nexicom and the Millbrook Manor. Food Share is requesting that holiday foods be dropped off at these locations or at the food bank itself, on the main floor of the Old School in Millbrook on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesday of each month, between 3 and 6 pm.

What would you enjoy at Christmas, food or gift-wise? How about donating such food items as cranberries, stuffing mix, canned or powdered gravy mix, candies/chocolate, canned or fresh vegetables, hot chocolate, coffee, tea, juice, cookies,

Christmas cake, dried fruit, candy canes? What would your children or grandchildren, nieces or nephews like as gifts? Food Share is also collecting new, unwrapped gifts for girls and boys, from newborn to teenager.

Food Share is also looking for volunteers to work at the food bank on the three Tuesdays a month, to pack hampers and whatever else has to be done. They also need people from the community to attend their monthly General Meetings, the first Tuesday each month at 7 pm.

It is important for local residents to remember that anyone in our area in need of a Christmas Hamper is likely to be turned away from Peterborough area food banks and charity organizations, as it is expected that organizations in our own area are looking after these needs. Consequently, food and gifts donated elsewhere will not find their way back to our area. That is certainly not to say that we should not be supporting Peterborough charities, simply that we also need to remember our own area charities.

Food Share is now a registered charity, and the organization can write receipts for any monetary donations. Donations need to be in by the 13th of December, and registration for a Christmas hamper can be done either in person or by phone. Volunteers and other interested people can contact the Food Share at 932-7066, and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

In this day and age when so many are taking a second look at their attitude toward Christmas and gift giving, maybe we could adopt a new tradition — instead of giving gifts, or perhaps as a group or family project, we could donate all the goodies for a dinner for a family, and a gift or two — Ed. ♣



OUTDOORS WITH GEORGE

## Where did the game go?

By George Luchuk

According to a recent news report, the average price of a Toronto Maple Leafs home game will be approximately one hundred and seven dollars!

Yes, that's the average price, so there must be a lot of people paying even more than that. Just think, for two people, including a meal out and sundry other expenditures, you'd be forking out about three hundred dollars — that is, if you can get one of the tickets. I guess as long as people keep going to those games and the money keeps rolling in, it's going to continue to get ever more expensive.

I think it was around the year 1948 when one of my uncles took me to my first (and until recently, only) NHL game in Montreal. I can remember travelling by streetcar from Montreal West, where my grandparents lived, to the Forum. The Canadiens were squared off against the New York Rangers, and although I forget the score, the home team did win.

I vividly remember the excitement of the game and



JOE WEISSMANN

the total involvement of the spectators. The main sounds you heard were from the game itself, the players yelling to each other, and the public address system announcing goals scored or penalties taken, and then always the roar of the very partisan crowd. There was a tremendous synergy between the fans and the players in those days, there wasn't a lot of money for the players, but it didn't matter because they had passion and pride, and a certain element of status in their communities. Yes, arguably, they were underpaid — as arguably they are now vastly overpaid.

Last year, I happened to overhear my brother talk about some of the NHL games he'd attended at the new Montreal Forum. So my first question was how the heck he could afford to pay such high prices just to watch a hockey game. “Oh,” he said, “I don't pay.” The salesman he frequently deals

with always have free tickets available, and all he has to do is ask. And here this is my own brother and I didn't know he had these connections! So, dear brother Richard, do you think you could possibly arrange to get me into one of those games at the Forum? When do you want to go?

It was January 12, 1999, and I was sitting in what I consider to be a pretty good seat, about twenty rows up at the blue line. The place is absolutely packed, and the crowd is totally pumped up. Keep in mind this is only the second time in my life that I've ever attended an NHL game. Because I'd never experienced any transition from 1948, I found myself in a state of semi-shock as to what I was experiencing. The huge videotron, the upbeat music almost deafening to my ears, the crowd worked up at times almost to a frenzy, but not really about the game.

The game seemed incidental. In fact, I don't remember who Montreal was playing, or even who won. There were so many distractions that I found that to follow the actual game, you had to mentally block out the visual and auditory pollution. The one event that really stuck out in my mind as I was trying to focus on the game was when the referee blew the whistle for no apparent reason, and the players started to wander around. I turned to my brother and said, “What happened? I don't understand.” “Oh,” my brother said, “That's just for the commercial. Just for the commercial.”

If you want razzamatazz, pay the \$107 and see the Leafs at the Air Canada Centre. But if you really like to watch a good game, you are better off rooting for the home team — down at the Millbrook arena. You will see lots of passion and pride in the game we love. We call it hockey. ♣

# Recreation round-up report

Submitted by Maureen McElwain, Recreation Programmer, CMNM Township

Never let it be said there's nothing to do around the municipality — there's been a wide variety of interesting and entertaining activities and initiatives over the past few months. Maureen McElwain, Rick McGee and others in the Recreation Department have been hard at work, along with many volunteers, to provide this plethora of activities.

The Corporation of the Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department planted daffodil bulbs this fall as part of the Communities in Bloom Program, and the Department is looking forward to expanding the program next spring.

Community involvement will help to foster and develop civic pride in the Municipality. Anyone interested in volunteering or sharing ideas and knowledge, please contact the Millbrook Arena at 932-2911.

Youth skating on Friday nights is popular with young people, and attendance is growing with each week that the program runs. Admission is \$5 per person, and the skate runs from 9:30-11 pm. DJ Vince Steenburg is spinning the tunes, and Donna's Pizza is delivering the delicious pizza. Admission is \$5 per person. The skate is from 9:30-11 pm.

Over 50 small ghosts, goblins and other spooks enjoyed a morning of crafts, games, skating and more at the Pre-school Halloween Party held on Friday, Oct. 29 at the Millbrook Arena. Once again, the Millbrook Play-

school organized a fun-filled morning for the pre-schoolers, parents and caregivers in the Municipality. Thanks, volunteers for your help!

