

# THE GREEN HILLS Gazette

Free!  
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Volume 3 Issue 12

CELEBRATING LIFE IN CAVAN, MILLBROOK AND NORTH MONAGHAN

## Nursing home assessment gets approval

By Melodie McCullough  
Several Millbrook residents, as well as some Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan Council members, are angry the outgoing council has denied residents a public meeting to discuss the building of a nursing home on property adjacent to the Old Millbrook School. At the same time, it has given the home's developer the go-ahead to complete an environmental assessment and soil tests at the controversial site.

"There is a due process, and it was not followed in this case," said Bob Deacon, in an interview following the last meeting of the outgoing council Nov. 20. Mr. Deacon is the newly elected council member for Millbrook, and will take his seat on the new council Dec. 4.

"When a decision is made of this sort, there is an accepted open process which would call for a selection of sites, then sorting of those sites, and public meetings to explain how the successful site was chosen," continued Mr. Deacon. "None of those things have taken place."

Earlier in November, at a press conference in Millbrook, Fraser Wilson, owner of Omni Health Care

*"I haven't had a chance as a councillor to even ask Mr. Wilson questions... What I know I've read in the newspapers..."*

(which was awarded an Ontario Ministry of Health contract to build a 96-bed nursing home in the village) announced he has chosen property adjoining the Old Millbrook School as the preferred site. Millbrook residents objected, saying the nursing home development would detract from the heritage setting.

At the Nov. 20 meeting, a motion by Councillor Brian Fallis to hold a public meeting before going ahead with any further plans at that site did not receive a seconder, and died on the order paper. But a motion to let Omni Health Care proceed with an environmental assessment and soil tests on the property was passed, with Councillors Alex Ruth, Brian Bartlett, Tom Jones, and Reeve Neal Cathcart voting in favour. Mr. Fallis was the lone objec-

tor. (Councillors Brian Squirrell and Dean Cutmore were not present.)

Mr. Fallis said he thinks it is premature to allow an environmental assessment without fully examining alternative sites, and without all Council members understanding the criteria for the site, as well as sewage and water servicing.

"I haven't had a chance as a councillor to even ask Mr. Wilson questions about certain elements of his proposal. What I know I've read in the newspapers. Nowhere has Council even requested a planning report on the site, to understand the impact on the neighbouring communities, and so that we can look at things like road needs and traffic impact."

And he said it is "grossly unfair" there has been no community involvement in the decision, especially since the site being considered is public property.

Lyn Lepper has lived on Dufferin Street across from the Old Millbrook School property for 14 years in one of five heritage homes in the immediate area. While she is not opposed to a nursing home being built in the village, she is concerned about the lack of public consultation on the proposed site, and the traffic generated by a staff of over 100 (plus ambulances, service, and delivery vehicles) on Gravel Road and Dufferin Street (both dead-end streets).

"It's inexcusable that they should even consider that property with it being in a residential area," said Mrs. Lepper, who would like to see a public meeting organized. "I would like to see them consider other choices of land that are still within the village of Millbrook."

Her neighbour, King Street resident Ralph

## BAILIEBORO CELEBRATES VILDA



Long-time Bailieboro librarian Vilda Nurse recently retired and was wished well by many neighbours and friends at a November 25th reception. Here she is presented with a plaque by Oronabee-South Monaghan Reeve Nelson.

Plaskett, is also upset. He said he was never informed of any plans, and only heard about it from other residents.

"The process is totally archaic. It's just revolting to see our municipal leaders bulldozing ahead to make it work from their perspective, without taking the other citizens into consideration."

He, too, would like a public meeting to be held, and he would also like to see someone other than Council, such as a local realtor, be given a mandate to look into alternative locations for the nursing home. It's possible private or other public property might be made available to Omni, he said.

Brian Bartlett, council representative for North Monaghan, said he did not support a public meeting as suggested by Mr. Fallis, because it is not necessary.

"A public meeting would be putting the cart before the horse," he said, in an interview. Omni should be given the chance to study the site to see if it actually suits its needs, he said.

"There might be (other properties), but this is the one these people picked, and they're the ones bringing the \$10 million construction project and the 110 jobs to the our area — and I think that we should give them the

chance to research that."

It may turn out they don't want that property, "so why get the public all stirred up about it before we know if that's the proper place?" asked Mr. Bartlett.

In an interview, Fraser Wilson said his company is getting environmental studies done on the property to validate with its architects if it is suitable for the construction of the nursing home. He is not considering any other property at this time, and is "most definitely" still hoping to build on the Old School property.

"That's what we believe to be in the best interest of our residents," he said. ♣

## Old Tyme Xmas Thursday!

Festive start to the season — this Thursday! Don't forget — your opportunity to get into the spirit of the season is this Thursday night!

The 4th Annual Old Tyme Christmas event in Millbrook begins at 6 pm on Dec. 7, with the Christmas Lighting Extravaganza at the mill pond area near the Arena. Throughout the downtown area, merchants and groups will be hosting a variety of festive activities, treats,

and holiday specials for shoppers.

Events and activities include photos with Santa, a giant stocking draw, craft making for children at Joe's Hair Styling, selected in-store draws, free wagon rides, and a special quilt display at the Heritage Centre — all on King Street in downtown Millbrook.

Share with others as well — be sure to bring a food bank donation to one of the downtown locations! ♣

## Gazette on holiday until February 1st

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a healthy, happy New Year from all of us at *The Green Hills Gazette*! We're planning to ring in the new year by taking some R and R time, as most of our staff (the majority of which are volunteers) have not had a holiday since we started in April of 1998. We'll be off until our February issue, which will come out earlier than our usual third Thursday of the month — on Thursday, Feb. 1.

Look for us in your mailbox on or around Feb. 1, chock full of fresh news, features, coming events, and columns. And by the way, thanks for your support over the past year!

## INSIDE

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# Liberals win both area ridings

By Melodie McCullough  
 Liberal incumbents representing the two federal ridings that encompass Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan Township will be returning to Ottawa as part of the Liberal majority government, each having held onto their seats in the Nov. 27 federal election.

John O'Reilly, MP for Haliburton-Victoria-Brock since 1993, placed first in that riding with 16,652

votes (33.9%), but Canadian Alliance candidate Pat Dunn, a retired OPP officer, came in a strong second with 15,592 votes (31.7%). Laurie Scott, Progressive Conservative hopeful, and daughter of long-time area MP Bill Scott, also had a strong showing with 14,513 votes (29.5%). NDP candidate Rick Denyer placed fourth with 2,408 votes (4.9%).

In Peterborough riding, Peter Adams easily defeated

his main opponent Eric Mann, the Canadian Alliance candidate. Mr. Adams, who won his third consecutive victory, obtained 25,309 votes to Mr. Mann's 14,927. Darrin Langen placed third with 7,034 votes for the Progressive Conservatives, and Herb Wiseman placed fourth with 3,966 votes for the NDP. Green Party candidate Tim Holland received 903 votes, and independent candidate Bob Bowers received 147 votes. About 67% of eligible voters cast ballots in Peterborough riding.

*Mr. Adams said he is very pleased he received more support from the rural areas of the riding than ever before.*

Mr. Adams said he is very pleased he received more support from the rural areas of the riding than ever before.

"It makes me feel better, because my job is to represent everybody," he said.

One of the priorities of the Liberals in the new Parliament, he said, will be to take an in-depth look at rural issues because they came up often during the election campaign and are important.

# North Monaghan residents to pay for city library privileges

By Michele Curran  
 Effective immediately, North Monaghan residents will no longer have free access to City of Peterborough public libraries.

At the November 20 Committee of the Whole meeting, CMNM Council passed a motion to pay the City of Peterborough the amount of \$6,951. This represents an amount owed to the City by the Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan Public Library Board for North Monaghan Ward residents' library usage.

The motion was made when Council learned the fees (the portion of the provincial library grant) had not been paid to the City of Peterborough for the past three years.

Councillor Brian Fallis wanted to know if the Library Board is audited, and why was the fees were not paid. He said if this problem arose through a lack of communication between the municipality and the library, then the library board should not be punished for what could have been an honest mistake.

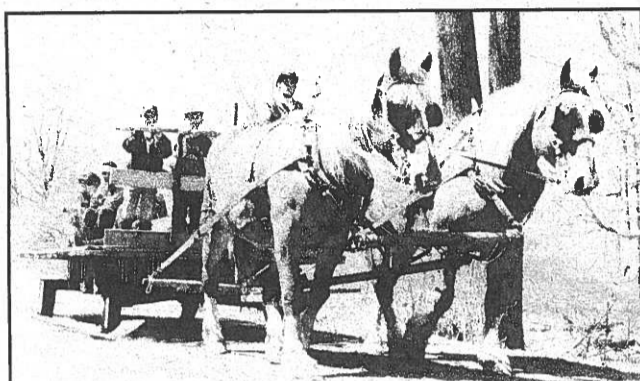
Councillor Alex Ruth asked the municipality's treasurer Hazel Armstrong, "How come the auditor didn't pick this up?" Armstrong replied that she didn't know.

