

LIFESTYLES

# Rural reads make family time fun

Reading together is the perfect way to create wonderful family memories, and to revisit a few of the classics you enjoyed as a child.

Recently, we invited Jeni Dymant, children's librarian at the Brighton Public Library to share with us her top 10 list for country-inspired reads for children.

Jeni's top picks provide a starting point for some quality family reading time. Her choices include:

*Ma, I'm a Farmer* by Michael Martchenko (for readers aged 0-4) - This tale sends the message that too much technology is never a substitute for a good hard day's work.

*Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* by Kate Douglas Wiggin (for readers aged eight and up) - This classic novel about a lively girl from Maine has delighted audiences of all ages since it was first published in 1903.

*Daddy Played Music for the Cows* by Maryann Weidt (for readers aged four to eight) - A bit of a nostalgic read, this book depicts the early years of a little girl growing up on a dairy farm.

*A Prairie Alphabet* by Jo Bannatyne-Cuget (for readers aged four to eight) - Impressive art work brings the Canadian prairies to life.



**COUNTRY PARENT**  
by Kerry Ramsay

Having grown up in Manitoba myself, this choice is one of my favourites - thanks for including it on your list, Jeni!

*It's a Perfect Day* by Abigail Pizer (for readers aged two to five) - The author takes readers on a journey in the life of a menagerie of countryside animals.

*Farmer Duck* by Martin Waddell and Helen Oxenbury (for readers aged three and up) - This fun tale relates the adventures of a duck that runs a farm single-handedly (er, footedly).

*Misty's Twilight* by Marguerite Henry (for readers aged nine to 12) - Twilight is the great, great-granddaughter of the famous pinto, Misty of Chincoteague. Sired by a thoroughbred, the pony discovers the popular equestrian sports of cutting, jumping and dressage.

*Mystery on the Farm* by Mary Crockett (for newly independent readers) - In this book readers meet Jamie who lives on a remote farm where he and a friend have many adventures.

*Farm* by Ned Halley (for readers aged nine to 12) - In this Eyewitness Book, readers discover the story of farming, including the rhythm of the seasons, the rearing of livestock, and the work of plowing, sowing and harvesting.

*The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash* by Trinka Hakes Noble (for readers aged eight to 10) - A class trip to the farm is dull until the cow starts crying, the haystack falls and the pigs get loose. What about the boa? It's a loooooong story. Check it out.

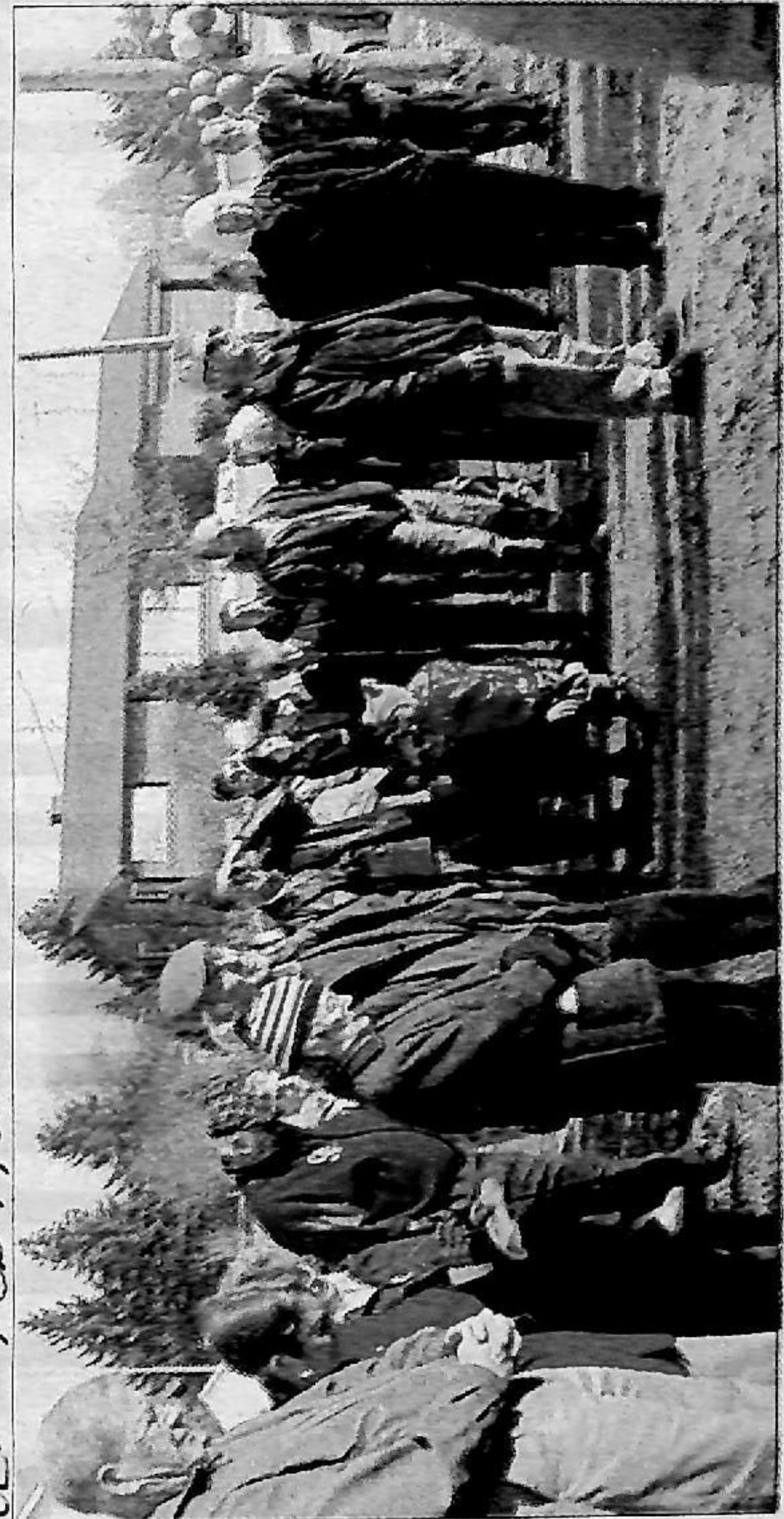
So why not pack up the kids and make the short trip to your local library today? You'll be amazed at the family memories that await you there.

For some great family literacy tips with great Canadian sources, visit <http://www.fld-jaf.ca>

*Kerry Ramsay, mother of two, writes from Castleton. You can reach her by e-mail at [countryparent@sympatico.ca](mailto:countryparent@sympatico.ca)*



Heather and Doug Grant in the living room of the Alexander model home. Colborne Home Hardware supplied the paint and furnishings for Saturday's model home opening.



Guests: There was a strong turnout of visitors, dignitaries and potential home purchasers at last Saturday's Colborne Creek open house for the three model homes constructed by Cramahe builders under the aegis of local businessmen Steve Bowskill and Tovi Luong with the municipality of Cramahe Township. A total 75 homes are planned.



Steve Bowskill thanks supporters and praises local business and council members for support of the Colborne Creek residential development of the municipally-owned Keeler lands located north of the Keeler Centre.



Colborne druggist/ developer Steve Bowskill wields the scissors to cut the ribbon on the Colborne Creek residential model homes in Colborne last Saturday. From left, Northumberland- Quinte West MP Paul Macklin, Cramahe Mayor Lee Dekeyser, builder Bill Rutherford, builder John Kernaghan, Dale Mounthey representing builder Roger Cheer, builder Mike Voskamp, and event emcee Clare Musselman.