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MOZZARELLA SALAD WITH SUNDRIED TOMATOES

Serves 4

You'll need...

5oz sun-dried tomatoes in olive oil drained (reserve oil)

- 1 TBSP coarsely chopped fresh basil
- 1 TBSP coarsely chopped parsley
- 1 TBSP capers drained and rinsed
- 1 TBSP balsamic vinegar
- 1 coarsely chopped garlic clove
- Extra olive oil if necessary
- Pepper to taste

100 grams mixed salad greens 500 grams smoked mozzarella sliced

To create...

 Put the sundried tomatoes, herbs, vinegar and garlic in a food processor. Measure the oil from the sundried tomatoes and add in enough oil to make 2/3 cup. Add to the food processor and process until smooth. Season to taste with pepper. Divide the salad greens on individual plates. Top with the slices of mozzarella and spoon the dressing over the greens. Serve immediately.

SPAGHETTI ALLA CARBONARA

Serves 4

You'll need...

- 1 lb dried spaghetti
- 1 TBSP olive oil
- 8 oz pancetta or lean bacon, chopped
- 4 eggs
- 5 TBSP light cream
- 4 TBSP freshly grated parmesan cheese Salt and pepper

To create...

- → Prepare pasta according to package directions
- Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a heavybottomed skillet. Add the chopped pancetta and cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, for 8-10 minutes
- → Beat the eggs with the cream in a small bowl and season to taste with salt and pepper. Drain the pasta and return it to the pan. Add the contents of the skillet, add the egg mixture and half the parmesan cheese, stir well then transfer to a warmed serving dish. Serve immediately sprinkled with the remaining parmesan cheese.

TIRAMISU

Serves 8

You'll need...

3 eggs 34 cup brown sugar 2/3 cup self-rising flour 1 TBSP unsweetened cocoa 2/3 cup cold black coffee 2 TBSP rum 2 tsp unsweetened cocoa to decorate

FILLING

13 oz (375g) mascarpone cheese 1 cup fresh custard 1/4 cup brown sugar 3 ½ oz semisweet chocolate grated

To create...

- Preheat oven to 350 F. To make the cake. grease and flour 8 inch round cake pan.
- Place the eggs and sugar in a large bowl

- and beat together until thick and light, sift the flour and cocoa over the batter and fold in gently. Spoon the batter into the prepared pan and bake in the oven for 30 minutes or until the cake springs back when pressed gently in the center, let stand in pan for 5 minutes then turn out onto a wire rack to cool.
- Place the coffee and rum in a bowl mix together and set aside. To make the filling, place the mascarpone cheese in a large bowl and beat until soft. Stir in the custard, then gradually add the sugar, beating constantly until well mixed then stir in the grated chocolate.
- Cut the cake horizontally into 3 layer and place 1 layer on a serving plate. Sprinkle with one-third of the coffee mixture, then with one-third of the filling, repeat the layers, finishing with a topping of the filling mixture. Let chill in fridge for 3 hours, sift over the unsweetened cocoa before serving.



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A PASSION FOR SWEEPING

By Joan Rupert-Barkley

he Prescott Curling Club was formed in 1893, at that time curlers played on the St. Lawrence River with irons.

The current three-rink curling Club was built on Henry Street in Prescott in 1947 after a successful fundraising effort. In the beginning, there was natural ice. It wasn't until 1953 that artificial ice was installed

According to Club President, Ron Whitehorne, after 62 years the piping was beginning to show its age.

"The piping under the ice had become very old and unreliable.

After it began to leak we decided that an upgrade to the piping equipment needed to be done as it hadn't been upgraded since 1953. We received a Trillium Grant and proceeded with the renovation. We tore up all the sand that was beneath this ice; all the piping and all the old insulation, which was really just Styrofoam (2 inches thick), and replaced it with new smaller piping, higher circulation pump and fresh sand," commented Whitehorne.

There were also upgrades made to the facility. Whitehorne commented that new siding and insulation was put on the outside of the building. The inside of the facility was also painted and new light fixtures were installed.

There are a lot of the curling members who are trades people and they all pitched in to help.

On Saturday, October 24, the Prescott Curling Club had a grand re-opening to showcase all the upgrades that had been done. On hand for this celebration were Prescott Mayor, Brett Todd, Augusta Mayor, Doug Malanka, Edwardsburgh/Cardinal Mayor, Pat Sayeau, MPP, Steve Clark, along with Trillium Representative, Natalie Wood. The Club received an Ontario Trillium Grant of \$75,000,00.

Wood noted it was very impressive to see how involved the members were in the upgrades. When the original grant application was submitted, the volunteer hours was estimated at only 400 hours. However, when the project was completed there were actually 786 volunteer hours recorded.

According to Whitehorne, 3,191 pounds of plastic that came out of the floor was recycled. They also recycled more than 400 sheets of 4-foot by 8-foot by 2 inch Styrofoam sheeting. Some of the Styrofoam went to churches for basement insulation, some went to a group in Mallorytown who were doing a renewable energy project. This group was building a house totally out of recycled materials. There

Left: "Little Rock" curler Ella Scott. Above: Prescott Curling Centre Grand Re-opening Ribbon Cutting (photo by: Helen Mott)

was less than 1 full dumpster sent to the landfill.

