

Is history hidden in your attic?

When it comes to collecting old documents, the differences between men and women stand out.

So says Hugh MacMillan, Ontario's only full time collector of old documents for the Archives of Ontario.

MacMillan, who has had the job for 14 years, told about 25 members of the Esqueping Historical Society Monday that women, especially the "tidy type", are more likely to throw valuable stuff out.

"Men on the other hand are more prone to collect," he said.

Even so, the difference persists, he said, because women "can give you information off the top of their heads and don't rationalize as men do or think about the logic of what they tell you."

Historical societies, such as the Esqueping Historical Society, have a good role in society, MacMillan said.

"Artifacts are great but in order to do research on facts you need documents and a place to store and study them."

He said he came upon his unique job while he was collecting artifacts for museums and found that a lot of documents in private hands were not necessarily in good shape.

"I felt it was unfortunate there was no one full time collecting documents for the archives in Ottawa or Toronto in the late 50s and early 60s," he said.

"But the Civil Service Commission weren't about to be pioneers..." In creating such a post and he landed an experimental job for a year with the Archives of Ontario to look after the newspaper collection.

In his years as a document collector, MacMillan has developed two theories of manuscript collecting.

The first is that a percentage of the population had documents worth preserving and it was reasonable to assume there were thousands of others who also had documents, he said. He was a "low key mission" to make people aware their was some value in their old papers.

The second theory is that if you go about the collection of manuscripts consistently right, "the law of averages will pay off."

Both theories, however, are "untried," he said.

To assist the law of averages, MacMillan has compiled a book of names and contacts, all cross indexed, that he calls "my portable office."

"I have wound up as an

information broker", he said. Among the items that he considers valuable and worth

collecting are old posters, broadsides, catalogues, sheet music, newspapers and in-

structions. One item he showed the audience was instructions for operating a Stanley Steamer, a list of 44 questions and answers.

Documents offered by the public to the archives are not necessarily kept there forever. In some cases, a collection of letters, for instance, may be filed chronologically and bound before being returned to the owner while the archives keeps a copy.

Should documents be desired by the archives, which has "millions of documents... on 20 miles of shelving," a tax receipt is given or the documents are purchased.

Recently, he purchased for \$100 a three month diary of motorcycle trip across Ontario in 1920. A collection of 51 letters by John Graves Simcoe was bought for \$5,000.

"Oftentimes, this sort of material will be mixed in with junk," he said, adding that most people are not prepared to sort it out when the load is destined for the trash bin.

If you've got some old papers that you think may be valuable, not only from a monetary point of view but also in helping to fill the gaps in history, MacMillan would appreciate hearing from you.



HUGH MacMILLAN



MARGUERITE MARSHALL of Sugar and Spice in Hamilton was at the Acton Public Library on Thursday demonstrating different ways and molds for chocolate Christmas goodies. Here, Marguerite paints chocolate into a Santa Claus mold.

He can be reached at the Archives of Ontario, (77 Grenville Street) Queen's Park, Ontario, M7A 2R9. The phone number is (416) 965-4039.

Mr. MacMillan lives in a log home in the former township of Nassagaweya.

Pay theft

Halton Regional Police continue an investigation into the theft last week of six pay envelopes containing \$290 from the Home Hardware store on Mill Street.

Obituary

Bob Stewart Dieppe veteran

Funeral service was held Tuesday, November 21 at the Skinner and Middlebrook funeral home in Mississauga for Robert Shaw Stewart, who died in Mississauga hospital on Saturday, November 18.

Mr. Stewart was born in Acton in 1906, son of principal W. H. Stewart and Mrs. Stewart. The family moved to Milton when he was 11 years of age. After graduation from Toronto Normal School, he became a teacher in 1925 with the Toronto Board of Education and his entire teaching career was in Toronto. He was vice principal at Leslie and Long Branch schools, and principal at Queen Victoria, Bruce and General Mercer schools. He retired 10 years ago.

He served as a Lieutenant with the Royal Regiment of Canada during World War II. He was wounded at Dieppe, his bravery cited in later accounts of the battle. He was captured and spent the following three years in a prisoner of war camp in Germany. After the war, he was presented with the French Croix de Guerre with silver star.

Several years ago Mr. Stewart wrote a series of articles on his experiences as a prisoner-of-war, especially for the Free Press. An uncle of Kay and Dave Dills, he was a frequent visitor to town.

A cheery and enthusiastic person, he particularly enjoyed curling, lawn bowling, baseball and travelling. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart returned to Dieppe several times and made friends there. He took part in the official ceremonies there marking the 25th anniversary of the raid. He was a member of First United Church Port Credit, and the Royal Military Institute.

He is survived by sister Marguerite (Mrs. Roy Brown) of Toronto and brother George of Weston, and many nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. He was predeceased by his wife the former Ruth French, sisters Elsie K. and Mary Louise (Mrs. W. Sinclair) and brother William K.

Interment was Wednesday at Riverside cemetery, Weston.

