

Maple Syrup Season Has Arrived!



With the sap now running, Wilbur Miller - South Marysburgh's last remaining commercial maple syrup producer - is hard at work turning sap into syrup in his sugar shack. *(Photos by Juanita McMahan)*



Juanita McMahan

Milford: The County's Inland Port

By Conrad Biernacki

From the late 1850s to 1870s, Milford was known as the County's inland port. Schooners built there and elsewhere in the County sailed between Toronto, Kingston and other ports on the Great Lakes. From 1860 to 1890, the boom period known locally as Barley Days, enormous amounts of barley and hops were shipped to breweries in the United States, primarily through the New York State port at Oswego. County barley was considered the best. It was a drought-resistant strain developed in the 1850s that grew well during the dry summers and was particularly suited for beer making.

A surprising coincidence is that where these schooners were built is immediately adjacent to where the annual St. Philip's Anglican Church Black Creek Canoe Trip launches—the Guernseys' home at 17 Chapman Crescent. Equally amazing is that the destination for the trip, the dock at Black River Bed and Breakfast at 68 Morrison Point Road, is right in the midst of four additional wharfs.

In Milford, the shipbuilding wharf, known as Cole's Landing, was on the J. Cole farm, subsequently owned by John Head. The wharf was also used for transporting local produce such as apples, fish, lumber, rye, oats, buckwheat, corn and, of course, barley to other markets, and for bringing goods to Milford. (There were also potash and soap factories at Cole's Landing.)

Although the total number of schooners built at Milford is unknown, two are recorded: the *Mary* and the *Ellen*. The only information known about them is that they were both called "small" schooners and that the *Ellen* disappeared near Scotch Bonnet Island with a cargo of fish. A third vessel, the *Silver Spray*, was a steamer built in 1880 by Captain John Fegan (a Milford resident listed in Belden's Atlas of 1878 as a joiner and contractor). It was to provide regular service between Milford and Kingston. But after one trip it was found to be too small to make the journey safely. The *Silver Spray* then went to the harbour at Picton where it eventually rotted and burned.

Other schooners such as the *Albion*, *Prince Edward*, *Robert Bruce* and *Waterloo* were logged in the customs books for the Port of Picton as having owners who lived in Milford. But it is not known where these ships were built. Also, as a port of registry in the 1870s, Milford recorded vessels that were not built there. Those made at nearby Port Milford were recorded as Milford vessels.

Building a schooner had several requirements:

1. Lumber. White oak for the keel and hull, and white pine for the masts and other spars. Milford was the lumber trade depot for the entire county. Sawmills at Milford produced lumber that was sent as far away as the United States and Britain. Shipwrights in Milford got their masts from primeval pine forests near the Sandbanks. A trail was cleared through the woods, called a mast road, and 20-metre pine poles were hauled along it to the shipyard at Milford. Evidence of this road can be found today if you know where to look. Some of the last remaining stands of tall pines can be seen at the Glenwood Cemetery in Picton and the Old Quaker Burying Ground in Bloomfield.

(Continued on page 11)



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Picton, Ontario



Milford's March Musicfest

*Plan to attend this musical fundraiser in support of the
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Prince Edward County's Paramedics*

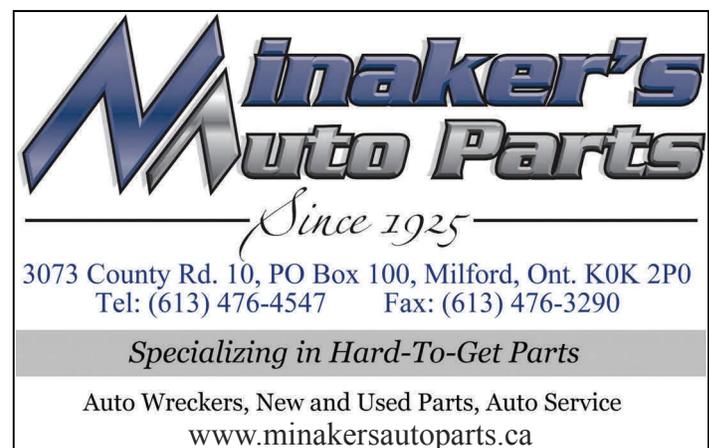
Sunday, March 12 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Mount Tabor Playhouse

