

Opinion

MUSKOKA MOSAIC

Introducing Rhoda Moeller

BY PAULA BOON

The sight of Rhoda Moeller on her little red bike is a familiar one to people who live in Baysville. For almost a decade the Baysville Horticultural Society member has not only helped to plant the village's 31 flower barrels each year, but kept them all watered as well.

Wearing a straw hat, she has made her rounds all summer long to quench the flowers' thirst. This year, though, she will pass the watering can to someone else. "It's a bit much, fetching all that water," she says. "I'll probably deadhead, though — I can't help myself."

For years, Moeller has also helped to organize the Baysville Community Group's annual Walkabout, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this July.

Last summer she recruited someone else to take over her duties as the coordinator of front-gate volunteers, but she says she'll still take her turn at the gate. "I don't want to step back completely because then you're out of the loop," she says.

That's not likely to happen anytime soon. Moeller still organizes the summer farmers' market along with Helen White, and this is her ninth year in charge of "the hort's" spring and summer flower shows.

In her free time, Moeller also plays euchre at seniors' centre and is a member of the Baysville Public Library's book club. "I really enjoy that," she says of the group which meets once a month, year-round. "In the summer we're usually on someone's dock or deck."

Then there are other special events to attend such as the boat show and Art in the Park. "For a small community, Baysville offers so much," she says. "There's a lot going on here."

Moeller should know: she's been watching Baysville grow and change since she made her first visit to her husband Alex's family cottage on the South Muskoka River in 1953.

At the time, she worked in the sales department at the A&P Company's head office in Toronto. "My priorities changed when my son Paul was born," she says. After that, she worked just three days a week and took summers off to spend at the cottage.

When Moeller and her husband retired in 1990, they moved to Baysville permanently. "We did the Florida/Baysville thing, which was a nice lifestyle, until five years ago," she says. "Then we decided it was time to stay put. I've always loved it here. I never get tired of it. Small-town community living is great."

Moeller, soon to be the grandmother of two, gets out every day, often on her bike.

"You never know who you're going to meet up with at places like the post office," she says. "Often when I'm out I'll see our local weatherman, Carl Billingham. He keeps everyone updated



of every day, because you don't know what tomorrow's going to bring."

Thanks to Lyn Bradley for recommending that Rhoda be profiled. If there is someone you'd like to see in this space, please call Paula at 789-5541 or e-mail pboon@metrolandnorthmedia.com.

LETTERS

Soccer parent takes issue with 'the most ludicrous rule ever'

This past week was a wet one in more ways than we wished for.

On Wednesday night, out of the blue, a brand new policy was implemented which affected many hundreds of kids, their parents, coaches and referees involved with the game of soccer. The evening's soccer games were cancelled due to rain. Not that it was actually raining at the time, but rather that it had rained and therefore the games were cancelled.

According to a set of rules which were actually officially posted on Thursday (the next day) if it rains for 30 minutes non-stop, games are to be cancelled. If the field conditions show wetness or

sogginess, games are to be cancelled.

The game of soccer cancelled due to rain has to be one of the most ludicrous rule ever. We have been involved in Huntsville's soccer with our kids for at least seven years. Through those years the simple rule about cancellations of soccer games was set logically around thunderstorms.

If the weather was showing signs of impending storms of thunder and lightning then all parents and participants knew not to show up. The cancelled games were then to be played on the next Friday.

Why these new rules and, more importantly, why on earth implement new rules one day without actu-

ally advising clearly those who are to be affected by these rules and then follow up with the erection of signs the next day again without informing the organization or its members of the steps?

This change comes after questionable actions by the town toward its parking facilities at the ball diamond area. There is very little to no parking available for the quantity of participants in activities around the area. With the addition of the skateboard park, this year's opening week saw vehicles being ticketed. Why? Where are people to park and why follow through on this when anyone could see that the place was packed? There is a parking issue here and ticketing people

is not the solution.

Finally, if wetness of the fields is such an issue then reprogramming of the sprinkler system should take place. On Thursday while it was raining steadily and while I was reading about the new rules I could see the soccer field with its sprinklers fully on. The rules, the implementation method, and the value this town gives organizations and participants have to be in sync. At this point, it seems that we, the participants and its organizations, have been left in the rain under a cloud of uncertainty. A wet week indeed!

Rene Brunet
Huntsville

Family with car trouble well looked-after in Huntsville

On June 11 my family and I had occasion to pass through your town on one of our regular trips from Kirkland Lake to Toronto for our daughter's diabetes clinic at the Hospital for Sick Children.

We make this trip every three months and regularly stop in to buy gas, snacks and stretch our legs. This time, however, this trip took us on a very different adventure.