There are presently between 150 and 160 members at the Prescott Curling Club. The Little Rocks (ages 6-11) practice every Sunday at 12:30. The Bantam Group (ages 13 – 17) practice every Sunday at 2:00. Cost for the Little Rocks is \$65.00 per year. Other leagues include Seniors Day League, Monday Morning Stick League, Day Ladies League, Monday Night Competitive, Wednesday Night Mixed, Thursday Night Ladies and Friday Night Mixed. The cost for a full membership is \$350.00 per year. The casual curler can get a lite membership for \$200.00 and this will allow them to curl one night a week only.

"We have 16 new members this year. I think this is largely due to the publicity with the renovations," commented Whitehorne.

A six-week curling school has also recently been introduced. This weekly one-hour course gives new, as well as experienced curlers an opportunity to gain more insight into the sport.

Curling is a very social sport in Prescott and it has no age barrier. This club has curlers from age 6 to 90 and some of the more experienced curlers have been members for more than 50 years. The club also hosts many bonspiels each year. LH

For more information about the Prescott Curling Club, go to www.prescott.ovca.com or visit them on Face Book.



PROUD TO PLAY LIKE A GIRL

Girls' Hockey Skating Hard into the Future

By Lorraine Payette

uts, determination and both eyes on the prize – these are the words that best define the Gananogue Girls' Hockey Association.

"Two years ago, we had only one midget team and just a President running the association," said Tracy Edwards, President of the Gananogue Girls Hockey Association. "We now have four teams and a hard working dedicated executive of 10 volunteers who are developing a constitution for the association based on the philosophy of fair play and establishing the association as a non-profit group."

It has been a long hard fight for girls and women to get out and play hockey.

"We would never have dreamed of it when I was a child," said Lois Creed, 91, of Dexter, NY. "Hockey and sports like it were for boys, and you didn't dare admit that it might be fun to play if you were a girl. When I got to college, they let us play women's field hockey, but even that wasn't encouraged."

Creed had come out to watch the girls break-in the ice when it opened in August. The gleam in her eye showed just how happy she was to see this change, and how she wished she could have been out there herself.

A house league association that plays from Gananoque to Napanee and up into Tamworth, the GGHA currently consists of four teams - Novice girls from 6-8 years of age, Atoms from 11-12, Bantams 13-14, and Midgets 16-17.

Never get the idea that this is all about pink ponies and fluffy tutus, a sweet little novelty that will just go away as they grow out of it. This is hockey, played by the rules. It may not be as down and dirty as the Boys or Mixed Leagues can be, but it doesn't cheapen the experience any.

"When you think that three years ago we had one team of 15, to now four teams, that's a lot of growth," said Edwards. "Our novice team is full at 18, atom team is at 16, our bantam team is at 14 and our midgets are at 11. The younger ages are where most people start, so we're only going to keep growing. It's not a sport that people tend to start and then drop out. After all, there's an investment in the equipment, time and other things. It's also very team oriented. My eldest daughter graduated from the Royals two years ago when she left for university, and she literally played with the same basic team for eight years."

Case in point - six-year-old Lilly Read of Gananoque set foot in the arena for the first time in August, 2015. This delicate little wallflower was bound and determined that she was going to crack that ice, and not let it break her. Proudly wearing number 4 and having never skated before, she set forth with a will – one foot, then the other, stomp, drag, skid, stumble, crash, back up on the

feet, stomp, slide, slip, almost there, fall... She worked her way from one end of the ice to the other, caught her breath, and did it again and again and again.

Come November, Lilly was out and ready to play as number 5. As she joined the Development Ice you would have been hard put to believe it was still the same girl who had been off to a slow start in August. She was definitely on the fast track to earning the name "Tiger Lilly".

"The enthusiasm in the kids – you can definitely see it, but I will tell you the volunteers we have are just as enthusiastic, and eager, and that just trickles down to the kids," said Edwards. "The kids come off smiling, no matter what the results are. I see nothing, nothing, but happiness and a desire to go back out and keep working hard.

"Not only do we have 30 kids who come out on the ice every Monday morning to practice, we have probably, with those 30 kids, 15-25 parents (some people carpool, take turns, work, have appointments), but 15-25 parents sitting in the stands at 7:00 a.m. watching a practice. And they're just as eager watching a practice as they are watching a game. Then you have the coaches who are rearranging work schedules, trading shifts, so they can come out at 7:00 a.m. to practice with the girls. It's truly a community effort beyond anything I've ever experienced."

When it's all said and done, where can the GGHA lead? If you look at Kingston, you'll find the Queen's Gaels Women's Hockey Team out playing and making points right across university sports. If they're good enough, they can then go on and vie for positions in the Canadian Women's Hockey League.

"The Gananogue Girls Hockey Association Development Tournament invited every participant in the tournament - 16 teams to join us with the Queen's Gaels for some Development Ice," said Edwards. "We host this development tournament hoping that it gives teams a chance to bond, look at skills, get some ideas of drills they could do on the ice. Seventy kids participated in this year's development ice starting with an hour for the novices and atoms, then another hour for the bantam and midget players to train with the Queen's Gaels."

