

AN IMAGINATIVE JOURNEY

BY DEBORAH QUAILE
ARTS EDITOR

Eden Mills resident Janet Wilson has a new book to be released this April.

Imagine That! celebrates one of the most eventful and fast-paced centuries of mankind. Inside, the double page features contain a montage of Wilson's illustrations that depict memorable moments in recent history. Children and grownups will enjoy the story and the images as they unfold, identifying characters, discoveries, inventions and events that present a quick view of the 20th century.

At the side of each page, information is organized chronologically and has been colour coded to match the illustrations, which presents a search-and-find story. It's a uniquely interactive way to commemorate and learn about the 20th century, and helps to pose questions about what may lie ahead for us in the future.

In this heart-warming story, on her hundredth birthday, Auntie Violet sits and reminisces through a photo album with her great grandniece, remembering all the magnificent changes that have occurred in her lifetime. Violet tries to think of a wish that hasn't already come true, and through their discussions, by the time she must blow out the candles on the birthday cake, she gleans the perfect answer.

Wilson often uses local faces from which to work for her illustrations, and Eden Mills resident Elizabeth Nagel is the young "star" of the story, along with her great grandmother Violet May Noble, who is 103.

The concept for the book came about when Wilson was driving to her aunt's funeral.

"Aunt Daisy was almost

100, and I kept thinking about what had happened to her in her lifetime. That formed the germ of the idea. I originally thought that a book with her reminiscing would be interesting, and then I thought that for a children's book, it would be better to put a child in the story, and the whole thing evolved from there."

Heather Nagel, Elizabeth's mother, had mentioned to Wilson that her grandmother was still alive and they visited her at the nursing home. Soon Wilson went with them to talk and get stories, "just to see if the voice was right" for her own visualization of the character. Luckily, the concept meshed and the book began.

Wilson gathered her material from "a variety of sources, too numerous to mention - books, through the Internet, lots of articles... because the new millennium was imminent, there was lots of information around. It took probably a year to complete, off and on, as I worked on other projects."

Janet Wilson is an award-winning illustrator with a reputation for her memorable images and meticulous research. *Imagine That!*, the first book that she has both written and illustrated, is her most challenging and comprehensive work to date.

On May 20, Wilson will have a book launch at Eden Place, a gift store in the centre of the village of Eden Mills. Visitors are welcome to chat with the author and purchase an autographed copy of the new book. It would make a great addition to a family time capsule, or used to rediscover the previous century together with a child (or another adult!).

IMAGINE THAT!
BY JANET WILSON
STODDART KIDS, TORONTO, 2000
32 PAGES, FULL COLOUR, H/C
FOR AGES FOUR TO 104
ISBN 0-7737-32217; \$19.95



4TH ANNUAL ART ON THE ESCARPMENT

Show and Sale May 27 and 28, 2000

The call for entry deadline for Fine Art, Sculpture, and Fine Photography is April 14 in a show hosted by the Fine Arts Society of Milton. The jurors will be three well known local artists.

Art on the Escarpment is again being held at Springridge Farm, 7256 Bell School Line, Milton. Visitors can enjoy Springridge amenities as well. For call for entry forms and further information, phone Doug Elliott at 905-854-2122.

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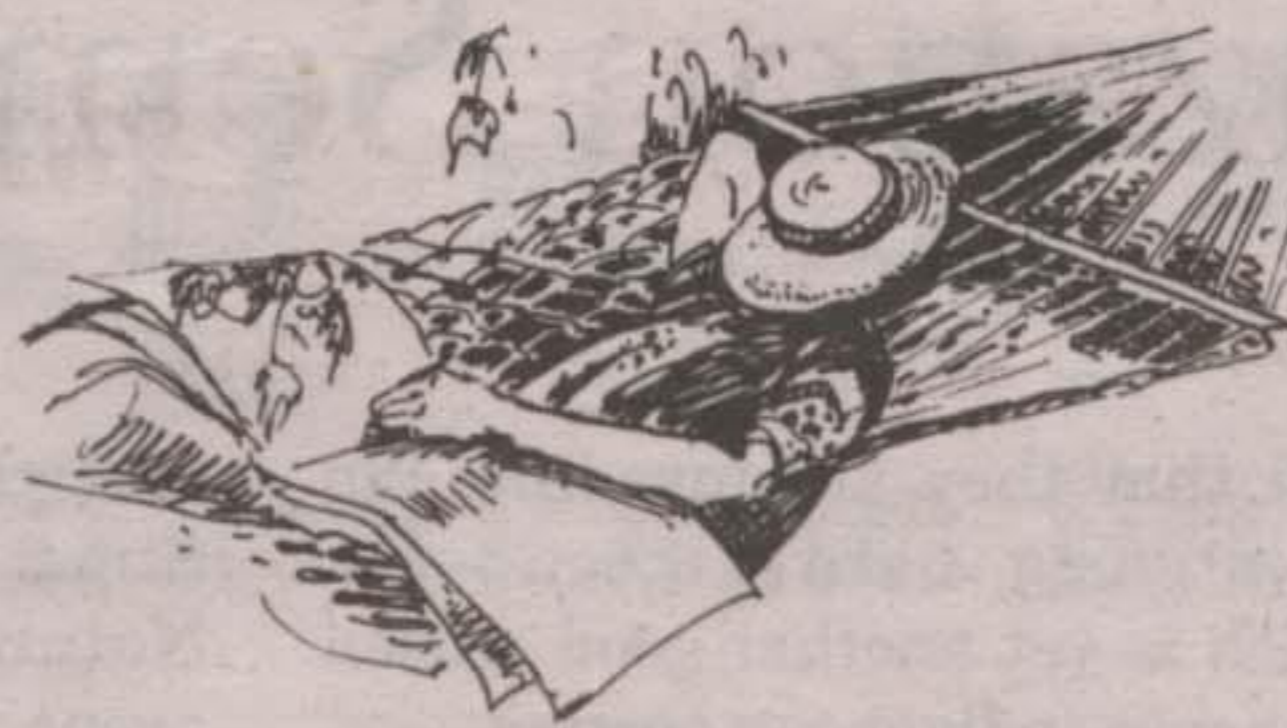
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THANKSGIVING AT EASTER

