

from the bookshelf

A REVIEW BY DIANE DINEEN

The Africa House

Christina Lamb

Penguin, 2000, 346 page:: originally published by Viking, 1999.

In *Out of Africa*, Karen Blixen/Isak Dinesen wrote of her life in Kenya in the 1920's and 1930's. A number of young aristocrats and landed gentry, primarily British but not uniformly, found that life was less restrictive and less expensive in several African colonies than it was at home. Blixen's efforts to run a coffee farm eventually failed, her lover, Denys Finch-Hatton died in an airplane crash and she returned to her native Denmark and a life of writing.

Another of the expatriots was Stewart Gore-Browne who settled in Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia. Gore-Browne was related to many titled British families, however as his inheritance was not large and no grand estate would be forthcoming he decided to take his English money and build a grand house in Africa. And grand it was; large and rambling with a tower, a chapel, many bedrooms, a library and a two storey dining room. His home was filled with European antiques, china dishes bearing the family crest and lots of silver and crystal. Lavish meals and the finest imported wines were served by uniformed staff. There were large European gardens and a brick village for his employees who often numbered over 1000.

Like Blixen, Gore-Browne started with a piece of land in its' natural state; through thousands of hours of work and by spending every penny he had and many he did not have, he turned the 23,000 acre property into a farm with several thousand cattle, citrus groves and gardens producing

essential oils for the perfume industry. Raised as a gentleman, Gore-Browne had to teach his employees how to make bricks for the house and other buildings, how to make wrought iron and how to maintain manicured gardens in the middle of Africa.

Gore-Browne's dealings with Africans were contradictory. His staff called him "Chipembele" or "Rhino" because of his toughness, hard work and explosive temper. At the same time he was a champion of equal rights for Africans, wanting to see them educated and in positions of power. Kenneth Kaunda, who became President of Zambia, was his protegee. Gore-Browne was involved in politics for many years and he played a role in securing Rhodesia's peaceful break with Britain. He is the only white man to be given a state funeral in Zambia.

Gore-Browne's personal life was complex. The love of his life was his aunt, his father's much younger sister. When marriage to her was not possible he chose a woman who rejected him because he had insufficient money, years later after she had died he married her orphaned teenage daughter.

Christina Lamb was travelling in Africa when she encountered the grandson of Gore-Browne, he gave her a tour of the home and access to the thousands of documents stored there. *The Africa House*, while not as lyrical as *Out of Africa*, is nonetheless a picture of an interesting time, a fascinating place and a truly extraordinary man.

coleslaw, home made pies.

•Milton Historical Society is hosting a **Dessert Euchre** at 1pm in the Carriage Room of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop. A fun afternoon for all with prizes. Fundraising Event \$5.00 - 905-875-4156

•Milton Choristers - **Catch the Sound of Swing** - Final concert of the 2004/2005 season: featuring big band sounds of the 40's and 50's with the Festival City Big Band of Stratford, Ontario. Bring your dancing shoes and join us at 7:30 p.m., at the Gambrel Barn, Country Heritage Park, Milton. Tickets are \$18 adults, 15 seniors/students, \$10 children and are available at Delacourt's on Main Street in Milton, Lewiscraft in the Milton Mall.

June 25 & 26

•**15th Annual Garage Sale** at the Opsteens' Farm, 5 Side Road, Milton, All proceeds support Independent Living Halton, an organization which includes Deborah's Home in Milton.

June 26

•**The Milton & District Horticultural Society** will be holding its annual "*Buds and Blossoms*" Garden Tour on Sunday, noon to 4:30 pm. Advance tickets can be purchased at Spice O'Life and Delacourt's. Tickets will also be on sale at the Town Hall Garden from 12 pm to 2 pm on the day of the tour. Tickets are \$7 for single and \$10.00 for family. The tour will be held rain or shine.

June 27

•**United Way of Milton** invites you to attend The Annual General Meeting Monday at 7 pm. Waldie Blacksmith Shop 16 James Street, Milton Business to be presented to voting membership: Audited Financial Statements Report on Business and Elections Bylaw Amendments Awards of Appreciation RSVP - United Way of Milton. 905 875-2550 or office@milton.united-way.ca

July 3

•**Puslinch Garden Tour** 1-5pm (Rain or Shine) tickets \$10. Sponsored by Puslinch Agricultural Society. 519-763-9852 for information or tickets.

July 9

•**The Milton Evening Star** Rebekah Lodge #79 will be holding a Garage Sale, 24 James St, just off Main from 8am to 1pm. Drop by after visiting the Farmers Market. Everyone Welcome!

July 11-15

•Discover heroes at **Hero Quest Vacation Bible School** at Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church, July 11-July 15th, 2005 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. (905) 854-1055 to pick up and drop off registration forms. Space is limited.