In effect, by paying this amount Council has terminated an agreement with the City of Peterborough — which means North Monaghan library-users will have a choice to either use the North Monaghan library

for free, or pay a fee to use the City of Peterborough Library. Councillor Brian Bartlett said, "The people in North Monaghan should be told about the changes."

He added, "We should notify the City of Peterborough to notify North Monaghan library users about the charges."

Fallis agreed, and added the municipality should send a letter to the people of North Monaghan welcoming them to use the new library, while at the same time telling them they can continue to use the Peterborough library for a fee.



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# Christmas Celebrations

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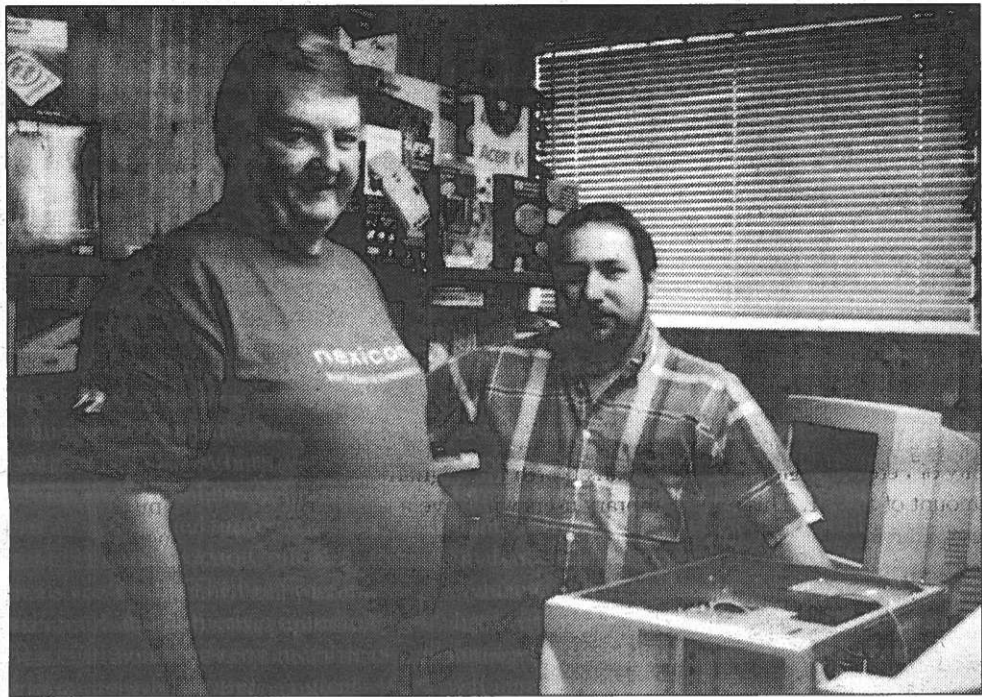
## Christmas Eve Sunday, Dec. 24

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

## Christmas Day Monday, Dec. 25

- 10:00am St. John's, Ida

## BUSINESS PROFILE



Wayne Blaby and George Obey (l-r) doing "surgery" on a disc drive.

# Computer Solutions Plus

By Melodie McCullough

Take a love of computers, add a sound business background, throw in a strong dose of enthusiasm for turning people on to computers — and what have you got?

It all adds up to Computer Solutions Plus, a winning combination for two area men who decided to join forces about four years ago to create a local company to build and sell computer systems.

Watching the business of Computer Solutions Plus double each year since it began is just one of the rewards Wayne Blaby of Cavan and George Obey of Millbrook have received from their partnership.

"I just love computers. I'm addicted to them," said Mr. Obey, who provides the technical side of the association, and has worked in the computer field for 22 years. Originally from Pickering, he has lived in this area about ten years. "But I also like meeting the people and helping them out. A lot of people need help, and I try the best I can."

Mr. Blaby brings a business management background to the company and handles its administration. He has lived in Cavan for 22 years. He also gets a kick out of sharing his enthusiasm for the world of computers.

"It's nice to see when you get a new computer user. It's

nice to see how excited they get about what these things can do," he said.

He also enjoys the challenge of keeping up with the speed of change in the industry, an important part of their company's business. Serving residential and business customers within a 75-mile radius of Cavan and Millbrook, they do "pretty well anything related to computers," said Mr. Blaby, "whether it's upgrading an older system, adding some new components to your existing system, or right from scratch,


building you a new, modern system."

"All the systems we sell we build from scratch ourselves. We tell people in the time we've been in business we have determined what components are the most reliable, and those are the manufacturers we buy from," said Mr. Blaby.

They will deliver and set up computer systems in your home or business, and service them either at your site or their offices. They are also agents for Nexicom, and do Internet set-ups, including the new DSL service.

They also do networking as well as selling the systems, and boast many customers such as the municipality, two local libraries, lawyers' offices in Peterborough, and various local industries. Mr. Obey is presently studying a Networking Technology course at Fleming College in Peterborough.

Computer Solutions Plus has two Christmas specials for sale, one an Intel Pentium Three 800, billed as a "full-blown business system" by Mr. Blaby, and a smaller Intel Celeron 600, for home use or someone with a tighter budget. ♣



**Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season**

**Brian Fallis**  
Deputy Reeve

# Ensuring women a comfortable retirement

Submitted by Brian Nashman, Edward Jones Investments

Saving for retirement is especially vital for women. Despite much progress in the last decade, Canadian women earn only 65 percent as much as men, according to a 1996 Statistics Canada survey.

Although many forecasts suggest that pay parity is coming, the pay gap means that several generations of women, from those starting work today to those who have been working for 20 to 30 years, could find themselves short-changed in retirement income. Consider these facts from Statistics Canada. Men's annual retirement income, including all sources, averages \$25,020, compared with just \$18,139 for women. Because women live an average of seven years longer than men, they're more likely to face the problem of outliving their assets — in fact, women are twice as likely as men to die poor.

It can be more difficult for women to save for retire-

ment because they earn less throughout their careers. Women have to save a higher percentage of their income to ensure a comfortable retirement. Eighty-three percent of single families are headed by women, and the average income of these families is only \$24,044. At one time or another, most women are wholly responsible for their own financial welfare, especially when you consider that 82 percent of the total widowed population in Canada are women.

Despite these statistics, women can take control of their financial futures by implementing a few basic strategies. These include developing a plan and sticking to it, paying themselves first, systematically investing for the long term, taking the time to learn about basic investments, sheltering their retirement dollars from taxes, diversifying their investments, and using professional advice.

The time to plan and invest for your retirement is now. Start today — with the workshop noted on this page! ♣

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**EDITORIAL**

**Winter's reflection**

Some might say I'm naive; a Pollyanna type who believes too much in the goodness of people. Maybe this editorial is inspired by the movie, Pay It Forward — but really, I know its because I've experienced an improved quality of life by changing my attitude.

I've found there really is a difference in quality of life when you choose to see your glass as half full — and not half empty. Really and truly, we do have a lot to be thankful for, and much to appreciate in our lives, even if we don't have a lot of material possessions or money in the bank.

Most of us have enough to eat, a roof over our heads, and sufficient clothing to keep warm and dry. A good number of us have jobs. While our dollar may not go as far as it used to, with rising prices on everything from clothes to gasoline, we mostly manage. After all, money is only a tool with which to buy what we need.

If money rules our lives, we are living in perpetual fear of being broke or destitute, even if we have enough to meet our daily needs. We hoard our resources, including the non-monetary variety, for fear we might not get more. It's all about getting and having more — not about enjoying what we do have, and sharing with others.

