### Former Drumquin residents describe life in Belgium

By Mrs. Cecil Patterson The following is a letter received by this correspondent from Mrs. Joan McChesney, a former resident of Drumquin, and now living in Brussels, Belgium with her husband and family. Mr. McChesney is with Ford International. They have been two years in Belgium and she has written this letter for Drumquin news. We feel it is so interesting, friends will enjoy it.

46 Av des Orangers, Brussels 15, Belgium.

Dear Ella: I promised you something for your paper and it is long overdue, but it is a difficult letter to write. How to put all of Belgium in two or three pages is the problem. However

. . here goes . . . The people are quite delightful. We have found them very kind and helpful. They speak either French or Flemish with the other language as a second language. Sometimes we meet someone who can speak English, but usually our French is better than their English. Languages are a real problem in Europe. Just think how difficult it is to understand your neighbors and your friends who speak English. Now think of Europe where there are so many small countries, each with its own language, money and laws. There is definitely a difficulty in communication of ideas. However, the most important thing is that everyone tries to understand what we want; and most of the time, we are amazed at their patience and their kindness.

Belgium is a country divided by its languages. I sometimes think that I will write to Mr. Pearson and ask him to see what two official languages can do to a country. Always there is one language which is the sensible language for the country. In Canada, it is English. In Belgium, it is French. However, the Flemish

half of the country has a great pride in its language and the schools in this area are taught in Flemish. In Belgian schools, the students often study four languages - usually French, Flemish, German and English. This cuts down the time available for science courses. Brian and Douglas go to the International School which follows the American curriculum. (I could not see any point in having them fluent in French and Flemish and lacking in physics and chemistry. As it is, they have enough French to listen to and occasionally enter the conversation when we have French friends school is like other Belgian schools in the huge amount of homework given every even-

The buildings here are beautiful. French and Flemish artistry combines in this country to make a drive through any town, city or village absolutely enchanting. Many of the houses are row houses. Sometimes vou see the first house or the middle house of the row all by itself - waiting for the rest to be built. Sometimes each owner of a row house has his own idea about his own roof line; and so the roofs will look like a child's drawing - one high, one low, one with a steep slope, and one with a false stepped roof. Concrete is cheaper and easier to find than wood, so floors and framework of the houses are built of reinforced concrete. Walls are of brick or stone or stucco. The floors in my home are marble. Wood floors are a luxury and are polished within an inch of their lives.

The gardens are beautiful. There is certainly no lack of water for them. It rains most of the time, but it is a different rain than the heavy downpours that we have in Canada. It is just a light but constant drizzle. Some days we don't have any rain at all. And sometimes, around July or September, we have almost a complete month of warm, sunny days. The rain does not bother anyone here. Nobody stays home because it is raining. But I do have a summer raincoat and a winter raincoat and three umbrellas in

different colors. All the cattle that we have seen are dairy cattle. In the winter, they must live on hay that has been stacked outside

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- dark and musty looking known fact that regulations to with a minimum of leaf. This any French nation act either has been an exceptional summer with only half as much rain. I notice that the hay racks in the fields are empty. So the hay must have dried early and been stored inside. Farm equipment is not as modern as it is on a Canadian farm; but we see modern equipment on the larger farms in the better farming districts. As the knowledge and the money becomes available, the farmers are improving their tools.

When you go out for dinner

in Belgium, you reserve a table for 8.30. Before that, you won't be served because the waiters are eating. After that, you will have the best food and the best service in the world. We have eaten in all sorts of restaurants in Belgium and have only once had a poor meal. The technique of dining is different here. Conversation and friendship are important to a meal. The food that you order is specially prepared for you. Then it is placed on a platter, garnished like a work of art, and displayed to you for your appreciation. Finally it is served like the treasure that it is. Wine is served, of course, with the food. Later the dessert is served and still later, the coffeehot, black and snarling. A dinner can easily take two and a half hours. It is very easy to become accustomed to this slower pace of living. I think that it will take me much longer to revert to a fast Canadian meal. There is no such thing as going out to dinner AND a show. You go to dinner OR a show. I do hope that those lucky people who went to Expo had a chance to have a Belgian meal.

I have left the Belgian driving habits to the last because they are so absolutely incredible. I can tell you about them, but you cannot understand until you have seen them for yourselves. The first thing that you must know is that there were no driving regulations in Belgium until roughly eight years ago. These drivers are not intentionally bad. They are just untaught. You bought a car, learned how to start and stop it, placed a printed sign "debutant" in the back window, and away you went. Now there are some reg-

through all the summer rains ulations — but it is a wellas a dare, or are ignored. So we have maximum speed limit signs through open sections of the city of approximately 40 m.p.h. I drive there at 50 m.p.h. and I am continually passed by tiny cars with their accelerators pressed to the floor. In the country, there is no speed limit.

