



THESPIAN METAMORPHOSIS AT PORTLAND

Old age took over at Mill Bay Court Seniors Residence in Portland on April 19th. Actor Barry Belchamber transformed from a tall, thirtyish, clean-shaven man to a stooped 70 year old moustached Stephen Leacock. Starting at 11a.m., the first bits of grey moustache were attached to Mr. Belchamber's upper lip with spirit gum. Two more layers were painstakingly applied over the first, then combed and trimmed before he was satisfied. Pancake base was applied all over his face before being lightly covered with a highlight coverup. Additional aging was accomplished with wrinkle lines at the corners of his eyes, around his nose and on his "chins." Then came the mime grease paint to eyebrows and, as a highlight, a few liver spots were added, and by 1:30p.m., Mr. Belchamber was ready for his \$400.00 Leacock wig. The wig in place to his critical satisfaction, he applied makeup to his hands. Finally, at 2:00p.m., he was introduced: "Ladies and Gentlemen: Eleanor and Patrick Dickey of the Gallagher House in Portland, are delighted that you are able to share a while with Canada's foremost humourist - Stephen Leacock." And in shuffled Professor Leacock, boiling teapot in

hand. For an hour or more he held the audience of 60 or so local seniors in rapt attention. The emotions ran the full range from gay hilarity at Leacock's brush with the law over a goldfish lost in a snowbank, to understanding the un-understandable instructions on a seed package, to sorrow at the loss of a beloved wife, and back to the humour of trying to deal at a bank. Duncan Turnbull presented a gift to Mr. Belchamber on behalf of the residents of Mill Bay Court, and said that he felt he had gotten his .13¢ worth. (Leacock felt that he gave a pretty good .13¢ lecture, "and people don't come out for free," so the cost of admission was fixed at .13¢.) The Dickeys and Gallagher House sponsored Mr. Belchamber's performance. Mill Bay Court provided delicious refreshments as Barry Belchamber (now out of makeup) visited and socialized for an hour or so, answering questions and posing for pictures. In 5 minutes, the makeup that had taken 2½ hours to apply was gone and the years shed. If "Laughter is the Best Medicine" and if "Laughter is Good for the Soul," then on that day in April, Portland was full of well-medicated, good souls, thanks to a visit by Professor Stephen Leacock aka Barry Belchamber.

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PERTH WILDLIFE RESERVE

FLY HIGH WITH THE ANNUAL BLUEBIRD TRAIL TOUR

SUNDAY MAY 27, 1990
10 A.M. PARKING LOT
PERTH WILDLIFE RESERVE
- RAIN OR SHINE -

All naturalists are invited to come on a public tour of the Rideau Valley Bluebird Trail led by Carson Thompson, Area Supervisor of the Perth Wildlife Reserve.

Starting at the Perth Wildlife Reserve (two kilometres south of Perth off the Rideau Ferry Road), the motor tour will follow the trail along the back roads ending up at the Mill Pond Conservation Area around 1 P.M. People are encouraged to use the free bus service or they can use their own cars.

Bring your lunch, binoculars, and insect repellent. Don't miss this opportunity to meet the birds and the birders. Most of the bluebirds will be well into raising their first broods of the season. Join the tour and catch the sights.....you'll be flying high.

For more information, call Carson Thompson, 267-5721.

A PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

SMITHS FALLS CIVITAN DONATE ALL-TERRAIN WHEELCHAIR

An all-terrain wheelchair is now available in the local Conservation Areas thanks to the generosity of the Civitan Club of Smiths Falls. Civitan donated the chair to the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation in May.

The wheelchair is a comfortable looking vehicle with three large balloon tires which can handle most off-road trails. The Civitan Members are very pleased because handicapped children will no longer have to stay behind on class field trips.

The Conservation lands in the Smiths Falls area serve about 48,000 visitors each year, many of who will now be able to see more of the natural world with the new all-terrain wheelchair.

The Smiths Falls wheelchair will be called "the Civitan Chair" and be based at the Perth wildlife Reserve. Acting Civitan President, John Goodhouse, said "Although we wish the wheelchair to be available for Smiths Falls users, we would be happy if the chair is used at other Conservation Areas if the need arises elsewhere... and may it bring the enjoyment we who are more fortunate take for granted".

The wheelchair, valued at over \$1,700, was one of the last ones to be produced in Westport before the company sold its assets to Tescar Inc. of Nepean.

Perth Wildlife Reserve Area Supervisor, Carson Thompson says, "the chair will be very useful in our outdoor education program. Up until now, we've had to tell teachers that the terrain is just not suitable for handicapped youngsters".

Teachers and youth leaders who want to use the "Civitan Chair" during their visit to Perth Wildlife Reserve or Mill Pond Conservation Area are asked to call ahead at 267-5721.

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MORE INFORMATION: Charles Billington
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504