

In 1925 social activities were front page news

by
CATHY DUPUIS

Back in the 1920s a newspaper not only reported occurrences within the town or village it was serving, it also carried any social activities within the community. This would be the only way some people knew of their friends' or neighbours' activities, as houses were generally far apart.

A 1925 edition of The Penetanguishene Herald, gave the town's social activities front page coverage. The following activities were reported in the July 30, 1925 edition:

"Mrs. Wilmoth, of Toronto, is visiting Mrs. George Copeland."

"Former Penetanguishene resident Mr. Arthur Spohn, who now resides out west, is visiting with friends in town."

"Mr. William Dodgson, of the Ontario

Hospital staff, is spending the weekend at Wasaga Beach."

"Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Gordon, of the Ontario Hospital staff, are spending a few days in Collingwood."

"A bunch of bowlers participated in a bowling tournament on Wednesday."

"Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dean, and son of Detroit, are spending a week with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smythe."

"Mr. Robert Keare and Mr. J. Fullerton of Duquesne Pa., are visiting the former's aunt Mrs. John Reynolds."

"Misses Lydia Quesnelle and Bertha Hamelin of Toronto are visiting with friends and relatives in town."

"Rev. and Mrs. Sanderson, Methodist clergyman who was staying here for four years, some time ago, are in town visiting

friends."

"The Junior baseball club defeated Midland in a six inning game, by a 10 to 4 score."

"Mr. Thomas Johnston, a former resident, presently residing in Barrie, visited old friends in town last week."

"Mr. Thomas Patton, of Toronto, spent a few days in town this week calling old friends. Mr. Patton, was the Conductor on the train which ran from here to Allandale."

"Our firemen are in Parry Sound today taking part in the Northern Volunteer Firemen's tournament. They will also compete in the Simcoe Firemen's tournament in Midland on Monday next."

"Miss Averil Kavanaugh, who has been attending the University in Toronto for the past few years, is now a specialist in French

and English, and is able to teach in any of the higher grade schools in Canada. Miss Kavanaugh is one of the youngest students to receive their degree from the University."

"Mrs. James Brennand, Jeffery Street, passed away at her home on Saturday last. Mrs. Brennand passed away after a lengthy illness. She will be buried at St. James cemetery on Monday."

"Mr. H.G. Todd received a wire Wednesday, informing him of his sister's death. Mrs. J.T. Tompkins will be buried in Lindsay."

This would be the communication for the week for the people of Penetanguishene. Later on, this style of communication through the newspaper was phased out as newer forms of communication were on the horizon.

Paperbacks

by
PATRICIA JOB

Karen Blixen and her husband Bror managed a coffee farm in British East Africa during World War I until they found that Bror and financial matters were fire and water. For that, and a number of other reasons, their seven-year marriage was dissolved and into the picture came Denys Finch Hatton, Karen's grand passion. A few years later Karen, under her pen-name Isak Dinesen, was to write her classic story of life in Kenya, Out of Africa.

For those who want to pursue a more detailed knowledge of Isak Dinesen, her Letters from Africa 1914-1931 (University of Chicago Press, \$9.95) is a fine collection of most of her correspondence back home to her mother, brother and an aunt. Silence Will Speak (Collins, \$4.95) by Errol Trzebinski is a study of Denys Finch Hatton and Karen Blixen, but since it is principally a biography of Hatton, one has to be fairly enthralled with the man to get through it, particularly the opening chapters about his childhood upbringing. Hatton was a champion hunter and trader and also a safari leader who was full of charm. He was also a loner, gone for many months at a time. Despite this, his relationship with Blixen was intense and when he died in a plane crash in 1931 she felt widowed.

The Canadian Style: This, at long last, is it! The book that solves all the mysteries of grammar, spelling, punctuation and writing style for Canadians. It's a 256-page bargain. Any book that can cover this territory for under \$12 should be in every literate household. As an editor, I have learned the hard way that I cannot spell and I have only the sketchiest notion of grammar. Books like this are the instructional manuals that make dictionaries work. I was immediately put off when I saw that this was the creation of the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada. Its principle audience is civil servants. Not to worry. Real people can use and enjoy it, too. (Dundurn, \$11.95). -Don Hawkes

Peter and the Wolf coming to Midland

A puppet show, drawn from a childhood classic, Peter and the Wolf, will be performed by Mermaid Theatre on March 1.