Performers to include:

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Mark Despault
Michelle Found
Stan Hicks
Dayton Johnson
Bill + Susan March
Roy Rorabeck
Len Smith

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in South Marysburgh



Quentin Minaker's snow plow succumbs to the after effects of a blizzard, ca. 1947 near Milford

The South Marysburgh Recreation Board

The Marysburgh Mummers
The Milford Fair Board

Meetings, Events, Announcements

Wii Bowling

Milford Town Hall

Thursdays until April 27th

**NOTE: We will meet Wednesday, March 8
instead of Thursday, March 9**

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Music Circle

Milford Town Hall

Sunday, March 12

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Recreation Board Meeting

Milford Town Hall

Thursday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Fair Board Meeting

Milford Town Hall

Wednesday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Parade & Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15, 2017

Details in the April edition of *The Mirror*

The Marysburgh Mummers Present...

"Nonsense"

March 31, April 1,2,7,8,9

Mt. Tabor Playhouse

(see ad and article elsewhere in this edition)

*To reserve the Milford Town Hall
or Mt. Tabor, please contact:*

Bruce Dowdell at 613.476.8891

vidvar@kos.net OR

Leon McConnell at 613.476.6606

Random Thoughts

By George Underhill

It seems that winter is half over, at least each day is a few seconds longer than the previous day. I feel a little guilty applauding the clement weather with all the warnings about global warming...but only a little.

I see in the paper that the five-bucks-a-tire that must be remitted, presumably to fund the disposal of old tires, has been squandered. The executives who ran the tire disposal effort treated the program as though the money was theirs. They were paid very high salaries as though they ran General Motors, spent astronomical sums on special events and meetings and stole what was left. It does not appear that anybody audited their programs and expenditures, nor were there plans to improve the disposal of tires. I am hoping that it is a lesson learned and that the carbon program doesn't see the enormous funds that will be sequestered fit the same pattern, but it's a government program, so there are no guarantees.

I watched the inauguration of Donald Trump, at least a little of it. I have complained that when pictures of me are taken, I look fat and unattractive. Donald has taught me that I'm not alone in that regard. Mr. Trump gets many more photographs taken of him than I ever will, so there are many more opportunities for him to look bad and stupid. I've never seen him in person so maybe he just looks unusual. He has enough money and power so maybe he doesn't care, but his coiffure would argue against that. Still, he makes the most unattractive facial expressions of any public figure I have seen.

I started writing about springtime, then the article took on the properties of global warming and politics. It seems I'm unable to keep on topic, no matter what the subject. Let me try writing about the new casino in Belleville. I've gone only in the daytime, and the place is heavily occupied with old people. Maybe at night there are youthful gamblers but they are quite scarce in the daytime. By "youthful", I'm referring to people under sixty years old. The handicapped parking the few times I have gone has been full, and there are lots of spaces, a testimony to the volume of old persons who frequent casinos. Of course, many people are against gambling, so many of the casinos do not call their activities gambling. They call it "gaming". There are lots of occasions where we substitute other names where the real name might be offensive to some. For example "mahi mahi" a fish sold in some stores, is actually dolphin, a large green-headed saltwater fish. It's good too. We say "senior citizens" not old people. Hunters don't shoot game or kill animals, they "harvest" them. Changing the name doesn't change the reality but we insist on doing it. I'm not upset about these naming conventions, it's just a peculiar affectation.



What's going on at The Library

By Barbara Sweet, CEO

What will your library look like in 2021?

If you've dropped by the library lately you may have noticed we are distributing copies of our 2016-2021 Strategic Plan. This plan, developed by the Library Board, is our way of thinking ahead and envisioning what the shape of public library service in Prince Edward County will be in five years. We have identified four goals and I would like to tell you a little about them.