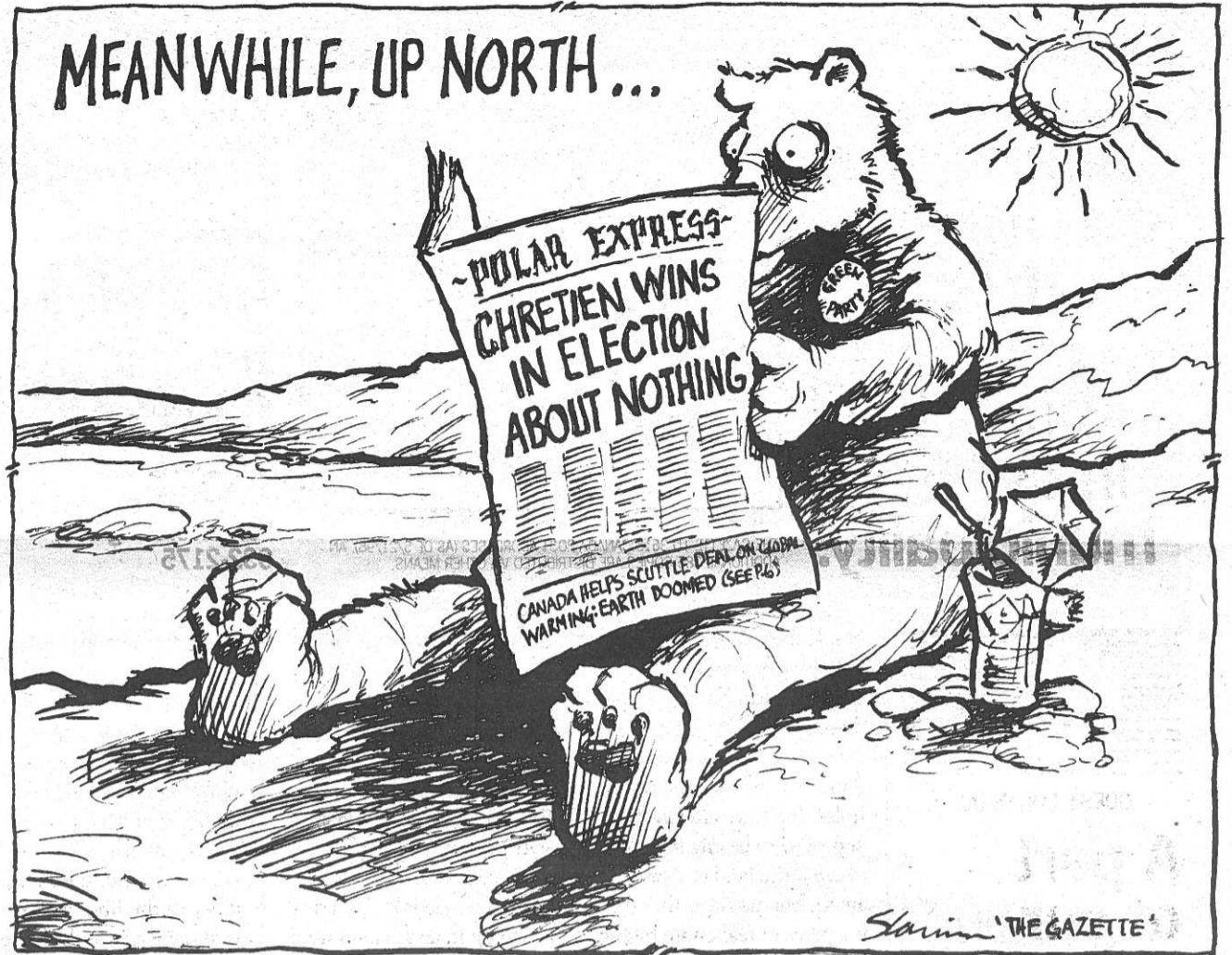
Of course, I'm not advocating that we throw all caution to the winds, and spend like there's no tomorrow. A good financial plan can salvage many a rainy day. However, if we learn to loosen our grip on our money fears, and consequently, our feelings of scarcity, we will learn the joy of what it means to share with others and live life to the full.

The holiday season, regardless of your religious beliefs, is an opportune moment to consider our role in the world, our fears, and how we interact with each other. It is a dark time, not to be feared, but to be savoured as a quiet opportunity to think about our past and present. Advent, Hanukkah (truly a festive winter occasion, with its candle-light), and the period leading up to the Winter Solstice are traditional periods when we do such reflection. In my Christian tradition, I've always appreciated Advent evenings as a cozy time of slowing down, writing, meditation, and perhaps baking a few Christmas goodies for family and friends.

It's truly amazing how great it feels to liberate oneself from the concern about money, resting in the knowledge that all is well in the moment, and knowing that we have so much to share with others. By letting go, considering our contribution to the world, and then going out and doing for others we heal ourselves. As we are healed, we share a beautiful gift with all we meet — not just our natural smile or bouncy step — but an inner light. We feel like we want to do for others, even little things like opening a door, or putting extra change in an expired parking metre, or complimenting our usual waitress on her new hairdo or sweater.

Try seeing your cup as half full, and changing your attitude about the resources you really do have. Practice random acts of kindness and support. And watch how your whole outlook and stress level changes.

Remember, there are many people out there who DO not have enough to eat in our community. Please give generously of NON-EXPIRED canned goods and non-perishables YOU or your children would enjoy eating OR a new toy for a boy or girl OR a cash donation to Millbrook and District Food Share. Food Share is gathering food and gifts for Christmas hamper distribution over the next couple of weeks. Call 932-7066 and leave a message for more info or to arrange pick-up. ♣



**Thanks, & let's stay involved!**

Well, the municipal election is now behind us, and I feel that many important issues have been placed in the eyes of the ratepayers. With the remarkably high turnout at the polls this time, I know that folks are concerned with their representation locally, and I only hope that the interest level stays high over the next three years.

A message to the new Council... please respect the right of your constituents to know what is being done on their behalf, and please do welcome their input in the process of governing. Special thanks to our local press who were extremely courteous and fair to all candidates during the election, and I feel gave our ratepayers the kind of information that they needed to understand the issues.

On a personal note, I would just like to say thanks to all members of our community

that heard my call for change, and offered their support at the polls. We knew that our strength would be fractured by the number of candidates running for Reeve, but we were elated to get within 5.3% of winning the election. I felt alone at Council over the past 11 months, but now I know that almost 900 of you are standing with me — and hopefully our new Council will recognize that strength.

A most special THANK YOU to the many hard working, dedicated, and sincere individuals (you know who you are) who donated so much time and effort over the last 3-1/2 months. And most importantly, thanks to my wife Lynda and our family for the love and support that carried me through this odyssey, and provided me with the constant reminder of why I was involved.

I will once again be at Council meetings on a regular basis, and look forward to seeing many of you there, taking interest in our community!

— Bob Clark  
Larmer Line, Cavan Ward

**Thank you!**

A special thank you goes to Otonabee-South Monaghan Council and Library Board staff and volunteers, and all those who attended and helped out in any way to make my retirement such a memorable event. Thanks for all the beautiful gifts, flowers, and cards, and the support you have given me. Also I would like to thank the staff at the Gazette for all the advertising you've done for our library.

— Vilda Nurse, Recently retired librarian  
Bailieboro Public Library

**Wolves declining in Ontario**

I am sure that the people of Ontario would be surprised and upset to know that wolf populations remain at low levels, or are declining here.

With winter fast approaching and the hunting months upon us, I would like to highlight some concerns about the plight of wolves which are unnecessarily, and some would say, senselessly, killed for either their fur or simply because they are considered "competitor" animals.

Here in Ontario, there is no closed hunting season for wolves — except for three winter months in three townships near Algonquin Park. As there are no bag limits on wolves, you may kill as many as you come across. Unfortunately, this also includes pups, which hold the key to a healthy population in the future.

Wolf numbers have dropped significantly since Europeans first arrived in Ontario. Currently, there are thought to be less than 8,000 left in the province.

This is only a rough estimate — there have been no serious wolf inventories done by the Ministry of Natural Resources. In truth, there is no wolf management plan for the province — even though the wolf, as a high level predator, is essential to the health of deer, moose, and beaver populations. This, despite the fact that the wolf naturally keeps these prey populations in check.

It is time that the Ontario government put serious energy and thought into creating a management plan for wolves in Ontario. The open season and lack of a bag limit must be eliminated.

Shall Ontario too lose the noble wolf, as many European countries have? Our neighbour to the south, so recently without the wolf, lists the wolf as an endangered species, and even has begun a successful re-introduction program in the western states. Why does our own government take such an opposite view to the status of the wolf? Surely the time for the government of Ontario to act to preserve the wolf is now!

— Richard Brooks, MFC  
Earthroots, Wolves Ontario! Co-ordinator

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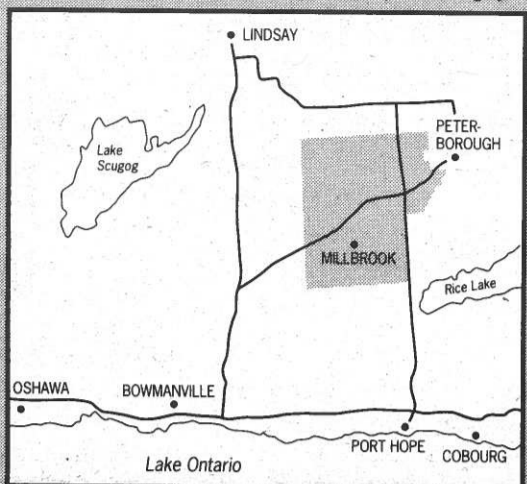
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Monday, Jan. 15 — editorial copy

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**Happy  
birthday,  
Capricorn!**

By Crystal Eves

Many people have the notion that Capricorns (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20) are boring. And while I'm not one to endorse negative stereotypes, I'm sorry to say that boring might be the perfect word to describe the year ahead for our astrological goat people.

