

THE EQUITY

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Campbell's Bay, Litchfield seek water resolution

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
LITCHFIELD • The Campbell's Bay potable water saga continues following a recent declaration by Litchfield restating their denial of the use of their land for use for Campbell's Bay's potable water project.

For four years, Campbell's Bay has been working on acquiring a source of clean drinking water for their residents following government regulations banning the use of river water.

However, the property in Litchfield chosen for Campbell's Bay by provincial officials, an engineer and a hydrogeologist, has been summarily rejected by the Municipality of Litchfield.

"We are fighting for our people," said Litchfield Mayor Mike McCrank.

McCrank said Litchfield farmers have concerns over the Campbell's Bay water project and its effect on the agricultural community.

"(The provincial government) might overturn us but if they do they're going to have to deal with angry farmers who could lose their livelihoods."

Litchfield's concerns include the restrictions on what can be placed in the ground within 4,000 metres of the well in a north-south direction and 1,500 metres in an east-west direction. They are also worried about the stricter regulations that could potentially be placed on farmers in the area if a contamination of the well ever occurred.

"We don't know what the restrictions are, they haven't told us," said McCrank.

"We want guarantees that farming life will not be interrupted."

Farmer Keith Racine lives in Campbell's Bay but holds his approximately 100 cull cows on a property in Litchfield about 1,000 metres away from the proposed well site.

He is opposed to the project.

"If there's a problem in the future they're going to blame farmers," said Racine.

"If there was any sort of a problem with my operation as a result of this project I want to be compensated so I asked (Campbell's Bay) for compensation and they said 'no'. If there's never going to be a problem with the well as they keep saying, then they shouldn't have a problem with agreeing to compensate me if something went wrong."

Please see WATER page 2

Pontiac finalizes plans for first leg of recreational corridor

WILBUR MCLEAN and LEAH MILLER

Equity staff

PONTIAC • After years of delay, the recreational trail connecting the Pontiac to Gatineau is in the final stages of planning, and construction is set to begin later this year.

At their monthly meeting on March 14, Municipality of Pontiac council voted in favour of beginning work on the first leg of the project, connecting Wyman to Quyon.

The initial portion of the trail will cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000 according to estimations received by the municipality.

"It's another issue that's been dragging on. It's time to settle it," said Municipality of Pontiac Mayor Eddie McCann.

McCann said he hopes to have the entire corridor completed by the end of his mandate in 2009.

The corridor will connect with the rest of the Pontiac Pacific Junction Trail in Bristol on one end and Aylmer on the other end, creating a long sought-after link between the Pontiac region and the city of Gatineau.

The trail would be recreational, encouraging walkers, cyclists and, as council is hoping, tourists.

"We think it will be well used," said McCann. By the time it's completed, the trail will cost between \$3.5 to \$4 million, depending on the path council chooses to use for the rest of the trail.

A combination of loans and grants will be used to fund the project.

"This is something we need," said McCann.

The initial portion of the trail will use only municipal roads, travelling east on MacKechnie Road to Hwy. 148, then following Clarendon Street into and through Quyon before meeting with Hwy. 148 again. It will lead to Russell Street on the Hwy. 148, though it's not yet

decided whether it will stop at the intersection there or travel south onto Russell.

This first portion of the corridor will require no land expropriation, the single most debated point of the trail since initial discussions in 1992.

Using the now defunct CP rail line was deemed most logical and preferred early by council, but many local residents opposed that proposal because the expropriation of some landowners' property would have been required, and the trail would have divided some landowners' property.

Please see TRAIL page 2

Clock strikes midnight on Pontiacs

BY WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • The Pontiacs Junior 'B' miraculous playoff run that led the team to the second Valley division title in team history ended with an unceremonious thud this past week.

The Metro division champion Ottawa West Golden Knights swept the Pontiacs in four straight games, outscoring the Shawville-based side 20-4 in the process.

The Knights finished the job in game four on Monday night with a strong 7-1 victory over the Pontiacs in Ottawa.

Weak third periods proved the ultimate undoing for the Pontiacs, who gave up eight third period goals through the first three games, scoring none of their own.

At times Shawville's skaters appeared tired and were outworked, perhaps showing the effects of three straight, competitive playoff series won by the Pontiacs.

Going into the series with Ottawa West, the Pontiacs had played a total of 20 playoff games, compared with only 10 for the Knights.

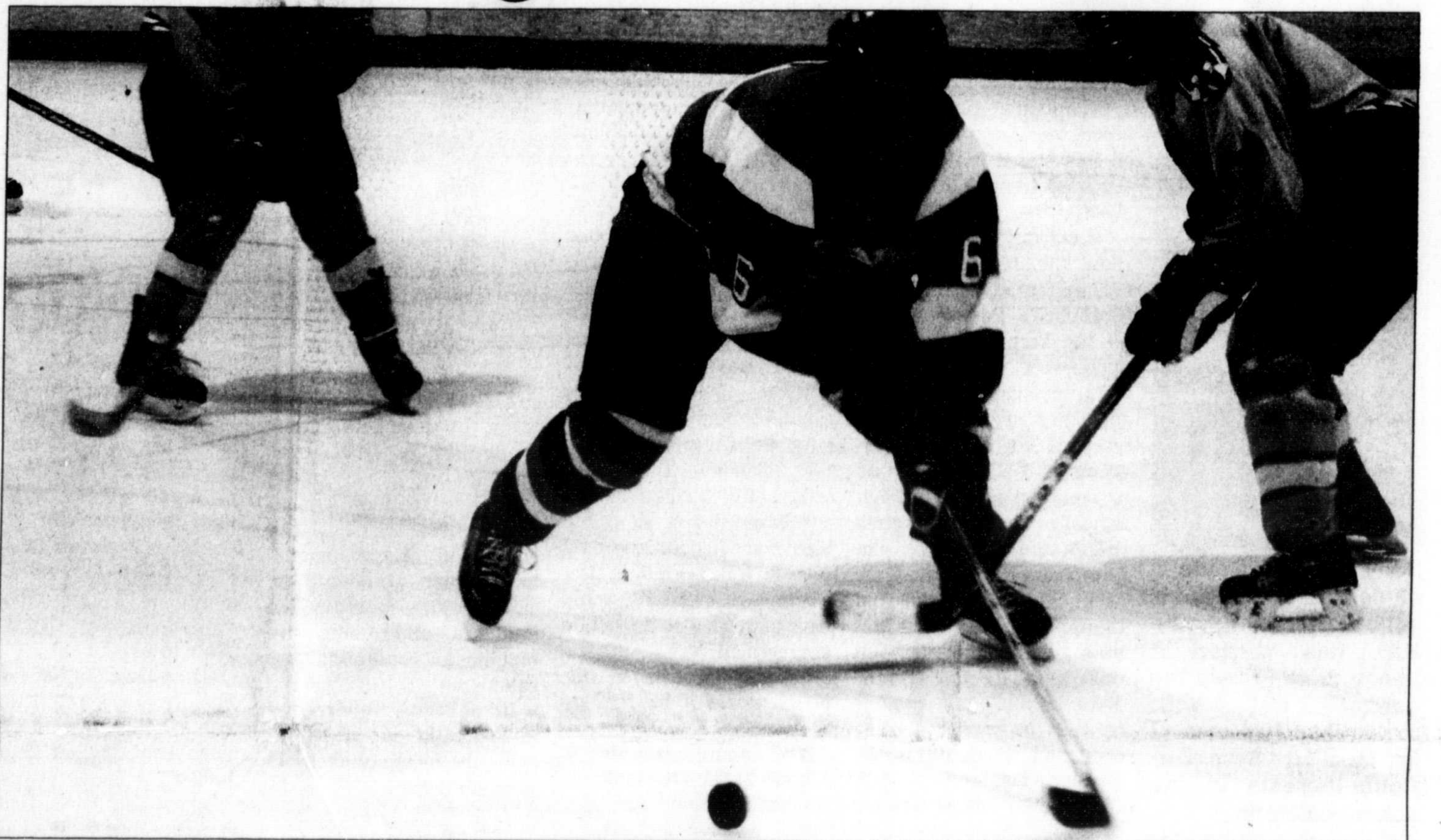
"We're having difficulties in the third," said Head Coach Pierre Lagace following game three's performance in which the Pontiacs gave up three third-period goals.

"We've had a lot of series, I don't know if the guys are tired. It could be more mental fatigue than physical fatigue."

The Pontiacs lost game three at home 4-0, fell 5-2 in game two, also at home and dropped game one on the road by a 4-1 margin.

Ottawa West is a highly-skilled hockey club that often managed to match and supercede Shawville's pace on the ice. Pontiacs captain and leading scorer, Jordan MacDougall, had trouble using his usually lethal speed to create chances, managing only one goal in the series in the first three games.

The Pontiacs' were also without wingers Max Rusenstrom and Yancey Thusky for large portions of the series. They were both out with shoulder injuries. Rusenstrom's collected fol-



Ottawa West's Todd Fox avoids Pontiacs' forward Alex Taschereau's stick in manoeuvring towards the Pontiacs' goal during game three on Friday night in Shawville. The Pontiacs fell 3-0 in the game and dropped the series in four straight.

lowing a boarding hit by Corey Oliver in game one.

With the quick sweep, the Pontiacs now receive a much-needed two-week break before playing game one of the Dodge Cup on April 13, hosting 13 of Quebec's best Junior 'B' hockey teams for the event.

The Pontiacs' first game is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13th at 9 p.m. against a

Saguenay Lac St-Jean region team, who has yet to be determined.

The tournament follows a modified knockout format, wherein each team is guaranteed three games. The first two games serve the purposes of seeding and teams play a third game regardless of whether they win those first two games. However, following the first two games, the tournament reverts to a true knockout format

and any loss automatically eliminates an entry. In all, six games will be required for a team to win the tournament, which concludes on Sunday, April 16th at 6 p.m.

All but three tournament games will take place at Shawville Arena. Scheduling constraints resulted in two second round games and one quarterfinal game being moved to Robinson Arena in Gatineau.

Flying Elbows hit ice tomorrow

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • The seventh annual Flying Elbows Men's Hockey Tournament is rearing and ready to go tomorrow night beginning at 6 p.m. at the arena in Shawville.

The tournament, which grows bigger each year, is raising funds all weekend long for the palliative care unit at the hospital in Shawville.

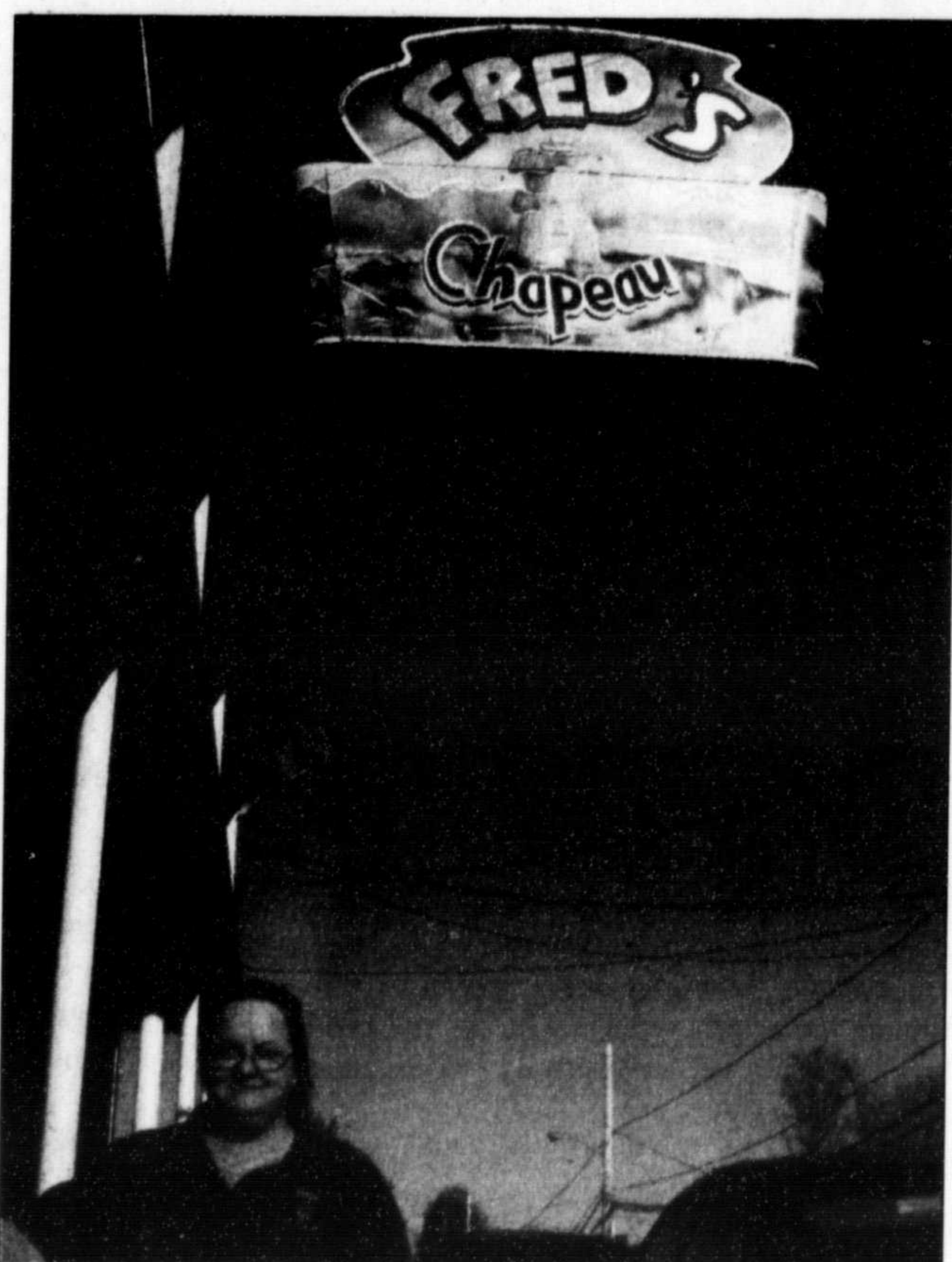
A highlight of the weekend will be the the Bob Findlay Memorial Charity Game Friday night where the home team Flying Elbows will meet the Mingo-McEwen Fund coming from Montreal, which will also include players from Florida.

"I want to challenge the town of Shawville to get in that rink Friday night and support a good cause," said Bob McEwen, who is bringing a bus load of 50 supporters from Montreal for the tournament. "We come to the charity game each year and are always taken aback by the hospitality."

