

## Arts and Ideas

# Book published in 1892 offers interesting insights

A friend gave me a book that was published in Toronto by William Briggs in 1892. The book's title is "The Housewife's Library," and it contains everything a woman was supposed to know in those days about household management, cooking, home furnishing and home decoration, the care of children, and the like.

The last section of the book discusses "polite deportment." Today we would call it behavior and manners. I will use today's column to quote from this last section some paragraphs that I find particularly striking.

The language has changed in a hundred years but the message contained in the quaint packaging might still ring true to you today. Or maybe not. Here I go:

"A gentleman is one whose aims are generous, whose trust is constant, whose word is never broken, whose honor is never stained, who is as brave as gentle and as honest as wise, who wrongs no one by word or deed, and devotes and embellishes life by nobility of thought, depth of feeling, and grace of manner."

"As for the true lady, she will be pure, refined, generous, sweet of temper, gentle of speech, truthful to her heart's core, shunning the very appearance of evil, and instant in well-doing."

"Truly polite people do not use



### Ideas and The Arts

by John Sommer

other than polite language, which is but a plain, simple and unaffected expression of one's thoughts. Coarse and vulgar words, slang phrases, and profanity should never have a place."

"Civility in speech is due to every person, and on all occasions. Employers would do well to remember that civil words, with kind and thoughtful actions, make friends of workmen or servants. Their use tends to bind more closely those who are already friends. Arrogance of speech and manner toward inferiors is on a par with servility toward superiors. True dignity and self-respect will lead to a correct deportment in dealing with either."

"The result of the finest dress should be an elegant woman, not an elegantly dressed woman.

There should be consistency in dress. That is, there should be regard to one's circumstances in life, so that what cannot be afforded without pecuniary embarrassment never should be worn."

"A strong perfume of any kind is not desirable, if, indeed, it be not actually vulgar. There is always a suggestion that it conceals some foulness."

"It may be said in general that it is the duty of every member of a family to do all that is possible to promote the happiness of the other members. It is necessary, therefore, to bear and forbear, to make mutual concessions, to keep down selfishness, to cultivate a love of justice and honor, to get rid of our petty likes

and dislikes, to conquer and control our temper."

"There is no reason why a husband should not treat his wife with exquisite politeness, why a wife should not remember that her husband has a claim to be treated like a gentleman, why the finest manners should not be observed by brothers and sisters. This mutual courtesy, inspired by mutual love, would purify the atmosphere of home, and invest with a new dignity our domestic relations."

"Let no one suppose that because a good wife lives in a small house and dines on homely fare the general principles of polite deportment do not apply to her.

A small house is more easily kept clean than a palace. Taste may be quite as well displayed in the arrangement of dishes on a pine table as in grouping the silver and china of the rich. Skill in cooking is as readily shown in a baked potato or Johnny-cake as in a canvas-back duck.

The charm of good house keeping lies in a nice attention to little things, not in a superabundance. A dirty kitchen and bad cooking have driven many a husband and son, and many a daughter too, from a home that should have been a refuge from temptation.

Bad dinners go hand in hand with total depravity, while a properly fed man is already half-saved."



## Volunteer service recognized

A number of members of St. George's Anglican Church in Georgetown were recognized for volunteer service last Sunday afternoon by Pastor Tom Kingston. The recipients of the awards include: (back row, left to right) Graham Ford, people's warden; Brian Robinson, memorial fund trustee) Ian

Farrar, convenor of sidepersons; (front row, left to right) Barbara Abrey, rector's warden; Helen Kirk, parish council; Enid Farrar, convenor of sidepersons and Serena Atwood, parish council and youth group leader. (Herald photo)

## Palette and Pencil Club annual event

An annual event at the Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre is the Palette and Pencil Club's exhibition of its member's artwork. This is the club's premier showing of paintings and drawings.

Tonight (Wednesday), between 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., those members exhibiting paintings will be on hand to meet with the public and present their work. None of the artwork on display will have been shown before in Georgetown and this is usually an exciting evening for the artists and patrons also. There will be some light refreshments on hand and there is no charge for admission.

In addition to the opening tonight, the exhibit will continue through February 24th and may be viewed during the normal Gallery hours.

The Palette and Pencil Club is a guild of the Credit Valley Artists. The club has a current membership of 27 local artists. Their expertise ranges from beginner to the semi-professional. The media used is also wide ranging although watercolours predominate.

Members of the club meet and paint together regularly each Tuesday at the Cottage in Cedarvale Park, Georgetown. The second Tuesday of each month is set aside for an evening meeting ... a little club business but mostly social and art related activities with speakers, a film or some other type of presentation. Visitors are most welcome as are enquiries regarding membership or the purchase of member's artwork. Please contact Frank J. Anthony for more information at (416) 877-5856.

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