

It's difficult to tell new glass from old

By LOUI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

If you see a piece of glassware you really like, and you can afford it and use it, buy it and don't worry about whether it's authentic antique Canadian glass, Lorna Milne told members of the audience at a seminar on antique Canadian glass.

The seminar, entitled "Patterns in Canadian Glass," was held at Acton Public Library, June 7. Lorna Milne, wife of Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe MP Ross Milne, is a collector of Canadian glass, and brought along a number of pieces from her collection to illustrate her talk. Members of the audience also brought pieces along for Mrs. Milne to identify.

Most people aren't aware that glass was manufactured in Canada during the early days of settlement, Mrs. Milne said. Most people are under the impression that glassware was imported, but this was not the case.

The earliest glass works in Ontario was at Mallorytown. Other glass works included the Napanee Glass Works, Hamilton Glass Works, Burlington Glass Works and the Foster Brothers Glass Company, which is the parent company of present-day Dominion Glass.

Most of the early glass factories were located near either a supply of silica sand or a source of heat such as natural gas, Mrs. Milne said. Most of the pressed glass manufactured in Canada was made between the years 1875 and 1925. The Burlington Glass Works, which Mrs. Milne said was probably the most prolific of the glass companies, operated between the years 1875 and 1899.

A large proportion of the Canadian glass companies operated for relatively short periods of time because they would almost always catch fire and burn down. One of the prime requirements for glass manufacturing was an open flame to shape the glass and heat it, and these fires often ended up out of control.

The Napanee Glass Works was one of the companies which made only window glass. It was made by blowing a large cylinder, cutting out both bottoms, cutting along one side of the cylinder and putting it back into the furnace to be heated and straightened out.

The Hamilton Glass Works made bottles, while the Burlington company made every kind of glassware. The Jefferson Glass Company, which was one of the companies which joined Dominion Glass, made mainly tableware; the company also manufactured most of Canada's lamps and early electrical fixtures.

Some of the sites of early glass companies have been built over, and digs into the site, similar to archeological digs, are conducted by such bodies as the Royal Ontario Museum, Mrs. Milne said. In one dig, conducted several years ago by the Royal Ontario Museum, on the site of the Burlington Glass Works 125 new glass patterns were discovered. The museum has not yet released any information to the public on the results of the dig.

Mrs. Milne said that identifying a piece of glass as having been made in a particular glass works is made more difficult by the fact that glass workers moved back and forth a great deal and took their tools with them. A particular mark caused by a tool from one company may mean the

glass was made by that company, but it is also possible that it was made by a man who had worked for that company at one time.

"One of the major questions I'm asked is how do you tell the new from the old?" Mrs. Milne said. "It's very difficult — it's something you have to learn almost by feel."

One of the best ways to identify older glassware, particularly lamps and glasses which will have seen a great deal of use, is to look at the bottom, Mrs. Milne said. Most glasses, jugs and lamps will have good wear on the bottom. She warned, however, that if all the scratches and wear on the bottom are going the same way, it probably means some unscrupulous person took the glass and dragged it across a concrete surface to simulate

wear. One of the paradoxes of buying Canadian glass, Mrs. Milne said, is that older glass is often less expensive than glass which was manufactured more recently. One goblet she showed was valued at \$200, even though it was made relatively late.

Mrs. Milne warned against buying impulsively from a person who talks about the age of a particular piece of glass. People tend to exaggerate the age of a piece they're trying to sell, she said, and usually make the piece out to be a generation older than it is.

In order to avoid making mistakes in buying glass, Mrs. Milne recommended visiting places where it is permissible to handle the glassware. She also suggested visiting shows, and, above all, "don't be afraid to ask questions."



Lorna Milne examines a piece of glassware brought to the seminar "Patterns in Canadian Glass" for her to identify. Mrs. Milne collects early Canadian glassware. She talked about early glass factories, and advised members of the audience about authenticating antique glassware.

Dangerous chemicals

Swimming pool owners beware: pool chemicals can be dangerous, and proper caution should be exercised with them at all times.

Halton Region Fire Prevention Committee issued a warning about the possible dangers of pool chemicals after a container of calcium hypochlorite became contaminated and burst into flames. The fire caused extensive damage to a garage where it was housed. The pool owners were not aware of the caution of the container label, which warned the chemical could ignite itself if contaminated.

This was the third fire attributed to pool chemicals in Halton this spring.

"Great care must be taken with swimming pool chemicals," the committee warned. Pool owners should read all instructions on the container and follow them.

"Not all pool chemicals are potential fire hazards. Others let off toxic fumes or burn

human skin. Labels will provide information not only on how to handle the chemicals, but on what to do if something goes wrong. This becomes doubly important to read the label.