Also joining the Mingo-McEwen side will be former NHLer, PJ Stock, who spent most of his career as a bruiser for the Boston Bruins.

"We're bringing him along for protection," said McEwen.

Please see ELBOWS page 2



Fred's owner, Odie Godin of Chapeau, received such an overwhelming response from the community upon her announcement of closing Fred's dining room that she has decided to complete the renovations required by the province to meet the fire code.

Fred's stays open after all

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

CHAPEAU • After receiving emotional pleas from the community, owner Odie Godin has decided to keep the dining room of Fred's famous restaurant in Chapeau open after all.

Government regulations had dictated significant renovations would have to be made to the dining room because the panelling on the wall did not meet provincial fire standards.

Rather than foot the bill to reinforce the panelling, Godin decided last month to close instead.

"I didn't mind losing money on the dining room but business just wasn't what it used to be," said Godin.

"The cost to make the changes just didn't seem worth it and it would have changed the look of the dining room."

However, after announcing her intentions to close the dining room and keep only the bar open, a groundswell of support for the establishment erupted.

Godin received a slew of phone calls and visitors who encouraged a resolution.

Eventually, the popular landmark received a reprieve.

"People changed my mind for me," said Godin. "There's been so much support from the community."

Godin negotiated with provincial inspectors to instead cover the wall with a clear, flame-retardant varnish that would satisfy the fire safety requirements while maintaining the desired ambience of the room.

The dining room still closed on March 18, but only temporarily while the required renovations — which also include replacing a number of doors and moving walls to open up the tavern — are completed.

Godin hopes the business will be re-opened to serve its famous steaks in time for Easter.

That does not mean, however, that Fred's should be taken for granted.

"Use it or lose it, sometimes people forget that," said Godin. "People think that just because it's been here for so long that it's always going to be here."

Situated on the north wall of the bar portion of Fred's is an uncredited song called simply, Chapeau.

Please see FRED'S page 2

Snowmobiler airlifted to hospital

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor

RAPIDES DES JOACHIMS • A man injured while snowmobiling in the bush north of Rapides des Joachims was airlifted to safety Thursday.

A 32-year-old Pembroke man, snowmobiling with a group of 10 snowmobilers, injured his back severely after his machine caught in a snow drift and threw him off.

The group was travelling north from Rapides des Joachims when the accident occurred at about 55 kilometres north of the village near Lac Dix Milles.

Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec said the accident took place at about 1 p.m. and two members of the group went looking for help. At 2:30 p.m. they reached an outfitter where they were able to call for help.

"There was no road access where they were," said SQ spokesperson Mélanie Larouche.

Once the Campbell's Bay detachment got the call, a rescue team was sent out on snowmobile with the aid of a local game warden. The team attempted to find the group and bring back the injured man on a sled.

Meanwhile, a helicopter was sent out from Montreal and the Ontario side.

"In the end he was airlifted by a military helicopter to the hospital in Pembroke," said Larouche.

The man was finally airlifted to safety by 9:30 p.m.

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John Paul II governing board recommends establishing school boundaries

Motion would prevent Campbell's Bay area students from attending Shawville schools

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
CAMPBELL'S BAY • The governing board of John Paul II school in Campbell's Bay made a motion to recommend the Western Quebec School Board establish boundaries in its strategic plan.

The motion, which specifically asks to keep the school open to kindergarten to Grade 11 instead of closing to youth-sector students, came from a unanimous decision made at a governing board meeting March 22 where parents, teachers and community members attended.

The meeting, held in the cafeteria of JPIL, was open for questions directed at area school board commissioner Sophie Ringrose and JPIL principal Ken Whicher. "We should set up boundaries," said teacher Bill Kearnan.

"Let's go forward so that

our children come to JPIL high. Next year let's make sure kids from Grade 6 come here."

The motion also mentioned that the governing board would like to be able to discuss where these new boundaries would lie.

Kearnan said a major problem currently is the number of elementary-aged students from the Campbell's Bay catchment area that attend Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School in Shawville.

"It's not fair — it's favouritism, there are boundaries already," said Kevin Kluge. "Students can't come from Quyon, but there is a bus from Chapeau that goes to Shawville."

Many at the meeting agreed that if the village lost its school, it wouldn't be long before it lost other integral services.

"If we lose the school, we'll lose our bank and lose our community," said Kearnan.

Campbell's Bay Mayor Jean-Louis Auger said council has stated it would like the school board to rethink closing.

"It starts with the school, then the bank — it's a vicious circle," said Auger. "Campbell's Bay council is all for keeping the school open."

Parents questioned why the letter offering Grade 6 students high school programs at JPIL didn't look as professional as Pontiac High School's. The core subjects that are offered in Campbell's Bay are the same as in Shawville except that Campbell's Bay does not have a music program. But those at the meeting said the presentation of options between the two schools may create an unfair advantage for Shawville.

"I called Mike Dawson

saying I felt the letter sent out was not fair and it looked as if we were working against ourselves," said Ringrose.

The letter was sent out March 17 to parents.

Parents suggested that in the meantime the school fundraise to cover needed expenses.

"We welcome these initiatives," said Whicher. "It does require volunteers willing to put time into it."

The motion made by the governing board will be forwarded to school board director-general Mike Dawson and the school board's Planning and Review Committee who will by June 27 vote on a reorganizational plan for JPIL and other English-language Pontiac schools.

Even with boundaries, JPIL may find that students will apply to attend PHS.

Dawson said that if enough students from the Campbell's Bay area opted to go to Shawville that the board's Transportation Committee would have to consider, and then make recommendations to the board for a decision on whether the board would still provide bus service.

"They would have to weigh logistical issues like schedules, numbers, etc., plus of course potential cost," said Dawson.

"Also thought would have to be given to what seems a contradiction — the idea of setting up a boundary to encourage people to attend their home school, and then provide transportation elsewhere — the board would have to weigh also the notion of precedent.

"If you do this in one place, would it be right to deny it elsewhere?"

The reorganization of schools in the area is due to decreasing enrolment rates.



Patti Normandeau of the John Paul II school governing board makes an emotional plea to save the school at a meeting March 22.

The number of students attending a school determines how much government funding a school receives.

The WQSB held its first consultation meeting with the public on its reorganization in February. Six options were put forward by the Planning and Review Committee.

The school board said it would welcome suggestions before the issue goes to vote in June by its 21 commissioners.

Proposed options include keeping the school status quo, establishing boundaries to increase enrolment or closing JPIL to youth-sector students and using the building for continuing education.

In a school rating, JPIL ranked eight out of 10, 10 being the most economically disadvantaged.

A second consultation meeting will be held in April. The governing board has a planned meeting for tonight to prepare for the next consultation.

Fred's: Not closing after all

Continued from page 1

"And perhaps you will be looking for a place to spend the night/Or maybe taste a glass of ale/And have yourself a bite/Well, Fred Meilleur will greet you/He's a perfect host to know/When it comes to good home cooking/Brother, that's the place to go"

The village of Chapeau is synonymous with Fred's, arguably the most famous restaurant in the Ottawa Valley.

According to Godin, Fred's has previously played host to Jean Chretien's parents, Bobby Orr and "The Rocket" Maurice Richard.

"It's special, it's a landmark." The walls of Fred's are adorned with old photographs of the building, its guests and the raucous affairs it's hosted.

First built in the late 1800s, Fred purchased the place in 1953 and even though it was officially called "Chapeau Hotel", everybody knew it as "Fred's" and, just like the song said, Meilleur was always there to greet visitors.

Three years ago Odin bought the hotel from Meilleur, after 27 years of working for him and had the name formally changed

to "Fred's".

She still remembers her first night of work.

"It was New Year's Eve in 1975, and back then New Year's parties were huge here, the biggest night of the year," said Godin, who was the first woman to ever be employed to work at Fred's.

"He figured if I was able to get through that night, that I was good enough to work for him."

She was so good that she's still there today, now as owner.

Meilleur still frequents the establishment regularly and, despite being well into his senior years, he rattles off important dates and events of Fred's with ease.

"Don't ever get him mad at you, because he'll remember everything that happened and the date, too," joked Godin.

With the dining room stripped bare for coming renovations, the restaurant has little of the panache it regularly carries, but Godin does not mind, knowing it's only temporary.

A few weeks from now, the restaurant will reopen, inevitably producing more memories to the already long legacy of Fred's.

And rest assured, for people across the Ottawa Valley, it will still be the place to go.

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and congratulations on your **fifteenth anniversary** in the **Armed Forces (Navy)**. Kirk is stationed in Esquimalt, B.C. and has just returned from an assignment in Hawaii.
Love, Mom, family and friends



Holly Dunn, a Grade 7 student at John Paul II school in Campbell's Bay, has started a penny drive to help the school out with expenses. Her penny jar labelled "Save Our School" rests in the school cafeteria.

Water: Still no resolution for Campbell's Bay

Continued from page 1
Vincent Mlakar, the hydrogeologist for the project, insists the well and its surrounding area will be safe.

The well will use a clay base with a number of layers and will be water-tight.

"The contamination chances are minimal," said Mlakar.

"Regular agricultural farming will not be affected by the project."

McCrank said Campbell's Bay has had no contact with Litchfield since the press release was made public a few weeks ago.

"We have not heard from them," said McCrank, who still firmly asserts that

Litchfield is not opposed to hosting Campbell's Bay potable water, but just wants guarantees that nothing will go wrong for Litchfield's farming community.

"We just want to make sure it's a win-win situation."

Project Engineer Bruce Tremblay of Roche Engineering conducted a number of the tests for the project. He said Litchfield has nothing to worry about.

"Farmers should not be concerned as long as they respect the laws themselves in regards to herbicides and pesticides," said Tremblay.

"If farmers continue to do their business as they

should, there should not be any concern of contamination to the ground."

The process has been trying for the Municipality of Campbell's Bay.

"We just can't seem to move forward on the project," said Colleen Lariviere, secretary/treasurer of Campbell's Bay. Lariviere was also quick to point out that the two municipalities are not feuding.

"We're doing what we feel is best for the municipality and Litchfield is proceeding in the same manner. There are no hard feelings."

Campbell's Bay Mayor Jean-Louis Auger said the municipality is now waiting to hear from the Minister of

Environment to be advised of their next move.

"It's a very tricky situation at the moment. It's out of our hands," said Auger.

There is currently no timeline for the completion of the project.

By law, Campbell's Bay is entitled to go up to 48 kilometres out of their municipality to retrieve clean drinking water if there is no suitable site within their own municipality, which is the case.

Expropriation of the land is a possibility, though that would be a long and tedious process involving the courts. In all, the project will cost an estimated \$1.8 million.

Trail: first leg to extend to Quyon by 2007

Continued from page 1

Land expropriation may still have to occur to complete the rest of the project. Council has yet to decide exactly how the remainder of the trail from Quyon to Aylmer will be negotiated.

Council voted five to one in favour of the project as it stood, with Ward 6 councillor, Brian Middlemiss, providing the only opposition.

Ward 5 Councillor Raymond Gougeon was absent from the meeting.

Middlemiss is not opposed to the project itself, rather he is against the segmenting of planning.

"There are no guarantees that it's going to continue on after the first part," said Middlemiss.

"If you don't have all the funds first and don't know where it's going to go, then how long will it take? You don't want it to take 30 years."

Middlemiss believes that without guarantees the trail would reach Gatineau in a timely fashion, the plan is flawed.

"It doesn't make sense,"

said Middlemiss.

The municipality has formed a 20-person committee to oversee the completion of the trail, with representatives from council, the Agricultural Producers Union (UPA), the MRC des Collines Local Development Centre (CLD) and other interest groups.

Following the early opposition to the project, the municipality commissioned a professional consulting firm in 2005 to investigate options for producing the trail and its estimated costs.

Based on the study, the municipality originally favoured option one, which was to use the former railway at a cost of \$3.7 million.

That cost was less than the estimates for the other two favoured options, which were to use municipal roads (\$3.9 million) or to designate a municipal road for the trail (\$5.5 million).

In mid-2005, however, the municipality handed much of the corridor project to the CLD for MRC des Collines, because of the regional nature of the project.

It is now most likely that the corridor will utilize a combination of the three options set forth by the consultants.

"I prefer it just gets done in a fashion beneficial to the community," said Ken Fisher when asked which option he preferred.

Fisher is the former co-ordinator of Friends of the Pontiac Trail, a now defunct group of citizens who supported the creation of the trail.

"The recreational corridor has to be there."

A turbulent trail history
The debate on the trail began on Canada's 125th birthday in 1992 when the Trans Canada Trail Foundation proposed to link Canada by a "shared use" recreational trail crossing Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific and north to the Arctic Ocean.

On Sep. 11, 1995, the Municipality of Pontiac resolved that a negotiating committee would collaborate with the Outaouais Regional Development Council (CRDO) to negotiate with CP

Rail, under conditions that CRDO would contribute 60 to 80 per cent of the final purchase price. That left the municipality paying 20 to 40 per cent (a maximum of \$95,000) of the purchase price.

On Sep. 18, 1995, the decision was finalized that CRDO would pay 60 per cent of the costs. The approximate cost for MoP would be \$10,000.

Former mayor of MoP Marcel Lavigne — who was overtly opposed to using the railway for the project — convinced council to oppose the expropriations. He was part of a group of residents interested in purchasing part of the rail line to block the corridor.

And so the offer was turned down.

In September 1997, with Lavigne abstaining from voting due to his conflict of interest, a unanimous vote by the MoP voted in favour of expropriating land from farmers who owned pieces of the former CP Rail corridor. The purchase price for the Pontiac moved up to approx-

imately \$130,000 for 80 per cent of the land.

On Mar. 6, 1998, Friends of the Pontiac Trail, a committee of people in support of the recreational trail, met with the minister responsible for the Outaouais, who agreed to support the acquisition of funds necessary for the purchase and development of the trail.

On Apr. 14, 1998, MoP resolved they would take two years to expropriate specific land for the trail.

Later, a land surveyor set out to prepare a general plan of land that needed to be expropriated for the trail.

Two weeks later, the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec (CPTAQ), sent a letter to the municipality indicating that unless challenged by May 21, 1998 it would take away the acquired rights of the railway line and give the farmers permission to divide up the corridor. The letter paused all surveying.

An emergency meeting took place and resolved that the council would oppose

the CPTAQ's request and consult with the surrounding municipalities and the MRC to get their views and opinions.

The motion to oppose CPTAQ passed on May 27, 1998 by the MoP. A freeze was put on the rail bed until a decision could be made.

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Elbows: raising money for charity

Continued from page 1

This will be the fourth year the charity game will run, having raised close to \$13,000 for the Hospital Foundation in its past iterations.

