

A friendly, active and open group.

November is such a dreary month you have to force yourself to get off your hind end if you actually wish to accomplish anything. In this household we use the dreary days of the month to burn the brush we have been collecting all summer. It is fun the way we do it. If in the mood for company during this task, we call up a couple of friends, invite them over for the day, meaning dinner and an evening's fun. Things start off with an initial fire shortly after lunch providing the wind is not blowing. Some of us maintain the fire while others carry more brush from piles scattered around the property, and the kids, if there are some around, get to prepare the hot dog and marshmallow roasting sticks. We use up these ingredients when the fire has burned down to the point you can get close enough to cook a little snack. Dinner is still some time off, so a little snack takes the edge off and entertains the younger participants. Actually, the adults probably get a bigger kick out of it watching the kids try out their cooking skills. It can be a real hoot if they have never done it before.

We feed the fire all day long once the snack is over. The whole purpose is to consume the piles of brush we have been collecting, enjoy each other's company, and have a good time. Over the years we have found that people generally let their hair down a little more than usual, relax, and unwind. My sister is a great example.

When we lived on Paudash Lake we had between seventeen and eighteen acres of property to look after, so there was a lot of brush piled around. For New Year's Eve 1999, we held a millennial party with some of our neighbours. My sister was staying with us for a few days and had experienced these fires before, so she was looking forward to the evening. The site we had chosen that year was in the middle of a big field, so, with no trees around, and plenty of snow, we had built a huge pile of brush. No need for feeder piles here! When we lit the fire the flames towered over

us, and being around 11pm it was good and dark, the flames were mesmerizing to say the least. It was time to open up the wine and bring in the new century. My sister, while admittedly not much of a drinker, was soon dancing around the fire like the depictions you have often seen in the movies of old. We had a great time, no one drank too much, and we all walked home tired, but with good feelings for the evening and optimistic outlooks for the new Century.

Halloween at the Glen Alda Community Centre was celebrated by our little group on October 25th. (**Below are some pictures** to entertain you.) The meal that day, prepared by Nancy and Gary, was donated by them which was unexpected. Thank you for both your generosity and for a great meal!

November was heralded in with a gathering on the 8th to share a meal prepared by Peggy and Mike Pratley. Thanks you two, we all enjoyed it. Thanks also to Brian Conley for motivating the group to dig out the Chair Volleyball apparatus and have a rousing game afterwards to work off the effects of eating, (perhaps too much), during lunch. Laureen and Colin Slade prepared the dinner for November 22nd – which was a full English Style roast beef dinner.

December is a month where we only meet once. This year it will be at the The Old School House in Ormsby where we are anticipating a full turkey dinner and desert menu. I have heard a rumour that plans are afoot to attempt to *coerce* Micky Beck (if she is available) to entertain us with her talents as a storyteller.

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month between 11:00 and 3:00. For more information, please call Barry Rand at 705-656-1850. That's all for now folks, we'll see you next year for more tales of the activities of this friendly, active, and open group.