1. **Develop branches to accommodate community needs as they grow and change.**

You're already seeing the results of this at the Milford Branch of the Library- we have re-arranged, shifted, and made space for not only the Musical Instrument Lending Library but for the groups who meet here regularly. It's important for the branches to change to suit the communities they serve.

2. **Lead Prince Edward County's passion for reading, personal growth and learning.**

This goal is probably what jumps immediately into your mind when you think "library" – reading and a search for information is still an essential function of a public library today and will be in 2021. The way we receive that information might change (an online database instead of a reference book, for example) but as always, library staff are here and ready to help you navigate the sea of information.

3. **Reduce barriers for access**

We have been working for many years to make all 6 branches of the library physically accessible – in Milford that meant installing the automatic door opener and being sure that all aisles are wider. We are now thinking about other barriers that might stop people from using the library: For example, we knew that the threat of late fees might deter people from borrowing, so we stopped charging fees and ask people who wish to make a donation to do so. We know there are other reasons some people don't use the library but we don't always know what those reasons are – so please feel free to contact me any time and let me know! You can e-mail me bsweet@peclibrary.org or call (613) 476-5962.

4. **Foster an Organizational Culture of Innovation**

At the library we are always willing to hear any idea or suggestion – no matter how outside the box it may be. I encourage the library staff to think creatively; to listen to suggestions and ideas from the community; and to innovate. Two of our staff attended the Ontario Library Association conference in Toronto last month and came back with a thousand ideas, large and small, that we are excited to try out. If you have an idea or a suggestion please don't hesitate to share.

For the full strategic plan with more detail about how we plan to achieve these goals, drop by the library and pick up a copy or visit our website at peclibrary.org.

Plans are still underway to launch a Functional Fitness class at the Milford Branch Library so if you're interested in low-cost, chair-based exercise in a friendly group let us know. We need a minimum of 5 participants to make it happen.

MARCH BREAK

Don't miss *Music for Everyone* on March 14 from 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. With members of Grandpa's Goodtime Gang, and *Feathers & Feeders* with the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory at the Milford Branch Library on March 16th. Drop by the branch or visit peclibrary.org/kids for the complete schedule!

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Gossip!

*Personal Notices, Announcements
& Random Notes*

Quite a Week for the Plomers



Not only did Judy and Jim celebrate 40 years of matrimonial bliss in late February, but their son, Rob, was included in Chestnut Park's full-page Globe and Mail awards announcement. Congratulations to all!

Speaking of Anniversaries...

Quite apart from Canada's 150th anniversary, 2017 marks Picton's 180th as well as the 225th anniversary of the founding of Prince Edward County. Also celebrating Golden (50th) Anniversaries this year are Mt. Tabor and some of the County's museums.

Printcraft

The Mirror is sending a shout-out to the community about the terrific services Heather van Vlack and her team at Printcraft offer to Prince Edward County. Apart from printing *The Mirror* each month, the company has added several new products and services including passport photographs and wide-format inkjet printing.

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Thank You!

On behalf of the South Marysburgh Recreation Board, I want to thank all the people who helped put the 2017 Milford Winter Carnival together. Volunteers are what make our community strong and vibrant.

Our thanks go to: Heather Munroe for calling the Bingo with help from Libby and Suzie; Karen Gyde for buying the prizes on behalf of the Recreation Board, and to Cath Collins, Bree Seeley and the Black River Cheese Company for donating prizes; QEOS Scouting Group for putting on another well attended pancake breakfast; Sandie Blackford and Catherine Reilly for the "Getting Cozy" knitting project that saw a few first timers try their hand at knitting; Ril Giles for the children's craft of the mitten wreath; Carol Branscombe and Janelle Shaw for helping all the children make their very creative sock puppets; Helen Ward, and Erin and Celeste Johnston who manned the food booth and managed to stay warm; Ron Keays, Jessie Parker and Mark Kelly who set up and supervised the outdoor activities on the ball diamond; Blaine Way for the ever popular wagon rides around Milford; the South Marysburgh Volunteer Firemen for holding their annual cold water/ice recuse demonstration on the Mill Pond; and lastly to Bruce Dowdell who manages to be in two places at once and is the main organizer of the Winter Carnival.