A labour of love sells like hot cakes

When you've been married for over 40 years, it gets more and more difficult to find interesting birthday presents for your spouse.

A BC woman, Rita Sullivan, solved that problem when she came up with an inspired and unique idea for husband Bill's 70th birthday in May.

She decided to put together a collection of his favourite recipes from their beloved homeland - Britain. Seems like a simple task - but she soon realised it wasn't.

She turned to her daughter-in-law, writer (and fellow Brit) Juliet Sullivan, for help. Rita and Juliet set to work, and together they created a personalised gift for Bill - a cookbook containing over 120 pages of his favourite dishes from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. They called it *The Best of British Cookery Book*.

Rita and Bill, originally from Sussex in the UK, have lived in Canada for over 30 years. Rita says, "Bill likes his food typically British. I have spent years trying to root around finding recipes to suit his taste - and now, finally we have them all together in one book."

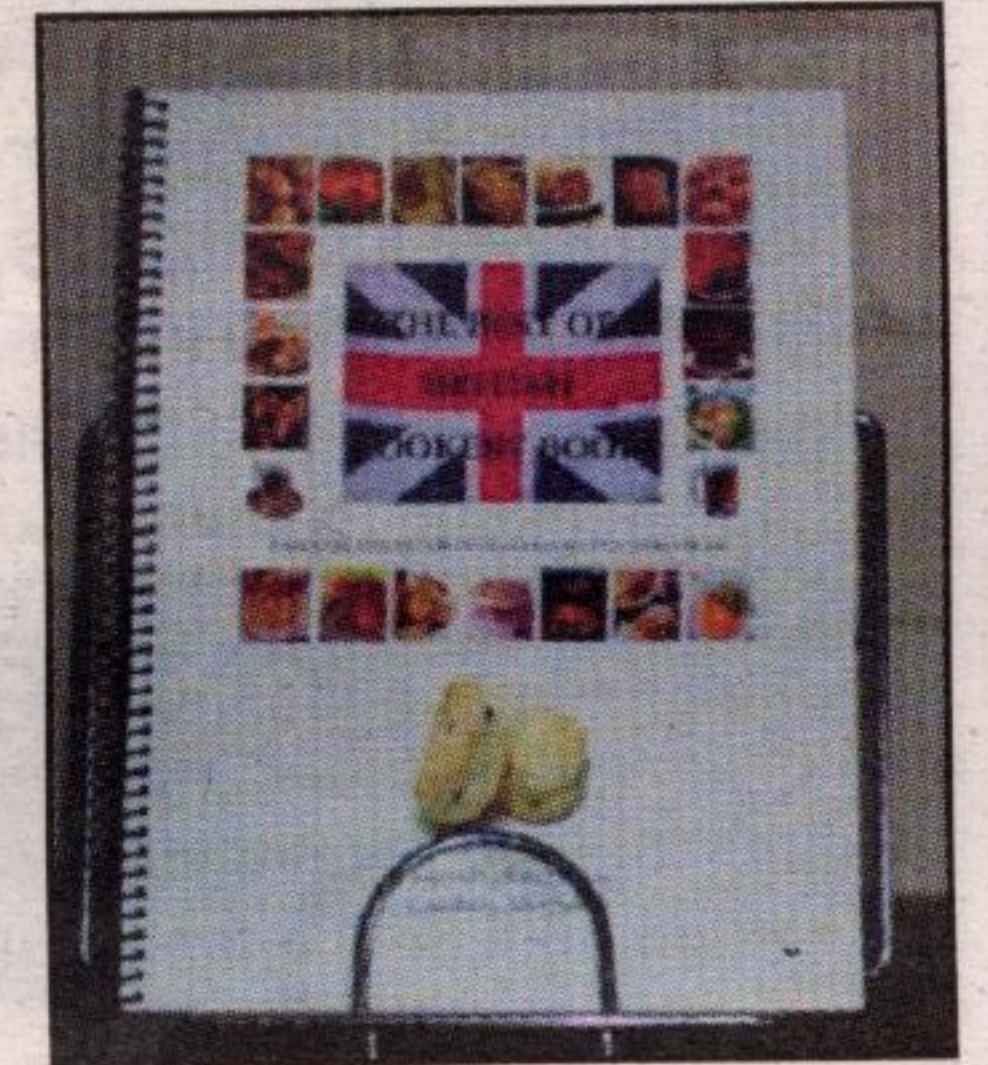
Juliet spent over four months gathering recipes from friends and family, and then another month putting the book together, designing the cover, proof-reading, editing and printing.

Juliet says, "I have only lived here for 2 years but I really miss the food I grew up with. I myself have had trouble finding a definitive guide to basic British cooking, so I hope that's what I have created with this book."

Bill loved his gift, and so did everyone who saw it, creating a demand for the book that took Juliet completely by surprise. In just under 3 weeks, she has sold hundreds of copies throughout Canada by word of mouth and on her web site, and the books are now in their third print run.

