

# Almost a century in LA

A remarkable woman celebrated her 96th birthday in an unusual way in Lafontaine Saturday.

Marie Asselin Marchildon has spent most of her life in the Lafontaine area. Born in Perkinsfield in 1892, when the community was called St Patrick's, one of the nine children born to Exilda Dault and Thomas Asselin the story of Mrs Marchildon's life is, as the title of her book suggests, the memories of a century.

And on Saturday a crowd of 100 relatives, friends and local people gathered to combine 96th birthday celebrations with a book launching party. It made for a party

with a difference: sandwiched in between a speech by her grandson Dr. Mark Mullie and a queue of book buyers soliciting the author's signature, was a concert performance by grandson Vincent Marchildon.

The book *Ce n'est qu'un au revoir* (roughly - It is but a Farewell) kept Marchildon occupied in her spare time because "I had plenty of other things to do for a couple of years."

She has written for the local French language newspaper, *le Gout de Vivre*, regularly since its inception more than a decade ago. So well received were her recollections of people

and ways of living which have passed that, at the urging of her grand daughter Louise Mullie, she decided to set down her memoirs in the form of an autobiography.

The manuscript of some 400-500 pages was edited by Mullie, a former teacher at Lafontaine's Ecole Secondaire de la Huronie school who now works as a press analyst and French instructor in the federal civil service.

Mullie's husband Roderick Jamer, an editor with TV Guide, did the layout and the book was printed in Mississauga. It was ready on Dec. 12, just in time for the birthday party.

Marchildon's book is not only of considerable appeal to local residents and relatives but, according to her granddaughter, has already aroused the interest of historians for the detailed information she recalls of North Simcoe when it was a "subsistence economy" in which most families lived of their

own produce. St. Patrick's was settled by Irish Catholic immigrants and Marchildon's own grandmother Ellen Barry came from a County Cork clan.

Lafontaine's priest for more than 30 years, Father Marchildon not only built the parish hall in which last Saturday's celebration took place, but took a leading part in establishing the co-operative foundations upon which both the economy and the culture of the community have been based ever since.

Marchildon and her husband Alfred, who died in 1957, for many years operated a store in the village. They also founded and she still owns the Thunder Beach resort.

"*Ce n'est qu'un au revoir*" is on sale at \$9.95, from Marchildon's home in Lafontaine. Written in French, the author hopes to see an English translation available sometime next summer.

**Meo Enterprises**  
CUSTOM SIGNS

## Warmest Wishes!

**Fred Hook Heating Ltd.**  
905 King St., Midland  
526-0176

**Nicholls Funeral Home Ltd.**  
380 Midland Ave., Midland 526-5449

**Penetanguishene Funeral Home**  
155 Main St., Penetanguishene 549-3155

**Teleflora**



### Booked up

Marie Asselin Marchildon enjoyed herself on Saturday. It was the Lafontaine businesswoman's 96th birthday. It also was the official launch for Mme. Marchildon's autobiography. Published in French, the 160-page volume of her memories is of interest to local residents and social historians alike.

SOMETIMES EVEN SANTA RUNS OUT OF GIFT IDEAS

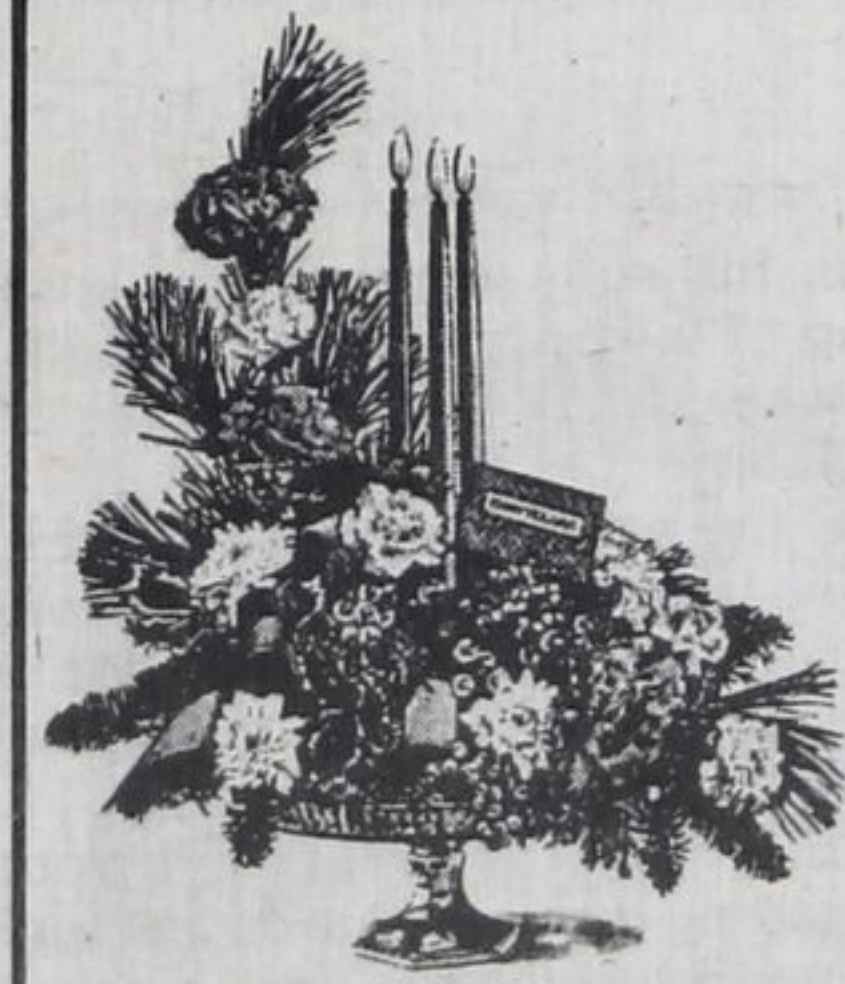
But there's **FISHING** Vests, reels, rods, tackle boxes, ice fishing supplies

**HUNTING** Bows, arrows, rifles, shotguns, snowshoes.

plus  
High Sierra Clothing  
Gortex Coats

**Willow Creek Outfitters Inc.** JUST FOR HIM

3 Miles N. of Barrie off Hwy. 26-27  
8 Finlay Rd., Midhurst, Barrie  
(705) 722-7357



## The Christmas Gift That Takes the Cake

If you're looking for a tasteful and unique Christmas gift, we have something that really takes the cake. Teleflora's Cake Plate Bouquet. It's a festive arrangement of Christmas flowers on a beautiful faceted glass plate atop a silver-plated pedestal.

We can deliver locally, or through Teleflora send it anywhere in Canada or the U.S. So order yours today.

## A Model Christmas Gift

This Christmas, give a car to someone on your list. With Teleflora's Christmas Coupe Bouquet. Filled with fresh flowers, this racy red convertible will rev the engines of car enthusiasts, model collectors or anyone else in the spirit of Christmas fun.

We can deliver locally, or through Teleflora we can send it anywhere in Canada or the U.S. So order yours today.



**Dion's Flowers**  
33 Main St., Penetang  
549-8755

**Perrin's Flower Shop**  
321 King St., Midland  
526-7844

