

# Jeff Lumby's view from the country

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## Lessons learned from a caring mom

Hardly a day goes by that I don't employ some nugget of wisdom dispensed by my mom. And believe me, with a child as mischievous as I was, there was a lot of dispensing to do.

If you remember the children's TV show *Size Small*, my mom, Miss Helen, will be a little more familiar. Her role as host was exactly the mom I grew up with. Never patronizing, always involved. Miss Helen could have written how-to parenting books long before any were available. She and my dad didn't subscribe to any great science, only an extreme love of their children and the desire to provide them with the tools to navigate the road of life. There was praise when deserved and discipline when needed. The fact that I received the bulk of the discipline and my brother and sister enjoyed most of the praise wasn't by chance.

When you're first born, as I was, both the learning and the teaching are first time affairs for the child and parents. Those siblings who follow have distinct advantages by noting the travails of the eldest. One of the greatest parenting tools my folks developed was the impenetrable 'united front'. Mom administered the rare spanking as swiftly as Pops, I never heard the phrase, "wait 'til your father comes home!" and I can't remember a time when they argued about their kids in front of us. A lot of my nefarious activities, egg throwing, garbage can tipping and the like, were relegated to the "boys will be boys" file. But I remember specific lessons learned from my mom that shaped certain character traits of my life.

One day in 6th grade I came home reeking of smoke. My mom calmly enquired as to why, and I spieled off some song and dance about being sent into the smoky staff room at school. I received a select whack for that one. Not for the smoking, but for the lying. In another instance she somehow discovered that I had hoisted some 4 for 1 candy from the convenience store. Mom quickly proceeded to march me the 8 blocks back to the store to confront the owner. "My son has something to say to you!" she said. I had to admit to stealing the candy, apologize and then pay for what I stole out of my allowance. I never stole a thing again.

What really set our family apart from others though was the terrific fun we had. It didn't occur to me at the time, but it's the reason our friends chose our house to hang out at. There was always a backyard rink to skate on or a daytrip bike ride to go on. Plus, my parents both love to laugh. And it didn't take their three kids long to pick up on that and make a household sport out of

teasing their mother. During our *Size Small* days, unbeknownst to the host, we placed a lit cigarette in one of the puppet's mouths and cut the segment into what my mom thought was a final edit. We nearly had to call 911 to revive her. The day mom turned 50, I went through all of the magazines in the house cutting out as many "50's" as I could find. I then thoughtfully pasted them into her birthday card. Nice kid!

Like a lot of moms today, mine was a working mom. But I never knew it. I still don't quite know how she managed it, but every day when I came home from school about 3:45, she was there waiting for me. If only to listen to me sum up my day, pour me a glass of milk and watch me head back outside. Of course I wasn't aware of it at the time, but I can't tell you how important those moments were.

Our mom's respect for family and her appreciation for individuality are why I can honestly say there isn't an ounce of dysfunction between family members. From each of our beginnings she instilled in us independence, respect, fairness, a sense of adventure, love of life and incredible self worth. Her support of our life choices has been unconditional. As a grandmother to five beautiful children, she continues to pass these qualities on to them.

We all love you very much, mom. Happy Mother's Day.

Now, all this being said, I don't have a prayer of dodging her wrath on my 50th. I'm a dead man walking.



