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# The Vittoria Booster

The Vittoria Booster Newsletter is published twice a year by The Vittoria & District Foundation for its Members and Supporters.

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A ▼ before a person's name indicates that he or she is a member of The Vittoria & District Foundation.

## In Memoriam

Noreen Needham æ 81 on April 8  
 Madeleine Grace Patterson-Watt æ 15 on April 28  
 James Leslie Exelby æ 60 on May 21  
 Ethel Mary Smith æ 98 on May 24  
 Josephine Lindsay æ 76 on June 2  
 Suzanne Jenny Freeman-Brooks æ 80 on June 20  
 Muriel Mary Evelyn Backus æ 89 on June 22  
 Minerva Deane (Knight) Lampman æ 66 on June 24  
 Marion Joan (Melville) Burke æ 76 on June 28  
 ▼Elinor (Butler) Roberts æ 78 on July 27  
 George Patrick Casselton æ 77 on July 28  
 Jason Boterberg æ 31 on August 9  
 Steve Oravec æ 79 on August 14  
 Marion Maxine Engell æ 81 on August 20  
 ▼Mary Evelyn Morris æ 77 on August 22  
 Norma Olive (Skelcher) Buckle æ 73 on August 27  
 Gertruda Maria Edith VanRooy æ 59 on October 12  
 Myrtle Irene Schott æ 88 on October 11  
 Daniel "Dan" Stewart æ 47 on November 2  
 Colleen (Brownscombe) Epple æ 55 on November 3  
 John Paul Schollaert æ 68 on November 4  
 Paulina Ambroziak æ 83 on November 9  
 Gary William Gilbert æ 41 on November 13  
 Richard George Hindrichs æ 11 on December 14  
 Isabel Mott æ 91 on December 15  
 Walter Smatana æ 74 on December 16  
 Douglas Kenneth McNeice æ 72 on December 18  
 Paul Swick æ 75 on December 24  
 James Colin Fletcher æ 43 on December 25  
 Ivan Miklavcic æ 75 on January 1, 2005  
 Addie Ruth (Stone) May æ 78 on January 4  
 ▼Allen Laverne Lloyd æ 87 January 6  
 ▼Harry Gundry æ 108 on January 9  
 ▼Hector Machlaclan æ 65 on January 12  
 Patricia (Hill) Belbeck æ 64 on January 16

## Milestone Anniversaries Celebrated

Eileen and Ernie Henderson 50 years on June 5  
 ▼Marion and Malcolm Macaulay 55 years on July 1  
 ▼Linda and ▼John Hofgraft 40 years on July 11  
 Frances and Stan Voigt 55 years on July 16  
 ▼Twila and ▼Roger Cruickshank 50 years on July 17  
 Betty and Bob McKenzie 55 years on July 26  
 ▼Helen and ▼George Watt 50 years on August 21  
 ▼Marie and ▼Irwin Wippel 45 years on September 4  
 Faye and Harold Jarvis 55 years on September 10  
 Edna and Cliff Frost 55 years on September 17  
 Sandra and Nick Van Groningen 45 years on October 3  
 ▼Jackie and Doug Chadwick 45 years on October 10  
 ▼Cecilia and ▼Lawrence DePoorter 55 years on Oct. 23  
 Marion and Charles Wilks 55 years on January 8

### OVER 60 CLUB

▼Violet and ▼Charles Monroe 62 years on August 23

## Milestone Birthdays Celebrated

▼Audrey Tavender 85 years on May 3, 2002  
 ▼Alice Beagle 85 years on June 13  
 ▼Cliff Whitehead 75 years on July 5  
 Peggy Caughill 80 years on July 10  
 ▼George Sommers 80 years on July 28  
 ▼Marion Lockhart 92 years on August 4  
 Earl Bennett 85 years on September 2  
 ▼Clara Bingleman 105 years on October 16  
 Reg. Gustin 80 years on October 28  
 ▼James Robinson 95 years on November 11  
 Charles Racz 95 years on November 14  
 Mary Kerry 90 years on December 5  
 Joan Stewart 75 years on December 8  
 Alfred Swing 90 years on December 13  
 Frances Woolley 85 years on December 16  
 ▼Kathleen Dick 90 years on December 17  
 ▼Marion Sherman 75 years on December 20  
 Frances Voigt 75 years on December 29  
 ▼Ada Stenlik 90 years on January 10

### OVER 90 CLUB

Ruth Windus 92 years on October 9  
 ▼Harry Gundry 108 years on November 26

# Congratulations!

## Community Booster wins Rotary award

Adapted from an article by Mike Bauslaugh in the Simcoe Reformer

It was music to the ears of many as the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise presented ▼**Dr. Ray Danley** with a Paul Harris Fellowship.

"It was a complete shock," grinned the musical director. "I've heard of the award before and was quite surprised when it was presented to me."

The high honour recognizes the contributions of people who exemplify the ideals of Rotary. The award is named after Rotary founder **Paul Harris**, a Chicago attorney who started the first service club in February 1905.

**Ray Danley** has certainly lived up to the Rotary motto "Service Above Self" in his commitment to the Norfolk community. He has used his musical talents to help raise more than \$10,000 annually for projects that include Norview Lodge, Norfolk General Hospital, Rotary, the Haldimand-Norfolk Literacy Council and various churches.

Ray was presented with the Harris Fellowship by past president **Dr. Steven Malo** during a concert at Lighthouse Festival Theatre last year. The Jubilee concerts raised more than \$20,000 for the new Norview Lodge seniors home.

"He's very generous with his time and talent," said Dr. Malo. "I know we caught him by surprise with the award."

Dr. Malo said Ray is a dedicated worker in matching musical concerts with worthy fundraising opportunities.

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all nations and helps build goodwill and peace in the world.

There are 1.2 million Rotarians in 31,000 clubs located in 166 countries.



**Ray Danley walked into a lawyer's office. He asked how much the barrister's rates were. The lawyer said fifty dollars for three questions. Ray asked, "Isn't that awfully expensive?" "Yes," the lawyer replied, "now, what's your third question?"**

## The Vittoria & District Foundation announces its 2004 Scholarship recipient

Press Release by Jim Wies

The Vittoria & District Foundation has the distinct pleasure of announcing **Bailey Fort** as this year's recipient of the Vittoria & District Foundation's annual scholarship of \$2,000. The scholarship programme is intended to recognize scholastic and extra-curricular achievement and to provide financial assistance to young people of Vittoria and district entering their first year of post-secondary education. The applications submitted were duly studied by the selection committee, consisting of ▼**Raymond Danley**, ▼**Linda Vancso** and ▼**Jim Wies**.

Bailey, a resident of Vittoria, is a graduate of Simcoe Composite School, which she attended from 2001 to 2004; before that, she had attended Port Dover Composite School. Throughout her years of secondary education, Bailey maintained consistently high marks in her studies, with an average in excess of 93%. Her remarkable scholastic achievement is best illustrated by the words of SCS Principal, **Bob Foster**, when he says, "in that time (his three years as her principal) I have come to know Bailey as one of the most outstanding students I have had the pleasure of being involved with in my nearly thirty years in education."

Bailey's list of credentials, achievements and activities is an impressive one. Her academic accomplishments occupy a remarkably high level to any standard, having won the prestigious Honour Society Award and the Governor General's Bronze Academic Award; she was the top student, by average, in each of her Grade 9 through 12 years. In addition, Bailey has received many proficiency awards, in subjects ranging from art and history to the maths and sciences. In fact, as her academic achievements span virtually all areas of study with comparable excellence, it would not be inappropriate to think of Bailey as a "Renaissance Woman".

Though Bailey has always been very committed to her academic career, she has also explored her other talents, especially artistic ones, through many activities during her high school years. For example, Norfolk County Fair hosts an annual Young Canada Day Special Effects Competition, involving the design and construction of large-scale decorations for the Grandstand, relating to each school's chosen theme. From 1999 onward, Bailey was a member of her school's Norfolk County Fair Decoration Committee and in 2003 she acted as the committee's head, certainly a contributing factor in SCS winning that year's Special Effects competition for the first time in several years.

In 2004, Bailey designed the "Rising From The Ashes" logo for SCS, to be used in Commencement activities and for future fundraising efforts. She was a reporter for the school newspaper from 2002 to 2004, and was a member of the school UNICEF Club from 2001 to 2003. With her remarkable abilities and talents as a visual artist, Bailey has exhibited her artwork in many school art exhibitions held at local art galleries, and in the summer of 2000, she attended a Creative Expression Course at the Fine Arts Department of Queen's University.

# Congratulations!



Bailey Fort is now attending Queen's University in Kingston. Bailey was selected as the recipient of The Vittoria & District Foundation's 2004 Scholarship, being presented here by Committee member Linda Vancso.

In the community-at-large, Bailey has participated in numerous events, such as the CIBC Run For The Cure and the Alzheimer Society's "Walk For Memories"; she was also a volunteer for a Habitat For Humanity project, in which a house was built for a single mother and her handicapped child.

Bailey also has an interest in music. This has manifested itself in the study of the acoustic guitar, for which she has taken lessons since 1998; in 2001, she attended a National Guitar Workshop to further advance her musical abilities.

To continue her pursuit and love of knowledge, and to nurture the ongoing development of her inherent talents and skills, Bailey will seek her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree at Queen's University in Kingston.

As for the future beyond her four years there, Bailey says: "I am undecided about a future career, and for now I am focusing on my academics and the opportunities my education will lead to ... I am seeking a career that will unite my various interests, and that will allow me to utilize my knowledge and the skills I have acquired, and will acquire, in multiple fields." Given Bailey's history thus far, there is no doubt that she will come to realize any goals she sets for herself.

## A Guinness Record in Vittoria

Adapted from an article by Patrick James Asselin Times-Reformer

Almost three dozen amateur athletes battled rain, thunder, lightning and fatigue over one summer weekend to take a shot at getting into the Guinness Book of Records.

The Be Somebody team from Vittoria played against the Vittoria Night Owls in 225 innings of slo-pitch softball at the

Thompson Memorial Park ball diamond.

The two teams started at 8:15 a.m. Saturday morning and played for 51 hours and 55 minutes when Be Somebody left-fielder **Jeremy Snow** made his last at-bat appearance just after noon Monday.

The final score: Be Somebody 358, Night Owls 331.

Under the Guinness rules, the two teams had to play continuously, save for a few breaks every few hours. That meant playing through the thunderstorms that soaked the county on the weekend.

During the second night, lightning cut power to all but one light standard at the field, and the teams played in near-darkness.

But the record attempt wasn't just a shot at glory. The Be Somebody team was raising money to go to the 'E' division nationals in Newfoundland this summer.

They're also sharing the cash with the Norfolk General Hospital Foundation.

"I'm just really happy they wanted the hospital involved," said **Jerry Lawlor**, director of the foundation.

The foundation buys equipment for the hospital, which is undergoing renovations and expansion.

