

# Heritage Craft Day held

By KAY WILSON

A Hands on Heritage Craft Day was held Apr. 27 at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home, in Stoney Creek. This Heritage Home is owned and maintained by the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario.

Norine VanLeeuwen of Norval and her daughter Margaret-Ann Becker attended. There were five courses of Victorian handcrafts offered that were of the type that would have been done by rural women of that era.

"Battenburg Lace" instructed by Dora Galloway of Waterloo, Ont. This needle lace dates to the 14th Century during Queen Victoria's reign when her daughter married the Prince of Battenburg, wearing her mother's lace. This lace became known as Battenburg Lace. It is also known as Brussels Lace.

"Victorian Paper Work" instructed by Heather Reichheld of Townsend, Ont. While the elite ladies of the 19th Century were working with fine linens, silks and metallic threads, ladies of lesser means punched holes in paper to do their stitching art. The ladies made such a fine job of their paper stitchery that wealthier ladies began to use silk threads to stitch paper.

From 1850 to the end of the century this art was popular.

## Norval News

Norine VanLeeuwen has a sampler worked by her great Aunt Jemina Early about 1885.

"Needlepoint" instructed by Verna Maluske of Chesley, Ont. This needlework was used by the Egyptians and the Romans to fancy up their clothing.

Chinese have used silk to cross-stitch since the 12th Century.

In England the tent stitch has been used from the 15th Century to modern times. In the 1800s Germany had beautiful needlepoint patterns stitched with soft wool from Merino sheep. They discovered how to color these patterns formerly black and white.

"Rug Braiding" instructed by Joan Lindsay of Limehouse.

Rug braiding originated in pioneer New England. Pioneer women spun wool off their sheep to weave fabric.

When their blankets and coats got worn they cut them in strips to braid rugs for their cold floors of earth, wood and slate. Country homes today display braided rugs, placemats, wall hangings, etc. made from old and new fabrics that are color coordinated.

"Quilting" instructed by Norma Alexander of Georgetown. Quilted garments were used for protection by Knights in the Middle Ages and are still used for warmth in Northern China.

A quilt to us is a bed covering which when pieced used every available scrap of material our ancestral mothers could find. Quilts are truly North American and every pioneer bride strived to have a dozen in her dowery chest.

This "Heritage Day" was a first at the "Lee" and really worthwhile. The weather and the fellowship added to the day's enjoyment.



### Positive thinking

Those who attended the Acton Social Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) annual meeting Wednesday were treated to a discussion on positive thinking by Stress management expert and Registered Nurse Roberta Beacroft (left) from Barrie. Peggy Balkind (right) is ASSIC's Executive Director. (Herald Photo)

### Obituary

## William Penson

William Frank Penson, known for his devotion to customer service at his Limehouse business, Penson's Farm Equipment, died of a heart attack April 29.

"He would do anything for everybody," said his wife of 33 years, Mary (nee Fletcher). "Bill would always be there to help any farmer."

Mr. Penson, 55, had been serving the farming community through his business on Hwy 7, north of 22 Side Road for 28 years after he left his job as manager of his parent's gas bar to go on his own.

Recently, the business expanded to offer consumer products including lawn and garden equipment as well as small machines like chainsaws.

