

# THE GREEN HILLS Gazette

Free!  
Published monthly

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Volume 2, Issue 12

CELEBRATING LIFE IN CAVAN, MILLBROOK AND NORTH MONAGHAN

## SANTA, WHAT WE REALLY WANT IS...



Georgia and Bailey Allen conduct negotiations with Santa during the well-attended Old Tyme Christmas festival in downtown Millbrook this past Thursday, December 2nd.

## Christmas Hamper deadline

Did you miss something on your Xmas list?

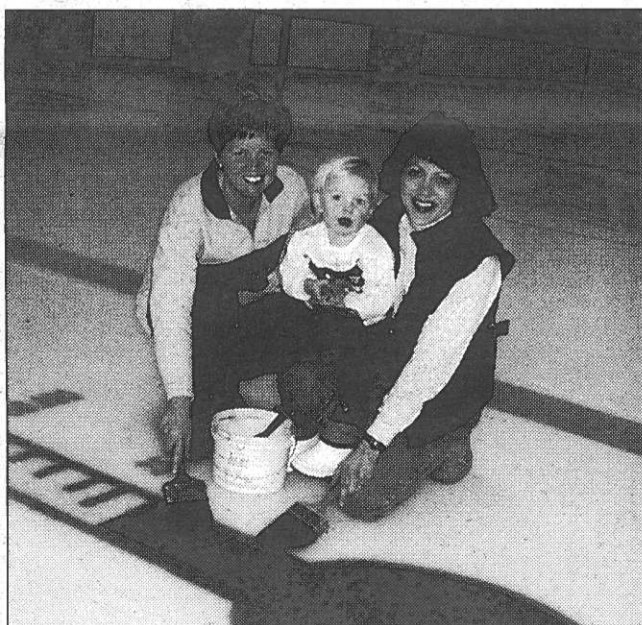
Still haven't made your donation to Millbrook and District Food Share's Christmas Hamper Drive? Haven't gotten around to buying that bag of festive groceries and children's gifts?

There's still a couple of days to help provide a happy holiday for those in need — until Monday, Dec. 13. What's needed is all manner of non-perishable food items that would round out a Christmas meal, particularly food that can be prepared with a minimum of kitchen utensils and fuss. Stuffing mix, canned cranberries, canned or powdered gravy, candies or chocolate, canned (or fresh) veggies, hot chocolate, cookies, coffee, juice, tea, Christmas cake, dried fruit, and candy canes are but a few items that would be greatly appreciated. Think about what you would like to eat during your holiday time!

What about a couple of new, unwrapped toys or gifts, one each for a girl and

a boy up to teen age? Better still, what about a unisex toy or activity that would please either gender? Of course, if the Christmas frenzy has overwhelmed — and one more trip to the store will mean you begin singing Jingle Bells in funny voices, then CASH DONATIONS are also gratefully accepted. (Receipts can be issued.)

To donate food, gifts or cash to Food Share, call 932-7066 and a volunteer will make arrangements with you for drop-off at the food bank or pick up. Volunteers are also needed to help pack up Christmas hampers Dec. 13. Remember, a donation to Food Share goes to those in our own community who need assistance. ♣



Raising the temperature at the arena: Rhonda Pecena, Elysha Pecena and Angela Penello are absolutely ecstatic about the \$20,000 raised thus far for the Old Millbrook School Family Centre since this past September. See page 10 for more news!

## Reeve admits to paper sludge on his property

By Michele Curran

Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan Reeve Neal Cathcart has admitted to having paper sludge on his property without a certificate of approval required by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE).

This revelation came to light after Cavan resident Sue Taylor took the Reeve to task for stating publicly that MOE concerns had been dealt with by Kawartha Downs at the November 15 Council meeting. Taylor told Council after contacting the MOE herself, "I learned that this is not the case. In fact, the Ministry has requested some additional information to do with the nitrate impact involving the sewage situation. In other words, the hydrogeological report mentioned in the site plan has not been approved. The Ministry also stated the material known as 'fibercrete' (a by-product of paper sludge) is not an approved building material, and that its use is, at the moment, under investigation."

Ms. Taylor asked the Reeve if he had a certificate of approval for using paper sludge on his property. The Reeve replied that he did not. Taylor then asked, "Do your neighbours, particularly those whose wells are fed by water coming downstream from you, know that you have sludge on your property, Mr. Reeve?" Reeve Cathcart said they did not.

Though the application of paper sludge on farm land is permissible in the County of Peterborough, a Certificate of Approval (COA) is a requirement under Section

*According to an MOE official, an investigation has begun, and if it is proven Cathcart did not have a Certificate of Approval, then both the Reeve and the haulage company could be facing some sort of penalty.*

5 of the Environmental Protection Act. The company who hauls the paper sludge is also required to have a permit, which is referred to as a Haulage Certificate of Approval. The company authorized by the MOE to haul paper sludge is Ontario Waste Disposal, owned by Harvey Ambrose, who is also the owner of Kawartha Downs and Courtice Auto Wreckers.

According to an MOE official, an investigation has begun, and if it is proven Cathcart did not have a COA, then both the Reeve and the haulage company could be facing some sort of penalty. Fines could be levied, and the paper sludge could be removed.

At one time, the municipality handled the application for the local use of paper sludge. Currently, such applications are not necessary, as the MOE feels the application of paper sludge, biosolids, manure and other fertilizers is up to the individual farmer. However, they do reiterate the use or storage of paper sludge and biosolids

does require a certificate of approval. Though these substances are deemed "soil enhancers", further testing on paper sludge has to be carried out to prove conclusively that there is a benefit to soil and crops.

In a matter relating to paper sludge, Deputy-Reeve Brian Squirrell queried the Reeve as to the accuracy of the November 1 council meeting minutes. Squirrell pointed out the Reeve's responses to questions about paper sludge on his property were not included in the minutes. "The questions were recorded, the answers were not," Squirrell said.

When the Deputy-Reeve asked about the omission, the Reeve asked why he was being singled out, as there were also other omissions in the minutes. Squirrell said he wasn't singling out the Reeve, but felt the minutes should be accurately recorded as a public record. ♣

### INSIDE

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# New Beginnings at Crestwood

By Pierre Blin

A weary but excited crew of Crestwood students has taken on the herculean task of putting together the 1999/2000 yearbook. A serious attempt at yearbook publishing has not been made since 1995 (although a smaller version was "thrown together" in 1997). Late nights, long hours, limited resources, lack of experience, and strenuous deadlines have characterized

this endeavour, but there is a palpable sense of excitement about the whole project. Crestwood drama, English and business teacher Bo Staude runs the double credit yearbook class that meets for an hour, daily, throughout the year. The teacher who ran the project in years past retired in 1995, leaving a glut of skill and will to turn out a yearbook. Members of the Crestwood faculty put much energy

into convincing Mr. Staude to do it. Their efforts were fruitful, and Mr. Staude has now assumed front line responsibility. One of his students said he's "very helpful, creative and flexible."

Many students from this municipality are involved in the production of the yearbook, including Dan Rhodes, Natalie Wood, Jacenta Melanson, Gord McFarland and Brett Jarvis.

Students in the yearbook class may not have known exactly what they were getting into... sometimes having to stay as late as 8 pm to meet deadlines. They are, however, learning many valuable skills such as writing, photography and layout, and real-world workplace skills such as managing finances and working within deadlines.

Local students Gord McFarland and Brett Jarvis are the editors. They went to "yearbook summer camp" for four days this summer to learn the lost art of yearbook creation. Any profits made this year will go toward sending more students to this camp.

Mr. McFarland has been encouraged by the support of the school community. He mentioned he's "been surprised by the huge support for this project" and then recalled how "everybody has wanted this, ever

since I got to this school." He singled out the community of Millbrook, and village businesses for providing "overwhelming support". Millbrook area businesses filled out almost three pages of advertising, all within a week of being asked for their advertising support.

The theme of the yearbook is, appropriately, "New Beginnings", which also coincides with the new millennium. The yearbook is also a particularly welcome symbol of school spirit, in the aftermath of last year's teacher strikes and what some perceive as a lack of extra-curricular activities. The yearbook will feature "all the stuff we didn't have last year!" which obviously delights Mr. McFarland.

The whole operation has the feel of a new small business. Long hours, enthusiasm, and lots of "grunt work" keep it going. The yearbook staff is already working within a small profit margin and has pre-sold over 600 copies at the price of \$30 each. There have also been some fundraising events, including one organized and run by the Keystone Links golf course.

Congratulations and best wishes to all involved! A special thanks goes to all Millbrook businesses and groups who have supported the yearbook. ♣

# Council at the brink of the millennium

By Michele Curran

If you think the Y2K bug might be a plausible deterrent to bill paying in the a new century; you may be in for a surprise.

In event of a hydro outage, according to Chief Administrative Officer, Gail Empey, the township will be still be able to perform certain functions manually, such as accepting and receiving payment on bills — though tax payment history would not be available.

In a memo to Council, Empey assured councillors all essential services such as police, fire, water and sewage, hydro and telephone are Y2K ready. Despite this assurance, Council still voted to buy \$2100 worth of insurance to cover lawsuits in case of a Y2K incident.

## Curbside Collection for North Monaghan?

At the November 15 council meeting, councillors considered a proposal which would see the possibility of curbside garbage collection for North Monaghan residents. The proposal would also allow

Millbrook to retain its curbside collection. In both townships pick-up would be limited to two bags per household, with any excess being accepted at the Cavan Transfer Station. Residents in Cavan will not be affected by this proposal. If passed, this proposal would come into effect January 1, 2000. Charges for waste collection will be found on residents' tax bills.