Are you in search of some festive holiday cheer? Millbrook's Annual Old Tyme Christmas, featuring the Christmas Light Extravaganza, will be on Thursday, Dec. 2. Why not come out and see the Mill Pond transformed into a holiday wonderland of lights? Light-up will be at 6 pm sharp.

Then stroll downtown where Millbrook merchants will be providing an evening of shopping and fun. Many exciting events are planned for the whole family, with stores staying open until 10 pm. This event is sponsored by the Millbrook Downtown Business Improvement Association (BIA) and the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department. For more information, call Shelly Manley at 932-2850 or the Millbrook Arena at 932-2911.

The Old Millbrook School Family Centre and Artscape are currently work-

ing together to provide a display train to enhance the Christmas Light Extravaganza. The cost to sponsor a train car will be \$350-\$400. Participation in this fundraiser will not only benefit The Old Millbrook School Family Centre — it will add to the BIA Old Tyme Christmas and Christmas Light Extravaganza. For more information, or to sponsor a car, please call Wilma Armstrong at 932-5547, or the Millbrook Arena at 932-2911.

Deck the halls with boughs of holly! Trim the trees with lots of tinsel! Get into the Christmas spirit! The Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department would like to invite the residents and businesses in the Municipality to decorate for the festive season. Anyone interested in registering their home or business in the contest can call Nancy Davis at 932-2929. Registrations will be accepted until Monday, Dec. 6. Judging will be on Thursday, Dec. 9. Prizes will be awarded. For more information, please call the Millbrook Arena at 932-2911. ♣

## STARLIGHT DREAMS

### Gala Dinner & Auction

Join us for an evening to remember... filled with stars, great music, fine food and wine, great conversation and, of course, exciting auction items to purchase.

Hosted by: The Old Millbrook School Family Centre

**Location: CMNM Community Centre (Millbrook Arena) Banquet Hall**

**Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1999**

5:30 - 6:30 - Cocktails, Live Entertainment & Review of Auction Items  
6:30 - 8:00 - Buffet Dinner catered by The Old Smoke House  
8:00 - 10:00 - Silent & Live Auction (services donated by Keith Monk Auctioneers)

Greetings from The Honourable Chris Hodgson, MPP

Enjoy the sounds of the Jazz Trio, *Texture*  
featuring: Mike Langford (vocals), Paul Greco (keyboards) & Steve McCracken (sax)

**Tickets - \$25.00 per person**

All proceeds go to The Old Millbrook School Family Centre. Help us escort this historic building into the new millennium.

To purchase tickets please call:  
The OMSFC at 932-7088 or  
Angela Pencello at 944-5789

To donate auction items please contact:  
Caroline McGee at 932-3570 or  
Rhonda Pecena at 944-5618



GOD TALK

## Finding God in concept of heaven

**Q** In response to a recent column of God Talk, a reader asked the question, "And what about Heaven?" Some believe it is a place. Others believe it is a state of being. Please explain the differences, as both can't be correct. Could you please give me biblical references for both? Which is theologically correct? One or the other must be accurate?"

**A** A thank you goes out to our questioner. Whether you are aware of it or not, your question goes beyond a mere black/white answer, delving into a profound theological reality — who is God?

To begin, let us remember that though scripture is the inspired revelation of God's self, it is given to us and interpreted within a specific cultural and historical context — which is true of

everything and everyone. When considering the concept of heaven, our understanding of it has been influenced by non-Judeo-Christian cultures and societies. Popular understanding of heaven in Western society comes not only from Jesus and his disciples, but has also been shaped by Greek, Roman and Norse culture, just to name a few. Furthermore, the cosmologies of these people were considerably different from ours today. They believed the earth to be flat, and above the earth was a great dome containing the waters which come down as rain or snow. Above this dome was another dome where the stars and the moon and sun resided, and still further above this was heaven, where God dwelled. Heaven was believed to be above and beyond the clouds, a physical place. We see this belief reflected in such scripture passages as Luke 24:51 and John 6:51.

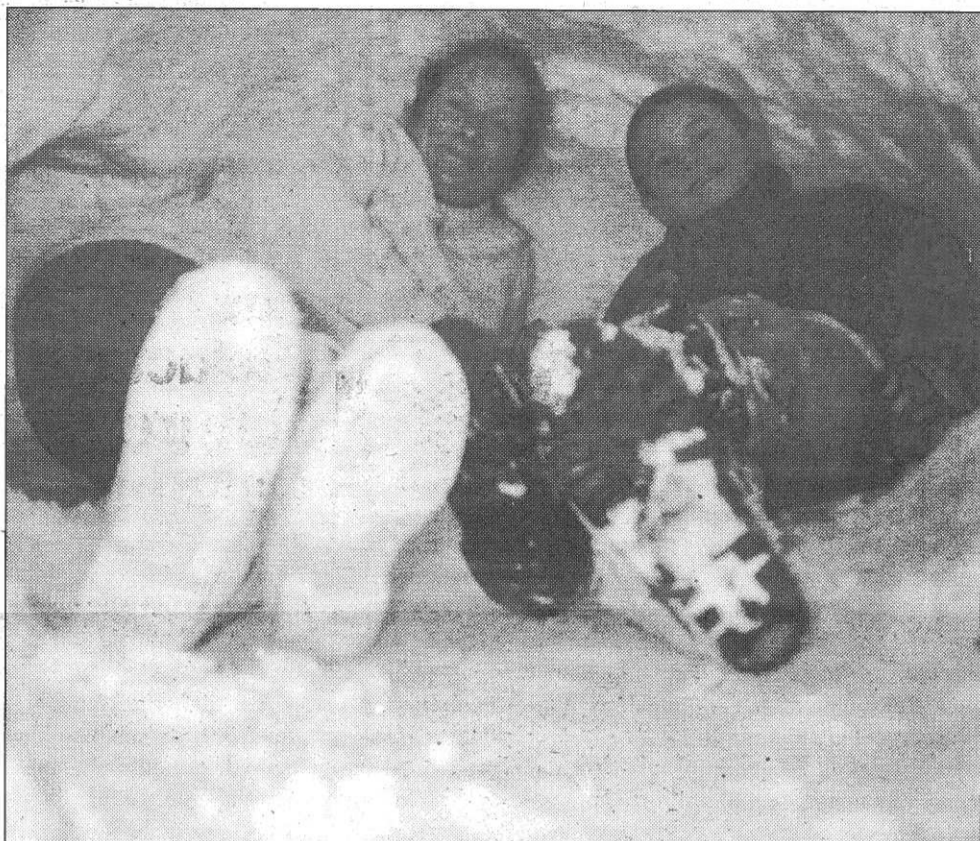
When Jesus speaks to the apostles before departing from "this world", he may also be referring to a "state of being". Looking at the post-resurrection occurrences, Jesus appears/disappears to the disciples apparently out of thin air (Lk. 24:31,36). The risen Christ is able to pass through solid objects (Jn. 20:29), yet is able to be