"It's not too often you see Guinness World Records being accomplished," said Jerry.

"They're having a lot of fun. They're raising a lot of money. They're going to the nationals and they're representing Norfolk."

The Be Somebody team was sort of hitting blind when it came to how long the current record-holder, a group in Ireland, played for when the record was last set.

"We're not really sure," said Be Somebody pitcher and organizer **Ric Ashley**.

"All we know is it's under 48 hours."

The Be Somebody team couldn't go for a record without somebody to play, so the Night Owls stepped in as opponents.

"They needed a team to play," said **Richard Lindkamp**. "We wanted some Vittoria blood playing them."

The Night Owls and the Be Somebody team each had 17 players to rotate throughout the two days. Tents pitched along the field let them catch a few hours of sleep, but it wasn't enough for some players.

**Linda St. Amour**, of Waterloo, had about four hours of sleep since Saturday morning.

"I'm getting in my van and going home," she said.

Hamilton's **Tim Bentley** played every position and managed to get some sleep.

"I'd say maybe five, six hours," he said. "You can't really call it sleep."

At 11 a.m. Saturday, the two teams had played for about three hours - much longer than it would take to play a normal game of slo-pitch.

"It doesn't even feel like it," said **Les Robbins**, a Be Somebody player from Simcoe.

"I dove for three balls. I feel all right."

The players got along well and had fun ribbing each other, but the game still needed officiating.

Umpire **Doug Soulliere** of Port Dover watched over the first three and a half hours of the game and came back periodically throughout the weekend.

"I've never been in the Guinness Book of Records," he said.

# Congratulations!

"That's why I signed up."

Doug, an umpire for 44 years has worked at the provincial level, in baseball, softball and slo-pitch.

Spectators' cars filled the parking lot at the community centre.

"I've been popping in and out all weekend," said **Helene Charman** of Nanticoke.

"I wanted to be here for the last few minutes."

Helene, who used to babysit one of the players, was impressed by the teams' decision to stick it out through the weather.

"Not too many people play baseball in lightning storms," she said.

To ensure entry into the Guinness Book of Records, the two teams must have witnesses observe the game and must submit records, such as reports from news media, and score sheets to the publishers in Britain.

## 2004 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

The 2004 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards for the Counties of Haldimand and Noefolk were presented on Tuesday, November 16 at the Vittoria & District Community Centre to approximately 135 recipients in recognition of their years of volunteer service to a specific organization.

The Vittoria & District Foundation nominated six volunteers (the maximum allowed in any year by any organization). ▼**Marian Bezzo**, ▼**Ron Bezzo**, ▼**Charlotte Donaldson**, ▼**Oni Maclachlan**, ▼**Joan Norman**, and ▼**Ginger Stanley** received certificates and pins for five consecutive years of dedicated volunteer service to the V&DF (each of them has actually served for about eight years, but



The Vittoria & District Foundation nominated six members to receive awards for their years of service to the Foundation. Left to right - Charlotte Donaldson, Ginger Stanley, Marian Bezzo, Ron Bezzo. Also receiving awards were Oni Maclachlan and Joan Norman.



These nine Vittoria & District Foundation members received awards for their years of service to a variety of other volunteer organizations: Front row, left to right - Betty Goode, Betty Bosma, Frances Pye, Rose Pettit. Back row, left to right - Dr. Jim Cruise, Roger Cruickshank, Joan Johnstone, Arthur Loughton, Jim Melville.

awards are presented only in multiples of 5 years).

In addition to the six volunteers nominated by The Vittoria & District Foundation, nine V&DF members were also recognized for volunteering for other worthwhile local organizations:

- ▼**Betty Bosma**, 15 years for the Vittoria Lamport Club New Horizons Seniors Group
- ▼**Roger Cruickshank**, 15 years for the Retired Teachers of Ontario District 12 Norfolk
- ▼**Dr. James Cruise**, 25 years for the Norfolk Historical Society
- ▼**Betty Goode**, 25 years for the Norfolk General Hospital and Norfolk Nursing Home Volunteer Association
- ▼**Joan Johnstone**, 30 years for the Norfolk County Agricultural Society
- ▼**Arthur Loughton**, 5 years for the Haldimand-Norfolk Information Centre AND 5 years for the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grand River Grant Review Team
- ▼**Jim Melville**, 20 years for the Vittoria & District Community Centre Management Committee
- ▼**Rose Pettit**, 15 years for the Retired Teachers of Ontario District 12 Norfolk
- ▼**Frances Pye**, 10 years for the St. Williams Volunteer Fire Fighters.

Other Award recipients from the Vittoria district included five members of the Vittoria Lionsess:

- Pat Brady**, 10 years of service
- Deb Exelby**, 10 years of service
- Jean Gilles**, 5 years of service
- Rose Romanowsky**, 5 years of service
- Kim Stanley**, 10 years of service.

**Ivan Winter** received a 30-year Award for his volunteer service with the Norfolk County Agricultural Society.

A delightful stand-up light reception was catered by volunteers of the Vittoria Boosters under ▼**Larry Cable's**

# Congratulations!

command.

All who were involved in hosting the Awards ceremony were left with the impression that the Awards Team from Toronto feels most welcome and truly enjoys visiting beautiful downtown Vittoria. Well done, Larry and crew!



The Vittoria Lioness Club had 5 recipients of the Volunteer Service Awards, but only Kim Stanley and Deb Exelby were available for a photograph. Pat Brady, Jean Gilles and Rose Romanowsky were other Lioness recipients.

## Santa Claus Parade

A letter to the Editor of the Simcoe Reformer

Dear Editor,

I am a resident of the historic hamlet of Vittoria. Each holiday season, on one of the evenings leading up to Christmas, the village is treated to a wonderful, spontaneous spectacle. This year, it occurred this past Tuesday evening.

As everyone is warm and cozy indoors, some sort of distant sound gently breaks the silence. Not sure what it is, we go to our windows and gaze out into the evening calm to see what we can see. At first, nothing appears to be there, so we go back to what we were doing. But a minute or two later, the sound, ever so gradually, becomes more distinct and begins to take shape; then voices are heard, voices singing. When we look out our windows again, we see the most unusual sight - it's a tractor pulling a large open wagon; the wagon is all decorated and festooned with beautiful, colourful lights, giving it a warm glow in the crisp night air. Upon the wagon are a large group of cheerful carollers singing Christmas tunes, all bundled up to keep the evening chill at bay. As they pass each house in turn, everyone on the wagon waves and shouts out "Merry Christmas!" The magic of the moment inspires me to go to the door, step out on the porch, and return the greetings, with a hearty wave of my arm, and a huge grin on my face that alludes to the warm and special feeling that this has given me.

As it happens, I have been very busy over the past little while (as all of us seem to be these days) getting things in order for the holidays.

Though I enjoy it, I sometimes seem to get a little too preoccupied to really savour the moment, to let the Christmas spirit take hold to its fullest, to realize and appreciate what a magical time of the year this can be.

However, as soon as I saw - and heard - this visual, musical treat pass by my window as I was wrapping Christmas presents on my dining room table, I paused, and it was at that moment that the Christmas spirit washed over me completely. It is the simple beauty of this act of sharing, kindness and generosity, exemplified by a festively decorated wagon of carollers singing for their friends and neighbours, that captures the essence and the true spirit of the season.

This event, seemingly spur-of-the-moment and unannounced, has been going on for years now, and I have never been sure who is behind it. This year, though, I was inspired to do some investigating, because I wanted to let these people know how much it means to us. I found out that the kind folks responsible are ▼**John (Tine) Chadwick** and **Greg Townsend** and their respective families who put this together for all of us to enjoy. I think I can safely say that I probably speak for others in Vittoria when I extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to these families for sharing their Christmas spirit and making our Christmas bright. You bring us something that becomes a part of the cherished memories that helps define what Christmas is, and may you always continue.

Merry Christmas to each and every one of you.

▼**Jim Wies**

## Ironman Nurse

Adapted from an article by Jeff Dertinger in the Times-Reformer

It takes the average person around 2 1/2 hours to drive from Simcoe to Barrie, an approximate distance of 220 kilometres.

It took **Vera (Roxburgh) Crossley** a mere 15 hours to travel that same distance—during the recent Subaru Ironman Canada triathlon in Penticton, B.C.

Vera, a Simcoe native who lives and works in Hamilton as an operating room nurse at Henderson General Hospital, completed one of the most grueling physical and emotional athletic challenges there is, this past summer.

The Ironman Triathlon consists of a 3.8 km swim, a 180 km bicycle race, and a 42.1 km marathon, bringing the entire race to a total distance of 225.9 km.

"I was very happy with how I did, just to finish the race. It's such a sense of accomplishment you feel at the end of it."

Vera, 44, completed the swim in one hour and 32 minutes, just two minutes above her goal time. She was aiming for eight hours in the bike portion and completed that in just over seven. Then came the marathon.

"I was feeling great for the first 10 kilometres, and then I hit a wall. I began to get sick, and I had to walk the rest."

She finished in a time of 15:00:19, but the result was not what really counted.

"It was a great experience, even the next day I felt fine. I was tired, but I didn't have any sore or pulled muscles," Vera said. "But I can't imagine doing it again any time soon. For a year leading up to it, all I did was work, train and sleep."

Her shift at the hospital begins at 7:30 a.m., so she was up at 4:00 every morning to run. Then after work she was back to the gym to complete her swimming and cycling training before hitting the mattress and starting the cycle all over again.

"I had some great friends to train with, which is

# Congratulations!



Vera Crossley emerges from her 3.8 km swim, the first leg of the Subaru Ironman Triathlon in Penticton B.C. The second leg of the gruelling challenge was a 180 km bicycle race, which was followed by a full marathon (42.1 km), making a total of 225.9 km. Vera missed her personal goal of 15 hours by only 19 seconds, as indicated on the digital timer above her head as she crosses the finish line.

important when they make up your entire social circle.”

Vera says she began running “years ago” just for the exercise. But as she began to get stronger, a friend talked her into trying a marathon.

“I had competed in a few marathons when a friend talked me into trying a mini-triathlon. At first I couldn’t keep up because I didn’t have the proper equipment.”

Vera says having the proper equipment is necessary, but it comes with a hefty price tag.

“Expenses for a marathon are one thing, you have to have the proper shoes and running gear, but there’s a lot more to it for a Triathlon. The bike, the wet-suit, those are just the beginning.”

She says her husband, **Mike Crossley**, was there to support her the whole way.

“He thinks I’m crazy,” she laughed. “But he was totally supportive throughout the whole year. He put up with barely seeing me sometimes, and he was there at the race to cheer me on and greet me at the transition points.”

But as much as Mike and her friends could help and support her, she always knew it was going to be solely up to her in the end.

“I think the reason I got into this is because it’s all up to you. You’re never going to let somebody else down, it’s just a mental challenge to yourself, and I like that.”

