

Orchard House Communications

A quarterly newsletter 🍎 Autumn 2006

New Site at www.ohouse.ca

Over the summer, my Web site, www.ohouse.ca, was redone. The main reason was to improve its function. Thanks to a new program, I am now able to revise and add text and pages, and even change photos, easily and whenever I want. This is how the Internet was meant to be.

Joan Donogh of In-Formation Design (www.in-formation-design.com) did the design and technical work of creating the new pages. She was also infinitely patient in teaching me how to do the updates myself. I am not alone in recommending her highly. She does large, complex corporate Web sites as well, so consider her if you'd like to manage your own site more easily.

Part of my site uses the technology behind blogs. Although some of my pages look like traditional static pages, they have been built as blogs for convenience in adding to them.

A new development on my site is the addition of a novel I've written, entitled *Stonyfields*. I'm posting it as a blog, offering occasional palatable chunks for my readers to digest as their time permits. I allow comments at the end of each part of the novel, and hope to see a discussion grow here.

My reason for posting the novel, which is a form of self publishing, is that offering **▶ Click to continue**



Eden Mills Writers' Festival

Gloria had a table on Publishers' Way at Eden Mills Writers' Festival (www.edenmillswritersfestival.ca) again this year. Plenty of people came to look at Gloria's work and pick up free copies of *Caledon Living*, an excerpt from Gloria's online novel *Stonyfields* and beautiful postcards created by Branimir Zlamalik. Gloria also managed to see Jane Urquhart, Leon Rooke and Margaret Atwood read publicly.

The weather was sunny and cool with gentle breezes, a perfect late-summer day to spend outside. The day ended with a dinner for friends and family at Orchard House. If you'd like to visit the festival next year, let Gloria know and she'll invite you as well!



Gloria on Publishers' Way at Eden Mills Writers' Festival.

Photo by Mike Davis.

➤ **New Site at
www.ohouse.ca**

it to readers is better than having it collect dust on a bookshelf in my office. Perhaps someone will be captivated by it, and spread the news, and eventually I'll be offered a movie contract for it! Emma Thompson, are you interested?

You can help me by pointing all the literary agents you know, to www.ohouse.ca and suggesting they click "Stonyfields!"



Gloria Hildebrandt



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Trying to Save Halton's 250-year-old White Oak Tree

An impressive 250-year-old white oak that is in danger of being cut down to let Bronte Rd. be widened, is the subject of a fund-raising effort that has been receiving attention by Toronto and national media outlets.

The Region of Halton, whose offices are located near the oak, is offering a stay of execution if \$343,000 can be raised by Dec. 15, 2006, to pay for the road to go around this tree. Information about this effort is available at www.halton.ca/savethetree.

Even small amounts of money are welcome, and are slowly adding up. The amount raised may actually be higher than is reported on the Web site. The Region is promising that there is no risk to the donors, because if the full amount isn't raised, funds will be returned.

Municipal Election Mon. Nov. 13

Voter turnout at the local level is shameful. Only something like 30 per cent of people bothers to vote. Yet most people benefit or suffer from municipal and regional services and infrastructure, and have to pay the property taxes to cover them.

This time, the local politicians will serve a longer term, of four years. That's a long time before the population can hold them accountable for their actions. Electing good, honest, hard working representatives is crucial to good government for your city or town.

Support Your Choice of Candidates

It's important to take part in this election. You can help the best candidates get elected by doing even small things:

- ☛ Put up a lawn sign
- ☛ Supervise signs on public property – funny how some get vandalized
- ☛ Write a letter of support to the editor
- ☛ Host a meet-the-candidate coffee party
- ☛ Make a campaign contribution
- ☛ Attend all-candidates' meetings and cheer your person
- ☛ Drop off some donuts to the person's house

Even a little encouragement to a candidate goes a long way. It can be a difficult, lonely job for someone trying to do good on a Council full of self-serving politicians. Help your forward-thinking, public-spirited candidates get elected.

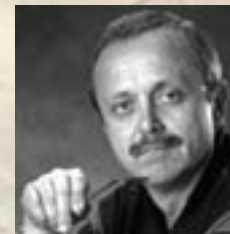
Finally, get out and vote on Mon. Nov. 13. We get the government we deserve.



Branimir's new gallery @ ImageKind

Every man's work, whether it be literature or music or pictures or architecture or anything else, is always a portrait of himself.

– Samuel Butler, British writer



I don't use physical brushes and traditional paints. My tools are cameras, memory sticks, computers and sophisticated computer programs with which I compose spaces and shapes.

When I take a photo of a person, landscape or other aspect of nature, I see not only what my camera

caught but also other elements that exist only in my vision. To share this vision with others, I alter the photo to add these elements. They may be a simple cube or sphere that reflects an environment in which things are not visible; they may be clouds that morph into recognizable shapes of man and woman; they may be apocalyptic vistas of what scenes or objects might become.

I build objects in my computer and place them in totally unrealistic and unseen landscapes burned by some strange sun, wrapped in a gentle haze of strange colours, partially obscured by penetrable fogs, all powerful enough to wake buried dreams. I want to visualize these dreams for others to be drawn into my worlds, touched by my nightmares, moved by my longings, burned with my desires, to see what I have seen...or simply to think about what is and what might be.

Check soon @ zlam.imagekind.com.

Branimir Zlamalik

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illustration, fine typography, wayfinding
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