

# Happy Anniversary!

## Terra Cotta re-opens its doors

# A special inn for all

By Gerry Landsborough

Strachan Bongard is a handsome, athletic looking man whose rugged good looks beguile his 44 years. I stood beside him on an early August morning last year, tears filling his eyes as he watched fire partially destroy the Terra Cotta Inn which he owned. For Strachan it was like watching the burning of a beautiful dream.

After the fire Strachan considered selling the Inn, which he had completely redecorated and refurbished with antiques since becoming the owner last February.

Now, less than a year later, he has rebuilt the Inn, minus the bedrooms and has again returned to his dream.

For Strachan Bongard the Inn is not to be just another occasional dining place for Christmas and birthdays, he wants the Inn to be a special place. A place not just for good food, but an atmosphere of what he refers to "as just the right mix." A place for people who like to do things—hikers, cyclists and cross-country

skiers—to sit at its warm fireplaces in the winter or enjoy the cool breeze on its terrace gardens in the summer. A place for wholesome, country cooking, and stimulating conversation.

"I want the Inn to be special, and I'm concentrating all my efforts right now on achieving that goal. It is the challenge to create something new and exciting that makes this such a special project for me," he said.

Strachan is a man of many projects for whom time is always at a premium. He still has ties with his own investment banking firm in Geneva, Switzerland that requires his attention.

He is the Governor of a private school in Geneva, and has been approached to start a similar school here.

A Canadian by birth, he has

spent the last five years in Switzerland and is very much an admirer of the Swiss people.

He believes that Canadian children spend too much time watching TV and need to spend more time in the outdoors doing things. The type of private school he believes in is one that stresses hiking, skiing, and sailing, while helping to round out the academic studies. An enthusiastic outdoorsman himself, he enjoys hiking, skiing, sailing, mountain climbing, just about anything that takes him out in the fresh country air.

"When I lived in Switzerland I was very impressed with the Swiss. They don't mark everything out for you like they do in Canada; roads do not have posted speed limits; mountains don't have danger signs at every turn. The Swiss

believe that if you're capable of climbing a mountain that common sense will tell you that there will be danger and you're supposed to accept the responsibility for that danger yourself."

Strachan started his career in finance in his grandfather's well-established stock brokerage firm, Bongard, Leslie and Co. He quickly branched out on his own, first here in Toronto then to his own firm in Geneva. He became interested in the restaurant business while in Europe and decided to bring some of that special atmosphere of European Inns to Canada. He hopes to make the Terra Cotta Inn famous for fresh grown vegetables right from the Inn's own gardens and eventually hopes to even stock its own small game.

date of June 22 he is planning to have the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra on hand and for the future is considering having them as a regular Sunday addition to the Inn's charm.

Strachan is a very modest man considering his accomplishments. When asked about his connection with little theatre he smiled and hesitated, then rather reluctantly replied that he was the

A man who has status but who sincerely prefers a simple country life. A man who is completely at home eating lunch with his cook or pulling the strings of the financial world from his Geneva office yet never altering his personality for either. A man with a dream; not just another fanciful dreamer but a man who sells you his dream and makes you want to see it succeed.

## People On The Inside

director of the National Ballet Company, something that would not have been mentioned unless queried about it directly.

In order to make time for everything Strachan believes in goals and sets a time limit for his achievements. In his quiet, rather gentle manner there is a strength of purpose that says he will succeed at accomplishing these goals.

Strachan Bongard's dream is a very special spot; a place for good food and for good company; a beautiful place, a people place for enthusiastic people.

We look forward to seeing the new Terra Cotta Inn fulfill the dream of a man with a vision and become a place of good food and happenings that the people of Halton Hills will enjoy for years to come.



**GOLDEN WEDDING!** Mr. and Mrs. Nick Carter of Sargent Road were the honored guests at a party marking their 50th Wedding Anniversary. A certificate of congratulations was received by the Carters from Prime Minister Trudeau.



**HALF A CENTURY.** Beatrice and Calvin Bailey celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the home of their son in Hornby last Saturday. The Baileys now live in the Haliburton region of Ontario.



**SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.** Mr. and Mrs. Paul Till, 14 McIntyre Cres. in Georgetown, celebrated their 25th silver wedding anniversary on Saturday, June 14. An open-house was held at the Till home. About 65 guests came to congratulate the couple and wish the Tills many more years of happiness. Mr. and Mrs. Till have lived in Georgetown for four years now.

## Who has the 'Messiah'

(Editors note: The following is a note we received from the Halton Hills Public Libraries. Normally we would apply a little bit of editing but this note is... Well, read it for yourself.)

Now that the winter is over we can announce with pride that we have the finest collection of mismatched gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, and other items of cold weather apparel outside the lost and found boxes at every school.

Before we donate the lot to some worthy charity (we need the shelf space) why not drop in and replenish your winter wardrobe?

Not only clothing languishes on our shelves waiting for rightful owners but originals of photocopied documents, receipts, certificates, invoices, letters, etc. are in our lost box. If the original was valuable enough to photocopy don't you want it back now? If you don't we are going to have one mighty marshmallow roast one of these days.

Speaking of lost items, would the borrower who has the last record from the three-record album of "The Messiah" please return it? Unfortunately we didn't notice one record was missing from the set until after we had destroyed the card with the borrower's number on it. A two-record set of the Messiah isn't much use to anyone without the Hallelujah Chorus.

## Shorthorn

A 1974 yearling Shorthorn from the herd of S. G. Bennett's Scotsdale Farms, Georgetown drew high acclaim at the recent Central Ontario Shorthorn Sale held in Markham.

Scotsdale Iris Broadhooke was judged the champion female in the pre-sale show. She was later sold to Campbell and Ross Deacon of Unionville for \$700. A bull consigned by Mr. Bennett was sold to J. Irvine Black of Fergus for \$900.

Walter Scott, another local cattleman at the show and sale, purchased a female Shorthorn for \$550. Total sales at the show came to \$18,170. The average of the sales was \$334.41.

## Local PC's meeting

Election announcement or not, the Georgetown Progressive Conservative Association continues to organize itself. The local PC association will hold its annual meeting and election of officers this Thursday, June 19, in St. Alban's Church hall, Glen Williams.

Their recently elected candidate in the next provincial election, Gary Dawkins, will be the guest speaker at the meeting.

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