

Arts & Entertainment

Book signings for heritage publications at mall

Town's past comes alive in new books

Sometimes the best stories are discovered accidentally.

As part of a promotion to discover Milton's heritage, the Milton Historical Society will hold a book signing for two new Milton-based books May 4 at Coles at Milton Mall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

During research for historical stories, Deborah Quail, a freelance writer, found material from Lou Bradley's interviews with Amy Howes Merry made an excellent local history book.

"The material in 'Mrs. Merry's Memories' was derived from a series of six cassettes of taped conversations with Amy Lolita (Howes) Merry, made in 1976 by Lou Bradley," said Ms Quail. "Thankfully, she (Ms Bradley) had the foresight to visit with Mrs. Merry once a week during that winter and delve into the past, and gain a personal perspective on rural life in the Hornby area during the late 1800s and early 1900s."

Ms Merry, a life-long resident of the

Drumquin area, was born December 12, 1888, to Joseph and Isabella Howes in a frame house on the land where her great-grandfather settled. Jonathan Howes came from Norfolk, England, in 1819 with his wife Hannah Watt and their children.

They purchased 200 acres of Crown Land in the new Trafalgar Survey, a tract of land now bounded by Trafalgar Road and Sixth Line, and the centre lot between Derry and Britannia roads.

"I remember Mrs. Merry as a warm-hearted woman from my years attending Bethel United Church in Drumquin, which was also her house of worship," Ms Quail said.

"I attended Percy W. Merry Public School and the Merry's were well regarded in our area. Throughout the transcript, I tried to preserve Mrs. Merry's homey phrases and inflection, although her words have been edited for clarity and rearranged categorically."

The book, which sells for \$19.95,

includes a compact disc to provide some of the best original interview segments of Ms Bradley with Ms Merry. Proceeds from 'Mrs. Merry's Memories' will go toward the restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.

In 'Time Capsules From Milton's Past 1890-1894', local historian Jim Dills research has come up with both horrifying and humorous tid bits that show a change in attitude over the past 100 years.

In 1892, a Nassagaweya farmer who brutally beat his wife several times was taken by task by his justice-minded neighbours and "given a fine new suit of tar and feathers.

He didn't appreciate the gift but will perhaps be a better husband in the future."

The book also describes feats of incredible endurance. In February 1893, Jonathan Featherstone's team drew more than 8 tons of limestone from Milton to his farm in Trafalgar.

The following month, Robert Ramshaw and John Pabst raced to make 100 first-class horseshoes in five hours and five minutes.

Hot political skirmishes, church doings, the Kickapoo Indian Medicine Company's traveling show, child beatings, new brick buildings and the lack of hard-labour prisoners to clean up the court house square provide glimpses into the town's patchwork past.

'Time Capsules From Milton's Past 1890-1894', which costs \$7.50, is available at Coles at Milton Mall and Harris Stationary on Main Street.

