

# THORNTON NEWS

by Cathie Miller

When I started writing this column a few years ago, Carol McPherson took a chance on me. Although I had no writing experience, Carol was willing to let me give it a try. So I was very sad when I heard over the weekend that she had passed away. When Carol was the editor here at the Scope, I rarely ever spoke to her, in fact we had never met; most of our communication was by email. Carol was always there with help and advice when I was struggling to establish myself as the writer of the Thornton News. She could tell by the tone of my column whether I was happy or sad and would often inquire about my well being or send me a kind word of encouragement just when I needed it the most. You could say that she was my mentor. As we all often do, leaving things unsaid until it is too late, thank you Carol for taking a chance on me.

Isn't it wonderful that spring has arrived? As I write this

## Cookstown residents revisit Arizona

by Susan Stein

On February 28, Elma Ross with her friend Elsie Arnold, joined the Senior Tours Group for a trip to Arizona.

Although she went there before, it was once again wonderful to be in that part of the world, between the Great Plains and the Pacific Ocean with the Sonora Desert linking Arizona with Mexico. One of the seven wonders of the world, the Grand Canyon, has drawn millions of people to this state in the USA, as has its history, warm sunny climate, the huge Saguano and other cacti, the grasslands and majestic mountains.

The chance to admire and buy arts and crafts, made by local artists.

The first day was spent in Phoenix and Scottsdale, visiting Arizona State University, Camelback Mountain, and a walk in Old Town Scottsdale. A dinner at the Home Town Buffet concluded the day.

March 2nd offered the visitors a drive through spectacular scenery along the Apache Trail into Superstition Mountains, an old-fashioned steamboat ride on Canyon Lake. Interesting rock formations resembling people and animals were admired while listening to the captain's tales of legends form that area.

A walk along the largest, longest Flea Market in the south west USA tempted our friends, but resisted in purchasing something.

The highlight for Elma came on March 5 and 6, starting with an overnight excursion to the Grand Canyon, with a visit to the artists colony and incredible rock formations at Sedona, and the beautiful Oak Creek Canyon and finally up to the Grand Canyon.

The option to take a Helicopter Ride along the Canyon was taken by her and Elsie and it proved to be the most fascinating sight ever seen.

the weatherman says that it will be 16 today. I will be happy to put away coats, boots and mittens and enjoy the weather. One activity many look forward to is baseball and Ivy Minor baseball is hosting a registration on Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. until noon at the Ivy Orange Hall located on the 20th Side Road of Essa west of County Road 27. Registration is for teams of T-Ball, Rookie Ball, Tyke, Pee-wee and Bantam players. For further information contact Christine Mink at 721-8116 or Charlene Vanderpost at 739-9226.

On Saturday, March 24 the Essa Historical Society will be holding their monthly meeting at the Thornton Library starting at 1:30 p.m. They will be presenting their annual reports and a historical video. All are welcome to attend. For more information contact Olive at 458-9971.

Ontario Early Years will be presenting their next program for preschoolers at the Thornton Library on March 27th from 10 until 11 a.m. The session is free but pre-registration is required. The next story time at the library begins registration on March 26 for either four consecutive Monday or Tuesday mornings. The cost is \$2.00 per child per session.

March 8 was enjoyed with an evening at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre for a buffet dinner and the performance of My Fair Lady.

Elma and Elsie took the time next day to visit with friends Mary Lisk, Dorothy Dale, Kay Taylor, Lois West and Morris Tymchuk (an ex-student of Elma).

The internationally acclaimed Heard Museum with displays of Native Heritage of the South West, was visited. The BBQ dinner with great beef and ribs concluded this day.

March 11 was the day to see Saguaro cacti at its finest at the Saguaro National Park, a visit to the Sonora living Museum - combination botanical garden and zoo with birds and animals living in their natural habitat.

March 13 was a day of leisure and Farewell Dinner. Elma and Elsie visited the home of the famous, innovative architect Frank Lloyd Wright, admiring it's architecture

March 14 - flight home with memories to cherish and to share with friends.

