

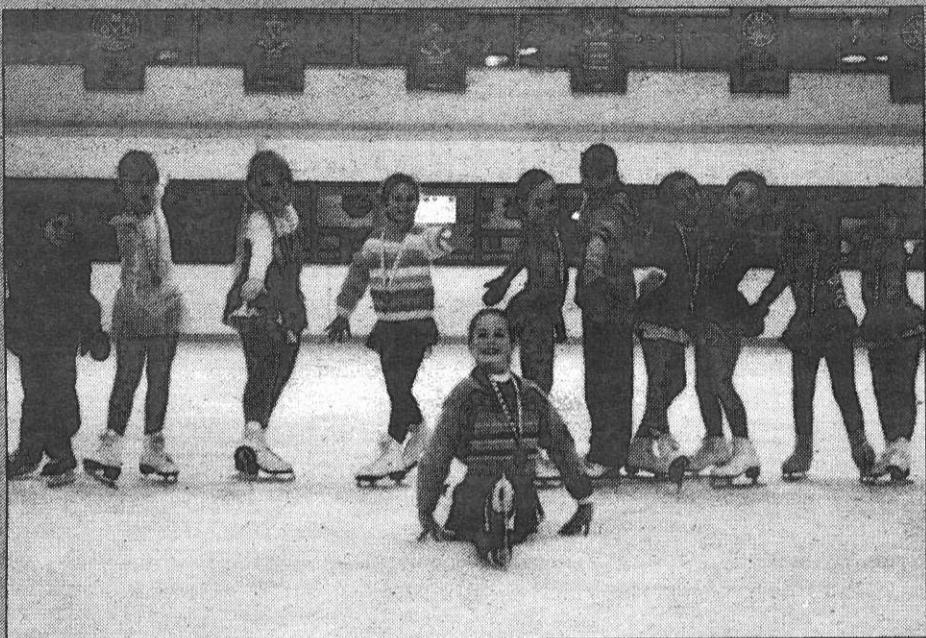
THE GREEN HILLS Gazette

Free!
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CELEBRATING LIFE IN CAVAN, MILLBROOK AND NORTH MONAGHAN

FUTURE WINTER OLYMPIANS?



The Millbrook Figure Skating Club was well-represented by this enthusiastic group of skaters at the Ice Olympics in Ops on Jan. 27. Coached by Shelley Storace and Diane Sargent, the team includes Kaitlin Walker, Malakai Kirkpatrick, Erin Polowin, Kiki Kirkpatrick, Gavielle Gurik (missing from picture), Katie Vanderwal, Kailey Flindall, Colleen Lowery, Julie Jesswein, Jasmin Vanderwal, and Brittany Boyles. Michael Walker and Shauna Moore (included in photo) are also team members.

Gerry Downer — dedicated and kind

By Melodie McCullough
He was a warm-hearted man, dedicated to his family and community.
Gerry Downer, former North Monaghan and CMNM councillor died suddenly last week at the age of 54. Friends and area politicians in the former municipality of North Monaghan, and the amalgamated Council of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan, were saddened by the passing of Mr. Downer, and all had very positive memories.

"He had a big heart, and a smile and a laugh that came from way down in," said Brian Earle, former reeve of North Monaghan and long-time friend of Mr. Downer's. "He always was willing to help anybody and everybody, yet never looked to take the help himself," he continued.

Mr. Earle said he has known him since they were young people growing-up in Peterborough. Mr. Downer was raised in south-central part of the city and attended Kenner and Adam Scott Collegiates. He built his

home on Whittington Drive in North Monaghan many years ago and worked for 33 years as a service technician for Xerox, a job that took him on the road covering a large territory. He recently retired, sold his home, and returned to Peterborough.



Mr. Downer was a councillor in former North Monaghan township for 15 years, and served part of a term as councillor on the amalgamated council of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan. In recent years he suffered ill health, and that forced him to leave the councillor's position in late 1999 before the term was finished.

As a councillor, he served the community as an honest man, whose decisions were based on what he felt was best for the people, said Mr. Earle.

Reeve Neal Cathcart remembers Mr. Downer as a person with a good knowledge of North Monaghan Township. "He was just a good person to work with, and a good individual."

Deputy-Reeve Brian Fallis said he was shocked and sorry to hear of Mr. Downer's death. "I think he was one of the kind of people who make municipal government work. I can't say enough good things about Gerry, and really do miss his input on Council and the community," he said.

Mr. Earle said he will greatly miss his close friend.

"It was both an honour and humbling experience to have grown up with the man. It's a void that will only be filled by the many fond memories we have."

He was the father of Angela and Steven, and a daughter, Janice, who died as a young child. Donations in memory of Mr. Downer may be made to the Heart Catheter Fund or the Peterborough Regional Health Centre Foundation. The funeral was held on Saturday, Feb. 24. ♣

Omni shifts plans to fairgrounds

By Melodie McCullough
Citing "far greater than anticipated" construction costs, Omni Health Care owner Fraser Wilson announced at the Feb. 19 Council meeting he is no longer interested in building a 96-bed nursing home on the Old Millbrook School property. Instead, he has set his sights on a five-acre parcel of land on the Millbrook Fairgrounds, if he can get adequate sewer service, and an agreement with the Millbrook Agricultural Society and municipality to sever the land.

"I am happy, in some ways, to announce we will no longer be pursuing the (Old School) property," said Mr. Wilson, ending three months of conflict between Council and community members who opposed the Old School site selection.

"I am happy, in some ways, to announce we will no longer be pursuing the [Old School] property,"
— Fraser Wilson

These ratepayers were concerned the facility would not fit the historical setting of the Old School, a designated Ontario heritage site.

"In a number of ways, it feels good not to be at the Old School in that it was dividing the community, and that is not what we're coming here for," he said in an interview following the meeting.

He said his company's cost consultants recently determined the three-storey building and head office would not be cost-effective

because, due to the slope of the land, it would require costly excavation. He is now seeking five acres of flat land for a one or two-storey building. Plans for a head office are no longer on the books.