## Support for PUC

At the November 15 council meeting, councillors agreed to support the Millbrook Public Utility Company in its bid to retain ownership. A public meeting is to be held in the new year for local residents to voice concerns and comments.

## Council to be reduced

In a vote of 4-2, Council passed a by-law which will reduce the number of councillors from seven to five in the next election. Reeve Neal Cathcart said the municipality is looking at a saving of in excess of \$70,000. All councillors were positive about tax savings, but Councillor Brian Fallis said he would still like to have public input on the matter. ♣

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## BUSINESS PROFILE



Gazette gardening columnist Jill Williams combines a love of gardening and the environment, a background in herbalism and horticulture, and a love of fine cosmetics to create decadent products for body and bath.

# Natural & local body and bath "indulgences"

Foxglove Botanicals' Jill Williams has crafted a superb variety of quality handmade soaps, salves, colognes, and lip balms.

By Deborah Luchuk  
Lathering up and anointing oneself with luxurious toiletries has never been so natural — or close to home. Foxglove Botanicals' Jill Williams crafts quality handmade soaps, salves, colognes, and lip balms in a variety of natural and uncomplicated scents. Many of these products include herbs and plants from our gardening columnist's own garden, just south of Millbrook.

An avid gardener and herbalist, Jill was looking for a way to use her skills in the creation of organically-based cosmetics. Over the last few years, she has taken several courses in herbalism, and learned the art of soap and salve-making from reading, experimenting, and observing others producing similar products. Jill's gardening skills, love for and experience with horticulture and herbalism in Canada and England — combined with what some would call an innate sense of style and practicality — has led to a range of beautifully scented products for body and bath.

All of the soaps, salves and personal care indulgences are created in her in-home workshop. By

incorporating such skin-friendly elements as olive oil, cocoa butter, almond oil, and calendula, and blending with herbs or essential oils, luxurious soaps result. Currently, Jill is marketing her soaps through Always Something Special (Millbrook) and the Millbrook Gallery, or

directly (by appointment). Soaps come in all shapes and sizes, including some hefty man-sized bars; scent choices include sweetgrass, green tea, cucumber, lavender, oatmeal/calendula, rose, citrus/calendula, vanilla, and balsam fir. Salves (a type of cream) include tea tree, comfrey, and Baby Bottom (a proven blend of gentle herbs and cocoa butter for diaper rash). (I can personally vouch for Jill's calendula salve — after a nasty fall last summer, I used it on a rather large scrape and it healed very quickly!) To round out the options for a Christmas gift list, there's eau de cologne, bath salts and lip balms.

For those hard-to-buy for, got-everything people this season, Foxglove Botanicals offers a custom variety of these goodies in baskets, or beautifully wrapped.

Jill loves the freedom of working from home, the magical "alchemy" involved in creating cosmetics, and the opportunity to incorporate natural elements from the local area — specifically, her garden. The opportunity to work with neighbours on gardening issues and planning has also been a rewarding experience, offering more inspiration for Foxglove Botanicals. More toiletries will join the line-up in the coming year.

To contact Jill directly to see and order Foxglove Botanicals' products, call (705) 932-3440. Soaps and other specialties are available through Something Special and The Millbrook Gallery. ♦



## Is it Santarius?

By Crystal Eyes

I have written many letters and made numerous inquiries but none of the elfkind are talking, and the big guy, well he's just too busy at this time of year. So I am left to ponder the question, "What sign is Santa Claus?"

Any of the signs would be happy to have him, but some just seem too unlikely to be a fit. Maybe Santa is an Aries. (March 21-April 20) He does like to wear red, an Aries colour, but not too many Aries are portly; they're just too active. In fact, if Santa was an Aries, he'd want the kids to leave out sporting equipment rather than milk and cookies.

Santa could be a Leo. (July 24-August 23) They are generous, jolly, and boy do they love Christmas — it matches their innate child like spirit. In fact, quiz any Leo after labour day and they can tell you without hesitation, how

many sleeps there are till the big day. Leos, however, love to witness the enjoyment they bring to others and would prefer to stay and watch the children open their gifts, rather than scoot away up the chimney for another year. So Leo is close, but no Lewinsky.

*When it comes to Santa's sign, maybe there is a clue in that song, "making a list and checking it twice." That kind of attention to detail is a Virgo trait.*

Maybe there is a clue in that song, "making a list and checking it twice." That kind of attention to detail is a Virgo (August 24-September 23) trait. However, if Santa was a

Virgo, he'd have all the reindeer wearing diapers so they wouldn't make a mess. So Virgo can't be it.

The best suggestion I have heard so far is that Santa is an Aquarian. (January 21-February 19) The woman who suggested it, an Aquarian herself, offered the following proof: Aquarians are humanitarians — Santa gives presents to the entire world. Aquarians are odd — Santa wears a bright red suit, never shaves, exists on a diet of baked goods and milk, and hangs out with mystical little humanoids and flying animals, some with fluorescent noses, most with rhyming names. Aquarians are aloof — Santa lives way up North in isolation from "normal" civilization.

So I think she is right; Santa must be an Aquarian. But ya know when I think about it, I never have seen any reindeer droppings... ♦

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EDITORIAL

# A child's first Millbrook Christmas

As we count down to Christmas, I am reminded of some of our first holidays spent in this community. We moved here in November 1972, and as a somewhat nervous six-year old, I joined Dorothy Stevens' grade one class at what is now known as the Old Millbrook School. I remember our house wasn't quite finished yet. There was still subfloor in various places, and some of the walls had not yet been painted.

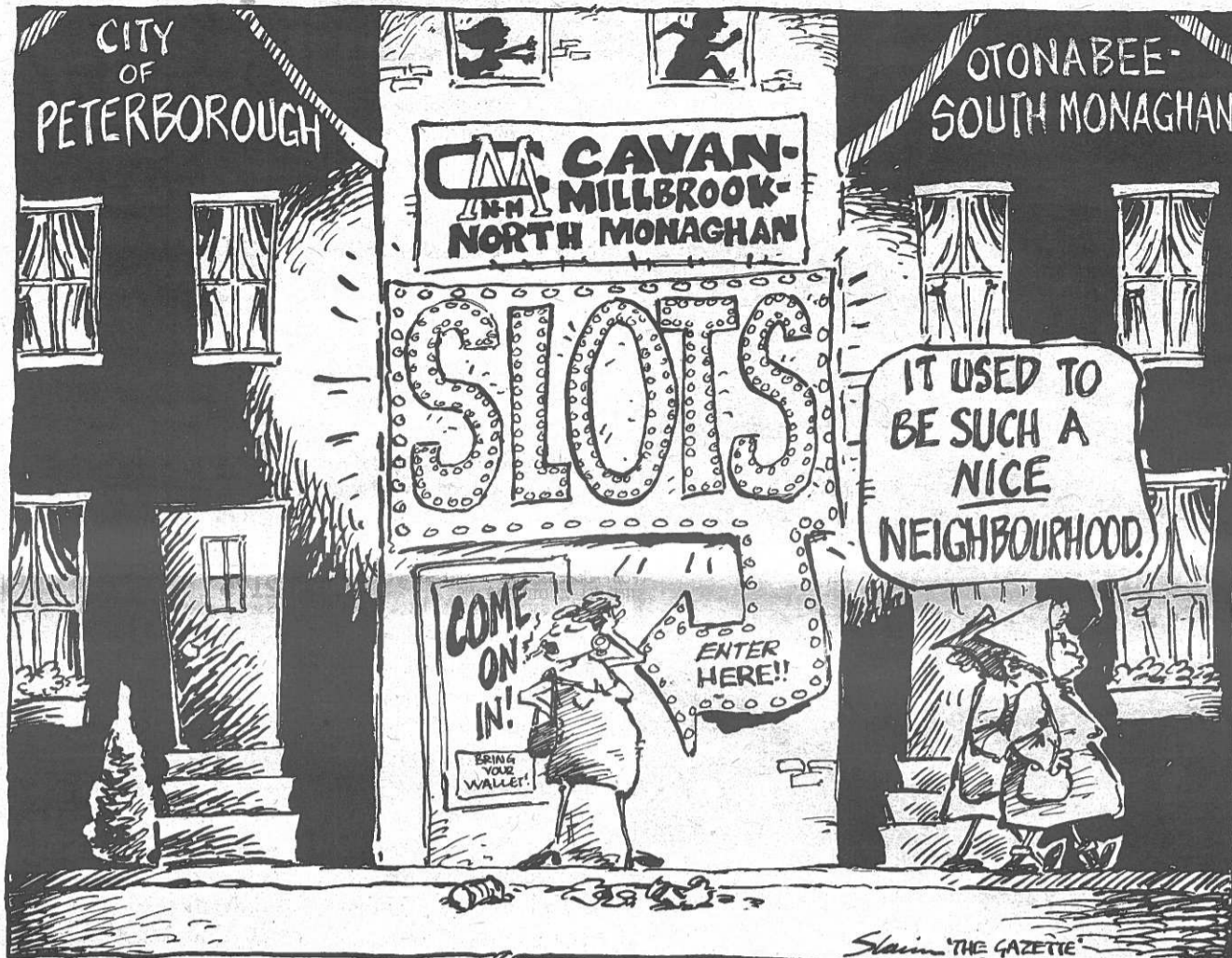
I think my parents decorated the house as best they could, for I don't recall this first Christmas in Millbrook as being any different from those we had in Bowmanville, or Newcastle in terms of gaiety. For the first time ever, we had a real chimney, and a real fireplace to hang our stockings on! Santa wouldn't have to come through the front door "magically" anymore.