Vera also competed in the Boston Marathon a few years ago and says it was a worthwhile experience, despite the overcrowded nature of the event.

“There are so many people there, and you have to stand around and wait for six hours before the race even begins.”

And even though her Ironman days may be behind her for now, she plans to continue to compete in marathons throughout the year.

She already has one lined up for this spring.

Vera is the daughter of **June Miller** of Vittoria.

## Six area residents receive “Heritage Community Recognition Awards”

Adapted from an article by Lyn Tremblay in the Port Dover Maple Leaf

Six Norfolk County residents are among 250 honoured by the Ontario Heritage Foundation with “Heritage Community Recognition Awards”.

Recently, their contributions to heritage preservation were also recognized by Norfolk County. Recipients included **Jim Oliver** and **Dave Holmes** of the Long Point Region Conservation Authority and two Vittoria couples, **Everett and Deane Lampman** and **Doug and Grace Trafford**.



Ross Bateman (left) and Jim Wies (right) of Norfolk Heritage Committee with award recipients Everett Lampman, and Grace and Doug Trafford,

# Congratulations!

Nominations were sent in by Norfolk Heritage Committee Chair **▼Jim Wies** and Vice-Chair **Ross Bateman**.

**▼Jim Wies** stated, "Messrs. **Jim Oliver** and **Dave Holmes** are nominated for leadership in supporting the designation of over 20% of the Long Point Region Conservation Authority's forested properties as 'Natural Heritage Woodlands'. With this designation, these woodlands now serve as core areas for the protection of rare, threatened and endangered species. Through the natural heritage approach, the LPRCA has assumed a lead role in protecting and restoring interior forest and mature forest habitats."

**Deane Lampman, Everett Lampman, Grace Trafford** and **Doug Trafford** received their awards for commitment to "ongoing preservation, care and proper heritage maintenance of Christ Church Anglican in Vittoria. They were honoured for "recognizing its significance in its own right and in the context of Vittoria's historic and picturesque town square."

"In addition, they are dedicated to the cause of ensuring that this beautiful and unique church building be protected and maintained for future generations," stated Mr. Wies.

## Jassen brings the Cup home

Adapted from a number of articles in the Port Dover Maple Leaf

It may have taken **Jassen Cullimore** a quarter of a century to win his first major championship, but it was worth the wait when it was the National Hockey League's most coveted trophy, the Stanley Cup, that was the prize.

"It hasn't sunk in yet," Jassen said recently. "It's been a little while since it happened, but it's still hard to fathom. So much has been going on that it is still hard to believe that it's real."

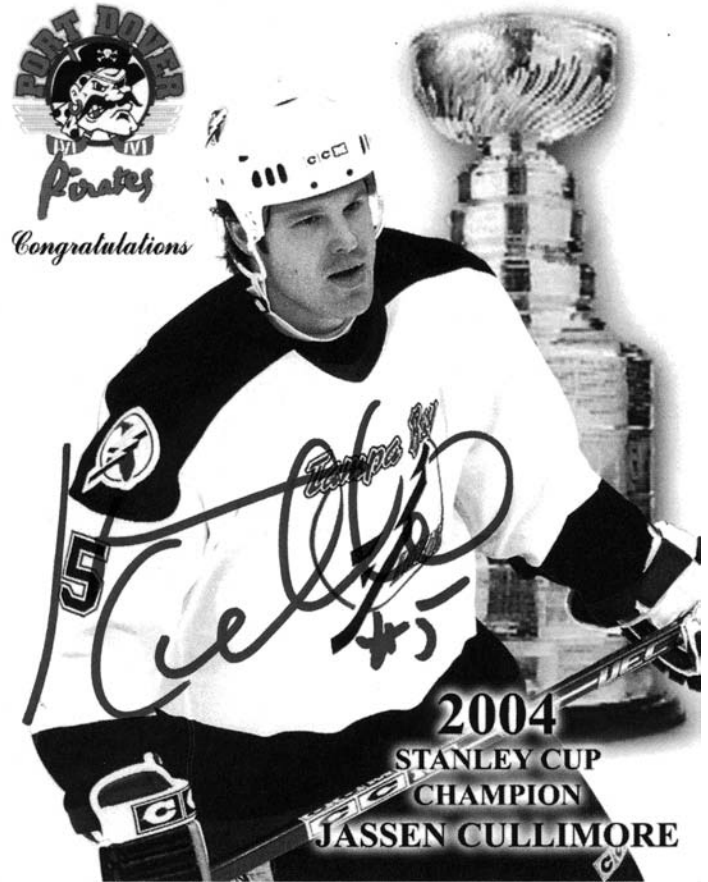
Jassen said that the road to the Stanley Cup in 2004 was a continuation of the Tampa Bay Lightning's previous season's success. "We made the playoffs the year before," he said, "And this year we just continued on. We didn't make many changes as far as personnel from the year before, so the confidence was there to start. However, it got stronger as we went along."

Because of an injury to his wrist, Jassen did not play in all of the playoff games. "I played in the first three games against the New York Islanders," he said. "Then I missed the entire Montreal series and came back for game 7 against Philly and then played in all seven games in the final series against Calgary. I was glad I got back to play."

Jassen had shoulder surgery and missed most of the 2002-2003 season, but now that his wrist is healing, he is once again healthy. "I still notice the wrist injury a little, but I'm working out and it's getting better," he announced.

Starting with power skating when he was young, hockey has always been Jassen's game, although he also played baseball for several years. "I started playing organized hockey when I was six years old," he said. After finishing his minor hockey career in Port Dover, Jassen joined the Peterborough Petes of the Ontario Hockey League in 1988. In 1991 he was drafted in round two (29th overall) by the Vancouver Canucks. However, he spent the next three years in the American Hockey League playing first in Hamilton and later in Syracuse.

He broke into the NHL with Vancouver in 1994, but was traded to the Montreal Canadiens for **Donald Brashear** in November 1996. In January 1998, Jassen was claimed by



the Tampa Bay Lightning off waivers from the Canadiens, and he has played there for the last seven seasons.

Jassen's rise up the hockey ladder has not been an easy one. "I always dreamed of playing in the NHL and winning the Stanley Cup," he said. "After all, you wouldn't be Canadian unless you dream that. But I didn't know if I would make it until I did. You always think it might happen, but you don't know. Once I was drafted and turned pro I started to think I might make it," he recalled for *The Maple Leaf*.

Continuing he said, "I played in the minors for two or three years and really had to work at it to get to the NHL."

After my first NHL training camp in 1991, I felt I had a really good camp and I almost made the team. Then I realized that I really did have a chance of playing in the NHL."

Memories of playing hockey in Port Dover revolve around the old arena on Nelson Street east which was located where the firehall now stands. "I remember hanging around the rink a lot," Jassen said. "Both my brothers played hockey too, and we were always at the arena to watch a game before mine and another one after my game. At that time, the arena had a fence around the top of the boards instead of glass to keep the pucks away from the audience."

According to Jassen, something that helped him develop his skills was a summer hockey team, the K-W Flyers. "They took the best players in the region, from Port Dover, Simcoe, Burford, Delhi and other smaller towns, and brought us together to play summer hockey and at tournaments. That was when I realized that just because you play in a small

# Congratulations!

town, it doesn't mean you can't be a good player."

Commenting on the future and life after the NHL, Jassen said that he has no solid plans yet. "I don't know where we will live after I'm done playing or what I will do. It's all up in the air."

Jassen and his wife Tanya have an eight-month old daughter, Alibia, and live in Port Dover during the off-season.

When asked what advice he would give aspiring NHLers, Jassen said, "Work hard, but have fun and enjoy the game."

Even though Jassen attended Port Dover Composite School for only grade 9 and 10, he made a lasting impression on many of the staff members who knew him.

**John Wallace**, principal at PDCS during Jassen's two years at the school, had this to say: "Jassen was a very fine student. He was highly intelligent and very capable academically and he was also a very gentle and quiet person. He was appreciated by his teachers and his peers. He was an ideal student citizen."

**Jassen Cullimore's** PDCS Vice-Principal **Muriel Dennis** confirmed this assessment of him. "He was a very good student," she said. "Although I didn't teach him, I always thought he was a great person."

Muriel said that, because she and her husband John spend their winters in the Tampa Bay area, she has followed Jassen's career over the past several years. "I know Jassen's family quite well and have followed his career with a great deal of interest."

**Joy Bartlett** who also taught at PDCS when Jassen was in attendance remembers him as "being very tall and very handsome. He was also very smart and hard working," she said. "He always seemed to know that an NHL career could be lost in a twinkling of an eye through an accident or an injury and he was preparing for that. He always realized how important a good education was."

Mrs. Bartlett added that Jassen was always friendly, charming and popular. This would seem to be confirmed by his election as Junior Prom King in the spring of 1988.

Despite his success as a star in the NHL however, people who know **Jassen Cullimore** say that little about him has changed. "When I coached him, he was like he is now," said **Fred Bridgewater**. "He still doesn't like any sort of big hoopla. He was always a big kid who ended up getting penalties he didn't deserve because of his size. He was actually quite timid and it took a while for him to get aggressive in the NHL."

In the off-season, Jassen left the Stanley Cup champion Tampa Bay Lightning, and signed a multi-year deal with the Chicago Blackhawks.

"**Jassen Cullimore** is a big, steady, stay-at-home defenceman who definitely improves our defence," Blackhawks assistant GM **Dale Tallon** said in a release. "He is one of the biggest defencemen in the NHL and was a member of the Stanley Cup champion Tampa Bay Lightning last season. He is a solid veteran who logs a lot of minutes against the other teams' top players."

"I'm very excited about coming to a city like Chicago that has such a great hockey tradition," Jassen, 31, said in a statement. "The situation in Chicago right now reminds me a lot of Tampa Bay three or four years ago. We turned things around there."

"We brought in some veterans who helped out our

younger players with their experience and leadership. Personally, I've been through a lot in my career and I feel that I can help a young team like the Blackhawks through the experiences I've had."

## Norfolk County Sports Hall of Recognition

Adapted from an article by Darryl G. Smart in the Simcoe Reformer

A number of area athletes were inducted into the Norfolk County Sports Hall of Recognition on July 17, 2004 at Talbot Gardens.

Among them were **Ruth Pond**, **Chico Maki** and the 1975 Vittoria Cooper-Moore Peewee boys fastball team.

It was a party the Vittoria Cooper-Moore peewees will never forget.

Although the players are grown up now, they remember the day the team captured Charlotteville Minor Sports Association's first Ontario Rural Softball Association (ORSA) peewee 'C' championship in 1975.

During that season, which was the second for the CMSA, a group of 15 friends won the provincial championship.

"I can just remember how much fun we had together," outfielder **Brad Pepper** said. "It's something I think we'll always remember."

The Vittoria Cooper-Moore peewees defeated Claremont on September 14, 1975 to sweep the best-of-three series.