The Mingo-McEwen team is led by captain Brent Mingo, 21, who was exposed at birth to bacterial meningitis and endured three brain operations before the age of 31 days.

The weekend will feature games between 28 teams in three divisions.

A new edition to the tournament is a Shawville MAGH developmental hockey team hosting a team from Florida Friday night at 7 p.m.

The puck drops for the Charity Game 8 p.m. Friday at the arena and will also feature the Great Shawville Shootout, an RBC Toonie Toss, door prizes and a 50/50 draw.

Scheduling, tickets and more tournament information can be found at www.flyingelbows.ca or by calling 647-3149.



25 Years Ago

UN LEADER VISITS PONTIAC: The leader of the Union Nationale Party, Roch Lasalle, was in Aylmer last week to meet the public and to present the party's platform to the local press. Later on Wednesday evening he was the guest speaker at a public meeting in Luskville organized by the local candidate, Lucille Hodgins. According to Lasalle, the issues of importance in this election are economic, social and constitutional reform.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE PARTY CHOOSES STEPHEN HODGINS: The Freedom of Choice Party met at Quyon on Wednesday night with about 100 members to elect their first free choice, the election of a candidate for the April 13 provincial election. With overwhelming support from the entire convention, Stephen Hodgins, 23-year-old restaurant operator of Shawville, was chosen to speak for the Freedom of Choice Party and for Pontiac in the Quebec Legislature, if he is able to gain the support of the rest of the riding. Recognizing the strength and political know-how of the three older parties, young Hodgins nevertheless is hopeful that when the voters come to the polls on April 13 they will accord him enough votes to put him in office.

MORE TAXES: Employers in the province of Quebec should be aware that starting April 1, 1981, they will have to pay into the Quebec Health Insurance Plan an amount equal to 3 per cent of the gross earnings of their employees. Up to the end of March employers paid at a rate of 1.5 per cent, so that the new rate, announced in the March budget, represents an increase of 100 per cent in this tax levied against all employers conducting business in the province. Quebec has long been known as the worst province in Canada for the viciousness of its tax structure.

50 Years Ago
 March 29, 1956
PAUL BELANGER STRUCK BY CAR: Paul Belanger, 8, of Campbell's Bay was struck by a car on Main Street at the Bay Tuesday dodging out from between parked cars into the path of a car driven by Edward Ranger of Campbell's Bay. The little boy struck the right front fender and suffered a fractured skull as a result. Ranger and

Detective Andre Audet took the child to the office of Dr Bradshaw at Campbell's Bay and he was taken by Ringrose Ambulance to the Ottawa General Hospital. No charges will be laid as the tragedy was purely accidental.

BRYSON FIRE BRIGADE SHOW KEEN ENTHUSIASM: The Bryson Volunteer Fire brigade, newly organized in January of this year, under a newly appointed Chief W A Poisson, is comprised of 24 energetic volunteers keenly devoted to build the brigade up to a fully equipped standard fire department.

PORTAGE TO ENGAGE WATERWORKS ENGINEER: A public meeting was held in the town hall at which were present Mayor Elsie Gibbons, and councillors. The meeting was held in connection with installing waterworks in the municipality of Portage du Fort.

75 Years Ago

LOCAL NEWS: Despite the heavy snow fall on Sunday, the 8th, which temporarily closed many arteries of traffic, the Short Course was remarkably well attended from the very beginning. Not only did the people of the close lying districts support this event in a loyal way by turning out, with their sons, in large numbers to take part in the various functions staged, but a substantial representation was in evidence from Campbell's Bay, Vinton, Calumet Island and South Onslow. In one instance, a farmer with his three sons journeyed from Campbell's Bay and attended every lecture and demonstration during the course. This is merely an instance of the keen interest shown by the farmers of the district. Much credit is due to the committee appointed by the Agricultural Society, to take charge of the event.

The body of Patrick Lynn, who was missing since last November, was discovered by two boys frozen in the ice of the Rideau Canal basin at Ottawa. Mr Lynn had been an employee of the Chateau Laurier. He was born near Quyon and was 54 years old. The body showed no evidences of foul play, but a post mortem examination was held in order to establish the cause of death. Neither money nor valuables were found on the body, while it is rumored that when last seen alive, Lynn had considerable money in his possession.

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and assembled. Many measurements are accurate to one one-thousandth of an inch. Some to three one-thousandths of an inch.

100 Years Ago

LOCAL NEWS: Messrs. L Thomas Eades, Jas. J. Hodgins and George Bailey, all of this neighborhood returned on Friday last from the camps of the Victoria Harbor Lumber Co. situated north of Wainnapiatae, on the CPR, the camps having broken up for the winter. Although the work was hard and hours long the boys brought their teams home in good condition. They report a depth of 2.5 feet of snow in the woods.

We notice from a published list of recent real estate transactions in Ottawa, that our townsman, Mr G F Hodgins has, through real estate agent Charles S Taggart, purchased the WD Morris property, corner of Bank Street and Laurier Avenue, comprising four shops with dwellings in connection. The price is reported as in the neighborhood of \$18,000.

The directors of Agricultural Society No. 1 met at the Russell House on Tuesday last for the purpose of revising the prize list and transacting other business. The meeting marked the 50th anniversary of the Society's existence. In view of this fact the board sent a telephone invitation to Mr Wm Clarke, CLA to come and share in the celebration, that gentleman having been the first president of the Society, and the only one remaining of the original board who conducted its business during the infant stage of its existence. At 3:15 p.m. Mr Clarke arrived at the meeting room of the directors who rose en masse to greet him. Mr Clarke, who is an exceedingly active man for his years, related many matters of interest during the starting and early history of the Society of which he remained president for seven years; and when we consider the difficulties in the present day, we can readily understand how much energy and perseverance the first president must have possessed to have coped successfully with the greater disadvantages of those early days. The first board was composed of Wm Clarke, president; Jas Robinson, vice-president; J M Judgson, sec. treasurer; directors - Angus McKinlop, Alexander Smart, Wm McDowell, Thos Corrigan, Wm Cobb, Geo Morrison, Edmund Heath.

Quyon brother, sister fiddle act release debut album

LEAH MILLER
 Equity Editor
QUYON • Virginia and Shawn Schwartz, the brother and sister fiddle act from Quyon, have released their debut CD called Fiddle Haus Schwartz' Backyard.

"So far, we've been really happy with it," said Shawn on the release of their debut album. "It was a long time waiting."

The unofficial release March 14 let the pair, who have been fiddling for years, share their passion for music.

"The CD is a compilation of all our original tunes," said Virginia. The CD is only a sampling of songs they've written, as Virginia has been playing since she was seven and Shawn since he was nine. Virginia is now 28 and Shawn 27.

"For me, I guess it started 18 years ago when my mom and dad started taking Virginia to fiddle lessons one year before me," said Shawn. "I thought I might as well try and I took a liking to it."

It is said that learning to play the violin or fiddle

is one of the most difficult instruments to learn. "But I really like to do it," said Shawn.

Both were influenced by the music in their family. "Growing up outside of Quyon as kids and teenagers, there was very little for us to do," said Virginia. "We had music in the family and it was something to do to go on a weekend to a party and we always had our fiddles with us."

Virginia currently lives in Vancouver touring full-time with Ottawa Valley-based band The Town Pants while Shawn works as a contractor in Kanata while teaching music out of his North Onslow home.

For Virginia, writing music for the album was not difficult, as she plays her originals while on tour with The Town Pants.

"One on the CD, *Diggin' The Grave*, my fan base will recognize because I play it with Town Pants," said Virginia.

The album was produced by The Town Pants members Duane Keogh and features 14 tracks of

bursting fiddling, including a seven-minute long live session of eight traditional fiddle tunes complete with spoons, guitar, piano, mandolin and a crowd.

"We set up a party with some local musicians from Quyon and had a family-feel of a party," said Virginia. Some local musicians that took part on track 14 are the Daley family, Doug McKinnon, Rolly Bernier and the siblings' mother Isabelle Schwartz.

Shawn recorded his parts of the album at Clockhaus Studios in Quyon, while Virginia recorded her parts at Studio 222 in Vancouver.

The distance put a difficult twist on putting the album together. "The recording itself wasn't difficult, but the last minute adjustments were," said Shawn.

Once he recorded a song, he would send it as an mp3 and Keogh would listen to it in Vancouver and critique it.

"After I got his two cents it would be redone and the mastering would be done

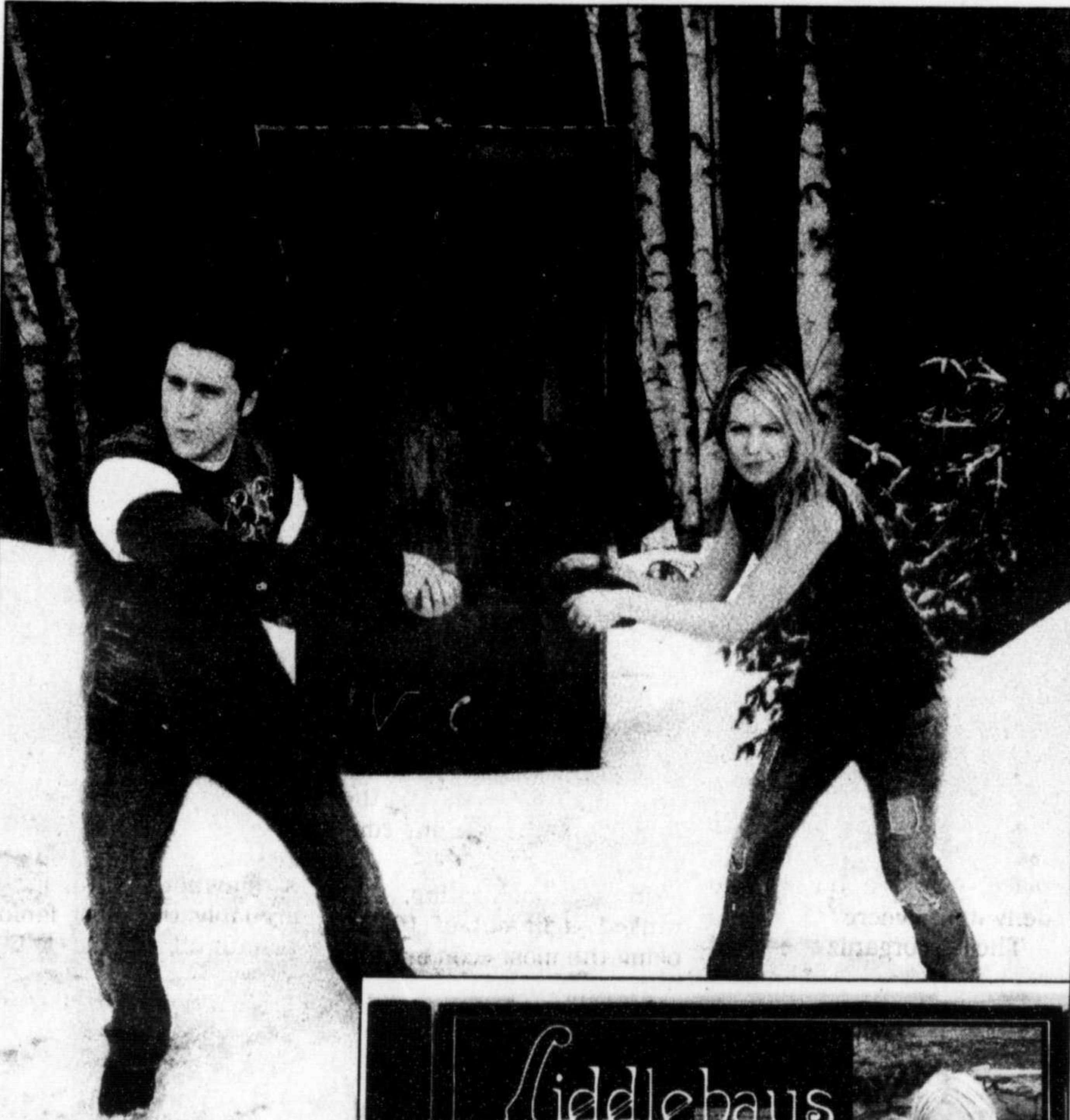
in Vancouver," said Shawn. "That made it hard."

As well, the artwork on the CD cover involved a lot of co-ordination, as Shawn's pictures were shot in Quyon and superimposed on a photo with Virginia.

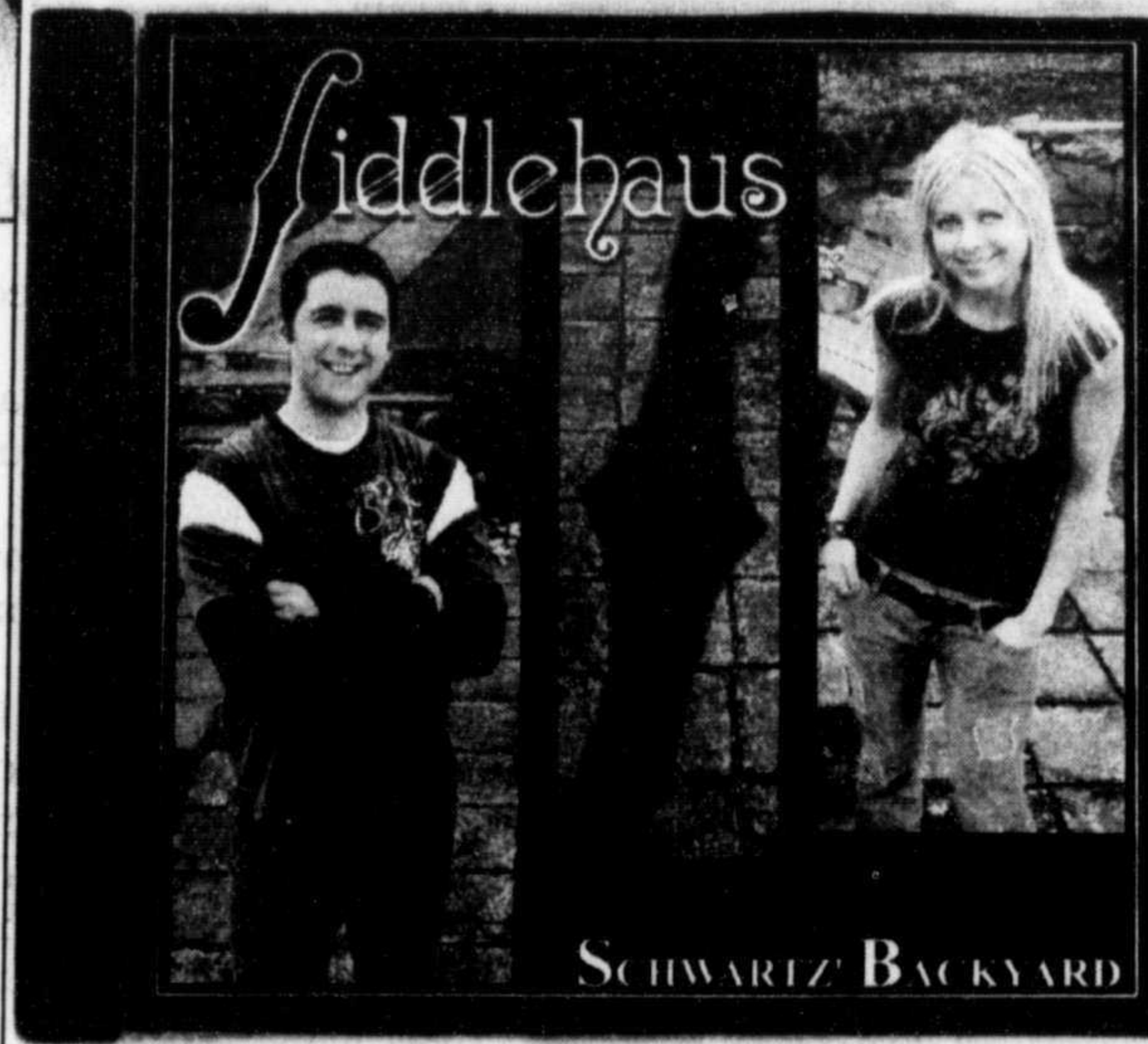
"It took about 100 photos to get it right," said

Shawn. The pair don't have a tour schedule planned for their new album, but Shawn may tag along with Virginia and play a few Town Pants shows as he has in the past.