Juliet is donating 10% of all profits from the book to the charity *Feed The Children*. *The Best of British Cookery Book* sells for \$21.99 including tax, postage and packing.

You can order a copy from Juliet on (604) 575 6248, or by visiting the web site at www.britishcookbook.com



World-class judge to officiate at major dog trial

Meirion Owen to judge sheepdog trials in Milton

Renowned sheepdog handling judge Meirion Owen will travel half way across the world from Wales to judge the fifth annual sheepdog trials at Country Heritage Park.

This year's sheepdog trials will be held this Saturday June 25th and Sunday June 26th from 9:00am to 5:00pm daily. Ninety of North America's top dogs and their handlers will compete in an exciting competition of sheep herding. There will also be a Frisbee challenge on Saturday and canine sports demonstrations on Sunday.

Meirion Owen, has been competing in sheep dogs trials since he was nine. He appears regularly on television and radio and has been the Welsh National Champion.

"Meirion has been recommended to me by other judges we've have in the past, and we've been trying to get him for a few years now," comments Vikki Kidd, the organizer of the event. "Country Heritage Park has a tradition of importing judges from the UK, and we are actually one of the few trials in Ontario that does this. Expert judging is very valuable in assisting handlers and their dogs to develop skills and reach their potential. Expert judging brings the best out of top dogs and makes this trial at Country Heritage Park an exceptional competition."

Rounding out the weekend are sheep shearing, spinning, and wool dying demonstrations. In addition guests can visit many of the park's 30 exhibits including 1830's and 1870's homes, a 1910 school and see farm animals. Spectator dogs are always welcome.

Country Heritage Park is nestled in the shadow of the Niagara Escarpment south of Highway 410, on Tremaine Road west of Milton, Ontario. It offers educational programs for school children, special events, attractions, tour group programs, day camps, historical interpretation of exhibits, and an outstanding collection of antique tractors, steam engines, farm equipment and rural life artifacts. As well, Country Heritage Park offers facilities for weddings, trade shows, corporate and family celebrations and business meetings. Country Heritage Park is operated by Country Heritage Experience Inc., a not-for-profit association.

For more information on this event as well as up coming attractions and facility booking, please call 905-878-8151 or visit www.countryheritagepark.com.

A Gardener's Delight

BY DONNA DANIELLI

Come rain or shine, many garden devotees will be found outside on Sunday, June 26 as the Milton & District Horticultural Society hosts its annual "*Buds and Blossoms*" Garden Tour. "It ties in to the Society's mandate of bringing the gardens to the people," says Compass columnist and Fernridge Landscaping owner, Sean James, whose Woodward Ave garden is featured on the tour. "Each of the gardens has something unusual to offer, cottage gardens, formal gardens, a walled garden. Mine is a plant collector's garden and there's a lot of neat things to see."

"*Buds and Blossoms*" Garden Tour will take place from noon to 4:30 pm on Sunday. Advance tickets are available at Spice O' Life and Delacourts, but will also be available at the Town Hall Garden from noon on the day of the tour. Maps to the nine featured gardens in Milton will accompany each ticket sale, so participants can browse through the tour at their own pace. Tickets are \$7.00 each or \$10.00 for a family.

