

2003 Milton Fall Fair Ambassador Crowned

It is with great pleasure that the Halton Agricultural Society announces Serena Purdy as the 2003 Milton Fall Fair Ambassador.

Serena competed for this title on Tuesday, August 26, at Hugh Foster Hall. At 17 years of age, her interests include dance, music and drama. She has been accepted into the drama program at the University of Toronto. She enjoys crafts and horseback riding. She has volunteered for Halton Women's Place and last year Serena became a volunteer at the Milton Fair, helping in the craft section. Congratulations Serena.

Serena will be present at the 2003 Milton Fall Fair, September 26, 27 and 28. She will represent the Halton Agricultural Society at the C.N.E. Ambassador of the Fairs Competition.

North Halton Happenings

September 7

- Guelph Arts Council's Historical Walking Tour, Altar and Hearth in Victorian Guelph, at Guelph Civic Museum, 6 Dublin Street South, Guelph, 2:00 p.m. For more information, call 519-836-3280.

- Arboretum's Sunday Afternoon Walk, Tree Folklore, at J.C. Taylor Nature Centre, The Arboretum, University of Guelph, 2:00-3:30 p.m. For information, please call 519-824-4120, extension 52113.

September 10

- Esquering Historical Society's Meeting with local historian, Mark Rowe, conducting a walking tour of Glen Cemetery.

September 11

- Canadian Federation of University Women, Milton and District's Wine and Cheese at the home of Patty Wilcox, 7:30 p.m. Women graduates are invited to join our club. For more information, please call 905-878-2421 or 905-876-4524.

September 13

- Arboretum Auxiliary's Plant Sale at R.J. Hilton Centre, College Avenue East, Guelph, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

- Ontario Early Years Centre's Open House at 85 Wallace Street, Acton, 9:30-11:30 a.m. For information, call 519-853-2574.

September 14

- Chicken BBQ and Corn Roast at Ballinafad Community Centre, 5:00-7:00 p.m. For tickets, please call 905-877-4072.

- Guelph Arts Council's Historical Walking Tour, Brooklyn and the College Hill, at McCrae House, 108 Water Street, Guelph, 2:00 p.m. For more information, call 519-836-3280.

- Arboretum's Sunday Afternoon Walk, Autumn Wildflowers, at J.C. Taylor Nature Centre, The Arboretum, University of Guelph, 2:00-3:30 p.m. For information, please call 519-824-4120, extension 52113.

September 15

- Alpha banquet and information night at St. George's, Lowville, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Please call the office at 905-878-1363. For more information about Alpha, go to www.alphacanada.org.

- Milton & District Horticultural Society's meeting at Royal Canadian Legion, Charles Street, 7:30 p.m. Anna Leggat's presentation, Fall Melody, will examine fall planting, cleanup, composting, soils and basic gardening techniques. Phone 905-875-0406 or visit www.halinet.on.ca/miltonhort/

- St. David's Church's Bible-based weight loss plan at St. David's Church, Campbellville, 7:00 p.m. Call 905-854-9800 or 905-854-0239 for more information.

September 16

- Alpha banquet and information night at Grace Anglican, Milton, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Please call Zandra at 416-566-6413. For more information about Alpha, go to www.alphacanada.org.

September 17

- Milton Seniors' Activity Centre's Annual General Meeting at noon with a light lunch, the meeting and election of Advisory Board members. Call 905-875-1681 for more information.

September 18

- Alpha banquet and information night at St. David's, Campbellville, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Please call Debbie at 905-876-3976. For more information about Alpha, go to www.alphacanada.org.

- The Allendale Foundation's Corporate Challenge Golf Tournament at Granite Ridge Golf Club, Milton, with tee off at 1:30 p.m. Proceeds will help fund palliative care services, projects, programs and equipment needs for Allendale's seniors and disabled adults. For information, please call Lana Burchett at 905-878-4141, extension 8505.

