

# United Church-created calendar brings Lowville's heritage to life

*Project could expand to include book*

By **ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER**

*Special to The Champion*

Lowville United Church has found a way to raise funds and preserve the community's history at the same time — with the 2006 Lowville Community Calendar.

Countless hours of research — including numerous interviews with area families — went into bringing the calendar to life.

"This project was a long time coming and it's a way for us to honour the community we love," said Dave Haley, chair of the church's Ways and Means Committee in charge of fundraising. "When we were brainstorming ideas, this one was set aside several times before we finally decided to bring it to life. Now that we have, it has been a lot of fun getting wrapped up in the history of Lowville."

The calendar features many popular and historical locations throughout Lowville, such as the Coulson Family Home, Lowville General Store & Bistro, Mill Pond Dam and, of course, Lowville United Church. Although the inside of the calendar remains the same, there are six different covers that people can choose from — each featuring a different historical building.

"We had such good artwork and photographs and knew the different covers would sell," said Mr. Haley. "There's the Lowville United Church, the Lowville General Store, the Old Grist Mill, the Lowville Golf Club, the Coulson Family Home, and the Lowville Bistro to choose

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from."

The featured covers are sponsored by the families or people who own or owned the buildings through calendar purchases and donations to the church. In addition to the information that the people have provided, intense research has been conducted through the historical society, local libraries, the courthouse and through the natural trail of word-of-mouth.

Now a historical book is being considered for the amalgamated information.

"We've spent endless hours speaking to everyone in our area to get the backgrounds and histories of all these buildings and the families that have lived in them," explained Mr. Haley. "It's amazing the things people remember and the stuff they tell you about. We've found some 'skeletons in closets' and even a ghost, although we're not sure yet who she is. There will likely be a book come out of all of this as we've dispelled many myths and the information is factual. We've unearthed so much through this calendar."

Mr. Haley said that the church has several key people who have made the calendar as special as it is and sales are going well.

"We're very fortunate that our printer, Dave Cooper of Waterdown Gallery & Graphics, has been so accommodating and a lady named Bev Johnson has done all the computer work for the calendar," added Mr. Haley.

"This will likely be a five-year project and we set a goal of \$5,000 for the 2006 calendar. So far, we're at about \$3,600 and still going strong. We've already got plans under way for the 2007 calendar, which is great!"

Another important resident who provided a great deal of information about Lowville and, in particular, the Lowville General Store, was one of the store's original owners, 98-year-old Milton resident Clara Auckland. She and her husband, Fred, owned the store from 1937 to 1961, and she has many fond memories of the area to share.

"I often think about those wonderful days that Fred and I enjoyed our little country store in the Lowville valley," she recalled. "I'm going to give my four copies of the Lowville calendar to my family this Christmas. I know that they will treasure them and reminisce about their childhood days in Lowville."

Copies of the calendars can be purchased at various locations throughout Milton and Burlington and the various covers can be viewed online at [www.lowvillecalendar.com](http://www.lowvillecalendar.com). For more information, contact (905) 335-2136.

# Local 4H team knows its stuff

*Halton 'Reserve Champs' in recent trivia competition*

By **ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER**

*Special to The Champion*

Halton's 4H team was the Reserve Champion in the 24th Annual 'Go For the Gold' competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair a few weeks ago.

In a very close competition, the team members answered dozens of questions on 4H, agriculture, life skills and current affairs.

"The games were all fairly close in scores and there was no team that dominated," said Karen Dair, co-chair of the event.

Team members must compete at other levels before winning their way to the final at the Royal and often prepare a year in advance, said Ian Rumbles, communications co-ordinator for 4H Ontario.

"Members compete at a county and regional level before going to the provincial competition at the Royal," said Mr. Rumbles.

"Members practise up to a year in advance but usually three to four months in advance (is more intense)."

Members of the Halton team are Sarah Breckon of Campbellville, Melanie Cousins of Milton, Kaitlin DeVore of Milton, Rebecca Murray of Acton, and Suzanne Thibodeau of Georgetown.

Halton, representing Region 4, competed against Grenville (1st), Middlesex (3rd), Prince Edward (4th), Huron (5th), and Algoma (6th).

Each member who competed received a medallion in honour of the 4H Ontario 90th anniversary.

The 'Go For the Gold' competition is sponsored by the Ontario Agricultural College Alumni Association and the Ontario Mutual Insurance Association with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and 4H Ontario providing 'in-kind' contributions.

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Best Regards  
Milton Santa Claus Parade Committee

*A Very Special Thanks to All Those Who Donated, Supported, Participated and Watched This Year's Parade!*