The provincial championship was Vittoria's first, which warranted the squad's induction into the Norfolk Sports Hall of Recognition in 2004.

After winning in Claremont, parents called home to arrange a championship reception at the Vittoria Community Centre. The event was topped with a celebratory fire truck ride through the tiny village.

"The kids were so excited to get home," coach **Ray Howick** said. "It was probably the longest car ride any of those kids ever had. They all just wanted to get on the fire truck."

During the barbecue, the boys extended their celebration with a fun game at Vittoria's Thompson Memorial Ball Park.

"It really was just a bunch of friends playing together," Brad said. "It didn't matter where we were. The group of us just wanted to play ball."

"I remember all of us getting up and going to the park (after the barbecue) to play some more, while the parents did their own thing."

Much of the team spent the majority of their summers playing in empty lots, fields or on the diamond.

And it paid off.

On their way to the final, they swept Oneida, Straffordville, Melbourne and Wainfleet.

"The big thing was that we had no superstars," manager **Jack Bingleman** said. "We had a good infield, outfield, pitching and hitters."

During that dream season, Vittoria also captured the Erie League playoff championship and won consolation championships at tournaments in Jarvis and Straffordville.

After the dream season, Jack stayed with the group until they began playing men's ball. Besides the 1975 run, many of the same players won an ORSA intermediate crown in 1983, with the Vittoria Bandits. But for others like **Brad**



# The Bare Naked Ladies Strip for a Scanner!

**Pepper**, that day in September is the only championship he's ever won.

"It's great to look back," he said. "The best part about it was that everyone in the community knew each other. It was a good thing for Vittoria. It was the first one for us and everyone else. Everybody shared it."

**Brad Pepper's** grandmother, **Ruth (Walsh) Pond** was also inducted into Norfolk's Sports Hall of Recognition. Ruth made her mark in a number of sports. She won her first Turkey Point Golf Club ladies championship in 1978. By 1991 she recorded nine more, including six consecutive. In 1999 at the tender age of 84, she shot a blistering round of 84 and played 27 holes in one day.

She was also an outstanding fastball pitcher. In 1928-29 she was a stellar pitcher for the Simcoe Stars ladies fastball team. In 1934 she pitched 27 innings in one day at the CNE and received a medal from the Governor General of Canada.

In 1928-29 Ruth played on the Simcoe High School girl's hockey team and in 1933-34 was the goalie that led a make-up team of local girls who defeated the reigning provincial champions. She helped start the Simcoe Dinner Bowling League in 1959 and excelled in it for the next 40 years. When she wasn't participating in sports, she was eagerly watching others play.

**Ronald "Chico" Maki**, another Sports Hall of Recognition inductee, earned his nickname by being **Chico Marx** funny off the ice, but he was a 5'10", 170 pound bulldog on blades when he laced up.

Born in Sault Ste. Marie in 1939, Chico was adopted by Norfolk County when he played minor hockey here in the late 1950s.

Chico was a member of the 1960 Memorial Cup championship St. Catharines Teepees team before being called up to the NHL.

As **Bobby Hull** and **Phil Esposito's** hard-hitting right-winger for the Chicago Blackhawks in the early 1960s, Chico was a great playmaker. He was an All-Star with the Stanley Cup winning Blackhawks in 1961, 1971 and 1972.

A great penalty killer, Chico tied **Stan Mikita's** club record for shorthanded goals in 1970.

We congratulate all athletes and builders inducted into Norfolk's Sports Hall of Recognition in 2004.

## Baring it all ... for a good cause

Adapted from articles by Daniel Pearce and Tara McEwen in the Simcoe Reformer  
How far has sleepy, rural, conservative Norfolk County evolved?

Sometimes it seems as if we're mired in the past, hanging onto our farming roots for dear life. We've reinforced the worst country-people stereotypes about ourselves with episodes involving service club stags that featured strippers and, a decade ago, the unfortunate minstrel show controversy. We've made ourselves a media target by unabashedly hanging onto our tobacco industry and refusing to encourage people to butt out.

But there are many facets to our community that belie the Green Acres image. We can, in fact, have it both ways. It is possible to embrace our rural heritage and be progressive at the same time - and have a little fun.

We have been shown this by the county's Women's Institutes. Nothing could be more rooted in our history and culture than these groups of farm women who for nearly a

century have met regularly to learn skills such as hat making, forge new friendships, and donate to community causes.

They've seen their numbers drop as people move out of the countryside and into urban areas and women become more entrenched in the workforce. But the ladies, most of them seniors, have persevered and changed with the times.

So much so that a dozen of them last year did the very un-rural like thing for a woman and posed nude for the camera. Borrowing an idea from England, the women have produced a calendar featuring local Miss January through Miss December, the proceeds from which will go towards the purchase of a CAT scan machine for Norfolk General Hospital.

The project has been carried out in good taste and with a wink and a nudge to the viewer. The photo shoot was done carefully. Quilts, trees, and teddy bears were used to cover their ... ahem ... parts. One woman stood behind a llama.

The hope was that the community would respond and pay \$20 for a calendar. The goal of the Norfolk District Women's Institute was to sell out 1,000 copies and go for a second printing by the end of the summer. It may seem like small change, but the ladies who went bare will nevertheless make a dent in the \$3-million bill for the CAT scan machine, a diagnostic tool which makes three-dimensional pictures of the body.

It is ironic that the Women's Institutes have chosen the hospital for their daring fundraiser. They helped establish NGH in 1929. Today, the hospital is also evolving. To keep up-to-date, it is undergoing an expansion and will get a new emergency room and larger diagnostic area. The CAT scan machine is essential for a modern healthcare facility.

If the county wants to evolve, its residents must get behind the hospital improvements and support NGH's fundraising drives. Buying a calendar of Norfolk's finest seniors is one way of helping out.

Each purchase will also prove to the rest of the world that we support our community and have a sense of humour.

When **Rose Marie Smith** first saw the movie *Calendar Girls* in February she couldn't just sit back and watch the film.

"I couldn't stop analyzing it," she said. "I still enjoyed it and I remember parts of it, but I kept watching, trying to figure out how they pulled it off."

The popular British movie about a group of rural women who pose nude for a charity calendar struck a chord with Rose Marie. She thought it was a project the Norfolk District Women's Institute (NDWI) could pull off here in Ontario. They did just that when they released their calendar last summer at Norfolk General Hospital (NGH).

"When I heard they needed money for a CAT scanner I thought it was the perfect cause," she said. "People in this area have to travel so far to get medical attention. We really need this equipment."

In just a few months she collected private donations, found a photographer, assembled some models and secured a deal with a printer.

All they needed were nude photos. On a chilly spring day the models from 10 Women's Institutes met at Rose Marie's home at 7:30 in the morning, removed their clothes and were photographed.

The models all believed in the cause, but had some reservations about posing nude.

Miss October, **Carol Grosvenor**, laughed out loud when

## The Bare Naked Ladies Strip for a Scanner!

she was first approached by Rose Marie.

"I thought she was kidding," Carol said. "Then when I heard about the cause, I thought 'maybe I can do this.'"

On the day of the shoot, Carol chose a spot behind some high bushes.

"Some of the women were a lot braver than I was that day," she said.

She's too shy to allow her calendar photo to appear in the Reformer. So was Miss September, **Rose Marie Smith**.

"I know there's nothing showing," Carol said. "But I still don't want it in the paper."

"Make sure you tell people it's tasteful," Rose Marie said during her interview.

The tasteful and discreet black and white, sepia-toned photographs show the women, naked, with strategically placed props. The models covered up their "parts" with quilts, teddy bears and trees.

Not all of the props co-operated that day, which added a little filth to the photo shoot. For Rose Marie's September photo, she climbed a tree, without a stitch of clothing on, and hid behind a llama.

"Wouldn't you know it, the llama got into the mud just before the photo was taken," she said.

They cleaned up the llama for the photo.

Photographer **Mary Etta McGraw** gave the women complete control over the photo shoot.

"We established early on that the calendar wouldn't be attached to anything sleazy," she said. The models had the final say over which photos were used and they got to keep the negatives.

"There was a certain tension because they were doing this (posing nude) for the first time," she said. "Women of a certain age don't normally pose nude," she said gingerly. "It was like getting on a roller coaster for them."

In May, NGH launched a campaign to raise \$3 million for a CAT scanner. The Norfolk Women's Institute has a long relationship with NGH. They helped establish the hospital in 1929, Smith said.

They printed 1,000 copies of the calendar and they sold out quickly. The calendars sell for \$20 at the gift shop in NGH or through the Norfolk Women's Institutes.

They ordered a second printing of the calendar by the end of the summer.

NGH needs to raise \$3 million for a new CAT scanner, a three dimensional diagnostic tool. To date NGH is more than half way to this goal, but there's still a way to go.

## Norfolk District Women's Institute



### 2005 CALENDAR

\$20.00

All profits from calendar sales  
will be given directly to the  
Norfolk General Hospital  
CT Scan Fund.

## Norfolk W.I. "Calendar Girls"

Adapted from an article by Marg Werden in the Port Dover Maple Leaf

What a difference a century makes!

When **Adelaide Hoodless** founded the Women's Institute in Stoney Creek in 1897, she probably never dreamed that one day members of the organization would pose for photographs wearing little more than wide smiles and a piece or two of jewellery. However, Adelaide would have understood the reason behind the action.

Taking a page from the lesson book of their British counterparts, now made famous by the movie "Calendar Girls", members of the Norfolk District Women's Institute have launched their own calendar to raise funds for Norfolk General Hospital's CAT Scanner Fund.

"Since the first meeting on February 19, 1897, Women's Institutes have worked tirelessly for the betterment of their families and communities," said **Rose Marie Smith**, who organized the production of the calendar with **Marian Austin**, **Ginger Stanley**, and **Marcia Adams**. "In 1905, the Norfolk Women's Institute was involved in the establishment of Norfolk General Hospital. Now in 2004, the Women's Institute is involved with the hospital again."

At the launch of the calendar at the Vittoria Community Centre last week, Rose Marie said that the Women's Institute had been looking for a cause to benefit the citizens of Norfolk County. "Why the CAT Scanner?" she asked. "Because we need this machine here in Norfolk to help save lives."

And that is definitely something Adelaide would have understood. She began the Women's Institute with a campaign to have milk pasteurized after losing her son to bad milk.

"After seeing the movie Calendar Girls, the committee decided that doing our own calendar would fit our needs," Rose Marie said. "Because the original calendar girls in England were also raising funds for the enhancement of their hospital, we felt that the calendar fit our cause and the cause fit the calendar. The movie had a profound effect on me. I sat through it two times, analyzing it, learning from it, and working out the logistics."

The movie and the cause must have had a similar effect on many other members of the Institute. "All the models volunteered to be in the calendar and we had so many others ask why they weren't asked to be a model," said **Marcia Adams**, Vice President of the District.