In the end, it's worth every second, every dollar, every fall and every chance to get up and do it again. This is Canada and Canada's game, and these kids are more than happy to show the world what it means to play like a girl. LH



Marching in the Huck Finn parade



The Queen's Gaels Women's Hockey Team doing Development Ice with the girls



Lilly Read in November – new number, great style



How to play like a girl.

To learn more, please go to www.ganroyals.ca. For more on women's hockey, go to www.cwhl.ca/view/cwhl. For more on the Queen's Gaels, go to gogaelsgo.com/index.aspx?path=whockey. To sponsor or contribute in any way, please contact tracy.edwards@cdsbeo.on.ca.



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THE HISTORY OF LOCAL ATHENS WINTER SPORTS

By Sally Smid

ery early in our area's history, residents realized the need for making the most of long Canadian winters which resulted in a variety of sports. Sledding took place on any suitable hill. Historian Edna Chant wrote about sledding one night on the steep icy Mill Street hill in Athens, later dubbed "Dead Man's Hill". Kids slid down the hill at such high speeds and were often unable to stop. Horse drawn sleighs drove hazardously close to the youngsters, many of whom were forbidden from sliding there. One night after school, Edna disobeyed and went off to sled with her friends. She ended up colliding with several other sleds in "a tangle of legs and arms at the bottom of the hill". She sprained her leg badly. A man going by with his horse and cutter took her home. This incident caused a delegation of parents to go to council, and a by-law was passed outlawing sledding on Mill St. Isaac St., the High School, and the Arda hill, west of the village, were still popular sites.

Skating took place on frozen ponds and lakes when weather permitted. In 1900 the first maintained public skating rink was built behind what is presently Main St. Pizza. It was lit by gas lanterns. A hired manager, nicknamed "Mayor Carson", dubbed it Carson City. Cleared snow was thrown over the rink's high board fence and spectators watched from atop the snow bank. Teams arrived on the B & W Railway and stayed at the Armstrong Hotel. Westport and Lyndhurst were Athens' biggest rivals and fights usually added "interest" to the games. A 1909 Athens Reporter quote reflects this intense rivalry. "Hockey is a great game but some of the players, especially those from Westport, should be seated permanently on the fence." There was also nightly skating and a fancy dress carnival was held twice each winter. The Athens Band played and prizes were given for the best costume. Maude Addison was noted for her amazing figure skating and usually won a prize.

Another outside rink and house was built in 1917 by the Women's Institute behind the Cenotaph. It had a building for getting dressed and warming up. The Athens team would be upstairs and the opponents downstairs by the wood stove. Police Chief Scotty McLean would huddle over an old barrel lit by a coal lamp as he sold game tickets. "No one could describe the feeling of happy youngsters putting on their skates, or hockey players preparing for a game," Edna wrote.

By 1949 skating became so popular, it was decided that an indoor rink was needed and the Memorial Centre was built for \$24,000. to honour Athens veterans. Artificial ice was installed in 1969 and Centre 76 was later constructed, which still houses the Athens Aeros, a variety of hockey leagues, and figure skating clubs.

Winter horseracing took place on the ice in "Moonfish Bay" in Charleston. There are many stories about ice fishing and skiing along the roads and ditches behind horses, the Charleston Hockey Team, and "opening your coat while skating to allow the wind to blow you along Charleston Lake."

Broom ball was also played. Scottie McLean came up with the idea that the ladies, dressed in long skirts, wear skates rather than boots. Team members used brooms to push a ball on the ice, using rules similar to those of hockey.

Other winter sports included snowmobiling, snowshoeing and cross country skiing, which all provided ways to stay active and enjoy the long Canadian winters. LH

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8:00-10:00 am: Pancake Breakfast with drinks, sausage & more! \$5/person or \$15/ family of 4 max. (At Legion)

All Day: Pond Skating (At Rec. Park)

All Day: Beaver tails!!!!!! **GET THEM BEFORE THEY RUN OUT!!!** (Outisde the School)

9:00-2:00 pm: Bake Sale. You don't want to miss out! These goodies don't last long. (At Church)

8:00-3:00 pm: Basement Sale! Something for everyone! (At Church)

9:30-1:30 pm: LEGO Building Contest,

Presented by Enterprise Car and Truck Rental Brockville, Make your best LEGO creation for a chance to win a cool prize. (Kids Space in the Gym)

9:30-10:30 am: Chris Pilsworth - Magician, Presented by Kane's Towing in Mallorytown, Born to Amaze!!!! (Kids Space in the Gym)

10:00 - 3:00 pm: Horse drawn wagon rides sponsored by Riverside Ford

10:00-1100 pm: Nail Driving Contest, Presented by Home Hardware Brockville Different age categories, depending on amount of interested contestants (Outisde the School)

10:00-2:00 pm: Hot Drinks & Crafts, Heritage crafts, stop in and make a memory! (Mallorytown Coach House)













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10:00-4:00 pm: Face Painting, Donations for Victim Services welcome (Kids Space in the Gym)

10:00-4:00 pm: Balloon Animals by Taylor, Watch him bend and twist balloons into shapes. (Kids Space in the Gym)

10:00-4:00 pm: Dunster Renovations **Kids Space**, Play some old fashioned games and win some cool prizes while you're at it. (Kids Space in the Gym)

11:00-1:00 pm: Video Games Challenge, Presented by Cruisin Auto in Mallorytown, Come play Mario cart for ages 14 and under.