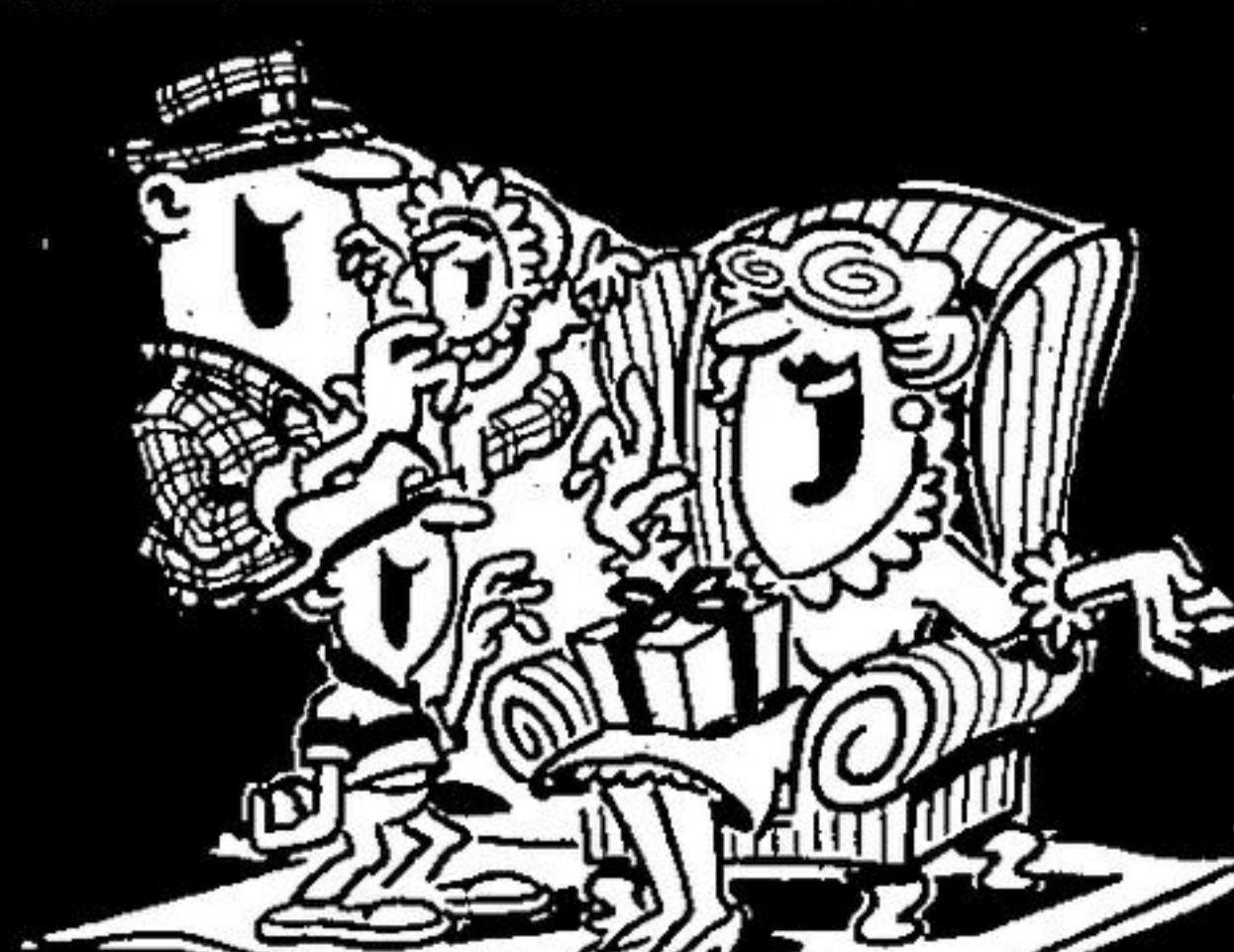
"He was very devoted to the business," remembers Mrs. Penson, "he spent most of his time with the business." Whenever he felt a need to unwind, she said, her husband loved to spend time at the family cottage up north. "He loved to sit on the balcony and listen to the loons."

Mr. Penson is the father of Linda and her husband Nick Melnychuk of Oshawa, brother to Wilfred and George Penson, both of Milton and Betty Dear of Florida and Kathleen Oxbjorn of Georgetown, predeceased by brother David.

The funeral service was held at St. George's Anglican Church on Guelph Street on May 3. Interment was at Greenwood Cemetery.



Bill Penson



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Map showing location: Malcom Rd., Guelph, Hwy. 7 West, Hwy. 7 East, To Acton.