Mrs. Merry's Memories



From a series of taped interviews by Lou Bradley

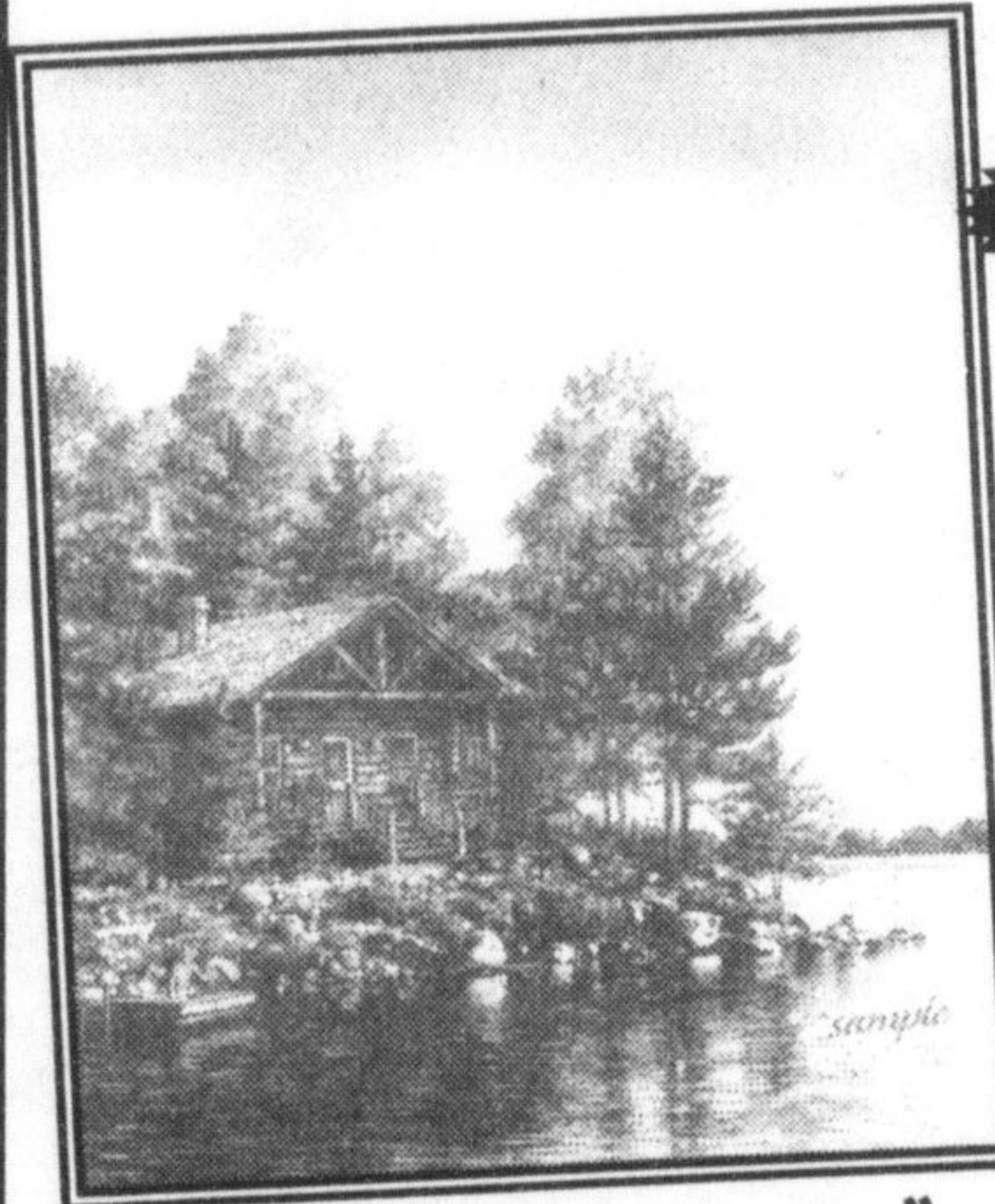
Edited by Deborah Quail

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OPEN: Wednesday - Saturday 10-6; Sunday noon-5

Players' latest production hits the stage next Friday

Join the Milton Players Theatre Group as it entertain audiences with its upcoming production 'Run For Your Wife' by Ray Cooney.

The doors will open next Friday at 7 p.m. for a show-only performance at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Other show-only performances are scheduled for Thursday, May 9 and Friday, May 10 Dinner theatre performances are scheduled for Saturday, May 4 and

Saturday, May 11. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. followed by the play at 8:15 p.m.

'Run For Your Wife' tells the story of a taxi driver in England who had two wives living in two different apartments. His world comes tumbling down when he gets hurt and both women report him injured.

Tickets are available at Delacourt's on Main Street or by calling (905) 875-0629.

Berry will visit gallery May 4

Break out your prints.

Artist Laura Berry is scheduled to sign copies of her paintings at the Credit Creek Art Gallery on May 4.

Ms Berry is known for her watercolour creations

of rural settings.

She has more than 70 limited-edition prints in circulation.

The artist will be on hand at the gallery (9317 Regional Road 25, north Milton) from 2 to 4 p.m.

Live at the Ivy

Paul Stephens Apr. 27

Mark Nelson May 4

Weekend BBQ on the Patio (weather permitting)

3MDM every Thursday

Daily Lunch & Dinner Specials



The Ivy Arms

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FOOD SAFETY:

BBQ tip for cooking ground beef burgers

(NC)—Health Canada suggests you make the burger patties thin to ensure the meat cooks all the way through. Use an instant-read food thermometer to check that the middle of the burger reaches 71°C (160°F). Insert the food thermometer through the side of

the thickest burger, into the middle of the patty. Your burger's done at 71!



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