

A good cause was had by all

BY DEBORAH QUAILE

The Renaissance belief that developed 400 years ago was that people had the ability and the right to choose their destiny, and an obligation to make a moral choice. And so the Renaissance became the chosen theme for the second biennial Animals Homeward Bound dinner extravaganza, set in the old woollen mill ruins in Rockwood on July 12.

Dr. Clare Maine, whose work to rescue and rehabilitate orphaned or injured animals has been ongoing since 1989, was the impetus behind the evening. Only recently has she been able to establish a registered charity to aid these endeavours. Though many other charities offer gala events, Animals Homeward Bound is unique in that the ambiance of the limestone ruins lends itself to an opportunity for a little time travel into another era. Also the fine dining and entertainment made it a memorable evening.

Looking regal in her Renaissance splendour, Dr. Maine gave an address that stressed the needs of the organization.

"Our long-term goal is to establish a wildlife sanctuary and rehabilitation centre in this area," she stated. "We receive a huge number of calls every year regarding orphaned and injured wildlife. There are very few places to send these animals for care and release.

A centre for our area is greatly needed. As we develop hundreds of acres for our own use, it's only reasonable that we provide some land for the creatures we displace. The money raised will go to medical supplies, food and housing for both wild and domestic animals. The staff and committee volunteer their time and resources to this worthy cause."

The evening was an interesting blend of silent auction, dance, amusements such as darts and archery, and the antics of the Renaissance Festival Entertainers. Tall wrought iron candelabras graced the white linen-covered tables, where diners enjoyed a selection of special hors d'oeuvres, an appetizer of Portabella mushroom and goat cheese tart or crab cakes with chutney; and a pre-selected dinner choice of grilled vegetable terrine, tenderloin with cranberry port or a chicken breast with roasted garlic and

thyme. A salad of baby mixed greens, dessert plate and coffee with truffles rounded out the enjoyable meal. During dinner the patrons were entertained with Celtic dancers and period music.

The well-attended event proved that the moral choice for these animal lovers is a generosity of spirit that directly helps animals in need.



Waiting to dance

Young Celtic dancers await their turn to perform for the dining crowd at Essence of English Renaissance evening.

PHOTO BY DEBORAH QUAILE

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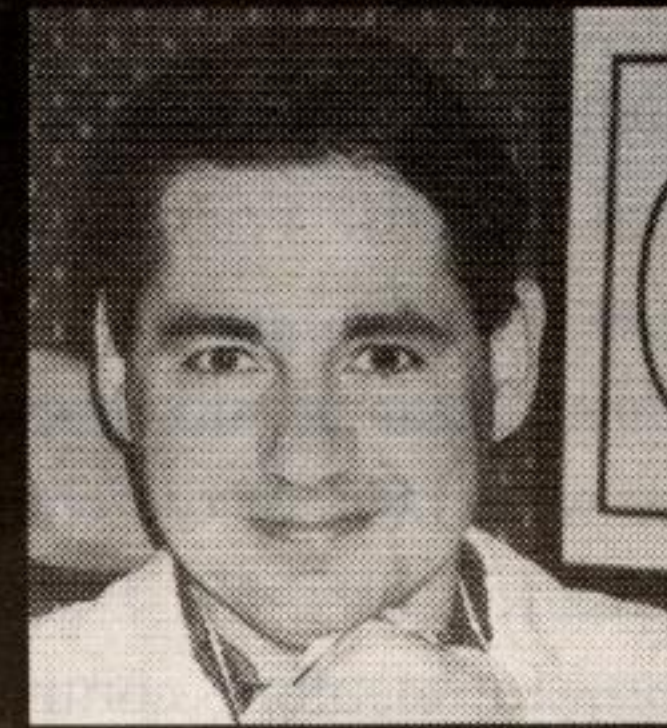


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Tooth Chatter

by ALEX TRENTON, DENTURIST



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A front tooth is worth \$309,000.00 or .12 cents, depending upon how much you figure, according to a survey by the American Association of endodontists reported in the Chicago Tribune. The materials that go into making up the average tooth—calcium, phosphorous, water, etc. cost only about .12 cents to buy. But in a survey of 1,023 men and women taken by the association, people put a much higher value on their teeth. Nearly one-fourth of the respondents said that they wouldn't sell a tooth for anything. About 15 percent said they'd want at least \$1 million, but the rest were not so demanding and the average asking price from the entire group came out to \$309,000.00!

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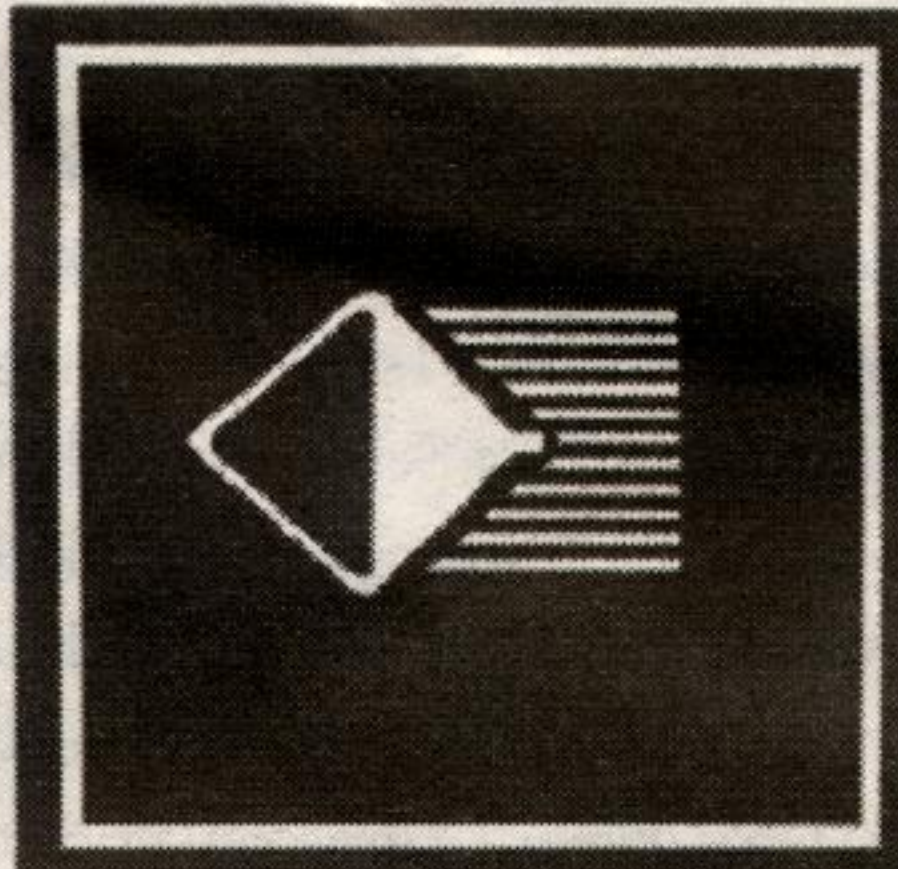
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