Photographed by Port Dover photographer **Mary Etta McGraw**, the tasteful sepia-toned pictures show less skin than would be seen on a beach on a sunny summer day. The rest is left to the imagination with strategically-placed props. "We had a lot of fun doing this," said Mary Etta. "Some of the women were more comfortable in their skin than others, but we all had a great time shooting the photos."

In addition to raising funds for the CAT Scanner, the calendar is also designed to enhance the profile of the Women's Institute organization.

"We need to remind the community that we have served the community well for a long time," Rose Marie said. "However, the members are aging and we need to attract new members. Many of the highlights, contributions to the community, and accomplishments of the local Institutes are noted on the calendar thanks to a large and dedicated research team."

"We hope to have to re-order many times," Marcia said, "And raise at least \$50,000 from the sale of the calendars. If we can double or triple that, so much the better."

Profits from the sale of the Calendars are now approaching \$40,000.

## Donnybrook Fair 2004

Adapted from articles by Daniel Pearce and Chris Thomas in the Simcoe Reformer

**Cory Ann Pond** chose the pine cones carefully.

In order to have another prize-winning entry at the Donnybrook Fair, she needed plenty of them, and they all had to be exactly the same size. With bucket in hand, she patrolled the forests abutting her parents' tobacco farm, sorting through the discards from the trees above, measuring each one, and throwing away what she didn't want.

It took her two to three weeks, but the St. Michael's Separate School student kept her streak alive. Cory Ann came away with another first-place ribbon in the children's craft category.

Her creation: an alligator made of pine cones.

"It has scales, the same as pine cones," Cory Ann, 10, explained. "I do good every year so it's exciting for me to come here."

The Donnybrook Fair, held here for the 139th time on the weekend, is all about kids such as Cory Ann, said **Brenda Shepherd**, one of the fair's directors.

"Kids are what we think about," Brenda said shortly after a parade through Walsh Saturday morning which featured children from the village dressed in costumes. Organizers are trying to bring more young people into the fair. They have talked to area school principals and sometimes have addressed classrooms.

"We're getting more (kids) every year," said Brenda. "We're getting more and more schools involved all the time."

Donnybrook also needs more adult volunteers to help with fundraising. The fair took a hit after the bingo hall closed in Simcoe and it lost one of its major sources of income.

"We're trying to hold onto (the fair)," Brenda said. "The last couple of years have not been bad" thanks to a beef and pork barbecue held every spring, she added. "But we could always use more people."

Small fairs face a number of problems, said **Larry Farnsworth** of Pelham, who was in Walsh as a representative of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies.

Amusement ride operators are shying away from small fairs, saying it's not profitable for them while insurance premiums have skyrocketed and are "killing us," Farnsworth said.

On Saturday morning, however, after the rain stopped, area residents and their children filtered through the gates.

They wandered through the midway, which featured rides, and through two buildings of arts and crafts and large pumpkins.

At noon, a baby show was held and later the first round of a two-day demolition derby - Donnybrook's biggest attraction - got underway.

"Smaller fairs like Houghton, Langton, and this one, reflect the community's needs," said Farnsworth. "They're really a mirror for the area they're in."

"This must have been what they were like when they first started."

The Donnybrook Fair this has become known for its two-day demolition derby. Dozens of drivers compete for a total of \$3,700 in prize money in events held both Saturday

and Sunday. Ironically, the demolition derby at Donnybrook was first started in the early 1970s by a club dedicated to rebuilding cars.

Horsepower Unlimited was a group of 15 local guys with an interest in building hot rods. The idea of running a demolition derby at the Donnybrook Fair came about as a fundraiser for the club's facility on First Avenue in Simcoe.

"We ran the derby for years," said club member **Gary Hegmans** of Delhi.

"The guys knew where all the wrecked cars were."

He said the reputation of the Donnybrook Fair derby was solidified by announcer, **Felix Kukach** of Bloomsburg, who entertained the crowds with his call of the action in the ring.

Gary recalled participating in the derby once and getting knocked out of the competition early. "The frame of my 1963 Buick collapsed," he said.

Today, the club has all but dissolved. But the demolition derby continues to be the highlight of the fair.

Gary's daughter, Paula, recalled attending the derby with her dad as a child.

"People love it," she said. "There's the noise and the smoke wafts through the audience. And then there's the sense of danger."

"We have the only permanent demolition derby ring in the area," said **Larry Partridge**, a longtime organizer of the Donnybrook Fair. He says their portable stage has been a big fundraiser for the small fall fair which runs Saturday and Sunday.

Larry, whose family was among the original settlers in the Walsh area back in the early 1800s, said the fair has changed only slightly in its 139-year history, most notably the demolition derbies and midway.

"I can still remember people making their own entertainment," he said, citing log sawing events and chasing greased pigs.

Today, like in the past, the fair is mostly "for the kids."

"There are generations in the village who have grown vegetables and exhibited at the fair," Larry said. "We give the kids good prizes so they can make some money to go to the Simcoe fair."

The Donnybrook Fair features a parade, a baby show, the demolition derby, and the Big Creek Tractor Pull.

## Diane Finley named Agriculture Critic in Shadow Cabinet

Adapted from an article by Monte Sonnenberg in the Simcoe Reformer

Following her upset win over incumbent Haldimand-Norfolk MP **Bob Speller** last June, Conservative leader **Stephen Harper** has given local MP **Diane Finley** a pivotal role in his shadow cabinet.

In Ottawa, Mr. Harper announced Diane would serve as the opposition's agriculture critic in the upcoming session of Parliament.

Diane heard on a Monday that Harper was considering her for a senior portfolio. She learned the details Tuesday night.

"It was exciting," she said. "Naturally, I was delighted and honoured."

As agriculture critic, Diane's job will be to critique the government's performance on farm-related issues in the

House of Commons. She will also work to ensure Ottawa follows through on its commitments to the agricultural sector.

Diane expects to be on her feet often.

**Bob Speller**, former MP for Haldimand-Norfolk, was the Liberals' minister of agriculture when Diane defeated him in the June 28 election. With his majority government reduced to a minority, Prime Minister **Paul Martin** swore in Parry Sound-Muskoka MP **Andy Mitchell** as Bob's replacement. Mr. Mitchell's background is in banking.

"Parry Sound-Muskoka has less than one per cent of the farmland in Ontario," Diane said. "Mr. Mitchell really doesn't have any experience in this portfolio."

With **Bob Speller** gone and **Diane Finley** serving as opposition agriculture critic, **Tom Vandertuin**, president of the Norfolk Federation of Agriculture, says the relationship of local farmers with their federal representative will change.

*Diane (Dennis) Finley is a former Vittoria resident, and the daughter of Muriel and John Dennis.*

## Turkey Point Cellphone tower may solve reception woes

Adapted from an article by Monte Sonnenberg in the Simcoe Reformer

Norfolk council has approved construction of a cellphone communications tower north of Turkey Point.

The tower will be 105 metres tall. It will be built near the intersection of Norfolk Road 10 and Charlotteville Road 2 on land belonging to **Christopher Van Loon**. The tower will be used to provide signals for customers of Rogers Wireless Inc. "This is progress for this area," Windham Councillor.

▼**Dean Morrison** said. "This is a blank spot that needs to be filled."

Simcoe Councillor, ▼**Charlie Luke** has heard complaints from farmers that cellphones don't work well in this part of Norfolk. Charlie added there are two trucking firms near Walsh and two elementary schools in the village that will also benefit from improved service.

"It's time this area was allowed proper use of its cellphones," Charlie said.

Industry Canada is the approval authority for communication towers. The federal agency requires applicants to seek municipal approval as a courtesy. Where municipalities object, Industry Canada will mediate a negotiated solution.

## Vittoria Lions cook up plenty of fun

Adapted from an article by Patrick James Asselin in the Times-Reformer

From the parking lot, the Vittoria Community Centre smelled like a roadhouse. Inside, it still smelled like a roadhouse but looked like a community centre.

A hint of vinegar in the air burned the nostrils.

In the kitchen, a half-dozen or so Lions Club members cooked french fries, mixed cole slaw, prepared vegetables and kept warm the wings, available as plain or with mild, medium, hot or honey garlic sauce, cooked in the parking lot.

Moist "Fingertowelettes" in baskets helped to wipe the sauce and grease from your hands.

The Vittoria Lions were busy serving some 500 pounds of wings to about 300 people during their chicken wing dinner fundraiser, which included all-you-can-eat french fries and cole slaw on a Wednesday evening last June.

**George Demaiter**, who became president of the Vittoria Lions the next day, had eaten one plate of wings by the time he was interviewed by a reporter at about 7 p.m.

"You only eat so much," he said. "When you're full, you're full."

Apparently not. About 20 minutes later, he joined the reporter for another helping of wings.

In the main hall, people from different parts of the county were gnawing on wings.

"My husband's in the back in the kitchen," said **Linda Sitter**, the wife of a Lion. "I trained him well. He does windows, too."

That made a friend of hers envious.

"I think we'd better trade husbands for a while," joked **Jennifer Corsini** of Turkey Point.

Linda explained that her husband likes working in the kitchen at home, too.

She ate a full plate of two pounds of hot and honey garlic wings - plus a slice of key lime pie for dessert.

"I ate it all and so did little Jennifer," she said. "I didn't want my husband knowing I had pie."

Jennifer added, "We basically licked our plates clean."

Back in the kitchen, Linda's husband, **Don Sitter**, was busy serving the wings. Being a member of the Lions Club has let him meet people he hasn't seen in the 24 years he lived in Sarnia. In 2000, the Sitters moved back to Norfolk.

"I spend a lot of time in the kitchen," said Don, whose brother-in-law taught him how to cook.

"I enjoy it."

**Mark and Donalda Ferraccioli** said "the love of wings" brought them to Vittoria Wednesday night. The two will sometimes cook wings at home in Vittoria, but the Lions Club made it easier.

"They're not hard to cook at home, but it's better when somebody else does it," said Donalda.

**John Vanrooy Jr.** ate a pound of wings with mild, hot and honey garlic sauce.

"I like variety," he said.

The rest of his plate was piled with fries, vegetables and bread.

"I want your autograph," said one passerby. "I've never seen anyone eat so much food."

He's no stranger to the Lions' chicken. He's been going to their dinners, which featured parts of the chicken other than the wings, for the past 15 years or so.

His young nephews, on the other hand, didn't much care for the messy, saucy wings and preferred french fries with ketchup.

The money the Lions raised at the chicken dinner will go towards Camp Trillium or Norfolk General Hospital for a CT scanner.

"We try to keep as many of our donations local as possible," said **George Demaiter**.

## Dreaming of a Strawberry social

Adapted from an article by Tiffany Mayer in the Times-Reformer

There's a trick to serving up the perfect strawberry shortcake at a strawberry social. Don't use sponge cake.

Take it from **Mary Ann Fick** who will only go to a strawberry social if the shortcake is made with biscuits.