If you belong to the library, it also gives you access to online electronic resources. Once you have obtained your user name and password from your local branch just visit [www.essa.library.on.ca](http://www.essa.library.on.ca) and click on electronic resources. There you can access references sources such as Chilton's Auto Repair, Encyclopedia Britannica, Health Source and new to the site Knowledge Ontario.

With warmer weather and more light in the evenings you may want to stop into the library and borrow one of the Pedometer Packs and start a walking fitness program. The pedometer pack comes with a 10,000 steps tracking booklet to record your progress over a 12 week period. The goal is to get you stepping in the right direction for an active lifestyle and it has been determined that taking 10,000 steps daily is a healthy way to do it. Stop by the library to sign up today.

As always, if you have any news, meetings, anniversaries or special occasions, I'd be happy to write about them. You can email me at [thorntonnews@rogers.com](mailto:thorntonnews@rogers.com) or call me at (705) 458-0869 or drop it off at 25 Robert Street. Bye for now.....



Norm Mill and his twin Grace Blain celebrated their 75th birthday over the weekend at a party in their home in Gilford. Friend David Eveleigh (left) dropped in for some well wishes - he celebrates his 88th this week. Happy Birthday to all.

photo by Michelle Minnoch

## Essa's insurance rates drop 5%

by Richard Blanchard

Essa Township's insurance costs will drop by five per cent this year.

It will be the first decrease in the township's premium since 2002.

Township CAO Greg Murphy told council that the premium paid to the Frank Cowan Company would decrease from \$234,416 charged in 2006 to \$222,486 in 2007.

The insurance premium paid by the

township has more than doubled in the past five years.

In 2002, the township paid \$99,118 as its premium.

In related news, Murphy told council that a number of Simcoe County municipalities are considering tendering for insurance as a group in order to obtain a cheaper rate. Council will be kept informed about this proposal.

## Church Directory

Baha'i Faith – Innisfil.....	431-7139
Bell Ewart Baptist .....	456-3334
Christ Church – St. Jude Anglican, Ivy..	458-9631
Church of God Worship Centre, Thornton	
.....	705-730-1738
Churchill United.....	456-4692
Cookstown United .....	458-9701
Gilford United .....	456-4692
Holland Marsh Christian Reformed .....	775-7291
Holy Cross Ukrainian Church .....	705-730-7999
Holy Martyrs Roman Catholic.....	775-2065
Holy Trinity Lutheran .....	775-3412
Innisfil Community .....	436-1611
Lefroy United .....	456-2098
Living Faith Presbyterian Church.....	705-424-0779
New Life Fellowship Baptist .....	436-5413
St. George's Anglican, Utopia.....	458-9631
St. James United, Stroud .....	436-5225
St. John Vianney .....	726-8007
St. John's Anglican, Cookstown.....	458-1801
www.stjohnscookstown.com	
St. Paul's Anglican, Coulsen's Hill.....	775-3648
St. Paul's Anglican, Stroud .....	722-7755
St. Peter's Anglican, Churchill.....	456-4396
www.stpeterschurchill.com	
Stroud Presbyterian .....	721-0134
Trinity United, Thornton .....	458-9701



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## Easter Egg-stravaganza at County Museum

The Simcoe County Museum will host their Easter Egg-stravaganza on Wednesday, April 4th and Thursday, April 5th.

The sights and sounds of Spring come alive as we celebrate Easter. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., there will be games and activities for all ages.

Enjoy games such as Bowling for Bunnies and Tip the Tulip. Make an Easter basket and even become a bunny for the evening!

Easter Egg-stravaganza is an evening for the whole family. Admission is \$2 per person, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Organized groups are required to register in advance.

The Simcoe County Museum is located at 1151 Highway 26 West, Minesing, just 5 minutes north of Barrie.

For more info, call the Simcoe County Museum at (705) 728-3721 or e-mail [museum@county.simcoe.on.ca](mailto:museum@county.simcoe.on.ca).