We also wish to thank all the people and families who came out to support the Winter Carnival. We hope you all had a great time!

*Johanna McCarthy, Secretary, South Marysburgh
Recreation Board*

Todd Smith, MPP

Prince Edward - Hastings

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Life In The Past

Nelson Hicks' Journals
January 1927

Transcribed by Sarah Moran Collier

March 1 - Old sow had 15 pigs. All seem weak. And not very smart. Royden and I drew out some manure

Wed. 2 - I went up to Archie got 25 bus of BuckWheat. Took a Ash log up to the Valley got it saw in Oars

Thu. 3 - Old sows pigs is not doing very well. Only has seven now. I went down to Kiddy's and fixed her sistern. Quite a cold day

Fri. 4 - I helped John Loney saw his wood been a lovely day

Sat. 5 - Drew up some stone from the Flats. Floral and Kathleen came home with John Loney.

Sun. 6 - Kathleen Floral Mirt and I went around to Church

Mon. 7 - Mirt and I took Kathleen and Floral over to Picton roads were very good for cars

Tue. 8 - John Rose came down to saw my wood But the Engine didn't work very good so we left it for another day.

Wed. 9 - I splited up some wood. been a lovely day Mirt and I over up to Thomas Rose for the evening.

Thu. 10 - Royden and I trim apple trees along above. Four O'clock Royden took Garnet out to Mr Hudgins for a little visit then Royden went to Mr Spafford for the evening.

Fri. 11 - I went over to Picton took a Veal calf over roads were very good for cars. Floral came home with me.

Sat. 12 - John Rose were here and saw up my wood. it was a very nice day. Kathleen stayed over to Town

Sun. 13 - Clarence Ostrander and Myrtle were here for the day along about Two O'clock Lloyd and Luise came down.

Mon. 14 - Royden and I work at the wood. Milt and Charance fetched their Boat out from Picton with the wagon and stayed here all night

Tue. 15 - Milt took my team and took their Boat out down to the Point We are having lovely weather Visitors Clayton Ostrander & wife John Rose & wife Thomas Rose and wife Earl McKintosh & wife Albert Welbanks & wife Donal. Miss Grimm from Picton came with John Rose. George Collier & Col

Wed. 16 - I trim trees Royden split wood we are having spring weather it so warm

Thu. 17 - To day the weather has been just like a nice spring day. I work at the orchard trimming

Fri. 18 - Still we are having fine weather. After dinner I went over to Picton after Floral Seen Lloyd in Town came down for the Banquet at the Royal Hotel.

Sat. 19 - Mirt and I went back to Lloyd's on our way stopped at Picton. Kathleen not very well. Got back to Lloyd's at noon. After Dinner Lloyd and I went over to Belleville came back after Tea. Mirt Luise Lloyd and I went to Belleville and to the show

Sun. 20 - Change in the weather this morning colder and snowing. In the after noon we came from Lloyds home

Mon. 21 - To day we have had a sleet storm all the tress are loaded down pretty well. Floral went over to Picton with Hamilton Welbanks.

Tue. 22 - Lorn Karr were here came last night. I work in the little Kittchen making some oars.

Wed. 23 - Lloyd came down to day fetched me down a Star Car, I gave some differense and he took the Ford home with him it has been quite cold to day.

Thu. 24 - Lloyd and Frank came down again today looking after some prospects for cars Royden and I finished splitting our wood.

Fri. 25 - Royden and I picked up brush in the orchard

Sat. 26 - Mirt Royden and I went over to Picton I drove the Star over. Made the trip safe and sound.

Sun. 27 - We all went round to the Bay to Church.

Mon. 28 - I took Kathleen Floral Dorthy over to Picton snowed some going over Ice went out to day.

Tue. 29 - Royden took some grain up to Milford to get ground. Mirt washed I trimmed some trees.

