

Invitations, thank you cards, birthday cards and announcements

The greeting card industry is full of innovative and wonderful ideas. There is nothing like getting a card or invitation made especially for you. This is a unique touch that can be done for very little but will make a lasting impression.

Whether it be a card or gift the question I always ask myself is "what would I like?" That seems to be the best rule of thumb for me anyway. I am so picky; it has to be very different because I can't stand ordinary (hence, my husband Rory). The key word here is THOUGHTFUL. If your gift or sentiment is thoughtful, then who could ask for more, and thoughtful seldom costs much. The best place to start is to really think about to whom you are sending the card. What are their likes and dislikes? What is their favorite colour? Flower? Sport? Hobby?... you get the idea.

My neighbour Carol suffered a heart attack a while back; thankfully she made a miraculous recovery and is doing very well. Remembering that she adores our dog Phoebe, I looked through old pictures on the computer and found a very cute one and made up a card. It was a picture of Phoebe with her head on the floor and I got down to

the same level (only time I will admit that) the caption read "Feeling down Carol" and inside I wrote - "Hope you get up to your old tricks in no time" Well, that card was the talk of the street. It meant the world to Carol that I took the time to personalize it and Phoebe looked darned cute. That wouldn't work on everyone but Carol loves Phoebe therefore it struck a chord. That's what I mean about finding out their likes.

For my friend's baby shower, I saw a birth announcement idea in a magazine and adapted it to this project. I downloaded a diaper shape and cut and folded it out of beautiful paper complete with ribbon in lieu of pins. I affixed that to a note card approximately 3"x5" which I made from card stock. On the inside I made a little pocket of coordinating paper and inserted a business card (you can make it fancy if you wish) with the following:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Weight: _____

Length: _____

Where: _____

Inserting a baby picture with the



Phoebe

Every September I seem to get bombarded with all the fall activities. Of course the first and the most enjoyable is the garden and preserving etc. Then after Labour Day is school and the week after, the Georgetown Fair. That keeps me hopping for several days. Incidentally I won't be hopping for a few days since I broke my toe at the fair. However I did manage to show my flowers, vegetables, baking and antiques, which got entered before the mishap.

As I was putting things away I thought I'd share the first prize brownie recipe, which is a great one for the lunch box.

Simply Fudgy Brownies

- 1/4 cup baking cocoa
- 1/2 vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 1-cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/8 tsp. Salt
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips

In a small bowl, combine cocoa and oil until smooth. In another bowl beat eggs. Add the sugar, vanilla and cocoa mixture. Mix well. Stir in flour and salt just until

moistened. Fold in walnuts.

Pour into a greased 8-inch square pan, sprinkle with chocolate chips. Bake at 325 for 30 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

For the fair I did not use the chocolate chips but iced them because the class called for them iced. But for the lunch box the chips would be better than icing. But you may wish to omit the nuts since most schools are conscious of nut allergies.

kitchen kapers

COOKING UP A TREAT WITH GLENDA BENTON

I have an idea

BY CATHY MCLEOD

card was a very nice touch. Relatives were thrilled with this and it also serves as a treasured keepsake.

For the same couple I made up thank you cards for their baby shower with a picture of them as babies themselves and cropped it to look as though they were cuddling. That was a big hit. I have also seen this idea used at weddings, on wine bottle labels, place cards etc.

Another pretty cool idea I came up with was for the Fairy Princess Birthday party. When I think of fairy tales what first comes to mind is a book of course! So I made an invitation look like a sto-

rybook complete with bookmark. The outside read: Once upon a time: Inside read: There was a Fairy Princess named Ally. I called the location the kingdom, and to rsvp to Queen Heather, the possibilities were endless. Just go with it!

There is so much you can do to really make a card, invitation or announcement special just keep in mind that not only are you acknowledging someone, but by putting extra thought into and personalizing it you are telling him or her that they are special. Isn't that the point anyway! Being thoughtful costs very little but means so much!

Free garden concert to sow the seeds of literacy

In late September as light fades and fields turn from green to gold, why not take one last stroll among the flowers at Literacy North Halton's Garden Harmony concert? The local adult learning group suggests area residents sow the seeds of literacy at this afternoon event while enjoying beautiful music and fine art at the Old Seed House Gardens in Georgetown, Saturday September 25.

The free concert promises to be a unique musical and artistic experience featuring renowned talent such as the local Bach Chorale Society. Those who love the stage can witness The Globe Theatre group performing a scene from its new play *The City of Angels*. Artists and vendors will begin displaying their wares at 11 a.m. before the concert begins at 1 p.m.

