

Horticultural Society preserves local history

by Aidan Conolly
THE INDEPENDENT

THIS YEAR MARKS the 100th anniversary of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA). As individual chapters of the association review their history in commemoration, the Colborne District branch has uncovered a story of local history and an antique that might otherwise have remained hidden for many more years.

The current president of the Colborne and District Horticultural Society is Lenna Broatch. For Ms. Broatch, reviewing the history of her chapter of the OHA has been as personal an experience as it has been a professional one. Ms. Broatch's mother, Christine Hubble, wrote an article for the October, 1940 edition of *The School* magazine. She was asked by managing editor Charles Phillips to write about her experience participating in a contest.

As the school teacher at Salem school in 1939, Ms. Hubble took part in an OHA school beautification challenge that was initiated by renowned agriculturalist J.E. Carter. Ms. Hubble demonstrated dedi-

cation to the cause, enlisting the support of a local greenhouse and the manpower of each and every

one of her students to turn a sloppy, untended schoolyard into a place of beauty, in which the children could

take pride. Ms. Hubble's ambition was rewarded when her school won the Carter trophy, but as she pointed out in her written record of the experience, "Not only did we win the trophy, but everybody is now proud of S.S. 4, Cramahe, Northumberland."

Just prior to the end of the 2005-2006 school year, Ms. Broatch took it upon herself to locate the trophy that was presented to the local school board in appreciation of her mother's efforts more than 60 years ago. She found it in a closet at Cramahe Public School, and since then it has been restored to its former glory; the silver polished and the base, which was in danger of detaching, securely refastened. Now Ms. Broatch is enjoying the trophy at her home for a short while, but will soon return it to Cramahe Public School.

Ms. Broatch has thoroughly enjoyed reviving this bit of local history. "I knew it was there all along," she said of the trophy. "The 100th anniversary just gave me the reason to pull it out and use it."



Top left: At the Colborne and District Horticultural Society's Spring Flower Show, club President Lenna Broatch displayed the trophy awarded to her mother's school for rural beautification in 1939.

Above: Ms Broatch's mother, Christine Hubble.

Left: The participating students at S.S.4 Cramahe 1939.



HISTORICAL PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MS BROATCH

Do you have an opinion about this story, or any other issue we've covered in this edition of *The Independent*? Your letters to the editor are welcome. Email to letters@eastnorthumberland.com or fax to 613-475-4546.

INDEPENDENT AUG 9/06

FIELD, GEORGE NELSON - At the Kingston General Hospital on Tuesday, August 1, 2006, age 63 years. George Field of Frankford, and formerly of Goddington, son of the late David Reginald Field and the late Diana (Marran). Loving husband of Kathy (Lord), for 39 years. Dear father of Pat Field and Janet of Toronto, Julie and her husband Vaughn Rowe of Stirling. Dear son-in-law of Jean Lord of Campbellford. Brother of Bill Field of Toronto. Betty Tucker of Norham, Jean Darling of Morganston, Larry Field of Cobourg, Bob Field of Trenton and Jim Field of Cobourg. Sadly missed by his grandchildren, Zach, Caitlin and Josh. The family will receive friends at the Walas Funeral Home, 130 Main St., Brighton on Thursday evening from 7 - 9 pm and on Friday from 1 - 3 pm. Service and interment will be held in Christian Church Cemetery, Morganston on Friday, August 4th at 3:30 o'clock. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Hospital for Sick Children or the Kingston General Hospital, would be appreciated by the family. www.walasfuneralhome.com

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