

Gus Elliot, new vice-principal at Speyside Public School.

Gus Elliot new V.P.

Gus Elliot, new vice-principal at Speyside school, isn't that new at all.

He's the former vice-principal at M.Z. Bennett, before moving off to Centennial Middle School in Georgetown to serve as vice-principal.

Elliot started his teaching career 18 years ago in Sudbury before moving to Georgetown in 1967. He taught Language Arts at Wrigglesworth and Centennial before being promoted to vice-principal at Central Public School in Burlington. Elliot stayed there two years before coming

back to the area. He took over as vice-principal at M.Z. Bennett for four years.

His post at Speyside also means serving as vice-principal at Robert Little in Acton. And he teaches grade six math, social science and physical education at Speyside.

Elliot said he was really pleased to be back. "It's super-terrific. This is a small community school so you get great parental support. And the kids are nice to work with. I hope to stay here for awhile."

Library looseleaf

by Esther Taylor

If you're a Stephen King fan, you will wade into his latest horror novel with relish. If you suspect that the scientific world is peopled with weirdos—and if you would rather not be reminded of same—don't read *Firestarter*. Aside from the main characters, father and daughter, Andy McGee and Charlie, the people in *Firestarter* are singularly unlovable, ranging from mad to murderous.

Charlie, eight, has pyrokinetic powers, that surfaced when as a baby she set her teddy bear alight by looking at it. Charlie is the product of a union between Andy and Vicky Tomlinson, who as University students volunteered for two hundred dollars to take part in a drug experiment run by the Shop, a low-profile ruthless government agency working with the United States intelligence service. Vicky and Andy who married a year later were among twelve human guinea pigs taking so-called low hallucogenic drugs under the direction of Dr. Wanless (irreverently known as the Mad Doctor).

As a result of the experiment, Vicky developed what Wanless termed "low-threshold telekinetic power" and Andy found himself with "mid-level mental-dominance ability", which when exercised, caused him excruciating pain. The most dramatic victim, Charlie, loses both parents after the Shop bosses go into action to prove the unexpected success of their heartless tinkering with human lives on the dubious altar of science. There's a horrifying hunt and finally capture before Charlie erupts in a flaming disaster that destroys not only Shop premises, but a gang of buddies as well.

One can only hope, after reading *Firestarter*, that King did not base his horror story on fact. Other King books in the library are: *Carrie*; *Dead Zone*; *The Shining*; *The Stand* and *Night Shift*.

Science and a youth endowed with exceptional mental gifts collide in Ernest Gann's *Brain 2000*. It's a light-hearted literary frolic by a master storyteller.

It would be interesting and time-consuming to guessimate how many Gothic writers have tried to equal or better Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. Without success. There's only one *Jane Eyre*, and only one Rochester, brain children of a 33-year-old spinster-daughter of an eccentric country parson. Charlotte and her sisters, Emily and Anne, writing under the pen names Currier, Ellis and Acton Bell produced *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights* (Emily) Agnes Grey and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (Anne), which readers speculated might have been authored by three brothers or perhaps one person (male). Anne and Emily's novels sold well, although they were "somewhat harshly reviewed." Charlotte's *Jane Eyre* "a success de scandale" established her in a few months as the most talked-of writer of the day.

Charlotte was working on her third novel *Shirley* when her sisters and beloved brother Brabwell died within a few months of each other. Although she never fully recovered from these blows, Charlotte started a new phase of her career with a trip to London and her publishers. By then, the mystery of *Jane Eyre*'s authorship was no longer a secret. The young woman from a parsonage on the dour Yorkshire moors had to cope with fame and also bitter criticism, because in some quarters *Jane Eyre* was regarded as a shocking novel.

Charlotte Brontë's years of fame and subsequently her marriage to a curate whom her father disapproved, are chronicled in *Path to the Silent Country* by Lynne Reid Banks.

More and more Canadian photographers are being inspired by Canada's unique scenic beauty. Two recent books ideal for gifts or for library browsing are Peter Fowler's *Cottage Country*; and *The Bruce Trail From Niagara to Tobermory*. Superb camera work. Many of the photos will be familiar to local cottage-owners and Bruce Trail hikers.

With autumn closing in and winter endlessly hovering (does winter ever depart?) this is an ideal time for snuggling down with a new book, fiction or otherwise. Among titles on the new-book list: *The Clan of the Cave Bear*, Jean Auel; *Turbo*, Doug Rutherford; *Blood Relative*, P.D. James; *Dominoes and Venus Fly-Trap*, both by John Wainwright; *North Slope*, Michael Parker; *No Face in the Mirror*, Richard Copeland; *Hooky and the Prancing Horse*, Lawrence Meynell. Larry Collins and Dominique Dominique Lapierre, co-authors of *O Jerusalem* have written their first novel *The Fifth Horsemen*, a sure best-seller.

Maple Sugar headlines first concert

James Gordon of Eden Mills, who is a Rockwood native, and his group Maple Sugar will headline the first of a series of three concerts in Georgetown and Acton sponsored by the Halton Hills Arts Council.

There'll be a taste of Canadian heritage when Maple Sugar comes to Georgetown, October 29.

Three of the five Maple Sugar performers who will entertain at the Georgetown high school, were guests of Vera Macdonald on her Halton Cable talk show, Magazine.

Dedicated to preserving the rich Canadian heritage of folk songs, fiddle tunes and step dances, Maple Sugar is

more of a musical revue than a group. "We have a large pool of resources and team up with what's available or what is needed," members said. The Georgetown performance will not feature step dancing but have many of the Canadian folk songs and fiddle tunes which represent early Canadian life.

