

# The Mural FORUM

## The Mural

Your Community Newspaper

P.O. Box 398, Athens, Ontario K0E 1B0

Tel: 613-493-0074

E-mail: editor@TheMural.on.ca

www.TheMural.on.ca

Publisher - Paul Hawkins

Editor - Cathie Whittaker

Reporters/Photographers - Sally Smid, Catherine Orth

Contributing Writers - John Stanford

The Mural is a community newspaper serving Athens, Mallorytown, the Thousand Islands Parkway, Escott, Delta, Lyndhurst, Charleston Lake, Plum Hollow, Addison, Frankville, Toledo, Lyn, RR#3 & RR#4 Brockville and now Seeley's Bay, Jasper and Lansdowne. Copies are delivered free of charge to over 8,750 homes courtesy of the community-minded businesses that advertise in The Mural. Copies are also available at Swan's on Main Street in Athens.

All contents © 2017 The Mural. All articles, photographs and advertisement layouts created by The Mural cannot be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. The Mural is not responsible for errors or omissions.

## Living the country mouse life

### Curmudgeon's Corner

by John Stanford

The place a person grew up is where he or she feels most secure - even as an adult. It's the environment with which one first learned to cope and thereafter it's most comfortable. Everyone is at ease speaking his or her first language, singing songs familiar from childhood and adolescence, eating foods Mom cooked, playing games learned early in life.

When I first left home for university I was uncomfortable in the new environment, but soon adjusted and came to enjoy the atmosphere and activities I was engaged in.

Still every chance I got I returned to the farm, canoed, and fished on the lakes or the river, camped and hunted in the woods. These were the places where I was comfortable, felt relaxed, and was most content. Through most of my life these have remained the choices I make when I'm free to do as I please. I choose nature. Often I'd invite student friends to accompany me into the bush to camp and fish and was surprised when they were uncomfortable or, sometimes, even frightened. Frequently they couldn't sleep at night because of sounds they heard from outside their tents which they interpreted as threatening. They often feared getting lost in the bush.

I made jokes and laughed at their

discomfort calling them "city mice" but when I visited their turf in the big city I was at least as uncomfortable as they had been in mine. I certainly was the "country mouse" not at all adjusted to their environments.

We went to Montreal to listen to Jazz in the clubs and, while the music made the discomfort worth it, I never got over the uneasy way I felt in cities. Even now, after many years of travelling to and moving around in them big cities make me feel uncomfortable. I am never as relaxed in the city as I always am in the country. I'm still a "country mouse" in spite of my experiences with many great cities.

After you've been away for years you may be told, "You can't go home again." You really can't in most cases because the place you remember as home no longer exists. It changed over time as everything does. Folks you knew have moved; some have died, and the rest have grown older as their interests matured. Things are different back home. The places you knew and loved have been replaced by different things.

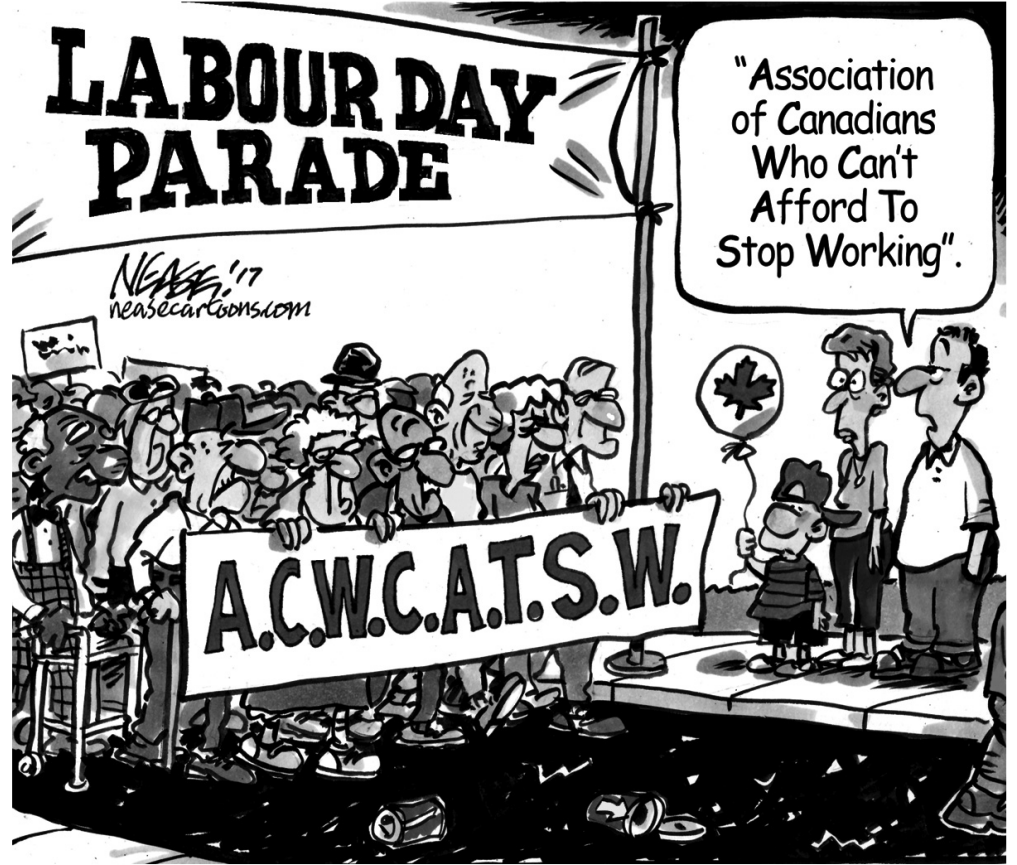
The country mouse comes back to discover the farmer has cut the hay. The little nest he called home no longer exists except in his memories of it. It's funny isn't it: how we know we've changed, but we expect what we recall from long ago to stay as it was? Change is the only constant. Only the laws of physics remain the same. Even you are not the person you were. The "Country Mouse has become "An Old Grey Mare".

