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- Manitoulin Amish family talks about Christmas traditions
- Ministers' Messages • More kids' letters to Santa on Page 4A



The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



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Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, December 13, 2017



The bow of the Jane Miller, found after 136 years this past July, in Georgian Bay near Wiarton.

Island built, Island bound 1881 Jane Miller wreck found after 136 years in waters near Wiarton

by Robin Burridge

COLPOY'S BAY—The Little Current-built Jane Miller, a 78-foot passenger and cargo steamer, has been found on the bottom of Lake Huron after going missing while enroute to Manitoulin during a storm 136 years ago with over 25 people aboard, all of whom drowned.

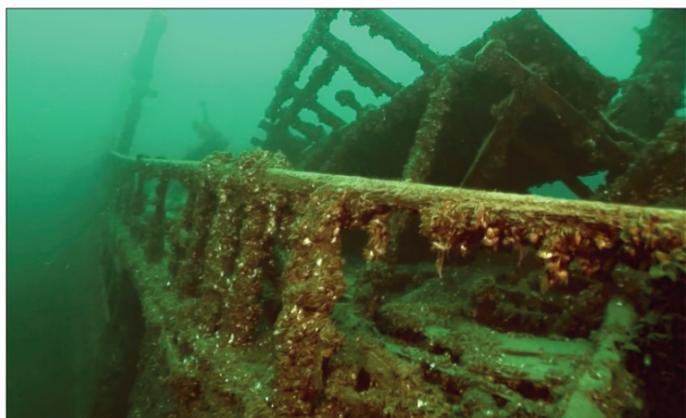
The ship was discovered by American shipwreck hunters Ken Merryman, Jared Daniels and Jerry Eliason on July 27 of this year, but the team chose to reveal their find on the 136th anniversary of the sinking on November 25 (the ship sank on November 25, 1881).

"The find of the Jane Miller is so exciting," said Little Current historian Bill Caesar. "These little boats are so important to the history of Manitoulin. It was loaded with supplies when it went down and those are such a treasure trove—a time capsule of what life on Manitoulin was like at that time (1880s)."

Mr. Merryman, who has been hunting shipwrecks for over 40 years and is a founder of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society, spoke with The Expositor earlier this week from his home in Minnesota.

"We, myself, Jared Daniels and Jerry Eliason, had a permit from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to search for four ship wrecks this year," he explained. "It was July and we had been in the Wiarton area searching for the Manasoo, but the weather got too rough to search in the open water (where they believed the Manasoo is), so we decided to look for the Jane Miller, which supposedly went down between Big Bay and Spencer's Landing, what is now called Skinner's Bay (a landing

...continued on page 8



The Jane Miller at midship laying flat at the bottom of Colpoy's Bay in July of this year.

#metoo

Survivor of childhood sexual abuse publicly tells her story after 40 years

EDITOR'S WARNING—The story that follows, an interview with a #metoo survivor and victim of childhood sexual abuse, is necessarily graphic in its descriptions of these assaults and may be upsetting to some readers of this family-focused newspaper who are encouraged to approach this story according to their emotional tolerances.

The Expositor believes the accounts given by the interviewee are accurate as she remembers them and, as the assaults began when she was between five- and six-years-old, The Expositor has confirmed that this is the age from which people can reliably trust their memories of events, especially traumatic ones, that took place around (or were inflicted on) them as children at that age.

The paper has independently confirmed that Sarah reported her sexual abuse experiences to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Children's Aid Society (CAS) in the late 1980s, nearly a decade after the abuse began.

"Sarah" is not the victim's real name but is a pseudonym assigned to her in the interest of protecting her children's privacy. As well, some of the facts as related by the victim have been left out or altered to protect the victim's anonymity and that of her family. She has not lived on Manitoulin for nearly 30 years and she has no idea of where her tormentors live now.

by Robin Burridge

SOMEWHERE ON MANITOULIN—Earlier this fall, a number of actresses and other women in the entertainment industry began sharing stories of sexual assault at the hands of Harvey Weinstein and other men who used their power and influence to prey on females in a predominantly male-run industry.

As the accusations began trickling out, these women's acts of bravery inspired others, both in and out of the entertainment industry, and soon an outpouring of accounts of sexual assaults and allegations were hitting the media and thus the #metoo movement was quickly born.