Prizes to be won!!!! (At Legion)

11:30-12:30 pm: Bry the Magician

Primary Pod Presented by Communities in Bloom, His slight of hand will amaze you! (Inside the School)

11:00-12:30pm: Fur, Feathers and Fins Agricultural Petting Zoo, Presented by SERSA in Mallorytown (Kids Space in the Gym)

11:00-2:00 pm: Drinks & Pizza, In the school kitchen right outside the gym. \$1 Drinks and \$2.50/slice. (Inside the School)

11:00-1:30 pm: sandwich, soup and a bun, drinks -\$5.00 (At the Church)

12:00-2:00 pm: Hot Dogs & Chili/bun with Drink \$4.00 each. (At Legion)

1:00-2:00 pm: Ray's Reptile Show Presented by Beattie Dodge and Jeep in Brockville, Come meet a new friend and learn some fun facts! (Kids Space in the Gym)

1:00-3:00 pm: Chicken Bingo

Chickens Donated by The Butcher Shop, Primary pod for kids only. You have a chance to win one free frozen chicken (Inside the School)

1:30-2:30 pm: Baby Contest, Presented by Pleasure Park RV Resort & Campgroud. 3 Categories: Ages 0 to 6 months, 7-12 months, 12-18 months. (At Legion)

2:30-3:30 pm: Bry the Magician Presented by Communities in Bloom. (Kids Space in the Gym)

4:30-5:00 pm: Closing Ceremonies Congratulate your teams and winners! (Kids Space in the Gym)



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The Lansdowne Pickle-ballers – (I-r, rear) Alistair Burnett, Jeff Singleton, Robert Flood, (middle) Peter O'Hare, Nancy Singleton, Mary-Jo Sibbald, Dianne Flood, (front) Marg Farmer

PICKLE-BALL

The Great Game with the Funny Sounding Name Comes to Lansdowne

By Lorraine Payette

f you're a kid, what can you possibly do on a boring afternoon? Things are dull, there's nothing interesting going on in the neighbourhood, the adults don't care...

This is the kind of griping that got three neighbours in Washington State - Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell and Barney McCallum – to invent Pickle-ball in 1965.

"Barney and his buddies took us up here to the court (and said), 'Kids, I've got a new game for you," said Bob O'Brien, original player of the sport, in an interview with Mark Woytowich. "They pulled out the

To learn more, go to pickleball.com. Free introductory "clinics" are being planned for January for those interested in learning the game, dates to be determined. To participate at the Lansdowne courts, please contact the TLTI recreation department at rec-dept@townshipleeds.on.ca.

wiffle ball and they cut up these racquets for us and, 'Okay, guys, go to town and see what you can do.' Well, we started hitting the ball around and thought it was kind of fun. There were no rules of the game, so the adults made the rules up for us, and it just took off from there... It's a great game for kids to learn. I've taught my kids the game 'cause it's such an easy racquet sport to learn for hand-eye coordination. The ball is light, the paddles are light... I've got to thank Barney and his friends for doing it."

Since then, the sport has grown like wildfire. Now formalized, it is played around the world with over 2 million registered players in the US, and more and more Canadians are picking it up every day.

"The Pickle-ball Association of Canada estimates that as of January 20th 2015 there are in excess of 14,135 pickle-ball players in Canada, with 290 places to play and 710 courts available," said Nancy and Jeff Singleton of Lansdowne. "Ontario itself has

approximately 6.000 players with over 144 places to play. Memberships to the Pickleball Association in Canada have increased from 700 in 2013 to 1760 in 2014, with a goal to have over 3,000 members by the end of 2015."

The game is played on a badminton sized court with low nets using oversized pingpong type paddles and a small wiffle type ball. It is playable by people of all ages and abilities, less strenuous than tennis but gives a quality workout while having a lot of fun playing.

"The ball is served diagonally (starting with the right-hand service-square), and points can only be scored by the side that serves," says the official website pickleball. com. "Players on each side must let the ball bounce once before volleys are allowed, and there is a seven-foot no-volley zone on each side of the net, to prevent 'spiking.' The server continues to serve, alternating service courts, until he or she faults. The first side scoring eleven points and leading by at least two points wins. Pickle-ball® can be played with singles or doubles."

Locally, the sport is catching on well.

"It has quickly evolved from a driveway family activity into a paddle court sport with formalized rules and an international following," said the Singletons. "Modifications make it an ideal game for people of all ages and ability levels. It is especially popular among active seniors.

"Costs vary depending on location. In Lansdowne, the cost is \$2.50 per session. Money generated goes into the township's recreation department funds and will be available to cover the replacement of equipment, as necessary. Anyone wishing to try out the game can come on any Tuesday or Thursday that we're playing and have a free session." LH



NANCY FRASER

"Love of Literature"

By Tanya Shukalova

utting words together is an art form for Nancy Fraser. The local author, born in Nova Scotia, kindly invited me for tea to share her love of literature. I could tell simply by the way she spoke, composed and deliberately, that she is fascinated by the English language.

"I just like putting words together. I like the beauty of the English language, the beauty of the correct form of expression. It's a challenge and a pleasure for me."

