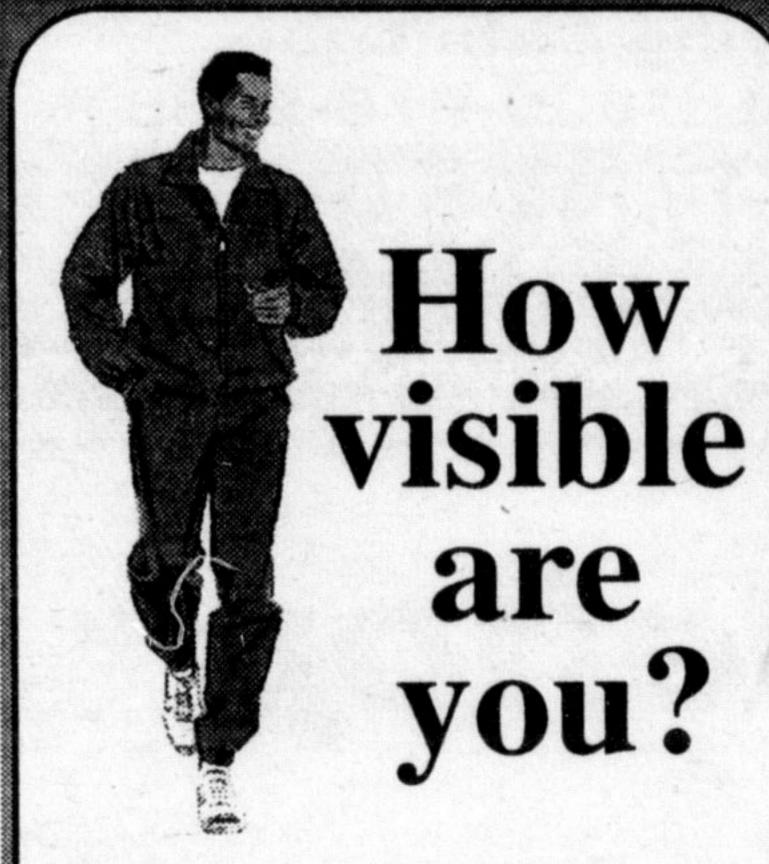




A good health tip from Milton District Hospital



The winter season means shorter days, poorer visibility due to blowing snow and increased braking distances for drivers. If your usual exercise routine includes an invigorating evening walk or jog, make sure you are visible in the dark. Drivers must be able to see and recognize you before it's too late. Tote a lit flashlight along on your route or wear reflective tags and (like headbands, rings wristbands, a belt and ankle bands).

"For goodness sake" is brought to you courtesy of



and The Canadian Champion

# goodness Floral creations McPhee's business



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

APPROACHING YOUR

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Martha McPhee operates Maranatha Flowers.

R.A. (Randy) Clouden MBA, CFP

1275 North Service Road W.

Certified Financial Planner

By LISA CARTWRIGHT

The Champion

eople come from all over southern Ontario and the United States to purchase the floral creations of Campbellville's Martha McPhee.

Ms McPhee is the owner of Maranatha Log House, Flowers and Seasonal Decorating.

Located on Guelph Line, her workroom and shop are situated

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routes you can

I can help guide

you toward your

retirement goals.

inside her 1850 log home, a historical building belonging to John Carnegey, one of the first members of parliament.

Her shop consists of unique cards, antiques, some of her floral creations and fresh flow-

Ms McPhee doesn't carry mums or carnations, but only high-quality flowers that are different from the everyday.

Even her roses are different from the ones people get elsewhere.

"People come from all over for my roses," Ms McPhee said. "I see it as it is better to have one beautiful rose, then a that last dozen roses overnight."

#### Returning to nature

The smell of dried flowers, and the friendly bark of Dexter, a 14-year-old English cocker spaniel, greets you as you enter the shop. Ms McPhee's workshop is located off the shop overlooking the backyard.

The spacious workshop has large windows that look out over the 240-acre woodlot. Deer and coyotes can often be seen from the home.

Most people are looking to return to nature, said Ms McPhee, who works with interior designers to create floral window treatments and wall sculptures.

People "want to let the outdoors in. They want to get back this." to nature and feel part of the earth."

The mother of four grown daughters creates spectacular flower arrangements from tiny bouquets to large wreaths that hang on the wall, to wall sculptures using roots and vines to window treatments that allow the daylight to come in.

## European look

Her floral art is based on country English garden and European looks.

When Ms McPhee does interior design work, she will go to the client's house to get a feel of their style.

"I try to get that person's personality into what I am doing. I am not one of those designers who try to push my personali-

Ms McPhee also does the flowers for weddings. She will

have several consultations with the couple in order to discover what they like. She will also find out the height and size of the people in the wedding party, colours and styles of the dresses and the couple's flower preferences.

#### Home for all seasons

In addition to people coming from across the continent to buy her arrangements, her home, which has been called a home for all seasons, and her work have been featured in magazines and captured on film. She also does the styling for magazine photo sessions.

Ms McPhee has spent 35 years in the industry and taught floral design for 15 years. She had a shop in Burlington, moving before Campbellville.

People who seek out her work do so because they are looking for something different, she said.

"Each thing I do is like a work of art. It is unique onto itself."

And the talented artist doesn't know what she is going to create until she begins.

"I am not sure what I am going to do until I am doing it. It is a God-given gift that I can look at someone's house and say they should do that and

### Prayer part of work

Ms McPhee said prayer goes into her work as well.

"Before I do anything, I pray for it. I think God is a real important part of my work, and a very big part of my life."

Ms McPhee works with a variety of natural materials including artificial, dry and real flowers, greenery, roots, berries and fruit.

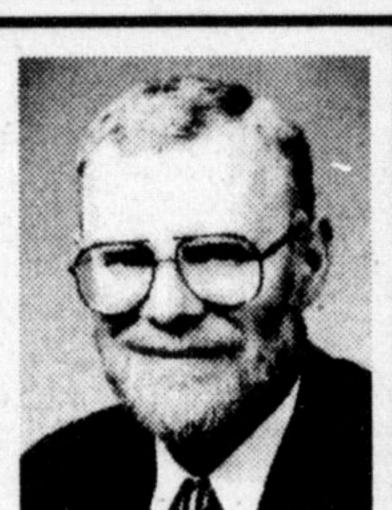
For Ms McPhee, it is a love of the job that keeps her creating new pieces of art.

"I love my work. I can express myself. I have had an illness, and without my work I don't think I would be able to cope with it."

Log House, Marantha Seasonal Flowers and Decorating is located at 125 Main St. S. in Campbellville.

## Investors Group Financial Services Inc. Oakville, Ontario L6M 3G4 (905) 847-7776 ext. 371 1-800-567-2276 House Calls THINKING OF BORROWING FOR

YOUR RRSP



Bob Reid, CFP

There are a number of considerations in deciding to borrow for your 1999 RRSP contribution. The most important is how long will it take to pay the loan back. It generally makes sense to borrow if the loan will be entirely paid off within a few months or at most within a year.

## THIS IS NOT ABOUT RRSP'S

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THE INVESTMENT CENTRE

# McPhee gives back

Martha McPhee of Marantha Log House, Flowers and Seasonal Decorating uses her art for charity work.

At Christmas, she decorates one or two houses for the Burlington and Hamilton Junior League's House Tour.

She has also decorated homes for Appleby College and last year decorated three homes in Milton in support of the United Way.

She also gives gift certificates to charities and is involved with the church.