



Ramblin' Ruth

A Splash Of Reality

By Ruth LeBlanc

Like life itself, the small community of Musselman's Lake goes through constant changes.

Over the winter a beautiful equestrian barn was built on Ninth Line at Aurora Sideroad. On the south side of the lake, a new king-size home sits on sleepy Valleyfield Road, nearly completed and perhaps a sign of things to come. Across the road sits the quaint house Lil Horton lived in for decades before passing. A few doors away on Victor Drive, Ann and Paul have just welcomed a new baby boy.

My house stands across the street alongside a large, bare, concrete pad where my garage stood until recently. After one of the heaviest snow falls this spring, this building started its downward spiral.

From the kitchen window it looked like the roof had sunk in. Thinking the heavy layer of snow was distorting my

view I went out on errands, brushing a nagging feeling aside. When I got home I noticed a particularly worrisome shifting of the garage door.

I trudged through the snow and crouched down when the door refused to budge. There, mere inches from my 1962 VW Bug's hood, was the main beam of the garage roof. The weight of the dense snow was more than the beam could support and down it came.

With temporary beams in place, I emptied out the garage, and found, to my relief, that there was not much damage. My instruction book on becoming an Elvis tribute artist was buried under an avalanche of snow and stuck to the concrete with ice. As I peeled it up and put it into a large garbage bag, I could safely confirm that Elvis had left the building permanently.

The big, fat, grey squirrel who lived in the rafters ran sideways along the wall, not happy at all with the intrusion.

Sitting in the corner was an opossum with wide eyes and curled back lips, offering evidence that hundreds of green fir tree tips had fallen prey to those sharp teeth. All critters found safe new homes before the building fell to the ground.

The garage will rise again, and meanwhile I have the experience of my new toilet/bidet. All the melting snow, along with the pond behind the house, have tested my weeping bed and my patience.

Like old faithful in Jellystone Park, I too have a geyser, but mine comes not through the ground but the toilet. First comes a gurgle, followed by rumblings, and finally volcanic explosions of water. My advice, gained from unhappy experience, is to never look directly at suspicious rumbling coming from a toilet.

Thankfully, as the ground dries the gurgling is disappearing and glorious spring has finally arrived. Everyday life proves you just never know what tomorrow will bring.

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Bach To Spring



The Bach to Blues Company will present an evening of choral and instrumental music on May 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Church Anglican, with guest artists The Aldbury Garden Brass Quintet. Tickets are available in advance from Barthau Jewellers for \$12 or at the door for \$15. For more information visit www.bachtooblues.com or call 905-649-2684.

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Ronald McDonald Family Room Opens At MSH

On April 24, Ronald McDonald House Toronto opened its first Family Room at Markham-Stouffville Hospital.

Families with sick infants and children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the Paediatric Unit at the hospital now have access to a comfortable 'home away from home' facility, just steps away from their children. The establishment of this welcoming, non-medical retreat was made

possible thanks to the continuous support of local community sponsors, including McDonald's franchisees across the Greater Toronto Area, who have committed \$2 million to RMH Toronto.

Located directly off the NICU, the space is equipped with kitchenettes, lounge areas, bathroom/shower facilities and provisions for napping.



Jane Marco, executive director of Ronald McDonald House Toronto (second left), shares a smile with Chairman Keith Graham of the RMH Toronto Board, McDonald's Canada Franchisee Marcia Finlayson and Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada president and CEO Cathy Loblaw, to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Markham Stouffville Hospital in Markham on April 24, 2013.