There is another law called the Priority of the Right. This

They race in traffic. They pass on the curve of a curved hill. They drive through all orange lights, and quite often through red lights. When they wish to make a left turn, they don't feel that they have to through three lanes traffic. becoming compulsory. We all want to know who is teaching the teachers. The Belgians enjoy their cars and they enjoy driving. It's fun, fun, fun! But the accident rate is terrific and the insurance rates are, I believe, among the highest in Europe.

Brussels is a jewel of a city. It has every kind of street from wide boulevards to narrow, twisting streets, one car width wide. It has every kind of building from modern to ancient.

Its shops are filled with jewels, haute couture clothes, guns, china, lace and linen, as well as the things that are necessary to support life. It has Val St. Lambert crystal, which is the finest in the world. Land is very precious in this tiny country, but huge wooded areas have been kept in the city for the enjoyment the people. We love this city and people - and we're having a ball.

means that any car or motorcycle coming from your right has the right of way. Due to this European rule as it is applied here, most Belgian cars have a large dint in the front right side of the car. This just means that someone insisted on his right of way. The drivers here do, as a matter of course, all the terrible things that our beginners learn NOT to do in the first lesson.

get into the left lane of traffic. They are quite capable of making a left-hand turn This year, driving licences are

Love to all, P.S. We expect to be home in July 1968. So be sure that you arrange a sunny one!

# North Halton O.S.S.T.F.

Thomas Campbell, assistant to the Deputy Minister fo Education, spoke on trends in education to members of the North Halton branch of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation recently in Georgetown.

Retiring president M. T. Ramautarsingh of Georgetown was dinner chairman. He was presented with a gavel by Mrs. M. Powys as a token of appreciation.

A new executive headed by Martindale of Acton was, installed by Mr. Richardson. The executive includes president Mr. Martindale; Mrs. M. Powvs, Milton, first vice-president; A. Truscott, Erin, second vice-president; David Meakin, Georgetown, third vicepresident; and Miss E. Carey, Georgetown, secretary - treas-

Mr. M. Richardson brought greetings from the provincial office of the Ontario Federation and spoke of the exciting developments to challenge teachers in the coming year. A number of resolutions were discussed and passed at the meeting.

The ostrich lays the largest egg — about three pounds; the hummingbird the smallest about the size of a bean.



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IN MILTON AND DISTRICT

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completed two successful rounds in its quest for the "triple crown" of rock-throwing, by winning both the zone and district championships in the past two weeks. On November 18 they will complete the circut as they enter the provincial championships to be staged in

MILTON LEGION SHUFFLEBOARD TEAM has Milton. In the front row are Don Murdoff, Cliff Taylor, captain Bob White and Max Bradbury. Standing are Jim Smith, Steve Rasberry, Stan Callard and Ron Mercier. They display the individual trophies, team trophy and blankets they won at Saturday's district final. (Staff Photo)

## Milton Legion's shuffleboarders will seek second "triple

A team of eight shuffleboard board players in the province Hall presented trophies to the ond consecutive "triple crown" of the shuffleboard courts on Saturday, November 18. The provincial shuffleboard championships will be played at

ing the trophy. ago they won the zone cham- the provincial playoffs. pionship again, then on Saturtrict "B" title. Some of the best shuffle-

By Mrs. Cecil Patterson

Get well wishes are extended

to Mrs. Will Alderson who is

a patient in Temple Hospital,

235 North Hoover St., Los An-

geles, California, U.S.A. Mrs.

Alderson and her sister Miss

Kenney of Acton, were on a bus

tour with a group of Senior Ci-

tizens' of Milton for a three

week holiday. Unfortunately

she fell and suffered a broken

hip and had to be hospitalized.

As soon as she is able she and

her sister will return home by

Birthday greeting to Wallace

Simpson, Dwayne Curtis, Mrs.

John Pickett, Sr., Thelma Wil-

Pickett, David Prestige and

Mr. and Mrs. Bernardini at-

tended "Open House" at Water-

loo College last weekend. Over

low as -

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a speedy recovery.

Cheryl Bradley.