touched (Jn. 20:27). In these passages, we see that although Jesus was in a certain place, he was also able to transcend time and place. Passing from this life into the next entails a transformation; the risen Jesus was now experiencing another "state of being" or "way of living".

Perhaps the difficulty lies in defining heaven as being only a place or thing. How can we describe completely such things as heaven, which are of God and therefore, always beyond complete human earthly comprehension? Is it not possible that Jesus is granting us a deeper understanding of God, who can be in a "place" (static/now), yet at the same time just be (otherness/beyond that which we can imagine?) This is best exemplified in the story of Moses and the bush that burned, yet was not consumed, and in the incarnation of the word of God in Jesus Christ.

God who is eternal, beyond time and space, chooses to enter the realm of time and space. But neither are lost. Both are held together in harmony. The question is not one of either/or, but how do we allow ourselves to experience or trust in this God who is both here and now, yet more than here and now? Your question is inevitably a quest to deepen one's relationship with the living God. Often we are only open to what we are prepared to receive. But as followers of the risen Christ, we are called to be open to what we have not yet imagined. Searching is openness, and in openness, God is encountered and heaven discovered (Lk. 23:43). ♣

*This month's God Talk was contributed by Rev. Paul Hogan, of the Catholic Parish of St. Thomas More, Millbrook, and Rev. Mark Murray, of the Anglican Parish of Ida-Omemee. Readers are invited to send in their question for God Talk c/o The Green Hills Gazette — you do not need*



Trish Boyd-Reininger and son Adam deep in their hard-packed igloo constructed last winter.



CREATIVE PARENTING

## Making the most of winter

By Trish Boyd-Reininger

**W**ell, the leaves are falling, Halloween's over, and soon the snow will fly. Winter brings a quiet calm to the earth, and puts the exact opposite into our homes!

Once the weather's really cold, and the children are only outside for short periods of time, what can we do to amuse them? TV, books, videos and board games are part of the answer, but not the entire solution. Children learn by example — when they see mom or dad go out with the dog and weathering the storm, shovelling the driveway and so on, the children can be a part of this.

Children always want to help, so you might sug-

gest that you'd like someone to share the responsibility of holding the leash so you have time to put your hands in your pockets for a warm-up. Buy child-sized shovels so they can really help to shovel the driveway. Once you're outside, snowmen, snow forts and skating rinks can be a family project. The end result does not have to be perfect — it's the group effort that makes memories that last much longer than snowmen do.

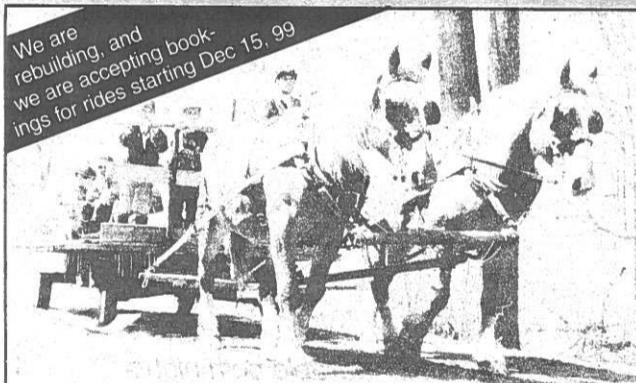
When we shovel the driveway (I should say, when George does), it gets piled along the edge in a ridge. We take some of the snow and make a pile (a small hill). Once that's nice and solid, we dig it out and make an igloo. You'd be surprised — last year, three children fit inside it, or one adult and a child. We took snacks and lanterns inside. What fun! The children enjoyed the igloo for some time, making under the snow tunnels around the front yard. It keeps them busy, and so they play outside longer.

When children are busy, they are not bored, and when they're not bored, they're happy — and so are their parents. As children learn by example, parents must get out with them, show them, help them, and play with them. It takes time and effort, no doubt about it, but after a while, they have everything set up and you can go in for that steamy cup of tea you've

been thinking of. There's nothing like looking out at the cold from the warmth of your home, sipping your tea and watching your red-cheeked children laughing and playing happily. That is truly a sign of good parenting, and it warms the soul more than my hot tea does.

