

Eramosa's lost history

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Instead, a very active Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History committee, headed by Marjorie Durnford, fulfilled this need. However, Ms. Clark is concerned that without a municipal heritage body, "significant historical material often remains in private homes and after people die, there is no guarantee that it will remain in the township."

Ms. Clark is exploring the possibility of creating a historical society with no connection to municipal government, but this would require a great deal of effort and some fundraising. "Heritage Eramosa cost the township a bit of money over the years, but they could have cut back our budget instead of cutting us altogether. The committee ran mostly on volunteer steam; the costs were relatively small."

Ms. Clark, who has been involved in heritage matters for several decades, also laments the state of heritage legislation in the province. "The existing legislation is almost toothless. We have several examples right here in Eramosa; one being the Stone Barn in Rockwood. The fact that it was designated a heritage structure couldn't save it from demolition."

More recently, the new township clerk, Janice Sheppard, in what appears to be a unilateral action, sent all of Heritage Eramosa's archival material to the Wellington County Museum, without consulting with council. When questioned by members of council, Ms. Sheppard responded that the material was in the way and had been sent out of the township for safe keeping, despite the fact that the municipality had recently purchased a display cabinet which remains empty. When the Wellington Museum asked why this valuable material was being sent out of the township, they were assured that

Heritage Eramosa was aware of the action. Betty Lou Clark is adamant that no one on the committee was informed. "We would never have agreed to such a move. It means that people in the township have no access to display or research materials without going to the county museum and paying a \$5 fee for reproductions."

Mayor Adsett has a different take on this. He admits that the material was sent away without council's knowledge, but isn't going to "get too excited about things like this in the first year of amalgamation. It's a new team and staff and council need time to get used to each other." Ms. Sheppard (who was formerly the clerk of Guelph Township) was accustomed to shipping all archival material to the county museum because that had been standard procedure in Guelph Township. According to Mayor Adsett, "It was an innocent mistake." He insists that the township is looking into getting some of the archival material returned and that he would prefer to see it "displayed and available instead of archived."

Prior to being shipped out of the township, this archival material was housed in the old township office at Bruceedale, formerly a rural school house. Council is now considering demolishing this historic building, with a view towards expanding the existing parking lot. Mayor Adsett and some other members of council have expressed reservations and have been successful in having the demolition motion deferred and a public meeting arranged for Monday, July 5 at 7 p.m. at the township office.

This series of blows to heritage preservation in Eramosa has led Betty Lou Clark and others to question the voting majority of council's appreciation for heritage. "If it was a priority, they'd find a way."

Remembering

Joan Browne Carter

BY STELLA BRYANT
THE COMPASS

The death of a gallant lady, Joan Browne Carter, on June 2, 1999, was a blow to her family and many friends in Norval, all of whom will miss her laughter, her sharp wit, her courage and her generosity.

Joan, the daughter of the late William Gordon Milne Browne and Barbara Macdonald Oxley, was born October 13, 1925, and lived all her life in Norval, leaving only in 1943 to enlist in the Canadian Women's Army Corps, which stationed her in Ottawa as part of a research team working on top secret wartime projects, details of which were only made public four years ago. She served until 1946.

She returned to the village and married Ormie (Bud) Carter in St. Paul's Anglican Church on February 23, 1946, and together they raised five children, Janice, James, David, Kathleen and Connie.

Joan was always heavily involved in the activities that give life to a community and particularly a village, working with the Guides, the Norval Young People organization and the Norval Community Association, among other groups.

In 1990, having managed the village post office for 31 years, Joan retired as its last Postmaster and the office was closed, leaving her a little more time to travel with Ormie and to pursue her interest in genealogy and the history of the village.

In 1996 Joan published "A Short History of Norval 1920-1950," proceeds from the sale of which she donated to the Norval Community Association to help with the creation of the analematic sundial in the Lucy Maud Montgomery Garden. Joan had always wanted Norval to have a lasting remembrance of the men and women of the village who served in two World Wars and with the support of her family and friends, local businesses and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 the memorial was completed and dedicated on June 22, 1997.

Only the later stages of illness finally put a stop to her volunteer work with mentally challenged adults in Milton but not even that was allowed to interfere with her Christmas pudding-making for St. Paul's annual bazaar.

Last Christmas, without the energy to work physically on the huge batches, she still found the strength to direct the operations and the puddings all got made and delivered on time, as they always have been.

As she wished, Joan passed away at home surrounded by her beloved husband, children and grandchildren. For her family, and for so many of us who were lucky enough to be counted as her friends, she left a very empty stage.



