

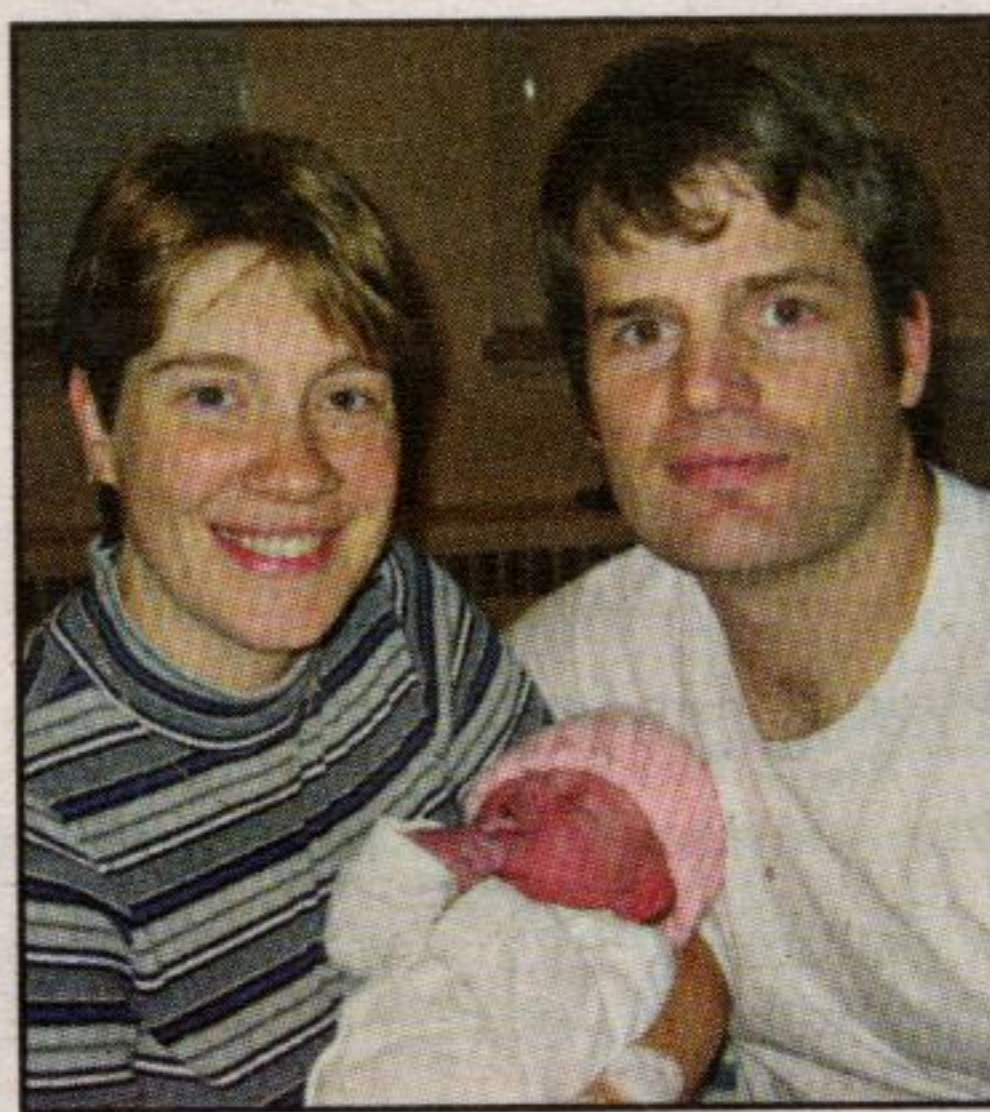
Kith & Kin



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMMY KENNEDY

The November 22 Parade of Lights at Country Heritage Park offered many historic vehicles for viewers to enjoy, including this Cockshutt owned by Richard and Betty Beecroft.