We had two kittens, Sparky and Fluffy, and they climbed the curtains and the Christmas tree at times. We brought home various paper and macaroni, and other crafty ornaments from school, and these were placed prominently on our already well-laden tree (The "wonderments", my mother later dubbed these things — believe it or not, we still have a lot of these in a box in the basement!)

I also remember shopping with my mother in downtown Millbrook — I recall getting a new winter coat from Nancy's (Olan) Women's Wear, and buying some gloves (?) and a Viyella plaid shirt for Dad at a men's store (situated where West Wind Realty is today). Greg and I visited the old grocery store, Whitmore's (before it was Calhoun's), and "helped" Mom buy some swiss drops (those yummy chocolate covered, pastel fondant filled things) and other goodies. The church suppers, of which there were many, at St. Thomas Anglican Church, and Sunday School Christmas events, were lots of fun, and a fairyland of glittering, colourful cookies and cakes. Christmas Eve services were always awe-inspiring, and added to the magic of Christmas through hearing the timeless Nativity story. Sometimes these services ran a little late; my four-year old brother was once heard asking Mom and Dad "if this is God's house, where is his bed?"

What I remember the most, however, was how many people came to our door in the weeks before Christmas to meet us. Anna Fair came with a caraway seed pound cake, and an invitation to come to church with her, as our first caller. Gail and Barry Smith and their kids introduced themselves, and I'm sure, also brought over goodies. As I have mentioned in a previous editorial, their daughters took me under their wing. Eva Howson, our across-the-road neighbour, became one of our dearest friends, and was very supportive in the years to come. The Earles and the Powells made my parents feel welcome. I soon met Connie Hogg next door, as a fellow grade one student at MPS, her parents Carol and Brian and baby Carrie. I remember spending a lot of time playing in each other's homes. And then there were the many people we met at church...

Some of these neighbours have passed away, others moved on, and more came afterward, but I will always have a special place in my heart for those who welcomed us so warmly to this community. You sowed the seeds of community that are now such very firmly planted roots for me. I wish all our neighbours, new and "old", throughout this community, the happiest of Hanukkah and Christmas holidays, and the very best in the new millennial year! ♦



## Spend dollars locally

As Christmas draws near, and we begin to fill our shopping lists, might I take this opportunity to suggest that township residents patronize our local stores and businesses as much as possible?

Millbrook retailers have something for everyone, from hardware to flowers, from clothes to toys, from gift baskets to kitchen gadgets. Many stores offer versatile, can't-go-wrong, gift certificates. It makes sense to spend our dollars locally.

Often we read of our local businesses generously contributing their time and products toward a variety of special events that our families enjoy throughout the year. Shall we not reciprocate in kind as a timely and practical gesture of appreciation?

One last point: while most of us are happily buying luxuries and non-essentials, there are neighbours

among us who may not even have the means to grace their table with a turkey. If you will, then, please consider forgoing the purchase of that dust-collecting knick-knack for Uncle Otto. Instead, make a contribution to the Millbrook and District Food Share, your church or favourite charity in his honour.

— Ken Greenberg  
Millbrook

## Cohabitation is sin

I received a copy of your paper the other day. It is very informative. As usual, I read the God Talk column.

I was shocked by the latest column. A lady wrote asking for the Christian viewpoint on cohabitation vs. marriage.

This is a legitimate question in our day when many give little thought to the Biblical side of marriage. Much of what the ministers said was correct in a secular sense, but they

really never answered the lady's question from the Biblical or Christian viewpoint.

The Biblical viewpoint, which is the only true Christian stand on anything, is to be found in several passages in the Scripture, beginning with Genesis 2:23 and 24, where God created woman. Here marriage was born.

In Exodus 20:14, God condemns all sexual relationships outside of marriage: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Also in Mark 10:6-8, Jesus said, "But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall no one put asunder." Christ went on to condemn divorce and re-marriage as adultery.

Moving on to 1 Corinthians 6:9, Paul warned, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers... shall inherit the kingdom of God." Those are strong words, the inspired words of God through Apostle Paul. A strong warning to our generation.

Call it what you like, cohabitation, premarital sex, extra-marital sex, or common-law marriage --it's all adultery. We can change the name but we can not change the end result of sex outside of marriage. We must repent of our sin and refrain. Separation from such relationships is needed, for we cannot repent and then go on as before.

For those who are already divorced and remarried, little can be done other than to repent, and go on to make the marriage work. We should not hold divorce and remarriage out as an answer to marriage problems, for that is advising someone to sin. The Bible is unclear on what the already divorced and remarried should take.

As Billy Graham wrote sometime ago, "If Bible says, 'Thou shalt not...' then there is no doubt. However, if the Bible is not explicit, then we should weigh the pros and cons and ask God to give us wisdom to do what would please Him..."

I realize these are tough words, the Christian or Biblical viewpoint. When someone asks a question, they expect the truth, even if it is hard to deliver.

The lady was wise to seek advice, but it is sad the advisors departed from the source of truth. When I saw who had written the column, I realized the reason for the wishy-washy answer. The United Church of Canada denied many major parts of Scripture in 1980. They moved into what was called the "Age of New Morality". At that time, Clair Hoy wrote in The Toronto Sun: "If adultery, premarital sex, and homosexuality are perfectly acceptable because social values have changed, then what does the church stand for?... How can people call themselves exponents of a Christian church while at the same time rejecting all the values of that church?"

Good questions! And according to this recent column, things have not improved in the United Church.


— Len Colp  
Baileboro

## NEXT DEADLINE

Deadlines for the January 20 issue:

Monday, Jan. 10 — advertising deadline

Monday, Jan. 3 — editorial copy deadline

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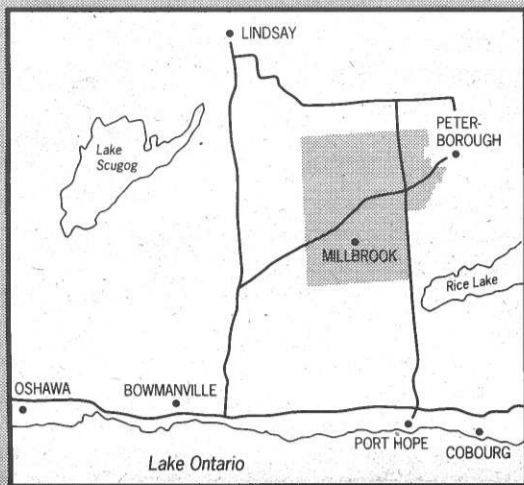
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### The Gazette Distribution Map

Delivered to every household within the municipality (shown in grey).

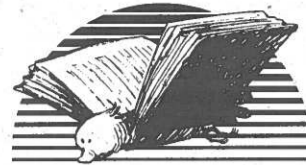


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RANDOM SAMPLING

## Kids' gifts: from schmuck Ken to Lego

By Margaret Monis

Well, another holiday season is here, and we are many of us frantically looking for stuff to buy. This time of year can be especially hard on parents shopping for young children given the plethora of toys and games available from which to choose. Seeing as I'm a seasoned veteran of this kiddy gift buying thing, I feel I should pass on some useful tips about what to look for when searching out that special something for your little ones.

Okay, let's start with an old standby — Barbie. Barbie has been around for forty years now which is in itself a testament to her ongoing popularity, but I'd be less than honest if I didn't admit here that I really hate Barbie. But it's not just Barbie now — oh no. Suddenly she has acquired three new sisters, all with their own houses and personal ponies (batteries not included). Pretty neat achievement considering there's not a parent in sight. And then there's Ken. Poor, poor Ken. What a schmuck. Ken has worked at various

jobs over the past forty years to support Barbie's expensive habits, not to mention the innumerable times he's saved her bacon by rescuing her from a tower or some other peril, and what does he get for it?

Nothing. She just keeps reeling him in and all he can do is squirm on the hook. Barbie products also come in disgustingly wasteful packages. Twist ties, plastic sheeting, cardboard, twist ties, paper, tape and oh, did I mention twist ties? I'd like to ask those toy types why they feel it's necessary to pin dolls to their backing in seventeen places as if they were crazed mental patients in need of restraint. What do they think is going to happen — that they'll mutilate themselves when no one is looking? Here's a news flash, guys — they can't move!

I notice this year that some old favourites have come back into fashion. Trouble is a good thing to play, not so much the game itself however, but that popping thing in the middle can provide hours of good clean fun. Then there's Risk, the game of world domination. Never too early to hone your child's ruthless, monomaniacal tendencies, I always say. And I see Twister is making a big comeback as well. I don't know, maybe it was just me, but I always found Twister uncomfortable and nauseating. Uncomfortable because of the excruciatingly contorted positions I always ended up in, and nauseating because just as I finally got balanced with my left leg passing cleanly over my right shoulder, breathing deeply to overcome the pain, someone's stinky foot would invariably land right next to my face.

But there actually are some good, durable toys out there whose popularity has stood the test of time, like Lincoln Logs, Mechano sets, and that good old standby, Lego. All of these toys are excellent and encourage children to imagine and create as they play. (A little caution here — make sure you always wear hard-soled shoes after you bring these toys into your house as they're just hell on bare feet.) Yo-yos, Frisbees, balls of all sorts and pretty well any Nerf product are also safe bets to delight most any child.