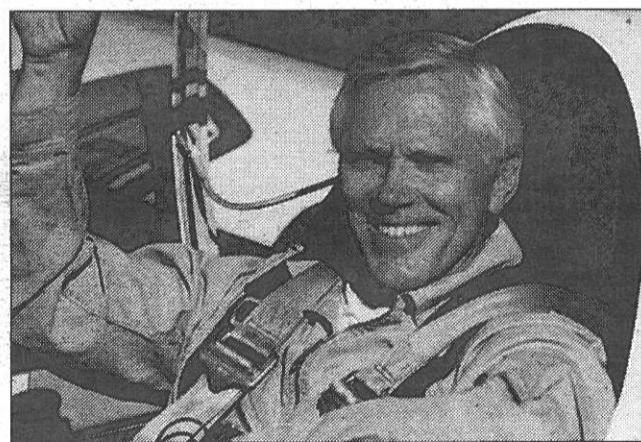
"We're excited and we want to be part of Millbrook. We also know the community is behind the addition of a new long-term care home," he told Council.

But he reminded Council he must meet tight timelines set by the Ontario Ministry of Health. There needs to be adequate sewer capacity no later than September 2002 (when the home is expected to open), with full access to public water, sewer, and gas.

In response to this, Council voted to push ahead with plans to upgrade the Village of Millbrook's sewer system by doubling its capacity, even though it is still waiting for results of a sewer study requested in December from the township's consulting engineers.

A similar study was done in 1997 when a proposal for a superjail was being discussed for the village. At

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Cavan resident wins world gliding championship

The first International Soaring Grand Prix, held in conjunction with the first World Club Class Soaring Competition, was held in January in Gawler, Australia, and won by Jim Carpenter, a local graphic designer. Jim won four of the eight daily races of the Grand Prix, flying a rented sailplane, with his fastest flight speed averaging 104 kilometers an hour. The longest flight was 384 kilometers, from Gawler, north into the mountains,

then east over the outback, where there was nowhere to land, and then back to Gawler, about 100 kilometers north of Adelaide. The highest altitude he achieved during the event was a cool 14,000 feet, a welcome relief from the 35 to 46 degree ground temperatures. This is the first time a Canadian has occupied the winner's podium in an international soaring competition. Jim is a member of the local gliding club, just north of Omemece. ♣

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New Friends will continue

By Melodie McCullough
 The New Friends of the Old School will continue to work to preserve the heritage of the Old Millbrook School building and its surrounding property, even though the immediate danger of a nursing home being built there is no longer a possibility. "Certainly there's always the concern that this episode could occur again," said Bob Clark, chairman of the New Friends group, which formed in November to oppose the construction of a three-storey long-term care facility on the Old School property by Omni Health Care. "We still think we need to look at a longer-term preservation of the site."

Fraser Wilson, Omni owner, recently announced his company is no longer interested in building the

proposed 96-bed home there due to costs, and instead hopes to build on property adjacent to the Millbrook Fairgrounds.

"Certainly it was encouraging that at least Omni has recognised the heritage significance of our community. Unfortunately we can't say that about Council," said Mr. Clark.

Although the specific challenge facing the group may be coming to an end, it has no plans to disband, he said. The group hopes to involve community members in deciding the focus and future goals for the Old School property from a community, rather than government, standpoint.

He said he is planning to meet with Ontario Healthy Communities' Coalition members from Toronto this week to discuss setting up a coalition partnership in this munic-

ipality. This is a provincial and federal government initiative that lets communities take responsibility for their own future, working with organizations such as service clubs and the municipal government, he said.

Before Omni's announcement to shift the proposed long-term care facility to the Fairgrounds, The New Friends began a fund-raising campaign to raise money to offset legal costs for a possible Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

Ideas will be discussed on how to now use that money to protect the property in the future, said Mr. Clark.

"We have some ideas that we think will help protect this property, as we had hoped it had been back in 1993. We're trying to find a way to ensure this doesn't happen again."

Mr. Clark said the New Friends group welcomes Omni Health Care, as it has all along, to the community and is committed to helping make sure the facility is built on an appropriate alternate site. ♣

Snowmobiles on part of Trails to be examined

By Michele Curran
 With a record snowfall this year, snowmobiles are out in full force, enjoying the generosity of Mother Nature.

However, not everyone is happy in snow nirvana, judging from a letter sent to Council by Randy Saunders on behalf of local snowmobilers concerned about signs prohibiting the use of "unauthorized vehicles" on the Millbrook Valley Trails.

Mr. Saunders' brother Roger, who read from the letter at the February 5 Council meeting, said the area in question lies between the fairgrounds and the 4th Line, and has served as an access from the west portion of the Village to the 4th Line, and on to the Ganaraska Forest trail system for many years. What the Saunders are requesting from Council is "consideration of recognizing snowmobiles as an 'authorized vehicle' (on this property)."

Deputy-Reeve Brian Fallis, who is Council's representative on the Millbrook Valley Trails committee, asked both Saunders and snowmobile enthusiast Jack Draper why there had been very little input from the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club during last year's public meetings held to obtain community comments on uses for the trails. Draper said he did attend, but upon hearing what was being discussed, felt it had nothing to do with him and left.

Fallis said he told the club, when Council purchased the land in 1993, that the intention was to create a passive use area in the environmentally sensitive area of Baxter Creek (known to be a trout creek habitat.). He then outlined some of the problems of having snowmobiles on the trails, such as safety, municipal liability, and lack of compatibility with passive uses (ie. walking, skiing). Fallis added, "[Opening up] the trails to multiple use is not safe." Saunders disagreed: "It has been shown that multiple use areas do work. We need only look to the Ganaraska Trail system where snowmobile riders and cross-country skiers coexist without incident. It only takes a mutual respect for each group to make it work."

Fallis then suggested that the committee could work with the club to find

another trail in the same area, but there would be no shared trails, only crossing points. Fallis added he believed it was not a good idea to mix snowmobiles with passive use activities such as skiing, hiking, and walking. He also added he had received a complaint the newly built bridge had been damaged by snowmobiles. Draper suggested the damage had been caused by someone clearing snow

away from the bridge. Hoping to solve the problem before the end of the season, Councillor Brian Bartlett put forth a motion suggesting the formation of a committee consisting of Fallis and two members each from the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club and the Millbrook Valley Trails Committee to look into some sort of compromise. The motion was carried.