Along with Jeff Bird, Randy Sutherland and James Gordon who appeared on the talk show, Dawson Girdwood, well known Canadian fiddle player, and Gilles Losier, heavily involved with traditional French-Canadian music, will also take part in the Georgetown performances. Gretchen Day, president of the Arts Council, says ticket sales for the Trillight series are going well and a very limited number will be available at the door. In addition to Maple Sugar, The Trillight series also includes the February Acton performance by the Tapestry Singers and the April show by Maureen Forrester.

Invitation to talks

An invitation has been issued to every man in town who welcomes open-minded discussions on topics which influence our society.

The invitation originates from men at Knox Presbyterian Church to townsmen of

other denominations to form an Acton Christian Fellowship Society.

The group would conduct informal monthly meetings which feature guest speakers from professions, such as television and education, which give lives direc-

tion. The direction of the fellowship society will reflect the membership's wishes.

The first meeting, which is to determine interest, is Tuesday, October 14 at 8 p.m. in Knox Church.

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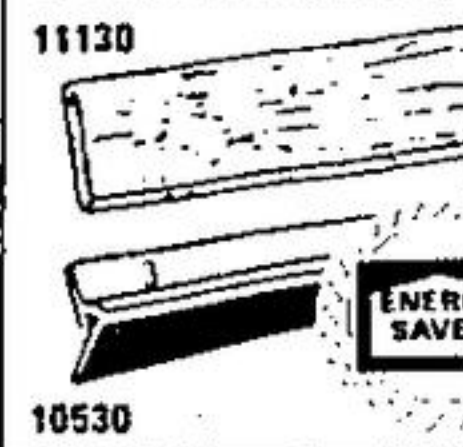
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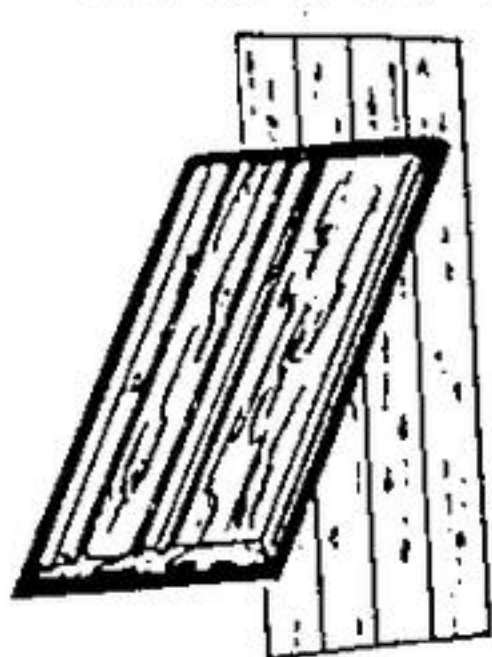


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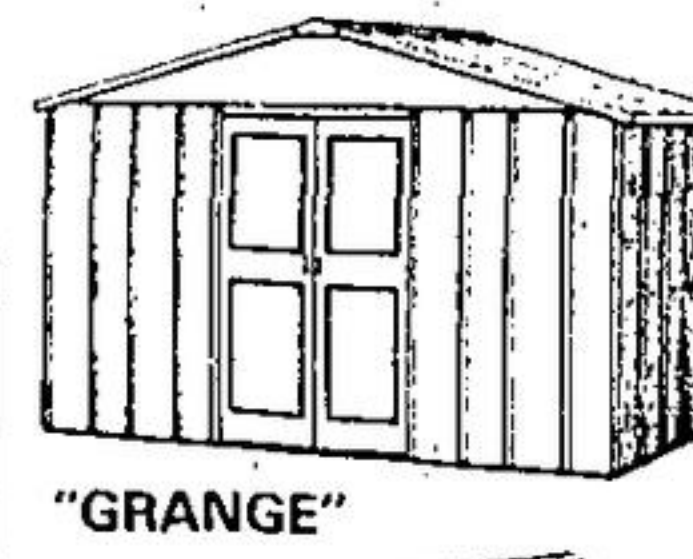
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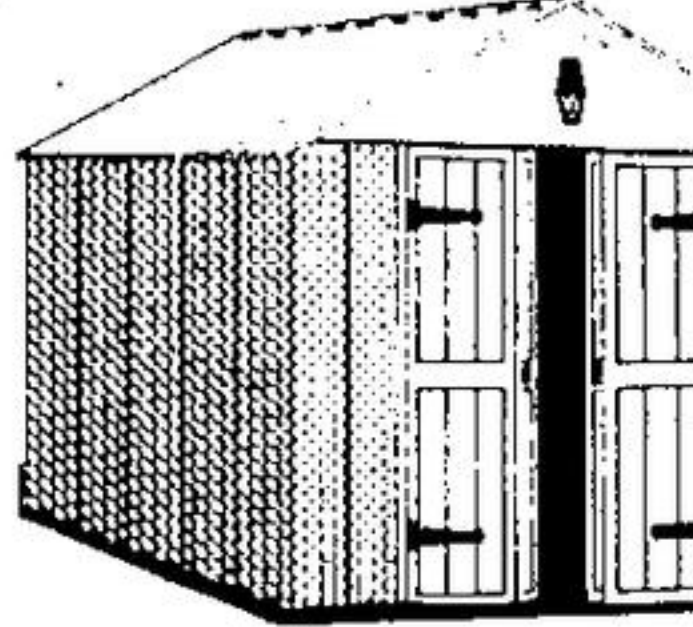


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