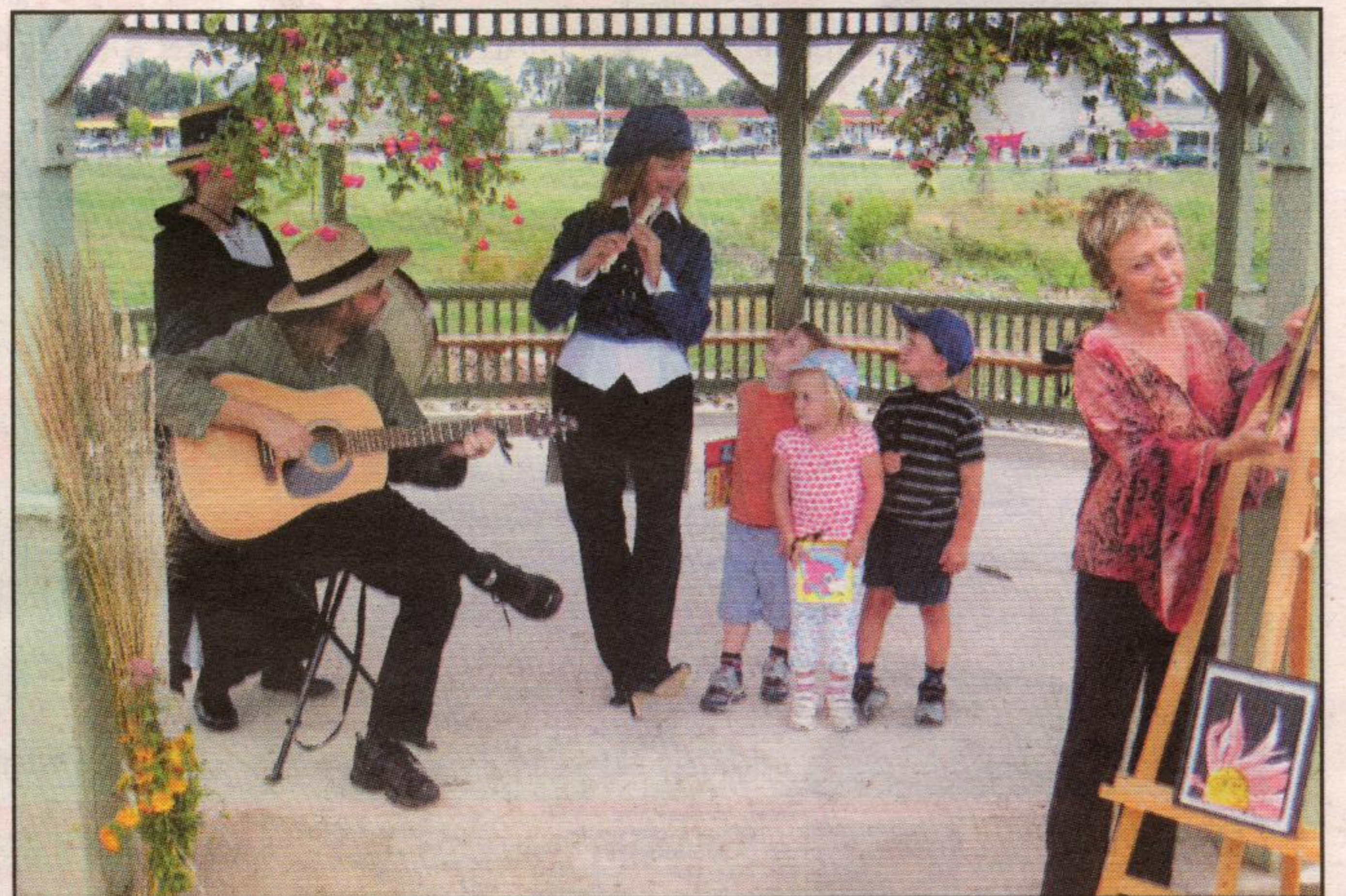
Among the musical lineup for the day is a performance by Triangl of the Brampton Folk Club. Members of Triangl have been delighting audiences with their old English-style ditties for 20 years. Georgetown's Children's Chorus will be lifting their voices later in the afternoon. The group has sung with

Donny Osmond in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Glen Williams Canada Day Glen Idol runner up, Casey Manierka-Quaile sang and danced his way recently into the hearts of Miss Canada Pageant contestants.

The ever-popular local Casey Highland Dancers take their place as the final act of the Garden Concert.

The concert is sponsored by Remington Homes and Unilock. While the event is free to the public, donations toward Literacy North Halton's (LNH) Read*Spell*Write program are greatly appreciated. The local non-profit group has been offering service to North Halton area adults who struggle with their reading, writing and math skills, for more than 17 years. Each year, LNH seeks outside funding to assist the volunteer training program and the purchase of adult literacy resources.

If you would like more information about the Garden Harmony concert please call Carmen Braund 905-873-9858. Information about LNH is available by phoning 905-873-2200 or at www.literacynh.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured are (from L to R): Brampton Folk Club's group Triangl, John and Christina Burton; Carmen Braund, Garden Harmony Committee Chair; Tristan Somerville, Julia & Christopher Loncke; and local artist, Christy Graham.