Sarah, a Hawaiteer who now lives overseas, joined many women around the world who followed the movement with great interest but as she watched, a knot began to form in her stomach. The stories were all too familiar to her—she too had been a victim of sexual assault. In her

case, this began as a child, following her into her early days in the entertainment industry. Sarah reached out to The Expositor to tell her story in the theme and spirit of #metoo in the hope that her recounting of her experience will serve as a guide to young women and a warning to those who would try to take advantage of them.

"I came to peace with what had happened to me when I was 30," said Sarah at the start of her video interview with The Expositor, "but as women began coming forward with the #metoo movement, I felt that I needed to share my story as well."

Growing up, Sarah said that she and her family were close with another Manitoulin family. Her mom was best friends with one of her assailant's mother's. As a result, she was often in the company of the friend's teenage son and their extended family, including other teen boys.

"Our families did a lot together so I was at their home often," said Sarah.

"He (the son) would have been 15 or slightly older when it started," she said. "Sometimes I would be left in the care of the son, his cousin and others. I was five or six and I would be put down for naps in the 15-year-old's room. I remember him coming and lying on the bed with me, saying he wanted to rub my tummy. I said I didn't want him to, but he would bribe me with chocolate. He would rub me, but it wasn't my tummy. He would have his hands down my pants and would be rubbing my vagina. I said that wasn't my tummy and I remember him trying to act like I didn't know what my stomach was."

She said this story has been burned into her mind since it happened as a young child and that the abuse continued over the years.

"It's hard for me to know how long it went on, looking back, but it feels like it was a long time and I didn't tell anyone," she said, noting that she didn't fully understand what was happening to her but that she was ashamed. "I remember sitting on the bed and he would sit behind me and touch me."

"Another memory I have, we were playing hide and seek, myself, the boy and some other children at my mom's friend's house," said Sarah.

...continued on page 9

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Manitoulin Expositor considers this story, as unpleasant as it is to tell and to read, important as a first-person account of what can happen to vulnerable people in our community, like small girls, if people who would take predatory advantage of them have not a sufficient 'moral compass' to direct them away from inflicting abuse and causing life-long harm.

In this way, this true account is also a moral tale as it describes the consequences if fantasy is allowed to animate some people's 'base urges.'

The fact that a Vulnerable Sector Check is required for adults who would work with children and individuals with disabilities is a societal recognition that these base urges exist and is an attempt to screen people who might cause harm.

But, especially for boys, it is important to the health of our society that respect for girls and women and vulnerable people be taught at home and at the earliest age so that some people do not become misanthropic teenagers and adults with a defective moral compass.

This story is not about the person named 'Sarah,' nor is it about her perpetrators. Rather, it is a wake-up call to all of us to be vigilant in the raising of our sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, nieces and nephews and others around us for whom we care so that they have the moral compass they need to avoid inflicting or receiving the harm that was Sarah's childhood lot.

Please see the editorial on Page 4, 'Proper raising of boys fundamental to a secure society.'



...Survivor of childhood sexual abuse publicly tells her story

...continued from page 1

"Another boy, a close cousin of the older boy who was also a teenager at the time, told me we should hide in the basement. I didn't want to go down there, but he told me everything would be okay. While we were down there he pulled out his penis and made me masturbate him."

"I remember one time so clearly," she continued. "The smell, the furnace (in the basement). He took me behind the furnace and performed oral sex on me. The sensation was so different than anything that had happened to me before that I peed—I peed in his mouth and on my pants that he had pulled down."

Sarah hoped that after that incident the abuse would stop, but it didn't.

"He (the cousin) started making me pee before he would touch me," said Sarah. "He would peak through this window to make sure I peed."

She said he also tried to have intercourse with her. "We were sitting on a couch at the older cousin's house and he (the younger cousin) picked me up and tried to put me on his penis but he was unsuccessful—I was too small and it just didn't work," she said, grimacing at the memory. "Another time we were all playing on a hay bale and the same boy went to lift me off and he positioned his fingers in such a way that they went up into my crotch—it was horrible."

Sarah feels now that, as a child, she was being 'passed around' for sexual purposes. An incident with another boy who was a friend of one of the cousins, although younger, somewhat confirms this.

"He would have been around 13 at the time and we were playing house," she recalled. "He was the father and I was the daughter. He sent the other two girls away and told me that since I was the daughter I had to sleep with the father and pulled out his penis."

As the abuse was happening, Sarah said she began acting out in school: pinching other children, behaving badly. "Hurting others and acting out hadn't been in my nature, but looking back I was reacting to what was happening to me," she said.