BY DEBORAH QUAILE
ARTS EDITOR

It's spring. In our robin's egg blue heavens, threads of clouds are spun like cotton candy in the chilly breeze. We're welcoming back a warmer earth and sky, a time when we clear away the clutter of a season of sleep, and life begins anew.

One of spring's biggest events for Christians is Easter, when our places of worship bloom with bright blossoms scattered on the windowsills and our singing rings a little louder through the hallowed halls. It's like a mini New Year to give us another seasonal jumpstart.

This year, our town's congregations are gathering upon a neighbour's hill to welcome Easter morn with a glorious sunrise service. Well, it won't be exactly at sunrise, since people are loath to crawl from their beds in the cold dark and trot out, eyes barely open, to worship before they even get a bite of breakfast.

Besides, the kids tend to get cranky when they can't immediately search for their Easter eggs.

Sometimes the real Christmas, as we all know, gets lost in the resulting confusion. So, too, can Easter. If you celebrate the anniversary of Christ's resurrection, remember that it's not just fuzzy bunnies and chocolate chicks, or an annual pot of tulips you give to Auntie Maisy in "the home." There's a much deeper meaning for which to be thankful.

One of my writing exercises - which also works well when on a path of self discovery - is to list my blessings.

We tend to forget our best gifts in the mad daily dash, and need to take a few moments to remember. Keeping those blessings firmly at the forefront of your mind aids a positive attitude. I ponder mine, and commit them to instant recall

when I'm in need of a boost. Health, obviously, is a priority, but blessings can range from the bell-like sounds of your children's laughter to the smell of a fresh-from-the-oven apple pie.

You can be sure that I'll be up on a hillside this Easter, remembering what the occasion means to me, what I have to be thankful for, and why I'm there in the first place. Surprisingly, Easter has never meant as much before. There's been a lot of

Over the utmost sea
The light of a coming
dawn is rising to me...
Christina Rossetti

changing and growing over the past year, and a lot of birth and death. But that's life. And that's why it's hit-

ting home. So even if it's raining cats and dogs, this year I'll be gazing at the sunrise with new eyes, wondering at the marvel of it all, and recounting that with which I've been blessed.

ART SHOWS AT GUELPH CIVIC MUSEUM

BY DEBORAH QUAILE
ARTS EDITOR

Interiors and Our Town: Streetscapes of Guelph are two new artists' exhibitions running at the Guelph Civic Museum, 6 Dublin St. South.

Interiors, an exhibit by Don Russell, runs until May 22, 2000.

This show presents two distinct series of paintings depicting two separate locales. One is of an abandoned space, while the other is of a space that has been in use for over 100 years. Russell's desire is to invite the viewer

along, and hopefully "encourage" an experience.

"As an artist, I am drawn to many different subjects, ranging from the figurative to pure abstraction. Many things that I see or even hear often trigger an idea, which invariably evolves to express itself as an image. Often I will paint many canvasses in an attempt to flesh out the particulars of those ideas."

Our Town is a collection of paintings by three women, Laura Coutts, Jane Graham, and Susan Knox.

"It's not a traditional look at Guelph, it's just what struck us as artists - such as interesting buildings with the play of light and shadow," remarks Coutts. "We just wanted to capture the charm of the city. Most [of the buildings we painted] are in the downtown area, and some are older homes."

Together, the three women have had other shows, sometimes involving landscapes and always working upon a theme.

The Guelph Civic Museum is open Sunday to Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. Phone 519-836-1221 for further details.

Singing all the way from Wales Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir comes to Milton

When a brother from Wales comes to visit his sister in Milton there has to be singing in the air.

And singing there will be, especially since the brother is part of Wales' premier choir, the Tredegar Orpheus Male Choir, winner of countless awards in that territory so famous for music.

Joyce Hayward, a Milton resident of more than 40 years, invited brother Keith Davies of Tredegar Wales, to bring the 50 voice choir to Milton, on a night off during their first Canadian tour. Arrangements were made "across the pond." Everyone is

invited to share in this special concert of Welsh music on May 3 at 7:30 in St. Paul's United Church, Main St., Milton. The choir's Guelph performance is already sold out.

The choir is in Milton under the sponsorship of the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre Song Spinners Chorus, which Joyce directs, and St. Paul's Towards 2000. Tickets are \$15 or \$12 for seniors and students. They're available from Carol Clarke at 854-9828, Joyce Hayward at 878-6790, at Peggy's in Milton Mall and Delacourt's in downtown Milton.

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