

LOCAL NEWS

The world comes to Castleton

Town Hall a popular stop on Rural Ramble

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Visitors from British Columbia, Sarnia, Peterborough, Kingston — even India! — signed their names in the Castleton Town Hall guest book during last weekend's Rural Ramble tour. The Castleton Hall was one of 22 stops featured for tour pass holders.

Out front, a 1914 Model T and a 1923 Ford Model T Depot Hack parked out front, courtesy of Dan Newman, were available for a toot around the village in exchange for a \$10 donation to the restoration fund. In the tent donated by Brian Barnes of Encore Tent, lemonade was served while musicians Lesley Campbell and Helen King entertained.

Inside the hall, the rural heritage of Northumberland county was illustrated. Roseanne Quinn has arranged pertinent displays of documents and artifacts reflecting the ag economy of years past. Linda McKague van Will generously volunteered to bring her

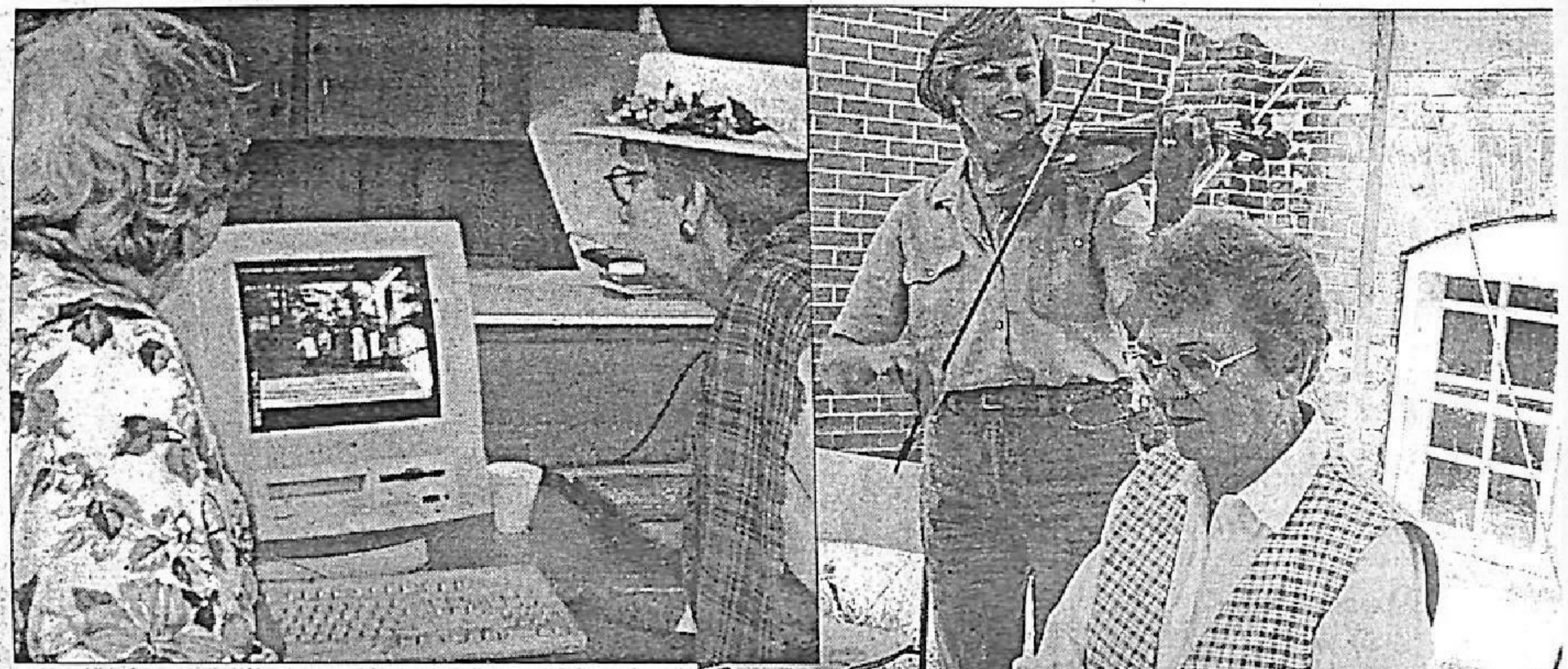
computer and some of the archived old photos of the area and rural life past for viewers.

People who stopped were intrigued with the "sagging" rear enclosed balcony of the interior of the hall.

"That's the way it should be," Lenna Broatch, clad in old time garb, explained. "The floor of the gallery slopes forward for seating and the whole structure bends to provide better viewing of the stage area."

A Restoration Committee is raising funds to return the hall to its former glory with its high ceilings, dramatic windows, gallery and event space. Remarkably, most the building's original 1893 architecture is intact — albeit somewhat covered over with panelling and lowered ceilings installed over the years since its erection.

"We've been very pleased with the number of people who have stopped by," Keith Emery said mid-Saturday. "And many of them then go over to see the General Store, so it's worked well."



PLAY ON: Lesley Campbell played fiddle and aunt Helen King keyboard for visitors to the Castleton Town Hall Rural Ramble stop last weekend. Just some of the over 6,000 local historical photos of the area archived on computer disks by Linda McKague van Will were available for viewing via computer at Castleton Town Hall last Saturday (above left). Lenna Broatch, right, studies an old school photo. One of the original cast iron coal oil lamp brackets removed from Castleton Town Hall by caretaker Pete Thompson when the building was electrified in the 1930s (at left). Courtesy of Roseanne Quinn, this bracket, plus one of the smaller ones from the lower floor, were on exhibit. The large one was part of a pair of chandeliers that hung by ropes and pulleys from the ceiling of the upstairs hall. Each chandelier had about 12 of these brackets arranged in a circle and each had a coal oil lamp. They were lowered by rope and pulley to be lit.