Now if you are one of the more adventurous signs, knowing that you're in for a routine year might be depressing, but I think Capricorns are the perfect types to enjoy a non-disruptive passage of four seasons. This is because Capricorns are planners and strategists by nature, and having a year with no surprises is akin to having a blank slate upon which to write. And boy, can they write!

Capricorns write things like "this year, I'll knock off \$10,000 from my mortgage," or "this year, I'll redecorate the entire house." And do you know what, no matter how ambitious the project, if they have enough uninterrupted time, Capricorns will succeed. Being persistent and realistic might be considered boring, but it is these ingredients in the Capricorn character that repeatedly brings results.

If you are a Capricorn, know that the stars are leaving it to you to determine what 2001 will be about. Unless you have contrary placements in your specific birth chart (and some Capricorns will) this year will unfold in a relatively calm manner. Perhaps you will utter the phrase, "same old, same old" too many times, but otherwise, astrological cycles will be indicating little or no havoc.

*Being persistent  
and realistic  
might be  
considered boring,  
but it is these  
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Capricorn character  
that brings results.*

Generally, I would expect that difficulties arising in 2001 will fall under the category of irritants. Some of these might be in the health department, and it is always wise to consult your physician should this occur, but for the most part, astrology is indicating adjustments rather than problems for the year ahead, which usually means lifestyle changes are recommended by the doctor over surgery.

Smaller cycles indicate September and October 2001 as good times for action, and next birthday season will be ideal for asking favours. And if Shakespeare is correct, and all the world is a stage, then the Capricorn players can feel free to write their own lines this birthday year. ♣



GUEST EDITORIAL

**A part  
of our  
collective  
heritage**

By Bill Slavin

I want to preface this with the understanding that I have no axe to grind on the issue of the proposed location for the nursing home. I never attended the Old Millbrook School, and neither did any members of my family. I was not a resident of this community when the school was closed and was not involved with the group who saved it (although I have always been grateful for their actions). I was, however, a member of the library board which oversaw the move of the library to the Old School and chaired the relocation committee which made that recommendation to council.

Having said this, I am not even fully decided that locating the nursing home on the land that is part of the Old School property is necessarily the worst decision. The proposed nursing home in the Village of Millbrook presents an important opportunity for the residents of this township to create something truly lasting importance for future generations. Unfortunately, because of backroom dealing and high-handed decision-making on the part of certain members of the council, this wonderful opportunity is in grave danger of devolving once again into an issue that might potentially divide this community, pitting neighbour against neighbour in an issue that should have been a joyful exercise in community building.

What the council has failed to realise in single-handedly choosing the site

beside the Old Millbrook School as virtually the only candidate for this home (and despite claims on the part of council that this is not a done deal, witness the test holes that have already been approved to be dug in order to see if the land is appropriate for building!), is that this is a piece of real estate highly charged with memories and emotion that go back a long time in the collective memory of this area.

I thought that it was ironic that the man who plans to build the nursing home gushed enthusiastically how he had "fallen in love" with that particular site. As happy as I am that this piece of land has captured his heart in the past few months, what occurs to me is how many other people in this community have invested huge parts of their own hearts and souls in this bit of land. On the land just below the school is a monument to James Deyell, brother of the first white settler in this township. It was not just happenstance that lead this man to choose this particular hillside as a final resting place. Any person driving into the village, especially from Highway 115, can immediately see how this hill dominates the entire village. The Old School, perched on the top of that hill is, in my own romantic imagination, our very own castle on the hill (even replete with dungeon, before the present renovations got under way!), commanding the valley below in its late 19th century splendour.

Countless residents in and around Millbrook went to school here, as did their parents and parents before them. Even though it happened almost thirty years ago, if you want to start a hotly contested debate just talk about the movement to close the school. It is something that still rankles in many as if it happened yesterday, and rightly so as it helped take our children out of this community. And the school and property would not even be available today if it wasn't for the farsighted-

ness of a group of citizens at the time of the closing who rescued it from being disposed of to private interests, putting their own hard work and money into its preservation for years with the understanding what an important resource it was. Part of that vision included the land surrounding it, and clauses were embedded in the transfer of the property to the municipality especially intended to ensure that all the land associated with the school stayed intact as it was integral to the building itself. The vision was always that this would be a site for something of lasting importance for all the members of this community.

When it came time for the township to find a new space for the Millbrook Library, always the Old School topped the list of preferred sites. The out-going council was visionary in supporting this move, understanding that the library would form the cornerstone of preserving that building and lead to other uses that are even now being realised through the creation of the Old Millbrook School Family Centre.

Which brings us to the present day. Now this land, imbued with the memories of generations, saved through the vision of a group of dedicated citizens so that it could be available for the use of all the community, and presently embraced as a newly invigorated community centre is in danger of being handed off to a private developer, thus allowing it to pass forever from public into private hands. And all this without a moment of discussion with the people in this community who are about to lose it forever.

The questions that present themselves are legion. Is this the best use of the land? Is it appropriate use for land that lies at the end of a residential street? Will it be built in a way that enhances this town as the Old School does, or will we crown our community with a white elephant of mam-

moth proportions? And equally important, is this the best location for the future residents of this facility? Politicians have waxed poetic about the possible interaction between the elderly and the Old School Family Centre, their proximity to the library, the walking trails. Will the residents of this nursing home be in a condition to avail themselves of these facilities on the top of a hill, as beautiful as it is, in effect ghettoize them? Will we be building a residence that integrates or removes its residents from this community? Will it be a home that we all would be happy to avail ourselves of as we grow older so that we can stay within and involved in our community?

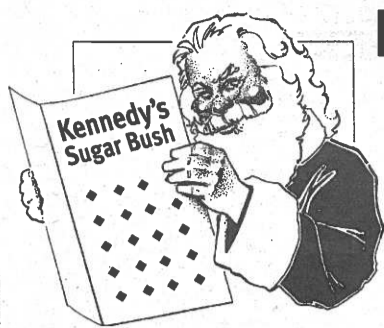
Where has been the discussions around these issues? The consultations with village residents, the elderly, those who invested so much of themselves in saving the school? The community meetings where we can discuss these issues and work out solutions that are best for all concerned? Why, after a municipal election where candidate after candidate got up and spoke eloquently about how they welcome public input, has it come to this, that such an important project has moved so far down the road with no discussion?

This land is more than just a piece of excess real estate. It has been a part of the public consciousness of the village of Millbrook since the town's inception. In myriad ways, residents' lives have touched, been touched, even inextricably wound into the fibre of this plot of earth. To take a breath at this moment instead of pushing ahead like a bull in a china shop, to take the time and put our collective heads together, we should be able to come up with a solution that everyone in this community takes pride in. And in the process, maybe even create a place that we will all be grateful to move into ourselves, in that all too near future. ♣

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**Relaxed shopping... close to home!**

By *Melanie Anderson*

You don't have to go far from home to do all of your Christmas shopping. With just a trip into Millbrook, you can find something for a lot of the people on your Christmas list.

At Calhoun's IGA you can find a variety of nuts, sweets, fruits, cheeses, and desserts that people are delighted to receive - and for further entertainment, they have a selection of videos. Millbrook Farm Supply and Discount Pet Foods has fish for sale, and all manner of pet supplies for the furry friend on your list. What about a bottle of someone's favourite alcoholic beverage at the LCBO? For a stack of interesting magazines (great stocking stuffers!), try Mister

Convenience, Daisy Mart, or the Millbrook Pharmacy.

There are videos for sale at Mister Convenience, and there are lots of sweet stocking stuffers both here and at Daisy Mart (we particularly liked the variety of lip balms and other little items here!).

At the Pro Hardware store, you can find useful items from handy-man tools and rubber boots to small appliances, good for aspiring cooks, or those newly out on their own. Or maybe you could buy some paint - and other decorating items - for someone whose home office or bedroom is in need of a renovation!

The two village florists offer a variety of fresh arrangements, as well as seasonal poinsettias. Armstrong's

Village Florist also offers "snow buddies", ornaments, teddies, and gift baskets, while Something Special offers homemade decorations, candles, and custom gift baskets (just let Margaret know about who you are buying for!), including delicious homemade items like shortbread, peanut brittle, and nuts and bolts, among other gift items.

A trip to the Millbrook Gallery could provide the art lover on your list with an original work of art, made by a local artist. Currently, there are many small, festive items and books for sale as part of their Christmas show, as well as the larger pieces in a range of media.

At Bear Essentials there is a wide selection of stuffed

animals, including bears (of course!), and a great range of bath and beauty products, candles, baby clothes, calendars, and ornaments. For soaps, herbal supplements (give someone the gift of immunity with echinacea!), candy, everything for Xmas baking, cookies, and specialty cake pans, try the Village Bulk Food store.

The Millbrook Pharmacy also has bath treats, herbal supplements, chocolate oranges, photo albums, soaps, and Healing Garden gift sets. What about magnifying glasses for the bookworm in your family?