Nancy's passion for literature blossomed at Dalhousie University and even more so when she majored in French. After a postgraduate year at the Sorbonne, she obtained her Nova Scotia teacher's certification

and taught French at Queen Elizabeth High School in Halifax. Nancy relocated to Brockville in her early twenties after marrying her fiancé, Duncan Fraser. "Once you take a husband, you take a country," she said with a giggle.

After moving to Ontario, Nancy spent 15 years organizing plays for the Brockville Theatre Guild. Once her children grew a bit older, Nancy enrolled at Queen's University to obtain the requisite Ontario teacher certification and returned to teaching French. It was only after she retired from teaching in 1992, that Nancy started writing.

In June, 1993, Fulford Place was opened to the public as a museum and volunteer

docents were needed. "So I thought, this is perfect! I will be a docent!" Nancy's face lit up as she spoke about Fulford place and its haunted reputation. "Visitors were transfixed by the tales of Mary Fulford and, you know..." As she knocked on the table to imitate the knocking on walls that were attributed to Mary Fulford's ghost.

This led to Nancy creating the Brockville Ghost Walks, on which she and her fellow guides told many stories of the eerie happenings at the mansion and other Brockville sites. "For the first three summers." my companions and I led the Ghost Walks, rain or shine, every Friday night. It was so popular that we were booked weeks in advance."

"This has to be a book," Nancy decided. After months of detailed research, she wrote, Mysterious Brockville, a compendium of 32 Brockville ghost stories, including six Fulford Place mysteries. The book sold out in weeks. It was so popular that she reprinted it, and in 2006, published a second edition, Mysterious Brockville 2. (Only the second edition is now sold in stores.)

"I think it celebrates Brockville in a wonderful way. It creates an aspect of Brockville that you wouldn't dream of if you simply came here as a tourist. It's a history of Brockville too, that is carefully researched."

Nancy's third book, Letters from Paris, was never originally designed as a book. It's a collection of the amusing letters she mailed to her Halifax family during her study year in Paris. It was published with her own handdrawn illustrations in 2008. She showed me the original letters in their envelopes that she has still kept to this day. She spoke highly of Paris and even has a large, colorful transit map of the city hung up by her door.

"It wasn't until 1992, when I flew down to Halifax that I found all these letters. I found them all bound up in string in the back of a drawer. My mother had kept them all."

Her fourth book is a collection of poems. "March Poems, 2003" came to her when she was grieving her mother's death. It is a symbol of a new beginning to Nancy when the spring comes and life is reborn. These intricate poems "had to be written," she says. Her own watercolor paintings are reproduced in the book as well.

It is easy to tell, from her career, her way of speaking and the artwork in her home, that Nancy has a passion for writing as well as reading. It is people like Nancy that we have to thank for making the art of language as beautiful as it is today. LH



A PLACE TO CALL HOME

By Joan Rupert-Barkley

place that once was furnished with desks, blackboards, basketball nets and lockers is now furnished with modern kitchens, walk-in showers and a big screen TV. This place is called BonLen Place. It is an independent living facility for people age 55 and over, and is owned by Bonnie and Leonard Belanger.

When student enrollment declined at North Edwardsburg Public School at 903 County Road 21 in Shanly, the school was closed and the kindergarten to Grade 3 students were sent to a larger school in Spencerville. The school had been built in the late 1960's and was vacant for about 2 years when the Belangers, who lived only 5 kilometers

away, decided to purchase and renovate the building. By the time the couple purchased the building, the play structure, flagpole and a portable classroom had already been removed from the 6-acre property.

The only souvenir the Belangers saved from the school was the plaque. However, they were guick to note that they gave the plaque to nearby neighbours who lived in the original schoolhouse that was built in the 1800's.

"My wife and I were born and raised in the country and we did not want to retire in the city. This here is country living," said Leonard Belanger.

The couple, who owned and operated L.J. Home Improvements for 25 years, were ready to get out of business and live a more relaxed life. They already owned an apartment building in Spencerville, so being landlords was not new to them. The renovation project took approximately seven months, at which time new windows, plumbing, heating, wiring, and insulation, among other things were installed. A 20 ft. by 20 ft. sunroom was added to one end of the building. The Belangers live in one of the units.

"We did keep some of the windows from the school, they are the windows in the sunroom," commented Bonnie.

The original floor and the cement block walls in the hallway were also kept from the school and part of the gym floor can be seen in the utility room.

The owners believed there was a need in the rural community for an adult independent living facility. They said there were a lot of people who did not want to retire in the town because, like the Belangers, they had lived their entire life in the country.



Although BonLen is centrally located to places like Cardinal, Spencerville, Prescott and Kemptville, Mr. Belanger explained that transportation to these places to get groceries or attend church does not seem to be a barrier for the residents who do not drive

"People have told me that their son or daughter-in-law would pick them up when they lived in town because they could not walk to church because it was too far," commented Belanger.

In fact, when they first advertised for residents, they received approximately 50 applications from various locations. Belanger did add that residents are always eager to help each other if any transportation problems do arise.

They do stress however, the facility is an independent living facility. There is no health care provided and everyone prepares their own meals.

BonLen Place has a total of eight 2- bedroom suites and one 1-bedroom suite.

The one-bedroom suite is a handicap unit. Each suite has stainless steel appliances, cherry cabinetry, walk-in tub/shower units and is carpeted. There is a storage room in each unit.

