

Eden Mills Writers' Festival draws big names, big crowds

(Continued from page 18)

Toronto poet laureate Dennis Lee. This venue, with its swing sets, picnic tables and giggling kids, felt like a family barbecue. One child even climbed the trunk of the enormous tree in the centre of the yard to get a bird's eye view of the storytellers.

The venues for adult readings, each with a view of the river that twists through the town, were also unusual. With lawn chairs and blankets in hand, hundreds of listeners settled into the sloping field of the "Meadow" venue. Here, Guy Vanderhaeghe read from his Governor General Award winning novel *The Englishman's Boy* and Patrick Lane read an essay detailing his struggle to kick alcohol and drug addiction. Mr. Lane's essay appears in *Addicted: Notes from the Belly of the Beast*, a collection edited by Mr. Lane and Lorna Crozier. Later on, Peter Carey was also in the "Meadow" to read from *The True History of the Kelly Gang*, which won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book.

The opportunity to hear new authors is what draws many to the festival. Sandra Shamas, a writer, producer and performer of one-woman shows was a great discovery for many audience members. After shouting down a heckler in the crowd, Ms. Shamas read a hilarious personal piece from her first collec-

tion, *Sandra Shamas: A Trilogy of Performances*. The piece detailed her memories of the TV show *Bonanza*. Ms. Shamas's work was short listed for both the Governor General and Stephen Leacock Awards.