With any snow structure, children need to be warned of the possible danger of a cave-in. Our rule is no-one tunnels by themselves. We use the buddy system, like in swimming. All the children in the neighbourhood are told the rule, "As long as someone else is with you, you may play." These activities attract neighbourhood children and others. Often snack times turn into a major munch, but apples and crackers can be doled out instead of juice and cookies, so everyone can have something to eat. And you know, when your young children have five or six friends over to play, when they are teens, they will be in the habit of having friends over at the house, and so will you. This means that when other parents wonder where their teens are and what they are doing, you'll know — because they will all be at home, safe and sound! ♣

Motherhood [and fatherhood] is being available to your children whenever they need you, no matter what their age or their need — Major Doris Pengilly



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Dan Woodward



We hope our readers enjoy our new environmental column:

## The (Reluctant) Nature Column

By Pierre Blin  
**Q**uestion: Is November The Most Disgusting Month of All Or Does It Have Some Redeeming Qualities?

Sometime in sunny, colourful October I agreed to write a nature article for the Gazette, forgetting that I would be writing this in November. What the heck do you write about nature in November? Now, if you're a deer hunter, you already know all about the great outdoors in November. For the most of the rest of us, November is a time to head indoors. Surely Yeats and Keats never wrote a single romantic, nature-loving poem in November. November was the reason for all those inventions that separate us from nature such as clothes, houses, TV, hot baths, and movies. I recognized my predicament as a nature columnist early in the month.

November 1st: Last day of indian summer, 20°C. Stunning. I take some time in the afternoon to go for a walk. I go swimming in the river. I come out of the water giddy with excitement and joy. I write pretty, joyful poems about the beauty of the world and life.

November 2nd: bloody cold, depressing rain all day, 2°C. I work outside all day. November is here. Yuck. Brrrrr.

November 3rd: bloody awful disgusting Snowstorm, 0°C, Freezing winds: The first snowstorm of the year, if it's gentle, picturesque, and in December, can inspire in me a nostalgic, picture-framed jingly-jangly

Christmassy warmth and child-like excitement. However, this November 3rd nonsense inspires in me nothing but scorn for the universe. I pull out the winter gear from the basement, go out in my balaclava, and curse our ancestors for ever leaving Africa. I'm utterly appalled at the weather. I want summer back now.

Next week: We are now, thankfully back to normal November weather. It is cold and often grey. Any sunny day is cause for some celebration.

Peace with the natural world is possible in November. Most deer-hunters will tell you that the hunt is not about killing animals, or even about drinking beer at the hunt camp. Many participate in the hunt to have as an excuse to spend time in the bush. The stillness and solitude of this season lends it a unique charm. We can experience this by dressing up really warmly, and going for long walks — or even going winter camping.

Top ten reasons to get out of the house in November

1. Deer are quite active at this time. Look for signs of the rut (deer mating season): scrapes on trees, mangled branches and large hoof scrapes on the ground. Also look for deer trails and deer tracks (two parallel, long teardrop shapes), and frayed twigs of living trees where they have been feeding.

2. Listen for the night music of coyotes, who call frequently at this season.

3. Stargaze. Beautiful winter constellations such as Orion and the Pleiades are now prominent.

4. Watch the squirrels frantically make their last winter preparations, running to and fro, gathering food, and stuffing it wherever they might have a chance of remembering it later on.

5. Pick wintergreen from the forest floor, and rose hips from rose bushes to make delicious hot herbal teas for the rest of the winter.

6. Cut grape vine and

other winter goodies to get a head start on making Christmas wreaths.

7. Think about all the animals who do not have comfy, cozy homes, and how have they prepared for winter. Will they make it through to spring? Is it an easy season or a hard season for them? Is it easy in early winter for the deer who have lots of food available, a thick coat, little or no snow to wade through, and no bugs to torment them? Is it easy for the hibernators, who have made a warm home somewhere, and get ready to sleep through the winter? (Are you envious?)

8. Appreciate the stillness and quiet. (Try and ignore the gunshots early in the month!). November is neither winter nor fall. It is

its own entity. It is the going-to-sleep season of the land, like that moment in bed between when you put down your nighttime book, and when your head hits the pillow and your eyes close.

9. Appreciate the endless, but subtle colour variations on gold, brown and green.

10. Use the melancholy weather to write a best-selling horror novel, or similarly dark, depressing work.

By the time you read this, sunny, crisp, cheerful and snowy December weather should only be a couple of weeks away. In the meantime, may your winter clothes be warm and dry, and may the outdoors bring you more joy and peace than misery, even in November. ♣



## Easy homemade Christmas cards

By Pierre Blin

**M**ake use of all that pesky Christmas advertising! Cut out the best designs and make Christmassy collages for your Christmas cards. To make them look extra impressive, colour photocopy the results and use the copy instead of the original. I had mine scanned and saved on a disc so I could use them in future years. This technique could be used in combination with family photos, so that the photo is framed by Christmas designs. ♣

## Recapture a Christmas past in Millbrook

*Crafts for kids, photos with Santa, Giant Stocking Give-Away and a Lighting Extravaganza are all part of this year's Old Tyme Christmas!*

**L**ooking for something festive to do with your family? Tired of the malls and hot, sweaty crowds?

Recapture a little of what Christmas was like in the old days — meet neighbours and friends, while enjoying treats, activities for the kids, and a beautifully decorated street scene in Millbrook at the Old Tyme Christmas and Light Show on Dec. 2.

According to organizers from the downtown Millbrook Business Improvement Association, this year's event will be bigger and better than ever, with even more activities planned. The Lighting Extravaganza at the Mill is expanding to include more buildings and groups than ever, including a train

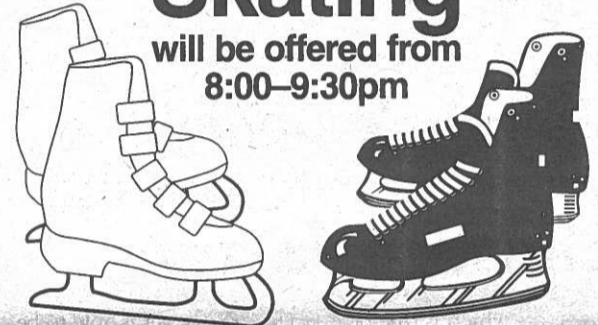
engine and caboose from Andy Gryg of Artscape. The Old Millbrook School Family Center is looking for sponsors for the rest of the cars (see Recreation Roundup, this issue, for details).

