

Free Press Women's Page

By Wendy Thomson

I've always wondered just how I'd manage if faced with a fire—whether I'd bungle or whether the "cool" I know I have somewhere inside, would surface. The first thing I learned when we moved here was What To Do In Case Of Fire, and on Sunday when I happened to glance out the front window to see a 450 foot line of flames rushing across the field on the other side of the road, I said to me "Be calm, be cool, and do things properly, Wendy", dashed for the phone, dialed the right number (I have it stuck on the telephone), and said the right thing—Wendy Thomson—lot 24—concession 1—Nassaga—Ways—Esqueving Town Line—grass fire. (I had most of that stuck on the phone, too).

Then I phoned the newspaper editor. Now, this could have been a little embarrassing, as on Friday he had mentioned in that rather unsympathetic way I would suppose is typical of reporters, that there had been a large grass fire in Erin and he'd missed it, darn it. And I had replied, in the hearing of a dozen or so people, "Well, I'll start another one for you". And here I was with a fire on my doorstep. Unfortunately, he wasn't home (out to Easter dinner, I guess). I figured I'd done all right so far and might as well keep going.

The camera was, of course, not in its case and I finally found it in with my sewing. Trying to get a fresh film in, for some reason or other I couldn't get the empty spindle to click into place. I kept saying, "Now, be calm and cool, and it'll go in." I was calm and I was cool, and it wouldn't go in. After the twelfth desperate try, I realized I had it end for end, turned it around and was away.

Calmly, I jogged across to the fire and began taking pictures (I'm not sure if I remembered to turn the film, but that's beside the point). When I came up to the owners of the two neighboring properties who were trying to keep the fire on the other side of the fence, I introduced myself politely and properly (but when asked if I lived in the house across the road, I wasn't quite sure for a minute).

I managed to get through three fences alright, but the fourth was barbed wire and I got hung up not in just one spot but in two—hence and thence, I wiggled a bit, but only succeeded in starting a rip in the "thence".

My "hence" was a fairly new and fairly expensive sweater, and I preferred it as it was, so I hung there with the smoke billowing in my face, and my eyes and nose running, thinking "Be calm. Now what would Gord do?" First, he wouldn't get caught. If he did, he'd just slip out of the sweater, unhook it, and put it back on. However, the smoke wasn't thick enough for me to try that, and since the fire truck had arrived, I figured they'd put me out if I caught on fire. Round about then, I sneezed and came loose anyhow. By the time I got all the way through the fence, my jeans had ripped another few inches, so I thought

it best to stay out in the middle of the field and not turn my back to anyone.

I was waiting for someone to holler at me to get-the-heck-out-of-there, as no matter how hard I tried, I don't think I looked very professional. The camera was the type that had to be held down at arm's length and kept getting sooted, up. Over my sweater I had a red ski-shell that my horse had "dribbled" onto down the front of and the pony had just plain drooled down the back of. My "desert sand" Husk Puppies were now a genuine soot-speckled smoke color with smouldering soles. And my jeans—well, if I'd had to go over one more fence, the rip would have gone right around and I'd have been standing there with one leg off and one leg on. That would have been a real test to my "cool"! I was half-debating what to do in that event—whether to throw the pant leg over my shoulder or fold it over my arm, or just kick it into the flames and let it burn.

However, within a few minutes, the fire was out, and I tottered back on home for a cup of tea. This should have been the end of this story, with the editor's grateful thanks for helping him out. Instead, he informed me this morning that he'd already been to a couple of fires over the weekend, and wouldn't have bothered with this one, anyhow. Maybe it's just as well that I couldn't summon the right words to express what I was thinking at that minute. It was something along the line of lighting a small fire under someone's chair.

If I were organized, I would have dipped into the freezer that night and come up with something to pop into the oven and bake. As it was, I sent Gord out for fish and chips. If I remember, I try to keep a container of frozen, cooked sausages in the freezer, heat them in a tin of tomatoes, thicken the whole thing with flour, add salt and pepper and serve with mashed potatoes and vegetables. This is one of our favorites. Along the same idea is Sausage and Tomato Bake.

SAUSAGE AND TOMATO BAKE

In a saucepan, combine 2 cups canned tomatoes, 1 Tbsp flour, 1/2 tsp sugar, 1/4 tsp basil or thyme. Cook, stirring, till slightly thickened. Pour into shallow baking dish and arrange 1 lb. cooked sausage in sauce. Break 4 eggs and slip between sausages. Cover surface with 1 or 2 cups soft bread crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until eggs are firm. 4 servings.



NIGHT SCHOOL "promoter" Bob Laughlin contentedly tries out one of the finished products of the upholstery class. He's joined by amateur upholsterers Betty Stafford, Nellie Feenstra, Chris Griesse and Heather Diggon. (It's Mrs. Stafford's chair). The night school closing display was last week. —(Staff Photo)



READY FOR EASTER were those who attended the two sewing classes at the Robert Little school during the winter. Modelling their new dresses in an informal closing display were Carol Korpela, Rhoda Shoemaker, Dorothy Van Wyck, Florence Sayers, Evelyn Lutie, Shirley Sayers, Lynn Robertson, Jean Paton, Margaret Sutton, Sally Leatherland, Pat Patterson, Doreen Gibb and Carolyn Wolf. —(Staff Photo)



AT THE NIGHT school closing display, sewing teachers Alma Moss and Joyce Bugden joined Sally Leatherland on a newly-upholstered love seat for a final chat. Mrs. Leatherland made her smart skirt and cape outfit in class. The instructors are both MacDonald College final year students. —(Staff Photo)

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Sewing, upholstery classes stage concluding display

Dressmaking and upholstering classes, revived by the Y board, concluded their 10-week season with a display in the Robert Little auditorium Monday evening of last week. Attendance was disappointing, but the board members consider the classes a good beginning.