September 19

- Howell's Fish Fry at Hillcrest United Church, 5:00-7:30 p.m. For tickets call Karen at 905-878-3884.

September 20

- Barbecue, corn roast and silent auction at Limehouse Memorial Hall, 4:00 p.m. Plan to attend and help put the roof on the hall.

- The West Side Writers' Coalition's creative writing workshop, Plotting to Sell, at Oakville Central Library, 120 Navy Street, Oakville, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For information, phone 905-632-2224 or e-mail b.henry@3web.net.

September 21

- Drumquin's Bethel United Church's 180th anniversary at 9:30 am. A reception will follow the service. All are welcome.

- Guelph Arts Council's Historical Walking Tour, Where Guelph Began, at Guelph Civic Museum, 6 Dublin Street South, Guelph, 2:00 p.m. For more information, call 519-836-3280.

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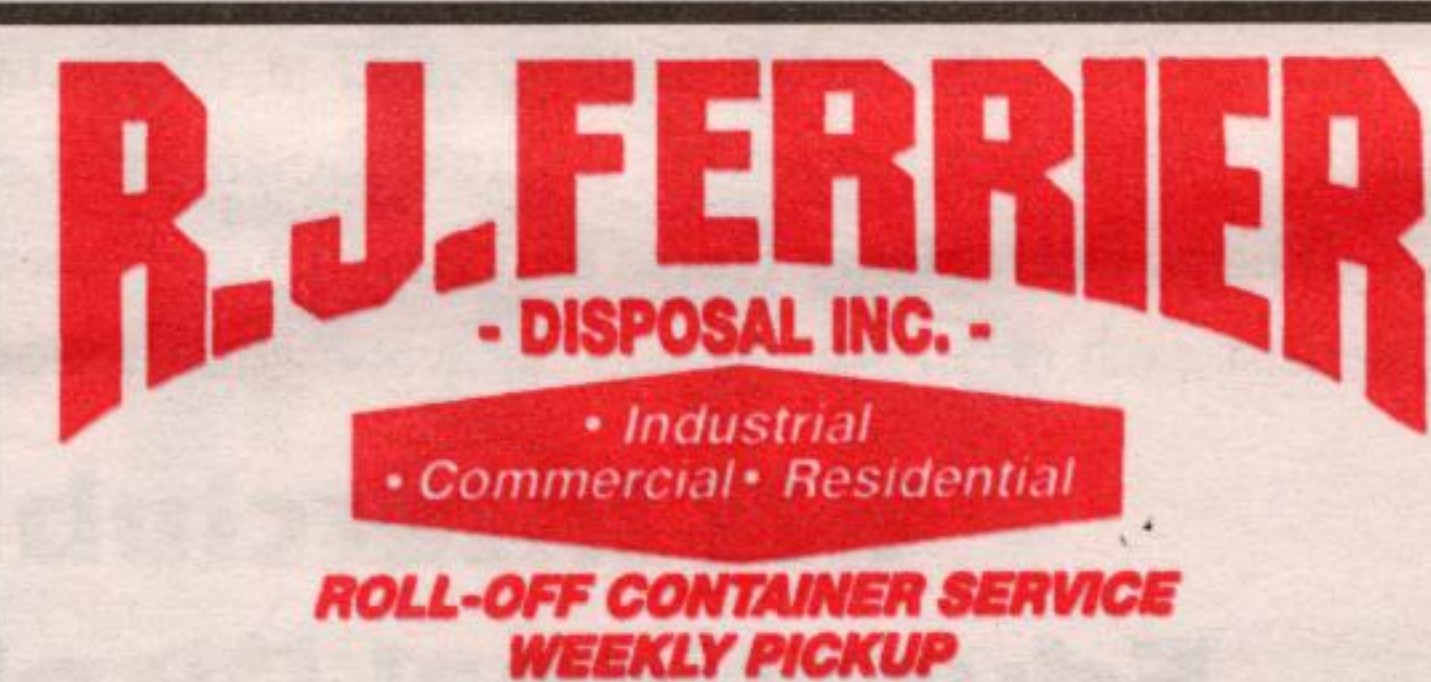
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COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE

CHRIS BURNETT

BY DEBORAH QUAILLE

"My mother was an artist. I think it's in the blood," remarks folk artist, Chris Burnett. "I've always drawn or painted. And I've enjoyed many different crafts over the years: weaving, macramé, sculpting and carving decoys."