Barbecue safety tips

Barbecue season is here, and Halton Region Fire Prevention Committee has some tips to help families enjoy their barbecue without any unnecessary danger.

The safest way to start a barbecue is to use a solid igniter or a SCBA-approved fire starter. Use proper barbecue fuel, the committee recommends, but never gasoline, naphtha or lighter fluid. If the fire won't burn, or goes out after being lit, never add more fuel. The fuel could flare up and injure someone standing nearby.



Staff member Jenny Thompson played the victim in a demonstration of rescue techniques at the Georgetown Indoor Pool Aquatic Show Sunday afternoon. Staff

members John McFarlane, Marc Pelletier, Heather Clarke, Cathy deHeuck, Allison Taylor and Paula Stewart also participated in the simulated rescue.

Don't fear saving a life: Stoddart

Would-be rescuers don't have to worry about being sued if their efforts to help a drowning victim prove unsuccessful, says Georgetown pool supervisor Vic Stoddart. Speaking at a water safety clinic aimed at owners and users of backyard pools, Stoddart says that Canadian law requires those present at the scene of an accident to offer help to the best of their ability. The more training a good Samaritan has the more assistance he is expected to be able to offer an accident victim, however the threat of legal action would only arise if spectators refused to offer help.

In his presentation on behalf of the Georgetown Red Cross, Mr. Stoddart stressed that the rescuer in number one, the victim is number two.

"Don't go into the water if you can possibly avoid it," he said. "Use reaching assists or throw him something that floats and will buoy him up."

Long-handled pool equipment can be held out to a struggling swimmer but the rescuer must be wary of being overbalanced and pulled into the water by the victim. In order to avoid this the rescuer should lie down at the water's edge and extend the pole as far as possible.

Inflatable pool chairs, flutterboards, patio furniture cushions or even small wooden patio furnishings like stools or coffee tables will float and support a victim's weight. Once the victim has been hauled to the edge of the water the rescuer should anchor his hands and talk to him until he is calm before trying to get him out of the water.

If the rescuer must enter the water to reach a victim Mr. Stoddart stressed the importance of keeping clear of frantic struggles that could endanger the rescuer.

"A drowning person struggles to keep his head above water," he says, "and in the process he can wind his arms about your neck and drag you down. Don't let that happen. If he does get hold of you and you can't get loose, take a breath and duck down. Ninety-nine per cent of the time he'll let go. Then you can back away and surface out of his reach."

While you are trying to help such a person it is wise to talk to him. Ask his name, occupation, place of residence or any other pertinent information. Talking calms him and distracts him from his danger as well as giving the rescuer information which might be useful in case the rescue effort fails, he says.

Speed is the most important part of the rescue if the victim is in the water and unconscious. Brain damage begins if the oxygen supply is cut off for even three minutes so it is often impractical to try and remove an unconscious body from water. Start artificial respiration in the water and gradually work your way to the side. You can anchor the victim to the side by slipping your arm under his and letting his head fall back across your arm while you hold onto the pool

edge. This extends the neck in a good position for rendering mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, Mr. Stoddart says.

Ross Rennie, first aid chairman of the Georgetown Red Cross demonstrated mouth-to-mouth resuscitation at the clinic. He stressed the need to tilt the victim's head so that the epiglottis will fall free of the air passage through the throat and allow air through to the lungs.

If the rescuer sees the accident happen and acts immediately, the victim may

24 earn certificate in Red Cross course

Twenty-four people attended the Red Cross Emergency Services Response course held at Cedarvale Community Centre, Saturday.

The course ran all day, and those in attendance received certificates for participating. A film, "Humanity in Action", which describes the various services provided by the Red Cross, was shown to the trainees.

Instructors in the course were Blanche Goudketting, co-ordinator, Mike Forster of Brampton, Dean Othen, Tim Carmichael, regional vice-president, Ev Newman, Connie Nieuwhof, and John Barratt, staff sergeant with Halton Regional Police.

The Red Cross training program is currently being funded completely by a \$10,000 grant from the Ontario

Solicitor-General's office. The Red Cross has received this grant for two years.

In return for the grant, the Red Cross has agreed to provide the services of the Red Cross in the government emergency plan. Ontario Division Red Cross representatives will be available to sit on provincial planning and co-ordinating committees.

The Red Cross will be available to respond immediately in minor emergencies if called on to do so, and is prepared to offer its services to the local municipality. The society has also offered to co-ordinate the efforts of all the volunteer

agencies wishing to contribute participate with the province in emergencies.

