

# Gossip!

Personal Notices, Announcements  
& Random Notes

## Gary Wilson



We lost a good friend and a good neighbour when Gary Wilson died on September 1<sup>st</sup> due to complications of ALS.

We met him on a warm, sunny weekend afternoon shortly after we bought our property next door to his. I had been out with the weed trimmer partaking in the joys of doing gardening work after too long living in a Toronto apartment where natural

habitat was relegated to a window box or two.

Covered as I was in grass clippings, weed remnants and lord knows what else, a Mercedes pulled up and a man got out. Standing by his car, its engine running, with arms crossed and wearing aviator sunglasses, he had a striking resemblance to Rod Steiger in the movie *In the Heat of the Night* and a disposition to match.

Introductions made, he asked some questions about where we'd come from, how we found the county, what we did for a living; general background stuff. When I had finished, I asked him the same questions and listened to his responses. For 45 minutes. As the engine continued to run.

Such was the beginning of what became a good friendship.

I think it's fair to say that Gary could be a polarizing figure. To some, he was arrogant, to others, including me, he was respected yet would 'take as good as he gave'. What I came to learn through others was of his charity to the community and to individuals in it. He was of admittedly humble beginnings who through hard work and not a little luck became successful and affluent. His affluence very quietly helped many people in Prince Edward County, be it with a loan, or contracting them to do work, or financing educational courses to enable them to achieve a better future. The community benefited from his drive and perseverance, particularly with respect to the Mariners' Museum.

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, more than a couple of hundred people gathered at St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church in Picton - in Gary's words "the most beautiful church in Prince Edward County" - to pay our respects to his wife Marlene and daughter Heidi and her husband, John, and to send Gary on his way. Stories and tales were told, all of which described respectfully or humorously or a combination of the two, the person we lost.

We are all lucky to have known him.

## Yes, I know, it's late

Owing to some late submissions of copy and ads (you know who you are!) as well as lots of photo editing, the October Mirror is a little late. We strive for as close to the first of the month as possible but sometimes stuff happens.

## Between two stools

Hardly the headline to use about the restaurant business, however...

As we all know, Milford is situated between the mighty metropolis' of Cherry Valley and Waupoos. With the closing of the Bistro in Late October South Marysburgh residents will have to drive further afield for a relaxing restaurant dinner. The choice will be the restaurant in Cherry Valley or the Duke of Marysburgh pub that has been taken over by Sarah Harrison and Bill Prinzen late of JJ's Roadhouse in Bloomfield.

In the case of the latter, Sarah and Bill will likely bring the same enthusiasm, sense of humour, good reliable food and varied menu to their new enterprise when it opens in late October.

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