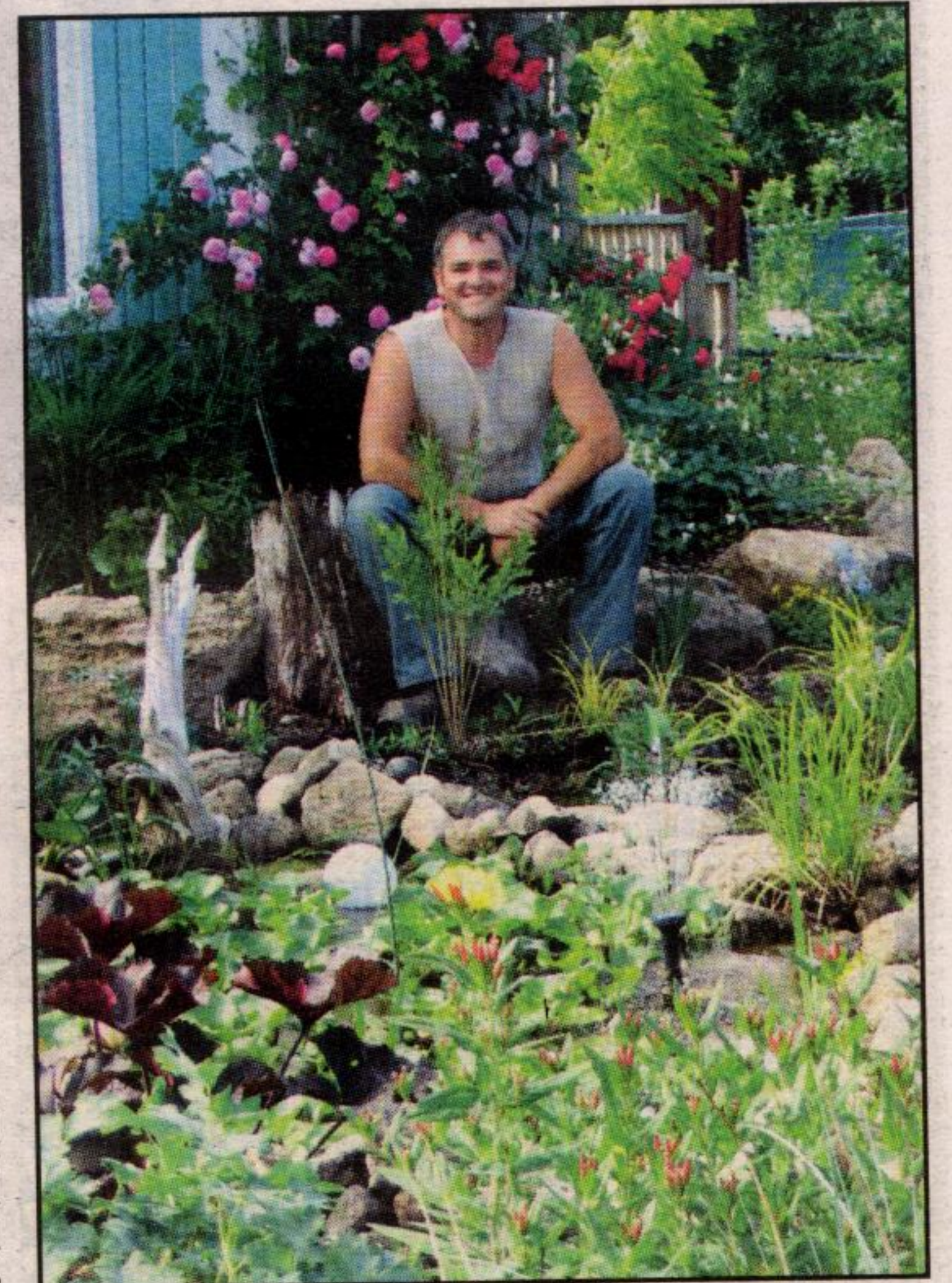


PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

Compass columnist and Fernridge Landscaping owner Sean James poses in his home garden, one of the nine featured gardens on Sunday's "*Buds and Blossoms*" Garden Tour.

halton happenings

Please note: Halton Happenings is a free editorial service to non-profit groups, churches, schools, and charities only. Deadline for submission is Tuesday at noon prior to insertion on Friday. Please restrict information supplied to include the date, time, venue, organization and contact details for your event. The Halton Compass reserves the right to edit each submission for brevity. Inclusion is at the discretion of the publisher and is dependent on space. To submit an event for Halton Happenings call 905-854-3333 or email info@haltoncompass.com

•**Register NOW!** Discover heroes at Hero Quest Vacation Bible School at Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church, July 11-July 15, 2005 from 9:30 am until 11:30 am (905) 854-1055 to pick up and drop off registration forms. Space is limited.

•**Artisans Wanted** for Christmas Show/Craft fair at St. Paul's United Church, Milton, Saturday November 5, 8:30am - 2:30pm. \$50 for 8' space, \$70 for 16' space. Call 905-878-5862(06/24)

•**Register Now** - The Milton Historical Society presents a series of programs at Waldies Blacksmith Shop for kids this summer- July 5/6 "Horsing Around" - July 12/13 "Hands-on with the Trades" - July 19/20 "A Day of Knights and Maidens" - July 26/27 "A Victorian Day". \$15 each Program or \$50 all 4. Call 905-875-4156 or miltonhistoricalsociety@bellnet.ca

•**Register Now** for the Canadian Red Cross Babysitting Course held at Georgetown Police Station, Friday July 8, 2005- 9am - 4pm. \$32.00 (includes babysitting manual & wallet card) (must be 11 yrs old and up!!) Call Catherine to register (905) 877-4490 Canadian Red Cross Authorized Provider

June 24

•**Strawberry Social!** All you can eat! 5-8 pm at Ebenezer United Church, 12274 Guelph Line. Tickets at the door: Adults \$8.50 Child (5-12) \$3.50

June 25

•**Strawberry Fair** - Milton Fairgrounds (Robert St. Entrance) 8am-6pm presented by the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary.

•**Maple Lodge Chicken B-B-Q** at Rockmosa Community Centre. Rockwood United Church hosts from 4:00-7:00. For advance tickets or deliveries call (519) 856-1070 or (519)856-4968. \$13.00 per 1/2 chicken, baked beans, potato salad,