

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

BY DEBORAH QUAILE
ARTS EDITOR

Although I am not an accomplished poet, it's obvious to me that Katherine Gordon is. Katherine has been publishing pieces in anthologies and literary periodicals for years, and now has put together her first book, *An Impact of Butterflies*.

Katherine and husband Don live in an isolated river valley, flanked by ruggedly handsome limestone cliffs and bordered by the Eramosa River. As noted in her book, the beauty and diversity of life interacting in the undisturbed woods and meadows inspires Katherine's writing. Her fascination with today's blended approach to physics and mysticism influences her poetry. Katherine is a member of The League of Canadian Poets, The Canadian Poetry Association and The International Poets Association.

Katherine has divided her work into four sections: *Spells to Catch the Light*, *Crucible of Love*, *Testing Mortality*, and *Dark Shadow-side*.

The volume engages its readers, finding deeper meaning in the words as one progresses. *Why the Greeks went Running* is sharp, lay-it-on-the-line verse that demands of a potential lover to prove their worth. The two last lines end the work with a powerful snap:

*"I am weary of the worms
in words
That eat my heart."*

In contrast, *Slow Spring Fire* is a sensual, heated wish of woman's desire for a man, using powerful imagery of flames to intensify the words: *"I give my limbs to the scorching
Though death be in desire
I must burn."*

Another favourite, titled *The Contract*, provided a clear visualization of the Lord of Autumn coming to claim his bride. She, with soft demeanor, spread gentle gifts of

*"Fragrant flowers, splash-
ing streams,
Songs of birds, and all the*

*joys and light of her maiden
dreams"*

Clearly, Katherine has worked with her words to provide us the critical impact that poetry needs. In quick succession the reader is drawn into her verse, provided the body of a story and led to a wonderful finale.

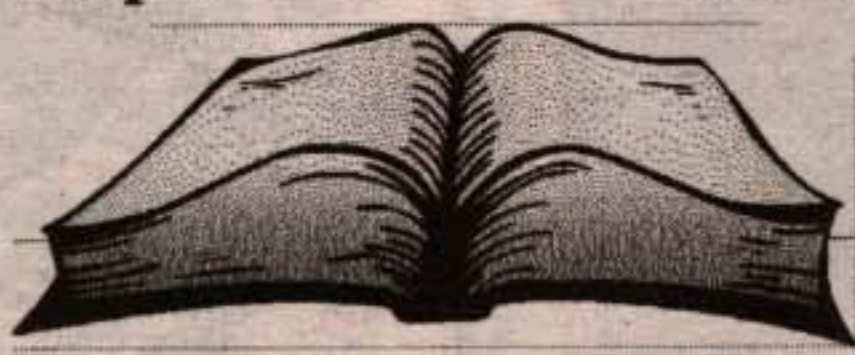
Premonition may be my favourite poem. It's a wonderful glimpse of the mature years, when one recognizes the value of the natural world as the "real" one, and memories of those who are no longer with us cast shadows, radiating light for a future encounter. Katherine's hope and desire for the good life shine through, adding a peace that casts out negative attitude.

*"The moon and stars send
a light We long to share.
Candles for the darkness
here."*

Katherine's sharp wit, dry humour, love and pain are evident throughout the volume. Her work shows a strength and honing that many poets never achieve.

Layout and design of *An Impact of Butterflies* was by Peter Physick-Sheard, also a Rockwood resident. Peter notes that he takes great comfort in the beauty of Eramosa and its natural features, and may be seen prowling the lines and sideroads with camera in hand. He also encourages the reader to travel wherever the poetry may take them, and not necessarily in the path he chose with his selection of graphics. However, I found an overwhelming majority of Peter's choices in sync with my own feelings, and derived great pleasure in examining each item separately, absorbing the graphic's details. Peter is to be commended on his excellent photography and emotional sensitivity.

Katherine L. Gordon
An Impact of Butterflies
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Idle Pursuits -

TAKING TEA

BY DEBORAH QUAILE
ARTS EDITOR

return home late from an outing.

So what is it about this delectable brew that soothes jangled nerves, gathers people to socialize or hits the spot so well when you're out antique hunting?

There's something about fragrant tea that whispers to us to sip slowly, savour the flavours and moments of camaraderie. Heaven knows, we don't usually "grab a tea and donut" on the way to work! Coffee can be a quickie, but tea... ah, that's to tantalize the senses.

Outdoors, I like to spread a thick plaid blanket on the ground, bring out the flask of tea and enjoy a selection of hearty fare. Brownies, chewy oatmeal cookies, or a selection of cheeses and crisp apples can make the meal worthy of any appetite.