For information on how to buy a copy of the CD, call Shawn at 819-458-1977.



Shawn and Virginia Schwartz of Quyon have released their debut album entitled Fiddlehaus Schwartz' Backyard. The brother and sister act, after playing together for about 18 years, have put together a collection of original songs and traditional jigs that gives the feel of the true Ottawa Valley.



St. Alphonsus CWL meets

Submitted by Jane Carroll communications officer for the St. Alphonsus C.W.L.

CHAPEAU • The March 7 meeting of St. Alphonsus C.W.L. was called to order by President Joan Sallafranque.

The Spiritual reading was taken from the Book of Psalms.

Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. Several items of correspondence were presented which included a thank you from Sr. Pauline Colterman for our continuing support in Peru. Invitations and notices of upcoming events were read.

Treasurer Gail Sullivan gave her report as well as the other committee representatives.

The card parties held last month for Development and Peace and the Coady Institute were well attended and donations have been sent in.

Plans were finalized for hosting the Marianhill birthday party on March 14.

Leaflets (*How Will You Say Goodbye...To Someone You Love?*) were presented to members in attendance. There will also be copies available at church.

Mention was made of the June dinner with a tentative date set for June 13. The meeting was

adjourned followed by closing prayers. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 11.

Spring Fever BOOK SALE
 April 1st - Special \$5.00 a bag
 May 6th and June 3rd
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 in the basement of the Town Hall
 Friends of the Library - in support of the Shawville Clarendon Library

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Armstrong Heritage Farm
Annual General Meeting
 at Dr. S.E. McDowell School cafeteria
Monday, April 10, 2006
 at 7:00 p.m.
 All current and new members welcome

James
 Come Have Fun with Dick & Jane
 Comedy Night Presented by:
 Quyon Citizen's Committee
Saturday, April 1st, 2006
 Quyon Lions Hall at 6:30 p.m.
 \$25.00 per person includes supper

ASP CONSTRUCTION SAFETY COURSE
 (Quebec Construction Safety Course)
 Starting April 15, 2006
 For Information Call
 Faye 819-648-5160 or Barry 819-647-2367
THIS COURSE IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A CCQ / JOB PROTECTION CARD
 We are also taking registration for St. John Ambulance
First Aid and CPR courses

Short film festival arrives in Ladysmith

WILBUR MCLEAN
 Equity Reporter

LADYSMITH • A man proceeds down an escalator with another man casually standing on his shoulders. Two businessmen suddenly halt a serious discussion to participate in a dance that resembles Greco-Roman wrestling. A woman stabs a man to death in an elevator then finds the security guard pointing a gun at her is the man she just killed. What could this be but independent film?

"A long night of shorts", an independent short film festival, made a stop in Ladysmith playing a series of movies back-to-back for eight hours on Saturday night at the Thorne Community Recreation Association.

Put on by the National Film Board in cities and towns across Canada, the evening was an opportunity to discover less expensive, less popular, but no less entertaining short films in both French and English. Marie-Laure Turmel of Ladysmith was responsible

for bringing the event to the small village.

"This is the most important short film festival in Canada," said Turmel, whose interests in film extend to her previous studies in university.

Turmel spent weeks working with the National Film Board to bring the event to the Pontiac, knowing the event could be a difficult sell in the region despite the free admission.

"I was saying to myself, 'If there are 10 people I don't know who come, it is a success,'" said Turmel, a multimedia specialist.

Glancing at the crowd of about 30 people in attendance, Turmel proudly stated, "It is a success." Typically more artistic and thought-provoking than full-length films, short films are often the launching point for successful movie directors, producers and actors.

Unable to compete with Hollywood budgets, short films tend to use creativity and their subject matter to draw audiences. Ranging in length from

two-to-three minutes to half-an-hour, the bilingual selections chosen by Turmel were diverse in genre.

The dancing businessmen were a part of one film that seemed to cannibalize the business world by depicting businessmen in a series of unusual situations, like dangling off the side of an escalator and spinning each other around in a number of intricate dance moves; stopping only to answer their cell phones.

While it may have seemed unusual to some, the audience present laughed and clapped at the ridiculousness of it all.

"A lot of people could enjoy these sorts of movies," said Turmel. "In art and video, there is a place for something (in the Pontiac) and I hope to make it grow in future years."

Turmel said she definitely plans to bring the festival back to Ladysmith next year. "People could love it," said Turmel.

Important Notice to Employers
Need summer help?
 Service Canada 1 800 935-5555 servicecanada.gc.ca
Hire a student!
 The Summer Career Placements initiative provides wage subsidies to help employers hire students for 6 to 16 weeks during the summer. Private, public and not-for-profit employers are invited to submit their application by:
Friday, March 31, 2006
 This initiative provides students with work experience related to their field of study. Applications will be assessed based on the eligibility criteria, national, regional and local priorities, the quality of the work experience offered, as well as budget availability.
 To apply or to find out more about this initiative,
CALL 1 800 935-5555 (TTY 1 800 926-9105)
CLICK servicecanada.gc.ca
VISIT Your Service Canada Centre (for locations visit servicecanada.gc.ca)
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OPINION

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YOUR OPINION

Leave a legacy

Dear Editor,

I was very glad to read in Hope Cadieux's column for Pontiac Station her perspective on the selective logging versus Nature Conservancy options for the future of the lot owned by Bristol council. The lot in question has a wonderful small sandy beach and a rocky shoreline. But most of this part of the lot is within the floodplain of the Ottawa River so no cottages can be built near the water as provincial laws won't allow it. The part of the lot further inland is rocky with forested hollows and swamps, a landscape not particularly attractive or good for cottage use. In fact, much of the property consists of wet, uneven and rocky terrain, which would present many challenges if one were to try and build houses or cottages on it. Because of these circumstances, Bristol council will find it difficult to sell the lot for development purposes. It hasn't happened yet, and Bristol has had the property for 12 years. So what can Bristol do with the property? They could have it clear-cut and make some money, which would leave the property very unattractive and not worth much and no one would want to buy it. They could do some selective logging, as proposed, to take the biggest, most valuable trees out. That would bring some money (though less than the clear-cut), but would leave the lot less attractive and its value would be diminished accordingly. It would take decades before there would be enough big trees to make another round of selective logging worth while. Or Bristol council could sell the property with the forest intact. There would likely be a number of local people who would want to buy the lot, but I doubt that anyone would be willing to pay a high price for it when they can't subdivide it and sell off cottage lots.

For most municipalities, that would be the extent of available realistic options. But we in Bristol are lucky because another attractive option has been presented to us: an offer from the Nature Conservancy to buy the lot for conservation purposes. It is probably the best deal council is realistically going to get, and it is also probably the best thing council can do for the conservation of biodiversity within our municipal boundaries. They would get a fair price for the lot, and its natural beauty would be preserved for all of us to continue to enjoy. It's a bit like having your cake and eating it too.

But why is the Nature Conservancy so interested in this lot? There are many reasons why they would be. As mentioned in Hope Cadieux's column, mature forests are a rare and valuable ecosystem from the point of view of conservation of biodiversity. In addition, there is the Blanding's turtle, a species that is rare throughout its range in Canada. Its status has recently been assessed by an expert panel that found that the turtle is declining in numbers and in the range it occupies in Canada. We happen to have one of a few pockets where the turtle exists and is still doing relatively well. In addition, the lot and particularly its rocky shoreline, is home to a number of interesting plants not normally found in this area. All of these factors add up to make this property particularly valuable for conservation purposes. It is really worth keeping in its current condition.

Conservation may be a scary word to some, but conservation of this property doesn't have to mean it will be off-limits to the public. On the contrary, many activities are allowed in conservation areas as long as they are not detrimental to the conservation objectives for that piece of land. Of course, the Nature Conservancy would determine what those would be. However, it is likely that people would be allowed to continue to enjoy walking in the area and using the beach. It is also likely that deer hunting could continue as deer are very plentiful here and the Nature Conservancy is probably not particularly interested in protecting them. In fact, high deer populations could be detrimental to the persistence of some of the rare plants in the area. If the Nature Conservancy were to buy the property, it would keep the forest intact and the property accessible to the public.

Given the above considerations, the best thing council can do is to sell the property intact to the Nature Conservancy. It would probably bring council more money than any other realistic option while at the same time being a valuable contribution to conservation not only locally, but also at the regional, provincial and even national level. What a wonderful legacy to leave for future generations.

B.T. Anskowicz-Fowler, Bristol

OUR OPINION

Time to save daylight

It's that time of year again, can you believe it? Time to change our clocks for daylight saving time.

At 2 a.m. this coming Sunday, we'll set our clocks ahead an hour. But this year is unique in that it will be the last year we move our clocks forward on the first Sunday in April and back on the last Sunday in October.

Beginning next year, the province will follow the lead of the United States in adding four weeks to daylight saving time.

Last summer, U.S. President George W. Bush signed an energy bill that extended daylight saving by two weeks in the spring and two weeks in the fall, starting in 2007. To remain in sync with the U.S., and each other, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Alberta all plan to move up the beginning of daylight saving to the second Sunday of March and to end it on the first Sunday in November.

The fact that Ontario and Quebec are doing it together is a good thing for the people of Pontiac, living close to a provincial border, as we do. The inconvenience of changing time zones every time we crossed a bridge or took the ferry to the other side, the scheduling of appointments, even finding your favourite TV show would not have been quite worth it. Of course, in Canada, time is a provincial concern, so provinces have been able to decide whether to opt in or out of the plan, unlike the U.S. where it is a federal concern.

The Quebec bill was introduced by Justice Minister Jean Marcoux who argued the harmonization will be favourable to the province. Extending daylight saving time wasn't just a snap of fingers here, it required modifying an existing provincial law.

Note that areas of Quebec east of 63° east longitude (anything east of Tête à la Baleine, Quebec) do not change to daylight saving time and remain on Atlantic Standard Time all year round.

Ideally, the change to daylight saving time will allow us to use less energy in lighting our homes by taking advantage of the longer daylight hours - in general, people are expected not to need the lights on as early in the evening. Every little bit in reducing energy helps.

The move makes sense. At about this point in time every year it seems the sun comes up a bit too early anyhow, and a few extra weeks of early rising wouldn't hurt one bit. The move also makes economic sense for Quebec, which ships 58 per cent of its exports to 24 U.S. states.

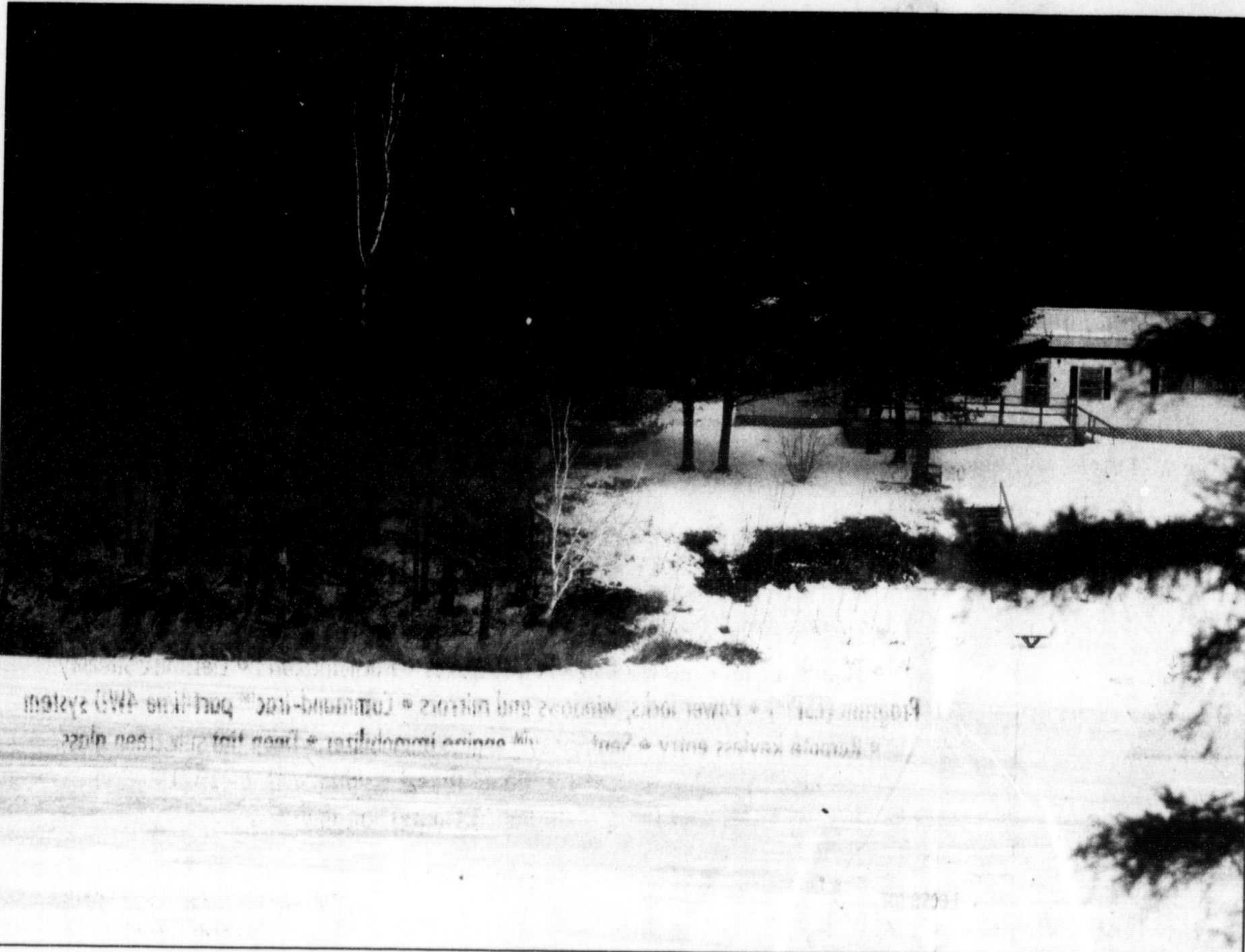
Not only will this endeavour help us conserve energy and reduce our costs throughout the year, it shows that this province is up to speed with the major players in North America.