The main thing to remember when buying toys however is never, and I mean never, buy anything that talks or whirs or makes any other annoying battery assisted sound. Save your sanity and leave those babies on the store shelf where they belong. \*



GUEST EDITORIAL

## Tinky Winky ain't alone

By Pierre Blin

Cursing Smurfs, horny Austin Powers dolls, decapitated women and homosexual Teletubbies are just some of the toys available in major toy stores in recent years. What ever happened to the days of wooden trains and ragdolls, the kind of toys Santa's elves create on TV specials? Why are toys these days so downright rude? With Christmas around the corner, it is time for parents to educate themselves about controversial toys.

In September of this year, an Atlanta woman naively bought an Austin Powers talking doll. She gave it to her eleven-year old son, who unwrapped it, pressed the button on the back and looked perplexed as the doll loudly queried, "Do I make you horny, baby?" The boy asked, "Mom, what does horny mean?" The mother complained to Toys R Us.

Last year, the purple teletubbie Tinky Winky was supposedly turning the nations'

children into raging homosexuals. Reverend Jerry Falwell said the toy was gay, and stated he found homosexual role modeling to be damaging to children. The toy in question was purple, and carried a red "magic bag" which looks like a purse.

In 1997, a talking Smurf plush toy apparently uttered some garbled baby talk that started with f and ended with k and sounded remarkably like the word you're thinking of right now. In the same year, some versions of a sweet-faced Clever Cutie doll said "I like it when you cut me". This masochistic doll was apparently trying to say "I like it when you cuddle me."

In 1996, The Media Foundation bought thousands of talking Barbie dolls and G.I. Joes, switched the speech chips, and returned them to stores. The newly empowered Barbie growled "Vengeance is mine!", while G.I. Joe sweetly intoned "Let's go shopping!" Mattel and Hasbro were not amused.

Austin Powers' sexy little phrases seem innocent compared to a doll that purportedly promotes domestic violence, and possibly even decapitation! The WWF doll "Summerslam Al Snow" carries a woman's head under his arm. The words "Help me" are scrawled backwards on her forehead. Wal-Mart has recently pulled all these

dolls from its shelves after receiving a complaint that the doll promotes violence against women.

One game that is driving parents crazy this year is Pokemon. The trading cards with Pokemon characters on them have been banned in many schools for starting fights. The Globe and Mail reported one instance of a child stealing fifty dollars from his mother's purse to buy Pokemon cards.

To me, the real controversy of toys is the more hidden and dark side of the industry. The savvy marketing, the relentless drive to encourage kids to make their parents buy this or that flashy new toy or game is sicker than the Al Snow doll.

Companies such as Mattel and Hasbro make splashy, colourful but soulless toys that look great in loud, manipulative TV commercials. These companies, (which produce Barbies, Fisher Price, and Hot Wheels) operate sweatshops all over the world where people work under frightful conditions for starvation wages, environmental regulations are low or non-existent, and workers cannot organize to demand a decent wage and working conditions. For example, a Mattel worker in Indonesia would have to spend a month's wages to buy a Barbie. It would take him twenty-

eight years to make the daily salary of the company's C.E.O. Ugly toys, ugly companies.

In trying to make sense of it all, I talked to Jean Grant, the owner of The Toy Shop in Peterborough. She says some words of wisdom. "Any parent that buys an Austin Powers doll for their kid gets what they deserve. Anyway, we don't carry talking toys here. Their play value is severely limited." She adds, "I've been hit in the head with a wooden yo-yo. It really hurts! Now there's a violent toy. I've also been given a nosebleed by a book. It's not so much what the toy is as what the child does with it, and the example parents give."

I know it isn't easy. Kids want what other kids have or what they see on TV. Perhaps the best way around this is to go to the toy store with your children and make the best choices together. Let them know that it's OK to be purple and carry a "magic red bag". \*

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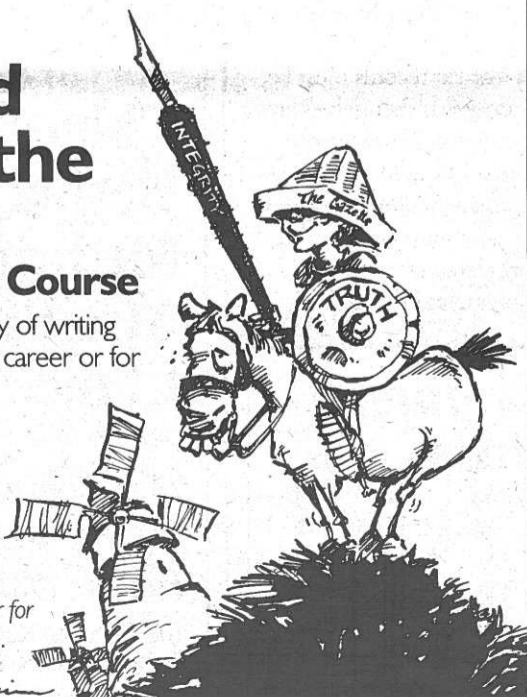
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HASH N' BEANS

## Keeping the magic alive

By Arden Myers

**M**erry Christmas everyone! I wanted to write about family holiday traditions, then food, but as always, food is involved — because after all, it's a holiday, and it involves family.

Each Christmas Eve, we would pack the car and leave Brampton to head north to my Grandma and Grandpa's house in Bancroft. This house was on a dirt road, and had a parlour, kitchen, three very small bedrooms, and an outhouse. The wood stove in the kitchen was the centre of the house, because it was the only source of heat.

Because I'm going to be giving my family copies of this article, I'm going to mention who was around at various times over the two days we would be at our grandparents... just to give you an idea of how many people were in such a small house! There was Mom and Dad (Arden and Ilene), Aunts and Uncles Ef and Mel, Dorothy and Pete, Grace and Stewart, Verna and Murray, Dick and June, Helen and Lawrence, Betty and Marrick (Uncle Chad), Glen and Sandra and Dennis and Gail. The kids included Arden and Tracy (my sister and I), Marcia, Jill, Perry, Jeff, Christie, Peter, Paula, Mark, Eugene, Elaine, Lisa, Judy, Jamie, Peter, Tim, Rocky, Todd, Tanya, Mandy, Angie, Vickie, Heather, Roxy, Lori, April and Jennifer.

So 48 family members plus Maude (Grandma) and Jack (Grandpa) were packed into the house — imagine, nearly 50 people in a three bedroom house with no bathroom. You know, I really miss it...

Now that my family members have been named, I'll move on to the most important person, on whom this whole story stands — my father, Arden Myers.

My dad somehow laid down the guidelines for celebrating Christmas in a small house with 50 people. My father would get up even before we children would. He would stoke the woodstove, then make coffee, a big pot of cream of wheat, and eggs fried in margarine. We would all have to eat first, before we got to the presents.

After breakfast, we would go into the parlour, and then my father would sit beside the tree — which had about 300 presents under it. He would reach down, pull out a present, read who it was to, and who it was from. You then thanked that person, and being careful not to rip the paper (my grandmother kept it), you opened your present and then showed the whole family what you received. If it was clothes, you had to try it on and show everyone. Then we moved on to the next present. Needless to say, Christmas took all day, especially if others came later on!

After my father passed away, that first year seemed quite different, and Christmas seemed to have lost its shine. My cousin Lori Chidley asked me if I would hand out the presents. So I started making breakfast and handing out presents at our family gatherings. The group of family members that gathers in recent years is smaller, and some of the ones we love are gone, but Christmas, and how my father thought it should be, goes on. As a family, no matter how big or small, or if we can not all be together, tradition and memories still matter, and are what make the holidays special.

Hope everyone has a happy holiday, a prosperous New Year — and I would like to thank you and the Gazette for letting me record these memories. A Merry Christmas to everyone, and after 26 years, Dad, I love and miss you.

I'll be back with recipes and stories in the new year, so if you would like a recipe or even a tip about something to do with cooking, feel free to call me at (705) 750-0727. I am also available to do catering. ♣



THE EDUCATION FILE

## Learning from our past

By Peter Ford

**W**ell, it's nearly over. I've learned from what I've done - what my life experiences have taught me. We all have. It's time to review our year's events before planning changes that will improve our situation next year. But this time it's also appropriate to look back over the last century and the last millennium, even the last 2000 years, to get some real perspective on "Who I Am Now."

Obviously, that review won't happen in this column, but some interesting ideas spring from the very thought of a self-review after 2000 years of "becoming." Did I exist in some form back then? Or maybe, what events 2000 years ago are influencing who I am today? What do we really know about life on this continent (or any continent) 2000 years ago? Probably not much. And why is that? Because those who determine(d) curriculum content for students during this century apparently didn't grant importance to this continent's life experiences. The fact that there were flourishing cultures with advanced languages and scientific skills seems to have been overlooked. Again, why? Reasons might include:

- a) curriculum designers didn't learn about it when they were students, and
- b) since Europeans didn't know anything about this continent until they invaded their "new world", information about its great civilizations wasn't passed down through Europe's written documents, resulting in history classes in Ontario which presented European plunder as glorious progress, essentially dismissing inhabitants on this continent as primitive heathens.

I wonder what else happened 2000 years ago and during the following 1999 years that was somehow not

deemed important for this century's students? I wonder how much the "history" which was deemed worthy of curriculum status throughout is actual truth, since we instinctively know very well that written history is notoriously biased and inaccurate? We Canadians, with the help of Laura Secord, won the 1812 battle at Queenston Heights — so we think. I mentioned this to an amazed friend in Buffalo, New York. His school history course had taught him that the U.S. had won that battle. So much for truth. Maybe the truth of wars and battles is that nobody wins. Maybe those who write the events into records are the same politicians who start wars for reasons of personal fame or fortune. (History also doesn't mention that politicians seldom die fighting.)

