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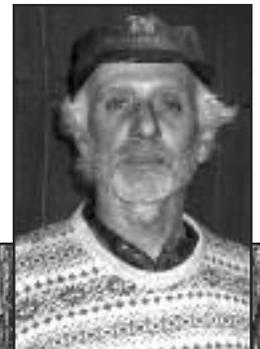
Already very well renowned for his patience and the quality of his carpentry, Albert is the 4th generation to share his family tradition of making maple syrup in the authentic, time-honoured "old fashioned" way. While most syrup producers take advantage of modern technology to make production more efficient, Albert still does it "the hard way". While others switched to using paper filters in their finishing, Albert still uses the traditional re-washable wool filters ... perhaps the next best to paper filters, but better for flavour.

If one had to sum up Albert's work with maple syrup in one word, it would have to be "authentic" – and that purity of principle sometimes comes with a price. Albert smiles at the recollection of his maple syrup coming in Third Place in the judging at the Royal

Agricultural Winter Fair. "Because I still use the old wool filters, my syrup wasn't quite the colour or clarity of the other, paper filtered syrups ... but I won on flavour!"

Albert's devotion to his craft – and the wonderful results of his hard work – are well known throughout North America. In 1995, he was featured in Harrowsmith magazine, the leading Canadian publication on rural life.

But if time stands still at the Crowder Sugar Bush, Albert certainly doesn't! His



Continued on next page



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It is possible ... continued from page 1

energy is boundless. While some of his buildings are original to the site, most are not. Over the years, he has found other old, unused 'heritage' buildings



and sheds, carefully moved them to his sugar bush, then painstakingly re-built them and put them back into use. And everything does get used!

It's hard to keep up with Albert and his wife Tara. Every spare moment and every weekend are spent

in the bush, performing their labours of love. Even the 'camp house' building where they eat, sleep and pass what little leisure time they allow themselves is rustic, harkening back to pioneer days. Add in their 3 children, Earl, Ada and Ian, and things are snug and cozy indeed!

Not that Albert and his family spend much time indoors. This year, with over 500 trees tapped, everyone pitches in to keep up with the work. In spite of the workload though, the Crowders are always happy to have visitors. They have a warm greeting for you, and are happy to take the time to show you around. When you love your "work" as much as the Crowder family seem to do, it doesn't take much to get them talking about it! So, if you're in the neighbourhood, drop on by ... you'll be glad you did. The Crowder Sugar Bush is located on the Huron Line, between the K Line and M&N Roads. It's just a short hop off the road ... and a jump back in time!

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Firefighting on the Island

By Cory Furlong, Fire Chief, Township of St. Joseph

FIREFIGHTING ON ST. JOSEPH ISLAND once consisted of nothing more than neighbours coming to the aid of a fellow Islander. Bucket brigades were formed and people would literally run into a burning building to rescue any furniture and personal belongs that could be saved. At times, whole sections of towns were lost to fire, which spread from building to building.



As the years passed, provincial legislation was introduced, making municipalities responsible for providing fire suppression within their borders. With time, trucks and equipment were purchased, Fire Chiefs appointed and members of the communities came forward to

form fire brigades. While low on adequate equipment to provide full suppression coverage, these fire brigades were at least able to stop the fires from progressing and endangering neighboring properties.

The early 1990's saw major changes, with the installation of water systems and hydrants in Hilton Beach and Richards Landing. Legislation and labour laws mandated that equipment be upgraded to a higher standard. The old turn coats and hip boots were replaced by bunker gear which provides much greater protection for the firefighter. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus equipment was upgraded to provide easier use and increased



safety. The late 80's and early 90's also saw the addition of "the jaws of life" auto extraction gear to the Island. These heavy hydraulic tools are used at major car accidents to free individuals trapped in their vehicles.



With these tools, the St. Joseph Township fire department covered an area from the Echo Bay Bridge to Thessalon and north to Aubrey Falls. This continued until 1999, when departments on the north shore started to purchase the equipment as

well. Today, the department covers extraction needs for all of highway 548 and St. Joseph Island.