Eventually Sarah told one of her grandparents about the abuse.

"I told my grandmother that they (the boys) wouldn't let me go on the toboggan unless I let them touch me," said Sarah. "My grandmother told my dad. I remember the day my dad asked me about it. I don't know how much I told him, but he put me in the car and drove me over to their friend's home. Both cousins happened to be there and he went over and spoke to them. After that, they never touched me again."

Sarah said that, despite her parents learning of what had happened to her, visits continued as the families remained friends.

"My mom was best friends with the older boy's mother and our families did a lot together," Sarah reiterated. "My mom was a very private person and it was understood I was to not talk about it."

She tried her best not to think about what had happened and move on with her life.

"When I was 15 or 16 I was swimming with the cousins as the families visited," explained Sarah. "We were all out on a raft and as we were swimming in to the shore the same boy who had forced me into oral sex years before, who was in his 20s at this point, grabbed my breast and ran his hand down my body under the water. He looked at me and said 'don't tell anyone'."

Sarah said that incident "triggered" something inside her and the memories of what had happened as a child began flowing back.

"I told my friend that summer what had happened to me," she said, explaining that her friend admitted to sim-

ilar experiences with the same people. "She opened up to me that something similar had happened to her too, by the same boys, when she was younger."

Knowing that they weren't alone gave the two friends the strength to come forward. They contacted the police and each told publicly told their story to both the Ontario Provincial Police and the Children's Aid Society.

"I gave statements to the police against the cousins," Sarah said. "I switched schools (she had been a student at Manitoulin Secondary School) because I was nervous for what was going to happen, but then nothing did. It was just kind of swept under the rug. I went to a counsellor at one point to help me deal with what had happened, but that was it."

She said she has no memory of what, if anything, became of her own and her friend's statements.

(The Expositor was concerned that in spite of Sarah's statements to the OPP and the CAS, there did not seem to be any follow-up by the agencies, at least none that she was aware of, as she stated. Veteran legal authorities consulted by the paper explained that, at that time, it was not uncommon for complaints of this nature to lead to blind ends and

...continued on page 10

Pilot project will review sexual assault cases in seven Canadian cities

by Robin Burrige

CANADA—A new pilot project, the Violence Against Women (VAW) Advocate Case Review Project, will review police cases involving sexual assault and intimate partner violence in seven cities across Canada, cases that have been dormant and deemed 'unfounded' or 'baseless.'

"Manitoulin Family Resources and the members of the Mniidoo Mnising Coalition Against Domestic Violence have been following the case reviews of sexual assault investigations and the announcement of related pilot projects closely," said Manitoulin Family Resources Executive Director Marnie Hall Brown. "While similar reviews are not currently planned at a local level, all members of the coalition recognize the lessons that we can learn from these reviews which will only enhance how we attempt to provide services locally. Currently our goals include updated police training, focusing on best practices, in domestic violence and sexual assault cases, as well as ongoing advocacy and attempts for funding to secure a local and accessible forensic gathering unit that would also link victims to local and immediate necessary services. Manitoulin Family Resources is in a rather unique position of offering the diverse VAW services that would be shared by several agencies in other regions, while interacting with five distinct police services to do so. What we have learned locally is the importance of having highly skilled professionals, from police to social services to Crown prosecution, in order to create a network of support for the victim who takes the risk of coming

forward. We can't control the legal outcome, but we can influence the support that victim receives along the way."

The Ottawa Coalition To End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW) announced last week that its project, in partnership with the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre, the Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Project, would be receiving \$399,500 in funding from the Status of Women Canada (SOWC) to adapt the Philadelphia Model to the Canadian context and pilot it at seven cities across Canada including Ottawa, Timmins, Stratford, Kingston, Peterborough, London and Calgary.

"The new case review project is the first of its kind in Canada, with front-line survivor support workers, violence against women and legal experts reviewing police cases involving sexual and intimate partner violence," states a press release from the OCTEVAW.

"Communities and police at our pilot sites have made an historic commitment to work together to strengthen accountability and transparency—improving police response to survivors when they report sexual and intimate partner violence," commented OCTEVAW Executive Director Carolyn Johnston. "This is an important element in a broader movement to end violence against women and gender-based violence, including prevention, education and support for survivors."

As well, over 15 other cities have expressed interest in conducting their own pilot projects.

The Philadelphia Case Review Model system was prompted by an investiga-

tion by the Philadelphia Inquirer which revealed police in the city were dismissing a high number of sexual assault complaints as unfounded. It was first used in the US in 2000.

