

Norval Community Association General Meeting highlights

by Deborah Quale

The Norval community has big plans for its town this year.

The General Meeting of the Norval Community Association (NCA) at Norval United Church, on January 23, aimed to plan and prepare for Norval events in 2002.

"The organization was established in 1974, started as a result of the Town closing the public school. People thought they should band together as a voice to speak with the Town. As well, the NCA wants to foster strong community spirit to all residents through events, development of gardens, and more. It's a forum for residents to air their views," president George Gastle stated.

Ted Thompson of the Garden Committee presented an update of the new project with the Town of Halton Hills, the Garden of the Senses, "an idea that came up a number of years ago when Stella Bryant, Ruth Thompson, Kathy Gastle and others were involved. Early last year the idea was to get some designs done. We took them to a Town meeting and they came back with their ideas."

The garden will incorporate all the senses, with special centres for each sense. Adjacent to Norval Park and the Lucy Maud Montgomery Garden, the spot will keep many large trees that are already in place. Tentatively the sensory gardens will be five feet in diameter with pathways between, and incorporate

items such as a bubbling waterfall, an entry arbour, textured plants, benches, scented botanicals, an informal path, a grassy area, and a compost section hidden behind a berm covered with plantings. There are still footings in the area from a barn at the turn of the 20th century. If the fieldstone recovered is in good condition, the group hopes to add that to the décor. An old well may also be used in conjunction with the waterfall.

At present there have been two donations for the garden: Landscape Ontario contributed \$5000, and the Georgetown Horticultural Society added \$250. Any fees for rental equipment may come from the donations.

"The hardest work will be digging out and removing grass, and putting stone in," Mr. Thompson commented. "Once that's done, building circles won't be too bad... but the maintenance will be the community's."

Diana Pooke added the heavily mulched shrubs will require little maintenance and there are many plants stockpiled and ready to go in.

"The garden is to be created with the visually challenged and seniors in mind - it's easy to walk on or use a wheelchair. We hope it's another thing to put us on the map, along with our unique sundials (in the Lucy Maud Montgomery Garden)."

The LMM Garden was planted with "a couple of thousand bulbs" last year that will appear this spring. The group has had some difficulty getting volunteers to assist with the garden maintenance and volunteers are urgently needed for both projects.

Norval is judged, along with the rest of Halton Hills, in the Communities in Bloom contest. Last year's judges mentioned that Norval needed a brochure about the village and its unique features by the time they returned in 2002.

Gini Dalgas, Events Coordinator for the 4th Annual Riverfest, said the event is scheduled for Saturday, May 25. The purpose is to celebrate and protect the Credit River.

This year's attractions include a vendors' market, environmental discovery activities, live fishing demos, live music and a unique "Paddle to the Sea" mini boat race with prizes. Donors are needed for prizes. Interested parties can follow the links at the Canoe Country web site at www.canoe-country.com.

The 10th Annual Lucy Maud Montgomery Country Christmas is set for Saturday, November 30, which happens to be the actual birthday of the famous author. Information will also be found on the Canoe Country web site closer to the date of celebration. It has been suggested that a committee be formed to work on new ideas.

George Gastle will remain president of the NCA for another year, and the executive includes Tom Pettingill, Ted Thompson, Teresa Comtois, Joyce Hutton,

Carolyn Kirby, Jackie Fraser, Diana Pooke, Anita Dhir, Phyllis Moffat, and a "shared" position by Julie Pomeroy and Marie Britto.