A big book of stamps from the Post Office, along with a box of envelopes, and some nice stationary may be an appropriate gift - and give a hint at the same time to a dear friend who has moved away. Of course, at the Post Office you can find collector stamp series, millennium coins, and other collectibles that would thrill philatelic or coin enthusiast on your list.

While you are out doing your Christmas shopping in Millbrook, you can stop for a bite to eat at the Coffee and Donut Shoppe, the Millbrook Family Restaurant, Donna's Pizza, The Village Food Emporium, or perhaps CJ's. A number of these eateries offer gift certificates, so you can treat a family member or a friend to a meal that they don't have to make or clean up after themselves! (Great in the middle of a bleak January!)

And finally, there's always the gift given on the behalf of someone who has everything... make a donation to the Millbrook and District Food Share, Community Care, the Youth Emergency Shelter, or another charitable organization on behalf of these people on your list. ♣



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Millbrook's 4th Annual

**Old Tyme Christmas**

Thursday, December 7th, 6 to 10 p.m.

Special Events Include:

- ☑ Christmas Light Extravaganza (6 p.m. sharp!)
- ☑ Photos with Santa
- ☑ Giant Stocking Draw
- ☑ Craft Making for Children at Joe's Hair Styling
- ☑ Selected In-Store Draws and Specials
- ☑ Free Wagon Rides
- ☑ Special Quilt Display at the Heritage Center

And lots more!!

Bring this ballot with you on Thursday evening for your chance to win. Draw will be held at 9 pm. Additional ballots will be available for purchase at downtown stores.

**Free ballot for the Giant Stocking Draw!**

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This is a special time for sharing, so be sure to bring a food bank donation to one of the downtown locations.

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Closed: Dec. 31 @ 2pm 'til Jan. 2 @ 8am

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# Keeping guests entertained - locally!

**By Melanie Anderson**  
**T**he holiday visiting season is almost here, not to mention winter holidays, and there will be more people than ever hanging around the house in need of entertainment. So what on earth are they all going to do?

To cast off cabin fever the easiest thing to do is get the heck out of the house. There is lots to do out there, even if you can't think of anything.

Easy entertainment comes at little cost at Lansdowne Cinemas, and \$2.50 gets anyone in to see a movie. Cheaper still would be a trip to a library with the kids, pick out books to borrow, or simply to read to each other there. Find a coffee shop to sit and sip hot chocolate, chatting about politics or the weather, or maybe take your guests out to stargaze one evening with a thermos of something hot and some warm blankets. Or else go for a walk around your neighborhood, or along one of the Millbrook Valley Trails.

Swimming can be a lot of fun for anybody, especially as the weather gets more and more like winter. There are a few relatively close by pools with free-swim times scheduled daily, and adult lane swims for those who prefer to swim lengths over splashing around with the youngsters. If you prefer to embrace the coming months of cold and dark, the Millbrook Arena is offering free skate time in the Arena (and on an outdoor rink, weather permitting!) as well. Neither free-swim or free-skate should prove terribly expensive.

For more educational

outings, there are a really remarkable number of local historical and heritage sites and museums. The Canadian Canoe Museum, 910 Monaghan Road in Peterborough, has the world's largest collection of canoes and kayaks, and is open Monday-Friday 10 am to 4 pm (1 pm - 4 pm on weekends). The Hutchison House Museum /Peterborough Historical Society (270 Brock St) is regularly open Monday to Friday 1 - 5.

On the 10th of December, Lang Pioneer Village will be having its Heritage Christmas Celebration. For information you can visit their website from a link on the Peterborough site.

At the Capitol Theatre in Port Hope there are a number of events upcoming. On Dec 6 at 7:30 pm, there will be a presentation of A Day in Niagara, A Night at the Oban, a performance for seniors. On the 10th at eight pm The Capitol hosts A George Fox Christmas. The Barra MacNeils will be showing off their fiddling and step dancing skills on the 11th at 8 pm. And the Arrogant Worms will be performing what they call Christmas Turkey on the 16th at 8. For more information, give the Theatre a call at (905) 885-1071, or check out their website at info@capitoltheatre.com.

For more ideas and information the easiest thing to do is check out any

town, city, or township's web page. For more kid-focused and/or home based ideas, see the article in this issue! ♣

# Preparation key to last-minute entertaining

**A**hhh... you've just sat down on a Sunday afternoon, shortly before Christmas. Coffee in hand, newspaper at the ready, you're congratulating yourself on how well your Christmas shopping is going, knowing you can take an afternoon off, and not regret it later.

But... hang on. Is that the doorbell you hear? Dashing to the window you spot your friends' car in the driveway. Horrors! The "unexpected guests" have arrived.

Now, of course, you really are glad to see them, but you know it's mid-afternoon, and by the time you catch up on all the gossip it will be very close to dinner time. And you also know, only too well, your mother taught you that good manners dictate an invitation to dinner is due. What to do?

Option #1: Duck out of sight and refuse to answer the doorbell.

Option #2: Swing open the door, smile brightly, knowing every Boy Scout in the nation is proud of

you. Why? Because YOU ARE PREPARED!

Okay, if you fit in the No. 2 slot, read no further. But if you're thinking the first option is the most appealing, you definitely need help. So we've put together a few tips to get you through last-minute entertaining — and actually enjoy it. These are ideas for what can be done ahead of time, so you're prepared for anyone who walks through the front door.

First, make sure your dining room table is set with a festive Christmas tablecloth and decorative centerpiece. This looks nice even when not entertaining, and keeps you in the spirit of the season. Dig out your silverware and good dishes and have them ready, so you're not rooting around for them for ages, leaving your guests to assume you've fainted or flown to Mexico while they wait.

The next thing to remember is that the holiday season is no time to forget to "stock up on the staples". Don't let your cupboards go

bare of the essentials. Foods like crackers, fresh salad ingredients, salsa, cheese, dips, rice, and pasta should be on hand at this time of year.

When it's time to start thinking about dinner, why not invite your guests into the kitchen to help make some appetizers? Most guests welcome the opportunity to help out and chat at the same time. Here's where the old reliables come in. Many easy appetizers can be thrown together in minutes using cheese, crackers, and salsa. Salads are also easily made when you have limited time.

Now the main course is a different story. This is something you should have sitting in your freezer, waiting for its call to duty. There are lots of one-pot recipes that can be made ahead of time and frozen, and we're not talking about boring casseroles. With a little searching (perhaps on the Net, or in one of those glorious Christmas mags in the supermarket — while you are stocking up!) you can find appealing and delicious meals that look great straight from the microwave. You can always spruce them up with fresh garnishes.

Dessert is another biggie that needs to be carefully planned ahead. If you can, throughout the year when you're making cookies for your own family just add a few to a separate cookie tin and freeze, and by December you'll be surprised how full it is. Don't feel guilty about keeping store-bought goodies on hand either — everyone is busy these days, especially at Christmas.

So there you have it. Oh, and one more thing. The beverage of your choice

should be chilling somewhere in your home, ready to add the perfect touch to your great meal with your great company. Relax and enjoy. ♣

Here's a list of items you might want to keep on hand:

### Appetizers

- Selection of party crackers, bagel chips, nachos, pita bread
- Cheeses (hard ones can be frozen)
- Salsa, guacamole, hummus, veggie dips
- Salad dressing, sour cream, yogurt (for making dips)
- Cream cheeses (flavoured or not)
- Pre-cut veggie sticks, cauliflower, broccoli, mushrooms
- Potato chips and ingredients for dip

### Main course

- Pasta, rice, couscous
- Canned meats (ie. tuna, ham, salmon, crab)
- Cream sauce mixes
- Cream soups (make dandy sauces)
- Canned or frozen veggies (mixed varieties)
- Chicken breasts, or other meats of choice (frozen)
- Fish and shellfish (frozen)
- Salad stuff

### Desserts

- Chocolate cups
- Ice cream
- Pie fillings (for sauces, or pies)
- Pie/tart shells
- Meringue nests
- Frozen pound cake
- Cookies, squares
- Pudding mixes
- Whipping cream
- Liqueurs/flavourings
- Various dessert sauces

# Surfing, reading, crafts and more at libraries

Submitted by Margot Loucks, Librarian, Millbrook Public Library

**S**urfing at the library!?!? If you haven't visited your library lately, you might be very surprised at the number of activities taking place there. People still borrow books, tapes, and videos, but more and more visitors are checking their email or "surfing the net" to research a project, map out a route for a trip, or compare prices on consumer goods.

The cost to use the computers is a nominal \$2 per hour, or for \$20 a year a whole family can use the services whenever the library is open. The cost includes being able to book time with the computer trainer, Matt Challice. He will work with anyone who wants help in using a computer, surfing the net, or understanding how email works. You sign up for an hour at a time for as often as you need. Matt is at the Millbrook Library Tues. and Wed. evenings, 6 - 9 pm, and Sat. mornings, 9 - 11 am. He is also at the Bruce Johnston library on Thurs. nights, 6 - 8 pm.