Earlier this year, the Globe and Mail launched an extensive investigation into how Canadian police handle sexual-assault allegations, specifically why police dismiss one out of every five sexual assault claims as unfounded, gathering data from over 870 police forces. Through their investigation, they found numerous inconsistencies in how many cases are closed as 'unfounded' or 'baseless.'

This prompted the government and law enforcement to come forward, promising to improve how sexual assault cases are handled. Since the Unfounded (the name the Globe and Mail gave to its series of reports) investigation, more than 50 police forces have announced their own investigations into sexual-assault cases that were previously deemed 'unfounded.'

This includes the OPP, which launched a seven-month review of 4,000 'unfounded' reports across the province.

The federal SOWC announced in June of this year \$100.9 million for the first federal strategy to prevent and address gender-based violence.

Fifty projects have been approved for over \$18 million in 'Funding to Advance Gender Equality,' including the Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Project.

"Over the course of 36-months, the projects will address systemic barriers in Status of Women Canada's three areas of focus: increasing women's eco-

nomie security and prosperity, encouraging women and girls in leadership and decision-making roles, and ending violence against women and girls," states a press release from the SOWC. "The Canadian Women's Foundation will facilitate a pan-Canadian network of women leaders to support feminist action for gender equality at the national level. These leaders have been chosen for their remarkable efforts at the local level to realize tangible advancements in supporting and empowering women, girls and gender non-conforming people. By creating a network of visionary women we will broaden the reach of their efforts beyond their communities – inspiring others from across the country to add their voices and contribute their ideas towards achieving real progress."



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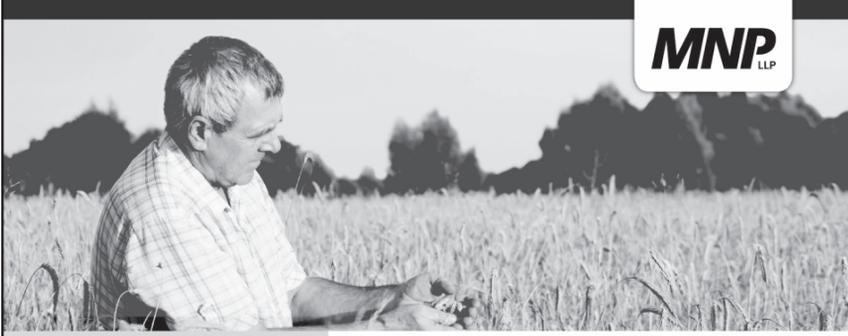
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...Survivor of sexual abuse publicly tells her story

...continued from page 9 that, at the time when these type of incidents were reported to have taken place, much more consideration was given to evidence from corroborating witnesses before charges were laid. Of course the nature of incidents such as the ones reported would rarely involve such third-party witnesses. This year, however, the federal Ministry of the Status of Women announced funding to re-open sexual assault cases that, when they were initially investigated, were deemed to be 'unfounded' or 'baseless.'

Her mother's friendship with the woman in the abusing family ended when Sarah came forward and made police statements. Sarah still feels resentment towards her mother for having let the incident be swept aside when she was an adolescent reporting on childhood sexual abuse.

Sarah continued on with her life, eventually coming to terms with the abuse, but unfortunately it wasn't the end of being a victim.

"In university, I went out with a guy and I was prepared to sleep with him at the end of one night, if circumstances worked out that way, but instead, when we got back to the room, he forced me onto the bed and raped me. He was being rough with me and wasn't using a condom and I kept telling him 'no' but he wouldn't stop until he was done," she shared. "I didn't know what to do. I had agreed to go on the date, I was emotionally prepared to have sex with him, but he forced himself on me and I said 'no' and 'stop' and he didn't."

After university, as a young professional in the entertainment industry, Sarah was working towards becoming a news anchor or television host.

"A director at a major news network took me on as a mentor," she said, adding that he was a married man. "He took me on a tour of the studio and, during the tour, threw me up against a wall and shoved his tongue down my throat. I pushed him away, but I didn't do anything else—I thought he had the power to make or break my career and I felt powerless. We continued on the tour and later I went out to a pub with him and his colleagues. He continued to be 'touchy feely' with me throughout the night and

his coworkers didn't react."

Sarah explained that it was unspoken in the entertainment industry but sexual harassment was normalized and women were expected to put up with it if they wanted to get anywhere in their careers.