Miss Helen with her art at her home in Baden

## Campbellville Battle of the Bands

By DONNA DANIELLI

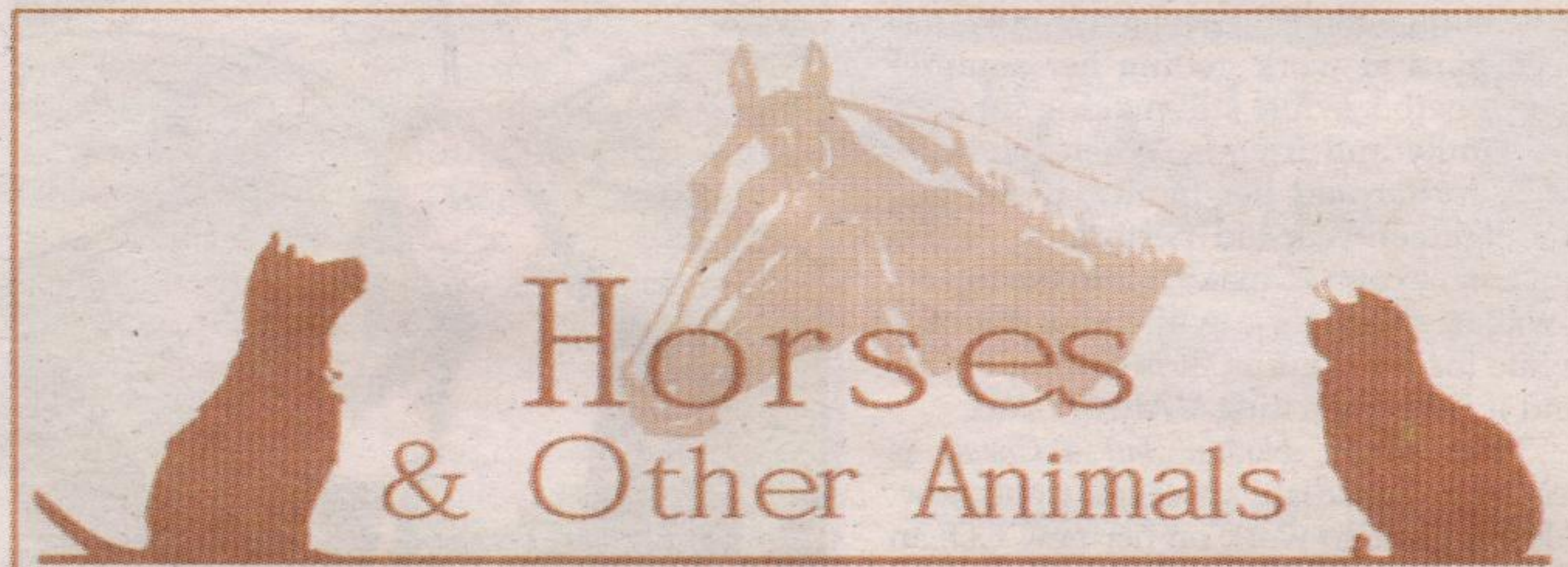
The Mohawk Inn will play host on June 11 to Campbellville's first annual Battle of the Bands competition. Non-professional bands from across North Halton, with at least one member currently enrolled in high school, are encouraged to apply for one of six spots in the competition which will take part during the weekend festivities marking Campbellville's birthday celebration.

An independent team of music industry personnel from outside of Halton will judge each application and chose six bands to battle it out on June 11 to see who claims the title of champion.

The Battle of the Bands will see each of the six bands perform a fifteen minute set that will be judged by a panel of judges that includes local country artist Alysha Brooke and Brian Hewson, owner of Escarpment Sound Recording Studio. Bands will be judged on a variety of criteria, including style, musical ability, song selection and fan reaction. There is no admission fee to attend the event although there is an application fee for bands.

Prizes up for grabs for the winners include up to six hours studio time from Escarpment Sound Studio, a \$200 gift certificate from The Guitar Shop, and 10 t-shirts silk screened with a band's name or logo courtesy of Under G Round Silk Screening.

Deadline for bands to submit their entries for evaluation is May 21. Entries must include a video of the band playing or a CD or a cassette. Complete information and the official rules and application forms are available online at [www.cedartrailmusic.com](http://www.cedartrailmusic.com).



By A.W. Finn

### Ardennais

ARDENNAIS is one of the world's premier heavy horses. This docile and powerful horse is of ancient origin and is named after its mountainous homeland on the Belgian-French border. The breed used to be less massive. As late as the nineteenth century it was being used for riding and draught work. Arabian blood was introduced in the early 1800's as well as Thoroughbred, Percheron and Boulonnais which were added in later years.

These attempts to improve the breed were not a great success and were abandoned, but the Ardennais continues to be a most useful animal. Stamina and energy made it invaluable to the military during the French Revolution as well as Napoleon's ill-fated invasion of Russia. The Ardennais were in great demand in the First World War for hauling artillery. Thousands were killed in action.

The heavy requirements of agricultural and draught duties led to the development of a heavier horse. In addition to the original small Ardennais, two other types are recognised: a

larger version known as the Auxois and the heavier, larger framed Ardennais du Nord, this horse was previously known as the Trait du Nord, these were the result of outcrosses to the Belgian Draught.

Julius Caesar and the Greek Historian Herodotus in their writings of over 2,000 years ago mentioned the horses of north-eastern France, known then as Northern Gaul.

Height 15-16 hh, colour ranges from roan, red roan, dark or liver chestnut, bay and grey.



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