



**Mull'n
it
Over
with
Bonnie Mullen**

Prosperity resulting from the Civil War south of the border contributed to the building boom of stone farmhouses in this area in the latter part of the last century, according to local historian Joe Henderson.

"The price of wheat doubled because there was a big demand for bread to feed the soldiers," Joe explained. "During the 1860's many stone farmhouses were built to replace or add onto smaller, earlier ones. A lot of the stone houses in Nassagaweya, Eramosa and Esquesing Townships were built with wheat money.

Mr. Henderson's mother's family, the Littles, who farmed on 1st Line Nassagaweya, just south west of Moffat put a stone addition on their house in 1890.

Stones were gathered from the fields for wall construction. Specialty cuts for corner stones, lentils, etc. were quarried from the face of the escarpment. Locations such as Kelso and south of Speyside were commonly quarried. When the post

Stone houses from wheat

office in Acton was built in 1913 horse-drawn loads of stone were taken from Speyside for the project. Alan McPhedran of Everton says the stone for the house he grew up in came from the river in Everton.

There were many good Scottish stonemasons in the area. Mr. Donaldson was the stonemason for the construction of Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church in 1861. Similar stone churches were built about the same time in Everton and Barrie Hill. The Guelph architect, Neil Livingston, is believed to have designed all three. The scaffolding from Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church was moved to the McKenzie farm on the Nassagaweya/Puslinch Townline for construction of their stone farmhouse. That farm later passed on to the McKenzie's daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mr. Robert Amos.

Mr. Henderson's uncle, Rob Little, was a stonemason. He was killed in a construction accident in 1912 while working at the college, now part of the University of Guelph.

With the popularity of brick after the turn of the century fewer stone houses were built. Mr. Fisher from Erin built Dave McPhedran's stone house on 5th Line north of 15 Sideroad in

1911 but it was destroyed by fire in 1947 and the stone walls were eventually removed. The stone house located across from Mohawk Raceway on the east side of Guelph Line and the one on the racetrack property were the last of that era of stone houses built in Nassagaweya. The racetrack house was built in 1916 by Mr. Burns.

With four brick plants just west of Milton, brick houses gained popularity. In 1908 when the two storey brick house on 5th Line south of 20th Sideroad was built the brick was shipped by train to Moffat and drawn by horse and wagon to the site.

Thomas Storey built the two-storey red brick on 6th Line north of 20th Sideroad in 1926. When farmers gathered for a building bee for S.S.#8 School in 1923 on 5th Line north of 25 Sideroad, brick was used. The schoolhouse was destroyed by fire in the 1960's.

With so much restoration work now needed on old stone buildings, training and apprenticeships for stonemasons are gaining popularity again. While brick continues to be the exterior of choice by builders today vintage stone houses still hold a certain appeal to buyers with an appreciation for the quality and craftsmanship of yesterday.

Cindy Pearson Lunau's

Nassagaweya Times

MILTON TRIATHLON: Nassagaweya welcomes the cycling portion of the Milton Triathlon on Saturday, July 10th. The cycling portion of the triathlon opens at Kelso Conservation Area travelling North on Tremaine Road, west at 5 Sideroad, north at Sixth Line Nassagaweya, west at 20 Sideroad, south at Fifth Line Nassagaweya, east at 15 Sideroad, and returning south on Sixth Line Nassagaweya to 5 Sideroad and Kelso.

CAMP DAY 1999 raised more than \$2.5 million nation wide in support of the Tim Horton Children's Foundation (head office on the Guelph Line, Nassagaweya). One of the celebrities pouring the coffee was cyclist Chrissy Redden of Nassagaweya, one of two Miltonians on the Canadian Olympic mountain bike team. Congratulations!

HAPPY 85th BIRTHDAY CAMPBELLVILLE! Celebrate with the Village Saturday and Sunday, June 26th & 27th.

BROOKVILLE SCHOOL FAIR: Oops! My apologies for giving the incorrect date of this annual event. (After participating in the fair for some 15 years, you'd think that I could get it right!) The good news is that everyone else knew the correct date and this year's fair raised more money than ever! June 12th was actually the date of the MCRC Fun Fair in Milton - also a great and most successful event. P.S. The sign looks great!