About 7 p.m., as we were leaving Huntsville, we had the misfortune of blowing a water pump. As we sat on the side of the exit ramp of Muskoka Road 3, I used my cell phone to contact Canadian Tire. Unfortunately, their service centre closed at 5 p.m. The young lady who answered the store's main number that night was wonderfully courteous and helpful. She took the time to pull out the yellow pages and gave me numbers for local tow-

ing companies.

Enter Rick from Baseline Towing and Heavy Recovery. Not only did this gentleman arrive promptly, but he made some calls to local mechanics he knew and found one who was willing to start repairs first thing in the morning for us. After towing our van (known affectionately as Humpty Dumpty) to that location — for a discounted rate — Rick also loaded our luggage into the tow truck and drove us to the Comfort Inn. After ensuring that there was a room available — and carrying our luggage into the lobby — he disappeared before I had the opportunity to give him the big hug and thank you he deserved.

The staff at the Comfort Inn were also extremely helpful. The receptionist tried various options to ensure she was giving us the least expensive accommodations possible, settling on

the hospital rate when she discovered we were traveling for medical reasons. She also pointed out that there was a 24-hour A&P next door, where we could purchase fixings for dinner.

The staff at the A&P were also helpful. While purchasing our dinner, we were aided by a young lady who, although she didn't know the answer to our question, found us someone who did. We now own an extra corkscrew which we used to open the bottle of wine originally purchased as a gift for our hostess when we arrived in Toronto.

On Thursday morning, Chris from Autotech Automotive arrived at his place of business at 8:30 a.m. Both Chris and his staff worked tirelessly all day on the huge job of replacing the water pump and timing components, going home only after the job was complete at 7 p.m. and

coming in under the quote originally provided. Thanks, guys!

Humpty Dumpty runs like a top and got us all home safely.

We never did make our appointment in Toronto. We did, however, spend Thursday browsing downtown Huntsville and also spent another night at the Comfort Inn before heading home Friday morning.

So, our hats are off to Rick, Chris and all the wonderful people of Huntsville for making our misadventure a much less frustrating experience and for all the courteous and helpful aid you provided. If we ever have the misfortune of breaking down again, I certainly hope it's in Huntsville!

The Lounsbury family
Kirkland Lake

Lawn animals are back home

We got a pleasant surprise Thursday morning, June 19.

The lawn animals which were removed from our lawn were returned. We would like to thank the ones who placed them where they could be

found. Thank you to all who helped search for them and the neighbour who brought them back.

Roland Tambosso
Huntsville

North Bay parent praises MHP

I was part of a school group from Sunset Park Public School in North Bay that went to the village at Muskoka Heritage Place.

I wanted to write to tell you what a wonderful experience the day was for the children (and parents).

The staff were so well organized, the events were excellent, informative and exciting for the

kids to be part of.

You should be proud of everything you do. Congratulations.

Thanks for a great day (in spite of the rain).

Heather Kelso
Parent
Sunset Park PS
North Bay

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: E-mail: letters@huntsvilleforester.com

When sending letters to the editor be sure to include your name, address and phone number. Unsigned letters cannot be used.



MOE'S
PICK OF THE WEEK

2007 CHEV UPLANDER



7 passenger, 6 cylinder engine, auto., 75,000 km, 3rd row seating, A/C, alloy wheels, CD player, cruise, tilt. Stk# TP7306-A

\$16,995

2008
PONTIAC G5



2.2L, 4 cylinder engine, auto., 15,207 km. Stk# CP0861-A

\$14,995

2006 BUICK
ALLURE CX



3.4L, 6 cylinder engine, auto., 60,377 km, A/C, alloy wheels, CD player, cruise control. Stk# C08491-A

\$15,995

2007
PONTIAC G6



3.5L, 6 cylinder engine, 20,998 km, A/C, alloy wheels, CD player, sunroof. Stk# CP08626-A

\$17,995

2004 PONTIAC
MONTANA



3.4L, 6 cylinder engine, auto., 96,696 km, A/C, alloy wheels, power windows, locks and mirrors, tinted glass. Stk# TP08513-AC

\$10,995

2006 CHEV TRAIL
BLAZER LT 4 X 4



4.2L, 8 cylinder engine, auto., 42,517 km, A/C, alloy wheels, leather interior, heated seats. Stk# TP08590-A

\$21,995

2004
GMC ENVOY



4.2L, 8 cylinder engine, auto., 75,706 km. Stk# TP6220-A

\$16,995

2005 PONTIAC
GRAND PRIX



3.8L, 6 cylinder engine, auto., 132,633 km,

\$10,995

2004 CHEV
MONTE CARLO



3.8L, 6 cylinder engine, auto., 80,498 km, A/C, alloy wheels, cruise control, leather interior, sunroof, tinted glass. Stk# CP8313-A

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