In another job Sarah had, she told of an old 'roadie' who worked for the same company and would sexually harass her and it was excused by her

with enough income to support my children in Canada (Sarah is a single parent, the sole supporter of her children). The last time I was home, my one child and I were living in a one-room Air B&B together. I was so scared to share my story—I am in a position now where I can support my children and give them the life they deserve. I was scared to risk that, but I don't want what happened to me to happen to someone

said that there is another movement that has started: #aftermetoo, in which women like herself are looking to the future.

"What do we do now?" she questioned. "We need to teach boys respect for girls and girls how to stand up for themselves. #aftermetoo starts with everyone. I feel that a great deal needs to be added to the school curriculum and as a society, we need to change the culture."

Last week, Time Magazine named 'the silence breakers,' the #metoo movement, as its 2017 Person of the Year.

"The women and men who have broken their silence span all races, all income classes, all occupations and virtually all corners of the globe," states the Time article on the magazine's choice of the Person of the Year, written by Stephanie Zacharek, Eliana Dockterman and Haley Sweetland. "They might labour in California fields, or behind the front desk at New York City's regal Plaza Hotel, or in the European Parliament. They're part of a movement that has no formal name. But now they have a voice."

The phrase 'me too' was started over a decade ago by Tarana Burk, a social activist working with survivors of harassment and assault.

Actress Alyssa Milano popularized it, tweeting it this October. "If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet." The hashtag #metoo has since been used by millions who have come forward with their experiences, people like Sarah.

These outcries echo the feminist movement of the 1960s, but it is shocking that, as far as we have come, it has taken another generation of courageous women to step forward and bring this particular issue to light.

For Sarah and the thousands of other women who have had the strength to speak out—they have started a change, they have shone a spotlight into one of the darkest corners of our society. It is now up to all of us to ensure that we keep that light shining bright and to move together as a united global community to create a different world for future generations.

NUMBERS TO CALL

If you are a victim of sexual assault or violence, or any other form of non-consensual and inappropriate activity, on Manitoulin Island you can contact the Haven House Women's Shelter crisis hotline at (705) 377-5160 (toll free 1-800-465-6788).

There is also a national hotline dedicated to children's concerns. The Kids Help Line toll-free number is 1-800-668-6868.

Another Manitoulin resource is Manitoulin North Shore Victim Services. The phone number is (705) 368-9945.

coworkers.

"He would look at my breasts and say things like 'your period must be coming'," she said with disdain. "The other people I worked with would just excuse it. They would say 'he did a lot of drugs back in the '60s; 'don't worry about it.'"

She shared that she was taken out by a client of her boss around the same time to a strip club and that the man went on about how his wife allowed him to have 'threesomes' with the women he worked with.

"I was uncomfortable, but again, I didn't know what to do," said Sarah. "Looking back, there have been so many incidents in my life where something happened and I didn't say anything. I was scared about losing my job or what would happen if I did."

Throughout Sarah's life she has struggled, not just as a female in the entertainment industry or as a victim of sexual assault—she has struggled with depression, finding her path in life and giving her children a better life.

"I work now abroad as a well-paid professional in my field of study," said Sarah. "I couldn't find a job

else, certainly not to my child. I want anyone else who may have had this happen to them to know that they aren't alone."

It has been 40 years since the abuse took place but, to Sarah, it is still vivid in her mind.

"I have developed coping mechanisms to push it aside," she said. "I think I've adjusted pretty well, but what happened to me definitely shaped my relationships as an adult. I've been drawn to men who have been controlling and abusive—both emotionally and physically."

Her experiences have also made her very protective as a mother.

"I didn't want what happened to me to happen to my children," said Sarah. "I have raised amazing kids—they are so smart and gifted—I am very proud of them."

Sharing her story now, Sarah also hopes that she can put the experience behind her.

"I want closure, I want to move on," she said. "I thought I had, but the #metoo movement brought a lot of it back." This, in turn, encouraged her to break her public silence and contact The Expositor. Moving forward, Sarah



Pet Food Drive

The Central Manitoulin Public Library is holding a Happy Holidays Pet Food Drive for the month of December. Donations can be dropped off at the Mindemoya and Providence Bay libraries. All proceeds will be distributed amongst Manitoulin Pet Rescue, Fixing Our Felines and Manitoulin Pet Save. As the library CEO Claire Cline remarked, "Our pets deserve a happy holiday too." Ms. Cline is pictured with library assistant Sally Miller.

photo by Betty Bardswich

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