

Neighbors

Ray Wilson

His job is divine

People were once burned at the stake for predictions like ones made by Metcalfe's Ray Wilson.

No, Ray isn't a warlock, the male version of a witch. He's a modern-day dowser who can tell you where to drill for water. Dowzers or diviners have also been called in to search for minerals, oil, radiation emanating from water veins and power lines, and even sunken treasure.

Ray, who with his wife Jean moved to Metcalfe 12 years ago from a farm at Kenmore, learned to "switch" for water as a teenager from a man who used a fruit tree branch.

While there's a prevalent belief that forked fruit or willow tree switches must be used, Ray has found through research that the instrument can be made of any material and that a switch isn't really needed.

About five years ago, Ray went to his first convention of the American Society of Dowzers Inc. Dowzers is the proper term used for water diviners today. As Ray

tells it, these conventions are real eye openers. The meaning of the term dowsing doesn't stop at water divining; it includes telling the makeup of the water, sulphur content, whether it is polluted or clear, and many other forecasts unrelated to water.

A dowser could tell you which medicine is good for you, and could even predict your age and birthdate. Something along the lines of a clairvoyant or a psychic. Ray Wilson says anyone can become a good dowser; it's not necessarily a special gift or talent. The key is believing in it. If you approach it with the attitude and it's not going to work, chances are it won't!

Dowsing is not new, and Ray cited examples from the Bible as well as ancient Egyptian drawings which all confirm water divining in which we use them. Dowsing has come a long way from the days when people were burned at the stake for witch-craft for predicting what a modern-day dowser can now predict with confidence.

When Ray Wilson does a house dowsing, and he has done quite a few in the area, he uses his plastic or metal switch and determines if there are any water veins running under a house and if so, how many, and how big.

The theory is that water veins under your house are not good for you. Radiation and noxious rays from these water veins can cause arthritis, rheumatism, poor sleep, nightmares, bed-wetting, and in severely veined areas, even cancer. Copper, however, because it is one of the best conductors, can deflect this radiation, and a simple small copper wire around any radiated house can deflect the bad radiation quite effectively. A far cry from our old water diviner in days of yore!

There are still many doors to be opened in the researching of what dowzers can and cannot do. Ray, himself a confirmed water dowser, is still skeptical of some of the abilities dowzers claim to have, but seeing is believing and he has certainly seen enough and

By Suzanne Veh



Diviner Ray Wilson with granddaughter Stephanie, 5.

done enough himself to know that there is definitely something to it all.

When Ray is dowsing, if the water vein is strong, he can literally feel his fingers tingling — almost like electrical currents running through them.

When asked about his success rate as a dowser, he admitted that maybe five out of 150 of his predictions in the last two years have been wrong, and these errors could usually be traced to large amounts of copper or slate in the earth at the time making it difficult to get a reasonably accurate water reading. Most of the time,

however, Ray finds water veins and can usually predict at what depth to search for it. He is known to many for his services in the immediate area and has been asked to dowse for wells as far away as Wakefield, Goldfield, and Kingston.

Since his retirement and joining the American Society of Dowzers Inc., Ray has had more time to practice what he is learning. As he says himself, the more you do it the better you get. He has developed such a sensitivity, that on occasion he has successfully dowsed the stock market.

Post office flap

Council wants Saturday service

Township council has put its teeth behind a Russell Village senior citizen petition opposing rural post office closing Saturday mornings.

In backing the petition, council agreed that such a move would cause unemployment and inconvenience businessmen, elderly residents, and the population in general.

Council has requested that the postal service allow offices to continue operating Saturday. So far,

Twins?

Embrun may become a twin.

Russell council will attempt to twin the Castor village with its namesake, Embrun, France, as part of 125th anniversary celebrations to take place next year.

Deputy-Reeve Albert Bourdeau has been assigned to make the arrangements.

Uplifting

It sure lifts the spirits.

Russell Township has asked the Liquor Control Board of Ontario to keep the Embrun outlet open Wednesdays.

The only reason council has given is that the store should conform with other village businesses.

So far, no reply to the request has been received.

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Russell Senior Citizens Club president Bertha Smith has pointed out that a Saturday morning "trot" to the post office is

part of the rural way of life.

A postal service spokesman has indicated village post offices won't be closed arbitrarily without local residents having a chance to comment.

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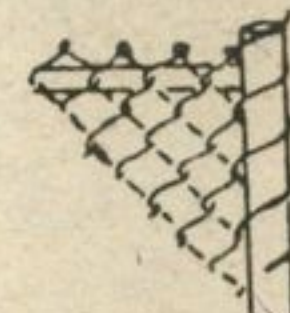
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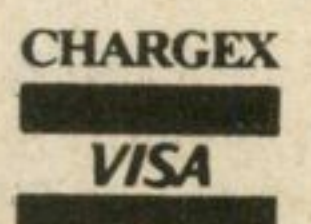
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