So don't forget to spring forward a little earlier, and fall back a little later next year. But for the time being, we'll still switch our clocks this coming weekend. One last time.

LM

Winter's last gasp

Provided by Wilbur McLean



The Voice of the Pontiac since 1883

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ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Burning garbage: are incinerators safe?

The Monday March 27 edition of the *Ottawa Citizen* contained an excellent article on incineration as an alternative technology for the management of garbage.

The story is timely, not only because of our own Pontiac garbage dilemma, but also because of what Ottawa residents are facing. There has been much media focus on the proposed expansion of the Carp Road landfill located in West Carleton. Waste Management of Canada operates the site, and proposes to triple its capacity. Nearby residents are in opposition to this and as usual, the community is divided and frustrated.

Here in the Pontiac, we understand this division and challenge only too well.

EQUITY reader suggests incineration

Robert Willis wrote a thoughtful letter to the editor which was published in THE EQUITY last week. He suggests incineration ought to be considered as a viable, reasonably environmentally friendly technology to manage garbage. He concurs with me that cities — whose residents are the main producers of garbage — must look after their own waste rather than truck it out to rural communities.

Toronto's waste

Just like Quebec, Ontario is experiencing a garbage crisis. No new landfill sites are opening — evidently that province's rural residents share North Onslow and Danford Lake taxpayers' distaste for regional dumps. Toronto exports millions of tonnes of refuse to Michigan, paying between \$65 and \$75 per tonne to truck it away.

How do Michigan residents and politicians like receiving our waste? Apparently the



Katharine Fletcher

state is lobbying the U.S. federal government to ban the shipment of garbage across the international border.

Peel's incinerator
 Concurrent to all this trucking, the Region of Peel, near Pearson International Airport west of Toronto, invested in an incinerator operated by Algonquin Power.

There are many innovative aspects to this technology. Moreover, Quebec politicians need to encourage Quebec Hydro to stop its backwards-looking monopoly on power generation. Whereas Ontario Hydro permits both individuals and industry to feed power they produce back into the grid, Quebec Hydro permits no such environmental-ly responsible activity. In his feature article, *Citizen* journalist Patrick Dare addressed power generation aspects of incineration: "The [Peel] plant generates up to nine megawatts of power and consumes two megawatts for its own operation. It produces enough electricity to power a small town."

Amount of trash

The Peel incinerator burns over half the region's waste: 162,000 tonnes of refuse. The plant operates 24/7, and on weekdays 60 to 70 garbage trucks deliver 500-800 tonnes of garbage. Dare writes, "The plant burns 500 tonnes a day, including garbage from international flights into Pearson Airport."

Cost of operation

Incineration isn't inexpensive. Dare writes, "It costs Peel at least \$105 a tonne, which includes a payment of about \$80 a tonne to Algonquin Power." In contrast, Ottawa spends \$38 a tonne to send city garbage to the Carp Road landfill.

Operational issues

Unlike Toronto's older incinerator stacks, the 15 metre-high Algonquin Power incinerator stack produces fairly clean burns. Writes Dare, "There are low emissions from the stack for things like lead, dioxins, furans, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. The emissions are regularly recorded by an independent company. They are well below the strin-

gent limits specifically set by the Ontario government for incineration."

Sorting waste
 As I mentioned above, not all garbage can be burned. Therefore, the steady stream of trucks shipping garbage to the Peel incinerator empty their load in a sortation area called the tipping zone. Here, non-burnable items like bicycles and mattresses are removed; such items are sent to a landfill. (Why aren't bicycles recycled, I wonder?)

Recycling depot

Dare notes, "Already Peel is doing reasonably well at recycling garbage, with 45 per cent of household garbage being diverted, considerably better than Ottawa's 34 per cent. Next year, Peel begins a recycling program for organic waste in an attempt to boost the diversion rate to at least 55 per cent. Peel's ultimate goal is

Correction

Incorrect information was given in the outline of the photo "Concours d'art oratoire" on page nine of the March 22 issue. Shania Hodgins, une étudiante de l'École Dr. S.E. McDowell, a reçu un certificat de participation dans le Concours d'art oratoire. Le principal, Stewart Aitkin, a donné le certificat à Shania le 20 mars.

Incorrect information was given in the story "Compost project seeking community approval" on the cover of the March 22 issue. The cause of the death of Kenneth Woods' cows was never definitively determined, and independent scientific research determined the sludge used by his neighbour was safe.

Letters to the Editor

The EQUITY welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. Short letters are more likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit letters to meet space requirements, for clarity, or to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. E-mail letters are accepted at news@theequity.ca and must bear the complete name, address and daytime phone number of the writer. The address and phone number will not be printed. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the editorial policies of THE EQUITY.

Let's get real

Dear Editor,

So Katharine Fletcher thinks "being NIMBY is absolutely okay" and that rural communities should not take urban waste. I live in the big, bad city of Ottawa and am willing to make a deal on behalf of all cities. We'll handle our urban waste if you rural dwellers will stay off our urban roads, keep away from our urban hospitals, avoid our urban theatres and museums and arenas and shopping malls and, most important of all, don't buy any of our urban manufactured products such as packaged foods, farm machinery, fertilizers, snowmobiles, logging trucks and any of the thousand other items that contribute to waste that has to be disposed of. And while you're at it, you can stop reading our books, magazines and newspapers and stop watching our TV programs.

If this sounds like a bad deal, then let's get real. Let's start thinking as one nation, one society, one community and act as though we complement and need each other instead of behaving like 10,000 separate little villages going off in all directions. Compared to cities, rural areas have far more land in which to take care of the waste that our society as a whole produces.

Ronald Daigle, Ottawa

Quest for transparency

Dear Editor,

Throughout its recent newsletter, LDC, the promoter of the megadump in Danford Lake, makes much of "its quest for transparency". However, this assertion of transparency is laughable in view of the way information has been presented.

In 1988, the MRC of Pontiac's Waste Management Plan identified a number of sites potentially suitable for an engineered landfill site, none in Allevyn and Cawood. In the interests of transparency, why did LDC not reveal they had previously selected one of the sites and tried to get Quyon to accept an engineered landfill project and that the megadump project was eventually turned down as undesirable? Does transparency include not revealing that the failed attempt left a divided community and a legacy of bitterness?

Only after failing in Quyon did LDC target Allevyn and Cawood. LDC's newsletter states that they have identified a site that can accommodate all the facilities they propose. What this really means is that they found a pliant council prepared to go along and let LDC manage the campaign to achieve a megadump in a manner designed to lull the residents to sleep. The document further states "The municipality was approached by LDC in 2004 ...", which contradicts Mayor Squitti's unsigned letter of October, 2004, stating that the municipal council approached LDC to help with a plan to replace the trench landfill site with a properly engineered one. No one reading this letter would interpret it to mean an that the engineered landfill site would take in garbage from all the Outaouais.

The so-called first public information meeting of Oct. 16, 2004 was not properly advertised. Hence only 14 residents attended. How can LDC conclude that 14 people out of a taxpayer list of over 500 represents the municipality and therefore state that the community supported the project?

LDC refers to an "extensive article" that appeared in a newspaper on Dec. 1, 2004. Is less than a third of a page extensive? The article merely reports on the MRC meeting in Campbell's Bay on Nov. 24, 2004 where Mayor Squitti asked for the site in Allevyn and Cawood to be put on the planning list, and stated: "I have the support from my community and the location." Shouldn't he have said "I have support from 14 residents?"

LDC reports two events in 2005 supposedly designed to inform the public.

Unfortunately the March 12, 2005 open house to present their notice of project, was sparsely attended, since they failed to inform cottage owners and seasonal residents of the meeting and held it at a time when few of these people would be able to attend. The second meeting to present the Draft Environmental Impact Study was held on Oct. 29, 2005, on a date coinciding with the start of hunting season (Coincidence? Unlikely!). A number of ratepayers, who found out about this meeting accidentally, attended and for the first time were able to present vocal opposition. Written questions were submitted by the Danford Lake and District Cottagers Association. Early answers were promised, but were not forthcoming until late January, 2006 - when the letter from LDC dated Dec. 23, 2005, was finally faxed to Mr. Shannon Martin. LDC was very transparent in this delaying tactic.

LDC irresponsibly proposes an unsuitable project in an unsuitable site. Who in their right mind would put a megadump on sand in a region where from almost any place you stand a lake, river or stream is within a stone's throw and in an area best suited for eco-tourism? Only someone with no real concern for the environment, or one who sees an opportunity to make a lot of money, would conceive of such an outrage. Money is what the mayor of Allevyn and Cawood, blinded by dollars waved in front of his eyes, smells. He doesn't smell the garbage or recognize that eco-tourism and garbage don't go together.

Lori Ann Russett, Danford Lake
 Member of the Coalition Against the Danford Mega Dump

Charity on ice

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring to the attention of your readers an event that is approaching March 31, the Bob Findlay Memorial Charity Game where all proceeds will go towards the Palliative Care Unit at the Pontiac Community Hospital in Shawville.

The Memorial Charity Game is part of the 7th Annual Flying Elbows Men's Hockey Tournament that plays host to 28 teams from March 30 to April 2. This is the fourth year for the Charity Game which has raised close to \$13,000 for the Hospital Foundation over the past three tournaments.

Last year it was renamed after Bob "Fish" Findlay, a highly respected hockey and community volunteer who passed away in 2004.

The game itself features a special Shawville Edition of the Flying Elbows taking on the Mingo McEwen Fund, a Montreal based group that raises money for Montreal and area hospitals and individuals in need.

The Mingo McEwen team is anchored by 21-year-old Brent Mingo who was the inspiration behind the Fund itself. Exposed at birth to bacterial meningitis, he endured three brain operations before the age of one month. As a result of the meningitis, he has brain abscesses which cause him to have seizures. He also has a disability to the right side of his body. Despite all of these hurdles Brent makes his way up to Shawville to lace up the skates and participate in this charity game every year. He acts as a true inspiration for others who face adversity to overcome their challenges.

This year as a warm-up for the charity game, the Shawville MAGH hockey team is hosting a team from Florida that is involved with the Mingo McEwen team. Come out and show your support for these future hockey greats!

The charity game March 31 at 8 p.m. will also feature the Great Shawville Shootout, an RBC Toonie Toss, Door Prizes and 50/50 draw. Tickets and Event Information can be found on our website at www.flyingelbows.ca or 647-3149. Hope to see you at the game.

Matt Sally, Tournament Convener
 Edward Rusenstrom, Charity Game Coordinator
 Greg Hayes, PCH Foundation



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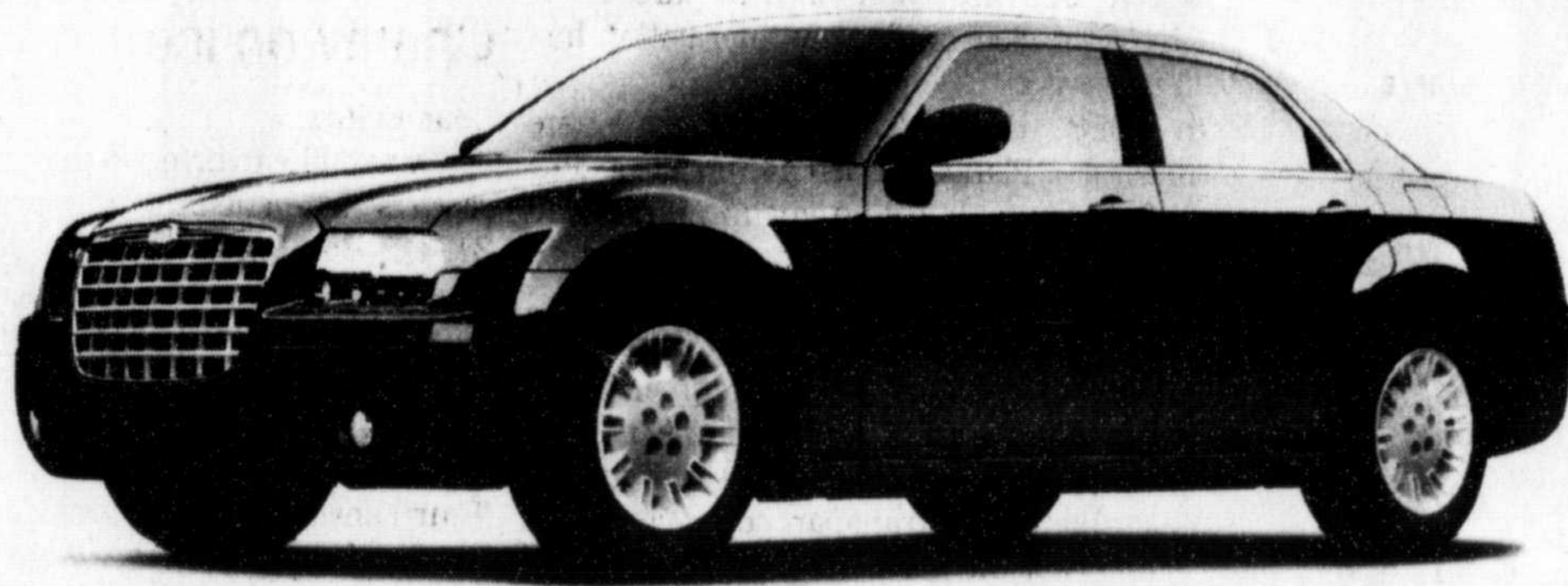
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SPORTS

Bantam 'BB' Forestiers take division crown

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • The Bantam 'BB' Maniwaki Forestiers won their division championship on the weekend sweeping the Aylmer Mariniers three games straight in the best-of-five series finishing fourth overall out of 78 Bantam 'BB' teams in Quebec.