As always, there will be draws and giveaways of some wonderful gifts and treasures, courtesy of the businesses in downtown Millbrook, as well as a draw for two giant stockings chock-a-block full of great Christmas stuff. The sparkly, festive ambiance will be enhanced by carolers strolling about on a singing tour of the downtown area.

This stroll down memory lane starts following the light show at 6 pm at the Mill Pond. Businesses will be open until 10 pm for this special occasion. ♣

## Saturday Night Public Skating

will be offered from 8:00-9:30pm



\$3.00 per person

**Everyone Welcome!**

For more information, please call the Millbrook Arena at 932-2911

**Friday Night Youth Skating:**

9:30-11:00pm

Music provided by DJ Vince Steenburg  
\$5.00 per person

*Pizza slices available both nights*



## the Morning Glory TEA ROOM



**Serving breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea.**

*Antique shop now open!*

**Gift shop**

Reserve now for lunch or evening Christmas functions.

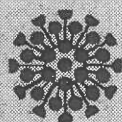
1521 County Rd. 10, Cavan 10 minutes west of Peterborough  
Reservations Recommended 705-944-5959

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ARTS & CULTURE

# Local culture and recreation projects receive federal funds

By Melanie Anderson

The federal Canada Millennium Partnership Program (CMPP) has made two significant contributions to local culture and recreation efforts.

The first is \$17,000 for the Millbrook Valley Trails Project, a planned passive trail system for use by hikers and cross-country skiers. The trail will follow Baxter Creek, beginning at Medd's Mountain in Millbrook. During the summer months, people will be able to park their cars in Millbrook and walk to the 4th Line Theatre. The pro-

*The project also includes the protection of trout habitat, and naturalization of the green space on Medd's Mountain, and is estimated to cost \$60,000.*

ject also includes the protection of trout habitat, and naturalization of the green space on Medd's Mountain, and is estimated to cost \$60,000.

As one of the 60 people involved in the project,

Councillor Brian Fallis believes that building the trail is a great way to celebrate the millennium, and he's glad to be a partner in the CMPP. The overall goal is to provide an accessible, community-based, environmentally-friendly trail system. The project committee hopes to have the trail completed by the end of the summer in the year 2000.

The second contribution is \$57,334 toward the costs of a new play by the 4th Line Theatre to be called *Tri-Bell Crossings* (The Bell of Batoche). The play will step "outside the

familiar," bringing the "challenge of developing a multi-voiced treatment of an inter-connected history" to the theatre company, according to J.L. Watson, general manager of the project. The production will present the 1885 Northwest Resistance from three different historical viewpoints, Nehiyawak (Cree), Metis and Euro-Canadian, and will include actors from all three groups.

Once complete, the play is to be presented to schools in Ontario and Saskatchewan with the aim of educating audiences and promoting a positive inter-cultural relationship. The Millennium funding will help the Theatre and its partners to continue to develop the play, and to present it on the farm this summer. The estimated total cost of *Crossings* (The Bell of Batoche) is \$291,800.



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## Don't roam... shop at home!

### Support our downtown businesses this holiday season!

Ad sponsored by the Millbrook and District Chamber of Commerce

## Millbrook Gallery presents 5th Annual Christmas Show

There is excitement in the air, the Festive Season is here. A feeling of anticipation brightens the eye and quickens the step. You are on your way to a special place where a unique treasure, the perfect treasure, for that special someone awaits you.

On Saturday, Nov. 20th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, The Millbrook Gallery is that special place. The nineteen artists of the collective invite you to attend the Opening of their Annual Christmas Show and Sale, along with the Annual Children's Art Show and Sale.

The fine art pieces and gift treasures you will find include books illustrated by

*The nineteen artists of the collective invite you to... the Opening of their Annual Christmas Show and Sale [and] Children's Art Show and Sale.*

artist Bill Slavin, fine gold or silver jewelry created by the hand of Valerie Davidson -- and a work for a child, created by a child, from one of our young aspiring artists of tomorrow. Then there are plates, platters, bowls, vases, goblets, mugs and wonderful wall pieces created by all of

your favourite potters and ceramicists: Angelo DiPetta, Bill Rowland, George Stewart and Jane Wilson. You can select from a finely turned piece of wood art by Ted Hodgetts, a beautifully crafted piece of furniture by John Ireland, and a realistic carved bird sculpture by Bruce Lepper. There are painted treasures by JoEllen Brydon, Emma Hesse, Susan Spencley and Alice Teichert, drawings from the hand of Grace Glass, and fantasy papier mache' art pieces from the imagination of Esperanca Melo. More treasures are to be found with the weavings of Barb Walker, a work of copper repousse' by Michael Poulton, a sculpture of forged steel from Harald Glass, and landscape etchings by George Raab.

For this exhibit, the artists also create special cards, Christmas ornaments

and wonderful miniature works and surprises.

Come and share the magic Saturday, Nov. 20 from 1:00 to 5:00pm, as we celebrate another year of working together with your encouraging support. Show continues to December 31, 1999.

## Exploring and Planning for the Writer's Life:

### A Professional Writing Course

The who, what, where, when and why of writing for anyone wanting to pursue a writing career or for those wanting to improve their skills!