Wed. 30 - We piled up the brush in the orchard quite nice weather

Thu. 31 - I trimmed some trees Royden piled up brush.

Sarah's Research Notes Insight, Information & Anecdotes About Nelson Hicks' Journal Entries



Lloyd, clearly becoming quite a successful car salesman in this booming era, brings Nelson a new Star Car on Wed. 23. This car was made by Durrant, a competitor to Ford. In the ad here you can see a trend that was just beginning at this time, to market cars to women; Lloyd's sister, Kathleen, could drive. This 1927 Star cost \$925, although

Nelson purchased it in part exchange for his old Ford.



Cars were very much for family use and for leisure use, with Nelson continuing to use horses for work. This photo of a Star car shows some ingenious packing, apparently of a tent and picnic equipment for a family outing.

The *South Marysburgh* Mirror

March 2017 Volume 31, Number 2

Published monthly by Steve Ferguson, 3032 County Road 10, PO Box 64, Milford, ON K0K 2P0

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ISSN Number 1181-6333 (Print Edition) ISSN Number 2292-5708 (Online Edition)

Druella Acantha Malvina's Column

Gem for the month: The world's poorest person is one who has nothing but money.

Useful conversion tables:

1,000 milliliters of wet socks – 1 literhosen
 1 millionth of a fish – 1 microfiche
 1 trillion pins – 1 terrapin
 100 rations – 1 C-ration
 2 monograms – 1 diagram
 4 nickels – 2 paradigms
 2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University Hospital – 1 IV League

A passenger train is creeping along, painfully slow. Finally, it creaks to a complete halt. A passenger sees a conductor walking by outside. "What's going on?" She yells out the window.

"Cow on track!" replies the conductor.

Ten minutes later, the train resumes its slow pace. Within five minutes, however, it stops again. The woman sees the same conductor walking by again. She leans out the window and yells, "What happened? Did we catch up with the cow again?"

The owner of a manufacturing plant decided to make a surprise tour of the shop. Walking through the warehouse, he noticed a young man lazily leaning against a packing crate. "Just how much are you being paid a week?" the boss angrily asked him.

"A hundred bucks," answered the lounging guy.

The boss pulled out his wallet and peeled off five \$20 bills. "Here's a weeks' pay," he shouted. "Now get out and don't come back."

Wordlessly, the young man stuffed the money into his pocket and took off. The warehouse manager, standing nearby, stared in amazement.

"Tell me," the boss said, "how long has that guy worked for us?"

"He didn't work here", replied the manager. "He was just delivering a package."

One evening a father and his teenage daughter were out shopping when she decided to make a purchase. She greeted the cashier with only a "Hi," then proceeded to dig nervously in her wallet. She was having obvious trouble counting out the correct bills and change.

But rather than help, the cashier simply stood and watched while she fumbled and mumbled her way to the correct amount. Finally, the transaction was completed.

As they were walking to the car, the young lady turned to her father and said, "That was my math tutor."

Please patronize *The Mirror's* advertisers without whose support the paper couldn't be published. And please tell them you saw their ad!

Joey and his classmates had just finished a tour of the local fire hall. Before each student could leave the fire chief quizzed each one.

The fire chief asked little Joey, "What do you do if your clothes catch on fire?"

Joey replied promptly, "I don't put them on."

Exit Line: I'm going to retire and live off my savings. Not sure what I'll do the second week.



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South Bay U.C.W. and Milford Friendship Circle Upcoming Meetings & Events

Wed. Mar. 8 – U.C.W. will meet at South Bay United Church at 1:00 p.m. Maureen Rudd has devotional; Roll Call – wear green; Program – Karen Guernsey; Lunch – Maureen and Karen; Objective – food bank.

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Municipal Council Update

By Steve Ferguson, Councillor for South Marysburgh

A lighter than usual schedule for Council and Committee of the Whole meetings in February owing to the ROMA conference in Toronto that Mayor Quaiff, some councillors, and staff attended. With that in mind, here's a rundown of what we attended to.

