

# Arts/Entertainment

Peel Region Biog. Bk.

Mardon, Catherine

## A Michelin guide to exquisite food

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Just about anyone who has travelled Europe knows the name Michelin as more than a tire company with a roly-polly mascot. For decades, the Michelin guide has been the last word in recommending the finest lodgings and restaurants on the continent.

But how many Mississaugans know there is a member of the French aristocratic Michelin family living right here, who is working to share a lifetime's experience of exquisite dining with local epicures?

Catherine Mardon, who lives in a magnificent Georgian mansion on Gatehouse Dr. in Clarkson, is a Michelin on her mother's side of the family tree. Her husband, Clive Mardon, is a successful businessman of British upper-crust stock. His grandfather was Governor of India in the early 1900s, and his father is Col. G.K. LaTouche Mardon, Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, a man who regularly entertains royalty at his country estate.

"I was brought up with the most exquisite food," Mardon says. "My parents were very pompous. We had six staff members, including a fantastic cook who had worked previously for a duchess."

"From the age of three I was given the same as my parents... oysters, escargots, foie gras. As a very young child I was given wine once a week, and by age eight I simply adored it."

Mardon says her education of French gastronomie continued after university when she spent some time travelling from chateau to chateau in the Loire valley, learning about the wines and the regional cooking. It was an experience "better than any gourmet school," she says.

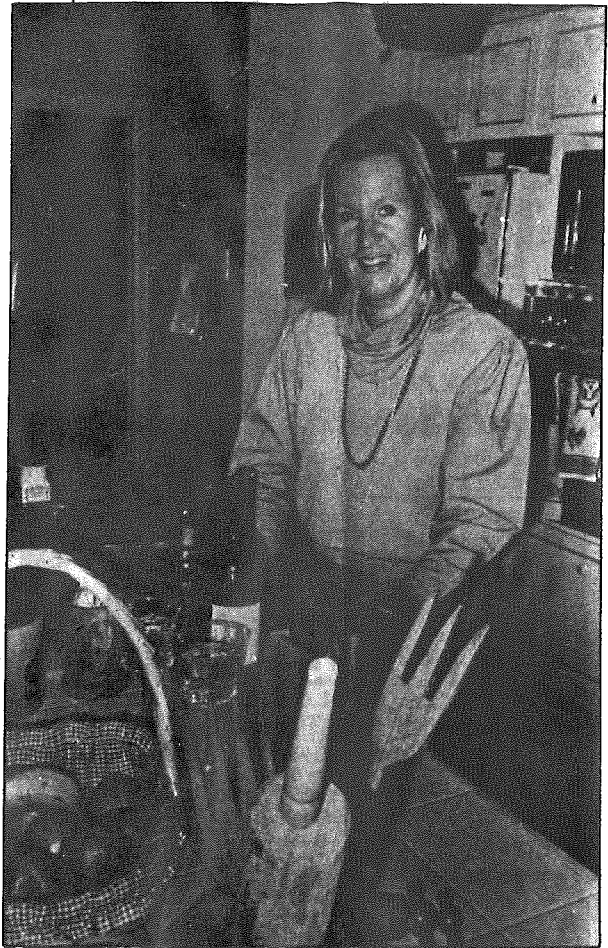
Meanwhile, since moving to Canada about a year ago from England, Mardon has been exploring the nuances of the local cuisine as a freelance food critic. And she is currently working on an exciting publishing project, a pocket-sized handbook entitled *Passport To Dining Out In Toronto*.

She says the book, which will include critiques of some of Mississauga's best restaurants, will be co-written by herself and well-known Toronto critic David Kingsmill. Based on successful publications in New York and Los Angeles, Mardon says she hopes the book, to be released some time in the new year, will catch on here.

And as well as writing, Mardon says she is interested in establishing a gastronomic advisory service, to help people host successful dinner parties. She would help the host or hostess design a menu, including a wine selection for parties of six to 10 guests.

She says she is offering the service as much to get to know new people as to make money. "I like to see people, and I like people to see me and visit my home," she says.

If you are planning a special dinner, and would like to solicit Mardon's advice, call 855-1809.



Staff photo by Tim Lukasewich

Mississaugan Catherine Mardon, a member of the French aristocratic Michelin family and a freelance food critic, is currently working on a pocket-sized handbook entitled *Passport to Dining Out in Toronto*.