"They don't all have biscuits. The others have cake. That's why we like to get to this one for sure," Mary Ann said after filling up on the summery dessert at Port Ryerse's Memorial Church Strawberry Social last June.

"The biscuits are homemade and that makes a big difference," interjected **Betty Calder**, who attended the event with Mary Ann and friends **Jean Sowden** and **Beth Hayes**.

According to the quartet of connoisseurs, whipped topping is a big no-no. Real whipped cream must always be used instead.

The shortcake will likely also taste better if you had a hand in making it. Just ask Betty, who enjoyed her dessert even more than had she not helped pick the 14 buckets of berries used for the event.

These are just some of the rules of strawberry social etiquette. With at least a handful of local socials, suppers and festivals in honour of the tender red fruit happening every June, each event is likely to put its own spin on the tradition.

Regardless of how the berries are served up, strawberry socials seem to be the event of choice at this time of year.

"Number one, it's strawberry season. This is the only time to have them," Betty explained about the popularity of strawberry socials.

"Everybody loves strawberries and it's a great way to raise funds for a cause," added **Beth Hayes**.

For four dollars, those attending the function in Port Ryerse get a generous helping of locally grown berries, whipped cream and biscuits. While that may sound like the ideal mid-afternoon snack, it's also the perfect recipe for a money maker.

With a small congregation that only holds a service every two weeks, events such as the strawberry social grow in importance for the Memorial Church.

"Because there are so few in the church, we have to do a lot of extra things," explained **Mary Lou Varey**, who was helping to prepare the shortcake in the church's basement.

Memorial Church used to kick off spring with an asparagus festival but when it comes to fundraising for the tiny chapel, the strawberry social seems to be a bigger draw, explained **Jo Anne Easton**, the people's warden at the church.

"It's fresh. It's clean. It's the taste they think about all winter," she said.

But people don't just come to strawberry socials for the food.

"It's a time for socializing. It's a time for community," Jo Anne explained.

While the socials of old at the church may have required dressing in one's Sunday best to drink tea and eat food served on china, lately the fruity events have more of a relaxed feel thanks to disposable dishes.

Despite the strawberry social's transformation over the years, its quiet hamlet setting on a relaxed, sunny Sunday afternoon still makes the event one that Jo Anne calls a "very Little House on the Prairie sort of thing."

"People come," she said. "They're in no rush to leave."

## Harry Gundry reached 108 in November, now he's gone

Adapted from articles by Monte Sonnenberg & Daniel Pearce in the Simcoe Reformer

▼**Harry Gundry** saw a lot of change over his long life.

Norfolk's most senior senior marked his 108th birthday on Friday, November 26, 2004 from a bed on the fourth floor of Norfolk General Hospital. He and his family were waiting for a room to become available in the Norfolk General Nursing Home next door.

Until recently, Harry lived in the farmhouse south of Vittoria where he was born. It took nearly 108 years, but he finally had to pull up stakes and move into town. His family says he adjusted quite well. On his birthday, Harry was alert and sitting in a chair, looking dapper in a pressed shirt and cardigan.

"Part of me isn't too good," he said. "But I guess I'm all right. The Dickens of it is my hearing is just about completely gone."

His hearing aid wasn't working Friday. Under the circumstances, conversation for him is a chore.

▼**Harry Gundry** was born and raised in the house that used to belong to **Judge James A. Mitchell**, Norfolk's first magistrate.

Since his birth in 1896 Harry has seen the world flash by in a whirlwind of change. He's seen dirigibles and remembers the first telephones. He saw the arrival of the first airplanes and horseless carriages. As a farmer, he spent many summers behind a horse team. He didn't buy his first tractor until he was 48.

"He'd been wonderful up till last summer," daughter **Jean Holmes** of Walsh said. "But he's had some problems; some mini-strokes. His short-term memory had been going of late. But his long-term memory was fine. He could tell you all kinds of things from the 1900s."

Jean said her father had always had an even temperament and never seemed to get upset at anything. He always had a good appetite and continued to clean his plate. He never complained of joint pain or arthritis.

"He never smoked and he never drank, other than the occasional glass of wine," Jean said. "He worked on the farm and was outdoors all the time."

Son ▼**Doug Gundry**, 69, of Vittoria, attributes his father's longevity to good genes. Nearly 10 uncles on his father's side lived into their 90s. As well, a 95-year-old cousin in Saskatchewan was operating a combine this past summer. Slim and trim is the norm in the Gundry clan.

"We have an 18-year-old dog, so there must be something in the water," Doug said. "But that's just a joke. It's genetics."

▼**Harry Gundry** did his own banking until last year. He stopped driving at age 93. His only time ill was after a horseriding accident. He suffered a perforated bowel in the incident and was laid up for a spell. He gave up horse riding at age 92, but only because his steed died.

Harry managed a farm of 100 acres until he retired. He raised dairy cattle and grew grain.

▼**Harry Gundry** died on Sunday, January 9, 2005.

With him to the grave has gone another era.

He allowed himself to be interviewed by area historians and offered glimpses into life in the county nearly 100 years



ago. He had lived in three centuries and saw the birth of the car, the first man to step on the moon, and big changes in farming.

"He was very good at storytelling and on the history of the area," said Doug, who has remained on the family farm.

In the early 20th century, farmers raised animals and grew a variety of crops. If one thing failed, something else made money. Most of the work was done by hand.

"It was a hard life back then," Doug said. "Farm work was all hard work and labour, but people lived longer because of the hard work."

The family home was heated by a furnace that was fed by chunks of wood chopped by hand. It was a rigorous chore Harry continued doing every day into his 90s even after the furnace had been changed to a combination oil-wood heater.

When he was a teenager, he walked from the farm to Simcoe to attend high school. He boarded in town during the week and walked home again on weekends, said his daughter Jean.

His children said he had lived a simple life. They described him as a calm, gentle, and dignified person, who put on a sports coat every time he went to town.

"Very seldom did he get upset about anything or excited about anything," said Doug.

His greatest passion was raising high-quality breeding cattle. Some of them were sent to Italy and to Cuba, before the time of **Fidel Castro**, where they helped establish the island's first milking herds.

Harry had remained active well into old age. He lived on the farm until this fall and still drove a tractor at 105.

Until recently, he continued to garden..

"He was so well until last summer," said Jean. "He had a good quality of life until last spring."

Two of his five children survive. His wife Eva died in 1966. Besides **Jean Holmes** and ▼**Doug Gundry**, he is survived by nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

## A grand lady

Adapted from an article by Chris Thomas in the Simcoe Reformer

A life which spans three centuries is a unique accomplishment on its own.

But ▼**Clara Bingleman**, who turned 105 on October 16, has lived a life which took her to the highest levels of government service, including working in the Prime Minister's Office during the Second World War.

As secretary to **Walter Turnbull**, who was Principal Secretary for **Prime Minister Mackenzie King**, the farm girl from Walsh was privy to the comings and goings of the nation's leaders in wartime Ottawa.

"There was always a (security) man at the door," she said.

Although Clara had limited contact with King, she earned the respect of senior bureaucrats for whom she worked.

"I took dictation from the Prime Minister only once," Clara said. "He was the perfect gentleman and was very kind to me."

Growing up near Walsh, she set out for Ottawa at the tender age of 16 in 1917 to attend business college.

"I was scared skinny," she admitted.

Moving in with an uncle and aunt, Clara was quickly introduced to city life.

"The first thing my aunt did was shorten my skirts," she laughed.

Clara was taken under the wing of her business college principal who vetted prospective employers for her.

One was rejected because the principal felt Clara was "too sensitive" to be in his company.

But Clara was no pushover. Another employer offered her a salary of \$10 per week.

"I told him I got that much picking potatoes," she said.

Not being intimidated was a characteristic she maintained throughout her entire career in the dog-eat-dog world of the civil service.

"I suppose I had a high opinion of myself and wouldn't be put upon," she said. "I was pretty darn independent and wouldn't be abused."

Perhaps that was because of her upbringing in the rough and tumble era of Charlotteville Township.

She recalled being leery of strange men in the big city. But she put up with worse growing up near Walsh. A neighbour, "not much older than I was," was hanged for two murders.

After graduation, she worked in the private sector for almost two years and then took the civil service exam, finding a job in charge of examinations for government jobs.

Her most memorable job application was for the position of Canada's hangman which paid the princely sum of \$1,000 for each execution.

Clara said she was unable to understand why anyone would want to be a hangman. She delighted in crafting a letter which indicated to him that the position was not within her jurisdiction to fill.

She went on to spend 16 years as secretary to the head of Canada's national parks and took it upon herself to travel to all of the parks, including a horseback trek into Jasper National Park.

After the Second World War, she followed Turnbull into the Postal Department where she stayed until her retirement in 1959. As secretary to the deputy minister of the department, she travelled on many occasions to South America and Europe.

The age of the airplane is the biggest change ▼**Clara Bingleman** cites in her life. Even landing a man on the moon didn't impress her.

"You couldn't quite believe it, but they had been talking about it for years before," she explained.

These days, there is nothing that surprises her.



"Now, I take everything in stride," she said.

Legally blind since 1978, and her mobility limited by a broken hip several years ago, Clara devours audio tapes of periodicals and books provided by the CNIB. She is currently listening to the Second World War memoirs of a Canadian artillery officer, titled "Where the Hell are the Guns?"

When asked how she would celebrate her 105th birthday, ▼**Clara Bingleman** retorted: "You don't celebrate. I shouldn't even be here," chuckled the Cedarwood Gardens resident for the past seven years.

But she will still enjoy a dinner with family members who all revere her.

"She's a very generous aunt," said her niece ▼**Frances Winter**. "She's loving and caring, a very special lady."

Indeed, she is.

At age 105, ▼**Clara Bingleman** of Vittoria is now the oldest resident of Norfolk. She recently broke her hip, and received physiotherapy. She remains talkative and in good spirits.

## Iris Mels was a driving force in Vittoria

Adapted from an article by Monte Sonnenberg in the Simcoe Reformer

Residents of Vittoria will remember ▼**Iris Mels** as a pillar of the community.

Iris died last April 6 at Norfolk General Hospital - one of the numerous places around the county where she volunteered. She was 85 years old.

Vittoria neighbour ▼**Tom Haskett** says Iris was a woman of boundless energy. Not only did she raise seven children, she took on numerous leadership roles in the village over the course of her long life.

"She was a very determined lady," Tom said. "She would set out her views and she would not debate them. She would then set out to ensure her standards were met. She always managed to bring out the best in others."

Iris was a member of the former New Horizons Club in Vittoria when the old town hall on Brock Street was threatened with demolition 30 years ago.

She helped lead the effort to save the 100-year-old building, which is now a focal point of the community. The New Horizons group later changed its name to the Lamport Club in honour of a prominent family in Vittoria at the time of Confederation.

"She's still watching over it, I'm sure," Tom said. "She'll still be directing things from beyond."