So, at this fascinating moment of history we have an opportunity as individuals to do some soul searching. Are educated individuals important? What is an educated self? Does our system want educated individuals as a product? (answer: NO! - because thinking people withdraw their power from politicians.)

Our education system has influenced who we are at this moment. Let's evaluate that influence. Who am I at this moment? How has formal school influenced me? I have some very deep feelings about who I really am. Has my school experience helped me to become the person that I sense in my inner knowing, who I know I am in my soul?

My questions point to the foundation stone in our current concept of education, and the system which was built based on that cornerstone concept. The big question is who knows best what I, as a person, an individual, a soul, need to become? Your answers lie within. Each of us KNOWS! So does every student in school today - although they are carefully never asked...

Education's history is another distorted record, as all worded records must be, since words themselves are so slippery. However, our review of the last few centuries clearly indicates in the past some people were considered important enough, and thus knowl-

*We Canadians won the 1812 battle at Queenston Heights — so we think.*

*I mentioned this to an amazed friend in Buffalo, New York. His school history course had taught him that the U.S. had won that battle.*

edgeable enough, to warrant the right to decide what other people should know, and should be taught. Children especially needed to be properly molded.

A look at education as we know it in 1999 shows a system in chaos. Our youth relentlessly resist the molding process. As parents and teachers we know the current system is not working, regardless of politicians' published and publicized records. Politicians clearly have

a vested interest in getting us to think that they know, and are thus worthy of having the power and permission we give them, to lead us and teach us through another year.

A new century lies ahead. My soul's mind turns a clean page. Will I decide to write a new page, this time with my own truths, or will I once again deny who I am, and grant someone else power to dictate what I should accept as truth about myself? I know my answer because I've learned from tough experience that I know best who I am and who I'm becoming. My self tells me my truth if I ask, and if I listen.

Now the question changes. What kind of education system grows from the concept that the learner knows best what s/he needs to know? A system that starts with concern for the individual? One that accepts change? One that has learned to listen? One based in love instead of fear?

And who is going to bring about the change from what is to what will be? We all know that, too... ♣



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**OUTDOORS WITH GEORGE**

# This year, a lot of deer!

By George Luchuk

It looks like when the final results are in for the 1999 Ontario Deer Hunt the harvest figures will be quite impressive. Possibly a record!

Every hunter I've talked to has essentially the same story. A lot of deer, but especially a lot of fawns.

There was also some element of dismay because hunters were using valuable doe tags on the smaller deer. The scenario of shooting fawns was especially prevalent whenever the dogs were used to push deer out into the open. The dogs invariably wound up chasing the slower moving animals. However, on a more positive note, the future is looking good for ever more bountiful harvests in the future. The mild winters we've been having in the last few years seems to be the primary explanation.

Again this year, I joined the crew in Quebec's Eastern Townships for the first week of the hunt, followed by a week in Kinmount, Ontario with the Cutmores' on their 1000 acre "Boldt Farm". While the hunters in Ontario are enjoying an ever increasing deer population, the Quebecers of the Eastern Townships are coping with a veritable exploding population.

There was one particular run which lasted the better part of an hour and collectively, we saw fourteen deer, but no bucks. Until recently, Quebec was a "bucks only hunt". It's only in recent years that the authorities started issuing doe tags and, only spar-

ingly. Our camp happened to get one of those tags and the doe that we took was the first one harvested in forty-five years. But this is going to change. If the rumors are correct, some areas of Quebec may become a "doe only hunt" for one year. If the story is true, it will be a slaughter.

*While I tend to believe they are naturally reoccurring, the locals suspect believe cougars are being released back into the wild to control the deer numbers.*

Another interesting story coming from the "Townships" was the recent sightings of cougars. While I tend to believe they are naturally reoccurring, probably wandering in from New Brunswick, the locals suspect they're being released back into the wild to control the deer numbers.

Last year I heard stories that the local coyote population was in decline, that they were starving and possibly suffering from mange. In October of this year, while hunting grouse near Millbrook, I was circling in a clockwise direction around some berry bushes expecting at any moment to flush out a bird. Something rustled in the bushes behind me. I turned quickly to my left and spotted three full grown and very healthy looking coyotes. I think I was being stalked, and at the very last moment, veered away. I know they don't attack humans, and that's a good thing because they came within twenty feet of me and I wouldn't have stood a chance. Coyotes are normally a very shy animal and to see one, but especially three, is a rare sight indeed.

Incidentally, as they ran by me, I gave them the old tip of the hat. ♣



**CREATIVE PARENTING**

# Buying the perfect gift

By Trish Boyd-Reininger

Less than a month to go! Christmas always seems to sneak up on me, no matter how organized I think I am. With ten nieces and nephews to think about, gift giving takes some time and some serious thought, especially now that everyone is getting older.

I try to watch throughout the year, and notice what each child's personal taste leans toward. My 8-year old niece Lynsey informed me that she wasn't into "girly" things anymore. So I'm assuming that Barbies and hair decorations are out — but what's in? After careful deliberation, I settled on a black tunic style Mickey Mouse sweatshirt. This should do the trick! Affordably purchased at Griffin's (in Millbrook) for \$7.50, the cost was a far cry from the \$30 price tag at the mall.

Lyn's older sister, Emily, 13, was a tough one this year. I came across a book on zodiac signs. This book gives a reading for each birthday of the year, along with a detailed description of the birth signs. At 13, I'd have loved it. I enjoyed browsing through it myself, and I hope that she will, too. Their older brother Cody, 12, my godson, loves the Montreal Canadiens and collects memorabilia, so he's still quite easy to give to.

Now their younger brother, Dustin, is 10, and is a collector of many different things, such as those dolls that stack within each other, small motorcycles, and Lego themes, so I'm still on the lookout for him. My 14-year old nephew,

Brad, is the recipient of some Millennium coins, purchased at the Millbrook Post Office, and his 12-year old brother Kenny... well, I'm still looking for something for him. Kerri, their older sister, has her first apartment up in Barrie, close to her school, so she needs EVERYTHING! What NOT to buy her is the question!

My niece Rebecca is eight, and IS into girly things, and has had her ears pierced — so jewellery it will be. Her brother Bryon is four, and loves matchbox cars. Thankfully, I came across a carrying case of 48 cars marked down from \$25 to \$10, an easy decision. Richelle and Rudi live out East, and are 13 and 10 years old respectively, so gift certificates for Jean Machine, Le Chateau are easy to send and always a hit.

And on it goes, searching for the gift that lights up their eyes, puts a smile on their face, and ends up in a big hug for me... that's the best part! Along with their gift, they all get a treat. This year, Terry's Chocolate Oranges win hands down. They are my favourite and a treasured memory from Christmases gone by.

Our family Christmas is a week before the big day. We all go to Garden Hill, where the church I grew up with owns a Christian retreat centre. The grounds are gorgeous, surrounded by 100 acres of Ganaraska Forest. Ice skating on lighted ponds, walks along three marked trails and sleeping accommodations for 28 make this an event to remember. All twenty or so of us get together on a Saturday afternoon, settle in, and wait. Well, the children wait while the adults get busy. We have a wonderful dinner together, supplied by all. Laughter, chatter, food and family — what a great combination!

After clean-up, my twin sister, Pam and myself set up four or five craft tables. The children string popcorn and

cranberries of garland, and we make Christmas bells, candy cane reindeer, construction paper chains, and pipe cleaner candy canes. The tree is then decorated by the children with their handmade arts. The Christmas tree shines with a special warmth as we all sit around it, talking and taking pictures.

*And on it goes, searching for the gift that lights up their eyes and puts a smile on their face.*

Snack and bedtime are busy, and sleep is a long time in coming to most of the excited young ones, but eventually, the adults can sit and breathe a sigh of contentment, wrap the last few gifts, and say goodnight.

Morning is bright and early, and crackles with excitement. Each child

opens one gift, then we sit down to breakfast together. Dishes are cleaned up, and the gift exchange begins. The children take turns so we can see their surprise, and share it with them. After the paper settles and the hugs and thank-yous are given out, the children play outdoors while lunch is prepared. This is usually leftovers from the night before (although the bigger the kids get, the less that's left over!).

Once lunch has been served, and clean up is completed, the packing up begins. When we're all on our way, last minute hugs and kisses abound.

Whew! It is a bit of a rush, and a lot of work, but you know, when our children are all adults, what memories they will have! Merry Christmas, and happy holidays! ♣

*"The older I become, the more I think about my mother."*

— Ingmar Bergman

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## Celebrating the Winter Sun

By Pierre Blin

It says a lot about our society that none of our major holidays celebrate the natural world.

The Christmas tree, wreaths, and holly are notable exceptions, but these are secondary to the actual holiday, and in any case, many opt for plastic substitutions these days.

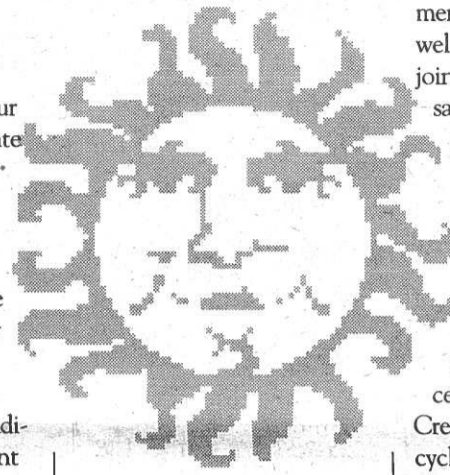
Furthermore, these traditions are lifted from ancient solstice celebrations that celebrate a very special natural event. On December 22 of this year, at 2:44 AM, a wondrous thing will happen, with a timeless story replayed. The sun will cease to wander further away from us, and commence its journey back towards our wintry land, bringing longer days, and eventually warmth and spring. Sunrise on this morning will mark the end of the longest night of the year, in anticipation of brighter days ahead.

