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THE COMPUTER CORNER

By: Dan Eagen

**The Internet -
An Alternate
Choice**

I attended a meeting where the North Hastings Community Development Corporation put on a meeting demonstrating the Internet and to see if the community would support bringing the Internet to Bancroft. The official agenda quickly fell apart as members of the audience badgered the participants for technical answers and also to provide cost estimates. The representative of Bell Canada seemed to have few answers but after a short break the consultants from InfoTech presented cost estimates. The original equipment and setup cost could be from \$35,000.00 to \$40,000.00 plus on going fees of \$3,000.00 or more per month. The Federal Government in the form of Industry Canada may put up grant money as much as \$30,000.00 but this is a maximum figure that is a one time infusion and is subject to approval.

I know that I am a pessimist but I must wonder out loud as to where the money is to come from both if the proposal is only partially funded and what about after the first year money runs out? This type of ambitious project would take at least one hundred dedicated power users kicking in thirty dollars a month just to keep the system up. It is my humble opinion that they do not exist so that once the govern-

ment money runs out, the system collapses and we are left with nothing.

There are alternate proposals to bring the Internet to town. The most viable that I have seen is one proposed by Rolf Weschke of Computer Stuff. Rather than create a whole new server system here in Bancroft, Rolf proposes setting up a satellite system of an existing server located in Peterborough. This would dramatically reduce the cost and allow a much smaller user base to support it. Better yet NO government funds will be asked for. Also this system could be up and running in a matter of weeks if Rolf is contacted by enough people willing to support the venture.

I truly feel that considering the deficit of our government that we should be asking for less not more. We should learn to stand on our own. If you feel as I do and want access to the Internet please contact Rolf Weschke at 332-2427 to find out more.

**FLO ELLIOTT WRITES FROM WILBERFORCE
THE CHEDDAR FIRE TOWER**

When we were teen-agers, we did silly things too, just as teens do today.

I remember that the Cheddar Fire Tower held a great attraction for some of the gang. It was almost a right of passage to say that you had climbed this one hundred foot tower. Believe it or not, this was the first time I found out that I was terrified of heights. And of course it was the first time I had ever visited the tower.

One warm fall day, someone mentioned how nice the leaves would look from the tower. That's all it took. Away we went.

Someone had a car, because we had to drive to Cheddar, and then we had to walk through the bush to the tower, laughing, joking, and horsing around. Until, all at once, there it was!

This big steel thing kept going up and up, with the ladder on the outside, and only steel rings around it in case you fell.

Right then I got a funny feeling that this was not for me. I thought the climbing would be inside, you know: something like a lighthouse. Not this thing, open to the sky.

One of the girls in our group took to it like she was part squirrel, and zipped up and down a half a dozen times, while the rest of us were getting up our courage. My courage was the hardest to work up, because I was the last one to tackle it.

I wouldn't even have gone up then, because no one cared. But I was determined to do it, and I started up

to calls of, "Don't look down." Believe me! Looking down was the last thing I had on my mind as step by shaky step I made my way to the top.

Then I looked down and realized I would have to back out this hole a hundred feet off the ground to find the first rung of the ladder. I thought I would have to stay up there the rest of my natural life and be known as the "Crazy Lady in the Tower."

But Mr. Jeffery, who looked after the tower, assured me he would help me when it was time to leave, and coaxed me to have a look out the window. It really was a pretty sight. You could see for miles, and the coloured leaves were great. But I worried about getting down, and this spoiled my visit.

I might have stayed up there much longer, but the gang kept yelling that they would leave me if I didn't come on.

So - very bravely, with Mr. Jeffery leading the way and telling me to just look at the ladder in front of me, down we came to the dear ground.

I would never climb so high again. And, except for flying - which does not count - I never have.

The Cheddar Tower has been gone for many years. And even though I was scared out of my wits at the time, I've always been glad I had the courage to go to the top.

I would imagine there are others in this community who remember this tower and feel the same as I do about this bygone challenge!

**Your Pet May
Have Allergies**

From Haliburton County Information Centre

Is your pet constantly rubbing against the rug or furniture, licking and/or biting a specific area repeatedly, have itchy ears and/or feet and bathes excessively?

If your trusty sidekick is tormented by these symptoms, it may be suffering from allergies. Your vet will be able to tell you how to treat your pet's

condition.

If you have a question that needs answering or require help accessing services, contact the Haliburton County Information Centre for assistance.

In Haliburton, the Centre is located in the Drag River Municipal Building, Maple Ave., across from Emmerson Lumber. The office is open Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Phone 457-2733.

G.S.T. & Pensions

From Haliburton County Information Centre

GST cheques are in the mail. If you have any questions regarding your rebate, please call us at the Information Centre.

As of July 1, 1995, Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Sup-

plement will increase. The Old Age Security pension will rise to \$392.41 per month per person. Guaranteed Income Supplement maximum will increase to \$466.33 for a single person and \$303.75 for a married recipient. The maximum Spous-

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Perrin Gardens

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Perrin Gardens.

Joan and Bill Perrin retired eight years ago and have never worked so hard.

Five of their extensive acres are tamed with a large vegetable garden, massive beds of petunias, over 3,000 annuals, and an orchard. The variety of flowers arranged with an artist's eye are too numerous to mention.

Perrin Gardens is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission is a \$2 donation to either the Hospital Equipment Fund or the Swimming Pool Fund.

The Gardens are available for wedding photos for a fee of \$25.00 to either fund.

To feast your eyes and feed your soul take Hwy. 62 south of Bancroft to Quarry - Bronson Road East. Follow the road for 2.5 kilometres, and watch for the stone gateposts on the left.

Phone 613-332-0061 for information.



The Bancroft Pipes and Drums was one of the three bands in the Wilberforce Country Good Times parade.