Most of all, of course the library specializes in books, and both libraries have most of the latest bestsellers. Each

week new and "gently-used" books are received and processed, so there is always something new to read. We also have magazines and books on tape, which can be borrowed for three weeks at a time. The latter are much appreciated by people who commute, as well as home workers who like to listen to a story while sewing, painting, or whatever.

Our children's programmer, June Forrester, has helped 23 children in both libraries to make some beautiful Christmas decorations. She is looking forward to holding Valentine and March Break programmes. If you have any suggestions for further activities, please talk to the librarians.

The C-M-NM council is currently seeking applications for library trustees, especially in the north end of the township. Interested applicants are invited to send a letter to Gail Empey, CAO of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan Township.

Both libraries will be closed between Christmas and New Year's, and will reopen Jan. 2 for the second week of the school vacation. Best wishes for a happy holiday from the staff. ♣

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CREATIVE PARENTING

## Creating holiday memories

By Trish Boyd-Reininger

Can you believe it! Christmas is just around the corner.

Our first snowfall was on Nov. 20, my dad's birthday. The children waiting at the bus stop are throwing snowballs, and rolling huge sections for a snowman — that will, inevitably, be too heavy to lift. The boys went to the hill to GT after school Winter is definitely here!

I remember my twin sister Pam building a snowman in our backyard. He was so big that she had to get out the step-ladder in order to put his head on and arrange his face. Funny, the things you remember! I remember looking out of our parents' bedroom window at the first snowflakes falling, and you know, I still get that feeling each time I see them. The smell of winter hasn't changed either.

These sensory experiences always bring me back to my past, and particularly my childhood. The muffled feeling of making a face print in the snow, the sound of snow squeaking underfoot on a really cold day, the difference between powder and packing snow, the surprisingly feeling of snow melting on your face and sticking to your eyelashes, the firm hugging feeling of the snow when you fall backward into its depths... Ah, memories!

Today, we make memories for our children. We need to be aware of this. The things we say and do, the way we handle situations, how we celebrate, all leave lasting impressions on our children. Be careful — what you want your children to reflect upon may not be what you are modelling for them. Is Christmas a time for panicked shopping, for grumbling about the crowds, the prices, and the unavailability of the gifts you're seeking? Or is it a time to sit together, to laugh with each other, to dine as a family, to enjoy each other? It is all what we make of it!

And what we make of it, our children will remember, and those memories will flood their hearts and bring tears to

their eyes, and smiles to their faces, because they will know the feeling of family, the strength of family, the importance of family — and their children will know it, too.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to you and your families!

*There is more to parenting than having kids, just as there is more to being an artist than owning a paintbrush*

— Holly North

*If you want your children to turn out well, spend twice as much time with them and half as much money*

— Abigail Van Buren

### Correction from last issue:

Paragraph 6 read "It is really important that children and young teens feel that they have some control, that they have some say in decisions ANNOYING "I trust you," "I believe in you..."

It should have read: "It is really important that children and young teens feel that they have some control, that they have a say in the decision-making process. When we give them a chance, we are in fact saying "I trust you," "I believe in you..."

Our apologies to Trish for the gremlins that got into her as-usual well-written copy last month!

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# MESSAGE TO ALL FIREARM OWNERS

# 1

## You NEED A FIREARMS LICENCE by January 1, 2001

Due to heavy demand, the \$10 fee for a Possession-Only Licence will remain in effect until December 31, 2000.

Only the \$60 Possession and Acquisition Licence will be available after this year. (You must pass the Canadian Firearms Safety Course or equivalent to get this licence.)

For more information, assistance or forms: call 1 800 731-4000 or visit our Web site at [www.cfc.gc.ca](http://www.cfc.gc.ca)

Application forms are also available at Canada Post outlets and Service Canada Access Centres.

# 2

## If you DON'T PLAN TO GET A LICENCE by January 1, 2001, these are your options:

**A** You can sell or give your firearm to a properly licensed person or business  
OR

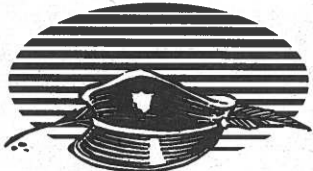
**B** You can turn it in to your local police station (Call first.)  
OR

**C** You can have it properly deactivated.

IT IS NOT A LEGAL OPTION to have a firearm without a licence.

To find out about the legal requirements for any of these options, call 1 800 731-4000 or visit our Web site at [www.cfc.gc.ca](http://www.cfc.gc.ca)

Canada



DEEP BLUE INK

## Keep the "chasm" out of Christmas

By Dean Vincent

Come to-gethah, rye-eet now... over wreath!

If there ever was a time for shamelessly frolicking in the rituals of a simpler time, it is now, in the snow — December — Christmas. A "simpler time" is, of course, a myth, for each and all generations celebrating (or even recognizing) Jesus' birth has faced the season with a mix of joy and trepidation. One real difference between now and ye old times is that people a way back may have trusted

their cultural institutions. Now we are lucky if we can trust the family with whom we spend the day. When trust is a given (if it ever was), then all aspects of life are enriched...including Christmas.

*One real difference between now and ye old times is that people a way back may have trusted their cultural institutions. Now we are lucky if we can trust the family with whom we spend the day.*

And what is our day-to-day cultural institution? TV. After the onslaught of this Leviathan our attention to cultural content slides rapidly downhill (like a sleigh). As the American poet Karl Shapiro wrote, advertisements are the poetry of the day. He wrote that in

1956! He couldn't have dreamed of "Give like Santa, save like Scrooge." Oh, Dickens! Today commercials are the literary canon, eclipsing the Bible, Shakespeare, and Stephen Reid all together.

Why are we anxious around Christmas? Well, let's sing it together while holding hands, empty wallets shoved deep into our back pockets: COMMERCE! O Commerce all ye feck-less, ti-red, and gul-lib-le! Commerce thee, commerce thee to Bank-Of-EM! Studios slap a red-nosed fat man knee-deep in slush, throw in a reindeer (endangered) or two, and: instant product. And do you know why they do it every year?

Because it works. Because we love Christmas.

Because we need its promise like we need air and Waterloo Dark. We don't trust for one second any Christmas ad. Trembling as the electricity is sucked up by Christmas displays, we slog through our day soaked by salty-slush, spun into the ditch on a blanket of black ice right into the newest billboard blocking the forest-view. And always the trucks roll on, evil juggernauts spewing filth and corruption in your face as you contemplate whether or not humanity is worth saving on a Monday.

Forget all that. It's Christmas. I mean it. We need enriching symbols to off set the debilitating ones. Sensible allegories. Livable values. Otherwise, why toil? The thought of God's child's birthday falling in our coldest time, and thirty-three years later sacrificing himself for... what? For us! We thrive on such assurances. Every day, somewhere, the sacrifice is reciprocated in altruism, humanism, tolerance. The Christ allegory is our most trustworthy of advertisements — he is selling his life to us, for us, at a loss. This is called hope.

Just do what I do: endure the season, then get into the Tree Room with family and friends on the 25th. Coffee & too many treats. When I sit in there, melted chocolate on my fingers, wearing comfy clothes, all the negative energy is drained from my body. A sense of shimmering calm begins in my neck, moves down my spine to my lower back. The thighs rejoice. Never is a reclined position better. We all love getting presents, and giving. Getting especially (don't lie). Chasms close outside, the sun shines; inside it is warm. Think of this. Keep the TV off til noon. ♣



OUTDOORS WITH GEORGE

## A story of Christmas grace

By George Luchuk

The men were made of steel, and the ships were made of wood. But now, the ships are made of steel... well, you know the rest.

Now, one may ask the question — just when did that transition occur? Is there anyone out there now that hasn't noticed that we live in a world that is radically different from the recent past of our parents, and even of our own lives? Our societies are no longer evolving, but are actually exploding into the vast unknown of the future, and it's being led by a computing capacity and information technology that seems to be growing exponentially. I remember my high school physics teacher in 1957 explaining to us that all new information throughout the world is doubling every five years. I found it impossible to imagine that this fact could be true. Today, dear people, all new information is doubling every three years.

The only difference for me now is that yes, I can now imagine it, but I am also apprehensive about its consequences. (I know, I know George, it's just because you're getting older and slower, and its time to get with the times and go with the flow... so far, you've successfully resisted the Internet... but for how much longer?)

So what's all this leading to? Well, its December 1962, and I'm being flown into a fairly remote outpost of the Hudson's Bay Company for the holiday season. The regular manager and his wife were coming out for a well-deserved one-month holiday, and I was their temporary replacement. When I think back now, I was all of 22 years of age, and expected to mind the store for a while by myself. The community had no electricity, no telephones, no snowmobiles, and of course, no television.