Nursing

Continued from Page 1

that time, it was recommended the sewer system be expanded, doubling capacity at a cost of \$3 million, Gail Empey, chief administrative officer for the township said. There may also be a "freeing up" of some sewer allotments when the Millbrook Correctional Centre closes in the spring of 2002, or from the proposed Baxter Creek subdivision,

Councillor Alex Ruth, who introduced the motion to expand the sewer system, said it is a necessary step, so that Fraser Wilson knows Council supports his plans. The motion also said the project should be financed by debenturing the costs over five years, or using other suitable financing, "meaning we could use some slot money," said Mr. Ruth.

Bob Deacon, the only councillor to vote against the sewer expansion plan, said he would rather defer the motion until the engineering study is available so Council knows what the costs will be, and if doubling the capacity is what is necessary. He would also like to make sure the community is behind the Fairgrounds proposal, he said.

"If we've learned anything, we need to act carefully with diligence as to process. Let's go forward sensibly, in a planned fashion," said Mr. Deacon. "Let's make sure we do it right this time. Would it not be more sensible to wait a week until we have the information?"

"All you're doing is creating roadblocks for this gentleman (Mr. Wilson). We've got to get off our butts and do something," said Mr. Ruth. Reeve Neal Cathcart agreed, saying "it gets the gears in motion."

In an earlier interview, Mr. Wilson said the village's lack of sewer allocation was also a major concern at the Old School property. At a Feb. 12 planning committee

meeting, Council deferred a rezoning application that would have changed a portion of the Old School property from residential to institutional, basing its decision on the fact it needed more information regarding sewer capacity.

"If I had suspected at the outset there was no capacity, I wouldn't have embarked on this journey. That's not to say we're not prepared to work it through," Mr. Wilson told The Gazette.

He said he will not build if required to use a septic bed, because these are very costly. If the sewer capacity can not be met by the deadline, Omni would either hand back the contract to the Ministry, or pursue sites outside the township, he said.

"We're not exercising that option until we've exhausted this one."

Previously, Mr. Wilson said the Old School site proposal also hinged on the legal interpretation of a 1993 agreement between the municipality and the Friends of the Old Millbrook School (signed with the Village of Millbrook). Whether that legal opinion is for or against the Old School site proposal is no longer of any consequence, he said.

He said he preferred the Old School site because of proximity to the library and nursery school. But the Fairgrounds site will also be located in a community neighbourhood, he said, which will be good for the residents. He stressed the importance of obtaining community support for the Fairgrounds proposal, and the desire to involve all parties connected to the Fairgrounds in discussions. He suggested Council hold a public meeting, but Council decided not to at this time.

Council is scheduled to meet with representatives of the Millbrook Agricultural Society (Fair Board) and Omni Health Care March 1 to discuss the proposal. ♣

NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CAVAN-MILLBROOK-NORTH MONAGHAN

NOTICE TO RATEPAYERS RE: Interim Tax Billings

Interim billings for the year 2001 have been mailed by the Township. Due dates for residential, farm & pipeline properties are Feb 27th and May 30th. Commercial & industrial bills are due February 28th and May 31st.

If you have not received your tax bill or notified us of a change of address, kindly contact the tax office at 932-2929.

Assessments

The interim billings show your new assessment based on a value as of June 30th 1999. This assessment will be used to calculate your 2001 and 2002 taxes.

TAKE NOTE that if you wish to appeal your assessment for the year 2001, the deadline is **March 31st**. You cannot appeal your 2001 assessment after this date. Reconsiderations can be filed for the year 2001 commencing January 1st and the deadline is **December 31st, 2001**.

To process either an appeal or a reconsideration, contact the Ontario Property Assessment Corporation at 743-0330.

Hazel Armstrong, Treasurer

No immigration holding facility at jail

By Michele Curran

At the February 5 meeting, Council learned the Millbrook Jail would not be used as a holding facility for immigrants.

According to provincial sources, the site chosen will be somewhere in the Greater Toronto Area. To date, there are still no plans for the existing site. ♣

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BUSINESS PROFILE

**Celebrating life
— Nisbett's Funeral Home**

By Michele Curran
In our daily lives, funeral homes are buildings we pass in our travels, having little significance — until it is time to deal with the death of a loved one. It is in this context that funeral homes are often regarded as sad, sombre places. However, Nisbett's Funeral Home director Randy Ling hopes to change this perception, by

presenting a funeral home as a setting for the "celebration of life."
Ling believes this can be accomplished by encouraging the personalizing of funeral arrangements, and cites examples of families placing favourite items such as golf clubs, garden paraphernalia, sports mementos, and even a Harley Davidson around the coffin of their loved one.

He recalled hearing about one woman, an avid baker, whose family placed a plate of muffins near her coffin — and handed each arriving mourner the deceased's favourite muffin recipe.

He recalled hearing about one woman, an avid baker, whose family placed a plate of muffins near her coffin.

Providing clients a personalized service with grace and dignity is what Ling says his trained staff of professionals ensure. "We are here for you — and whatever the family wants, we will do our utmost to accommodate."

Ling said Nisbett's provides a wide range of funeral services for all faiths, from the traditional (including visitation and service), to memorial and/or direct burials or cremation.

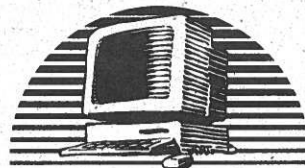
In their role as information providers, the staff can offer clients an extensive range of caskets, urns, and books on flowers, as well as a post funeral service, with information on markers, monuments, and literature and tapes for the bereaved. They can also assist in the preplanning of funerals — and with the price for a funeral service alone averaging around \$4500, planning today ensures peace of mind tomorrow.

Staunch believers in "giving back to the community", each staff member belongs to an organized association such as the Shriners, the Masons, and the Lions Club, while Ling himself is the fundraising chair for the hearing impaired society. In the spring, Ling said a flagpole will be dedicated to the veterans as a thank you for all their past sacrifices.

Ling also takes community involvement to another level by arranging school tours and speaking engagements, to help demystify death or what he calls "a visible and integral part of daily life."

