



Strands International recently celebrated their open house in their newly-renovated Sebastian Image Centre located in Unionville. Pictured are make-up director Linda Scopazzi and artistic director Aldo Scopazzi.

# Farming all it's cracked up to be

It was while there was a harvest moon in the sky that the Dumonds moved into their rural roost back in November of '96. Tucked between Stouffville and Uxbridge, Don and his wife Danielle along with son Jean-Paul have taken to country life like a farmer to a field.

The rural dream came alive when they moved, first from Musselmans Lake to Stouffville and now, to the place that has claimed their hearts. Taking me for the royal tour, Jean-Paul showed me around the 75-acre property and shared his love for the country.

We explored the back fields by the barn and sat under a canopy of branches which, Jean-Paul said, is one of his favourite spots.

Taking the family van for a bumpy ride we crawled slowly up a hill soaking in the scenery. Tall weeds were slapping the vehicle when suddenly we came to an abrupt stop.

There in a clearing was the remains of a ski-lift from years gone by. We both envied the skiers that must have had a ball using their private ski hill right out in their own backyard. The old Volkswagen engine that once ran the lift still sits slightly buried in the earth with the tow lines exposed on the surface.

The howling of coyotes calling their pack can be heard from these very hills whenever there is a full moon.

Exploring the acreage farthest south we came to my favourite place, a pine tree forest. There's something about the overhanging boughs with the soft needle carpet underfoot that is really appealing.

Heading back we stopped at the barn and I was introduced to the Dumond menagerie. There were chickens and turkeys and the cutest litter of kittens you've ever seen.

What started as a hobby to have fresh eggs for cooking has turned into Eggdom. Shortly after moving in, Danielle got a dozen or so chickens just for the fun of raising them. Before you could say omelette, there were more eggs than they could eat.

This was the birth of the Dumond egg business and I am not yolkling!

The sign at the end of the driveway advertises eggs for sale along with preserves that Danielle has cooked up. Along with a career as a full-time nurse at York Central Hospital, Danielle is one busy rural router.

Like his son, Don — the President of South Lake Simcoe Scouting — finds his new lifestyle very rewarding. Being a confessed workaholic there is never a dull moment for retired Don, who works constantly at the upkeep of the large property.

Admitting that this isn't the life for everyone, Jean-Paul assured me this was definitely the life for him. You can have computers and phones and fax machines and dabble on the internet while having all the benefits the country offers.

Not the life for city slickers, Jean-Paul explains, but the perfect life and the perfect place for the Dumonds.



## Rural Route Ruth

Ruth LeBlanc

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## UXBRIDGE Celebration of the Arts

SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 1997

### Film Night

Wednesday, September 17  
Uxbridge Music Hall 8:00 p.m. \$5.00  
Our film night will kick off "Celebration", with the Canadian Production of "Henry & Verlin". Filmed in Claremont and winner of 17 international awards, this is the story of an unusual friendship between an autistic 9 year old boy and his childlike uncle. "Henry & Verlin" was directed by Gary Ledbetter, and features Keegan MacIntosh as Verlin and Gary Farmer as Henry.

### Books and Authors

Thursday, September 18  
Uxbridge Music Hall 8:00 p.m. \$5.00  
This year our authors will include John Fraser, Erica De Vasconcelos and Marilyn Simonds. Fraser was Peking correspondent for the Globe and Mail and will be reading from *Stolen China*, his mystery novel. De Vasconcelos will read from *My Darling Dead Ones*, her acclaimed first novel. Marilyn Simonds will read from *The Convict Lover*, a blend of historical detective work and imaginative recreation.

### Music Night

Friday, September 19  
Uxbridge Music Hall 8:00 p.m. \$12.00  
Canada's leading chamber music ensemble, Amici, will be performing! Amici (the Italian word for friends) is a trio consisting of clarinetist Joaquin Valdenpenas, cellist David Hetherington and pianist Patricia Parr. Each season, Amici presents its own successful concert series in Toronto which is broadcast nationally on CBC. They tour in Canada, the United States, Mexico and Europe.

### "Jazz Cafe" Evening Gala

Saturday, September 20  
Uxbridge Music Hall 8:00 p.m. \$20.00  
Get into the swing of things and reserve a group table! Jazz singer Trudy Desmond will be performing, backed up by the Boss Brass Rhythm Section - Dave Restivo, Jim Vivian and Ted Warren. The program will include dialogue and songs from "The Great American Songbook" (Porter/Berlin/Gershwin). Get your tickets early for this one and join us for excellent music, a glass of wine and some fun!