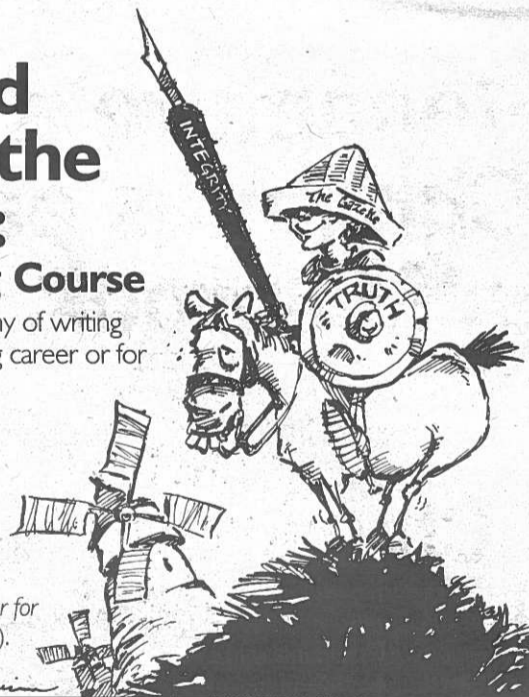
Facilitated by **Deborah Luchuk**, Editor of *The Green Hills Gazette*.

**January-March 2000**

**Champlain College, Trent University**

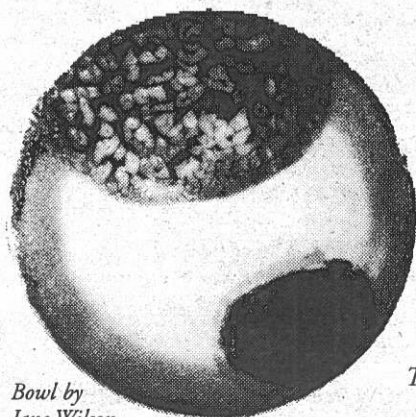
Call **932-2175** for more details or to register for this nine week course (one evening/week).

**Dec. 15 deadline - sign up today!**



## THE CHRISTMAS SHOW

*Group Exhibit & Annual Display of Children's Art*



Bowl by Jane Wilson

**Opening reception: Saturday, November 20, 1999, 1 to 4 p.m.**

It's the Millbrook Gallery's fifth annual Christmas show. This group show features miniatures, books, cards and craft items. Show continues until December 19, 1999.

**The MILLBROOK GALLERY**

Thursday, Friday and Sunday 12-5 Saturday 10-5  
19 King Street East, Millbrook, Ontario  
(705) 932-5482 www.millbrookgallery.com

## Living the Writer's Life: The Sequel Getting Published — and Paid!

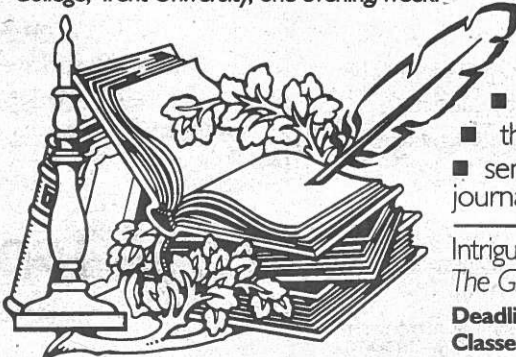
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**TEN WEEK COURSE:** Jan.-March, at Champlain College, Trent University, one evening/week.

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Intrigued? call **Deborah Luchuk**, editor of *The Green Hills Gazette*, at (705) 932-2175.

**Deadline to register:** Dec. 15, 1999.  
**Classes start:** week of Jan. 16, 2000.

# Community Calendar

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.

## A big heartfelt THANK YOU

to all our friends, neighbours and relatives for your help on the day of the barnfire and now in the time following. Thank you for the food, for lending a hand, for offering us hay, straw, barnspace, equipment and much more.

Special Thank You to the fire fighters; you are truly an asset to our community!

We are overwhelmed, and we are proud to be part of such a wonderful and caring community.

Peter, Connie & Anna Kennedy

### Millbrook and Cavan Historical Society

At the Parish Hall, St. Thomas Anglican Church Wed. Nov. 17, 7:30 pm Guest speaker Professor Elwood Jones, speaking on the Peterborough Gypsies. Address accompanied by slides of photos taken by Roy Studio in early 1900's.

### Harvest of Delights

At the studio of Kathryn McHolm. Hwy. #2, n. of Port Hope, #4749 in Welcome. Fri. Nov. 19, 7-10 pm. Sat. Nov. 20/Sun. Nov. 21, 10 am-5 pm. Candlelight and hot cider (Fri.), stoneware,

weavings, woodenware, watercolours, prints, silk creations, needleworks, and more. Call (905) 753-2196 for details.

### Serena Ryder CD Launch

At Great Little Bread Co., Ptbo. Fri. Nov. 19, 8 pm \$5 at door, CDs \$12.

### Millbrook Gallery's 5th Annual Christmas Show

Opening Reception — Saturday November 20 from 1 to 4 pm. Continues to December 31, 1999. Annual group exhibition featuring miniatures, books and artwork suitable for gift-giving. Annual exhibi-

tion of artwork by children. Info call (705) 932-5482. Gallery hours Sat. 10am to 5pm and Thurs, Fri. and Sun. 12 to 5pm.

### Turkey Roll

At the Millbrook Legion Sat. Nov. 20, 1 pm start for rolls. \$1 per roll, split pot draw, cooked turkey draw, with the bar open at 11 am. Last call will be 7 pm. New Year's Eve Party. At the Millbrook Legion. Dec. 31, 9 pm-2 am. Buffet lunch, door prizes, spot dances, champagne at midnight. Tickets \$60 per couple before Nov. 30, \$70 after, available at the Legion.

### Starlight Auction and Dinner

CMNM Arena, Millbrook. Sat. Nov. 20, 5:30-10 pm. Enjoy a gala evening, featuring an auction, banquet dinner and live music by the jazz trio, Texture. Tickets, purchased in advance are \$25, proceeds to go to The Old Millbrook School Family Centre project. For tickets, call 932-7088 or 944-5789.

