

# Grab your tongs, head for the barbecue, and enjoy the weekend



## Rural Route Ruth

Ruth LeBlanc

"In the summer time when the weather is fine, you can reach right up and touch the sky."

A singer in the '60s with the crazy name of Mongo Jerry, sang those very words.

In our clear blue country skies with never a smog cloud to be found, rural dwellers should relate to Mongo's lyrics.

Oh yes, Rural Routers, this is THE life. Summer perfection is what I call it.

Forgotten are the piles of snow and dreary February days. Now it's balmy summer days with mild summer nights.

Breezes flutter the curtains as fresh country air fills your house. Gardens are glorious. Colors are vibrant, with buds bursting open in the perfect growing conditions.

Vegetable patches are finally showing the rewards of weeding and constant care. This year our veggie patch is growing with healthy, hearty specimens. Too bad they are all weeds.

As much as gardens are a part of summer, so is another rural summer essential, the good old barbecue.

Barbecues are as commonplace as lawnmowers. I toured our main roads and backroads searching out the various models and confirming that most rural routers do indeed own some form of barbecue.

Zig-zagging across our countryside, I peered into front-yards and backyards, checking out summer grills. I can confirm that we rural folks do like to have an occasional cookout.

There were old ones and new ones and kettle ones and hibachis and gas ones. Down south in California the current rage is owning the biggest and best gas barbecues on the market.

Hold on to your hats when I tell you that the price tag can be up to \$10,000 for the Mercedes Benz of barbecues. At that price you should be able to drive it too!

The Big Guy and I own a rinky-dink hibachi, purchased new at an auction. That was last summer and as of yet it is unassembled. The instructions I tossed onto a bench for safekeeping are lost, as is our usual luck.

We have also lost a major piece so that it stands about three feet off the ground — great if you were a midget.

As a kid I remember my parents having a evening pool

party and barbecue. After a dip, one swimmer made her way to the lawnchair area, when disaster struck.

In the dark she plunked her wet posterior onto the hot grill with a furious sizzle. In a stunned second she was lifted off without a single singe, with only her pride damaged. Rump roast anyone?

Long weekends and barbecues go hand in hand. For the female rural routers this is a good thing. For some unknown reason, show a man a barbecue and he wants to do the cooking.

It must be the caveman coming out in them, or, they want to show the neighbors how helpful they really are!

Grab those tongs and the food of your choice and get grilling and have a great long weekend!

ANSWERS

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## Aphasia volunteers sought

We take our communication abilities for granted. For people with aphasia — a communication disorder caused by stroke or head injury, speaking, reading, writing, understanding and initiating conversation becomes a challenge. Not only do people with aphasia need to find new and creative ways of communicating with their family and friends, but also to develop new activities and skills that do not require intact verbal communication.

The York-Durham Aphasia Centre, located at Parkview Village in Stouffville, provides practical help to people with aphasia and their families with the assistance of trained community volunteers. The centre is a Ministry of Health funded community agency specializing in group communication and family support programs after stroke or head injury.

The centre has an active volunteer and student training program at both its main location in Stouffville and its branch locations in Newmarket and Richmond Hill. There are a number of volunteer positions available.

The York-Durham Aphasia Centre's Stouffville fall communications program begins Thurs., Sept. 11. The centre is hosting an evening open house for new volunteers and interested community members on Thurs., Aug. 21 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Parkview Village, which is located at 12184 Ninth Line, Stouffville.

There will also be a full day fall volunteer orientation session on Thurs., Sept. 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Parkview Village. For information, call 642-2053.