The Forestiers took game three by a final score of 4-0 in Maniwaki on goals from Travis Stewart, Matthew Draper and a pair from Nicolas Francoeur, Stewart, Jason Bédard, Louis Philippe Larivière, Kurt Fraser, Spencer Pirie and Dylon Wisotzki added assists while Matt Hobbs totalled two helpers.

It was a spirited and aggressive game, according to manager Chantal Bois. The referee did not want the boys to shake hands at the end of the match because of



The Maniwaki Forestiers celebrate their 3-0 series victory over Aylmer in the division final Sunday.

this but the boys insisted on the age-old ritual of showing respect to one's opponent and shook hands anyway.

Game two saw Maniwaki edge past the Mariniers 3-2 in Aylmer on goals from Pirie, Bédard and Wisotzki. Assists went to Hobbs, Stewart, Matthew Alexander

and Maxime-James Morin. The Forestiers now look toward the Dodge Cup with their opening game scheduled for April 12.

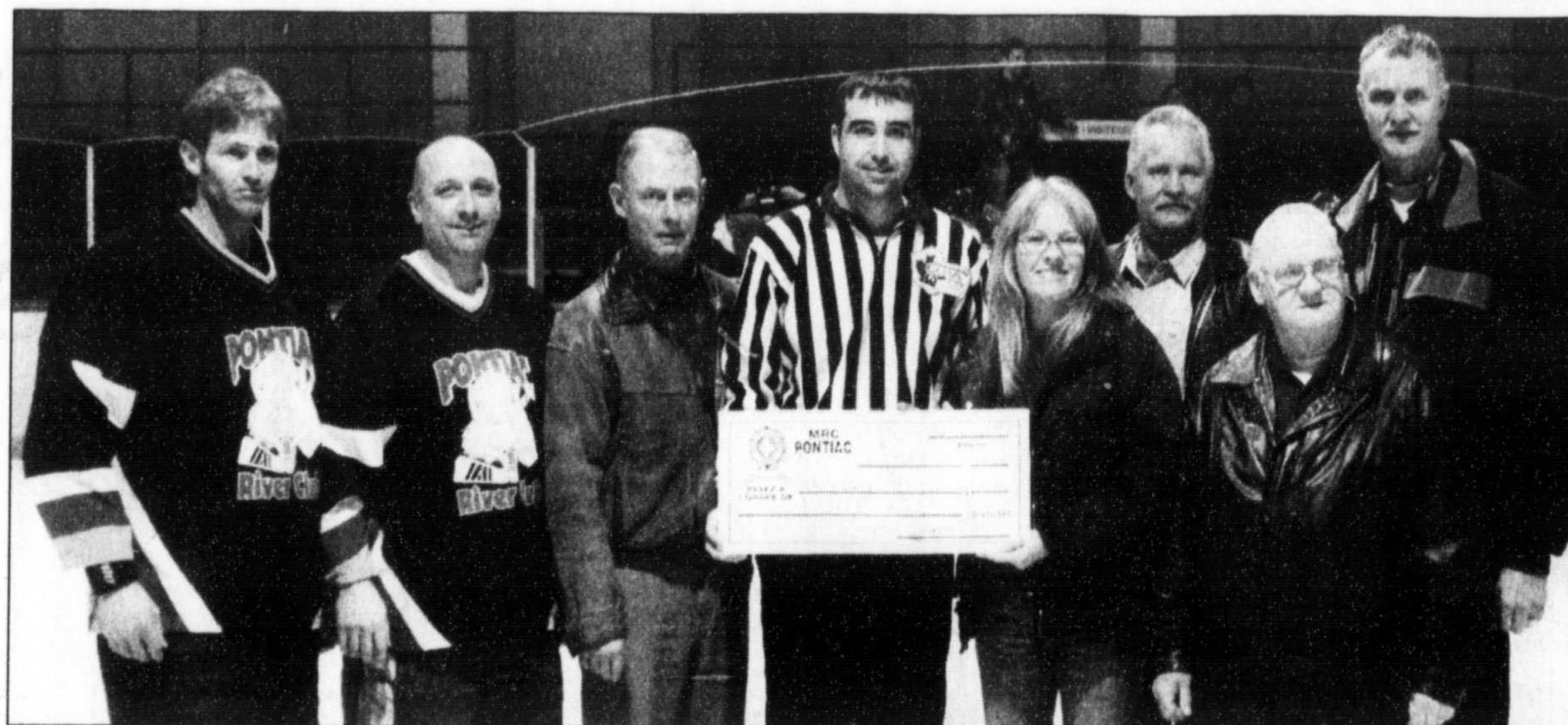
Bantam 'B'
The Shawville Pontiac Bantam 'B's won their division crown Sunday defeating the Petite Nation Seigneurs

6-1 in the playoff final. Ryan Miller, Jason Belsler, Logan Greer and Ryan Tracey tallied singles while Jeremy Campbell notched a pair. Assists went to Jacob Bourgeau, Campbell, Tracy, Greer, Miller and Jason McGuire.

Saturday's semi-final saw the Pontiacs dispatch Loups La Peche 5-1 on goals from Campbell, Matthew Hickey, Ross Cote and Campbell with a pair. Campbell and Miller recorded single helpers while Cote had two.

Atom 'B'
The Shawville Pontiacs lost their semi-final match 4-1 to the Masson-Anger Sharks Saturday. Scoring the Pontiacs' lone goal was Dillon Harrison from Jonathan Hickey.

Peewee 'A'
The Pontiacs were shut-out 3-0 by Maniwaki Saturday to end their post-season.



Dale Brown, THE EQUITY

The Shawville Recreation Association and the Pontiac High School hockey team were presented with cheques for \$350 and \$300 respectively courtesy of the Sûreté du Québec Outaouais hockey tournament Friday at the Shawville Arena. From the left: Const. Yves Martineau and Lieut. Jacques Piché of the SQ Campbell's Bay detachment, Shawville Mayor Albert Armstrong, Pro-Warden of Pontiac MRC Paul-Émile Maleau, Claude Dallaire and Commandant of the SQ Outaouais region Luc Lafleur present cheques to Wendy Hearty of the Shawville Recreation Association and referee Pascal Asselin of Pontiac High School. Officers of the SQ raised \$650 for youth sport in Shawville.

SQ hockey tournament helps youth sport in Shawville

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • The interior of the Shawville Arena was as safe as it ever will be as police from the region converged on the ice for the Sûreté du Québec Outaouais hockey tournament Friday.

Detachments from Campbell's Bay, Papineau, Maniwaki, Mont Laurier and two divisions from Gatineau competed in the single-day tournament held in part to raise funds for the Shawville Recreation Association and the Pontiac High School hockey team.

"We're giving the RA \$350 and the PHS team \$300," said Lieut. Jacques Piché of the Pontiac MRC SQ.

Luc Lafleur, commandant of the SQ Outaouais region, was on hand to drop the puck at the ceremonial face-off of the tournament final.

"(They were) very good games today — very competitive," he said. "It's also a day

for communication among (police officers) who don't get to see each other very often."

The Campbell's Bay detachment acquitted themselves well making an appearance in the final against Mont Laurier. Mont Laurier topped Campbell's Bay 7-2 to take the tournament crown.

The games, as Lafleur pointed out, were very competitive and at times a challenge for referee and PHS special education teacher Pascal Asselin and linesman Matt Hobbs, a student at PHS. Asselin and Hobbs volunteered their time to officiate Friday because

Campbell's Bay officers Yves Martineau and Jean-Marc Payant did the same for the PHS tournament March 14.

"Sometimes the police, they have a little trouble with authority figures," joked Asselin. "They must not be used to being told what to do."

Funds raised by the tournament for the Shawville RA

will be put toward youth sport programs in the area and help to reduce registration costs.

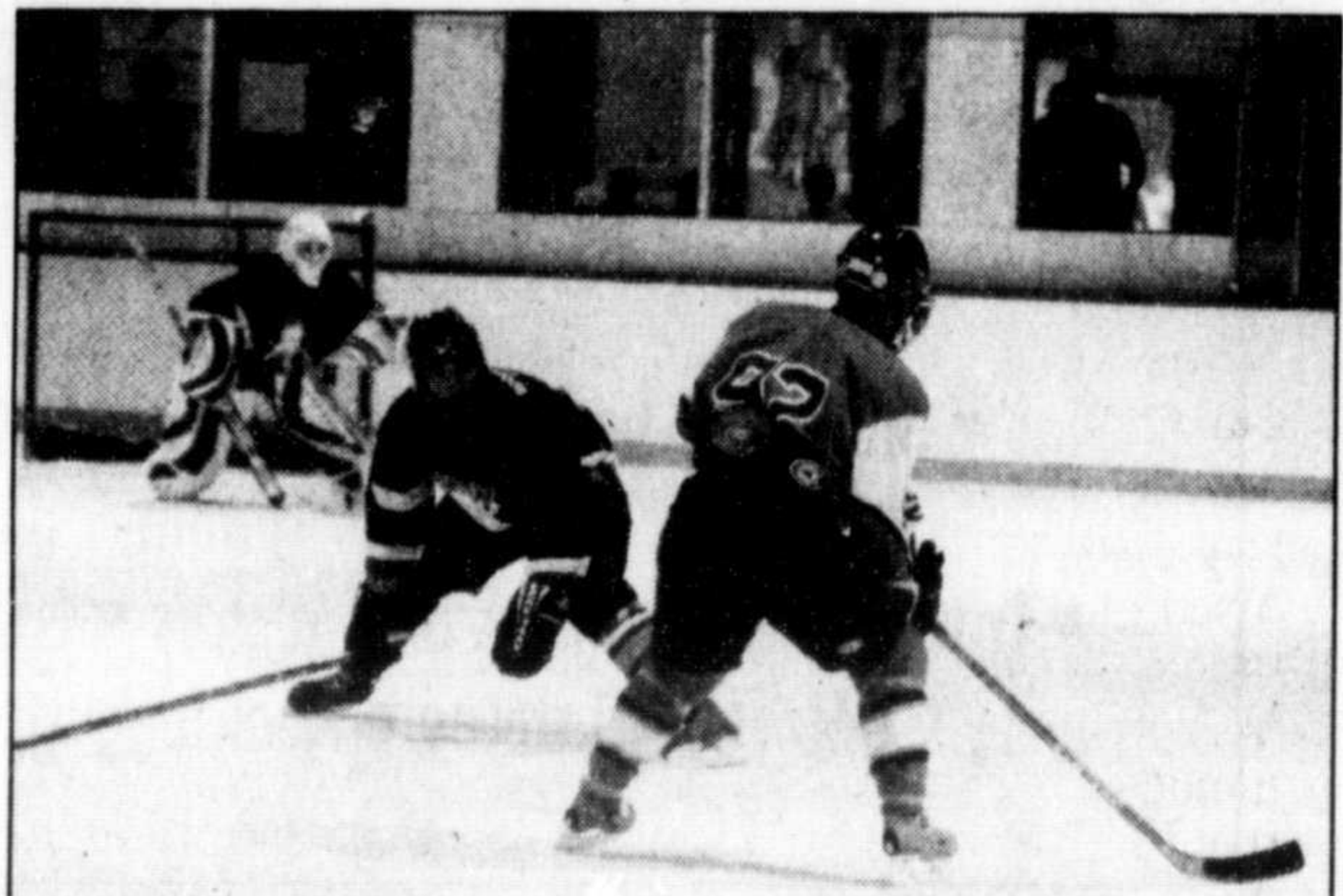
"If they charge too much for registration, some families couldn't afford it — especially if they have two or three kids," said Shawville Mayor Albert Armstrong.

Funds raised for the PHS hockey team will help defray

the cost of ice time and travel expenses.

"Those kids (from PHS) had to pay for their own ice time at the tournament last week," said Armstrong.

"We gave them a bit of a break — I think each kid paid \$20, or something like that, but (the proceeds from this tournament) will help with things like that."



Dale Brown, THE EQUITY

No strangers to putting themselves in harm's way, the Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec players had no problem blocking shots at the SQ Outaouais hockey tournament Friday at the Shawville Arena.

Girls' volleyball teams want no part of PHS Panthers

Tournament cancelled as opposition forfeits matches

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • The girls' benjamin, cadet and juvenile volleyball tournament in which Pontiac High School was to take part has been cancelled due to opposing teams forfeiting their matches.

Originally scheduled for

March 12, the tournament was postponed until March 19 due to a pipe rupture in the PHS gymnasium.

Forfeited
Le Carrefour High School, Érablière High School, Horm-Gamelin High School and Heritage College each forfeited matches against PHS because of the complex

rating system used by the league. The system rewards teams for playing in higher divisions.