Just about every civilization in history celebrated this day with some sort of ceremony and revelry. Much of our present day Christmas traditions have been borrowed from solstice traditions. Lights, candles, decorated trees, holly, mistletoe, wreaths, feasting, and gift-giving are derived from pre-Christian European solstice celebrations. In fact, even the date of Christmas was chosen by the Church to coincide with, and supercede the pagan solstice holidays.

Some people recreate ancient Solstice rituals in great detail. Wiccans are folks who choose ancient Celtic spiritual traditions as their religion of choice. The Winter Solstice is a very important holiday in their tradition.

Choosing to celebrate the Solstice has many rewards. It gives a moment of peace in a hectic season, filled with shopping and stress. It opportunes a rare time to commune with nature and its cycles - to give thanks and appreciation for the beauty of Creation. It's an excuse to take the day off and spend some time outdoors.

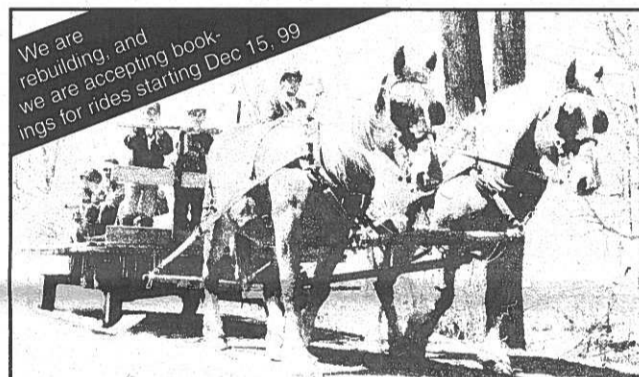
I spend solstice morning with my dearest friends. Making preparations the night before, we have a "hot chocolate sleepover" and get up together the next morning at 6:30am to greet the sunrise atop a huge drumlin overlooking the county. We light a fire, I give everyone cedar wreath crowns crafted the night before, drink some warming tea and hot chocolate, and do a little ritual



We then quietly watch the sun peek over the horizon, and we let out a big cheer when it becomes fully visible. After this, more food, more dancing, and merriment follow until the sun is well up in the sky. Finally, we join hands around the fire, say some parting words, and goodbyes. I always make it a point to relax for the rest of it.

This holiday has come to be more meaningful to me than any other. It offers me a ritual, however contrived, to celebrate and worship Creation, and the greater cycles of nature. As such, it satisfies a deep spiritual longing. More than that, it offers ritual that humans are lacking in modern society. I don't mean the morning coffee kind of ritual, but rather, ritual as a deep celebration of being alive. Somehow, my light-hearted, solstice sunrise ceremony achieves this. There's just something about acknowledging cosmic shifts of the sun and seasons that strums the heart-strings. Happy solstice! ♣

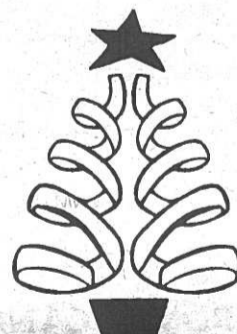
very loosely based on the Native American Sunrise ceremony. This involves eating some berries, drinking water, lighting sage and cedar incense and giving thanks to Creation, to the sun, and to each other. We might do a little solstice-appropriate reading. Next we bring out drums, harmonicas, toy pianos, rattles and penny whistles and dance around the fire.



**Horse-Drawn Rides**  
A fun activity for your business or family Christmas party.

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Call **705-932-2653**  
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Authorized by: C. Jaros Expires June 30 th, 2000

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# ABCs of wine

Some 4000 years ago, people in areas of Eastern Europe discovered that the grapes that they'd hidden in earthenware pots had rotted and been transformed into something that was pretty tasty. Thus was wine born.

Today wine is produced on almost every continent, appreciated in many countries. Wine affects the world on almost every level, from religion, art and the economy, to the very geography of the lands where it is produced and

consumed. It is therefore, to many people, an overwhelming and intimidating subject, the realm of snobs, connoisseurs and the very rich. It needn't be.

Simply put, wine is made by adding yeast to sweet grape juice. The yeast eats all the sugar and converts it to alcohol and carbon dioxide. The CO2 bubbles off and the alcohol mixes with the remaining fruit juice. Different kinds and combinations of grapes, soils, and harvest procedures produce different kinds of

*The best way to enjoy wine is simple. Relax and drink it. If you like it, then it's a good wine. If you don't, it's not a good wine ...for you.*

wine. That's essentially it. No wonder people try to make it sound more complicated.

The best way to enjoy wine is simple. Relax and drink it. If you like it then it's a good wine, if you don't it's not a good wine... for you. Your tastes are almost certain to change over time.

You can spend your life learning about wine and never be able to learn all there is to know because wine changes every minute of every

day. It is an organic substance that ages in the bottle, is produced new every year, and is unreproducible. This means that you can step into the process of enjoying and learning about wine at any moment.

How do you learn what kinds of wine you like? That's the fun part. Try some wine. Talk to your friends, have a glass with dinner or conversation, or any other way you like. Wine is best when shared.

There are some terms and information that will facilitate your enjoyment of wine, but just as you don't need to know the history and production standards of beef to enjoy a burger, it does still help to know the difference between Salisbury and pepper steak. ♣

*John Barclay is the proprietor of Winemakers Peterborough.*

## Ontario Firewood

Seasoned cut and split hardwood, delivered \$180/measured bush cord.

Call 932-2526 — Visa accepted.



**New Year's Eve Millennium Celebration**  
Friday, December 31st • 5:00-9:00PM

## Bonfire at the Millbrook Fairgrounds

The community is invited to bring a candle or flashlight for a candlelight procession down to the Millbrook Arena.

Skating, refreshments, goodies, noisemakers and party hats will add to the festivities.

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

Sponsored by the Township of CMNM Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department.



## Always Something Special

As this holiday season approaches, we wish to thank everyone who has supported us in our first year of business. May we continue to be your full service florist and unique gift store in the coming year. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas, have a safe and happy holiday and all the very best in the new year.

Margaret & David Roberts

16 King Street East  
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## It's in the bag!

This Christmas, give someone on your shopping list the world—or at least access to it. When you purchase one of our 6 month or 12-month Internet service packages,



we'll include a free set-up CD and a nifty Nexicom t-shirt. And, the whole package comes gift wrapped and ready to place under the tree!

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- Nexicom Office  
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www.nexicom.net



## Christmas Time at The Victoria Inn

Plan a memorable Christmas Party at this idyllic setting overlooking Rice Lake. For small business parties (4-12 people), join us for a Christmas buffet on **Sunday, December 12 or 19** between 3:00-7:00 pm.

Call 905-342-3261 to make reservations.

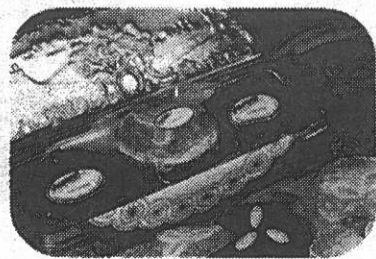
## Special Christmas Event at The Victoria Inn

Spend an evening of songs and stories with singer/songwriter **Aengus Finnan** on **December 23rd** from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Aengus will feature songs from his new CD 'Fool's Gold'. Come early for a festive buffet dinner or later for tea and dessert. Call now to make reservations at

**905-342-3261**

## Seasons Greetings

SPECIALTY BAKERY LTD.



Looking for that unique Christmas gift? Why not surprise your loved ones this Christmas with one of our Gift Boxes overflowing with delicious specialties like: Christmas Stollen ~ Truffles ~ Marzipan ~ Lebkuchen ~ And much more. All baked fresh in our bakery. Pick up your catalogue or ask for more information at our

196 Charlotte St. Store ~ 748-3618  
Springville Store ~ Phone 741-0777

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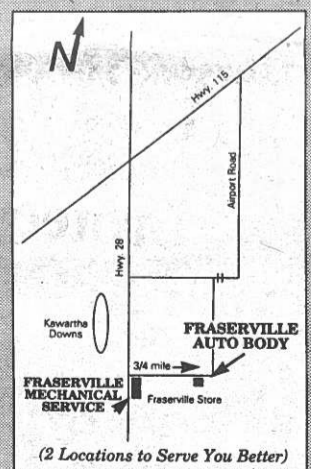
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Christmas Special:

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# Building a family centre: one brick at a time

Bricks from days gone by will form a foundation of sorts for Old Millbrook School Family Centre.

The Buy a Brick campaign, launched recently by volunteers with OMSFC, will utilize salvaged bricks from renovation work at the school to create a commemorative wall in the entrance of the Centre. Individuals, groups and businesses are encouraged to purchase one

of these golden bricks for \$100 each; the brick is then festooned with a brass plaque with the donor's choice of engraved message or name.

Spokesperson Angela Penello said the bricks are a great Christmas gift, or as a donation in memorial of someone special. Bricks can also be purchased over a ten-month period — \$10 paid on the 10th of each month. For the person who

*"This is all purely through the spirit of the community's generosity, and volunteerism"*

has everything, such a gift is a lasting tribute, and will have a significant positive impact in the community, she added. Tax receipts are also available.

