

Out at the Ranch

with Bill Ellis

THE PICNIC

The other day I had one of my rare great ideas. It was a real flash of brilliance and I could hardly wait to lay it on the family. Of course, Pat is always subjected to my great ideas before it ever gets to the kids. Do you think that wives have a built-in duty to edit husbands' ideas? You can bet your socks on it!

Anyway, my fantastic idea was that we get the whole gang together and go on a good old fashioned picnic. You know, with great piles of food, throw the baseball, throw the football, cold suds in the shade, kind of picnic.

This was no "fly by night" idea, we have organized some of those "greatest of all time" picnics. If you are a real picnicker, there are certain components that just cannot be left out, like cold southern fried chicken, cold smoked ham, potato salad (with fresh dill), dilled cucumbers and cold beer. Now, those are just the basics. You most likely could add apple pie and a slice of old cheddar. We do!

We used to picnic a lot when the kids were small. We would spend a whole Sunday out at Terra Cotta, with all the grand-parents. We would stake out a shady corner of the park at 8:00 AM, then fire up the little portable B.B.Q. There is nothing like a bacon, eggs, toast and coffee breakfast out in the open. Noon brought out the B.B.Q.'d hot dogs with all the fixings and cold drinks. Next came the ball game and then it was nap time, for the grand-fathers, of

course. Dinner brought on the baked potatoes, hamburgers and the apple pie. Now, that is a picnic marathon!

I'm getting the impression that people don't go on picnics like they used to. Upon investigation, I am told that there are two major factors causing picnics to go the way of the dodo bird. Firstly, there are so many back yard pools, that people won't battle the traffic to get to a picnic park. And if they do get to a park or conservation area, they find wall to wall people, without room to spread the blanket or throw the ball.

Some recipe books will set out a full menu for a summer picnic, and they even show a picture of well dressed couples resting on blankets 'round the big picnic basket. Not a fly nor an ant in sight! And they almost always show a bottle of wine, as part of the fare. Try that in a park today and your resident forest ranger will toss you in the hoosgow!

So, now my fantastic idea has been thoroughly edited, I am agreed that we gather the family in our back yard and have our picnic. Or as my son-in-law calls this type of gathering - a soiree!

But if you get the itch for a little picnic - try the Devil's Glen Provincial Park on #24 near Collingwood. Or maybe Presquite Point or the Sand Banks near Belleville. Just mention my name for a choice table!

Bill Ellis is an Associate Broker with Canada Trust Realty, Georgetown.



Chamber golf tourney

The annual Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce golf tournament will be held Aug. 23, at North Halton Golf and Country Club at the corner of Maple and Trafalgar. Golf, cart and steak dinner is \$100 plus GST, dinner only, \$35 plus GST. Men Without Hairs will entertain. Lots of prizes and a raffle. Call the Chamber to book your foursome, 877-7113.



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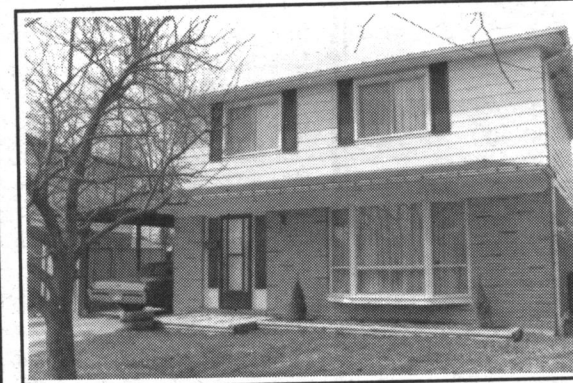
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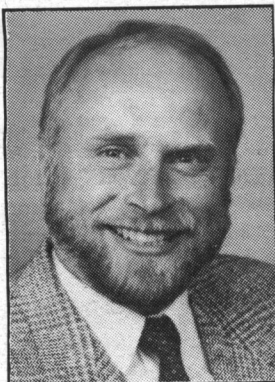
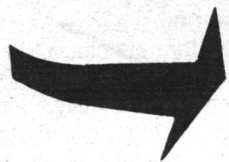
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