Following the success of Anna's Pet, Just So Stories, and Puss in Boots, this new show of Mermaid Theatre provides a lively blend of music and theatre.

Based on an old Russian folk tale, this production offers the magic of live music, using a synthesizer on stage to acquaint children with the melodies that have delighted us since the introduction of Prokofiev's Symphony Peter and the Wolf to North America in the 1940s.

Director Graham Whitehead and designer Tom Miller have added a special touch to Mermaid's show, transplanting the young hero from 19th century Russia to contemporary Nova Scotia.

Fanciful rural images lend humour and colour. An imaginative collection of masks and puppets give new life to old favourites such as

the duck, the grandfather and the wolf.

This production is presented by Huronia Performing Arts for Children, as the final of four shows in the 1985-86

series for children age three to seven.

Show times for series A ticket holders is March 1, 3 p.m. in Monsignor Castex School in Midland.

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Gerald Brodeur

The funeral of the late Gerald Brodeur of Bayview Avenue, Port McNicoll, was held Jan. 24, 1986, in his birthplace, Waubaushene.

Mr. Brodeur died suddenly on Jan. 21 in St. Joseph's Hospital, Toronto, at age 75.

The Waubaushene High School graduate held a marine chief engineer's certificate. For 60 years he worked

on the Great Lakes, from 1925 to 1985. At age 15 he started sailing as a deck hand. By age 28 he was a chief engineer. He sailed with Canada Steamship Lines and Lloyd Tankers.

The son of Ernest and Louise Brodeur came ashore in 1946 to work in Montreal at transit tankers and terminals (St. Lawrence Drydocks), until 1959. He moved to Hall Corp.

Obituary

Philbert Larmond

Philbert John Larmond of Victoria Harbour died at age 78, following a lengthy illness, on Feb. 3, 1986, in Huronia District Hospital. His death was sudden.

The Harbour native, son of John and Delia Larmond, attended Victoria Harbour Public School. He had been retired for 13 years, after working for Imperial Oil for 26 years.

The St. Mary's Church member was a member of Knights of Columbus Laurier

Council No. 2004, and of the Victoria Harbour Legion.

His wife Alma Rose Larmond, sons John of Toronto, Ronald of Whitby, and Gerald of Newmarket, daughters Anne LaChappelle of Victoria Harbour, Valarie Glen of Burlington, brother Arthur and sister Anne MacDonald both of Victoria Harbour, survive him, as do 20 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren.

Father Philip Wiley officiated at the Feb. 6 funeral mass held in St. Mary's Church. Interment in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Gerard LaChapelle, Peter Johnston, Earl Langridge, David Larmond, Anthony Larmond, and Michael Larmond were his pallbearers.

Knights of Columbus Laurier Council No. 2004 held prayers in Nicholls Funeral Home, on Feb. 5.

Obituary

of Canada where he was a marine superintendent until his retirement in 1976. From 1976 until 1985 he returned to the Great Lakes as a relief chief engineer for Halco and Imperial Oil.

Mr. Brodeur was a member of Resurrection Church of Our Lord, Lachine, Que., and of Sacred Heart Church, Port McNicoll.

He belonged to the Grant Club of Montreal and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine

Engineers.

On Dec. 26, 1940, in Waubaushene, he married Kathleen Rapson.

His wife, sons Victor of Burlington, Ont., Patrick of Pierrefonds, Que., and Thomas of Beaconsfield, Que., daughter Suzanne (Mrs. Sven Sheen) of Toronto, brother Cecil of Kitchener, Ont., and sisters Helen Heard of Alliston, Ont., and Jean Fegarty of Stroud, Ont., survive him, as do seven grandchildren.

His mother Louise, brother Gordon, and sister Laurie, predeceased him.

Rev. Fred Schmid and Rev. Alphonse Belanger officiated at the funeral mass.

Son-in-law Sven Sheen, sons Victor, Patrick, and Thomas, grandson Jason Brodeur of Pierrefonds, Que., and nephew Bob Heard of Stouffville, Ont., were his pallbearers.

Interment in Waubaushene.

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