CAMPBELLVILLE WORKING FROM HOME CLUB held a scenic (and very wet) Canoe Trip down the Grand River, followed by a decadent picnic. Watch for a schedule of programs when it returns this fall.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES: To keep the kids interested, check out activities at The Farm Museum (905-878-8151), Conservation Halton sites (905-336-1158), Old Orchard Farm (519-763-1134), Rocky Ridge Ranch (905-854-2584), Art Camp (905-854-0511), Milton Library (905-875-2665), and the Town of Milton Leisure Services (909-878-7211).

CONGRATULATIONS to Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church on another successful Chicken Barbecue! Best wishes to St. David's Presbyterian in Campbellville as they break ground for new facilities! **CELEBRATE CANADA DAY** with activities throughout the day at Rotary Park in Milton!

CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK aims to help feed the world's hungry. If you are interested in helping to support Nassagaweya's project (financially or otherwise), contact Tom Parker, (519) 856-9255.

RURAL WATCH is on the look out for a young male who's been knocking on doors asking for water for his car's radiator. If you are approached, contact police immediately with as much description as possible. If you are not on Rural Watch, and wish to be added, call Mike West of the NCCC at (519) 853-2755. It's a local call from most everywhere that this paper is circulated.

Sizzling Summer Sample Fest walks around Acton

Discover some of Acton's early history when you take the Sizzling Summer Sample Fest Historical Walking Tour on July 1st.

This popular event combines history, gossip and great food during the two hour guided tour! Tour leader Don Payne, chairperson of Heritage Halton Hills, will point out places of interest, pass on local folklore and give a little bit of history about Canadian author Mazo de la Roche, who lived here as a child.

The Historical Tour will stop along the way for sampling at the Red Dog, Subway and A&K One Stop Chinese Food. If you want a bit of excitement, take the Ghost Tour and tour leader Janis Fread will introduce you to some of the town's haunted buildings! This light-hearted tour will discuss some of the history of the town with lots of stories about hauntings and macabre happenings. The Ghost Tour will stop for food samplings at the Station Hotel, Pizzaville and Cones. Both tours start and end at the olde Hide House parking lot, tours commence at 2:00 p.m. sharp and tickets cost \$8/person. Tickets, which sell out quickly, should be purchased in advance at Wetherby's, 149 Church St. E., Acton or call 853-1031, ext. 274.



THE KINGDOM OF CAMELOT COMES ALIVE

BY DEBORAH QUAILLE
THE COMPASS

On June 6th, Class Six of the Halton Waldorf School presented *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*, a play written by their teacher Cathy Gilhuly, at the Rockwood Conservation Area mill ruins.

The students had been studying Roman and Medieval history, but Cathy was unable to find a play that she liked for them to perform.

"I couldn't find one that was really suitable so I wrote this with the children in mind," she commented.

The ruins provided a truly

castle-like setting, with banners draped over rugged stone walls, and the gurgle of water flowing through the audience. An outdoor staging, however, was not without its attendant problems, one being noise.

"We were been practising in the mill ruins but the sound of rushing water was too loud and drowning the kids out. So we tried using blankets to mute the fall and that worked well," Cathy revealed.

The students worked hard to accomplish all that they did for *King Arthur*. The girls had

braided coronets and lovely gowns, and boys were dressed in various outfits as befitted jesters, knights, or the wizard Merlin himself. Volunteers for the costumes are to be commended on their spectacular work.

The complex five-act play moved from spot to spot in the ruins, including the Lady of the Lake walking upstream through the water to hand Arthur Excaliber. There were even some interesting pyrotechnics to simulate Merlin's magic. Throughout the play various students played music together or solo, with one lovely piece written particularly for *King Arthur*.

Each student received a gift for their efforts in the production. Following the play was a banquet for families, where the children had dressed tables with jars of wildflowers and flowing tablecloths. This event was truly a labour of love of which everyone can be extremely proud.



After a round of golf on the mountain, enjoy our newly renovated restaurant opening July 1st.

Experience affordable country dining at its finest prepared expertly by Executive Chef Alan Bennett.

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