### Juried Art Exhibition

September 14<sup>th</sup> Opening 2:00 p.m. Everyone Welcome!  
September 14-21  
Uxbridge Town Hall 10:5 p.m. Admission Free  
All week, our beautiful Town Hall is transformed into an art gallery, as artists from the Uxbridge area exhibit their best work. This Juried Art Exhibition is a first for Uxbridge - be sure to take it in.

### Studio Tour

Saturday, September 20 and Sunday, September 21  
Come and see our many fine artists and craftspeople in Uxbridge and the surrounding picturesque countryside. This weekend is your opportunity to visit their studios, meet the artists and view their latest work in progress. There will also be "guest" artists showing their work. Many pieces of art are for sale. A separate brochure with a detailed map is available.

### Studio Bus Tour

First Time Offered  
Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Join us as we drive around visiting artists in their natural environment - their studios.  
To reserve please call Colleen Cassidy 416-497-0384 (work), 705-357-3546 (home).  
Lunch: Buffet lunch at Horizon's Restaurant in Sunderland, 12:30 p.m.  
Price: \$30 (includes bus tour, lunch and camaraderie)

### Children's Theatre

Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Uxbridge Music Hall \$3.00  
The Uxbridge Players will be performing "Patchwork", written by Carol Lauck and directed by Michele Hempen. For ages 4-12.

### Noon Hour Concerts

12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Admission Free  
Mon, Sept. 15 Uxbridge Library - "Faded Denim"  
Tues, Sept. 16 Baptist Church - Baptist Church Choir  
Wed, Sept. 17 St. Andrews Presbyterian - Organist: Stuart Beaudoin  
Thurs, Sept. 18 Trinity United Church - Lesley Joosters flute; Anne Baker; piano/organ  
Fri, Sept. 19 St. Paul's Anglican - Organist: Thomas Fitches  
Sat, Sept. 20 Foster Memorial "Medieval Bestiary", Uxbridge Chamber Choir performs an original work by Canadian composer Murray Schafer.

The Celebration of the Arts Thanks the following Sponsors:

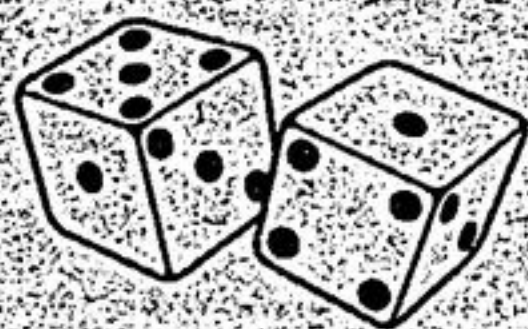
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## Calling for control

■ From page 6 ■

lead to embarrassment. One of the phones in our house comes equipped with a colour-coded trio of buttons to be used for one-touch access to essential numbers, which in our case are fire, police and 911.

On a recent Saturday, my wife Susan heard a knock on the door and was surprised to find a pair of concerned-looking police officers standing there.

Some amateur detective work led her to the above-mentioned phone, with its receiver lying unconnected on the floor. It turns out those colourful buttons had proved irresistible to our one-year-old son Griffin, who had inadvertently issued a 911 call.

The little guy pulled the same stunt a week or so later, but this time selected the button which calls the fire department.

Needless to say, we have now memorized all three emergency numbers, leaving the little red, green and blue buttons blank.

As for dabbling into the world of wireless telephone technology, we have refused to join the growing numbers of phone freaks who can't go anywhere without their cell phone by their side. The very thought of taking a call in the middle of a dinner out is enough to make us scoff disdainfully.

And based upon the number of times radio show interviewers and talk show hosts find themselves talking into thin air, these mobile devices would appear to be a less than reliable means of communication anyway.

We have, however, found a recent gift of a phone with a wireless receiver to be quite handy in that you can wander throughout the house, and even out into the yard, without running out of wire.

But when Susan unknowingly drove off with the thing in her bag one day, I was left scavenging the width and breadth of the house in pursuit, scratching my head as a constant deployment of the electronic locator function proved fruitless.

I suppose that in the final analysis, life is ultimately enriched by Alexander Graham Bell's communication device. Now if I could only find a way to keep the thing from ringing when it's not supposed to!