Upon entry to the Burnett property, it becomes immediately evident that an artist and great green thumb lives in the Campbellville area home. Lush flowers, borders and trees grace the spot, casting intriguing shadows in the various back gardens. Peeping from beneath the roses or standing sentinel by rock walls is an eclectic mix of creatures including a gargoyle, Buddha, heron and rabbit.

Inside the house the space is well suited to Ms. Burnett where wood and stone, plants and pets form another natural environment. It's here that her folk art fits in so well. The rustic yet extremely detailed images draw the eye, making the viewer hard-pressed not to linger.

"I have a kind of Grandma Moses style, but with more detail," she says, smiling. "I set the image with real people, places and pets. I always try to add humour too."

Looking at a limited edition Burnett print is like looking into the past and present. To accomplish her work, Chris goes out to her subject spot and takes numerous photographs, makes notes and then brings the research home to her studio. She creates acrylic originals, most recently using board as a backing medium, and often fashions old windows to frame the work.

"I can refinish the windows and use them as a frame," she adds. "I cut the board to fit and make my painting on that." That way another dimension is added as the audience gazes through a picture window and views an enchanting farm scene.

Her first print of the village of Campbellville, *Heralds of Spring*, was created from photos taken in 1986 and was three years in the making. "It's a present-day picture. I'm interested in the relationship between people and animals and history. I try to incorporate as much as I can." Children skating on the frozen pond, barking dogs, sly cats, Holsteins at the hay, frisky horses and the old Stokes barn that was recently torn down sur-

round the focal point of the Opera Emporium. The home of John Campbell, the first settler and namesake of the village, also graces Ms. Burnett's picture of the small hamlet.

Two other favourites are *Arawana* and *Milton Fall Fair*. *Arawana* in particular has a deft use of light in a night scene that makes the image of the Chisholm farm between the escarpment bluffs glow with unusual beauty. The Iroquoian name, *Arawana*, is echoed in visual elements across the cliffs where a warrior, wolf, deer, turtle, fish, rabbit and mask are found. Along with immortalizing in her work her Morgan horse of 37 years and her various dogs, Ms. Burnett always adds hidden elements "that get people really absorbed into the painting. The funny thing is that many of the images appeared on their own like the squaw with a papoose, the horse and the bear."

The most recent piece of Chris Burnett art is the poster for the Milton Fall Fair. "Evelyn Oates, a past president of the fair, approached me to do a poster for 2003, the fair's 150th anniversary. It's going on the cover of the program," Ms. Burnett explains. The bright, lively poster follows the layout of a family portrait, except the group is made up of not only people but also farm animals.

"I tried to represent all the classes and events right from the livestock, grains, arts and rides to the horticultural classes. I always make sure my work is Canadian, and it usually has something distinctive like a flag, or the Canadian hockey jerseys or baseball shirts. In the back is a couple from 1853 to represent the past. There are some humorous elements too, like the horse ruffling the boy's hair and the goat chewing on the pumpkin."

The bold colours and delicate style of Ms. Burnett's work portray a slice of rural Ontario life, far removed from the bustle of 21st century living even though the images are not removed from this era. It's this imagination and absorbing detail that intrigue her audience - buyers who hope she will continue to record local life before it vanishes into the past.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH QUAILLE

Artist Chris Burnett with 2003 Milton Fall Fair poster

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