January 1st, 2000 saw the First Response Unit being based at the Jocelyn fire hall. Members of the First Response Unit are called out for medical emergencies to assist the ambulance crew. They are equipped with a decommissioned ambulance that houses a large amount of first aid equipment and its crew has a much higher standard of first aid training.



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Firefighting ... continued from page 3

The newest service introduced on the Island in 2007, Ice Rescue, begins a whole new chapter for the fire service. Members of Hilton Union, Jocelyn, and St. Joseph Township all participated in the training, adding a new element of skills and equipment for public safety on the Island.

The municipalities on the Island rely heavily on the volunteers who attend regular training meetings, fires and accidents at all times of the day. Meetings average two hours every second week and fire calls could last from minutes to days. Members are paid an honorarium, based on attendance at meetings and calls.

Nearly 80% of the fire departments in the province either fully or partly consist of volunteers. Imagine the cost for small municipalities, like the townships located on the Island, to provide fire coverage if it had to pay firefighters full time wages! Starting wages for a firefighter in Ontario averaged \$50,000 in 2008. A first class firefighter averages \$75,000. With a need for a minimum of fifteen firefighters, some quick math will tell anyone that a small municipality can not afford to pay for the salaries of a full time department, in addition to the day to day operational costs.

The responsibility of the Island departments does not stop with firefighting. They are also responsible for fire prevention education though out their respective areas, whether it be answering the questions of a homeowner or going into the classroom of the local school to

spread the fire safety message.

While it has been law for some time in Ontario for households to have working smoke detectors, in March 2006 it became law to have one on every level and outside of sleeping areas. From time to time the departments will go door to door to ensure that every house does having working smoke detectors. The fines for offences such as no smoke detectors, disabled smoke detectors, and failure to have one on every level of the house, could be up to \$235 per offence.

Most fire related deaths in Ontario are within the home, and are at night time. With the cost of a smoke detector being as little as \$10, it's sad to hear on the news of people dying in house fires. It is so preventable! Go check your detector right now! The time it would take is less than the time it took to read this article.

If you have any questions about the fire service on the Island, or may be interested in joining, call your respective Township office for the appropriate people to get in contact with.

Stay Safe!



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Susan Marks Kerr's 15 Minute Chicken and Rice

- 1 tbsp. veg oil
- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- 1 can Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1.5 C. water
- 1/4 tsp. paprika
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
(add garlic or curry powder for a kick)
- 1.5 C. uncooked Minute Rice
- 2 C. fresh broccoli flowerets or combine broccoli
with green beans

Heat oil in skillet; add chicken and brown; remove chicken. Add soup, water, spices, heat to boil. Stir in rice and broccoli; top with chicken season more, if desired. Cover and cook over low heat for 5 minutes or until done. Serves 4

Thanks Susan!



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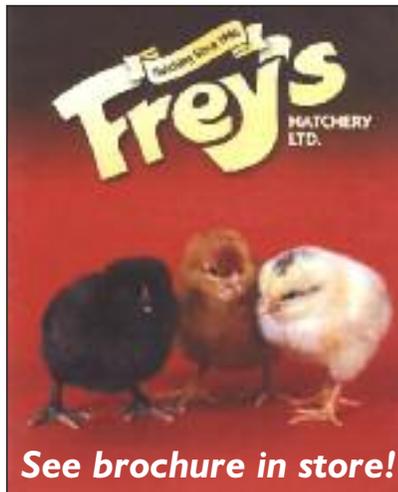
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AlgomaTrad Holds Fundraiser Benefit for Dan Gorno, May 2

THE ALGOMA TRADITIONAL MUSIC and Dance Group is holding a benefit dance and a live and silent auction on Saturday, May 2 (rescheduled from April 25) at the Legion Hall in Richards Landing to support caller, dancer, potter and musician Dan Gorno.

Dan has been an integral part of the success of both the AlgomaTrad Family Camp that takes place on St. Joseph Island in August (calling and teaching stepdance and pottery) and calling for the hugely popular family dances that AlgomaTrad organizes throughout the year.

