

Georgetown author to meet her admirers at Oxbow Books

By Oksana Buhel

Twice-published author Jill Metcalf, of Georgetown, will be at Oxbow Books on Main St. in Georgetown, Saturday from 2 p.m., signing her second novel, Autumn Leaves and meeting and greeting not only her many admirers but also aspiring novelists who might want to learn some tricks of the trade.

Autumn Leaves follows Spring Blossom by less than a year and Metcalf is anxiously awaiting May

18, the day she will find out how successful her first published novel has been. Spring Blossom has been nominated for Romantic Times magazine's annual award for best first historical romance and Metcalf is on a short list of five.

She began writing since 1982, when forced to take a sick leave of two years because of rheumatoid arthritis.

"One day I just sat down, grabbed some three-holed writing paper and a bunch of pens and started writing," she explained.



Jill Metcalf

Metcalf has since returned to work, as an account manager for Canada Mortgage and Housing, and balances this occupation with writing. She insists that balancing the two is not as difficult as it might seem. "I love writing," she states, "and I don't consider it a task. It relaxes me."

Metcalf explained the reason she was so interested in historical romance is that she always loved history and writing. "This was the

only way I could think of to combine the two," she said.

After finishing Spring Blossom, Metcalf began to actively look for a publisher. She did not have any success in Canada, and found an agent in New York. "There's a very large market for women's fiction in the States," she explained. "In Canada it seems people read more 'true' fiction, and that's not my niche."

Spring Blossom was published by Diamond, a member of the Berkley Publishing Group, and is specifically categorized as a Diamond Homespun Romance. "These are sweeter, more family-oriented books," Metcalf said. The novel was one of the Diamond Homespun Romance launch books.

Metcalf claims her ideas for novels can pop into her head at any time. The idea for her third novel, Lila's Dance, which is to be released in October, came while she was at a writers' convention in Chicago. She was writing in her diary in the hotel room, and watching a ballroom dancing competition at the same time. "I wasn't really

paying too much attention," she said, "and all of a sudden I knew what my third novel would be about."

Metcalf is now working - and under contract - on her fourth novel. The title has not yet been decided, but Metcalf seems partial to Tender Reflections. She estimates if the book is finished by July 1, it should be on the shelves by June of next year. She does not seem worried about the deadline. "I just go into my den - it's so quiet and comfortable. I can write in there for hours. Of course I need a comfortable chair if I'm writing for that long," she adds with a chuckle.

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Residents ready to raise concerns

Residents of Metcalfe Crt., Regan Cres., and Delrex Blvd. in Georgetown are uniting to show their disapproval about the Metcalfe Crt/Silver Creek site selection for the new stormwater detention pond. They will be expressing their concerns at Monday's Town of Halton Hills General Committee meeting.

The residents have already met with representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Milran Development Consultants and Peter Linn, Town of Halton Hills municipal manager of engineering services, in a closed-door meeting on April 16. Karen MacKenzie-Stepner, spokesperson for the group, explained that the proposed site was only the second one considered by the developers. "It's not that we don't want the stormwater detention pond in our area, but we think the developers should investigate a variety of suitable locations, and the impact which such a pond will have on them, before picking one because of its easy access," she explained.

MacKenzie-Stepner remarked she was satisfied with the meeting, during which several undisclosed options were discussed. Another meeting was to be scheduled for this week, but MacKenzie-Stepner claims she has not heard from Linn as yet. "I've tried to contact him," she said, "but he's always out at meetings. From this I've gathered that at least something is in the works."

Police seek escapee

The Halton Regional Police Service is seeking the public's assistance in locating an escapee from the Pittsburgh Institute, a minimum security penitentiary near Kingston. It is believed that he walked away from this institution on 21 March 1993.

Wanted: Michael Lorne WILLIAMS, 22 years
White male, 5'4" (163 cm), 145 lbs (66 kg), short brown hair, blue eyes.

Williams is known to move freely between Oakville and Ottawa. At the time of his escape he was serving a two year sentence for a break and enter to a business in Oakville. He has an extensive record for break and enter but is not considered to be dangerous.

Any person with information on the whereabouts of Williams is asked to call Halton Regional Police, Oakville (District #2) Criminal Investigation Bureau at 825-4777, Ext. 2216 or Crime Stoppers 825-TIPS.

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