



## South of 49°

by Jeanne Burnside

### Ring, ring....

The other day I got home and played back my phone messages and was really surprised by what I heard.

Instead of the normal telemarketing minutia, I had two very puzzling calls. The first was from Leslie at some company I could not decipher, but at the end she added something about Canada Customs and a package. I returned the call just after 4PM and of course she was gone for the day. The woman who answered asked me the tracking number of the package. Unfortunately, Leslie had not left it so a search by name was done and the package was identified.

She inquired about whom would be responsible for the duty and taxes and my response was to ask the amount. To my astonishment she said the package was valued at \$30,000 and I immediately broke into laughter. Not a good idea with anyone at a government office—she thought I was laughing at her instead of the situation.

It seems a friend in NY was trying to help out by providing some items from MTV for the auction to benefit Orono Town Hall. My friend had previously e-mailed to let me know she had put together a package with some sweatshirts and bags with the MTV logo so I knew there was no way the package

should have been appraised at that amount. My husband suggested that she might have included Janet Jackson's nipple ring from the Superbowl as a special item for the event.

It turned out the mailing department had put \$300.00 on the customs sheet and someone at the border missed the strategic decimal point. I am still waiting for the package to arrive and have been assured that every effort is being made to expedite its release. Hopefully, the package and all of you will be at the Orono Town Hall this Saturday for the dinner and auction fundraiser.

The next call was from two gentlemen who seemed to be having a conversation while leaving a message. It turns out they were calling from Bowhead City, Arizona and had found my name on the web. They were in the initial stages of planning a chili cook-off and somehow when they searched the topic on the web they read all about Orono's contest and asked for some pointers.

I have never even gone into a chat room but here were people from Arizona with my name and phone number—scary biscuits!

Bill and Zane were quite pleasant and I was happy to help them out. Our plan for the future is to make both contests North American events!



The John Colé House at 5690 Acres Road is ready to move to its new location on Bethesda Road south of Taunton once the weather co-operates.

## Stone farmhouse on the move

James Coombes purchased the stone home from the Ministry of Transport as it was in the former technically pre-

ferred route of the 407. Coombes, who was raised in the home, purchased it for his daughter making her the third generation of Coombes to have lived in the home.

June 4 2004

## Walk the Survivor's Victory Lap

DURHAM- They have fought the battle and they won their fight. They are cancer survivors who are helping to make cancer history by raising pledges and participating in an event that also gives hope to others. You can help too.

The Canadian Cancer Society's annual *Relay For Life* is coming on June 4 and 5, 2004 at the Oshawa Civic Fields. One of the many emotional moments of this event is the opening lap, dedicated to those who have won their battle with cancer. Last year, 5,643 cancer survivors proudly walked the *Survivor's Victory Lap* to start Relay events across Ontario, 300 at the Oshawa event. This lap gives survivors an opportunity to share and celebrate their own success, to thank everyone who helped them through their battle while also giving hope to people currently liv-

ing with cancer.

Canadian Cancer Society, Durham Region Unit employee Melody Major was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in May of 2000. When she was diagnosed, her first thoughts were, "Why me? I was in shock," said Major. "It was a reality check."

A cancer diagnosis can be emotionally stressful for individuals and their family. The person may feel both isolation and frustration. The *Survivor's Victory Lap* is a chance to boost spirits and to recognize how far many people come after their diagnosis. Major's battle lasted two years and today she is a proud survivor who first participated in the *Survivor's Victory Lap* in 2003.

"I felt proud and special. It felt great to be included with others who had battled the same disease," described

Major on her experience in this event. She recommends participating in *Relay For Life* to other cancer survivors because it is such a moving and emotional event. Major plans to walk the first lap again this year at the Durham Region event June 4.

The Canadian Cancer Society is a national community-based organization of volunteers, whose mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life of people living with cancer.

To sign up to participate in the *Survivor's Victory Lap*, to register as a participant for *Relay for Life*, or to get more information on the services provided by the Canadian Cancer Society, please contact the Durham Region Unit at (905) 430-5770 or visit our website at [www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca).



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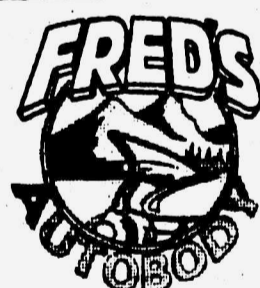
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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

#### COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM

Date: Thursday, April 1, 2004

Time: 7:00 - 9:30 PM

Place: Newcastle Community Hall  
20 King Avenue West, Newcastle  
Corner of Mill St. & County Rd. 2

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in this new initiative that brings the Clarington Town Hall to your community. Staff and Elected Officials will be available to discuss programs and services in your area.

For more information, contact:  
Communications & Marketing, Municipality of Clarington: 905-623-3379