Free Press

WHO DOES IT

DIRECTORY

<p>ANTENNAS</p> <p>Gene's Antenna Service (Formerly Richardson's Antenna Service) • Antenna Installations • Repair Service • Rotator Service • Antennas Removed Don't Sell Your Tower. Move It With Us. ALL WORK GUARANTEED 878-3400 219 Main Street, Milton After Hours 878-5291</p>	<p>CAR AND TRUCK RENTAL</p> <p>See us first when you need a car or truck rental for • Business Trips • Holidays • Moving Low Daily Rates and Good Mileage 45 Main St. N. Acton 853-2370</p>	<p>DENTAL</p> <p>DR. R. STEEN DR. A. MIKELINAS Acton Professional Building 93 Mill St. E., Acton For Appointments 853-1900</p> <p>DEAD STOCK REMOVAL</p> <p>BAYNE'S FARM SERVICE Dead or disabled animals removed. Phone Guelph 822-8061. Lic. 475-C-74 and 355-R.P. 74.</p>	<p>FUNERAL DIRECTORS</p> <p>Shoemaker Funeral Home 55 Mill St. E. Acton 853-0350</p> <p>FUEL</p> <p>THOMPSON FUELS GULF AGENT LLOYD McINTYRE DEPENDABLE SERVICE SINCE 1946 PH. 853-2174 44 YOUNG ST. ACTON ONT. SUPPLYING Petroleum Products For farm and home -Heating Sales & Service -Furnace Insurance Available -24 Hr. Emergency Service -Fuel Oil Budget Plan</p>	<p>GLASS & MIRROR SERVICES</p> <p>PAGE GLASS & MIRROR SALES & SERVICE Corner of Mill St. and Willow St. at rear of Dawe Real Estate. Aluminum Windows and Doors Free Estimates "24 HOUR SERVICE" Days 853-3865 Evenings 853-3277</p> <p>GENERAL CONTRACTORS</p> <p>DRYWALL TAPING and JOINT FILLING Free Estimates JOE SEELEN MILTON 878-3337</p> <p>HOME IMPROVEMENTS</p> <p>DAVE'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS • Plaster Repairs • Stucco Designs • Textured Spray • Drywall Taping • Rec Rooms QUALITY WORK - FREE ESTIMATES 853-2726</p>	<p>LANDSCAPING</p> <p>White Oak Landscaping Ltd. (Established since 1960) (town nursery) • Nursery Stock • Planting • Seeding • Sodding • Patios • Retaining Walls • Rock Gardens • Walks • Fence Posts Grounds Maintenance Large Shade Trees 853-1248 R. R. 1, Acton R. SCHUBERT, O.D.H. GRAD. OF OAC</p> <p>OPTOMETRISTS</p> <p>Arthur A. Johnson, O.D. MILTON - 214 Main St. 878-3673 By Appointment</p>	<p>PLUMBING & HEATING INSTALLATION</p> <p>SID SPEAR & SONS • Now installation • Burner repairs To all makes of furnaces 877-2121</p> <p>PULL A RABBIT OUT OF THE WANT ADS</p> <p>ROOFING</p> <p>WESTERN GENERAL CONTRACTORS Specializing in roofing and vinyl aluminum siding, soffits, fascia, also steel bars and eaves-troughing and aluminum doors and windows, additions. FREE ESTIMATES CALL 853-1726 days or Erin Collect 833-9070 after 5 p.m. WE NOW ACCEPT CHARGE</p>	<p>SEPTIC TANKS</p> <p>RON GIDDEN Septic Tank Cleaning Phone Rockwood 856-4202</p> <p>SIGNS</p> <p>ACTON SIGNS Complete line of signs, wood, plastic, metal, etc. Supergraphics. Call: JOE JANSEN 853-3632</p> <p>SOFT WATER</p> <p>AQUAFONE WATER SOFTENERS SOFT WATER THE WAY IT SHOULD BE • FREE INSTALLATION and Service • LOWEST MONTHLY Rental Rate COMPLETE LINE of Water Treatment Equipment for Homes, Farms and Business SELF SERVICE Salt Pickup or Delivery 877-6242 Member of the Better Business Bureau</p>	<p>TYPING SERVICE</p> <p>ACTON HOME TYPING SERVICE 853-1525</p> <p>UPHOLSTERY</p> <p>GUELPH UPHOLSTERY Formerly Acton Upholstery Earl Jensen Recovering and Restyling your antique and modern furniture. Free estimates - pick up and delivery. 25 years experience. Satisfaction Guaranteed 824-0533</p> <p>CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY High Class Workmanship Fast Service 853-1610 METROPOLITAN FURNITURE 15 Mill St. W. Acton</p> <p>WAYNE'S UPHOLSTERY Recovering, rebuilding, restyling, refinishing. FREE ESTIMATES Pick up and delivery ACTON 853-2395</p>