Recently, Nisbett's has undergone some extensive renovations to not only modernize the building, but to make it the first funeral home in the City to offer a wheelchair accessible lounge and reception facilities (on the main floor).

If you want to be certain your final wishes will be carried out with dignity and grace, speak to the staff at Nisbett's Funeral Home and Chapel for peace of mind. ♣



TECHNOLOGY TODAY

RAM down 400%

**By Wayne Blaby
Computer Solutions Plus,
Cavan**
This month's column is the first in a series of articles that will cover general interest computer topics. A business profile featuring Computer Solutions "Plus" in the December issue of The Gazette generated an overwhelming number of calls for service, new systems and general questions. As a direct result of the community's response we have decided to try and answer as many of your questions as possible here.

Our topic today is RAM (Random Access Memory). What is RAM, how much RAM do I need, what are the benefits of having more RAM, and how much does it cost today?

RAM, believe it or not, starts out as common beach sand. Sand contains silicon, which is the primary component of semiconductors or chips. Through an intricate process, the silicon is extracted from the sand, then cut, ground, and polished into silicon wafers. The wafers are then made into chips, the chips mounted on a circuit board and the circuit board gets attached to the motherboard in your computer.

Your computer uses this RAM to hold temporary instructions needed to complete tasks. People often confuse the amount of RAM storage they have with their hard drive capacity.

Think of your hard drive as a large file cabinet where everything is stored (programs and files). Now think of RAM as your desktop or work surface. You come to work and take a few folders out of the file cabinet, and put them on your desk where they are easy to find and convenient to work with. This same process starts when you enter a command from your keyboard. The CPU (central processor) tells the hard drive to load certain programs or files into memory (RAM). Once the data is loaded into memory the processor is able to access it much quicker than having to continually go back and forth from the hard drive every time it needs something.

If you are following this so far, you can see that the bigger desk or work surface you have — the more info you can store on it, easily accessible at your fingertips. The same holds true for having more

RAM in your computer. The more information you can temporarily store in RAM — the quicker the processor can find it and process your request.

RAM is measured in megabytes. Today's systems, running on Windows 98, require 16 to 32mgs of RAM to run basic applications. Tests have shown a 45-65% increase in performance in systems with 64mgs and beyond. Let's go back in history for a minute to illustrate how much things have changed. Consider this: in 1981, when referring to computer memory, Bill Gates (Mr. Microsoft) said, "640K (roughly half a megabyte) ought to be enough for anybody." Add another 10 years to Mr. Gates thoughts and you would find most computers with 1 or 2mgs of RAM. Now add another 10 years and most systems today are built with 128mgs of RAM. That is an incredible jump considering the growth from 1981-91.

The price of RAM at times is very unstable. If you purchased a new system in the fall of 1999, RAM was very expensive. For that reason, many systems were shipped with only 32mgs. Today RAM is selling over 400% cheaper than it was only 16 months ago.

If you find your comput-

er is running a little slower than you would like, or the pages on the internet aren't popping up quite as quickly as you demand, maybe it is time to consider a memory upgrade (an increase of RAM). Applications will respond more quickly and you will be able to run more programs simultaneously. In short, additional memory can make using your computer a lot more enjoyable.

Types and speeds of RAM are constantly changing to keep pace with the speeds of new processors. The most common RAM used in the last two years is PC100 and PC133. Today's prices for a 64mg chip average around \$50.00, and for a 128mg chip a little under \$100.00.

If you have an older system, check your motherboard book and see what kind of RAM you can use. It may not be as inexpensive as the types mentioned above, but certainly worth investigating — knowing the potential increase in performance you could gain.

In our next column, we will discuss virus protection and the internet. If you have a general interest topic that you would like us to discuss in a future column, please email your suggestion to: wblaby@nexicom.net. ♣

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NOTICE

Attention Dog Owners

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2001 Dog Tags
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Baillieboro General Store — Baillieboro
Jones' Store — Cavan
Mt. Pleasant Convenience — Mt. Pleasant
Pinto's Market — North Monaghan
CMNM Municipal Office — Millbrook
\$10 spayed/neutered \$15 untreated

Rabies Clinics

Rabies clinics will be held at the Municipal Garage, 1470 County Rd. #10, (across from Maple Leaf Park)

Saturday, March 3rd: 9 am-12 noon
Wednesday, April 4th: 6-9 pm

All animals must be restrained.

Cost \$10 per animal.
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EDITORIAL

It's the process, stupid.

It's probably the first time in my journalism career that I am thanking a developer. Usually we are reporting on the negative aspects as hotly debated at Council, and often, developers are not savvy to the needs of the community.

Thanks, Omni, and in particular, Fraser Wilson, for moving what will be a great asset in our community to another location. It shouldn't have had to be such a rough ride in order to provide a badly needed long-term care facility. While it was stated that the move was due to engineering concerns at the proposed site, I think there was probably more to this decision.

The rough ride was courtesy of Council, and its apparent inability to consult the constituency on any matter of importance to our community. Apparently, there are members of this elected body who feel they have carte blanche to put development wherever they want, regardless of potentially negative cultural, social, environmental, or economic impact.

Finally, as Council's "hand was held to the flame", a public meeting was held, and everyone got to have their say, yea or nay in regard to the construction of the nursing home on property adjacent to the Old Millbrook School. But the damage had already been done. The municipality probably has acquired a bad reputation as a disorganized backwater that doesn't do planning very well, and more importantly, a rift has developed between friends and neighbours in regard to the choice of the Old School site.

As if people aren't suspicious enough of newcomers to a community, this situation was, I believe, deliberately exacerbated by some Council members and their supporters who said the opposition to the site was organized by new people and artists. We know this is not true — there are many "old" families and individuals who were opposed to construction at the site — while still very supportive of a long-term care facility in Millbrook.

And now, it seems, Council will not hold a public meeting to discuss the newly proposed site for the facility at the Millbrook Fairgrounds. What about the concerns and opinions of the residents in that immediate area? While there may not be the same kind of opposition to the location, these people may have concerns they would like to have addressed by the developer or Council before construction begins.

Unfortunately, ratepayers who have any serious concerns about municipal governance will, in future, have to acquire a significant pot of money. In order to get this Council to listen to the constituency, the only effective means will be through litigation and threats of the Ontario Municipal Board.