### Festive Sale

At Hutchinson House Museum, Ptbo. Sat. Nov. 27, 10 am-2 pm Baked goods, jams, preserves, books and more. Admission \$1, includes tea/coffee and oatcakes.

### St. Thomas More Parish Christmas Bazaar

At the Millbrook Legion Nov. 27, 10 am-3 pm Chili lunch — adults \$4.50, children 12/under \$2.25. Crafts, candy, new to you, guessing jar, raffle, more.

### Christmas Tea/Bazaar

At Trinity United Church, Ptbo. Nov. 27, 1-3:30 pm Crafts, knitting, knick-knacks, sewing, baking. Supports Alzheimer Society, \$2 admission.

### The Songs of our Lives

At Showplace Peterborough

Sat. Nov. 27, 2:01 & 8:01 pm. The Liftlock City "Aces of Harmony" perform (barbershop music), & the Sweet Adelines. Tickets from Showplace 742-7469, matinee \$13, evening \$15. Call Bruce 799-5456 for info.

### John P. Allen, Russelle de Carle and Keith Glass

At the Give-a-Hoot Café, Old Millbrook School. Sat., Nov. 27, 8 pm. Enjoy an evening of music by these outstanding musicians. Tickets are \$10 at the door, \$5 if you sing in the Hoot. Sponsored by the Millbrook-Cavan Environmental Watch.

### Old Tyme Christmas

Throughout downtown Millbrook. Thurs. Dec. 2, 6 pm start. Christmas Light extravaganza by the mill pond; activities and treats for the whole family. Sponsored by the Millbrook BIA and CMNM Recreation Department.

### The Manger Around the World

At Emmanuel United Church Hall, Baileboro. Fri. Dec. 3, 24 & 7-9 pm. Sat. Dec. 4, 24 pm. Sun. Dec. 5, 11 am-2 pm. A display of over 70 creche scenes from around the world. Admission — offering to the Millbrook Food Share. Sponsored by Emmanuel UCV.

### Benefit Dance for Brian Squirrel's Legal Defence Fund

Millbrook arena (upstairs) Non-stop music featuring Quarterline and D.J. Steve McPherson. Dec. 11, 8pm-1am. Tickets \$10. Call Jane or Dan at 932-5386. All donations greatly appreciated.

### LETS Christmas Market

At All Saints Anglican Church, Ptbo. Sat. Dec. 11, 10-3. Wide variety of crafts, gifts, refreshments. Free admission with food donation to Kawartha Food Share.

## ON-GOING EVENTS

**Regular Council Meeting** First Monday of each month at 7:30pm.

**Millbrook Playschool** Every Tues. & Thurs. (except 3rd Tues.). Millbrook Christian Assembly, call Wilma at 932-5547.

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

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

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

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

**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

**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 monthly. 7:30pm.

**MADCAP** Millbrook — Mon.-Fri. 1-5 pm

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

**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. Call 944-5414 or 277-1269

**Fraserville LOL Dance** Second Sat. monthly, 9 pm. Featuring Harold Davidson Country.

**Garden Club** at St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Millbrook. First Wed. of

each month, except Jan.-Feb. Call 932-2028.

**Euchre in Springville** at Springville United Church. Every 2nd wk, 8 pm, \$1. Call Jim Payne at 745-6088.

**Bingo** at the Millbrook Legion, every Thurs., 7:30 pm. Call 932-2837.

**Cavan-Millbrook Nursery School** at Cavan Community Hall for children 2-5. Call Carrie Wilkinson 932-2472.

**Public Skating** at the Millbrook Arena, starts Oct. 1, Mon. 3:30-4:20pm, Thurs. 3:30-4:20pm, Sun. 1-2:20 pm. Sunday \$2, admission free Mon.-Thurs. Call 932-2911 for details.

**Parent-Preschool Skating** at the Millbrook Arena. Starts Oct. 1, Wed. 1-3 pm, Fri. 10 am-noon. Free admission. Call 932-2911 for details.

**Senior Skating** at the Millbrook Arena. Mon. 1-3 pm; Tues./Thurs. 10 am-noon. \$2 each.

**Senior Puck and Stick** at the Millbrook Arena Mon./Fri. 10 am-noon Call 932-2911 for info.

**Ladies' Friday Afternoon Hockey** at the Millbrook Arena. Fri. 1-2 pm. Call Laurie Blimke for info, 932-3041.

**Shuffleboard** at the Community Centre Thurs., 1:30 pm. For info, call Elsie Rennie, 932-3733.

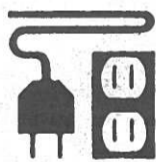
**Diabetes Support Group** 2nd Wed., Canadian Diabetes Association, 249 Rink St. Peterborough 10 am-noon or 7-9 pm Call 742-2733 for info.

**Grief Recovery Group** at Hospice Peterborough, 250 Sherbrooke St., #6 Mon. 1:30-3:30pm, Thurs. 4-6pm. Call 742-4042.

**The Millbrook and District Chamber of Commerce** at St. Thomas Anglican Church, Millbrook. 2nd Wed. monthly, 7:30 pm. For info, call 932-7007.

**Toastmasters** at Mapleridge Plaza Seniors' Rec. Centre 2nd, 4th Tues. monthly, 7am. Call Tom 944-4012.

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## 2ND ANNUAL Christmas Light Contest



Deck the halls with boughs of holly. Trim the trees with lots of tinsel. Get in the Christmas spirit. The Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department would like to invite the residents and businesses of the Municipality to decorate for the festive season. Registration is a must. To register, please contact Nancy Davis at 932-2929. Judging will be done on Thursday, December 9. Registrations will be accepted until Monday, December 6. Prizes will be awarded. For more information, please contact the Millbrook Arena at 932-2911.