There is a large fully furnished community room that includes a fireplace, sitting area, 119 inch satellite projection TV, stereo system, piano, craft and games area, as well as a full kitchen, complete with dishes and dishwasher. This room is also backed up by



a generator for emergencies. Residents are encouraged to book this room for family gatherings, game nights or whatever activity draws a crowd. The community room was originally part of the gym when the building was still a school.

Other special features in the facility include; a common laundry room with high efficiency washers and dryers that can be used free of charge. There is an abundant amount of parking at the front of the building. The parking at the back of the building can accommodate motor homes, 5th wheelers and boats during the summer months. There is also a large barbeque and outdoor activity/relaxation area and a security entrance. The building is also smoke-free and small pets are allowed.

All the apartments are on one level and this gives the residents lots of opportunity

to mingle with each other. The Belangers describe the residents as a community that looks out for each other. Whether they are enjoying a movie in the sunroom, or having a glass of wine at the table or sitting at the front entrance watching the snow accumulate outside, the residents truly enjoy each others company. One resident looks after planting the flowers around the property. Some of the residents are from as far away as Ottawa and still work part time.

The monthly rent includes heat, air, hydro, satellite TV and internet. The only extra cost is telephone and Bell Expressvu. The entire building is wired for internet. LH

For more information on BonLen Place contact (613)341-1195 or visit their website at www.bonlenplace.com.



STARTING THE NEW YEAR ON THE RIGHT FINANCIAL FOOT

By Lorraine Payette

The New Year brings all the bills and other reminders that it's time to pay the piper. How do we get our financial houses in order to move forward knowing that we are in control, and that we have what we need to live comfortably and securely for the rest of our lives?

inancial experts Betty-Anne Howard (Guide to Making Your Dreams a Reality) and Robert Tavares (Freedom 55 Financial) are ready to help

"People forget that financial health and well being is a habit to adopt - being mindful of your spending, your dreams, what tools you need and how to implement them," says Howard.

"They don't get professional help," says Tavares. "They delay their savings, don't take full advantage of employer match and don't pay down consumer debt."

The financial advisors suggest:

Always set aside at least 10 percent of your income for savings and investing.

Always contribute the maximum amount to employer-sponsored pension plans to get the maximum contribution from your employer every year.

Start contributing to a savings plan now.

Always pay credit and charge card purchases in full when the statement arrives to avoid paying interest charges or penalty fees.

Always keep banking and other receipts and note the details of the purchase on the receipt.

Get professional help – credit counsellors can help by providing useful tools and support.

Be mindful of your attitude and relationship with money.

Keep track of spending, differentiating between wants and needs.



Rob Travares, Financial Security Advisor for Freedom 55 Financial Brockville

Find alternate ways to give gifts as opposed to spending money.

Take a month and only spend money on essentials to gain a better understanding of what is causing your financial trouble.

"The first step in developing an investment strategy is to clarify your financial goals and objectives," says Tavares. "Conversations with your Financial Advisor (FA) can help turn your dreams into a reality. These considerations are instrumental in crafting an investment strategy that can help provide you with a realistic framework for accomplishing your financial goals."

"It all depends on your time frame, your risk tolerance level and what you are trying to achieve," says Howard. "The investment strategy has to fit with your goals and objectives. Never take any more risk than you must and always understand what you are investing in."

Practice delayed gratification and instil good savings habits at the earliest possible age.

"Start saving as soon as possible," says Howard. "Your goals are a primary determinant as to how you should allocate funds. See a Certified Financial Planner. (CFP) They can help you sort this out, based on your situation, dreams and circumstances."

"Young people should recognize that starting a long-term savings plan is a really smart move, because time is on their side and any amount they can set aside for retirement now has many years to compound," says Tavares. "Remember the rule of 72 – divide the interest rate into 72 to tell when your money can double."

Tax Free Savings Accounts (TFSA) may provide some answers.

"The TFSA program began in 2009," says Tavares. "It is a way for individuals who are 18 and older, who have a valid social insurance number to set money aside taxfree throughout their lifetime. Contributions to a TFSA are not deductible for income tax purposes.

"Any income earned in the account (for example, investment income and capital gains) is generally tax-free, even when it is withdrawn. Administrative or other fees in relation to TFSA and any interest or money borrowed to contribute to a TFSA are not deductible."

Other options include GICs, RRSPs, RESPs, mutual funds – your bank or personal FA will be happy to help you set up a plan that will start moving you in the most positive direction for financial security. To find an FA that will best fit your needs, shop around, ask friends/relatives, or go to your bank.

"FAs encourage their clients to adopt good saving and investment behaviors early in life and to maintain those practices through their lifetimes," says Tavares. "Advised investors are better prepared to meet life's contingencies than those without advice and are more confident about their future."

"Everyone can make smart moves on their own and, if they want confirmation about making the right decisions with the resources they have, then they can/should go see a CFP," says Howard.

The average person is always able to improve his/her financial health. Suggestions include:

Find a balance between living for today while planning for your future

Prepare for setbacks, then get back on track - roadblocks are inevitable

Build a roadmap toward your dreams.

Learn about cash flow, net worth, investment vehicles and how to factor them into your financial health and well being.