Councillor Epstein has requested a staff report about reducing the minimum dwelling size (floor area) to permit the construction of smaller and more affordable homes within the County. We'll hear more about this in March, but such homes have to be used as principal residences not for tourism rentals.

Mayor Quaiff asked for and received the blessing of council to investigate the 'downloading' (read, ownership and responsibility for maintenance) of a portion of Highway 33, from about Cold Storage Road to the roundabout, from the province to the municipality. Such a change would allow for prospective residential and commercial development to take place on adjacent lands. There have been discussions with a developer about constructing 350 new homes over a 10-year period that would add to the tax base and help lower water and wastewater charges to residents of Picton.

Similarly, Councillor Roberts sought Council's support of a resolution from the County of Peterborough of a request to the Federal Government to move forward with the development of a National Pharmacare Program.

Several appointments were made in February including Maurice Miller, Cody Vader and Drew Dick as Livestock Evaluators for the municipality; Lenny Epstein was appointed Chairperson of the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee for 2017; Jesse Parker became a member on our own South Marysburgh Recreation Board; and Council confirmed the appointment of Councillor Fox as the Chairperson of the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Housing Advisory Committee, and as Council representative to the Hastings Prince Edward Public Health Board.

There are two important issues to remind you about which deserve your attention:

1. Comments to the federal government about the proposed management plan for Prince Edward Point must be received by March 31. The plan is available online at:

http://www.ec.gc.ca/ap-pa/default.asp?lang=En&n=741BB7B6-1#_005

2. The LEAR (Land Evaluation and Area Review) that outlines existing and proposed changes to land use designations is available online at: <https://princeedwardcounty.civicweb.net/FileStorage/1EA547E970CE4E929E89762F9541BA72-Maps.pdf>

These documents illustrate proposed changes to designations that may affect what you can and can't do with your land; if you are not in agreement you can make comments. (As an example, my property – with its considerable crop of limestone, and my neighbour's property with its hardwood forest, were reclassified from 'rural' to 'prime agricultural' until I brought the matter to the attention of planning staff who will now make adjustments.)

Have a terrific St. Patrick's Day, and enjoy all that Maple in the County has to offer including Wilbur's maple syrup!

Art Classes for Adults & Children with Janice Gibbins

The South Marysburgh Recreation Committee is sponsoring art classes on Tuesdays from April 11 to May 30 with instruction from local artist, Janice Gibbins, and materials will be provided.

If you are interested, please register with Bruce Dowdell at vidvar@kos.net or at 613.476.8891.

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The Little Sisters are Coming ! “Nunsense” at Mt. Tabor

The Little Sisters of Hoboken, N.J. are coming to Milford in the Marysburgh Mummies production of *Nunsense*.

This heavenly musical comedy features five nuns, hungry for the spotlight, who find themselves in a predicament when their cook, Sister Julia – Child of God, accidentally poisons 52 of their fellow sisters. When the convent’s first in charge, Reverend Mother Regina, splurges on a big screen TV, the remaining Sisters find themselves strapped for cash, as they still have four dead nuns to bury (whose bodies are being stored in the kitchen freezer).

What’s a Sister to do? These five sinfully funny nuns take over an 8th grade production of *Grease* to help pay the burial costs for their sisters before the health department discovers their secret. Their variety show of music, dancing and comedy will have you falling out of your chair before the evening is over.

Through their wacky and heartfelt performances the Little Sisters of Hoboken will prove that while they’re on their way to heaven, they’re here to raise some Hell.

The cast of *Nunsense* includes a mix of veterans and newcomers to the Mount Tabor Playhouse including **Paulina McMahon**, as Sister Mary Regina Mother Superior and **Bea Howse** as Sister Mary Hubert. **Lynda Zadan** returns to the Mummies and plays the wacky Sister Mary Amnesia. A newcomer to Prince Edward County and making her Mummies debut is **Robin Snip**, who plays Sister Mary Robert Anne, and rounding out the cast is **Julie Lane**, who returns to the Mount Tabor stage as Sister Mary Leo.