Sadly, this will cost us all a great deal, both in terms of the legal expenses and community solidarity. ♣



Social signs not always popular

By Crystal Eves

If you know your astrology, then you also know that the social signs of the zodiac are Gemini (May 21-Jun.21), Libra (Sept.24 - Oct. 23), and Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19). Taurus (Apr. 21 - May 20) and Leo (July 24 - Aug. 23) are not social signs — yet, if you wander around a school playground, you will be quick to discover that in the child's social arena, these are the signs that rule.

Does this mean that your little Libra is not an adorable charmer after all? Absolutely not. But it does

mean that perhaps we should make a distinction between popularity and sociability.

The social signs mentioned above all have one thing in common. They like to interact with others, and they each have their own unique way of doing so. Gemini enjoys information, facts, ideas, and jokes. This is the sign most likely to be spreading relevant information to the rest of the children (such as "Billy was just picking his nose.") or to be appointed the official child in charge of passing notes. These children will become the writers, reporters, computer whizzes, and stand-up comedians of the future.

Libra's social style is more selective. Libra children enjoy a good joke as much as Gemini, but are usually more interested in relating their stories to just one or two of their friends, rather than to an entire group. Libra children are excellent peacemakers, and love to have a good-natured debate with others. These

are the lawyers and counsellors of tomorrow.

Aquarians can be found circulating petitions for such important matters as establishing a pizza day.

Aquarians have a larger scope to their social nature than either Gemini or Libra. Aquarians tend to be more concerned about what is right and fair. They are not usually interested in using their social skills for their own glory, but rather for the good of the group. They can be found organizing the other children, and circulating petitions for

such important matters as establishing a pizza day. These are government lobbyists in the making.

Leo and Taurus children don't necessarily have the social know-how that comes so naturally to these other signs, but they do possess one quality that makes them very popular. They are strong in their personalities and in their convictions. This trait, at least to my casual observation, seems to overshadow social adeptness every time. It seems that children simply respond to authority figure, even when they arrive in the form of another child.

So if you were never popular as a child, and have carried this burden throughout your life, take consolation in this. Maybe you have great social skills. ♣

NEXT DEADLINE

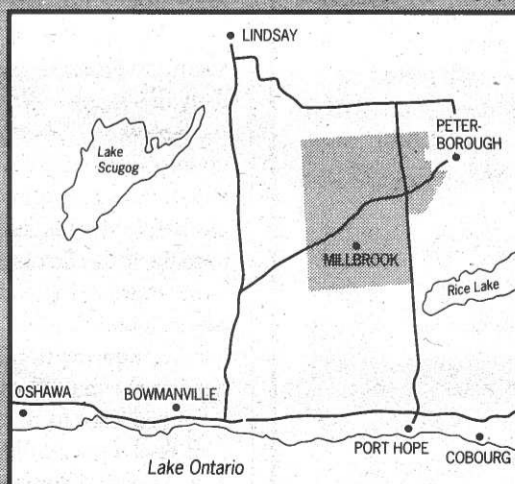
Deadlines for the April 5 issue:

Monday, Mar. 26 — advertising deadline

Monday, Mar. 19 — editorial copy deadline

The Gazette Distribution Map

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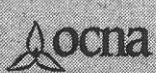
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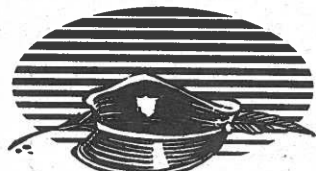
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DEEP BLUE INK

Jazz: A verse essay Part I

By Dean Vincent

I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to New Orleans, and I've seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in

The sunset. I've known rivers: Ancient, dusky rivers. My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

-Langston Hughes "The Negro Speaks Of Rivers" (1926)

JAZZ won't knock but enter your house anyway

In all its conceit, dignifying your Rock & Roll years.

That's Jazz, stroking the heads, delivering melody Along emotive in motion; its conservatory the

Placement of pencil ticks on an unseen staff, With schema and thread, even though disguised,

Musically, in the chaotic. There is a murmuring fear

In all Jazz musicians, even those we name genius, that we

May never know too well: Will I

Be I be able to different it up tonight? Will they care?

Will God? Small talk and glasses clinking out lives the

Trenchant Ting of the cymbal bell, the pull of the Bass string.

Jazz is 2% of the music industry! (Take a Memo)

For that it should be played in the poet's corner of

Westminster Abbey: Rag, Dixie, Swing, Bop, Cool, Latin, All

In All beside Tennyson and Pope, Browning, and Hardy,

Fusing Langston Hughes and all the easy tons of negroes

Kicking in the ornate doors provoked by Coltrane

And Davis, Armstrong and Bechet, Ellington:

All flipping off the stone lids, animating particles and dream,

Yelling 'I am Jazz I am alive!'

Later, after dusting off, they read drafts of verse across town,

Projecting like Whitman afresh, more

dangerously sexual,

Larkin larking more sardonically,

Berlin tripping out, adding spice to American standards,

Mesmerized by the blackness of the moon's silhouette.

The 12345678910 contagious accents of

'These Are A Few Of My Favorite Things' expanded triple fold, so

Raise an ear to Jazz'ez essences!

They babies cry you swore you heard in the midnight,

The punch in the mouth; stay up seven days straight,

Sip a scotch on the rocks of your foundation, Be that not enlighten-

ment?

Jazz is the uplifting hand under beaten brows,

Never offered at the wrong time, only in time signature

Permanent.

Satan had Jazz (envy). God had Jazz (everything).

Adam and Eve could have used

That soundtrack when even pulling the apple

Off the tree, where it bounced off the cool ground,

The first blue note, not the last.

And don't get me started about the blues... ♣



CREATIVE PARENTING

Planning for parenting teens

By Trish Boyd-Reininger

Throughout my recent articles, I've mentioned the "How to Talk..." course offered by the Peterborough Family Resource Centre.

Well, the same authors of the course, Mazlish and Faber, published another book called "Living with Teens". Now that my step-daughter is going on 15, and Adam will soon be 12, I am realizing that I need to brush up on some old skills, and accumulate some new ones.