He has recently undergone major surgery and is facing extremely serious medical treatment for cancer in the near future. He is a Michigan resident and, unfortunately, being a self-employed artist all his life, he, like 46 million of his fellow countrymen, has no health insurance. The AlgomaTrad organization would like to invite all of you who have been inspired by this



Dan Gorno dancing to tunes by Pierre Schryer

tireless teacher and genuinely wonderful person to join them in extending Dan a helping hand.

If you have items for the auction, please contact AlgomaTrad administrators, Julie and Pat, at 782-4311 or Melanie at 246-0188. Entry to the dance will be by donation, proceeds to go to Dan. Music will be provided by the Schryer/O'Gorman/Lefebvre Family. Pat Hoekje, a friend of Dan's who is a caller in the Traverse City area, has volunteered to come up and call for us for this event.

The Legion Hall will be open for a drop-in period from 4 to 7 to view live auction items and bid on silent items. AlgomaTrad students of traditional music will provide music during this time period. A live auction will be at 7 pm, to be followed by an intergenerational family contra/square dance.

Continued on next page

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**When: Saturday, May 2, 2009; Drop-in 4 pm to 7 pm,
Live Auction 7 pm, Dance to follow**

Admission: By donation, ALL welcome

AlgomaTrad (www.algomatrad.ca) is a non-profit organization that showcases and teaches “traditional” music and dance that are part of the living traditions of Ontario’s, and indeed Canada’s, cultural heritage. AlgomaTrad welcomes families and individuals of all ages who would like to experience traditional music and dance in a caring and family-friendly environment.

For more information, please call:

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by George Skardis

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ANSWER: There are mixed reviews regarding cellular Internet service in our neck of the woods. Depending on whom you talk to and depending on how that form of wireless cellular Internet is used, opinions range from excellent to poor. First of all, avoid accepting offers for cellular Internet when solicited by sales representatives via telephone. Most likely the individual selling this service is located in a call centre in a large metropolitan area with robust cellular service. A stranger to our Northern rural conditions would be surprised to find that cell phones just don't work as well up here. Southern Ontario has good high-speed cellular Internet. Even Sudbury and Thunder Bay have good high-speed cellular Internet. St. Joseph Island is still awaiting cellular tower upgrades to improve cell phone coverage and deliver high-speed cellular Internet. Your intrepid reporter called the local Rogers and Bell Mobility sales offices serving our rural area for correct information. Since Rogers and Bell share the same cell tower infrastructure, the cellular Internet packages are almost identical. The sales representative admitted to not knowing when our local wireless Internet service will be upgraded to the better, faster, and more powerful wireless Internet service enjoyed elsewhere. Pricing starts at \$30 per month with a 500 megabyte quota for downloading and uploading. That's barely enough to cover typical email sending and receiving. If you have teenagers at home or expect to download music and You Tube video clips, keep a close eye on the provided download/upload log. Pricing is expensive and escalates to \$85 for 5 gigabytes. Rogers and Bell offer a trial period. Questioning the sales representative uncovered the truth behind this so-called trial period. This is not a 30 day all-you-can-eat-then-decide offer. If you connect to your cellular Internet service successfully and begin to use this package, you are automatically locked into the one year contract. These cellular Internet packages do not include email accounts. You will need to set up your own Hotmail, Yahoo, or Google email account. Performance is better than dial-up but costly.



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CARIBOU CABIN Flowers & Gifts In Bruce Mines welcomes Spring with 30% OFF all giftware, greeting cards, candies, treats & jewelry. Come in and browse our varied selections. We're open Tuesday – Friday 10 to 5, Saturday 10 to 3.

30 ft. Steel television or short wave TOWER in Richards Lndg. Best offer takes it. Call 246-3720

Little Tikes basketball set (adjustable 4 1/2' - 6'), wooden rocking horse, Beanie Babies (lots!!!), Magic Square "laptop", quality games by Ravensburger, travel MagnaDoodle, LiteBrite (includes unused picture pages), kite, several dresses by New York designer Therese. Call Jan 246-1893.