Written by Dan Goggin and performed with special permission by Samuel French, *Nunsense* is directed and choreographed by Monica Alyea, with vocal and music direction by Sharon Wickett. “I have wanted to do this show for a long time,” said Alyea. *Nunsense* is a hilarious romp that will exercise your laugh muscles, and we have a very funny group of ladies for this show.”

Tickets are \$15 each and are available at Live Laugh Eat in Milford, Green Gables in Bloomfield, Sidestreet Gallery in Wellington, Books & Company in Picton, Hamlet Grocery in Consecon and through the Quinte Arts Council in Belleville.

ST. PHILIP’S ANGLICAN CHURCH 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 29	Yard & Rummage Sale
Monday, May 22	Annual Black Creek Canoe Trip
Wednesday, August 9	Pork & Corn Roast
Saturday, October 7	Yard & Rummage Sale
Saturday, November 25	Christmas Bazaar & Tea

The Marysburgh Mummies present
Nunsense

Starring:
Paulina McMahon
Lynda Zadan
Julie Lane
Bea Howse
Robin Snip

Director: Monica Alyea
Musical Director: Sharon Wickett

Winner of Four Outer Critics Circle Awards including Best Off-Broadway Musical

March 31, April 1, 7 & 8 - 7:30 PM
April 2 & 9 - 2 PM

Mount Tabor Community Playhouse, Milford

For special needs seating or information contact Briar at 613-243-2923

Tickets Available:
Live Laugh Eat – Milford
Sidestreet Gallery – Wellington
Green Gables – Bloomfield
Books & Company – Picton
Hamlet Grocery – Consecon
Quinte Arts Council – Belleville

2017

Nunsense is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

Roofer Needed

Having left two or three phone messages with one widely known roofer who never bothered to respond, and thinking I had a deal with another roofer but who never showed up to do the work, I’m looking for a responsible company to do a small metal roofing job.

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Are You Spring Cleaning or Downsizing?

If you find any old video tapes or photographs of life in South Marysburgh, I would love to see them. Video tapes can be transferred to DVD, and I will scan the photographs and return them to you. As an example, I just transferred a tape of a Dixon Club meeting from 1988 at South Bay Church. These tapes and photographs will be added to the collection started in 2008 for the *Milford 200* celebrations.

Please contact Bruce Dowdell at 613.476.8891 or email: vidvar@kos.net

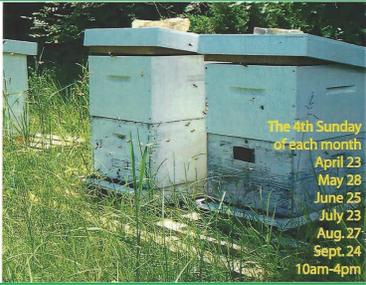
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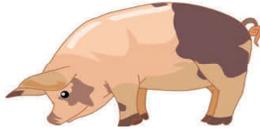


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South Bay U.C.W.



U.C.W. met at South Bay United Church hall Wed. Feb. 8 for a pot luck lunch at 12:00 noon.

President Sandra opened with a poem entitled *I Dreamt Death Came the Other Night*. Our theme hymn, purpose and the Lord's Prayer followed.

Sandra's devotional was based on Psalm 107 verses 23 to 26. With all things that turn our world upside down, we still realize that God is in control.

Six members answered roll call by wearing red and bringing a valentine card to send to a needy person.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Twenty sick calls were made. Collection was gathered and dedicated.

South Bay U.C.W. discussed the benefits offered by the Prince Edward County Learning Centre and giving a donation to this cause.

A thank you note was received from Athol School for our donation of winter hats and mitts. Brenda taxed our brains with an interesting contest to close our meeting.

We repeated our U.C.W. prayer to send us on our way.

A somewhat packed agenda greeted the members of the AoG during their last meeting in February including discussion of President Trump's border wall initiative, and how members with expertise in fence building may be of assistance. Any formation of an action plan to make a proposal to either the president or the Department of Homeland Security was dismissed when it was pointed out that the AoG's expertise is more in split rail, not concrete and razor wire.