DRUMQUIN

players from Milton Legion will be descending on Milton winners at the end of the day. will be shooting for their sec- for the Ontario playoff a week Milton's team included captfrom Saturday. But the staunch Miltonians claim they've got a finger on the crown already. They won Saturday's dis-

trict meet handily, taking 14 of Milton's Legion Hall and Bob the 15 games they played with tain Bob Coad and Bob Davis, White's team is anxiously eye- little trouble. Woodstock, the Gerry Easton, Harry Walker, runner-up team, emerged in Norm Steward, Jack Atkinson Last year the team won the second place after a sudden- and John Smith. zone, district and provincial death playoff against Erin finals, and as champions in Team Two after each squad each division they earned the had won 10 games apiece. right to host all three playoffs Both Milton and Woodstock in Milton this year. Ten days will represent District "B" in

Other teams competing inday they defeated five other cluded Port Credit with seven teams to cop their second Dis- wins, Erin No. One with four, and Dundas who got blanked. District sports officer Jim

students took advantage of the

event to view the college build-

rolled at Waterloo.

son on November 3.

ings. Renzo Bernardini is en-

Congratulations to Ulrich

and Kay Nowak on the birth of

Students of Percy Merry

School collected for UNICEF as

usual and proceeds were very

worthwhile, nearly \$160 was

will meet at Percy Merry

ber 9 at 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Dona-

good program has been ar-

ranged and refreshments will

Hot Dog Day will be held at

Percy Merry School on Wed-

nesday, November 15. Kitchen

helpers for that day will be

from room 10 and room re-

van is the new president.

Home and School Association

Woman hospitalized

on bus trip in U.S.A.

air. Her many friends wish her School on Thursday, Novem-

kinson, Paul Stewart, Louise be served. All are welcome.

10,000 parents and friends of presentative to Mrs. Donovan.

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ain White and Don Murdoff.

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Jim Smith, Stan Callard, Max

Bradbury and Ron Mercier.

Woodstock players were cap-

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#### Cabinet decision

### Oakville shuts out hunt

Halton County had its deer hunt, but not in the Oakville district. The Ontario Cabinet met Thursday and decided to exempt Oakville from the Halton deer hunt.

The decision to have a hunt in Oakville was made and reversed several times before Oakville Council came finally to a negative decision. Several delegations went before Oakville Council including a group of 80 hunters in favor of the hunt. An earlier decision to

ban the hunt was reversed fol-

lowing that delegation. There have also been complaints from farmers who have lost up to \$2,000 in a single year in crop damage

done by deer when there was

no hunt. Mayor McLean Anderson appealed to the Minister of Lands and Forests Rene Brunelle. When the issue came before the cabinet Thursday, the old Trafalgar Township area was exempted from the three day deer hunt.

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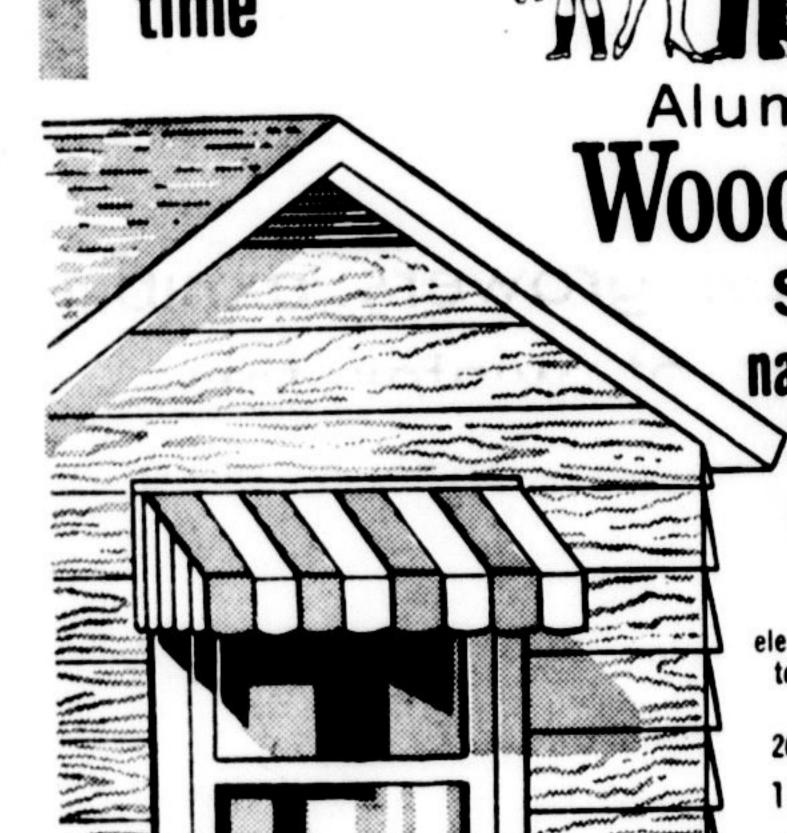
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AT 10.15 A.M.

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