



MILLIE DE VRIES and son John work side by side in the Speyside General Store.

DeVries family enjoys general store tradition

The tinkle of the door chimes and buzz of the gas bell are constantly sounding to let the DeVries family know they have customers at their newly acquired Speyside General Store.

John and Millie DeVries purchased the business from Betty and Roy Knapp in September. It had always been John's dream to have a small business in his retirement, but when the opportunity for the small general store came up long before he was due to retire, the family thought they should not pass up the opportunity.

On September 8, the family, including children John, 17, Rosanne, 15, Dawna, 13 and Cary, 7, packed up their belongings in Clarkson and headed out to the country. True to form of a country general store, the business has a little bit of everything. There are groceries, hardware, gifts, milk, ice cream, and two gas pumps outside. There is no lull in business, according to Millie as customers are constantly stopping in. Many are regular trade, those who live in the area. Others are truck drivers or travellers. Some

hikers, who leave the Bruce Trail not too far from the store, even stop in. From 3:30 to 7 p.m., the gas pumps are constantly busy.

For as many people who are "in and out", there are just as many who stop and chat. "It's an easy atmosphere", Millie says. "That is one big difference from Clarkson she said. "There, you cannot talk to someone you do not know. Here, people are always being friendly."

Another difference is the smaller schools. The two oldest children attend Acton high school, one is at Stewarttown and another at Speyside school.

"It took a while to adjust, but once they made friends everything was okay," Millie explained.

The days of the general store with the old pot belly in the centre of the room and men sitting around talking may not have been forgotten. Recently, John found an old pot belly stove in the garage and wishes there were more room in the store to have it installed. "To really revive the general store atmosphere."

Eden Mills

UCW sponsors party at Eden House

by Wilda MacDougall
The United Church Women held their regular meeting in the Sunday School room with Mrs. Gladys Marshall as hostess. The devotional was taken by Mrs. Ann Cann on the 23rd Psalm.

It was planned to continue having luncheons in the Community Hall the first Wednesday of each month from February to June. The nominating committee for the

new slate of officers for 1979 is Mrs. Ruth Millson and Mrs. Ann Cann.

Mrs. Holly Saulnier reported on her day as a delegate to Presbyterian. Good work is being done in the reformatories.

The president, Mrs. Betty Snow, closed the meeting by asking the members to repeat the U.C.W. Ode. Mrs. Jean James and the hostess served refreshments and Mrs. Lorna

Tomlinson thanked the ladies who took part in the meeting.

The Eden Mills United Church Women sponsored the monthly birthday party at Eden House Nursing Home. Five ladies who celebrated birthdays in November, received corsages and gifts. All enjoyed a sing-song led by Mrs. Florence Martin and birthday cake and ice cream was served to all the residents.

The day wasn't too bright on Saturday but inside the community hall it was beautiful. It was attractively decorated in a Christmas theme for the annual community bazaar. There was a good attendance and many buyers for the crafts, baking, plants, toys, etc. There were also draws and the lucky winners were Poinsettia plant, Mrs. Nora McLean, Santa Claus cake, Jean McLean of Rockwood, Barbie doll, won by Jody Brown, centre piece and the pinato both went to

Debbie Marshall. The Girl Guides served lunch in the tea room and pouring tea for the afternoon were Betty Kirby, Betty Snow, Lorna Tomlinson and Ev Barden.

Fred Rinehart had a harrowing experience last week, when he became entangled in a power take-off at the Theaker farm. His winter coat was chewed off and all that was left were the sleeves. Thank goodness Fred wasn't badly hurt, just severely

shaken by the ordeal. Sincere get well wishes are extended to Mrs. John Turner who had an operation on her foot last week. Knowing Irene, she'll soon be up and around.

Mr. and Mrs. Mansell Lowrie spent the weekend in Toronto visiting Joan's mother and sister.

Some of the townsfolk went over to Acton to enjoy their Santa Claus parade on Saturday.

Milton dog hunt shelved

MILTON—Residents all set to go wild dog hunting will have to put the bullets back on the shelf, at least for a while. Gary Tupling, Fish and Wildlife supervisor from the Ministry of Natural Resources cast doubts on the legality of such a hunt to Milton council last week. "I know for a fact that you can't go out and indiscriminately shoot dogs," said Tupling. The hunt, proposed at council earlier, would be for roaming packs of dogs reportedly attacking livestock in Milton. Council is waiting for more answers from lawyers, the ministry and other towns. Tupling said if coyotes are the predators, the province pays compensation to the farmer and a hunt may be started. However, if dogs are the culprits, the town pays and there is no hunt.

Fire agreement re-write

FERGUS—A delegation from the surrounding townships of Nichol, West Garafraxa and Pilkington will approach Fergus and Elora councils soon in a bid to revise the fire protection agreements. At the recent meeting, to which neither Fergus nor Elora attended, the townships agreed the formation of an area fire board is essential.

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Guide and Brownie news

by Ann Chesworth
Eden Mills Guides and Brownies are saddened by the death of Mrs. Kay Stevenson. We have lost a good friend and advisor. Kay only recently tested five of our senior Guides for their Citizenship badge, and is remembered fondly by these girls because she gave them each an interesting test, turning a tough subject into a pleasurable experience.
The year seems to be passing very quickly. Twenty-three Guides are taking a first aid course given by Red Cross instructor, Linda Thomson, of Guelph. On Saturday we made a return trip to the CN Tower (to make up for the long wait on March 4), enjoying a train journey again, and also a shopping spree at the Eaton Centre. Mrs. Beryl Blaakman, Mrs. Cleo Melzer, and Mrs. Ann Chesworth were the brave adults who managed to keep an eye on the girls among the subway crowds! Recently, Eramosa and

Rockwood Guides joined us for a conservation day. Rod Deacon, of the Grand River Conservation Authority, covered the theory of conservation and ecology badges with the girls, and set various projects for them to complete before they can earn their badges. During the day, we visited the Guelph Dam, which is a very impressive conservation measure, not only helping to control flooding and water supply, but also providing a fine recreation area. The best part of the day was wading in the Eramosa River, discovering the wild life living in the water.
We held an enjoyable disco dance, with many helpful parents attending. Tracy Clifford, once again, donated his services as DJ, and is greatly appreciated by the girl guides. Tracy feels these dances, which attract many children from surrounding rural areas, are a good service to the community.

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