Fortunately for me, a good many of the inhabitants were away on trap lines. So aside from minimal store duties, I had only to look after and maintain one diesel generator (which ran all the time), and keep an eye on the

heating and water systems. It was very quiet and relaxing — and boring. I had to occasionally fend off feelings of loneliness and self-

*My meeting with Oleg Jacobson in December of 1962 left an indelible mark on my soul. I had met a true man of steel.*

pity. It was close to Christmas, after all.

One sunny day, probably around December 22 or so, I was chatting with a couple of native people in the store when something caught my eye out across the large frozen lake that we were situated near. The object was very far away, but obviously moving very slowly in our direction. After a while I made myself busy with store duties, but then I would be drawn back to again stare out of our large window at the slowly moving object. Finally, my curiosity got the best of me, and I asked one of my native friends what it was that I was looking at.

"Oh, that's Oleg Jacobson," he said. "He comes out once a month to get his mail and his pension cheque at the store,

picks up his groceries, and then we don't see him again for another month."

You know how sometimes a special scene or perhaps what someone has said to you stays permanently embedded in your memory? Well, that scene has been with me all these years. It almost haunts me, and sometimes tears at my emotions. After about two hours of puzzlement, my curiosity was about to be fulfilled. I put on my coat and went outside near our dock area to greet this gentleman. Man, was I in for a shock! This man had no legs, and was sitting on a homemade sleigh contraption whereupon he could propel himself across snow and ice with two short poles. He was probably about 70 years old.

He accepted some assistance, but otherwise was quite independent. He didn't talk very much, but was otherwise pleasant. I filled his order, and of course, wished him well and a Merry Christmas... and then he was on his way again. He seemed happy, content, and peaceful. Our meeting had left an indelible mark on my soul. I had met a true man of steel.

Well, that's it folks, I know it's not that great a story, but I had to tell it. Have a Merry Christmas! ♣

## Winners of Millbrook Scouting Raffle

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ARTS & CULTURE

# Not-to-be-missed Xmas concert!

Who is effervescent, vivacious, enthusiastic, full of life, fun loving, and wonderful?

Well, according to members of Millbrook's Community Choir, it's Eleanor Bailey, the new director! And when you add to her qualities those of the highly talented, versatile, and witty accompanist Ann Rich, you have a winning combination. The Millbrook Community Choir is back in full swing after their search for a new director, and you can tell by the smiles and

laughter that dance amongst its members that they are rarin' to go!

Christmas selections are now being polished in preparation for their part in the community Christmas concert being held at St Andrew's United Church (Millbrook) on Sunday, December 10th at 7:30 pm. Joining the Community Choir will be the 4th Line Singers: Rob Fortin, John Hoffman, and Susan Newman; Jeannette Froncz (Rob Winslow's gifted bride); and Rob Winslow himself, presenting a selection of tales and

reminscences from Christmas concerts of long ago; the Joyful Noise Children's Choir (under the dynamic direction of Donna Whatley and Wilma Bates); and soloist Sophie Hunter (currently at Sheridan College in the Music Theatre program, and formerly a founding and long-term member of Joyful Noise). A great evening of entertainment, guaranteed to get you into the spirit of the season! Food share donations and a free will offering will be welcomed. Everyone is invited! Free will offerings are appreciated, and there

will be refreshments served after the concert.

In January the choir will begin preparation for various "sing outs" and its crowd-pleasing spring musical. There is always a great deal of anticipation leading up to the choir director's announcement of "this year's choice".

Do you love to sing, because here's your chance! Between now and early January, the choir is accepting new members. Everyone of all musical abilities is welcome to join this hardworking, dedicated, fun-loving group of people who practice every Wednesday night from 7:30-9:30 at St Andrew's United Church. Effervescent, vivacious, enthusiastic... how can you resist! For more information contact Bill Plewes 944-5904. ♣

# Christmas music to build a home

By Melanie Anderson

In From the Cold, a concert to take place at the Market Hall in Peterborough on Dec 7, at 8 pm, "promises to be the most unique and varied Christmas concert of the season," according to John Hoffman, a member of the host band, Carried Away.

The benefit concert will be raising money for the Youth Emergency Shelter, who are in the process of fundraising to hopefully establish a 30-bed facility for homeless youth in Peterborough County in the not-too-distant future.

Carried Away is a folk trio playing guitars, mandolins, fiddle, and tin whistle, and they have performed several times in Millbrook at the Give a Hoot Cafe, Maplefest, and the Zucchini Festival. Most of their songs "are built around strong three-part harmony." Members of Carried Away

include Rob Fortin and Sue Newman, actors who have been involved with the 4th Line Theatre company for several seasons.

The Convivio Chorus, a "reincarnation of the choir from 4th Line Theatre's production of The Devil and Joseph Scriven," will also be performing at In From the Cold, along with Enrique Roy Claveer, a "mysterious and wry" character invented by Curtis Driedger. Enrique will entertain the audience with "inventive and humorous versions of popular Christmas songs."

To attend a concert where you will hear everything from God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, to French carols played on the fiddle, to The Boar's Head Carol, you can purchase tickets for \$10 at Titles, Moondance, and The Market Hall in Peterborough. ♣

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## Sweet sound of Joyful Noise Dec. 10

Joyful Noise Youth Choir is preparing for its first "sing out" of the year, when members will be participating in the

community Christmas concert to be held at St Andrew's United Church on Sunday, December 10th at 7:30 pm.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the sweet sound of their voices, and delight in their smiles. Donna Whatley, their enthusiastic new director, and her dedicated assistant Wilma Bates have been working with this talented group of young people every Wednesday night from 6:30-7:30pm at St Andrew's United Church in Millbrook.

New members are welcome to join between now and early January. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of this positively enjoyable singing group! For more information, contact Donna Whatley 944-8899. ♣

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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.

**Old Tyme Christmas**  
In downtown Millbrook  
Thurs. Dec. 7, 6 pm start  
Start off the season with a lighting extravaganza at 6 pm, activities, treats for whole family. Sponsored by Millbrook BIA. (See ad this issue.)

**Santa Claus Parade**  
In downtown Millbrook  
Sat. Dec. 9, noon  
Join friends and family and enjoy colourful floats!

**Community Christmas Concert**  
On Sun. Dec. 10, 7:30 pm, celebrate the season at the annual Community Christmas Concert hosted by St. Andrew's United Church. Music, fun and fellowship for all ages, with special guests. Refreshments after the concert. No admission charge - free will offering. Everyone is welcome; come and enjoy!

**Skate with Santa**  
At the Millbrook Arena,  
Sunday September 24th.  
See ad pg. 9.

**New Year's Eve Skate**  
At Millbrook Community Centre. Sun. Dec 31, 7-9pm. See pg. 5.

**New Year's Dance**  
At Millbrook Legion. Dec 31, 9pm-2am. See ad pg. 2.

**Bethlehem at the Mill**  
At Needler's Mill, Millbrook  
Fri. Dec. 15, 6:30 - 8 pm  
Sat. Dec. 16, 6:30 - 8 pm  
Fri. Dec. 22, 6:30 - 8 pm  
Sat. Dec. 23, 6:30 - 8 pm  
Sponsored by CMNM Parks/Recreation and the Millbrook/District Ministerial. Unwrapped toys and food baskets accepted for Food Share, and can be left in Needler's Mill. Call 932-5336 or 932-2911 for more info or to participate.

**Hogmanay - Scottish New Year's**  
At Hutchison House Museum, 270 Brock St. Pkbo. Mon. Jan. 1, 1 - 4 pm. Greet the New Year with the celebration of the traditional Scottish Hogmanay. Treats, Highland entertainment, and Athol Brose (latter available at nominal cost). Adults \$4, seniors/students \$3, children \$1.

**Holiday Closings at Libraries**  
Millbrook Public Library/Bruce Johnston Memorial Library.  
Closed between Christmas and New Year's Day  
Libraries will re-open Jan. 2 for the second week of school vacation.  
Volunteers Wanted

## ON-GOING EVENTS

**Regular Council Meeting** First Monday monthly, 7:30p.m.  
**Millbrook Playschool** Tues. & Thurs. (except 3rd Tues.). Millbrook Christian Assembly, call Wilma at 932-5547.  
**New to You Used clothing** at Community Care, Millbrook Mon. - Fri. 9 am - 3 pm, Sat. 10 am - 1 pm  
**Balleboro Library Boutique** 199 County Rd. 28. Tues noon-4:00 pm, Thurs. noon-4:00 pm, Sat 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Proceeds to the Balleboro Library.  
**Municipal Planning Mtg.** Second Mon. of the month, at 7pm.  
**Creative Card Making** Every Mon., 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  
**Committee of Whole Council Meeting** Third Monday monthly. 7:30pm.  
**Millbrook Cavan-Historical Society** Every

third Wed. at St. Thomas' Anglican Church Hall  
**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. Co-operative school for children 2-5. Mon.-Thurs. mornings. Call Doris Scott 944-5717.  
**Toastmasters** at Mapleridge Plaza Seniors' Rec. Centre 2nd, 4th Tues. monthly, 7am. Call Tom 944-4012  
**Youth Activity Nights** At Millbrook Arena. May 1 - Sept. 1, Mon.-Sun., 5-10 pm includes skateboarding, rollerblading, basketball.  
**Millbrook Farmers' Market** at Mill Pond every Sunday, 9am - 2pm  
**Blood Pressure Clinic** 3rd Thurs., Millbrook Manor - 10 am, Millbrook Legion - noon

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# Makeover madness

By Deborah Luchuk

Get up. Get the kids ready for school. Dress for work, maybe put on makeup if you're lucky. Race off to work. Work all day. Run errands after work, enroute to making supper at home. Make supper. Do the laundry. Wash the floor. Help kids with homework. Bake Christmas cookies (are you nuts?). Fall into bed.

