

A book for the community

Colborne Chronicle NOV. 16/00

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MANDY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Details of how the local Millennium history book *How Firm a Foundation* were related to members and guests attending the Castleton Women's Institute 95th anniversary tea November 8. Guest speaker was author Eileen Argyris.

"I've always been fascinated by Canadian history and particularly these local areas," Mrs. Argyris said.

"The immediate problem was there is no printed record of history, for example, copies of old newspapers. No such record exists, not on microfiche, microfilm or bound books. The only thing that does exist is the wonderful clipping done by people like the members of Women's Institute. This book could never have been written without the Ridge Road, Castleton and Colborne Tweedsmuir histories."

Local chapters of the Women's Institute compile local news clippings and memorabilia as the organization's commitment to compiling a "Tweedsmuir history" of their local area. In areas such as Colborne and Cramahe, the scrapbooks and file folders of information are the only ongoing printed record that exist detailing local events, people and lore.

"The other source is anecdotal histories," Mrs. Argyris said of her research for the millennium history book. "School teachers in particular were wonderful. There are many accounts of one-room schools, handwritten histories. I received a handwritten diary given to one woman in the 1940s that was 90 years old back then."

"When a generation is passing, this is a great loss. We want to get these treasures they have in their minds."

"I was very fortunate to move to Colborne in the mid 1970s where I raised my children. I got to know personally many of the people no longer with us. People like Charles Rutherford, Grace Rutherford, Percy Climo. I could draw on what they wrote, things they left behind like photos, chronicles, but also get the flavour of them as people, the things that gave them pleasure. Arnold Warren was another such gentleman."

"We need to appreciate the treasure our

senior citizens have," Mrs. Argyris urged. "The people who were in their 90s back in the 1970s were our last living link to the pioneer generation. They remembered the pioneers, had heard the stories directly from the source, before there were even roads."

"When I think of the advantages we enjoy today, and the people who left their homes in Ireland, Scotland, Germany, to come to this new country and forge a life from the complete unknown - climate, vegetation, everything - they have my greatest admiration."

The author was "honored when Stan Chapman asked me to write this book for the Millennium Committee". As 17-year editor of the Colborne Chronicle, Mrs. Argyris had prepared a 125th Colborne Village anniversary edition of the paper in 1984 and in 1992 a Cramahe Township 200th anniversary history edition.

"This was a beginning," Mrs. Argyris said of her research. "Based on that information, I started searching."

When Colborne library closed last summer to prepare for relocation, the entire local history section was given to Mrs. Argyris to store. That, she says, was a bonus - but it also crowded her Port Hope home for the duration.

"Roseanne Quinn was so much help. Amy Gresham had given Roseanne a box of clippings not yet compiled into books and I got so much from those. The relationships between people and events became clear, how things fit together."

The need to preserve and centralize a local history still exists, she noted.

"If any group within the sound of my voice wants a good project for the community, they should consider microfilming all the copies of the newspapers I gave to Dave McGlennon and Tweedsmuir histories. It might take a fundraising group, but it would be an invaluable contribution."

The writing of *How Firm a Foundation* took six months' time, Mrs. Argyris said - and then came a really difficult task: cutting the content down to the 192 printed pages.

"It's Colborne and Cramahe's book now," Mrs. Argyris says of the history book. "It belongs to them (the municipal councils)."

November 15, 2000

THE INDEX

OPP

Percy Township man killed in farming accident

A Percy Township man was electrocuted during a farming accident around 4:20 p.m. on November 7.

According to police, Shawn Marsh, 26, was operating a John Deere farm tractor, hauling a corn auger behind it.

The auger was tilted at a 45 degree angle.

Marsh was returning the tractor to the barn, when the raised auger made contact with a live overhead wire, causing him to be electrocuted.

Percy Township Fire Service, as well as paramedics attended the scene, at which time the young man was pronounced dead.

Break, enter & theft

Sometime overnight of November 8/9, a Colborne Wood Products business reported the theft of approximately \$1,500 worth of hardwood flooring.

Police are continuing the investigation.

Cottage fire

Just after midnight on November 8, a Seymour Township resident contacted Campbellford Seymour Fire

Service regarding a cottage fire.

Upon their arrival, firefighters found the unoccupied cottage fully engulfed in flames.

Damage is estimated at approximately \$30,000, and the structure was destroyed.

At this time, police indicate the fire is not being considered suspicious.

Youths charged with mischief

At 5 p.m. on November 7 two youths were observed

vandalizing a trailer in Seymour Township.

Police indicate the pair had thrown firewood through windows of the trailer, causing approximately \$700 damage. The owner of the trailer lives in Scarborough.

The two males were arrested and each face a charge of break and enter, as well as mischief.

They are scheduled to appear in Brighton Youth Court on December 19.

**Party for
Rollie White**
A special event for the Cobourg Concert Band is the retirement party for Band Director Rollie White this Friday, November 17, 7 p.m. at Cobourg's Victoria Hall. Nibbles, presentations and lots of wonderful musical - and not so musical - memories will be featured.

COLBORNE
CHRONICLE
NOV 16/00