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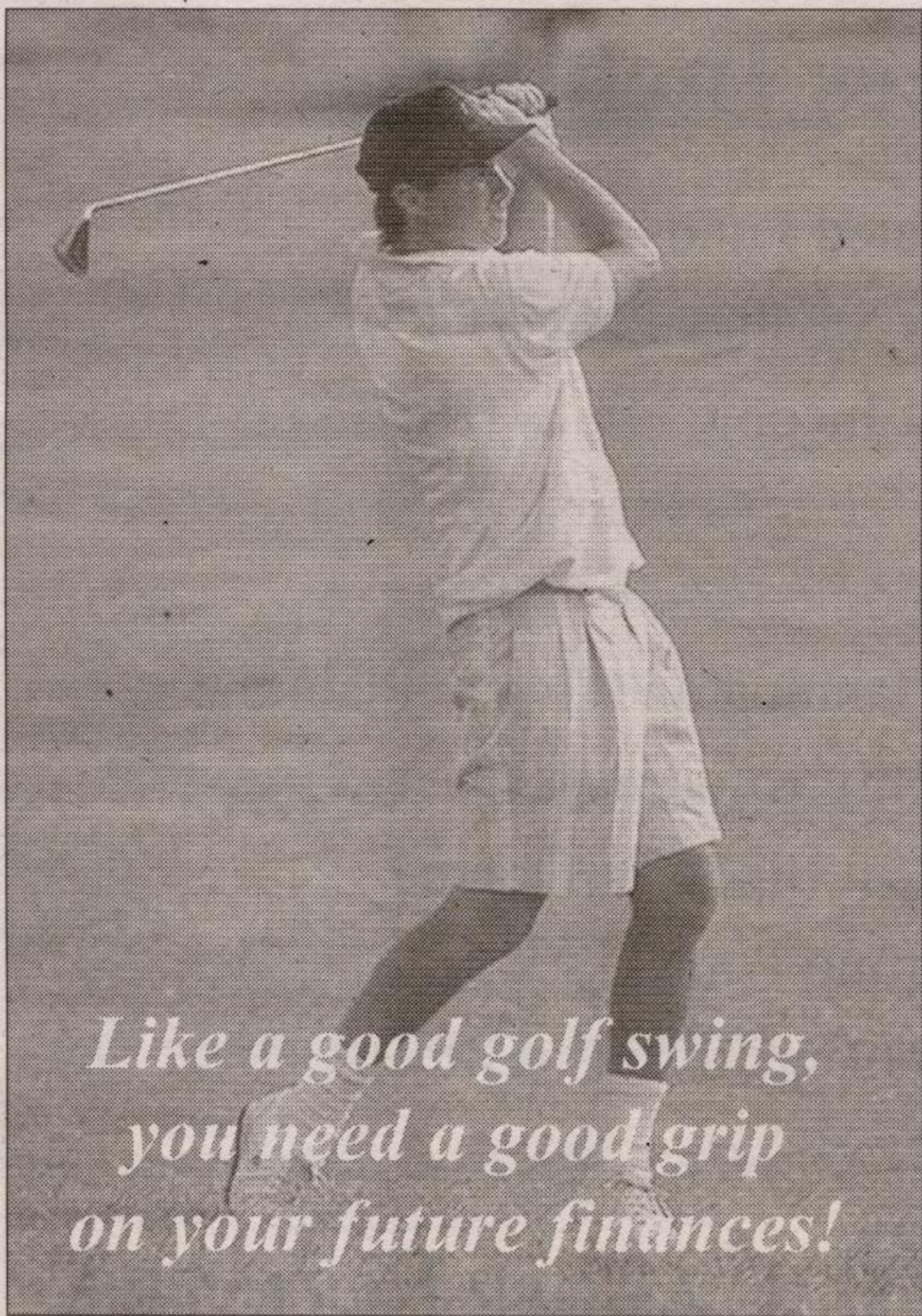
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Take a moment now to think about how you see your retirement years. Do you see yourself working beyond 65 because you have too much energy and you want to keep your marriage intact, or would you like to be on the golf course 5 days a week?

Whatever your preference, having a plan with measurable goals and deadlines will improve the odds that you'll be able to continue in the lifestyle to which you've become accustomed, long after the pay cheques stop coming in. After all, that's what we're all working toward - a comfortable lifestyle now with financial security in the future.

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