

The ROCKWOOD Miller

American poet makes Rockwood her new home

By Dawn Grimmer

Love made her do it. Move to Rockwood, that is. All the way from Indiana, U.S.A.

Susan Fryborg, a poet from the age of seven, met fellow writer, Jeff Brown on social media in 2011. They maintained a long distance relationship for awhile and eventually met in person, fell in love, and married this past April. Fryborg moved to Rockwood last fall.

"It made sense to move here. Rockwood is such a lovely tranquil place and suitable for writing. I'm surrounded by natural beauty and the people are very gracious," she says.

Fryborg published *'Hope is a traveler'* just this month. She describes it as "love poetry about Jeff balanced with a spiritual quest."

"The running theme is to remind people of

all the wonder in things perceived small...the everyday things. It's a personal experience but written to invite people to join and experience whatever they are led to."



Susan Fryborg

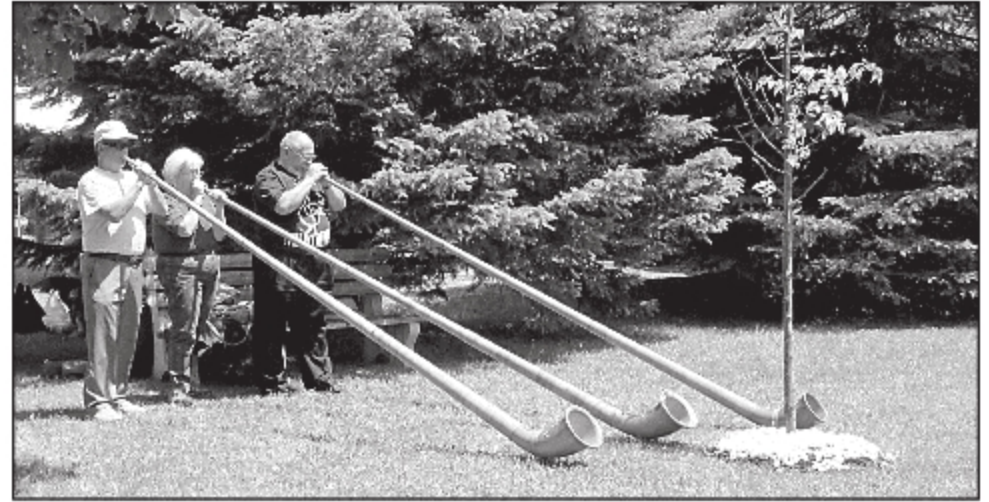
Poetry has always been Fryborg's salvation and was a way for her to find her voice in the world. "Everybody comes with a message. Mine is to give reassurance. I write poetry so that others don't feel alone."

Although she'd been contributing her poetry for years to various groups and blogs, Fryborg saw it more as a pastime. She says her husband was the one who convinced her to physically publish her work. "I didn't think people would want to read my kind of poetry, but Jeff believed in it wholeheartedly and encouraged me and pushed me to complete it."

Asked how she feels about her work being published, Fryborg responds emphatically: "I've never been more excited or more grateful. I have to pinch myself. It's an honour to be able to share my poetry with the world."

Indiana's loss is Rockwood's gain. Asked what she thinks of us, Fryborg sums up: "Canadians are so refreshing. There's such optimism and genuine warmth."

Tree-planting memorial for Hubert Biemann



By: Vivien Fleisher

A memorial was held Sunday, June 7 at Waterside Park in Rockwood for long-time Rockwood resident and restaurateur Hubert Biemann. Biemann, who passed away one year ago after a brief illness, owned and operated La Vieille Auberge Restaurant from 1986 to 2003 together with wife Suzanne. They renamed it Heaven on 7 in 2009, and Suzanne continues to operate it today.

Born in La Roche in Switzerland in 1953, he came to Canada in 1975, arriving in Toronto with \$300 and a suitcase. After meeting Suzanne, getting married and buying their first restaurant: Le Petit Gourmet, they had three daughters but by 1986 decided to aim for a little stability and give up the crazy hours of restaurant life.

Fate, however, intervened late December of 1986. After getting slightly lost returning home from a trip to Collingwood, they found themselves in

Rockwood. They stopped in to see friend and original La Vieille Auberge owner Roger Lafargue, and the rest is history. Lafargue wanted out, and Hubert saw a great opportunity.

At the memorial, many people from the community - musicians, friends and family - spoke about the profound impact he had on their lives. He was an unforgettable man with a larger-than-life persona, and it was through his singing, his belief in community, and his amazing food that he brought joy to the many people he connected with during his life in Canada.

With the help of Darryl Nichol and the Rockwood Lions Club, Suzanne arranged to have a Chanticleer Ornamental Pear tree planted in the park, one of several trees commemorating community figures who have left a lasting impression on the town.

On the sign board for the park, there is now a map with each tree marked and soon a legend explaining which tree and the person it was planted in honour of.

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Wife Suzanne listens as several close friends sing a heartfelt song that was a favorite of Hubert's.



Members of the Canadisi band came out to play at the tree dedication on Sunday. - Vivien Fleisher photos