About half of the women in the sewing classes modelled their attractive dresses or suits for the audience. The commentators were their two instructors, Joyce Bugden and Alma Moss, final year students at MacDonald College.

Of the 30 in the beginners' and advanced classes, those who took part in the brief display were Carol Korpela, Rhoda Shoemaker, Carolyn Wolf, Dorothy Van Wyck, Florence Sayers and Shirley Sayers, Evelyn Lutie, Lynn Robertson, Jean Paton, Margaret Sutton, Sally Leatherland, Pat Patterson and Doreen Gibb.

They showed a pleasing variety of clothes from simple daytime dresses for spring to a wool pant suit.

The sewing classes were held in the Robert Little school. There were 14 in the upholstery class held in the Y.M.C.A. Instructor was Stewarttown upholsterer T. H. Briggs.

About a dozen neatly refurbished pieces of furniture were on display, including a huge deep armchair and a graceful love seat.

Welcoming the group in the audience, Y board chairman Bob Laughlin explained the role of the Y "as your parents knew it" is a thing of the past. He expressed thanks to board members who assisted in setting up the courses, Bob Bruce and Ed Leatherland.

Our schools will be open seven days a week for the public's benefit for recreation, adult education, fun groups or anything requested. The Y's new role is to do things for people. If you've got any ideas we'd like to hear them, he concluded.

Coffee was served to about 50 people.

Daughters of Knox present three life memberships

The Daughters of Knox held their meeting in Miss Ellen Anderson room on Monday, April 7. The president Mrs. Tom Watson opened the meeting with a poem followed by all singing "Living for Jesus" and repeating the motto.

Further discussion about the floor covering and gates for the nursery took place. Plans were started for a Smorgasbord to be held at the church on Saturday, May 10.

Mrs. E. A. Hansen and her group led in the devotion and Study book opening with all singing the hymn "Let the Windows Be Burning". Mrs. William Toth and Mrs. Brian Moore told about different ways

that Christians could assist others to learn, considering the new Canadian and the language problem, also the emotional children in schools. The Scripture taken from Gal. 6, 1-10 was read responsively led by Mrs. Mac Sprowl. The hymn "Take Time to be Holy" was sung and prayer by Mrs. Harry Phelan closed the meeting.

Following this a presentation of two life membership certificates and pins was presented to Mrs. James McKnight by Mrs. Jack Pink and to Mrs. Brian Moore by Mrs. William Toth.

Bruce Trail slides enjoyed

Excellent slides on the Bruce Trail were shown members of Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E. by local conservationist Wes Fountain. He was the guest speaker at the April meeting Tuesday of last week.

Annual meeting

The 49th annual meeting of the Provincial Chapter of Ontario, I.O.D.E., will be held on April 16, 17 and 18 at the Sheraton-Connaught Hotel in Hamilton, Miss. W. R. Morrison, will preside.

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New officers elected

New officers were elected at the April meeting of Acton Women's Institute. Mrs. C. Nelles presided for the election. Miss Dorothy Simmons is the president with Miss Marjorie Hall past president. Mrs. George Fryer first vice president; Miss Nora Kenney second vice president; Mrs. A. Wilderspin secretary with Mrs. C. Pickett as alternate; Mrs. C. Nelles as treasurer; Mrs. McAuley and Mrs. C. Agnew as Branch directors; Mrs. Lindsay district director with Mrs. E. Lambert as alternate; Mrs. Lindsay convener of agriculture and Canadian industries; Mrs. M. Graham citizenship and educational; Mrs. C. Cutts historical research; Mrs. Little home economics; Miss M. Hall public relations; Miss E. Lambert resolutions; Miss N. Kenney curator; Mrs. Wilderspin and Mrs. Fryer and auditors; Mrs. McAuley and Mrs. Little as cheer secretaries.

Mrs. Lindsay, Mrs. Fryer and Mrs. Nelles are to look after the bus trip in June.

All the conveners gave their reports for the year, which were very interesting. Mrs. Earl Lambert had a contest on the months of the year.

A lovely lunch was served by the convener and her helpers, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. E. Lambert.

Citizenship I.O.D.E. topic

The Duke of Devonshire Chapter I.O.D.E. met at the home of Mrs. Reed in Guelph on Tuesday, April 1.

A short business meeting was conducted by the Regent Mrs. Lidka in which plans were completed for the bake sale to be held April 25 at Simpsons store. It was decided not to have students at the two public schools do projects for Empire day as has been the custom for some time, but to leave to the committee what to do, about books.

At the close of the meeting Mrs. T. O. Graham spoke on citizenship. She outlined the program the Czechoslovakian immigrants are doing. Guelph has about 80 of them. Mrs. Graham teaches English to the newcomers.

Cancer can be beaten, says the Canadian Cancer Society. Your contribution to the Society's campaign for funds will help.

A donation of \$10 was given to the crippled children and \$10 to the cancer fund.

A paper will be written on the local W.I.'s 60th anniversary by Mrs. Bert Davidson. Members were invited to attend the 45th anniversary of Mountain Union W.I.

The district annual will be held in Boston church on May 21. The three delegates picked for the district annual are Mrs. Lambert, Miss Simmons and

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