

Opinion

MUSKOKA MOSAIC

Introducing Louise Garrod

BY PAULA BOON

Louise Garrod has always been busy, and her retirement is no different.

The Baysville woman was born near the village of Sparta in Elgin County, Ontario. Her parents worked hard to keep Garrod and her five siblings fed. "There was a field where Dad grew turnups," she said, "Plus we had a big garden, chickens and a milk cow."

Garrod attended a two-room schoolhouse and, as soon as she was old enough, joined the rest of her family working for a tobacco grower.

"At first my job was to take three leaves and hand them to a tyer," she says. "I practised until I could tie; you earned \$2 a day more for tying."

Garrod and her husband Bob met at a young people's event at church when she was 17 and married when she was 21. They bought her grandfather's house in Sparta and their three children were born there.

In 1972, their doctor told Bob, who suffered from asthma, that he needed to get out of the pollen belt. They searched for a place north of Barrie where the air was clearer. "We looked at the store in Baysville, and we saw that it was a family-oriented community," she says. "There was a hockey team and boy scouts. It was a good place for kids."

The Garrods moved to Baysville in 1973 and lived above their general store, which they ran seven days a week for seven years. While she enjoyed interacting with

customers, Garrod says, the constant work "was very draining."

Finally, they decided to sell the store and bought the home on the river where they still live. Garrod took five years away from work to spend more time with her daughter, who was nine at the time.

Then, in 1984, the service station in Baysville came up for sale. "It was empty, which was bad for the town," Garrod says. "We bought it under power of sale, got a good price and fixed it up. The first day it opened, half the town came out and brought flowers. It looked like a funeral home, but their support was great."

For four years, the couple worked "even harder than when we had the store," Garrod says. As part of this endeavour, she started a bakery. "I did have a baker who came in and did the bread," she says, "but I did the tarts and pies. I started around 4 a.m., came home and had a couple of hours' sleep and went back."

After they sold the service station in 1988, Garrod did some waitressing, supply teaching, and worked as an advertising representative for the Bracebridge Herald Gazette and the Bracebridge Examiner. "I was out with people. It was great," she says.

When Garrod retired in 2002, she took advantage of the chance to get more involved in the community. As a



member of the Baysville Community Group, she is in charge of all the booths for the annual Walkabout, which raises money for community projects. "There were nearly 150 booths last year. A lot of planning goes into that," she says.

The community group also decorates for fall, puts up wreaths for Christmas, and donates money to other community groups. "We also sponsor the farmers' market," she says. "I help out there a bit."

Garrod is a long-time member of Bethune United Church, where she helps with dinners, funerals and lunches. As a social member of the Baysville Curling Club, Garrod also pitches in during banquets and meals there.

The rest of her time is occupied keeping house, enjoying visits with her grandchildren, doing crafts and baking. "I always have muffins, and everyone is trained when they come into the house to go straight to the cookie jar," she says.

Garrod, who feels lucky to live in Muskoka, also spends as much time as possible on her dock. "We're among the fortunate ones who can live by a river and enjoy it. I never take it for granted," she says.

Thanks to Rhoda Moeller for suggesting that Louise Garrod be profiled.

LETTERS

Child's playground accident was completely preventable

What were they thinking? When a four-year-old child is allowed to climb on a rock that is almost twice the child's size without a hand held or support provided by the caregiver, doesn't common sense dictate that there is a risk that the child will fall and injure himself?

Because a child has few inhibitions, is it not the caregiver's responsibility to make the judgement call as to whether an activity is appropriate for the child's age and abilities? Why then should the town of Huntsville be

held responsible for an incident that could have been prevented if the caregivers had assessed the risk before allowing the child to use the equipment?

The park is a refreshing addition to the downtown core and many families have enjoyed it this summer. It would be a shame for a preventable accident to dictate the removal of parts of the playground.

Esther Jennings
Huntsville

Deepest sympathy to friends, family of Barbara Paterson

I would like to add my voice in sadness over learning of the recent passing of local genealogist and historian Barbara Paterson.

Through her kindness and exceptional courtesy Barbara connected me with my long-lost Canadian family many years ago. I always suspected I had relatives in Huntsville, but little did I know. If it had not been for Barbara, I probably would never

have known.

Because of her, I have known the joy of meeting many members of our family, in particular the Rowans, and learned of the Kloske family history in Huntsville and throughout Ontario. My deepest sympathy to her many friends, associates and her family.

John Kloske
Tennessee, USA

New development bylaw is short-sighted and damaging

In the past months employed individuals are being hit over and over again with rising costs. Fuel costs are going up, the cost of food/supplies are going up, transportation costs, surcharges are being added, user fees, insurance costs are rising, health-care costs are rising, etc.

In the past weeks I have gotten a property assessment notice that by no way reflects the true value of the property or a bank's financial appraisal of the property (re-sale value).

Hydro is requesting approval to increase the delivery charge, again. Are we not still paying off bad debt with hydro mismanagement? Example of hydro: eight years ago I paid \$100/quarterly. Today I pay \$100 monthly before I actually use any hydro.

Now the district wants to increase

development charges beyond reason.

How will industry afford to move into Muskoka and provide jobs for the people who live here? How will the people who live here build new homes?

We have witnessed the manufacturing sector moving out of Muskoka because of the US economy. How will Muskoka attract industry? How will they afford to pay the astronomical development charges in advance of the actual physical development? Where will we work? Who will build here? What's the land worth if you can't afford to develop it?

The short-sightedness of this new development bylaw just displays poor economic planning for our community, our future, our jobs, our children.