Another agenda item was the discussion of an item brought forward by one of the more widely-travelled members of the AoG, that being the formation of an association of gentlemen's groups in Ontario.

"I went on a trip to western Ontario and found a group called "The Gentlemen of Distinction" whose headquarters was in the Legion in Port Dover," he explained. "I didn't have time to get a lot of information but they seem to be tackling the same kinds of projects that we do."

Continuing, he said, "Then there's another group called ROMEO in the same area."

"Romeo's that guy in a play that guy wrote in England a few years ago," said the member considered not to be the sharpest knife in the drawer. "Is that where they got the name?"

"Um...no," said the traveler, cynically. "This group uses it as an acronym for Retired Old Men Eating Out. Theirs is a more social organization, not spending time dealing with the weighty issues we face here in Milford."

Before moving onto the final item on the agenda, it was resolved that each member is to search for other groups elsewhere in the province after which a feasibility study will be undertaken about potential collaboration between them.

The final item was a verbal report from the arts review sub-committee expressing the opinion that *The South Marysburgh Mirror* needs a bit of a stylistic shakeup to keep it relevant during these times when there is so much turmoil in the media, and so much competition for eyeballs.

As the sub-committee's chair explained, "The Wellington Times did it a few years ago, so did County Weekly News. And, yes, *The Mirror* changed its look in 2012 but I think another facelift would do it good."

"Well, why doesn't the sub-committee submit some ideas to Steve," suggested a longstanding member of the AoG. "Maybe he'll incorporate them in the future."

On that note, and upon agreement to make some recommendations, the meeting adjourned.

(*'Milford'* continued from page 2)

2. Builder. Although there were many shipbuilders in the Bay of Quinte region, David Tait Sr. and his sons John and David Jr. were the most renowned. While some vessels were built at their shipyard on the Amherst Island family farm, it was common to construct a schooner wherever the customer desired. For the Tait's, this included many locations in the County, as well as Trenton, Belleville, Napanee and Bath. Permanent buildings with stationary equipment were not required. All the wooden components could be made onsite, including the launch way. David Jr. is thought to have built approximately one hundred schooners, most with two masts. He was a master shipbuilder and the most prolific in the County.

3. Gang. The builder's assistants were skilled itinerant craftsmen who were hired for each project.

4. Blacksmith. If a nearby blacksmith shop could not supply the spikes, bolts, chain plates and other necessary wrought iron wares, a forge could be set up near the wharf in a few hours. Milford, however, had at least one blacksmith. The *Mary*, thought to be the first schooner built in Milford, however, was put together with treenails (wooden pegs),

5. Tool house. To store adzes, axes, caulking mallets, mauls, planes, saws and sledges, a shed could be built while the forge was being set up.

6. Sawpit. If lumber was being cut from live trees and not brought from a nearby sawmill, one or more sawpits would be dug. Milford had sawmills from 1808 until 1956.

7. Accommodation. The builder, his assistants and the blacksmith would stay at a local hotel or nearby farm. Otherwise, a temporary bunkhouse was built. Milford had four hotels.

It is believed that Black River got its name from the shade cast by the towering pines and oaks that lined its banks. Fallen limbs clogged the river and had to be removed before schooners could make their way downstream to Lake Ontario. The river also needed to be dredged to a depth of at least eight feet. To accomplish this, Dr. Hautry Bredin, Captain William Ellis and others used oxen and horses that plodded along the banks drawing a scow fitted with scoop-shaped shovels. The distance from Cole's Landing to the mouth of the Black River is 7.3 kilometres.

The final obstacle was the bridge that crossed the river at the community of Caldwell (later known as Black River or Black Creek). Initially a basic wooden structure, it was replaced by a swing bridge to allow the schooners to pass. It was built on rollers so that horses could pull it back and forth.

So when you're paddling down the Black River in this year's canoe trip, imagine yourself the captain of one of those schooners that plied these busy waters 150 years ago.

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