Building a "foundation of funds" for the Centre has been an amazing success so far, Angela said. Twenty thousand dollars has been raised thus far, in only three months since the beginning of the campaign. Most of the revenue came from the silent auction and fundraising gala held in November (\$7300 approximately), as well as a raffle for \$1000. Generous donations from the St. Thomas Anglican Church Women, the Municipality, Nexicom, Dr. Neale and Dr. Moore, and the Downtown Millbrook Business Improvement Association upped the total, along with funds raised through a Christmas shopping trip to the Miko warehouse in Toronto, the sale of daffodils and t-shirts, and the community barbecue in August.

"This is all purely through the spirit of the community's generosity, and volunteerism," Penello said. Other fundraising efforts being planned include a benefit concert (including youth choirs) for the spring; another spring bulb campaign, and a roast beef barbecue on Canada Day. A parenting/early childhood education conference is another possibility for spring, launching one of the Centre's mandates to provide training and support for parents and caregivers.

Organizations and businesses, as well as individuals, are invited to work in partnership with OMSFC on fundraising initiatives. The OMSFC committee would like to thank the following individuals, groups and businesses for their support of the Starlight Dreams Auction and Gala: C&M Gifts, Chris Hodgson, Deborah Kohlsmith, Twp. of C.M.N.M., Mary Sutherland, Hemings Ltd., Ann's Creations, Doris Scott, Canadian Tire, Rhonda Pecena, Village Bulk Food, Bulger and Gray Insurance, Woodward's Garage, Millbrook Pro Hardware, Aesthetic

Services, Daisy Mart, Sam's Italian Deli, Your Home Décor, Fisher's Nursery, Catalina Hair Salon, Lynn Giles, Ptbo. Symphony, Lee Anna Dykstra, Millbrook IDA, G. Schell, Good Fortune Chemical, Kevin Calhoun, The Millbrook Agricultural Society, Westmacott House, David Fisher, Carol Fisher, Armstrong Florists, The Nexicom Group, Kawartha Downs, The Garden Shed, Bear Essentials, 4th Line Theatre, C.M. Historical Society, Doug Powell, Blue Spruce Golf Club, Bob Deacon - Kesco, Kennedy's Farm, Scott Concrete, Trent Security, Cimco Refrigeration, Ontario Firewood, The Wolf 101.5 FM, VIA Rail, Hunter West Gallery, CKPT/Country 105.1, Chelsea McGee, ORFA Inc., Celebrate with Cake, USA Hockey, NHL, Orchestra Toronto, Coca-Cola Bottling, 980 The CRUZ, Scholastic Canada, J. Tinney Motor Sales, Ground Cover, Victoria Academy Theatre, Basso Limousine, Paul and Kristine Hickey, Brian Thompson, RCL Branch 402, Maureen McElwain, Veronica Farley, Bent Reinert, Peterborough Singers, Sunshine Carpet, Canada Post, Charlotte Anne's Restaurant, Devil's Elbow, Burgandy's Hair

Salon, Williams' Auto Centre, TD Bank - E. Hughey, Donna's Pizza, Mr. Convenience, The Village Food Emporium, Oshawa Ski Club, The Granary, Bernar Hair Salon, P. Rennie Electrical, The Green Hills Gazette, Always Something Special, Royal Bank, Ann's

Creations. The Green Hills Gazette is the media sponsor for the OMSFC fundraising campaign.

The grand prize winner of the \$1000 raffle was Bonnie Lindsay, of Newmarket, Ontario. Bonnie has a sister who lives in Millbrook, Lorie Foster. ♣



**Christmas Baking**  
Trays, Cookies

**Catering**

Let us do your Christmas Baking!

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Sun. 8am-6pm

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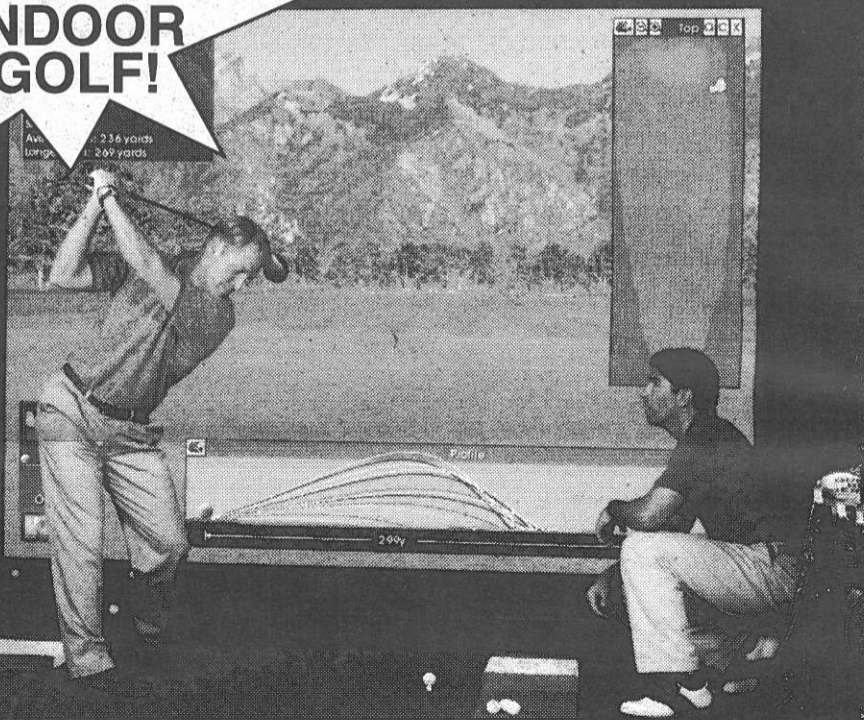
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**Christmas Special**  
**\$175<sup>00</sup>**

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4 Regular Green Fees

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# 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.

**The Christmas Show**  
At the Millbrook Gallery  
Runs to Dec. 23  
Thurs, Fri, Sun 12 - 5;  
Sat. 10 am - 5 pm,  
Special Christmas hours,  
Mon., Dec. 20 to Wed.,  
Dec. 22, 1 pm to 4 pm,  
Thurs., Dec. 23 12 am to  
5 pm. Group show fea-  
tures miniatures, books,  
cards and craft items suit-  
able for gift giving.

**Millbrook  
Community Choir**  
At St. Andrews United  
Church, Millbrook

Inviting new members dur-  
ing the month of January.  
If you can carry a tune,  
you're welcome. For more  
information contact Phil  
Loucks 745-2623.

**Santa Claus Parade**  
On King St., downtown  
Millbrook  
Sat. Dec. 11, noon  
Starts at medical centre,  
route follows King Street  
to Tupper Street. Prizes  
for best floats, Santa wel-  
comes visitors at the  
Legion Hall following the  
parade.

**Christmas Craft Show  
and Flea Market**  
At Millbrook/South Cavan  
School, Millbrook  
Sat. Dec. 11  
Lots of great gift and dec-  
orating ideas and goodies  
for the whole family! Call  
Karen 944-8815 for  
details.

**LETS Christmas Market**  
At All Saints Anglican  
Church, Ptbo.  
Sat. Dec. 11, 10 - 3  
Great crafts, gifts and  
one-of-a-kind items for  
one-stop shopping.

Admission is non-perish-  
able food donation to  
Food Share.

**Benefit Dance for Brian  
Squirrel Legal Defense  
Fund**  
At Millbrook Arena  
(upstairs)  
Sat. Dec. 11,  
8 pm - 1 am  
Non-stop music featuring  
Quarterline and DJ Steve  
McPherson. Tickets \$10,  
call Dan or Jane at 932-  
5386. All donations grate-  
fully accepted.

**Christmas Concert**  
At St. Andrew's United  
Church, Millbrook  
Sun. Dec. 12, 7:15 pm  
Featuring the Community  
Choir, Joyful Noise,  
Weslee and Friends. All  
welcome, free will offer-  
ing to the church and  
Millbrook and District  
Food Share Hamper  
Drive.

**3rd Annual Breakfast  
with Santa**  
At Springville United  
Church  
Dec. 18, 8:30 - 11 am  
Presented by 22nd  
Springville Cub Pack,  
adults \$7, kids 3 - 12 \$5,  
under 3 free. Family rate  
\$20. Tickets, call Ed or  
Linda at (705) 277-9697.

**Skate with Santa**  
At the Millbrook Arena  
December 24, 2 - 4 pm  
Santa makes one last  
stop to visit children in  
Millbrook! Hot chocolate  
and cookies will be  
served.

**Christmas Eve Service**  
At Centreville Presbyterian  
Church  
Dec. 24, 7:30 pm  
Everyone welcome to join  
Emmanuel and Springville  
United, as well as  
Centreville congregation.  
Carols, lessons and sto-  
ries for all ages.

**New Year's Eve Party**  
At the Millbrook Legion  
Br. #402  
9 pm - 2 am  
For more info, call the  
Legion at 932-2837.

**President's Levy**  
At the Legion, Millbrook  
Jan. 1, noon start  
Includes live entertain-  
ment and refreshments.

## ON-GOING EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

**Millbrook Community  
Choir** Every Tues., 7:30 -  
9:30 pm at St. Andrews  
United Church, Millbrook  
For info call 745-2623

**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 partici-  
pant 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.