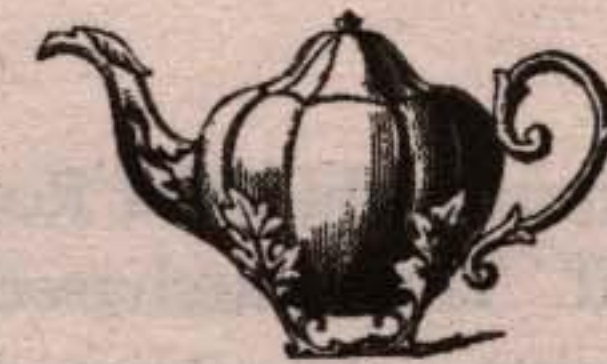
No matter what the season, the air is piquant with its own special seasoning, and shades of tea are mimicked throughout the countryside.

As an indoor pleasure, the brew of your choice goes with a well-dressed table. A lovely lacy cloth, linen napkins, a bouquet of flowers and vines trailing across the tabletop provide scintillating delights. And an abundance of foods - scones, cookies, petit fours, delicate sandwiches - to indulge in are the finishing touches for your cup of tea.

It's nice to snuggle inside where the comfort of having tea made for you, the coziness of a chair and a fresh baked batch of tea cakes awaits. Whatever the weather or whether the tea is served chilled in a glass or hot from a mug, tea's a refreshing pause.

It has been well said that tea is suggestive of a thousand wants, from which spring the decencies and luxuries of civilization.

Agnes Repplier



SPRING MISCELLANY A SURE SIGN

BY RAY DARLING
EDEN MILLS

Had Swinburne been living today, he might have added the Eden Mills Spring Miscellany to his missive on the season. Becoming somewhat of an annual sign that spring has begun; the event drew another packed house of lovers of spoken word and song to the Eden Mills Community Centre on May 1. The proceeds of the Spring Miscellany, which is organized by the Friends of Eden Mills, go to fund worthwhile causes in the village. Last year, the money went towards a fund to make the Community Centre wheelchair accessible. This year, the profits from the evening will be used to assist the Friends in their on-going legal battle with the Township of Eramosa over the future of the Bowstring Bridge.

Attendees were greeted by the joyous sounds of fiddle music played by Eden Mills resident Janice Crewe and her band. And then blossom by blossom, the writers came

up to share their work. A number of familiar faces were back this year, including: Maynard Luterman, Shelagh Rogers, Janice Kulyk Keefer,

*For winter's rains and ruins are over,
And all the season of snows and sins;
The days dividing lover and lover,
The light that loses, the night that wins;
And time remembered is grief forgotten,
And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins.*

ALGERNON SWINBURNE

Josh Willoughby, and Leon Rooke, many of whom are local talent. None disappointed. University of Guelph graduate Simon Frank gave a particularly humorous reading, which had him howling in a successful attempt to whip up a fictional pack of dogs. Residents in attendance were probably surprised that a chorus of their own real-life canines did not join in the

singing. After a short intermission, filled with pleasant conversation and home-baked treats, Crewe returned for a second set which included the unique sound of the elbow pipes. Stephen Fearing finished the evening's journey, over four hours long, with his own singular folk sounds.

The Master of Ceremonies was Chris Wilson, who played the role of public television fundraiser. He punctuated his introductions and interludes with humour and serious talk about the implications of the loss of the Bowstring Bridge. His exhalations did not fall upon deaf ears as the group raised over \$1100 throughout the evening in ticket and clothing sales.

If the Miscellany is a preview of the Writer's Festival, which is being held on September 13 this year, the latter will prove to be a similar success when the colour is upon the leaves and the light once again loses to the night.

SPRING'S HUMMIN' ALONG

Lawn Chair Gardening

BY THE VON CUBE BROTHERS
1ST LINE GARDENING GURUS

This spring has been an exceptional year for flowering bulbs, healthy flowers with no hard rain to damage the show.

Now is the time to care for bulbs that we plan on keeping around for next spring. For those of us that are "memory challenged," taking pictures of our flower beds helps us remember where to add bulbs, and/or colour during the fall planting. Once the pictures are taken and the

dead flowers removed, a healthy application of bone meal around the stem will ensure a beautiful showing next year.

Soon the hummingbirds will arrive and be looking for their first sip of summer. Not unlike our disappointment when we arrive at our neighbour's fridge for a cold one, only to find it empty, the

hummingbirds are disappointed when they find their feeders dry. A solution of 1/4 cup sugar and one cup water brought to a boil with a dash of red food colouring will keep your fine feathered friends nearby for the season.

Hosta lovers should be reminded to mulch their plants with chicken grit to keep the slugs and snails at bay. If they beat you to the plants, a solution of one part bleach to six part water will give you the upper hand.



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