After looking high and low for my copy of this course book, and not finding it, I began looking for alternatives on my bookshelves. I pulled a copy of "Between Parent and Teenager", and while looking at the cover, was surprised and pleased to see that this book was written by Dr. Haim G. Ginott. He was the man who Mazlish

and Faber went to when they were looking for support groups and information to help them through the trials and tribulations of childbearing.

It's funny how much we, as parents, are alike in what we want for ourselves and our children.

But that's not the most special thing about this book. When I opened the front cover, there, on the first page, was printed PAT BOYD. A smile passed over my heart, and spread over my face. Here I was, looking for help in the very same place my mom was seeking help. It's funny how much we, as parents, are alike in what we want for ourselves and our children. Health, happiness and harmony in our households, and in our lives.

Now that I've found this book, I'm going to make it a priority to share some of Dr. Ginott's ideas and discoveries on how to make it easier for you and your teen. ♣

Oh, to be only half as wonderful as my child thought I was when he was small... and only half as stupid as my teenager now thinks I am. — Rebecca Richards

Art, magic, and drumming offered in spring break

Looking for something for the kids to do during Spring Break? Art classes, magic workshops and hand drum camp are all on offer, right here in our community!

A local artist is offering a full slate of art classes for all ages throughout the break. Art classes in landscape drawing and painting, doll and book making, papier maché, assemblage and collaborative art, playing with plaster, mold mak-

No reason to leave town this break.

Local workshops offer plenty of fun for old and young alike!

ing, as well as a magic workshop are all on offer March 12 to 17. All classes will be held at the Old Millbrook School or the Market Hall in Peterborough. For more information on prices or to

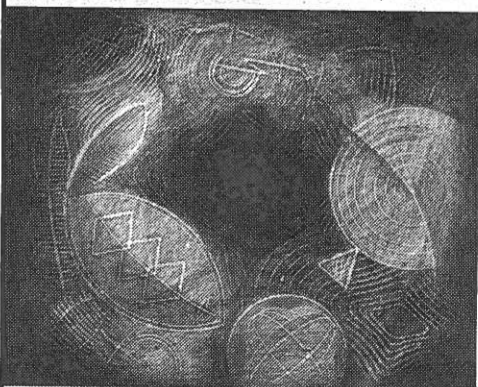
register, call Jess at 932-3214 between 6 and 9 pm, or email

jesstuff@hotmail.com.

Also being offered locally is a Millbrook Hand Drum Camp, for both adults and kids. Workshops in drumming, drum making and performance are all on offer from March 12 to 16 with local drummer David Berger. For more information on times and prices contact David at (705) 932-3646. ♣

PARALLEL DEVELOPMENTS

February 17 to April 1, 2001



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Winter hours:
Saturday 10-5 & Sunday 12-5

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Creative fun on March Break!

Submitted by Bonnie Bullock

The C-M-NM Library is so pleased to have June Forrester as our program co-ordinator. June, a professional artist, started working with the library last March, and created murals with children 6 - 12 during the school break. She also conducted summer programs for children in both library branches over a

five-week period, and has led crafting sessions at Christmas and Valentine's.

During March Break, children are invited to sign up for spring crafts that June is preparing! boys and girls will enjoy the activities at Bruce Johnston Branch, Mar. 13, 10 - 11:30 am, and at the Millbrook Branch, Mar. 14, 10 - 11:30 am. For more info, call Millbrook 932-2919, or Bruce Johnston 741-1253. ♣

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NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CAVAN-MILLBROOK-NORTH MONAGHAN

Application for Year 2001

Community Funding

Any group or association in the Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan which would like to be considered for community funding Grants in 2001 should file a Community Funding Application form with the treasurer, not later than **Thursday, May 31, 2001.**

Council has set aside \$40,000.00 in funding in the budget to be allocated to various groups. The 2001 application is available upon request at the Office of the Township Treasurer, 1 King St, East, Millbrook during regular business hours. Applications will be subject to evaluation and recommendation to Council.

Applications for over \$1000.00 should be accompanied by a fund raising plan.

Hazel Armstrong, Treasurer
Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan
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Female finance

By Melanie Anderson

It may surprise some people to know that women "are more successful investors than men".

Brian Nashman of Edward Jones in Peterborough refers to a study done by two University of California professors to establish this fact. "Women get 1.4 percent better returns on stock investments- and single women get 2.3 percent better returns than single men". This results from the fact that women

"stick with the stock choices they make" whereas men tend to "buy and sell more often in hopes of making a killing". Since "less frequent trading means higher returns" as research shows, the female/tortoise strategy generally beats the male/hare one.

Mr. Nashman has been running free "financial fitness and well being for women" workshops in Peterborough recently.

Women investors will also "admit they don't

know' and study materials given to them", and "seek help and ask questions based upon what they learn". They want respect, take the time to get to know their financial advisors and rarely buy on the spot. Good service is rewarded by word of mouth, as women "tell their business associates and friends" and "refer business".

There are particular concerns for female finances, however. For instance, in retirement "women receive lower C.P.P. benefits than men" because women still only earn about 73% of what men do. Plus they take time off for child and elder care, and their portion of the C.P.P. has to stretch farther, since they have a life expectancy "7 years greater than for men".

One of the strategies for planning retirement is to pay yourself first, "have your employer make a payroll deduction for your RRSP. This will result in greater tax savings, and immediate income, as well as deferring taxes in an RRSP". "RRSPs are just one of the options available" for your retirement plans, which "may also include other types of investment".

Also, married couples should plan for their retirements together, in order to equalize their incomes at retirement, use the tax system to their advantage, and allow for greater diversification, without necessarily having to each rework their own portfolio.

The best way to plan for your financial future varies from person to person, too much so to recommend any particular route even to people who fall into certain categories. There is no set of steps to follow, each individual set of circumstances requires taking financial planning from a slightly different angle. ♣

Preparing for taxes

By Melanie Anderson

Well, it's tax time again, and people all over Canada are digging into that stack of paper sitting on a desk or in a drawer some place and thinking... actually I cannot tell you what they are thinking, for decency reasons, and besides, you probably have some idea...

If you haven't kept yourself organized this year, and you didn't hire a bookkeeper back in January, which of course would make this time of year infinitely easier, as Barbara Stacey of Balanced Bookkeeping Service points out, there are a few things you can think about.