2000 Yamaha YZ 125 dirtbike, excellent condition, low mileage. \$2,000 Call 246-2088, ask for Joe.

TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

Starting at \$40. for basic return or \$60. per couple. Call P. Nadjiwon, Certified Management Accountant. 6 years' experience with Canada Revenue Agency. Phone 246-0569

WANTED

Alladin Lamps or Alladin lamp parts. Call 246-2089

246-0942
Sherrie's
Hairstyling & Barbering
total family hair care

Do you have electronics expertise? We need you to connect Sony receivers and Sony TV in private home in Richards Landing. Will pay. Call 246-3720

HELP WANTED

The St. Joseph Island Museum Complex will be hiring 2 student employees for summer positions. Please submit your resume to: Annette Fischer, RR #1, Hilton Beach ON, P0R 1G0 so that it is received by the 22nd of April, as interviews will be held on the 23rd. If you have questions, please call me at 246-2187. Positions are dependent on government funding.

MISCELLANEOUS

MUSIC LESSONS - w/ Pat O'Gorman. Openings remain, after 3 pm, Tuesdays for next 8 weeks. St. Joes Island School. Bagpipes, whistle, flute. All levels. Call 782-4311

Will Babysit in your own home in Richards Landing area. Mature responsible woman available. Monday to Friday. Phone 246-3880

Apartment For Rent, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, kitchen & laundry with appliances. Non-smoking, 1st & last, references. \$750. + utilities. Richards Landing 246-1024

For Rent: 3+1 bedroom house with double garage and 50 acres for ideal hunting on the W-Line by Still's Side Road. \$800.00 plus utilities first and last rent references required. Phone 246-3804 or 941-1621.

The **Calico Hen**
Telephone: (705) 246-0875
Antiques - Art - Used Books
Jewellery - Photos - Knitting Supplies
Dawn Tweedle - owner/artisan
1188 Richards St.,
Richards Landing, ON P0R 1J0

**Your Island Print Shop**
246-3518
email: islandprinter@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The SJI Horticultural Society presents "Preparation for Exhibits " Judges Nancy & Jim Tibbles to speak in conjunction with our annual flower & vegetable show. Group meets Thurs. April 23, 7:00 pm at Harmony - St. Marks Fellowship Hall. Any new gardeners welcome! Info. contact – President Sheila Campbell - 246-3078

The St. Joseph Island Museum Board is looking for 4 new members to join them to plan, oversee and facilitate the operation of the Complex working with the Curator and Secretary/Treasurer as staff. Should have an interest in the museum and Island history, and enjoy getting together for meetings during the off season. Our meetings are currently held on the last Monday of the month. Please send a short letter of introduction and tell us something about yourself to A. Fischer, RR #1, Hilton Beach, ON P0R 1G0, or email at Annette.fischer@sympatico.ca.

The SJI Historical Society's next meeting will be held on Tues., April 21st at the Richards Landing Library from 2 to 4 pm. Everyone interested in Island or family history is welcome. For more info. call Barb @ 246-2089, Alice @ 246-2392 or Marie @ 246-2386.

The 2009 Baseball Season is fast approaching. Boys and Girls - Grades JK to 12. Register at the Township of St. Joseph Office by Friday, April 17. Coaches and Umpires needed for all age groups. Volunteers also needed to assist with organization of both the baseball and soccer programs this year. If you can help out, please contact the St. Joseph Township Office at 246-2625.

PC DOCTOR
"Sick computer. call George!"
246-2112

THANK YOU

The family of the late Verna MacDonald and Ralph extend a heart felt Thank You to all for your many acts of kindness and support. The food, flowers, phone calls, donations and visits are very much appreciated. Thank You to the ambulance staff, Dr. Rob and the nurses at Matthews Memorial Hospital for their care, support and making her remaining time the best it could be. Thank You to her neighbours for their visits and food through the years, she especially enjoyed the kids. Thank You to all her care givers, especially Sherry who became a special friend. Thank You to the pallbearers and honorary pallbearer and also Jim Patterson for honouring Verna with song. You were all special people in Verna's life. Thank You to Bruce Cain for a wonderful service, and to Arthur's funeral home for your guidance and compassion. Also, a special Thank You to all who traveled both from Canada and the USA to share this time with us. It was very much appreciated. Verna was a very classy lady who thoroughly enjoyed life, her family and many friends. She will often be remembered as we gather for special occasions, especially if a deck of cards is involved. We cannot truly express how much we appreciate the many acts of love and support but they will long be remembered.

