

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## Oakville women have 'Lunch with Jan Wong'



Photo by Peter McCusker

Jan Wong was in town promoting her newest book, *Lunch with Jan Wong*.

By Wilma Blokhuis  
BEAVER FOCUS EDITOR

**Martha Stewart said 'No.' So have Conrad Black, Hilary Weston, and Howard Stern.**

And, Margaret Atwood wishes she had too.

Atwood, an icon in Canadian literature, was Jan Wong's first lunch interview for the *Globe & Mail* in September, 1996. Wong was asked to interview Atwood over lunch and write about the launch of her new book, *Alias Grace*.

But Wong's editor, Cathrin Bradbury, had a different idea. Wong was told to re-write the piece in the first person, to include details of the lunch and what it was like to dine with Atwood.

"Lunch was Margaret's idea," Wong told members of the Oakville Club and the Oakville chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) over lunch recently.

Wong was guest speaker at the CFUW-Oakville's 50th anniversary Christmas luncheon at the Oakville Club.

Wong, who is promoting her third book, *Lunch with Jan Wong*, has also written two books about her China experiences, *Red China Blues* (1996) and *Jan Wong's China* (1999).

"Margaret wanted to change tables after I was already waiting for her with food on my plate. I have never done this since," Wong said of her luncheon with Atwood.

Not liking the table reserved for the interview, Atwood insisted they move to "a quieter table" in the back of the restaurant, in the smoking section, and Wong obliged, despite the fact neither women smoked. "It was 11:30 in the morning, and there was nobody else in the restaurant."

This detail was included in Wong's rewrite which launched the *Lunch with* column.

"When I finished my re-write, my editor loved it. Margaret Atwood was previously treated always as a Canadian icon, and nobody wrote about her as a human being."

Atwood was so upset that she demanded the article be removed from the *Globe's* database.

"We also used to treat our CEOs with kid gloves, and take only proper photos of them. We never did any-

thing to embarrass them," said the 48-year-old journalist. "We did the same for our politicians. We called them statesmen."

Admitting her research for the Atwood piece was minimal – she read *Alias Grace* prior to the interview – Wong now does considerable digging into an individual's life and background with the tenacity of a hard-nosed investigative journalist before 'lunching' them.

Wong 'lunches' celebrities. In her book *Lunch with Jan Wong*, she has assembled 60 of her favourite columns including those on Margaret Trudeau, Dr. Henry Morgentaler, Liona Boyd, Mickey Rooney, Pierre Berton, and Anthony Quinn, among others.

"I do my research," she told her

audience of 150 at the \$25-a-plate lunch. "I interview other people who know the celebrities I'll be 'lunching,' because I have only one hour to figure out what makes that person tick."

"Celebrity is a multi-million dollar business," said Wong, adding that the public wants to know their little secrets – height, weight, age, and what they like to eat.

"I asked Helen Gurley Brown of *Cosmopolitan* her bra size, because she has a career based on cleavage," said Wong. *Cosmopolitan* sold three million copies of each issue for 42 years with Brown at the helm.

"Celebrities are very important to our culture and economy," said Wong, comparing the public's lust for (See 'Celebrities' on page B4)

## Meet the Team

A CONTINUING SERIES PROFILING THE STAFF OF  
"CANADA'S BEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER"

## Inge Andersen

Inge has been a member of the Metroland family of newspapers for the past 4 years. Recently transferring from City Parent/Forever Young division to the Oakville Beaver circulation department, Inge has enjoyed her experience with the newspapers. As an Oakville resident, the transfer to Oakville's community newspaper was a nice transition. "I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with great people in all three divisions. An added benefit now is to have the privilege of serving the wonderful subscribers to the

## Oakville Beaver.

Inge has done charity work with the Canadian Mental Health Association and spends her spare time "enjoying her children, her new son-in-law and continuing her education with computers and the internet". She also enjoys reading and going for walks with her Maltese dog, Angel.

the  
OAKVILLE  
BEAVER

CANADA'S BEST  
COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER  
2000 CCNA Better Newspapers Competition



## Enjoy annual seniors' variety show

Seniors' Spectacular 2000 will showcase the talents of 170 performers at the Oakville Centre on Friday, Dec. 29th at 2 and 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 and are available through the box office at 130 Navy

St., 815-2021, weekdays from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 2 to 5 p.m. The box office will be closed Dec. 24th, 25th and 26th.