Iris was an enthusiastic member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter # 152, in Vittoria. She served as Worthy Matron in 1956-57 and again in 2001-2002.

A life member of Chapter # 152, she also held the Office of Electra. The Office of Electra represents one of the five points of the star that serves as the OES emblem. Chapter # 152 held a memorial service for Iris Thursday night.

"She was a very nice person," says lifelong friend **▼Ada Stenclik** of Vittoria. "She was very hardworking in any organization she belonged to. She did it because she enjoyed it. She liked to celebrate the different holidays. She loved to celebrate. She loved life. She was always a busy, busy lady."

Iris was also a past president of the Vittoria Women's Institute and a member of the Vittoria & District Foundation.

"She was always a great contributor to our auction,; foundation secretary **▼Roger Cruickshank**, Vittoria, said. "We could always count on her for a contribution of carnival glass items."

Iris' first husband **John Cooper** died in 1966. The couple were on the leading edge of new farming techniques at a time when agriculture was moving from small acreages to large acreages. **John Cooper** helped establish the vast network of orchards in the Vittoria area.

"She was just an allaround good country lady," **▼Tom Haskett** said.

## Allen Lloyd spearheaded Norview mini bus campaign

Adapted from an article by Chris Thomas in the Simcoe Reformer

**▼Allen Lloyd** left many legacies from his long life, but none more tangible than the mini bus at Norview Lodge.

Allen, who died January 6 at the Simcoe nursing home at age 87, was one of two residents who were instrumental in raising money for the bus.

In just 11 months, more than \$95,000 was raised in a campaign spearheaded by Allen.

"He had so many contacts in the community, both service groups and individuals," said **Vicki Prong** of Norview's activation department who worked with Allen on the fundraising campaign.

Prong said **▼Allen Lloyd** was accepting of everyone and an inspiration to her because of his community spirit.

"In my 17 years working here, Allen touched me like no one else," she said.

Her colleague, **Irene Rozak**, called Allen "kind, loving, patient, thoughtful and non judgmental."

"He made our job worthwhile," Irene said. "I will never forget him."

For all his work, Norview administrator **Kim Jenereaux** said Allen did not seek the limelight.

"He was a very unassuming gentleman, but very compassionate," she said.

In addition to fundraising, Kim said Allen helped test different bus models and got the first ride on the one selected.

"He took advantage of the bus and went on many outings," she said.

The retired Vittoria area apple grower was the oldest member of the Vittoria Baptist Church and was Past Master of Vittoria Lodge #359 AF&AM and Grand Steward of the

Grand Lodge, Past Worthy Patron and life member of OES Chapter # 152 Vittoria and Past Worthy Patron of Meeting Waters Chapter OES Paris.

**▼Rev. George Watt** first met Lloyd as a member of a church Committee hiring a new pastor.

"I'd kid him that he was stuck with me," George said.

The pair went on to become great friends.

"We were always kibitzing, he had a delightful sense of humour," George said.

He described Allen as "always upbeat and optimistic. He was a remarkable guy."

Lloyd is survived by his wife **▼Kathleen Lloyd**, a daughter **▼Virginia Drayson** and her husband **▼Tom Drayson** of Simcoe, grandchildren **Robert Drayson** and his wife Sue of Brantford and **▼Susan Drayson** of Calgary, as well as great grandchildren Ryan and Stephanie.

## Historic County Landmark may be lost

Adapted from an article by Daniel Pearce in the Simcoe Reformer

Port Ryerse General Store, one of Norfolk's oldest and most historic buildings, was severely damaged by fire last fall and may have to be demolished.

Norfolk Fire Chief **Denys Prevost** said the 170-year-old building – now a home and a designated heritage building – received structural damage and "could very well be lost."

"Usually, when there's this much damage, the building is knocked down," Prevost said while standing in front of the smouldering building.

Village residents looked on with horror, some of them with tears in their eyes as firefighters from Simcoe, Port Dover, St. Williams and Vittoria struggled to contain the blaze.

"This is a Port Ryerse landmark. This is a Norfolk landmark," **Georgia Atkinson**, a resident of the village, said from the front lawn of a house across the road.

"It was looking so sweet. For years it was just a store. They made it into a really nice-looking home."

"The fire was difficult to control because it was hard to locate as it snaked through the attic and water was in short supply," Chief Prevost said.

The village has no fire hydrants so water was pumped from the creek nearby into tankers and then brought to the scene.

"Water is our tool. We don't have it," the Fire Chief said.

While firefighters circled the home and knocked holes in the roof to pour water in, residents comforted owners **Brian and Shelly Smith**.

The couple bought the house more than four years ago and operated it briefly as a store. Shelly sold french fries and "Murphy-burgs" there, as her father **Roy Murphy** did for years in Port Dover.

They had put an addition on the back and planned to start renovating the kitchen shortly. "We wanted it ready for Christmas," Brian said.

The fire was discovered by Brian who through sheer coincidence came home at noon after rain forced him off his job laying interlocking brick in Delhi.

He said he smelled smoke in the house and initially thought neighbours were burning something outside. When he went out the back door, he saw smoke coming out from under the deck.

By the time Brian called 911, smoke was pouring out the front door and he fled the home.

Neighbour **Fred Lake**, who heard the call on his scanner, ran up the street to find Brian outside with the phone.

"I tried to get through the front door to get the cat but



had to come back. There was too much smoke," Fred said.

The Smiths have four cats, Their fate is unknown although one of the animals was seen running from the house.

Port Ryerse General Store was the focal point of the village for many years, serving as post office as well as a place to buy groceries. For a few years at the beginning of the 20th century, the store issued its own coin currency—trade tokens that could be exchanged for goods.

The store fell into disrepair in the 1980s. It sat empty for a year in 1988 while its front was restored to its original look.

Prevost said an investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of the fire. At this point, firefighters don't even know where the blaze started, he said.

No estimate of damage was available.

## County evicts nearly 200 Canada geese from parks in Simcoe, Delhi

Adapted from an article by Monte Sonnenberg in the Simcoe Reformer

Norfolk's community services department wishes local residents would make the connection between the bread crumbs they bring to Wellington Park and the goose droppings they take home on the soles of their shoes.

**Steve Scheers**, Norfolk's superintendent of forestry and cemeteries, says some of the local area's most avid goose feeders are also among the first to complain when Simcoe's famous park system is covered in goose crap.

"Right now, you can't walk through the park without stepping on goose droppings," he said. "All of this would stop if people simply stopped feeding the geese."

The trouble in Simcoe and virtually every park system in Ontario is Canada geese.

The goose population has exploded since the birds figured out that a cushy life was theirs for the taking in Ontario parks. There, they feed on grass and whatever park visitors throw their way. The geese live so well that most don't bother migrating anymore.

"We don't hate these birds," says **Lee Rabbitts**, Norfolk's superintendent of parks and facilities. "But they wreak a lot of havoc with us."

Lee described the goose manure problem as "unsightly and unpleasant."

"It's a conflicting use," he said. "Every municipality in Ontario has the same problem. Too bad alligators don't survive up here."

Last week, **Steve Scheers** and county workers got up early and removed 150 Canada geese from the Wellington Park system. The next day, they did it again at the Quance Dam park in Delhi. There, they removed 35.

Soon after sunrise, Steve and crew laid down a trail of food leading up a ramp into a trailer. The geese were happily gorging themselves when the tailgate snapped shut behind them. Then it was off to the **Lee Brown** Marsh and the Big Creek Marsh complex in southwest Norfolk.

"Relocation is used as a short-term solution to lower the resident population," Steve said in a recent memo to Norfolk council. "At this time, Canada geese cannot fly. Once their flight feathers return, many will return over the season to the Simcoe and Delhi area."

Simcoe staff left residual populations of 120 in Simcoe and 25 in Delhi.

In anticipation of the same birds returning; Norfolk staff is investigating the possibility of applying Goose Repel in strategic locations. The repellent contain cayenne pepper, a

substance most animals find offensive in large concentrations.

County staff is also considering tapping the services of the Canadian Raptor Conservancy, which is located on Front Road east of Fisher's Glen.

Birds of prey are proving to be an effective deterrent to geese settling a particular area. The conservancy is doing an increasing business with industries where hygiene is a priority.

Many large food processing companies have their own water treatment facilities on site. These facilities attract waterfowl. And wherever there is waterfowl, there is the possibility of contamination. Raptors, when used in combination with dogs, drive geese away and keep them away.

"It's very successful," Conservancy manager **James Cowan** said. "Geese are smart. They know when they're not wanted."

Canada geese are big, so not just any raptor can do the job. Cowan uses large hawks and eagles. The raptors are allowed to establish a presence in a deterrence zone. Geese soon figure out this is the territory of a bird that might have them and their young for dinner.

Negotiations between the county and the Raptor Conservancy are in the exploratory stage. If James has a role to play, the county will have to obtain a "scare permit" from the Canadian Wildlife Service. All goose control measures, wherever implemented, require the permission of the federal regulatory agency.

In recent years, Norfolk staff have been locating geese nests in county parks and spraying unhatched eggs with oil. The oil clogs microscopic holes in the shell that allow developing chicks to breathe. A suffocated chick represents one less goose doing its business in Norfolk's greenspaces.

However, the county discontinued the practice this year because so many nests near the park system are on private property. Steve Scheers says it's too much of an ordeal getting the appropriate permits to deal with nests in these areas.

## Wings over Hollywood

Adapted from an article by Tara McEwen in the Simcoe Reformer

The Canadian Raptor Conservancy has a love-hate relationship with Hollywood.

On the one hand, the block-buster film Jurassic Park had taken the word "raptor" completely out of context. On the other hand, nature documentaries couldn't live without the efforts of wild bird trainers at the conservancy.

**James Cowan** trains birds of prey bred in captivity to educate people on these birds. Ten years ago the birds started appearing on film.

"When they do documentary work it looks like they're capturing live birds in their habitat," James said. "But really they're trained in captivity. Hollywood tends to cheat sometimes."

When raptors, or "birds of prey" to use the dictionary term, become endangered it usually indicates a greater problem further down the



## A Bird in the Hand ...

food chain Cowan said. Birds such as barn owls and bald eagles are losing their natural habitats to agriculture and land development.

"Habitats are always going to be a problem," he said. "There has to be a balance between humans and nature."

James doesn't like to use the word "zoo" in describing the CRC. The first zoo, the London Zoo in London, England, opened in 1828 at the height of the British Empire. Exotic creatures from around the world were kept at the zoo for scientific research and then put on display in 1847 when the zoo opened to the public.

He stressed that although the birds are kept in captivity, they are only put on display to educate the public about these creatures. The breeding and housing techniques used by the CRC have been used in falconry hunting for over 5,000 years.

The birds are kept in pens for their own safety, he said.

"They are predators after all," he added.

The CRC does give people a closer view of these birds through free-flight demonstrations. They train captive birds — birds that are bred in captivity but not permitted to be released — in free-flight.