The MacDonald, Patterson and Ralph Nelson Families

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For Appointments
Please Call
941-0802
Julie Stevens

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Top Quality Hardwood
Cut, split & delivered \$70. /cord*
Call Angie at 941-0215
* For Local delivery

DAFFODILS SAVE LIVES!
 Our thanks to all who supported our annual Daffodil Sale. To these local businesses, we appreciate your involvement: Ambeault's Confectionery, Kents Corners, Hilton Beach General Store, Kentvale Merchants

The St. Joseph Island Cancer Society

A very special thank you to my family for the wonderful birthday party. Also to everyone who came to help me celebrate and for the gifts and cards. It was greatly appreciated and I can't thank you enough.

Mary Lou Rains

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The members of the Hilton Beach Recreation Committee and the Jocelyn Recreation Committees would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped with the Boucher Benefit in any way - buying tickets, monetary donations,

donations to the silent auction, bidding at the silent auction and working in any capacity. Your support made the event very successful financially and as a show of support for Janet as she recovers.

Deadline for all material – noon Tuesdays

MEMORIAL

A SAD LOSS: On March 20 Master Cpl Scott Vernelli was killed in action in Afghanistan on his third mission, just short of a few weeks of returning home. He was 28 years old, a new husband to Marcie and father to baby Olivia. Scott was a dedicated and proud soldier who loved his country, his family, friends and life. Too soon gone - our hero, nephew and Godson. A memorial mass is being held at St. Jerome's Church, SSM this Thursday, April 16. On Saturday, April 18, there will be a memorial at the Armories in SSM. Scotty will be in our hearts forever. God just needed another angel.

Kay & Vince Vernelli

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON ST. JOE

Friday 17	Hens & Stitches, Dr. Trefry Centre - 10 am to 12 pm Island Cast-a-Weighs, Calorie Watchers, Hilton Community Hall (rear door, basmt) - 8:30 am Friday Foods Menu available at the Legion - 5 pm to 9 pm AA Meeting, United Church (new addition, side door) - 8 pm Seniors Walking at the Legion 10 am until noon
Saturday 18	Nordic Walking Group, meet at Tranter Park - 10 am Childrens Library - 10 am to 3 pm Hilton Union Public Library - 1 pm to 5 pm St. Joseph Twp. Public Library - 1 pm to 5 pm Free pool all day in the Legion lounge
Sunday 19	
Monday 20	Bridge, Dr. Trefry Centre - 1 pm to 5 pm (Open to all seniors) 60+ Exercise Program, Dr. Trefry Centre - 10:30 am Euchre, Legion Hall - 8 pm (\$3.00 per person) Carpet Bowling for Seniors, Legion - 1 pm Children's Library - 6 pm to 9 pm St. Joseph Twp, Public Library - 6 pm to 9 pm Seniors Walking at the Legion 10 am until noon
Tuesday 21	Women's Physical Activities, Public School Gym - 6:30 pm to 8 pm Cribbage (singles), Legion Hall - 7:30 pm (\$3.00 per person) SJI Historical Society's Meeting, Richards Landing Library - 2 to 4 pm
Wednesday 22	Pool, Legion - 7:30 pm St. Joseph Twp. Public Library - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Food Bank, United Church, Richards Landing (side door) - 1 pm to 3 pm Children's Library - 9 am to 12 pm Story time - 10:30 am Dr. Trefry Centre's Day Out Program - 9 am to 4 pm Hilton Union Public Library - 1 pm to 5 pm Seniors Walking at the Legion 10 am until noon
Thursday 23	St. Joseph Twp. Public Library - 1 pm to 5 pm and 7 pm to 9 pm Dr. Trefry Centre's Day Out Program - 9 am to 4 pm Children's Library - 9 am to 12 pm Story time - 10:30 am 3 pm to 5 pm SJI Horticultural Society, Harmony - St Marks Fellowship Hall - 7 pm Darts at the Legion (Starting as Open; may change) - 7:30 pm