**Grow Your Business!**  
Be part of the Business Profile Feature in the next issue of The Mural. We write about you and your business.

**Sizes to suit any budget!**

**Deadline September 27.**

**email: editor@themural.on.ca**



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Rideau Lakes Public Library friends

BY LORIE TRUENNER

Recently the friends of the Rideau Lakes Public Library handed a cheque for \$3000 to the Library to fund its Reading Rules program. This summer program is held in the Elgin and South Elmsley branches of the library to help children enhance their reading skills.

Late in June the Friends held a fashion show to raise

funds for this program. About 60 people enjoyed an afternoon of fashions, and snacks in the newly opened Alford room upstairs at the Opinicon Resort in Chaffey's Lock. Portside Boutique in Merrickville provided the fashions, and volunteers from the community strutted their considerable modelling skills. Several corporate and individual sponsors

generously donated funds to support the fashion show and the Reading Rules program. There was also a silent auction on site, featuring donated items, with all proceeds going to the Library program.

The Friends are most appreciative of the support they received from the community, Portside Boutique, the Opinicon and all those who attended the event.

### Athens library offering fall programs

TO THE MURAL

It's been a busy summer at the Athens Public Library but with the start of fall and school, our regular programs will resume.

At the beginning of the season, the library had a new patio and gazebo put up, then for the summer months, we ran two programs, Summer Reading Club for kids 4-10 and a Teen Summer Challenge for kids 12-16. Both of these programs were great successes.

The library would like to thank all the kids who participated in the summer programs. We would also like to thank our supporters in these programs. For the Summer Reading Club, thanks to our teen volunteers, Lydia, Marieke and Samantha and to Lori Ann. Thanks to the Brockville TD Bank, Brockville Superstore, Deckers Chip Wagon and Main Street

Pizza for your donations in helping to run this program.

The Teen Summer Challenge had a number of businesses donate to our program this year. Thanks to the Alfred, owner of the Athens Pharmasave, for your generous donation of our final prize of an IPAD. Thanks also to our weekly prize donations from Dairy Queen, Athens Harvest Cafe, Coles Bookstore and the Galaxy Theatre. We appreciate your donations to help us with our program. Our teens had great fun completing weekly challenges and winning prizes. Congratulations to all our weekly winner and a big congratulations to our grand prize winner of the IPAD, Meaghan Yeo. Thank you to all the teens who participated this summer.

This fall, we will see our regular programs return, Toddler Time and Lego Club. Check out our

Facebook page and inside the library for our starting dates.

Our book club continues into the fall reading the book, *Black Apple*, by Joan Crate. New members are always welcome to join. They meet the 4th Wednesday of the month here at the library.

At the end of September, we will host a night of card making. Come out on Friday September 29 and try your hand at making cards. This night will be led by Christine Schoeder.

New books for the fall are starting to arrive. Check out our new collection. As always, we offer fax service, photocopying, wifi, adult, young adult, teen and children's fiction and non-fiction. There are movies, magazines, puzzles, wii games, themed backpacks and museum passes. Visit the library today and see all we have to offer.

We want you to LIKE us!



Like

www/Facebook.com/  
TheMuralAthens