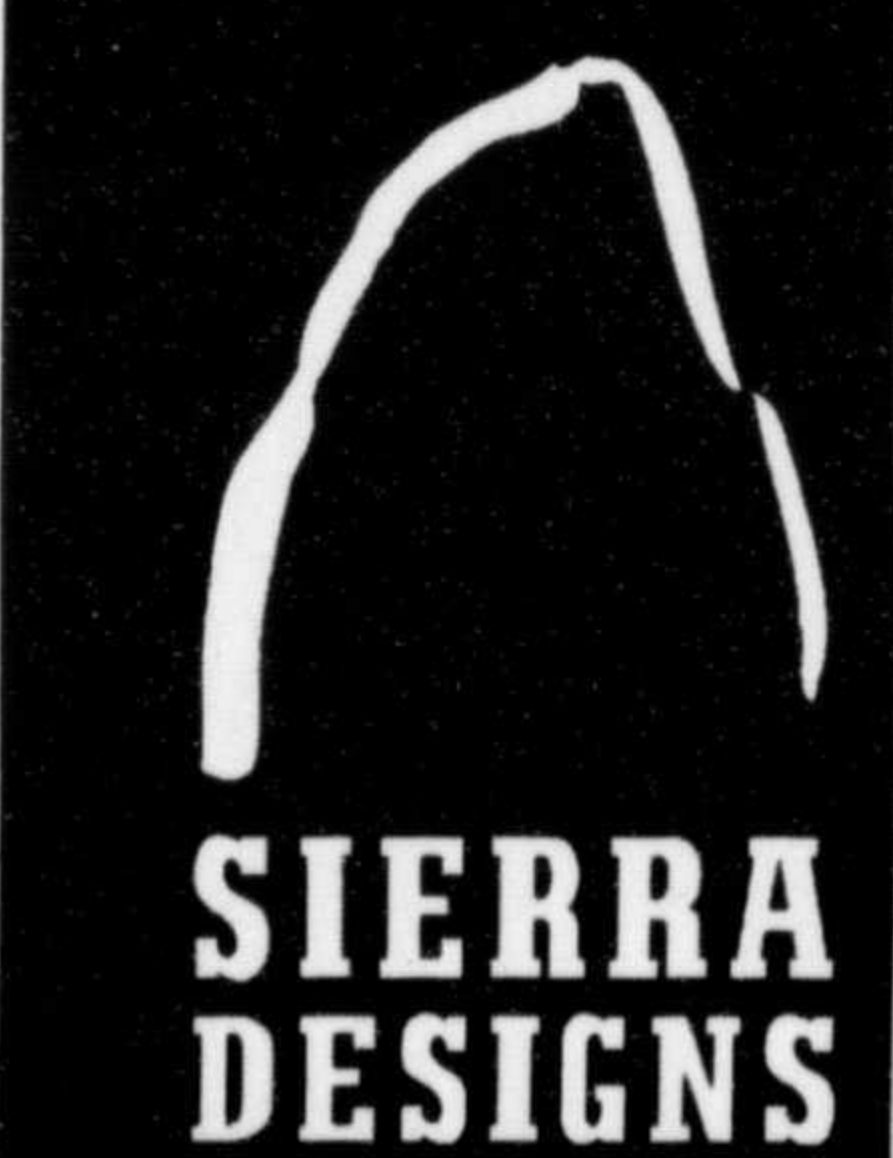
According to PHS coach Shawn MacDonnell, the teams didn't think it was worthwhile playing the tournament because their rankings would suffer.

"None of the teams want-

ed to play us," said MacDonnell.

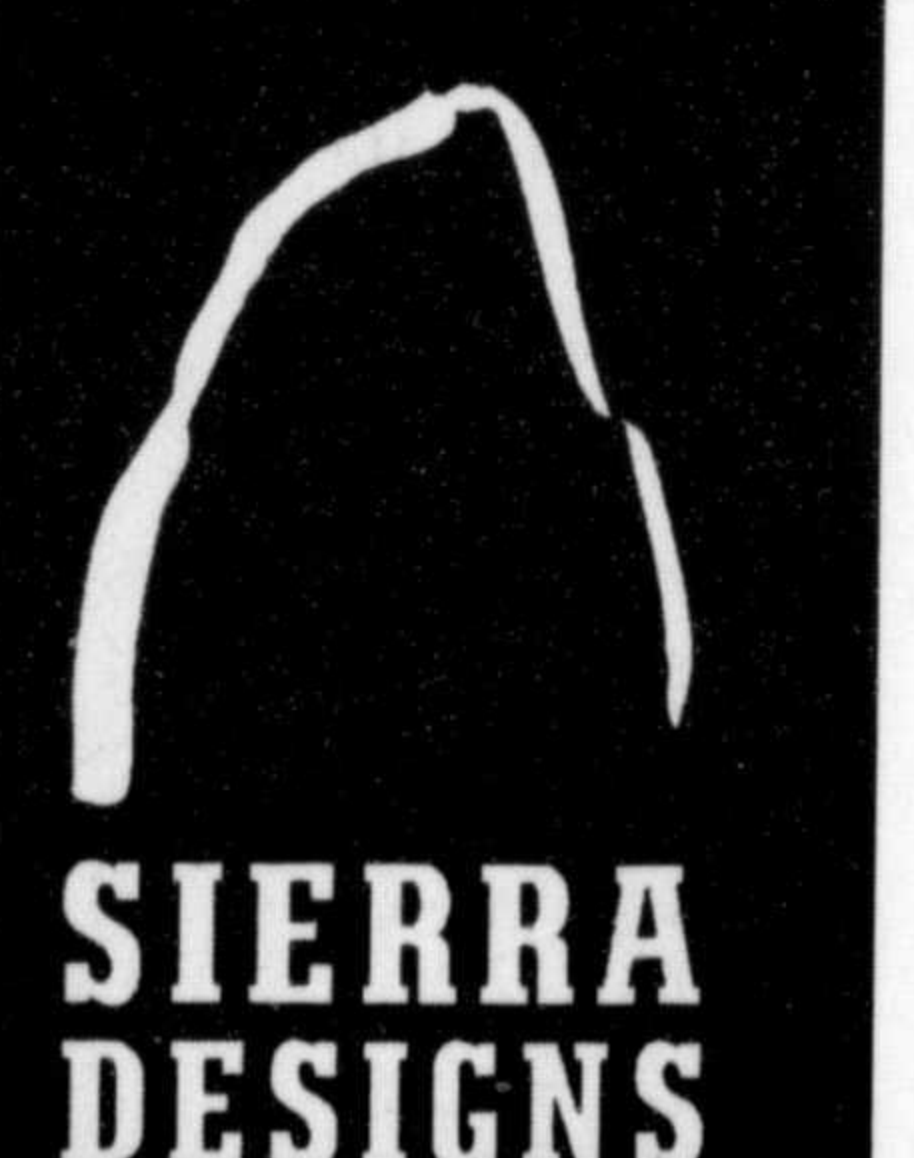
"They were of the opinion that we were a bigger challenge than expected and were concerned with having their ratings dropped."

The Panthers continued their season Sunday in a regional qualification tournament.



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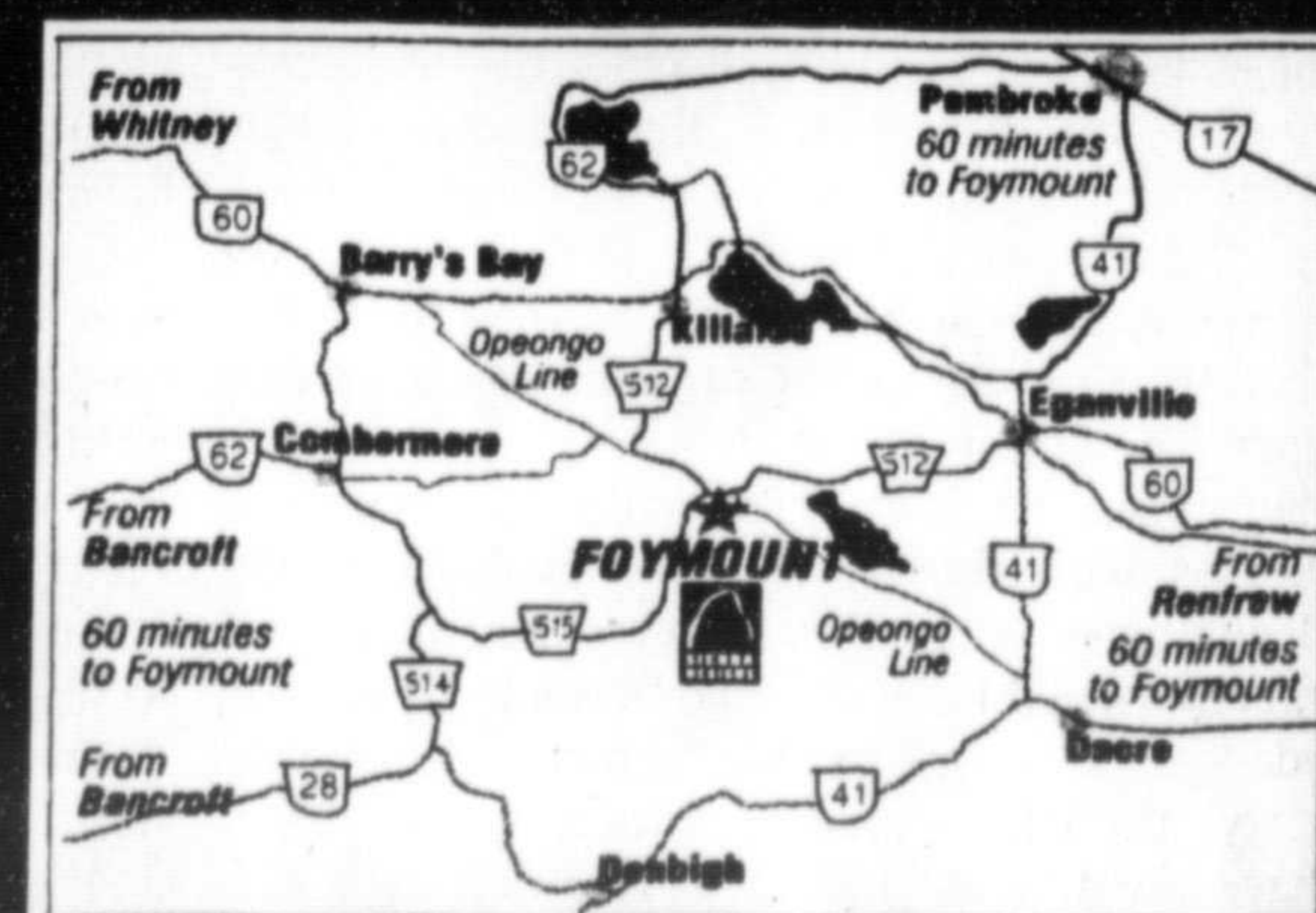
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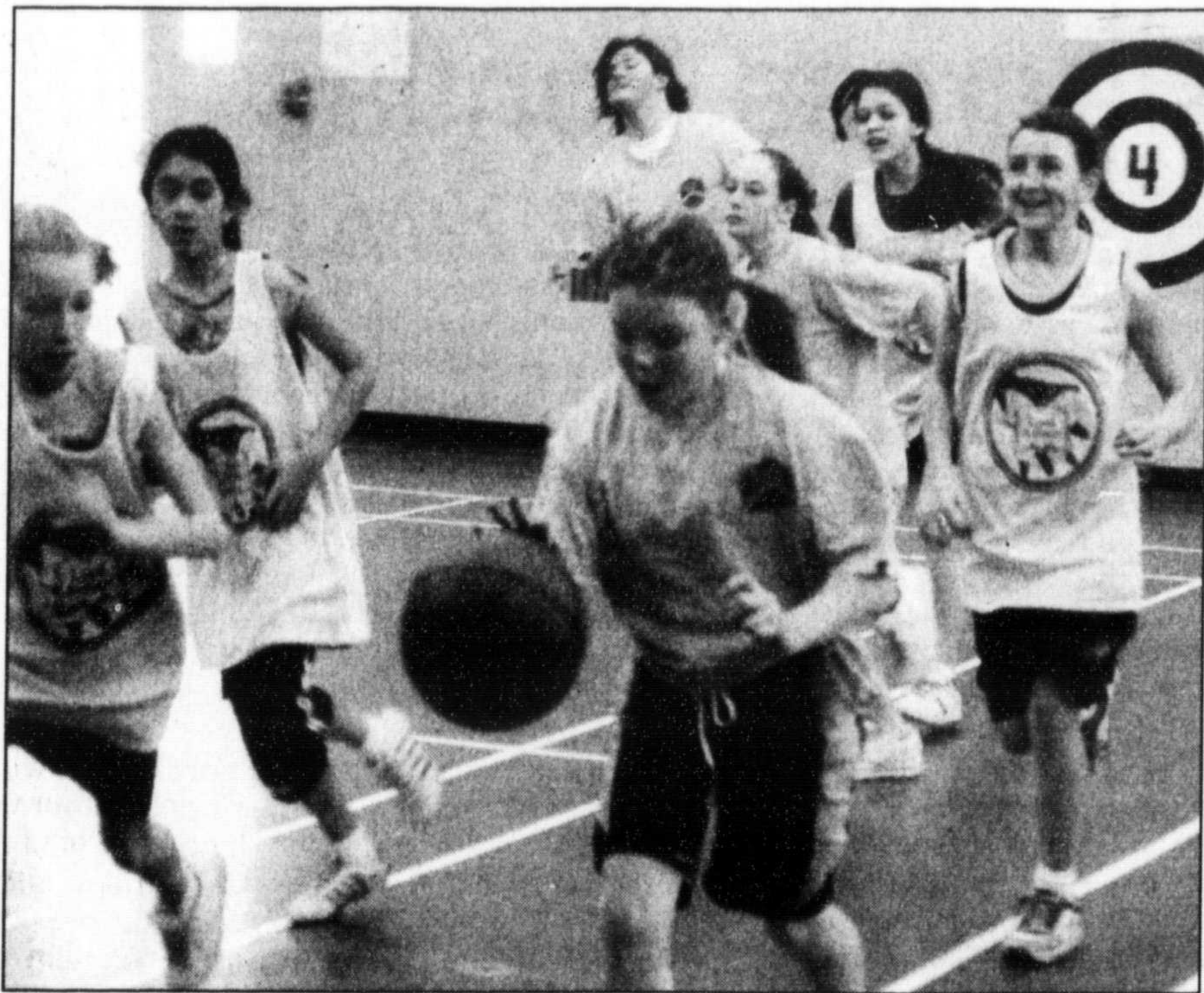
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A member of the Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School basketball team takes the ball to the hoop during the Western Quebec School Board basketball tournament at McDowell Thursday.

McDowell tourney encourages sportsmanship in area students

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • Children from the Pontiac and surrounding communities gathered for a day of fun and competition at the Western Quebec School Board Basketball Tournament held Thursday at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School in Shawville.

Boys and girls in Grades 5 and 6 from St. John's Elementary School in Campbell's Bay, Eardley Elementary School in Gatineau, Onslow Elementary School in Quyon,

Lord Aylmer Elementary School in Aylmer and host McDowell put their games to the test in a competition that was as much about developing mental and social skills as physical ones.

"This is a day for fun and sportsmanship," said McDowell physical education teacher Brenna Delaney. "It's very important the kids learn how to lose, be a good sport and enjoy themselves anyway."

For some kids, the opportunity to compete in school sport is a recent development. From the happy looks

and wide smiles on the faces of children competing in the tournament, the opportunity is a welcome one.

"When I started in Campbell's Bay, there was nothing in the way of sports," said St. John's coach Chrissy Gibb. "I started with soccer and now basketball — the kids love it."

Volunteers from Pontiac High School were on hand to lend support to their younger brethren. Amanda Smith, Kyle Sharpe, Katie Dolan, Kris Berube, Barry Tubman, Kyle Hodgins, Jonny Normandeau, Derrick

Hill and Morgan Welburn took turns officiating and helped out with coaching as well.