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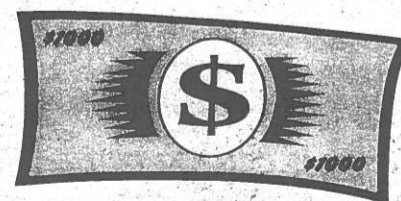
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## The Old Millbrook School Family Centre Starlight Dreams Raffle



**\$1000 Cash Prize**

Only 2000 tickets printed!  
Tickets: \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00  
One ticket will be drawn at random at the Starlight Dreams Gala Dinner & Auction November 20, 1999

The lucky winner will be published in the Gazette. All proceeds go to The Old Millbrook School Family Centre.

For more information call The Old Millbrook School Family Centre at 932-7008 Lottery License: M03657

# The 2nd Annual Gazette Gift Guide: Building your list (and checking it twice)

By Melanie Anderson

It's that time of year again — Halloween is barely over, and stores have Christmas trees, plastic Santa Clauses, and red plastic-velvet ribbon adorning every blank space. That's right folks, its time to go shopping.

For those of you who have run out of ideas about gifts you could give, or have no idea where to begin, we hope this article will be helpful.

If you have new babies, or their families on your list, there are any number of great gift ideas out there. There's everything from the various activity "gyms" and centers for the baby to entertain him or herself, with parts that move or make great noises at the kick of a foot or the swat of a hand, to the little things that make life easier, such as a really functional stroller or baby carrier, a new diaper bag, and a bag full of supplies, allowing the parents to skip a shopping session or two. Mobiles are always fun for newborns, but the best ones are those that have the pictures, figures or objects hanging from the mobile face-side down, so that baby can actually see what it is that is bobbing around in front of his or her eyes. (Mobiles are also relatively fun, easy and cheap to make as well.)

Toddlers are amused by construction blocks, Duplo, or Lego (the latter if they are a little older still). Another good idea would be any of the many plush toys that "talk", there are Teletubbies, Disney characters, Elmo (of course) and others. Rocking horses can be found in toy stores, but

...there's always gift certificates good for massages, facials, manicures, spas, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, movies, bookstores...

not all of them are horses: there are also rocking pandas, puppies, and a variety of other animals. What about a train or car set with track, that could be hand powered or remote controlled? No longer just for the boys, there are Barbie and other versions of remote control cars, in pink of course, for interested girls out there.

Science and magic kits make good gifts, as do paint sets and craft kits, for a creative child. Some suggested books for kids are the Harry Potter trilogy (an adventure series), and the Little Miss Spider series for younger children. And there are always the classics, such as Charlotte's Web, series such as The Little House on the Prairie, Anne of Green Gables, Nancy Drew, The Hardy Boys, and every other book remembered fondly from childhood. (May we make a recommendation for some terrific children's books? Our own illustrator and all-round fabulous layout guy, Bill Slavin, is one of Canada's best known children's book illustrators, and has produced some amazing books, with text by equally brilliant authors. Bill's books are for sale in The Millbrook Gallery. The latest addition is The Bone Talker.)

As far as clothing goes for the holidays, it would really depend on the personal taste of the recipient what would be appropriate. Fleece is nice whether or not it is considered fashionable, just because it is so soft and warm, when winter is neither of those things! Look for a rainbow of fleece in the form of jackets, socks, hats, scarves, vests.

For the active person on your list, sports stores and outfitters will offer tons of useful and intriguing gift ideas, including tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, snowboards, skis, gear for all these activities, and supplies for survival kits if you'd like to keep your adventuring friend safe. A particularly useful gift for your active friend would be an All-In-One Tool, like the Original Leatherman Tool. If the outdoors person on your list is a gardener, you could get them started on the new growing season with new tools, gloves and other supplies. Or if your outdoorsy type is a hunter or fisherman, check out an outfitter or similar supply store to stock up on gadgets, lures, safety clothing and more.

You could let your friends know you love them — with food. Exotic fruit, wine, cheese, tiramisu, pastries, specialty sauces, or just a lot of good chocolate (mmmm chocolate!) could go over well with anyone, and isn't a universally appealing gift like it hard to find! There are also specialty treats and pastries for those on sugar-free or gluten free diets — check out a bakery or specialty food/confectionery shop. If you know someone with a

decided lack of time to prepare meals, you could put together a few nice dinners for them to just pull out of the freezer and heat up.

If someone on your list is a video game addict, it would not be hard to find out what game they would like, or else you could buy a rental card for them so they could try a wider variety of games. If video games aren't their forte, but board games are, you have all kinds to choose from, such as Guesstures, Pictionary, Scattergories, Taboo, Scruples, Monopoly, Risk, or a chess, checkers, or backgammon set.

Our own illustrator and all-round fabulous layout guy, Bill Slavin, is one of Canada's best known children's book illustrators, and... [his] books are for sale in The Millbrook Gallery.

Aromatherapy comes in many forms, all of which are nice to receive, and use. Body sprays, candles, incense, soap, bath beads, and bubble bath make up only the most obvious examples, and a new addition to the scented line-up of indulgences is pillow spray in a variety of scents (found at the drug store or specialty gift shops). Lavishing a pet lover with gifts for his or her pet earns the affection of the owner and Fluffy/Fido alike. Pet toys, "gourmet" pet food and treats are relatively cheap and consequently, you could give a box full of pet stuff without breaking the bank.

Travellers would love an IOU for a plane ticket, which makes a good joint gift, or luggage and other travel supplies.

When all else fails, or you're really pressed for

time, there's always gift certificates good for massages, facials, manicures, spas, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, movies, bookstores, or virtually any of the previously mentioned gifts. You could also make your own gift certificates for services you will perform yourself, like entertaining the kids for a

night or two, or cleaning the house sometime. Why not wrap up these certificates in something else, like a scarf, mitts or something similar?

Bonne chance! Good luck! and remember, it's really the thought that counts, not the size or impressiveness of your gift. ♣



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