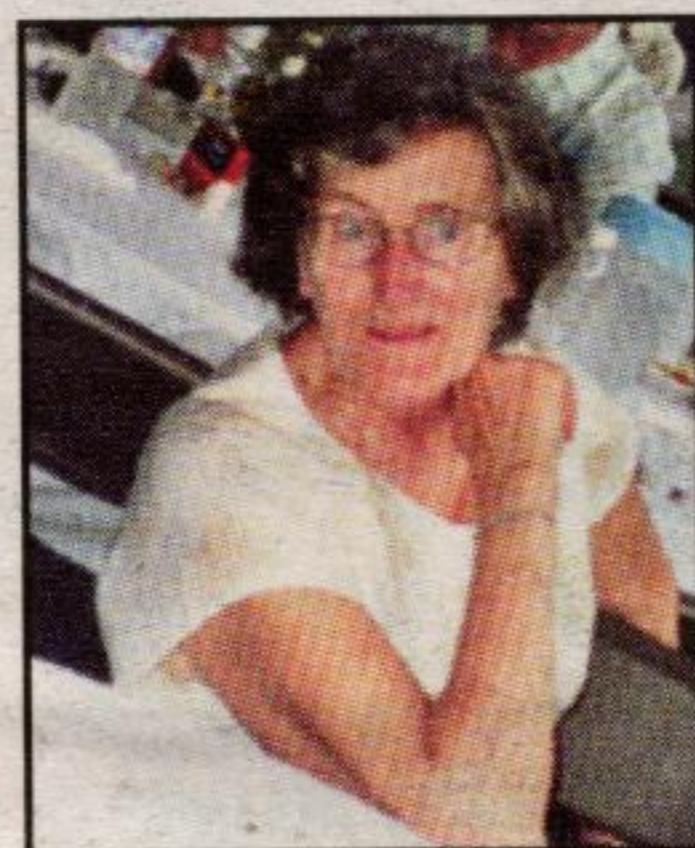
New blessing!



Rhoda and Sean Howard welcome Cora Margaret to the family fold. Cora is a baby sister to Mary.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Birthday celebration



Ramona Storey celebrates her 75th birthday on Sunday, December 28, with a party at Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church, 15 Sideroad, Brookville, from 2 to 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Bring your best wishes! If weather is inclement, the celebration will be rescheduled.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE MAUREEN SMITH

By GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

Maureen Smith can be regarded as the face of the Bruce Trail in Halton Hills. For years she has offered to lead hikes on the Trail almost every weekend. She is usually the one to staff Bruce Trail displays at events that draw the public. She also plays a role in organizing Bruce Trail Days, when hikers from all over the GTA gather in Halton Hills to celebrate or take part in the large annual yard sale.

"Maureen's tireless efforts to help are amazing," notes Grant Leigh, head of publicity and public education for the Toronto Bruce Trail Club. "She has helped put in place a chapter of the Bruce Trail and a community of walkers, hikers and concerned citizens of the Town of Halton Hills."

"She decided to start a local chapter to introduce local residents to the Trail," adds Frances Walker, a resident of Georgetown and a member of The Bruce Trail. "There is a lot of Trail quite near Halton Hills, and many people seem to be unaware of it."

Maureen moved to Georgetown from Toronto in 2000 to be near her daughter and family. Having been a Bruce Trail member since 1982, and having served as president and director of trail maintenance for the Toronto club, she wanted to continue to hike, but not alone. She set up an information display to attract people interested in joining her, and announced scheduled hikes. "In the beginning nobody turned up but perseverance paid off and some people came out," she says.

Now she and other hike leaders offer organized hikes every weekend and alternate Wednesdays. In winter they offer cross-country skiing and hikes as weather conditions allow. They also

hold public information meetings and a Christmas pot-luck dinner.

"I have discovered beautiful scenery in Ontario that I never knew existed," Maureen says. "Hiking gets me out of the house, out in the fresh air and renews my spirits and relieves stress. It is one of the best means of improving one's health and stamina without the strains and stresses of running on the body. It has certainly improved my stamina and balance and I have enjoyed good health and energy for many years."

Hiking is not Maureen's only activity. She enjoys attending Georgetown's concerts, plays and other events. She also does volunteer work in the libraries of George Kennedy Public School, Centennial School, and the Halton Hills Toy Library at the Early Years Centre. She also takes part in Norval's annual Riverfest, leading a hike along the Credit River and ending up in Willow Park Ecology Centre.

The Bruce Trail remains her passion, however. "I want to make sure the Bruce Trail and the Escarpment survive for the enjoyment of my children, grandchildren and their children, and for the people of Ontario," explains Maureen. "My part is to introduce people to the Trail. If people do not know it exists, they will let it disappear as pressures for development grow. The Trail and the organization has given me so much I must give something back."

"She has been the force behind the organization," sums up Dr. Walker.

Mr. Leigh's evaluation of Maureen is, "The Town of Halton Hills is blessed with a heck of a resource."



Maureen Smith

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