Gail Knaus
Port Sydney

Midwives are much like lighthouses in uncharted waters, says new mother

At 4:30 a.m. on Sept. 9 I was awoken by a small gush of fluid. 'It can't be,' I thought. I was 37 weeks pregnant and still had three weeks to go. But as I got out of bed and woke my husband, it became clearer that my water had indeed broken and I was in the early stage of labour. Twelve hours later, exhausted and elated, my husband and I held our first child, Joan Elizabeth. Perhaps what I will remember most about labour are the sounds: my husband's words of encouragement, my breathing (laboured but strong), and the gentle whispers of the midwives in the background.

I knew those whispers meant the midwives were protecting my space, maintaining a peaceful environment, and preparing everything needed for the safe and successful delivery of my child.

Originally, I was skeptical of midwifery. I wanted the medical expertise of a doctor, and like so many others, I had several misconceptions about midwives. However, as I announced my pregnancy to colleagues, family and friends many people strongly recommended the midwives; so much, that I felt compelled to look into the option of a midwife.

I soon learned that many of my ideas of midwifery were ill-conceived (pardon the pun). For example, I had thought you must pay for the services of a midwife. This is not the case. Midwives are regulated by the College of Midwives of Ontario and are covered under OHIP. Furthermore, I had assumed that midwives only attend home births, and although this is an option for women, the midwives of Muskoka have privileges at the Huntsville, Bracebridge, and Orillia hospitals.

During my initial meeting with my midwife the advantages of midwifery became evident, and I was sold. My midwife spent over an hour with my husband and I, getting to know our wishes and fears about pregnancy and delivery. She explained the philosophy of midwifery is based on the principal of informed choice for women, the view that pregnancy is a state of health, and childbirth is a natural process. This philosophy was put into action during

subsequent visits, as my midwife took the time to answer my many questions, review and explain test results, and provide the most current information regarding procedures and screenings. I never felt rushed, and most importantly, I always felt in control of my body and pregnancy.

The term midwife actually breaks down to mean "with woman," and I felt the presence of the midwives throughout each stage of my pregnancy. One week prior to the birth of our daughter my husband and I attended a labour and delivery class put on by the midwives. During this class, my husband and I learned about the physiological changes my body would experience during labour, how to recognize the different stages of labour, and ways to manage pain. This information proved to be integral to my successful and medication-free labour, as it was empowering to understand what was happening in my body and what I needed to do to encourage progress.

Perhaps one of the biggest advantages of the midwives is their post-partum care. The midwives continue to see you for six weeks post delivery. Furthermore, several of these are home visits. The last thing you want to do as a new parent is struggle to get your newborn into a car seat and into town for an appointment. Having the one-on-one support of the midwives can make all the difference for those who struggle to establish breastfeeding, as was the case for me.

The midwives are a phenomenal group of women who are on call 24 hours a day, so I always felt there was someone to address my concerns, and as a new parent there are many. If becoming a parent is like trying to navigate through dense fog, the midwives are like a lighthouse, guiding us through uncharted waters. Midwives might not be for everyone, and the very philosophy of midwifery would suggest that a woman should choose a health-care provider based on what feels right for her. As for me, I look forward to having a midwife again if we are blessed with another pregnancy.

Mara Hallman
Port Sydney



**MOIE'S
PICK OF THE WEEK
2008 GMC YUKON
COMMERCIAL 4x4**



5.3 L, 8 cylinder engine, auto., 17,000 km, A/C, alarm, DVD Player, leather interior, OnStar, keyless entry, loaded. Stk# TP9047-A

\$38,995

**2005 CHEV SILVERADO
1500 EXT CAB**



5.3 L, 8 cylinder engine, auto., 79,500 km, A/C alloy wheels, cruise control, box liner, CD player. Stk# T8666-A

\$15,995

**2006 CHEV SILVERADO
Z71 4x4**



4.8 L, 8 cylinder engine, auto., 44,000 km, alloy wheels, cruise control, power locks/mirrors/windows. Stk# TP8499-A

\$22,995

**2007 CHEV TAHOE
LT 4x4**



5.3 L, 8 cylinder engine, auto., 49,000 km, 3rd row seating, A/C, alloy wheels, CD changer/player, remote start, loaded. Stk# TP7705-A

\$34,995

**2007 BUICK
ALLURE CXL**



3.9 L, 6 cylinder engine, auto., 23,000 km, alloy wheels, CD player, leather interior, remote start. Stk# CP8664-A

\$21,995

**2006 CHEV
MAILBU**



2.2 L, 4 cylinder engine, auto., 65,300 km, A/C, CD player, power locks and windows. Stk# CP9043-A

\$11,995

**2006 CHEV
EQUINOX AWD**



3.4 L, 6 cylinder engine, auto., 65,000 km, A/C, CD player, cruise control, power locks/mirrors. Stk# T8648

\$16,995

**2005 CHEV
EQUINOX LS**



3.4 L, 6 cylinder engine, auto., 39,800 km, A/C, tilt wheel, power windows. Stk# TP9074-A

\$15,995

**2007 GMC SIERRA
1500 4x4**



5.3 L, 8 cylinder engine, auto., alloy wheels, off-road tires, power windows, remote start. Stk# TP8082-A

\$27,995

SHORT DRIVE . . . LONG ON SAVINGS

**BRAY
MOTORS**

**PONTIAC
BUICK
GMC
CHEVY TRUCKS**



**HWY 11, SUNDRIDGE
(705) 384-5333/4 • 1-800-989-1113
braymotors.com**