New writers had a chance to share their work at the Fringe New

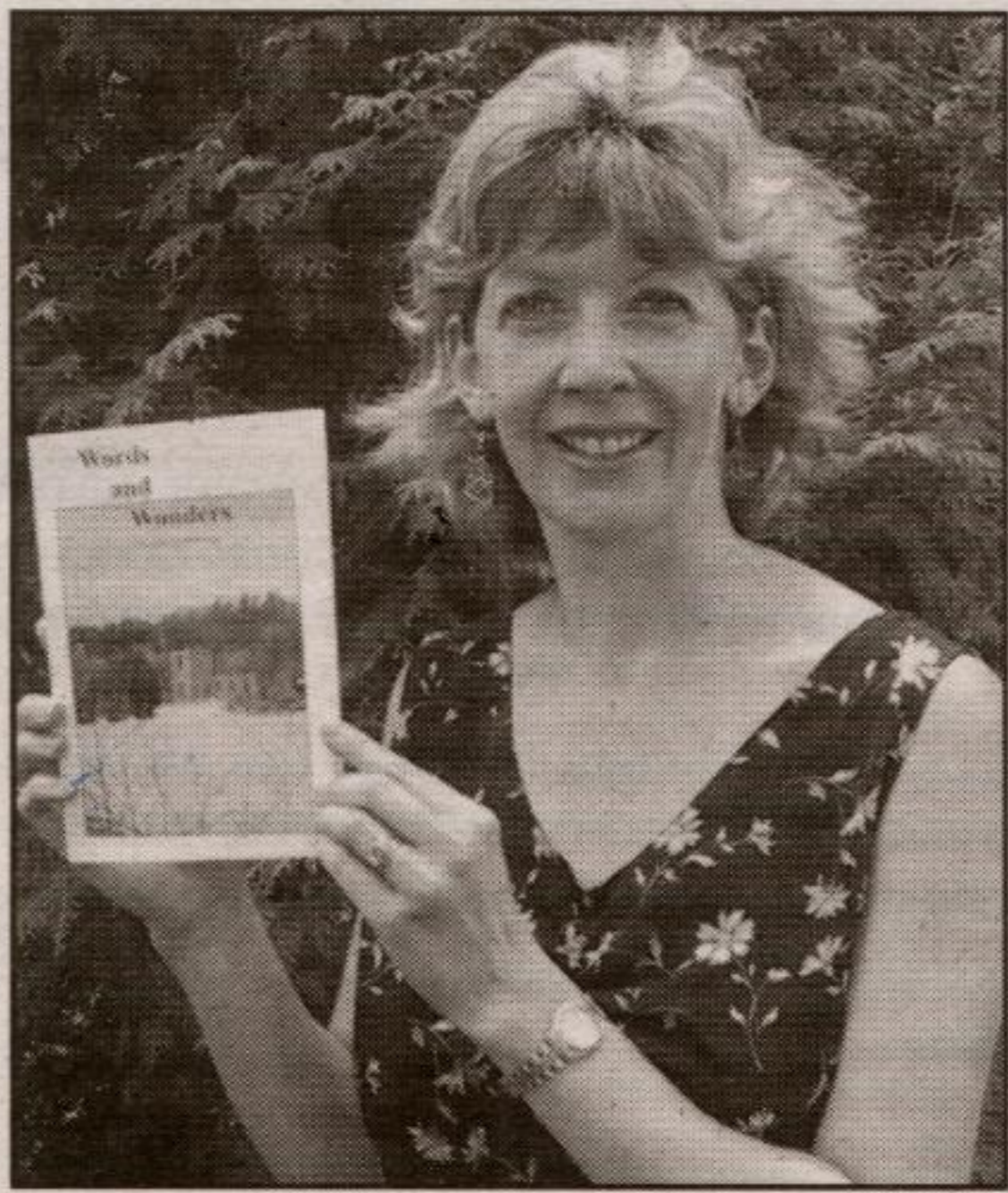


Photo by Cindy Lunou

Local writer Deborah Quaile was one of many writers who read their work at the Eden Mills Writers' Festival. Here, the Rockwood based writer displays the cover shot she photographed for the new *Words and Wisdom Anthology for Wellington County*.

Writers Forum. The Fringe, says organizer Joshua Willoughby, was the brain child of Leon Rooke and is "a bridge" for many new writers. At this event, many gems were to be found in writers like Degan Davis, Ralph Richmond, Melinda Burns and Deborah Quaile, who each took the stage to read their poetry and prose.

By any measure - cars, people, sales, comments and compliments - the Milton and Area Studio Tour of 2000 was a great success. That was the consensus of the artisans who participated in last year's Milton Area Studio Tour.

Prompted by this success, the Fine Arts Society of Milton (FASM) began planning the fourth arts and craft tour, hoping for another great annual event.

This year's tour, Saturday, October 13 and Sunday, October 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., will feature the work of over 30 artisans in 17 locations throughout the Milton area. Work on display and for sale by these multi-talented artists will include paintings in diverse media and subject matter, pottery, sculpture in wood and stone, blown glass, glass jewellery, First Nations art in fur and hide, Victorian screen doors, metal and gem jewellery and Native West Coast wood carving.

The tour is self-guided and free. It can be started from any of the 17 locations, all marked with blue, yellow and white balloons and a studio tour number sign at each driveway. Arrow road signs will lead participants to the next location on the map or tourists can create their own route.

Tour brochures with maps are available at a variety of convenient public and retail locations where people can pick them up prior to the tour or on the day of the tour. Brochures will be available in Milton at the Public Library, Tourist Information Centre, Leisure Centre, The Seniors'

Fine Arts Society ready for 2001 Milton Studio Tour

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Centre, The Town Hall, Artistic Frame, Halton Hills Fine Jewellery, Finials, The Milton Mall Information Board, Unique Frame & Art, Loblaws, Quality Inn, La Toscana Ristorante, Bruce Hood Travel, Zak's Pharmacy, Galactic Art Glass Studio and Tim Hortons (Hwy 25, N. of 401, Ontario and Derry, Market Dr.).

People in the north end of Halton can pick up a brochure at the Brookville Gallery in Brookville, Eden Place in Eden Mills and in Rockwood at White Rock Ostrich Farm, Pepe's Purple Pig Pizzeria and La Vieille Auberge. In Campbellville, brochures are available at KOA Family Campground, Winklewood Lane B & B, Windrush Farm, Vincent's Art & Antiques, Antique Stained Glass, Bruce Trail Eatery, 1846 Log House Craft Gallery, Long Lane Orchard, Mohawk Inn & Country Restaurant, Country Laine Cafe & Tea Room, Lott's & Lots Fine Bakery and Tea Room.

The tour will take visitors through some of the most scenic byways in this area. All the studios within an area bounded on the east by urban Milton, on the west by Kilbride and Moffat and from Eden Mills in the north to just south of Britannia Road. Take time to enjoy the fall colours and refresh yourself at some of the sponsoring restaurants and return to the natural beauty of the Niagara

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