

Writer's memories of the Eden Mills Writers' Festival

Special to The Compass

Audience members aren't the only ones that enjoy the annual Eden Mills Writers' Festival. The writer's are known to have just as good a time, if not better, than the audience.

"When I came to Eden Mills, I brought along my usual worries about readings: Will there be an audience? Will they listen? Will they laugh at the meant-to-be funny bits? Will I die on stage? And will there be anything good to eat after? Well, the range of quality food stuffs offered was both impressive and tasty, and I did not die. Rather, I basked in the enchanted sylvan setting and enjoyed a large and attentive audience whose laughter rang through the late summer air in all the right places. What an idyll." - Kim Moritsugu, author of *Old Flames*

"I am not in the habit of comparing myself to Christ. When I launched my second book at Eden Mills, however, my allotted reading venue reminded me of the story of Jesus addressing the multitudes from a boat anchored a few feet off shore. I was actually standing on a cross between a raft and a pier. It juttied a little ways into the river, and bounced slightly when I got excited, which I tend to do when I'm reading. My 'multitude' was seated on benches, rocks and grass, spreading up a steep slope in front of me. Photographs taken during my reading show the river sparkling behind me and a few yellowing leaves drifting down. I'm told a fish jumped twice while I read. I remember a butterfly flitting in and out of my peripheral vision, and the wind going whoof as it passed across the microphone like breath across the mouth of a bottle. We don't have many perfect days, but September 12, 1999 was certainly one of mine." - K.D. Miller, author of *Holy Writ* and *Give Me Your Answer*

"I love Eden Mills. It's like Brigadoon. Suddenly it appears - and it's wonderful." Antanas Sileika, author of *Buying on Time*

A call for rural Halton Hills artists

by Deborah Quaille

Just outside Mayor Kathy Gastle's office at the Town of Halton Hills is a recent development named "The Mayor's Showcase: The Arts of Halton Hills." Mayor Gastle thought a display created to showcase the many talented artists who live and work in Halton Hills would be an inspiring new idea.

"It's been very popular with people coming in - a pleasant diversion while they are conducting business," she commented.

Unveiled on March 22, 2001, the wall space features local artists on a rotating basis. To date, Georgetown resident William Band and Acton resident Maria Sallay have graced the wall with their detailed works.

It took a little time to develop the concept, build the wall, and find the first artists, but the mayor is pleased with the result. The wall had a formal opening ceremony, with town staff and members of council attending.

The first artist came through a



Photo by Deborah Quaille

Mayor Gastle displays the work of Maria Sallay, currently featured at The Mayor's Showcase.

chance meeting with the mayor. Mr. Band is a recent arrival to Halton Hills. His work pulls at viewers' heartstrings with its quiet nostalgia, from antique autos to a view of his kitchen table with fresh-

picked flowers and antique accompaniments. He is also known for his painting of the Maple Avenue Baptist Church.

Ms. Sallay creates lovely watercolours of gentle scenes, from bush and stream to warm and luscious flowers in her garden. Her work has a unique distinction that is pleasing to a wide audience.

"She said the experience of having her work hung in the Mayor's office was the most exciting event of her life," says Mayor Gastle. "I think the works bring a touch of colour and class to the wall, and warmth to the building. Our talented artists make the whole experience wonderful."

"I'm looking for a rural artist next," she adds. "I'd like to showcase them in the fall."

If you are a rural artist in Halton Hills and would like to be featured at The Mayor's Showcase, please call Aretta Morgan at the Town of Halton Hills, at 905-873-2601 ext. 2340 for further information.



Brookville Bengals Beat

by Paula Gomes

The staff at Brookville Public School, particularly Mr. Nodwell and Mrs. Balch (our new Vice-Principal), would like to welcome all of the returning students back to Brookville. A special welcome goes to the new students and their families. This September also marks the first year of our Junior Kindergarten program. The entire school is excited at having these, our newest and youngest students, at our school for the first time.

We also welcome a number of new staff members to the school this year. Mrs. Bev Balch joins Brookville from Pineland Public School in Burlington as our new Vice-Principal. Mrs. Brenda Kistner is returning from a leave of absence to teach grade three/four. Mrs. Leanne Munro will be teaching grade four/five; Mrs. Carolyn Graham will be teaching grade six/seven; Mr. Troy Gardiner will be teaching grades 7 and 8 Language Arts and Social Science; Miss Dodi Bates will be teaching grades seven and eight Language Arts, Social Science, and Visual Arts; Mrs. Bev Badgley will be teaching grade one and Mrs. Cathy Hutson will be teaching Junior Kindergarten.

Brookville Public School has undergone a number of renovations over the summer. New Bradley sinks have been installed in each of the boys and girls washrooms near the school office. The classroom used for the Life Skills class has been renovated to be our new Junior Kindergarten room. Mr. Mike Adamson's old grade six classroom has been renovated to accommodate the Life Skills class. A new wall has been added in the Music Room to provide more classroom space. A new door was added between the Science Lab and the Intermediate Computer Lab to allow more effective supervision for students using the computers. A handicapped washroom has also been added near the Kindergarten Room for students in grades seven and eight requiring this support.

There are a number of important dates in September to remember. Classes for grades one to eight will begin on Tuesday, September 4, with Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes beginning on Friday, September 14 and Tuesday, September 18. The Nassagaweya Community School Council (NCSC) will hold its first meeting of the new school year on Monday,

September 10 at 7 p.m. in the Learning Resource Centre at the school. The annual Open House will be held on Wednesday, September 19, 2001 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Terry Fox run will be held on Friday, September 21, 2001 at 1 p.m. A parent workshop introducing the "Second Step" program will be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2001 at 7 p.m. in the Learning Resource Centre. Watch the sign at the front of the school for more information.

The Behaviour Expectations

are off to the printers and staff are hoping to have them ready for the school Open House. The staff and NCSC have worked very hard developing this important document. The school will be focused on the "Respect" piece, while the NCSC will focus on the "Supported" and "Connected" pieces. You may remember that these were identified by students, parents, staff and community members as part of the "Year 2000" wishes.





The Williams Mill
Creative Arts Studios and Gallery
515 Main Street
Glen Williams ON
905.873.8203
www.williamsmill.com

Open House
September 29th, 30th
11 am to 5 pm
The Great Pumpkin Hunt
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For information call Tom or Anne Marie 905-878-5707

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Caller/Instructor, John Wrigglesworth jrwrig@look.ca
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