"We take their natural instincts and highlight them for the audience," he said. It's not like training dolphins to jump through hoops. They trigger their natural instincts and then train the birds to return to the trainer.

The free-flight shows give the CRC a chance to educate the public on the natural behaviours of these birds. It's also a good tool to highlight the breeding and rehabilitation efforts.

Since it began, the CRC has saved many bird species from the brink of extinction. The biggest success story being the ferruginous hawk. This bird lives in the Canadian prairies and feeds on ground squirrels. When farmers got rid of the squirrels it cut off the food supply for the hawk, forcing it close to extinction.

The CRC bred some hawks, reintroduced them to the environment and educated prairie farmers on the importance of the bird. The CRC showed the farmers how to use the hawks, a natural predator, to control the squirrel population.

"Now the farmers are the biggest protectors of the hawks," James said.

Two other birds are on the brink of being taken off the endangered species list. The peregrine falcon has already been taken off the list in the United States and it's only a matter of time before the same happens in Ontario, he said.

## Falconry is his business

Adapted from an article by Marg Werden in the Port Dover Maple Leaf

A life-long interest in anything to do with flight has translated into a business for **James Cowan**, owner of the Canadian Raptor Conservancy, located west of Port Ryerse.

"I started working with birds when I was in high school, training birds for falconry," James said. "I was lucky to be able to travel the world through wrestling in high school and I visited zoos everywhere I went to see how things were done there."

After working as an elevator mechanic in Toronto for a number of years, the 1980s recession hit. "However, people were still calling me to use my birds in movies," James recalled, "So I developed it into a business. I started with a couple of traditional falconry birds and did work for commercials movies and television series."

Ten years ago, **James Cowan** and his wife Shauna moved the business from Mississauga to Norfolk County. "The climate is milder here and there was more property available. As well, the location is ideal for shipping birds in and out of Hamilton Airport."

Over the last decade, he has expanded his business to include not only movie and television work, but bird control and breeding programs. "We do quite a bit of bird control work at landfill sites, airports, and industries," James explained. The breeding program provides birds both for release and to trade with other breeders. However, he said that this year was not a great year for breeding. "The weather was quite cold in April and if the birds didn't sit on the eggs, they froze."

In addition, one of the main purposes of the Canadian Raptor Conservancy is education.

"We do educational shows across Canada," James said. "This year, we have a contract to do shows at a zoo in Winnipeg all summer. We will also be in Edmonton and Red Deer, Alberta, in Quebec, and at a number of locations in Ontario to do shows."

Among the 34 species of raptors at the Conservancy are Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Barn Owls, Great Horned Owls, Peregrine Falcons, and Harris Hawks. "Some species, like Kestrels, only live to be 7 or 8 years old," he explained. "While others, like the Eagles, live for 40 or 50 years."

Rehab work is another important component of the business. "We have a number of birds living here that were injured," he said. "One of our Golden Eagles was hit by a truck in British Columbia and when the trucker stopped in Saskatoon, he found the bird still alive, but stuck in the grill. Fortunately, a veterinarian at the University of Saskatoon was able to treat it for a bad dislocation of the shoulder. However, it will never fly again and they sent it here instead of putting it down." James added that it is a company policy never to use an injured bird or a bird from the wild for their shows. "We respect where they came from and only use them for breeding purposes."

James added that he is hoping to access funds from the Trillium Foundation to help pay for the rehabilitation work.

"We get about 50 birds a year that have been injured in migration or vehicle accidents," he explained. "The grant would help pay for x-rays and the heating of the rehabilitation facility."

The Canadian Raptor Conservancy presents approximately 1,200 shows a year. However, preparing a bird for a show is a time-consuming process. "It takes approximately 50 to 100 hours to train a bird to fly for a show," James said. "As a result, many of the longdistance flyers are equipped with radio transmitters so we can find them if they fail to return."

Participating in research is another part of his business. "We have taken part in a number of research projects, especially to do with the West Nile virus," he stated. "Our facility is mosquito netted, but we lost one Golden Eagle last year. All of our birds have been vaccinated, but it's only 70 per cent effective. However, I believe the immunity is beginning to build in the bird population in general."

Already employing seven full-time and two part-time people, the Cowans have plans to expand their business. "Our long-term goal is to open the facility to the public and have shows on site," James said. "We hope to have both an indoor and outdoor show facility and open the grounds for weddings and other special occasions." At present, the



# The Last Word!

facility is not open to the public.

More information about the Canadian Raptor Conservancy is available on their website: [canadianraptorconservancy.com](http://canadianraptorconservancy.com)

## Bits & Pieces

- Painting of the roof of the concession booth at the Thompson Memorial Park was donated by the **Cope Family** and the **Schram Family**. **Tony Cope** painted the booth roof when he was painting the portable storage building at the Thompson Memorial Park.

- The fieldstone cairn at the millpond commemorating some of the mills that served the Vittoria district was completed in June of 2004 (pictures on p. 20). A dedication of the cairn is planned for the spring of 2005.

- **▼Jim Melville** has completed his first year's contract as manager/custodian of the Vittoria & District Community Centre. We have heard many unsolicited testimonials and complimentary remarks about Jim's co-operative demeanour and cheerful service to those renting the hall.

- **Alf Swing** has relinquished his custodian position at the Vittoria Town Hall, effective December 31, 2004 after 35 years of dedicated service.

- **▼Eva Swing** has relinquished her position as booking agent for the Town Hall, effective December 31, 2004 after 35 years of dedicated service.

- **▼Larry Cable** has assumed the responsibility of looking after the bookings as well as the caretaking at the Vittoria Town Hall, effective January 1, 2005. To reserve the hall, please call 426-5923.

- **The Annual General Meeting of The Vittoria & District Foundation will be held at the Vittoria & District Community Centre beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 3, 2005. All members and supporters are welcome.**

- New concrete steps have been built by RundleBuilt to improve access from the street to the sidewalk in front of the Town Hall. The sloped boulevard tended to be very slippery at times, and the new steps will definitely make it safer.

- The Vittoria Baptist Church has welcomed a new minister, **Rev. Joanne Landsborough** who is residing in the parsonage next to the church.

- Treasurer **▼Twila Cruickshank** recently delivered the final instalment of The Vittoria & District Foundation's \$50,000 pledge to the Norfolk General Hospital's Family Fund.

## Going ... Going ... Gone!

On Saturday evening, March 19, 2005, the Boosters Committee of The Vittoria & District Foundation will hold their 8th Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Auction.

As most, if not all readers of The Vittoria Booster know, this annual Dinner & Auction event represents the main source of funds for The Vittoria & District Foundation. We have no paid employees. All of our trustees and workers are volunteers. Our administrative costs are therefore quite low.

Each year, we receive incredible support for our Auction from a large number of individuals and businesses which support the good works of the foundation.

Anyone can contribute ... even you!

We are always delighted to receive any of the following items: Antiques, Art, Carvings, Clothing (new only, please), Collectibles, Food, Gift Certificates, Handicrafts, Historical Memorabilia, Household items, Metalworks, Services, Special Interest, Sports, Woodcrafts, or Miscellaneous other items of interest.

All items should be new (except antiques, collectibles, and historic memorabilia). Handcrafted items are always popular. The auction committee will decide where in the Auction to place the donated articles (Live Auction, Silent Auction, Raffle or Door Prize). Contributors of items sold by auction receive a tax receipt for the selling price. Contributors of items given as prizes in raffles or draws receive a tax receipt for the estimated retail value of their donations.

Over the years, our Spaghetti Dinner & Auction has been a significant and consistent source of funds, which have allowed us to improve and enhance the quality of life for residents of Vittoria and the surrounding district.

If you can think of something you could contribute, please contact:

▼Tom Haskett - 426-0705

▼Larry Cable - 426-5923

▼Jim Melville - 428-0783

▼John Donaldson - 426-8583

▼Roger Cruickshank - 426-0234

or your favourite Foundation Trustee or Vittoria Booster.

## And Last, But not Least ...

Every year, your membership fees are put to good use, supporting a number of worthwhile projects which enhance the quality of life for folks in and around Vittoria.

Membership chairman John Donaldson reports that in 2004, our membership grew to a remarkable 300 wonderful folks. Thank you all for joining and supporting the fine work of the Vittoria & District Foundation. We appreciate every member's confidence and support, and respectfully request that each of you continue to renew your membership annually.

If you have not already done so, please send in your \$20 per person annual dues for 2005 and use the enclosed form as it makes it easier for the Treasurer to track and reconcile the membership accounts.

If you know anyone else who is thinking of becoming a member of this wonderfully worthwhile benevolent organization, please encourage them to join this year.

Additional Membership Application forms may be requested, or may be downloaded from the Foundation's Website: [www.vittoria.on.ca](http://www.vittoria.on.ca)

## PLEASE DO IT NOW! THANK YOU!

*Items in this newsletter are often excerpted or adapted from the local newspapers (Simcoe Reformer, Port Dover Maple Leaf, Brantford Expositor) and other publications. Any inaccuracies in the original articles may also show up in our excerpts. In addition, we have been known to occasionally even make our own mistakes. As time goes by, we seem to do that more and more often. We apologize for all errors.*

*Thank you to ▼Oni MacLachlan and ▼Pat Barker of the Women's Institute for the loan of their scrapbooks, and to ▼Pat Barker, the Cullimore Family, ▼John Donaldson, ▼June Miller, ▼Jim Wies, ▼Frances Winter, and Bruce Zinger, for supplying photos. Thank you to ▼Larry Cable for making arrangements to have someone stuff and label the envelopes containing the newsletters. Thanks to Sheelagh McFarlane for stamping and mailing the envelopes.*

*Anyone who wishes to contribute an article for the next Vittoria Booster, please contact Roger. All contributed items welcome, even Letters to the Editor!*  
**The Vittoria & District Foundation**  
P.O. Box 45 Vittoria, Ontario N0E 1W0  
519-426-0234 [twilac@kwic.com](mailto:twilac@kwic.com)

# Smile ... You're on Candid Camera!



Skilled labour for splitting the fieldstones was provided by Ewart Francis, an experienced stonemason who has worked on the farm for Tom & Joan Haskett Farms Ltd. for several seasons.



Warner Martin (on the left) was engaged to build the fieldstone cairn commemorating the "Millpond" mills. Here he is seen securing the bronze plaque to the cairn.



Warner Martin mixes some "mud" to cement the fieldstones into place on the mill cairn.



The wonderful cooks of Vittoria are well-known for the superb pies they bake. Tables packed with their tantalizing temptations pique the appetite.



Eva and Alfred Swing have looked after booking the Vittoria Town Hall for more than 35 years. Certificates honouring that community service and Alfred's 90th birthday were presented at a reception in December.



Volunteers stand at the ready to begin serving revellers at the Town Hall during Vittoria's Country Christmas. Larry Cable's great crew of volunteers dished up light lunches to more than 330 touring shoppers.