For more information on the show, see Friday's *Beaver*.

Come sing  
by candlelight

Your favourite Christmas  
carols accompanied by a  
traditional pipe organ.

Thursday, Dec. 21st.  
at 7:30 p.m.

## Grace Church

304 Spruce Street at Reynolds  
(one block north of OTM Hospital)  
(905) 845 6823

## ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE

## COMMENCEMENT OF DETAIL DESIGN

QUEEN ELIZABETH WAY  
THIRD LINE INTERCHANGE

Town of Oakville, Regional Municipality of Halton  
G.W.P. 180-00-00

## THE STUDY

Morrison Hershfield Limited has been retained by the Ministry of Transportation to complete the Detail Design for the QEW Interchange at Third Line and Third Line from the QEW northerly to King's College Drive in the Town of Oakville.

In general terms, this project includes:

- Construction of a new Third Line structure over the QEW and the removal of the existing Third Line Structure;
- Construction of a new Third Line structure over Fourteen Mile Creek and the removal of the existing Third Line Structure;
- Improvements to roadway drainage;
- Widening Third Line from the QEW northerly to King's College Drive;
- Installing illumination at the interchange and along Third Line;
- Installing traffic signals; and
- Undertaking environmental in-stream work in Fourteen Mile Creek.

## THE PROCESS

Planning for this project, under the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (1999, as amended 2000) was completed earlier this year and an Environmental Study Report was filed with the Ministry of Environment in June, 2000.

This project has received conditional environmental clearance and is now preceding into detail design. A Public Information Centre will be held later in the Detailed Design Phase to allow the public the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the work to be completed. A notice advising the public of the time and location of the Public Information Centre will be published in local papers. At the completion of this study, a Design and Construction Report (DCR) will be prepared to document the detail design work, the public and agency consultation process and a description of the potential environmental impacts and commitments for mitigation. The DCR will be filed for public and agency information, and notices of viewing locations will be published at that time.

## COMMENTS

We are interested in hearing any comments or concerns that you may have with the study. Please contact:

Doug Hoffman, Project Manager  
Morrison Hershfield Limited  
4 Lansing Square  
Toronto, Ontario M2J 1T1  
(416) 499-3110 telephone  
(416) 499-9658 facsimile  
e-mail: [DHoffman@morrisonhershfield.com](mailto:DHoffman@morrisonhershfield.com)

Paul Draycott, Environmental Planner  
Draycott, Rishikof & Associates Inc.  
665 Annette Street  
Toronto, Ontario M6S 2C9  
(416) 762-8586 telephone  
(416) 762-2342 facsimile  
e-mail: [draycott@outer-net.com](mailto:draycott@outer-net.com)

Note: With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.



Ontario

If you  
have a  
news tip  
or story  
idea,  
call the  
Oakville  
Beaver at  
845-3824.

Give the Gift of Entertainment  
this Holiday Season.

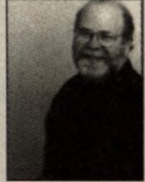
## Oakville Centre Dinner/Theatre Packages



*Ballet Jorgen*  
Friday, January 12  
\$65.00\*  
\$60.00\* Big Ticket Members



*Lisa Brokop*  
Thursday, February 1  
\$60.00\*  
\$55.00\* Big Ticket Members



*Truth About Daughters*  
Friday, February 2  
\$55.00\*  
\$50.00\* Big Ticket Members



*Victoria*  
Tuesday, February 6  
\$55.00\*  
\$50.00\* Big Ticket Members

## Dinner Theatre Menu at Paradise

- CHOICE OF -  
*Mixed Green Salad*

or

*Butternut Squash Soup*

- FOLLOWED BY A CHOICE OF:

*Paradiso Phyllo*

Layers of phyllo pastry with roast tomatoes, spinach & feta

OR

*Olive Crusted Salmon*

Atlantic salmon roasted with an olive crust on a saffron basmati bake

OR

*Spaghettini Bolognese*

Our homemade tomato basil sauce with the traditional ground veal

- FOLLOWED BY-

*Chocolate Raspberry Tartufo*

- accompanied by coffee or tea -

\*Gratuities not included

Call 905-815-2021  
for Tickets & Reservations



THE OAKVILLE BEAVER proud media sponsor of The Oakville Centre

Entertainment  
NEWS & SPORTS  
Three Times a Week