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

**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.

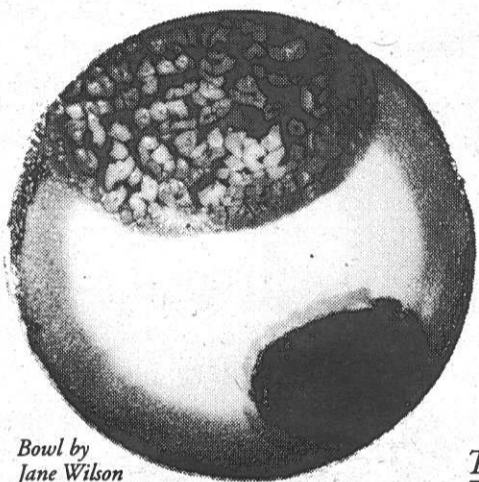
**Diabetes Support Group**  
2nd Wed., Canadian  
Diabetes Association, 249  
Rink St. Peterborough 10  
am-noon or 7-9 pm Call  
742-2733 for info.

**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.

## THE CHRISTMAS SHOW

Group Exhibit & Annual Display of Children's Art



Bowl by  
Jane Wilson

**EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS**  
Monday December 20, 1 - 4p.m.  
Tuesday December 21, 1 - 4p.m.  
Wednesday December 22, 1 - 4p.m.  
Thursday December 23, 12 - 5p.m.

*We will be Closed*  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday  
December 24, 25 & 26

*Gallery Hours*  
Thursday 12-5, Friday 12-5  
Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-5

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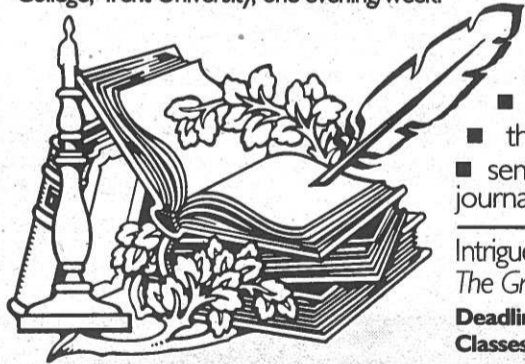
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The Green Hills Gazette, at (705) 932-2175.

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



## Christmas Celebrations

The Anglican Church Welcomes You!

### Christmas Eve

Friday, Dec. 24

- 4:00pm St. Thomas', Millbrook
- 7:00pm Christ Church, Baillieboro
- 7:30pm St. John's, Ida
- 9:00pm Trinity the Marsh Church
- 9:30pm Christ Church, Omemece
- 10:30pm St. Paul's, Bethany

### Christmas Day

Saturday, Dec. 25

- 9:30am St. John's, Ida
- 11:00am Christ Church, Omemece

### Sunday, Dec. 26 Christmas Lessons and Carols

- 10:30am Christ Church, Omemece
- 11:00am St. Paul's, Bethany

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Manor  
Walton**

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• ANTIQUES •

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licensed Tea Room and  
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and vintage clocks.

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earned. For half hour, no obliga-  
tion interview, call Lynn (705)  
944-5428 from Explosive Sales,  
authorized Tupperware Dealer.

### NEW BUSINESS

Welcome Wagon visits newcom-  
ers to the community and new  
babies. We give civic material as  
well as gifts from local business-  
es, and can distribute brochures  
for non-profit groups. Call Anne  
Willan for info, 939-6074.

# Downright pleasurable shopping in Millbrook!

By Debbie Clifford

Tradition dictates that when we rub the sleep from our eyes on Christmas morning, our gaze should alight on a dazzling array of gifts from loved ones.

The only glitch in this whole dreamy scenario is the rather obvious question: How are all of these thoughtful, "It's just what I wanted!" presents going to make their way to us? Someone must go SHOPPING!

Now, we step into the deep water of this situation. Where is the credit card to venture? If like me, you tend to think in a simplistic fashion, it may be that you gather up your courage, grab the car keys and a bottle of extra-strength aspirin, and head for the nearest mall.

This is where I must let you in on a recent discovery. It may cause startled surprise, but if acted on, could prove to be one of your most pleasurable Christmas experiences. The truth is, you can do ALL your shopping right here in town. "Get out of town!", you say. No — the real solution is, "Stay here!"

This past Saturday, I ventured into downtown Millbrook to shop. What I found has made me a believer in the creativity of local business people, and a happy convert to Millbrook shopping. At every shop, there was something for someone on my shopping list.

The feeling of being pampered was all too enjoyable. From Fern at Armstrong's Florist, who carefully packaged my children's gift to their teacher, as though it were a priceless treasure, to Shelly at Bear Essentials who made my presents appear as if they had come direct from some exclusive shop, I felt I was well taken care of. I am sure that, after Christmas, they

would be certain to ask if the gifts had indeed been the perfect choice.

Both Fern and Shelly have taken a lot of care in selecting items for their stores. The Christmas selection is beautifully arranged. Fran does custom work and will, if you bring her a swatch of material, design an arrangement with just the right co-ordinating flower colours. Her assortment of candles, placemats, and gift items make it impossible to leave without finding some treasure.

*The truth is, you can do ALL your shopping right here in town.*

*"Get out of town!",*

*you say.*

*No — the real*

*solution is,*

*"Stay here!"*

Bear Essentials carries quality clothing, currently at great sale prices! The store also carries wonderful gift items such as nativity scenes, calendars, candles, tree ornaments, and home accents.

At Always Something Special Florist, Margaret has many options besides fresh flowers. I picked up a great homemade item for \$10.00, a perfect gift for one of my office pals. There are also thoughtful custom-designed baskets which can be filled with all kind of goodies such as truffles, homemade shortbread, peanut brittle, flowers, preserves, spices and her special oatmeal molasses bread. Each basket comes with a special feel of care and quality, that no prepackaged one can offer.

At Griffin's Hair Salon, you can purchase a Mini Spa package to pamper the per-

son on your list who would never think of indulging themselves. There's gift certificates for haircuts that are sure to be appreciated. I understand the haircut also includes a head massage, which personally is my favorite part of the whole process.

Next on my list was Ron at Pro Hardware. After wandering the aisles and checking the sales flyer, I emerged with another name checked off my list, and a list of items I needed to buy to complete my decorating. Ron also has all those seasonal necessities such as batteries, extension cords, gift wrap, bows, tree toppers. Many sale flyer items can be ordered in.

At the Millbrook Art Gallery creativity comes to life with unique prints, paintings, hand-turned bowls, wooden treasure boxes, illustrated children's books by Bill Slavin, and other small gifts. This is a place to shop for the person who has everything, as the gifts are one of a kind.

It was a real pleasure chatting with Audrey at the Cranberry Creek Kitchen store. Now, ordering a brand new kitchen may be a fun thought but it was definitely not on my shopping list, so I occupied myself with checking out pottery and ceramic items. I walked out with two pairs of double-knitted slippers Audrey had made.

I also picked up a pair of thick wool socks that are a part of our family's tradition, at Battaglia Footwear. Frank has great prices on quality winter boots and slippers. For the outdoorsman in your life, Frank has those toasty, heavy flannel shirts. If you bring the kids with you, drop them off at Joe's, the Barber Shop next door. Joe will look after their heads while you look after their feet.

Naturally, many of our Christmas memories revolve

around food, so don't forget to visit Wanda at Village Bulk Food. You will find all the items to make that fruit cake your family has come to expect as tradition. Your cookie tray need never run out, with all the yummy ingredients that Wanda stocks. For those friends who love food, you can find all you need to make a personalized gift.

As my husband's Christmas traditions are time-warped from 17th century Upper Canada, and mine are from the unique recipes of Atlantic Canada, it is reassuring to know that Calhoun's IGA can accommodate me (turkey dinner with the trimmings) and him (oyster soup - uggghh!).

By mid-day, I decided to nourish myself, and again what a pleasant difference from city shopping. Will it be CJ's famous chicken wings? A home-cooked meal at the Millbrook Family Restaurant? A pita sandwich at Donna's Pizza, a quick donut at the Coffee Shop, or Swiss meatloaf and salad at the Village Emporium? Discovering one of the Cookie Shop's to-die-for cookies in my purse I decided, if children can insist that they are the only food group which is really important, I would not argue today. Shopping is not supposed to be this decadent, is it?

For any collectors out

*By mid-day, I decided to nourish myself, and again what a pleasant difference from city shopping.*

there, the Post Office has a wonderful Millennium Collectors' Gift Set (\$7.95) with holographic stamps and a great little metal case. And if you're looking for this year's currency gift set, Dianne and Gail will gladly take your money and give you theirs.

My husband used to give me perfume, relaxing bath salts, and chocolates in my stocking, but now he gives me vitamins and mineral supplements, cold remedies, and cough lozenges. When I see him at the Millbrook Pharmacy, my heart no longer goes pitter-patter, but I know he is being sweet and thoughtful. This year I have left word with the helpful staff there to redirect him


toward their delightful Christmas card and gift section... and to point him across the street to Nexicom to purchase a cordless phone, so that he can answer the calls while he makes dinner, does the laundry, and vacuums the house...

Luckily for the children, Santa fills their stockings, and the word around the North Pole is that he does some shopping at Daisy Mart and Mister Convenience for all those sugar-coated treats, Pokemon trading cards and Crazy Bones.

By now, the message should be clear. We all have to shop. It can be stressful, or a very pleasurable, relaxed outing. The local merchants are all working hard to meet the needs of our Christmas list, so let's forget about the mall for awhile, and start a new tradition of shopping locally. You will have great gifts, far less stress and a healthy local economy. Seems to me, this benefits all. Merry Christmas, neighbours! ♣

**Merry Christmas!**  
We would like to thank all our customers for their support in '99.

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**Best Wishes from:** Angela, Arif, Carolyn, Cindy, Danielle, David, Debbie, Helen, Joshua, Leona, Marice, Nicole, Sherlene, Steve, Susan

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