<p>APPLIANCE REPAIRS</p> <p>SALES and SERVICE Washers, Dryers, Fridges, Freezers, Ranges and All Small Appliances Air Conditioners OLYMPIC SERVICE 175 Mary St., Milton 878-6772</p> <p>KEEP APPLIANCES & T.V. MOFFAT APPLIANCES Want to save money on appliances? We are the largest Moffat Dealer in Ontario, at the rear of the VICTORIA-YORK PLAZA, 240 Victoria Rd. South, Guelph. 836-3961</p>	<p>PROTECT YOUR HOME Have your chimney cleaned by experts. 822-2297 or 836-3091</p> <p>THE CHIMNEY SWEEP</p>	<p>ELECTRICAL SERVICE</p> <p>HALTON HILLS Electrical Contracting • 24 Hour Service • Industrial • Commercial • Residential 853-2572 ACTON</p> <p>EXCAVATING</p> <p>G & A EXCAVATING Dzer, loader and backhoe work, sand, gravel, topsoil, trenching, ponds, basements, swimming pools etc. Licensed to install septic beds. GEORGE ANDREWS 853-1638</p> <p>NORM CROWDER Topsoil, Sand and Gravel. Also Bulldozer and Backhoe Work. Grader Work 877-1022</p>	<p>INSURANCE</p> <p>F.L. WRIGHT 20 Wilbur Street Acton, Ontario Phone 853-0720 Appraiser and Insurance Serving Acton and Vicinity For Over 60 Years</p> <p>IS YOUR INSURANCE UP-TO-DATE?</p> <p>Denny's Insurance Agency 17 Mill Street West ACTON GENERAL and LIFE INSURANCE 853-0150 Office Hours Mon. to Thurs. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. After Hours Call Mit Bell - 853-2243 Harold Denny - 853-2666</p>	<p>HAERFNER SIDING & ROOFING Aluminum and vinyl siding, soffit, fascia, seamless eaves-troughing, new and re-roofing, aluminum doors and windows. 853-1720</p> <p>PLUMBING REPAIRS A SPECIALTY If we fix it, we guarantee it! BARLOW PLUMBING AND HEATING c/o Morse Pro Hardware 22 Mill St., Acton Walter Barlow, Prop. 853-2720 or 853-2723</p>	<p>DR. ROBERT W. SCHUMACHER Optometrist 22 Main Street S. Acton Telephone for appointment 853-2211</p> <p>H.S. HOLDEN OPTOMETRIST 38 Cork Street East GUELPH Phone 822-715</p>	<p>D & M ROOFING • Shingling • Re-roofing • Repairs • Eaves-troughs • New roofs. Free estimates All work guaranteed. 1-519-836-3195 Guelph</p> <p>THERE'S BIG GAME... IN THE WANT ADS</p>	<p>TV and APPLIANCES</p> <p>FIRST LINE T.V. SALES and SERVICE 5 Mill Street East, Acton Phone 853-1057 For Store and After Hours (Service) Zenith & Motorola Dealer Antenna Installations & Repairs</p>	<p>WANT ADS ON TARGET EVERY TIME</p> <p>WATER CONDITIONERS</p> <p>WATER SOFTENERS Rent from Boehmers Our prices are competitive, our units trouble free. BOEHMERS When you want the best phone for the best. 877-6931 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown</p>
<p>SEE THE DEPENDABILITY PEOPLE</p> <p>MAYTAG WIGO TV & APPLIANCES 877-3376 40 Main Street North Georgetown</p> <p>Get quick results with CLASSIFIED ADS</p> <p>BOOKKEEPING</p> <p>ACTON ACCOUNTING SERVICE Bookkeeping systems for small businesses set up and maintained. Reasonable hourly and weekly rates. 853-2429</p>	<p>CHIROPRACTIC</p> <p>Richard Telford, D.C. 65 Mill St. E., Acton (corner of Elgin) Monday through Friday All Day For Appointment 853-2483</p> <p>CONCRETE PRODUCTS</p> <p>ACTON PRECAST CONCRETE & SUPPLIES Septic Tanks Well Tiles Other Concrete Products Plastic Sewer Pipe Pumping Service 853-1529</p> <p>LEARN TO DRIVE THE EASY WAY</p> <p>BT'S DRIVING SCHOOL JACK BEER Instructor • OSL GRADUATE • MOTC LICENCE • DUAL CONTROLS • FULLY INSURED • COMPLETE TRAINING Call 877-5844</p>	<p>LAING CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>• Loading • bulldozing • excavating • sand & gravel • topsoil • fill • mulch • topsoil • backhoe work • septic beds • custom mulching • trucking • FRED LAING 853-2353 OR RED LINDSAY 877-3110</p> <p>FURNITURE STRIPPING</p> <p>NO DIP FURNITURE STRIP 55 Sinclair Ave. Unit 4 Georgetown Antique Furniture For Sale 877-8770</p>	<p>J.L. CORMIER Custom Built Homes • General Repair • Renovations • Custom Woodworking • Kitchen cabinets • Vanities. 856-4773</p> <p>BURT'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS • General Repairs • Decorating • Ceramic Floor & Wall Tile • Rec Rooms • Quality Workmanship 853-1159</p>	<p>WANT ADS</p>	<p>CLASSIFIED ADS For 1001 things</p>	<p>CLASSIFIED ADS For 1001 things</p>	<p>CLASSIFIED ADS For 1001 things</p>	<p>WELDING</p> <p>SPEYSIDE Portable Welding Service Free Estimates Commercial - Industrial W.KAMMINGA 853-1148</p>