Make your financial health and well being as much fun as possible so you will keep it up.

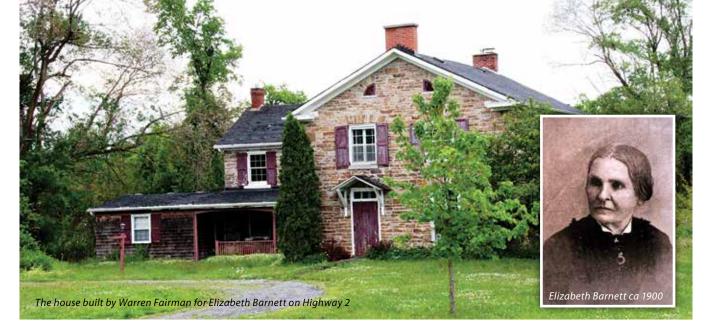
Think about talking to a CFP/FA and make sure their values are aligned with yours.

Follow a life-cycle consumption smoothing approach. The key to effective retirement planning is to try to keep your standard of living as consistent as possible for your entire life. You don't want to live it up while you're working – spending all your money on fancy clothes and expensive cars just to retire into poverty, nor do you want to scrimp and save your entire life so you can live like a king for a decade or two before you die.

"An FA can help you find more money to save and make the most of your investments-regardless of your income or life-stage," says Tavares.

"A financial plan can change your life," says Howard. "It is one of the greatest predictors of financial success. The world of investments and investment vehicles can be complex and confusing at times. Make sure it doesn't interfere with your ability to move forward." LH





ELIZABETH BARNETT:

'Gananoque's Laura Secord"

By Lorraine Payette

orn in Stones Mills, NY, in 1815, Elizabeth Barnett always wanted to be a teacher. She completed her schooling in LaFargeville, near French Creek (now Clayton), but there were no opportunities available in the area.

Her brother lived in Gananogue and encouraged her to try her luck here. So at the age of 22, she picked up her bags, rented a room on Stone Street at Dr. Potter's house, and began her new life teaching school in Canada.

In February, 1838, she decided to go back across the river to visit her family. The St. Lawrence River was frozen solid, and people traveled back and forth across it by sleigh. French Creek was only 8 miles away, and it would be the perfect place to stop on her way to Stones Mills.

"She crossed over with others and headed off home to visit her family," said Marcia MacRae of the Arthur Child Museum. "She noticed there were an awful lot of strangers in town, all kinds of men, and there was a lot of bustle going on. There were supply wagons, guns, ammunition, coming in, and all sorts of things were going on.

"Then she heard that the arsenal in Watertown had been raided. Four hundred guns and all kinds of ammunition had been stolen, and these things were coming up to French Creek."

Listening to the men talk, she soon learned that they were planning to attack Gananoque two days later. They planned to evict the British from North America by taking Kingston and Brockville, then moving on to conquer the rest of Canada.

Elizabeth was horrified by this idea and couldn't bear the thought of an invasion. She feigned an illness and returned to Gananogue, going immediately to Dr. Potter and telling him everything. He in turn told John MacDonald, the richest man in town, who shared the news with Warren Fairman, a young dragoon. Fairman took word to Kingston and Brockville.

Immediately, women, children and valuables were packed up and moved to safer locations. Fortifications were enhanced with materials on hand, and six companies of the Leeds Militia responded. Professionally trained soldiers poured into the blockhouse and prepared to man the cannon.

Meanwhile for the invaders, things were not going well. Of 2,000 expected troops, only 600 arrived. Those who did show up learned of trained soldiers moving into Gananogue and realized that the strength of the element of surprise was no longer there. Instead of

proceeding with the invasion, they decided to go back home.

Elizabeth had saved Gananogue and all of Upper Canada from this invasion. She later married Warren Fairman, and he built her a stone house outside of Gananoque on Highway 2 where they raised 11 children. The house still stands there today.

For her own safety, Elizabeth's story was not made public in her lifetime. As an American, she would have been guilty of treason in the US and could never have seen her family again.

Instead, her act of extreme heroism was recorded in Miss MacKinnon's Notes, a collection of people's recollections of true local events made by the daughter of Samuel MacKinnon. Although the book Miss MacKinnon intended to produce never materialized, her notes made it possible for us to know of Elizabeth and all she did for Gananoque and Canada.

In 1996, Councillor Gord Brown (now MP Leeds-Grenville) proposed that February 21 be forever remembered in Gananoque as Elizabeth Barnett Day.

"It was from Miss MacKinnon's notes that we got the story of Elizabeth Barnett," said MacRae. "Can you imagine where we would be today without her?" LH

Warming Up the Cold Shoulder Seasons with LIVE MUSIC IN GANANOQUE

By Lorraine Payette



abin fever can more than sneak up on a person and get absolutely out of hand. The tourists have gone to warmer places, many activities have shut down, and there's almost nothing left to do for fun in the off season.

As with many towns in the area, Gananoque sees a large drop in arts and entertainment revenues in the cold weather. Cliff Edwards is changing all that with his successful Cabaret Music Series, held at the Firehall Theatre in Gananoque. He and other area musicians are working together to turn the tourist season into a year round phenomenon, and to encourage people throughout the region to come and enjoy all that the town has to offer.

Each cabaret features local talent, and some include names which have become household words as well.