She advises you to organize all of those papers by month, and keep everything personal separate from everything business or job related. It will make life easier if you are doing your own taxes and will with all likelihood make getting your taxes done cheaper if you are paying someone else to do them.

If you have the joy of dealing with the taxes of your own small business as well, pick up a business booklet from Revenue Canada, Heather Maxwell suggests you will find what categories you are going to need to figure out, what kinds of things you can claim, and all kinds of other useful information.

She also suggests that if you are getting your taxes done by someone else, and you are not sure if you can claim something or if a particular paper is of use or not, include it anyway. It can always be decided later that it is not useful, whereas if you don't bring it to light you may miss out on some savings. This is a good reason to have a "basic knowledge of how [the tax system] works" even if you always have an accountant dealing with everything.

Maxwell advises anyone over the age of 18 with a SIN card to file for taxes. This allows for unused RRSP contributions to be carried forward until investing in RRSPs is a possibility. Plus once a person reaches 18 they are eligible for Ontario tax credits, even if they are not in a taxable income range.

Maxwell also points out that there are a lot of people who are missing out on tax deductions and non-refundable tax credits. For instance with a form from your doctor there are all sorts of conditions and circumstances that you might not think about as 'disabilities' per say that you could receive a disabili-

ty tax credit for.

One of the biggest tips Stacey has for dealing with your taxes is to always keep all of your documentation. You will need your bank statements and cancelled

cheques. Your Visa statement is not sufficient. And you should keep all of this documentation for several years in case RevCan decides to torture you further with an audit. ♣

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Community Calendar Tear out this page and post!

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Parallel Developments - Angelo di Petta

At the Millbrook Gallery Until April 1
Photographs and 60 foot graphite rubbing by Gallery artist Angelo di Petta. Open Sat., 10 - 5, Sun. 12 - 5. For more info call 932-5482

World Day of Prayer - Service

At St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Millbrook Fri., March 2, 7 pm
Everyone invited, sponsored by all area churches.

Cavan Maple Leaf Youth Soccer Registration

At Cavan Community Hall, Hwy. 7A, Cavan Sat. Mar. 3, 9 am - 2 pm
\$45/player, \$5 late registration fee. Call 944-5185 for more info.

Singles Dance

At Keystone Links Mar. 3, Mar. 17
\$5 admission, smoking section. For more info, call 932-2740.

Millbrook and Area Garden Club

At St. Thomas Anglican, Millbrook Wed. Mar. 7, 7:30 pm
Guest speaker Jeri-Lynne Rushton of Florabunda Seeds, topic seeds, heirloom varieties, cottage gardens, etc. Slide presentation and seeds available for purchase. Admission \$2.00 /door. Info - contact Wendy at 944-8912.

Rick Fines and Dennis O'Toole

At the Old Millbrook School Sun., Mar. 4, 8 pm
New Friends of the Old Millbrook School are hosting this fund-raising event, featuring the unique talents of these two great

local singer/songwriters. Admission \$10, special family rate. For more info call Grace Glass 932-5409.

Movies at the Arena

At the Millbrook Community Centre Mondays, 7 pm
Mar. 5 - Rugrats in Paris;
Mar. 19 - Emperor's New Groove. \$2.50 admission.

March Break Crafts

At Millbrook, Bruce Johnston Library Branches Mar. 13 (B. Johnston), Mar. 14 Millbrook, both days 10-11:30 am
For more info, call libraries at 932-2919 or 741-1253.

Peterborough Historical Society Monthly Meeting

At Ptbo. Public Library Auditorium Tues. Mar. 20, 7:30 pm
Guest speakers Sue Ramey and Pat Bronson re: women's basketball in Ptbo.

Starlight Dreams Gala Dinner and Charity Auction

At Millbrook Community Centre Sat. Apr. 7, 5:30 - 10 pm
Gala event to raise money for, celebrate, opening of Old Millbrook School Family Centre. Live entertainment, jazz trio Texture. Tickets limited, \$30 each; call 932-7088 to purchase.

Stephen Fearing

At the Old Millbrook School Sat., Mar. 24, 8 pm
The Give a Hoot Café showcases the unique talents of Stephen Fearing. Admission \$10, special family rate, \$5 if you sing in the Hoot. All proceeds to the Millbrook Cavan Environmental Watch.

CLASSIFIEDS

COMING EVENTS

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Help us find past Ontario Junior Citizen Award recipients. This year is the 20th Anniversary of the program, and we'd like to know what our past award winners have been doing over the years. If you know past winners, or if you are one, please contact Anne Lannan at (905)639-8720, ext. 228.

HERITAGE PRESERVATION MATTERS. Come Join Community Heritage Ontario's Provincial Conference "Place Odyssey 2001" May 25-27, 2001. Own Sound. For information, Mary Stephens 519-439-3373.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW about Ontario communities is now at your fingertips! Check out the Web's pre-eminent, unique guide: InfoOntario - Your information gateway to community information, news, events, festivals, attractions and local business. www.InfoOntario.com

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HASH N' BEANS

I brake for biscuits!

By Arden Myers

Hello again. I'm back again after a bit of a holiday... a few months to be exact!

I've been looking over recipes and talking to family members about old stories during my "vacation" from writing. Here's one of my faves.

Eventually we discovered the Cracker Barrel, renowned for their southern fare, lots of fried chicken, grits, and the like.

Each year, my family and other relations would have Spring Break at Daytona Beach. This break was always in March, so even if the weather was not the best, we went. (By then, most people are starting to go stir-crazy or suffer from cabin fever, so a break is almost necessary for mental health!)

Anyway, to cut to the chase, my father (also Arden) was a long-haul truck driver, so weather, delays, or bathroom breaks were nothing much to him. However, for our relations following us, the annual trip was an endurance test.

Eventually, we would stop at a off-ramp drive-thru for a "drive-by pee," until we discovered the Cracker Barrel. This place is a real "southern comfort" — there's only a few elsewhere in the States, but in the south, they are everywhere! They're renowned for their southern fare, lots

of fried chicken, grits, and the like.