If this looks something like your day, welcome to the ranks of superwoman-wannabes. There's many of us out there, who barely have time to take care of ourselves in the midst of all the other demands that seem more important.

Three of us decided to write an appointment into our day-timers for pampering recently, to try something new and glamorous before the holidays — a sort of trial run for party hair and makeup.

As the editor of this fine rag, my life is a treadmill of running to Trent to teach, covering events for the paper, editing copy, planning and coordinating production and advertising, writing and editing for contract clients, and all the other household stuff everyone else has to do. Michele Curran, our intrepid municipal affairs reporter/ad sales rep, balances self-employment with reporting and sales duties for *The Gazette*, and has an active involvement in several volunteer activities. And Margaret Sanderson, our other sales rep, works full-time at Tinney Motors, sells advertising, and volunteers for so many organizations and special events that it is exhausting to list them all!

In short, we were in dire

need of Heather Martignetti of Carew's Dos, and her very accomodating and friendly staff.

That Friday afternoon, we arrived at Carew's Dos in various states of disrepair and frazzle. Heather soon began her expert hairdressing, once we had selected the elegant updos of our festive dreams (she has a book of pictures of updos to help you choose).

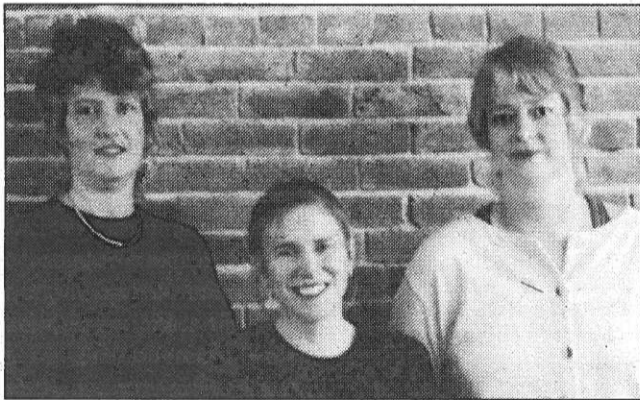
Michele went first, and her thick, beautifully greying hair was colour moussed, easi-



Michele during the "transformation", with Carew's Dos owner Heather.

ly curled and piled artfully on the top and back of her head, invisibly pinned in place. Her coiffure was further enhanced by the use of pixie-dust sparkle and hairspray, and strategic placement of some tiny green "jewels".

My hair, while abundant, is fine — and not as long as Michele's or Margaret's.



Three glamour girls, looking festive — and way more relaxed!

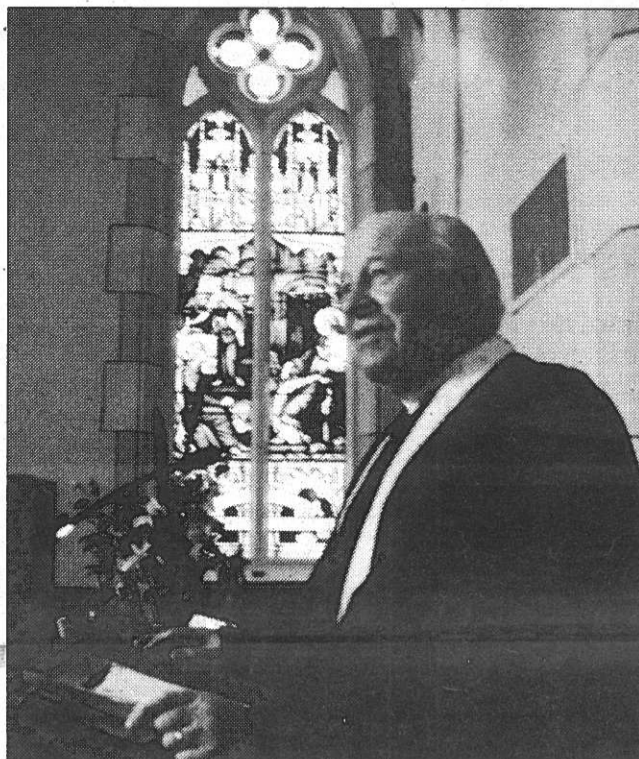
However, Heather thought she could "stretch" it a little (don't worry, it didn't hurt!), and pin it up in an abstract way with bobby pins. I loved the result — my hair was pulled up on top of my head, with the ends sticking up, and a few tendrils were left around my face for softness.

Margaret has naturally curly hair, and lots of it, so she was soon transformed into a mass of ringlets, which were carefully and creatively piled on top of her head with bobby pins, hairspray, and more sparkles.

We were all further transformed by Paula Elgar, Carew's Dos makeup artist. Paula explained what she was using and why throughout the application of makeup. She deftly applied subtle, yet beautiful colours to our faces, taking into consideration our colouring, face structure, and overall personality.

In a few short hours, we were transformed from tired, stressed out women into glamorous sirens! It's amazing what this kind of primping can do for one's outlook on life — we were ready to party and go out on the town! I think the staff also enjoyed working with us, and the entire experience was one of relaxed, fun creativity and "girl talk".

We'd like to thank Heather, Paula, and the staff of Carew's Dos for a very enjoyable afternoon — and the experience of feeling and looking wonderful! Women of the Green Hills — we highly recommend this type of therapy this season — or any time! ♣



Rev. Jim Burn brings creativity and a zest for people to St. Andrew's (Millbrook) and Cavan United Churches.

## New minister captivates young and young-at-heart

By Celia Hunter

The discomfort felt by the row of children faced by someone unknown — someone so obviously in charge, in a gown, in church — dissolved first into nothing short of gaping surprise, and then, suddenly, into wide grins of delight.

This man, with a gleam in his eye, sang to them a whole silly song, a funny song — four verses, no accompaniment, no hesitation, no worries. There was a chorus after each verse, and, yes, they joined in. And they giggled. So did their parents, their grandparents and friends. He won them over right there, even before he started drawing cartoons for them. That was next.

The Reverend Jim Burn had arrived. Jim is filling in

*Despite his Scots roots, there must surely be a touch of the Irish leprechaun in this compelling man.*

as minister at St. Andrew's in Millbrook and at Cavan United Church until a new, permanent minister arrives next summer. He promises to be a dynamic, warm, and inspiring leader. Despite his Scots roots, there must surely be a touch of the Irish leprechaun in this compelling man.

Jim was raised in Janetville, graduated from Lindsay Collegiate, and played football, baseball, and hockey. He met his future wife, Jean Smith of Bank Street in Millbrook,

at a baseball tournament. They were married at St. Thomas' Anglican Church in 1954, and have four married children and ten grandchildren — perhaps a clue to Jim's particular rapport with the younger set.

However, since retiring from 38 years of active ministry in charges from Sharbot Lake and Bancroft, to Kingston and Scarborough via Port Hope and Richmond Hill, Jim has become very much involved with the well-being of senior citizens. He is an active member of the Fairhaven Fund, the fundraising arm of Fairhaven Home, and serves on the Board of Directors of Activity Haven.

Officially, Jim is retired, but a busier person would be hard to find. Before coming to us, Jim served as a part-time supply minister in Peterborough at Northminster, George Street, and Trinity. He also continues to be active in church administration at the local (presbytery) and area (conference) levels, as he always has been. Jim served as president of the Bay of Quinte Conference in 1975-6, and has devoted a great deal of energy to supporting outreach work in Canada.

In retirement Jim gardens, lawn bowls, curls, and plays bridge. He also tells jokes. Good jokes. Well-timed, like his sense of rhythm in a song, and his intuitive talent for listening. For certainly Jim is earnest, compassionate and caring; a lifetime of service is witness to that side of him. But it is surely his unrestrained enthusiasm for life and for his calling that lends inspiration to any in his way... not to mention his rich and steady baritone voice. Welcome to the area, Jim! ♣

**Jim Burn is serving currently as the part-time interim minister for the Millbrook-Cavan Pastoral Charge (United Church).**



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