The Ontario Division Emergency Services have a plan for training of Red Cross personnel and members of the community, such as schools, military cadets, service clubs, police, firefighters and other interested people.

Trapped Again
"The traps on this course are really something," said the golfer trying to get out of still another sand hazard.

His playing partner, trying to putt, replied: "Yes, they are, and would you mind closing yours?"

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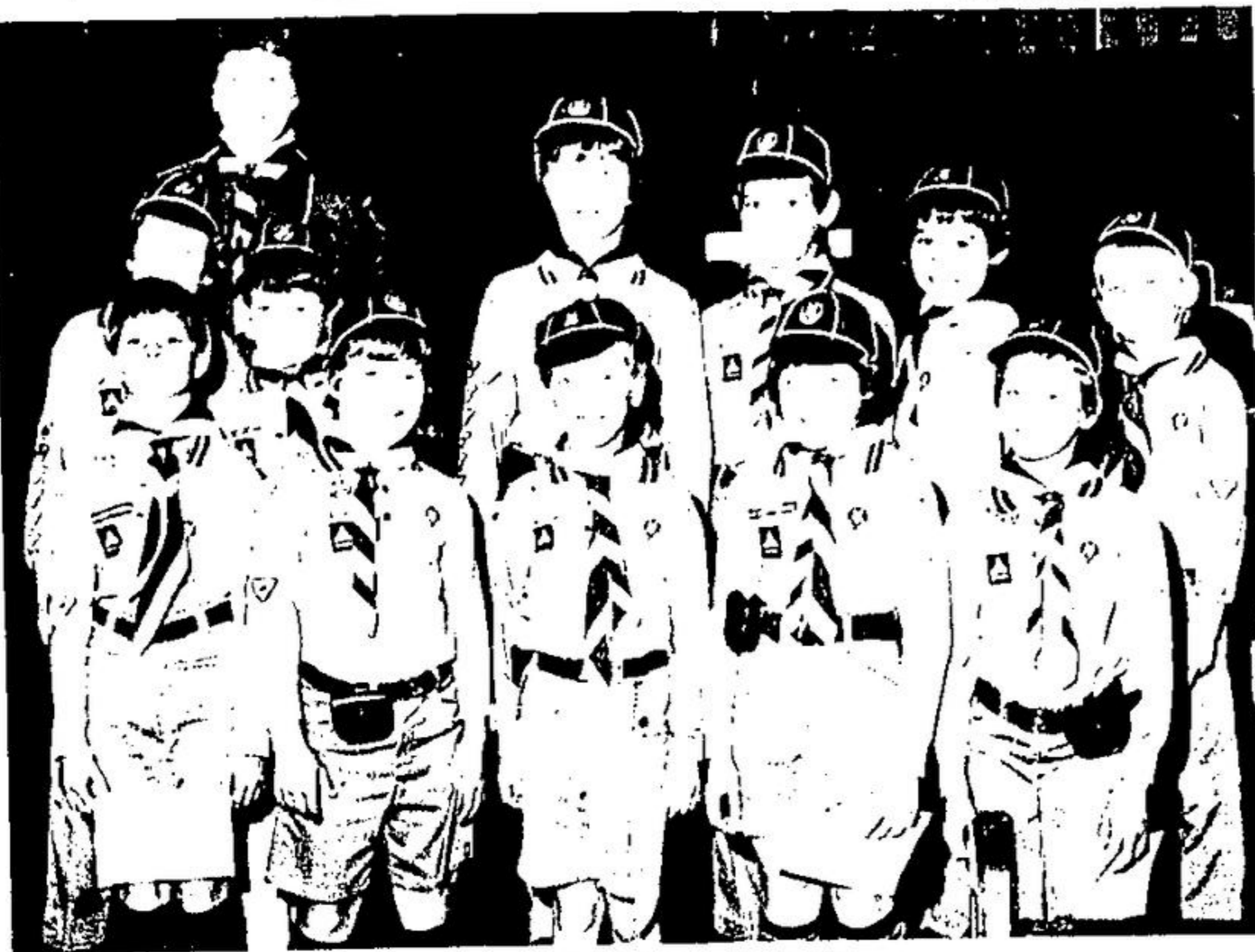


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RELIGION BADGES

These cubs were awarded their Religion in Life badge at St. John's United Church Sunday morning. They are, front row, left to right, Sean Milton, Tim McGowan, Jeffrey McLaren, Garry Butwell, and Kevin Lindberg.

Back row, left to right, are Greg Lindberg, Geoffrey Goodfellow, Robert Lewis, Greg Hammond, Charlie Gibbs and Jimmy Clark. Standing in the rear is Jean Laymon.