

Happy Birthday Nana!

I looked at the calendar while preparing to write this column.

"Geez, November 18," I said to myself.

The date is significant— it's my grandmother's birthday.

Yup, born November 18, 1901, Grace Blanche (Herrington) Brown would have been celebrating her 109th birthday, if she was alive today.

Unfortunately, 'Nana', as my sisters and I called her, didn't enjoy a very long life. She was only 60 when she died, after numerous health problems.

But come November 18, I always take a moment to think about her.

She and my grandfather always used their birthdays to judge when things should be done on the farm.

His birthday was April 26, and he maintained that was the date when farmers who had sandy loam soil should have started planting spring crops.

If you weren't started by then, you were late— plain and simple.

By the same token, November 18 was the other pivotal date on the farm.

Both of my grandparents were firm believers that the outside work should be done by then.

The fall plowing should be finished, the wood shed should be topped up with enough wood to heat the house, and the manure pile should have been spread on the fields by November 18.

Later in their lives, the tractors would also be prepared with the snow plow mounted on the big tractor, and the tire chains installed.

If any of the tractors' batteries were a bit tired, they'd be replaced as well, so they'd be guaranteed to start, come the cold of winter.

So those were their 'deadlines'— dates to be used as a calendar of when things should be done on the farm.

Ted Brown



When my grandfather died, naturally, my dad inherited those same dates as his yardstick for measuring whether he was on time or not.

And now me.

As the calendar flips into November, edging towards the 18th, I find myself a bit antsy, in a subconscious manner. I feel like 'time's a wasting' when it comes to the countdown to winter.

If you asked me why I was getting itchy to have things done, I couldn't give you a reason. But when I saw that 18 on the calendar, I knew the answer.

I'm pleased to say, I'm doing okay. My ancestors would approve.

A week ago, I installed the snow blower on the tractor, installed a new battery on that tractor as well, and Monday night, I got the tire chains on.

The field work is finished and every piece of machinery is packed away for the winter.

Even the manure pile is cleaned out.

So all in all, according to the senior Browns' yardstick, I'm right on target, perhaps even a tad early. Old Man Winter can hit me with his best shot, and I don't care. I'm ready, and all before November 18.

So here's to a productive fall— and a Happy Birthday Nana!

—Ted Brown can be reached at tbrown@independentfreepress.com

VISION 2000®
GROUPE VOYAGES • TRAVEL GROUP
CRUISES & VACATIONS

Discover the Viking Advantages and learn about Vision 2000 special departures.

YOU ARE INVITED

To an Evening with Vision 2000 Cruises & Vacations and Viking River Cruises

Thursday November 25, 2010 at 7:00 pm

The Waterfront Hotel, Downtown Burlington
2020 Lakeshore Rd, Burlington, ON L7R4G8

RSVP 905.873.2000 or
georgetown@vision2000.ca

Georgetown

328 Guelph St. Georgetown, ON T1C0 Reg #50018501

905-873-2000

VIRTUOSO MEMBER
PROUDLY A PART OF VIKING

Open Saturdays 9am - 4pm
www.vision2000travel.com



VIKING RIVER CRUISES
Exploring the World in Comfort

Century Church Theatre

Trafalgar Rd., Hillsburgh www.centurychurchtheatre.com

Century Theatre Guild
presents

ACTCO

Pantomime Babes in the Wood

Robin Hood outwits the Sheriff of Nottingham to save the Babes in the Wood, in this traditional English pantomime by Bev Nicholas, directed by Martyn Worsnop

Great fun for the whole family, ages 3-103

Fri & Sat, Nov 26, 27; Dec 3, 4 at 7:00pm

Sat & Sun, Nov 27, 28; Dec 4, 5 at 2:00pm

Tickets at Erin and Hillsburgh Libraries \$10

Tickets from the Box Office \$12

Benefactor Scotiabank®

Box Office 519.855.4586

VISA MasterCard

Season Sponsors
The Erin Arts Foundation

Erin Optimist Club

RAPID RENTALS
18 Shamrock Road
Box 104
NOR. ON
519.833.9569
www.rapidrentals.ca

Jacqueline Guagliardi
ROYAL LEPAGE RCR Realty, Brokerage
Independently Owned & Operated

Media Partners
The ADVOCATE

ACTCO

MacMILLAN'S Gourmet Frozen Foods

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
MON. - WED. 9 AM - 6 PM
THURS. & FRI. 9 AM - 8 PM
SAT. & SUN. 9 AM - 6 PM

HWY. 7, 1 MILE WEST OF ACTON

519-853-0311 • (800)-387-4039 • www.macmillans.ca

November's
Fruit of the Month
SLICED APPLES
2 kg \$ **5.49**
Peeled, Cored & Sliced
Ready For Your Favourite Recipe

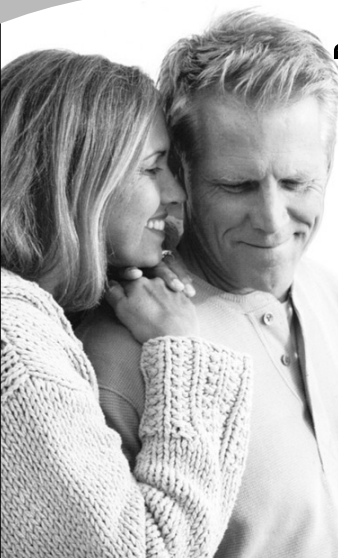
"READY TO BAKE PIES"
8" PEACH-RASPBERRY
or STRAWBERRY-RHUBARB
(MIX & MATCH)
2 FOR \$ **6.99**

New at MacMILLAN'S
"LOCAL"
• WHITE FISH & RAINBOW TROUT
• SPECIALTY TEAS & HONEY PEARLS
• ELDERBERRIES

LEADBETTER'S
"LEAN"
GROUND BEEF
4 x 1 LB. PKG. \$ **8.99**
(Reg. \$11.99)

HEARING SCIENCES

Audiology and Hearing Aid Centre

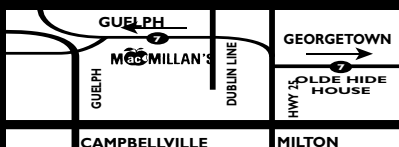


"One comes finally to believe whatever one repeats to one's self, whether the statement is true or false." *Napoleon Hill*

You may think that your hearing loss is not noticeable to others but that is usually not the case. It may surprise some people to know that 40% of the patients we see for a hearing assessment first become aware of the severity of their hearing loss from a spouse or other family member. It often seems as if those speaking are at fault. They are mumbling or not speaking clearly. In fact, the feeling that everyone is mumbling is one of the first and clearest signs of hearing loss.

BRING THIS AD FOR A COMPLIMENTARY HEARING TEST \$60 VALUE
Valid until NOV 31/10
Age 55+

WOODBIDGE 905-417-7255 9200 Weston Rd. #26 (NW corner of Weston & Rutherford Rds, Vaughan Medical Ctr)



SENIORS 10% OFF EVERY WEDNESDAY (REG. PRICED MERCHANDISE)

SERVING ACTON & AREA FOR OVER 25 YEARS!

"IT'S WORTH THE DRIVE TO ACTON"

SPECIALS FROM: Nov. 18th - 30th