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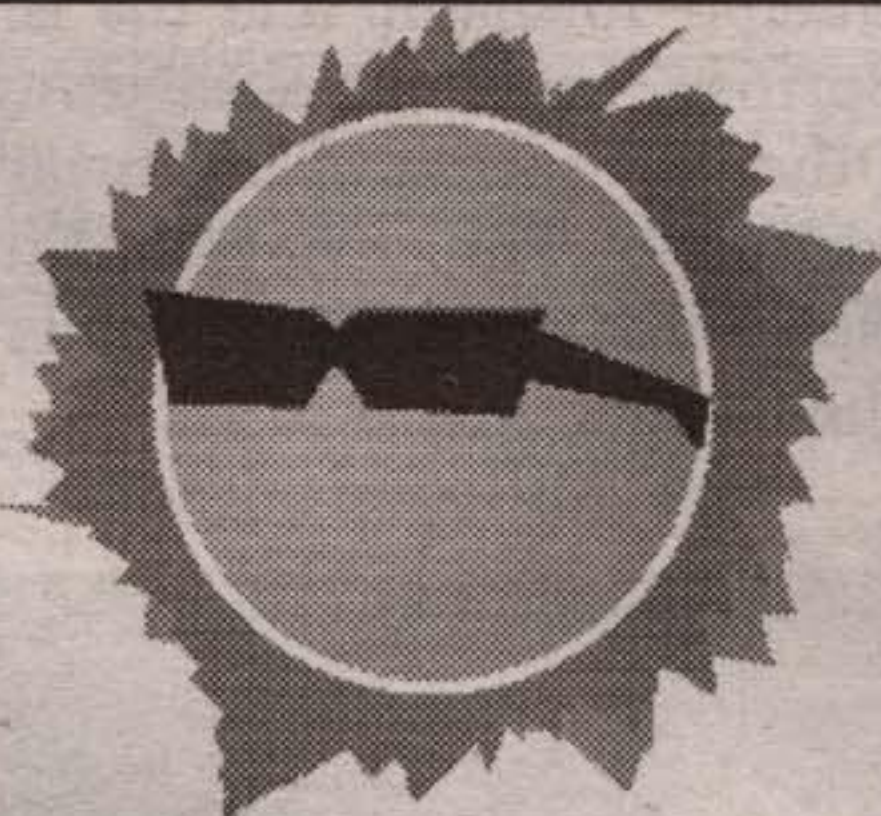
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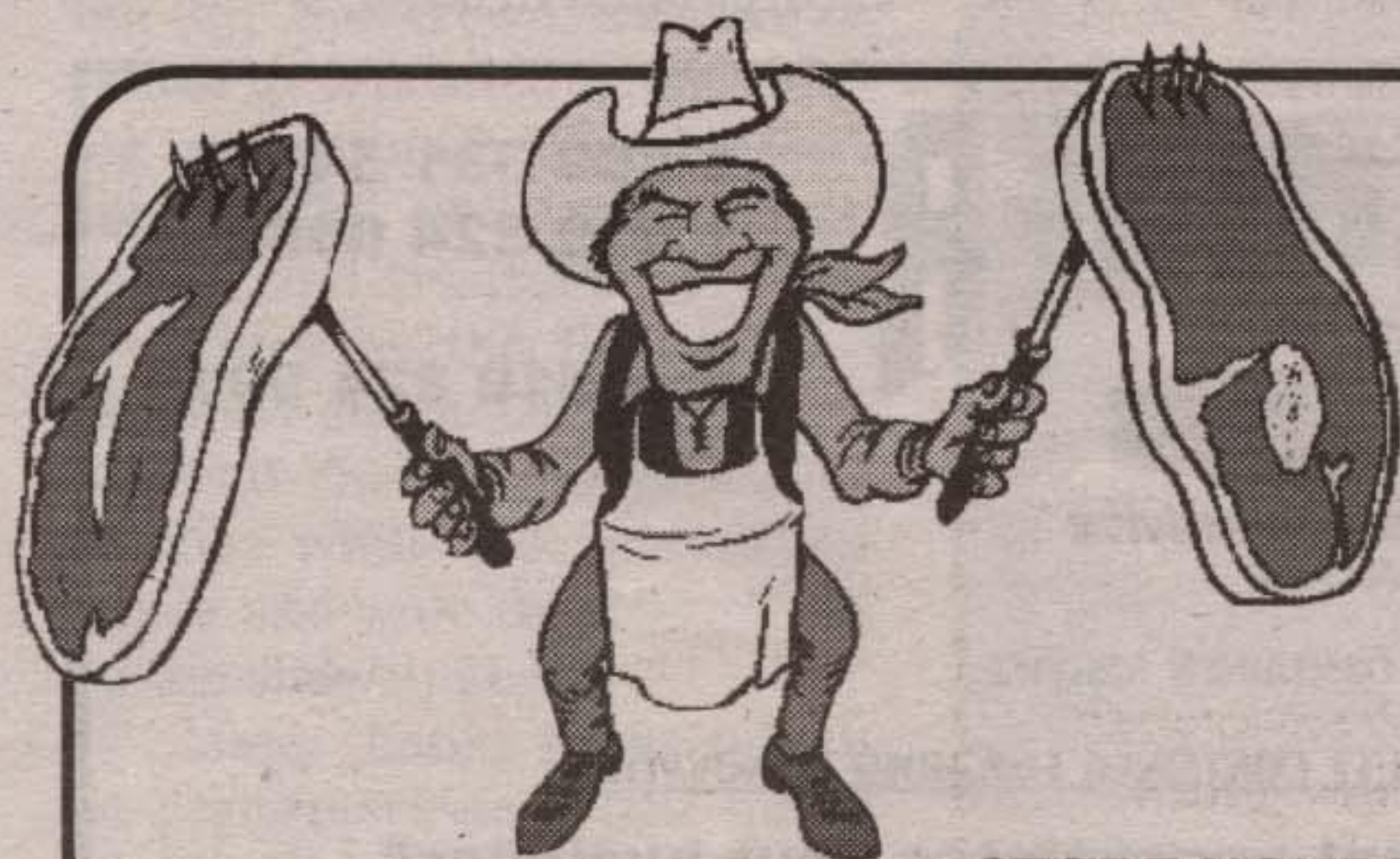
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