We wanted something quick, because we had to stay within our two-hour time bracket. The quickest dinner was biscuits with white gravy. You could have smoked ham, bacon, or steak in between, and you dipped the whole lot into the gravy. Anyway, I've tried and tried to find or make these soft, fluffy biscuits, and it seems to be a southern secret.

'Till now...

Southern Biscuits

1 pkg. active yeast
1/4 cup warm water
2 cups buttermilk (a must!)
1 tsp. baking powder
5 cups A. P. flour
1 tsp. baking soda
2 tsp. salt
3 tbsp. sugar
3/4 cup shortening

Combine yeast with warm water, let sit 15 min until foamy. Add buttermilk to yeast, set aside. In large bowl, add all dry ingredients, cut in shortening until a coarse meal. Add liquids, stirring until moist. Turn onto floured surface, knead 4-5 times (or more). Roll dough to 1/2 in. thick, cut with 1 1/2 - 2 in. cutter. Place on lightly greased baking sheet. Cover, let rise. When risen, bake at 375 degrees for 10 min., or golden. Yum!

White Gravy

Brown ground ham or pork (the kind that comes in a roll). Brown this, and keep the fat. Add fine chopped onion, and keep cooking. Add enough flour to make a light roux. Then add salt and pepper, and left-over coffee can be used to thin the roux. Then thicken a little by adding buttermilk or cream. Cook on low until thickened.

With sausage patties, biscuits, eggs, and gravy (grits optional), you are well on your way to a stroke, but you'll die happy.

Y'all come back now, y'hear! ♣

Taking the road less travelled...

Some say life begins at 55, 60, or 65. At some point, most of us decide to retire from regular employment. This does not, however, mean we have retired from life! On the contrary, this is precisely when many people begin their second adolescence, or at least a very exciting new life journey.

Those who are reasonably fit, healthy, and intrigued by cultural, social and environmental diversity often decide to take the trips they never had time for/money for when younger. Child-free, work-free, and sometimes house responsibility-free, these folks decide to take up the life of the happy wanderer and explorer.

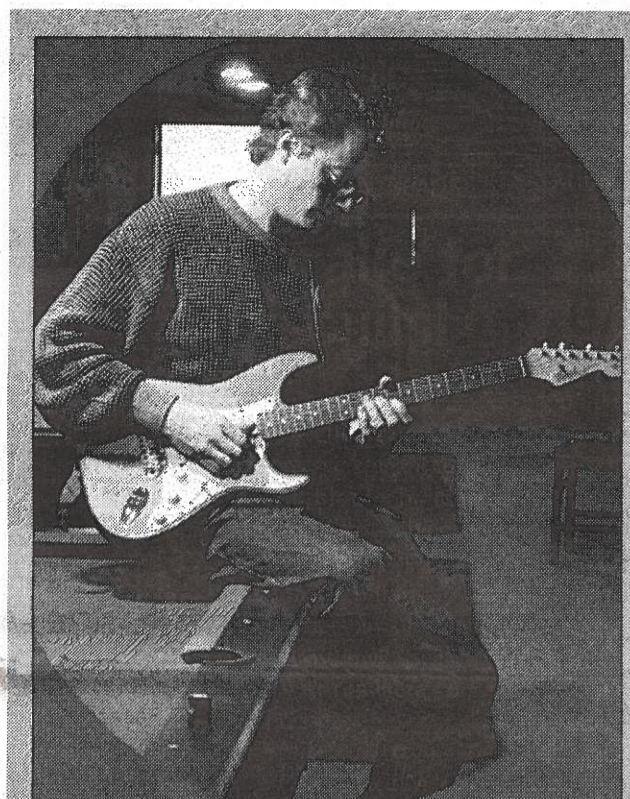
Adventure travel and ecotourism are two of the ways these fit seniors choose to spend their hard-won retirement. Not content to take the usual bus tour around predictable locales in England or Europe, these folks are braving the elements and the unknown in exotic locales — undertaking, for example, mountain climbing in Nepal, a visit to the Galapagos Islands to see rare wildlife, or visiting and staying with remote hill tribes in Thailand.

There are many adventure travel companies to choose from, which offer package deals which include expert guiding, authentic and unusual accommodations, and the chance to really delve into the culture and experience of the people living in the region. Check out the Internet (if you don't have it, go to the public library and ask for help!) for websites of companies that provide such wonderful opportunities, or ask intrepid friends for recommendations. Elderhostel Canada (based in Kingston) also offer some really wonderful educational opportunities

overseas, the chance to learn more about diverse cultures and environments.

A couple of *The Gazette* staff also work with such a company offering adventure travel. Eldertreks offers Canadian and American travellers over 50 small group adventures in exotic, off the beaten path locations around the world. The maximum number of people included in a group is 16, to offer the optimum experience in community AND attention to the individual traveller.

How about this to tickle your fancy for travel memories that will last a lifetime: Burma, Cuba, Cultural West Africa, Morocco, Madagascar, Kenya, Tanzania, Bhutan, Nepal, Yunnan (Tribal China), Tibet, The Silk Road (Pakistan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), Turkey, India, Mongolia, Borneo, Irian Jaya, Sumatra, Java/Bali (Indonesia), Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Angkor Wat, Patagonia, Brazil, Peru and Bolivia, Galapagos, Costa Rica, Alaska, Queen Charlotte Islands, Iceland, Finland, and New Zealand? You'll travel by boat, camel, horse, bus, van, and foot; stay



Singer/songwriters Rick Fines (above) and Dennis O'Toole will be appearing at the Old Millbrook School, Sunday, March 4 at 8 pm in a benefit concert for New Friends of the Old Millbrook School.

in elegant floating huts-on a quiet watercourse, in ancient buildings, in homes, and even in (former) head hunters' huts, for example! Eldertreks can be contacted for a beautiful colour catalogue (designed by Gazette designer Ted Dymont, written by Katherine Luchuk) by calling 1-800-588-5000. The company is located at 597 Markham Street, Toronto.

As none of us are old

enough yet to take part in one of these trips, we are somewhat envious of those who are. If you are, and are in good health and raring to go on this next stage of your life, we suggest you get in touch with adventure travel companies, compare programs, itineraries, costs, and timing as soon as possible. And send us a postcard! (Or better still, write us a story of your adventure!) ♣

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