



SpyGlass

tHe MaD hAtTeR, editor

Sitting around the tea table can be quite delightful -- especially if you've got some good dirt to dish. I keep my mouth shut and my ears open hoping to find some interesting tidbits that I can pass around

Take another look!

Talk about devotion... Award-winning illustrator Ian Wallace puts his wife, Deb, somewhere in the illustrations in each of his books. At the Ontario Library Association's SuperConference '97, Wallace admitted that Deb appears as the baboon in his book, *The Name of the Tree*. Now -- where, I want to know, is Deb in Ian's latest, *Sarah and the People of Sand River*? Ian is not the only artist to go sticking pieces of his life (or should I say wife) into his artwork -- Toronto's Vlyadana Krykorka not only puts her little dog Mishka into her books but Ms. K was seen at a recent dinner party sporting a natty silkscreened scarf which was just covered in little terrier dogs, a belt with a silver terrier buckle and scottie dog socks! Now who -- I ask you -- is going to the dogs? And speaking of dogs, you should check out Robin Muller's books. His delightful dog Sarah also finds her way into his work!

Talk about coincidences!

When Toronto writer Don Gillmor went to Montreal in 1993 to meet with artist Marie-Louise Gay to talk about the illustrations for his book, *When Vegetables Go Bad*, he got a little shock. You see, even though he claimed never to have met Marie-Louise, he -- a former Montrealer -- had a rather special connection to Ms. Gay. Gillmor discovered to his surprise that all the time he had been living in Montreal, Marie-Louise Gay lived in the apartment right next door -- not across the hall or two floors down but right next door -- they even shared a wall!!!! And he admits that he didn't even know her name!!!! Now, of course, as soon as he saw her -- and vice versa -- he recognized her from the neighbourhood. If only the MaD hAtTeR had been a fly on those walls!

Pie in the sky?

Halifax-based poet/performer Sheree Fitch discovered a whole new way of having your cake and eating it too when she celebrated her fortieth birthday last year in Mexico as the guest of the Canadian Government. Sheree, along with writer Budge Wilson, was attending the Guadalajara International Book Fair where Canada was the host country. A whole host of Canadian friends took her out to dinner to celebrate her fortieth and, of course, arranged for a cake. Imagine Sheree's surprise when, after blowing out the candles, the waiter -- holding the cake just a little closer to her face than she expected -- proceeded to push it right into her face! Sheree admits it was a delicious experience.

3-D

Rita Cox was a little disappointed that she can't be seen in 3-D after receiving the Order of Canada this past January. With two honorary doctorates to her name, the storyteller, educator and community leader is quite delighted if you address her as "Dr. Dr.". Community newspapers, we have since discovered, hold the Double Doctor in even higher regard. Now we had always known -- informally -- that Ms. Cox, the former head of the Parkdale Branch of the Toronto Public Library, was the Queen of Parkdale. What we didn't know was that it was common knowledge. Headlines in a local newspaper reported, "Our Queen Receives New Honours!". Would I lie to you?

Making faces

String game storyteller Camilla Gryski is really quite serious when it comes to clowning around. After leaving her job as the librarian at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, Ms. Gryski trained to become a therapeutic clown. Her alter ego, Posy, can now be seen around the hospital -- though all THE MaD hAtTeR has seen is some blurry photographs. It's certainly a rewarding job but Camilla admits that more often than not the work is anything but laughs.