"We're doing a music series," says Edwards. "They're all different."

The formula works well, and audiences have started looking forward to the cabarets each season. This is the fourth series and fans will be happy to know that their favourite talents are back again to add that little bit of extra spice to their lives in the coldest part of the year.

December started things off with "Home for Christmas", a sentimental yet lively show which included the talents of Island Voices, Cliff Edwards, Paul Harding, Diane Stapley, Troubadour and Dave Barton. This was just a taste, an ice breaker to bring people into a winter of warmth and music.

Next on the agenda is the January 29th, 30th and 31st show "Country Goes Pop" featuring

Cliff Edwards, Michelle Kaz, Ken Hall, Mark Wilkins, Dan Kasaboski and Duncan Holt. Playing Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sunday, 2:30 pm, the show celebrates country artists Glen Campbell, Crystal Gayle, Eddie Rabbitt, Charlie Rich and Anne Murray, whose work has crossed over into the popular medium. Their greatest hits will be brought out for everyone to enjoy and maybe even sing along.

"An Intimate Evening with Georgette Fry" is offered for Saturday, February 27th, 7:30 pm and Sunday, February 28th at 2:30 pm. The evening promises a mix of Swing, Blues and Jazz from this talented Kingston performer as she does her own renditions of great songs from popular singers.

On April 2nd and 3rd, look forward to "Fiddle & Song" with Turpins Trail. Shows are Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:30 pm, and feature all of your favourite Celtic/Irish and folk music. Always a joy to attend, keep an eye out for some special guests to liven things up.

Last for the season will be "Swingtime", known as the Nostalgic Sounds Big Band, with guest vocalists Diane Stapley and Cliff Edwards. You don't have to remember the '40s to love the music, and this full ten piece big band will be pulling out all the stops as they bring you the music of the swing era. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, April 29th and 30th at 7:30pm, and Sunday May 1st at 2:30 pm. LH

Tickets are \$25 per person per performance for the remainder of the series. Group rates are \$22 per person with a minimum of 10 people per group. Taxes are applicable to all ticket prices. For more information, please call the Thousand Islands Playhouse box office at 613-382-7020 or order on-line at www.1000islandsplayhouse.com.



Speaking of wine

By Russ Disotell

s this column is being put together, meteorologists have yet to issue their predictions for this coming winter. Apparently factoring in this year's El Nino is causing some complications in fine tuning their forecasts. However, that doesn't really cause us any problems in the wine world. Rest assured it will be colder in January and February than it was in June and July! That means that meals will feature stews, chili, lots of root vegetables and other assorted stick to your ribs staples.

It is also post-Christmas and many will be looking to control their budgets and recover from the holiday gift buying spree. So we're going to look at inexpensive, versatile red wines that offer honest value and great quality. Unbelievably all of these selections still ring through the cash register at under \$10 and yet won't seem out of place elevating your culinary experience.

Sangiovese is the main grape used in Chianti and when sold under the Sangiovese moniker can offer outstanding value. Citra Sangiovese Terre Di Chieti

2012 (CSPC# 480756, \$7.95) is just such a wine. A fresh cherry and herbal nose opens into a velvety soft, medium bodied red with superb balance, juicy cherry fruit with a lengthy flavourful finish. Citra is very versatile, pairing well with the aforementioned stew, as well as roast poultry, steak and aged hard cheeses.

Santa Carolina Merlot 2015 (CSPC# 361741, \$8.95) is the latest vintage of this perennial Chilean favourite. Opening with an enticing raspberry, blackberry and cedar nose, this is a simple yeoman Merlot with plenty of bright blackberry and black cherry fruit, a modicum of light oak and plenty of food friendly acidity. Not overly complex, but with deep, rich flavours. Santa Carolina is the epitome of an everyday table wine and offers good value. Chill lightly and bring on the beef or vegetarian stew. If grilled burgers are still on your menu this is your wine.

Portuguese wines remain relatively unknown in this market, which is all the better for us because they can offer excellent value. That's the case with

Sogrape Vila Regia 2014 (CSPC# 464388, \$7.95) from the Douro, one of Portugal's pre-eminent wine regions. It exhibits great balance, moderate complexity, fresh forward fruit and a dry finish with outstanding length. The nose offers up tart berry fruit, vanilla and some smoky aromas. Red currant, cherry and bright berry fruit dominate the palate, balanced nicely by refreshing acidity and moderate tannins. This is a perfect large gathering red.

So scrimp on cost, but not on quality. Enjoy! LH

Russ Disotell enjoyed a twelve year career with the LCBO. He spent the last four years as Product Advisor in Vintages purchasing where he was a member of the buying panel and endured the arduous task of tasting products every week! Since leaving the Board he has written columns and articles on wine, helped develop wine lists and conducted wine tastings.







2016 Irish Music and Dance Events

- ~ Friday January 29 ~
- ~ Friday February 26 ~ ~ Friday April 29 ~ St Lawrence College
- Brockville Pub 8pm ~ Friday March 18 8pm ~ Brockville Country Club



Find us on Facebook or call 613-342-3540 for details

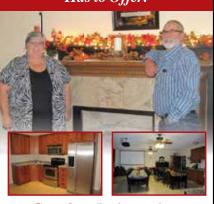






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