

## Have a sweet old time



**Bettie Bradley**

**Times Community Editor**

It really does taste marvellous. Pure maple syrup, poured over hot pancakes, and eaten in the out-of-doors, where you can look at the trees which give up the golden liquid.

During the school break, I went to the conservation area in Orangeville and, on a warm, sunny day, strolled through the sugar bush, observing the Indians' method of collecting the magic emission and comparing it to the less romantic but more practical modern methods.

A visit to the sugar bush is a pleasant way to while away a few hours — and it's not too late for those who haven't yet made the trip this year.

The sugar bush, which has been open to visitors for the past two weeks, will be open one more weekend — one more chance to

tramp through the woods, to see the boiling cauldrons, to visit the log cabin and perhaps buy the finished product.

A gallon jar costs \$18 — and many eager buyers say they purchase a gallon jug annually and make it last a full year.

Can you tap your own maple tree? Sure, you can, and I noticed a real estate office on Dundas Street had cans attached to two of their trees.

Be certain your tree is mature enough for tapping (it should measure at least 10 inches in diameter at four-and-a-half feet above the ground) then tap in almost three inches and wait for action.

What you collect is clear — like water — and it is the distillation that gives it body and color.

And yes, a tree can be tapped with more than one spout. A tree measuring over 15 inches in diameter can have two spouts and one over 19 inches can have three.

But if you don't have a tree to tap (and anyway, it's an excuse for a family outing) make the pleasant drive north on Highway 10 to Orangeville this weekend. Follow the signs to the maple syrup festival in the Orangeville Reservoir Conservation Area and have a sweet old time.



**Liz Mayers with husband Randy**

## The shock of finding cancer - the joy of having a child . . .

By JO ANN STEVENSON  
Times staff writer  
Five years ago, Liz Mayer entered Mississauga Hospital for emergency surgery to

remove a growth from her neck which had sprung up overnight. The growth was Hodgkins' disease, or cancer of the lymph nodes.

In October, Liz will enter hospital again, only this time under joyful circumstances. Liz is two months pregnant.

When her illness struck, she was a Grade 12 student at Applewood Heights Secondary School, only 18 years old. She coached soccer, played "hacker hockey" and had just met the man with whom she wanted to spend her life.

Her prospects today as a young wife and secretary are full of promise. The disease she grappled with has yielded. It is 99.9 percent in remission, the closest to a total cure a doctor can pronounce.

Dr. Michael King, her doctor, says the recovery rate is excellent for nearly 80 percent of victims of Hodgkins' disease, since a major breakthrough in 1969.

Liz says her positive mental attitude contributed to her cure. "The mind leads the way for the body," she says. "If you think you're going to die, you practically program your body into it."

When Liz was discharged from the hospital on Christmas Day in 1973 she weighed only 89 pounds. "I looked like a pencil," she says. She drove herself to eat well, building her stamina for the chemotherapy and radiation that was to follow.

As a result of treatment, Liz was losing her thick black hair and it was then her family began falling apart. "I probably gave more comfort to those around me than I received," she says. "I knew the treatment was helping me, and that my hair could always grow back in."

After five years of "feeling healthy as a horse", it might be expected that Liz would want to forget about her fight with cancer. Instead she feels compelled to share her experiences with other cancer victims. "I want them to know there can be happy endings," she says.

April is fund raising month for the Canadian Cancer Society. It is looking for local support and will canvass door-to-door.

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