"I know sports has given me a lot," said Welburn. "It's helped me build character and develop socially as well as physically. I just wanted to give something back."

Thanks in large part to the help of the volunteers from PHS, the kids enjoyed a fun-filled day of hoops and hoopla. The McDowell girls, in particular, enjoyed a beautiful day going undefeated in the tourney.

"Because we went undefeated, I was able to play some of my bench players more often and everyone got at least one basket," said Delaney.

Despite the implications of the final scores, there were no losers in the McDowell gym Thursday. All participants displayed good sportsmanship and did their respective schools proud.

"We challenge each other out there," said McDowell student and rebound king Nicholas Rebertz. "I thought it was a pretty good day for everyone."

Former PHS grad living the ballin' life

Womens' NBA player started career in the Pontiac

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
SPAIN • China? Check. Spain? Check. Turkey, Russia, Korea and the United States? Check, check, check and check.

Kelly Schumacher's professional basketball career has taken her all over the world over the past six years. She was named the Canadian College Athletic Association player of the year after leading John Abbott College in Montreal to a national championship in 1997, she won an NCAA national championship for the University of Connecticut Huskies, she has been playing in the Women's National Basketball Association for the past six seasons and spends off-seasons playing in leagues worldwide.

That's quite a whirlwind tour for a 28-year-old woman who began playing basketball in the modest setting of the Pontiac High School gym.

Schumacher, American-born but Pontiac Station-raised, enjoys the opportunity to see the world playing basketball, despite its shortcomings.

"Sometimes I get tired of all the travelling but I appreciate the opportunity not many people get," said Schumacher from Spain in a phone interview.

She also notes the foreign language barrier as a problem, and even though she's picked up a few words here and there, she relies heavily on a translator, whom the teams provide for her.

"I'm fit, I'm the only

American on the team. Your translator is your best friend."

Schumacher considers herself both Canadian and American, though in the past she has played in international competitions with the U.S. national team.

Her travel schedule rarely permits her to travel to visit her mother and stepfather, who still live in Pontiac Station.

While certainly Schumacher is thankful for the opportunity to have played in a wide array of places, women's basketball teams she's played for the world over are equally thankful for Schumacher's skills.

At six feet, five inches tall, Schumacher is a shot-blocking fiend, and her endeavours included a nine blocked shot performance in the 2000 national championship game against Tennessee.

Jim Thompson, one of Schumacher's first coaches at PHS, recalls first seeing her play basketball.

"I remember the first time I saw her in a gym, (PHS physical education teacher and basketball coach) Dave Holmes found me and said 'Come and see this kid,'" said Thompson.

"She was tall and she could run like a gazelle. She was so dominant."

At about six feet tall in high school, Schumacher toyed with the smaller girls, and Thompson would often have her practice against boys or play her himself — Thompson is 6'7" — to get her the competition and development she needed.

Thompson has followed Schumacher's career closely and remains in occasional contact with her.

"She was the best athlete to come out of our school," said Thompson, "but because she's female and playing basketball, a lot of the kids there now have never even heard of her."

Out of high school, Schumacher attended John Abbott College in Montreal where she led her team to a national championship and was named national player of the year.

The University of Connecticut, one of the premier U.S. colleges for basketball, recruited her and she received a full scholarship.

The WNBA
During the annual public speaking competition at PHS, Schumacher specifically recalls one year expounding the virtues of a women's basketball league to her peers.

"I didn't just want to play in it, I wanted to start it," laughed Schumacher.

She wouldn't have to. The WNBA began play in 1997 with just a handful of teams and in direct competition with the American Basketball League, a separate women's league that began a year earlier.

With the marketing dollars and influence of its bigger brother, the National Basketball Association, the WNBA soon became the marquee league for women's players, and the ABL folded after just three seasons.

Fresh out of college in 2001, Schumacher was

drafted 14th overall by the Indiana Fever, who were entering their second season in the league.

She has been a strong contributor for the Fever since, until being traded last month to the New York Liberty.

Volleyball, too?
Throughout high school, basketball was not Schumacher's only sport. She was also MVP of the volleyball and soccer teams, and received offers to play volleyball in the U.S. in college.

Years removed from her last competitive volleyball experience, Schumacher harbours thoughts of playing on the Association of Volleyball Professionals beach volleyball tour.

"I'm just going to break out," said Schumacher.

"Mr. (John) Petty always had dreams of me playing volleyball."

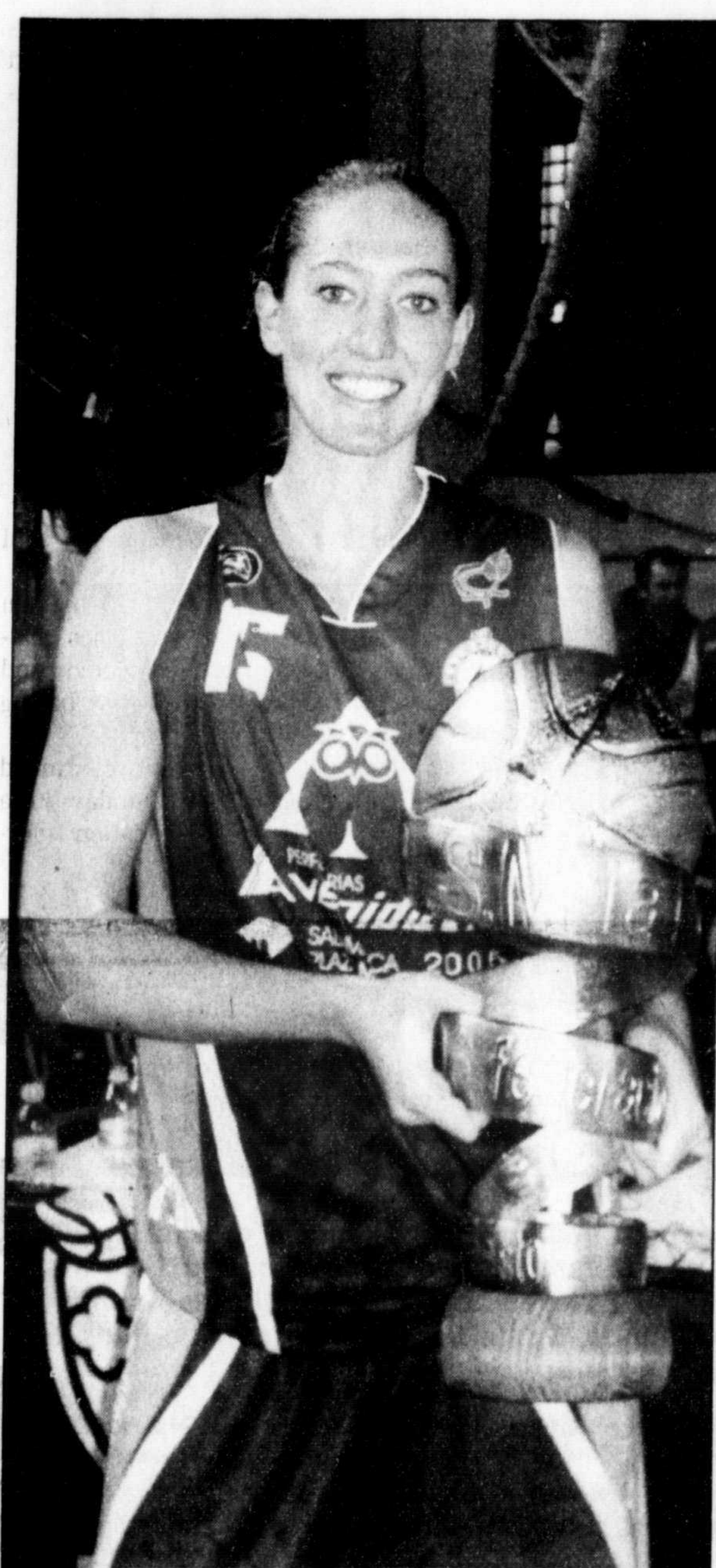
Schumacher refers to her volleyball coach at PHS, a now retired gym teacher.

"She used to say, 'I want to play volleyball'. I thought she was just trying to appease me as a coach but it turns out she was serious," said Petty, who had heard of Schumacher's plans.

Schumacher swears she's serious about her volleyball plans, and said she is going to play a few more years of basketball before making the switch to the volleyball tour.

"I think it's getting to be time for her to want to settle down," said Thompson.

For now, though, she'll keep stamping that passport for a little while longer. Check.



Former Pontiac High School student Kelly Schumacher poses with the Queen's Cup she won recently as a member of Periferias Avenida in Spain.

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Sport helps students learn ABCs

Program run by local community leader puts kids on fast track

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • At first glance, it seems odd that a worn gym bag containing 26 baseballs may be the most valuable learning tool available to a small group of children under the charge of Shawville native Shawn MacDonnell.

The white leather and red-laced balls are unremarkable to those familiar with America's pastime save the lone letter of the alphabet, A through Z, inscribed upon each one.

The common game of catch takes on a new significance for these kids when upon a successful grab, they pull the ball from their glove and exclaim, "X," as they hold the lettered ball high above their heads. Now, the real fun begins. The youngster racks her brain for a word that begins with the seldom-used character — a tough assignment indeed for a six-year-old.

Not to worry, though — should she have any difficulty, the rest of the gang are there to support her.

"X-ray," someone may

shout or the always tricky, "xylophone."

Either way, MacDonnell and his charges win, for there are no losers at this game.

It's all part of his Sport for Social Change program.

"I try to incorporate academics into our activities," says MacDonnell, a long-time sports and recreation enthusiast and community activist.

"I'll take kids who've had trouble reading out on the (baseball) diamond and they learn to read through baseball."

MacDonnell and the children discuss desired goals before the activities begin and do their best to meet them. A child's goal may be as simple as catching a few balls or learning something new.

"(The kids) may want to catch five balls because they've never done it before," says MacDonnell. "It may be to give someone a compliment, which would be a social goal, or to learn a new letter or word."

The games head toward a final goal of constructing

sentences from the letters and words formed from the various baseballs. MacDonnell gives the kids five minutes at bat to hit as many balls as they can in order to make a sentence.

He says the idea is simply to get the letters and words out on the field. From there, MacDonnell and his team move to the classroom to grammatically work out the sentences.

"Eventually, we had 30 or 40 sentences worked out," he says.

"The kids and I then added some connecting sentences to form a story. I had an illustrator come in and we made the story into a booklet."

Considering most of these kids were previously identified as having trouble with written language skills, MacDonnell was pleased to see their writing and reading comprehension increase on a daily basis in the past year.

"In eight months (the kids) went from hardly knowing any letters to actually writing a book," he says, crediting the children's own focus and abilities for their suc-

cess. "If they're passionate about something, they'll take it all in."

MacDonnell believes childhood learning is made easier by delivering educational material in a manner which excites them. He uses sporting activities to get the kids active and participating in their education rather than simply observing a lesson and regurgitating it on demand.

"There are so many hidden curriculums in schools now," he says. "What's taught doesn't necessarily apply to these kids lives. Why should they be forced to read a book they're not interested in? If the idea of the exercise is to learn to read, what does it matter what the book's about?"

"We should be explicit with these kids and tell why they're doing a given project and what they're expected to learn from it."

MacDonnell says he plans his next PassEd (Passion in Education) program sometime in April.

Parents interested in having their children participate may e-mail MacDonnell at

sportsocialchange@hotmail.com

Morgan Welburn, a volunteer athletics coach at Pontiac High School and Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School, will be aiding MacDonnell in the next session of PassEd and said it's a worthwhile project.

"I think it encourages kids to get involved," she said. "When I was in Grade 7, some kids were afraid to sign up for anything."

"I know I would've benefited from having a secondary school student come in to help. It gives them someone to look up to and helps take away the fear of participating."

Whether its learning to read through baseball or improving math skills through a game of soccer, MacDonnell hopes kids will benefit from his unique brand of education and return to their respective schools a little further ahead than they were before.

"If one child's confidence level increases because of this program, it's worthwhile."

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Fibre optics now running in schools across Pontiac

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor

PONTIAC • The Pontiac's fibre optic broadband project has been installed and is now operating in local schools.

Municipal buildings, libraries and fire halls are connected and will have broadband access to the internet in May.

The project began two years ago under the Broad Bandwidth Network Project headed by the Les Hauts Bois de l'Outaouais School Board (CSHBO). The project eventually began working with the CLDs of Pontiac and Upper Gatineau, both MRCs and the Western Quebec School Board.

Now that 105 municipal buildings, schools and libraries are connected to the fibre optic network, the MRC is now registering the ownership of its fibres within the network.

The second phase of the project will be to grant paid access to homes in the county. Last month, the MRC made a resolution to register the bandwidth, which is currently being purchased under the name Fibre Connexion Inc. It will act as a telecom company registered to the CRTC by the four partners to supply the network with internet access.

"The business must be registered by a notary and authorized by the warden for

the MRC to own the network," said Jean-Pierre Ledoux, director general of the CLD. Phase 2

"Then we have to implement a wireless company to distribute," said Ledoux of when the service will be available to the public.

Eventually, about 85 to 90 per cent of permanent dwellings in the MRC will be able to access the fibre optic wireless.

The non-profit business is expected to be up and running by August.

"It will be a gradual movement, but we should be up by mid-summer," said Ledoux. At that point, the company will make proposals to communities.

Each municipality will be offered the connection, and a minimum of 40 people will need to register before a receiving tower can be installed.

"The model is a co-op, which offers the best potential," said Ledoux, adding that at a rate of at least 40 people signing up per tower, the venture would break even to cover starting costs, and be profitable in about a year and-a-half.

The larger village centres will be set up first, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Towers were set up in each municipality along Hwy. 148. Wireless distribution of broadband requires an antenna to send out signals 10 to 15 kilometres

from the highest point.

To receive wireless broadband, a receiver antenna the size of a pop can must be installed on the roof of a building placed in plain sight of the municipality's hub.

"The tower transfers (the signal) from the fibre optics to antennas," said Ledoux.

If a tower is not within 15 kilometres of your home or in line of sight, signal to your home would be reflected.

"Obviously it will not cover everyone," said Ledoux.

Since fibre optic cables are expensive to install and operate, Ledoux said, it is unaffordable for a cable to run to each home.

"To overcome that difficulty, we go wireless," said Ledoux.

"We know we need 13 towers to do the MRC," said Ledoux of a map which was designed by Xit telecom engineers.

Each tower would cost \$15,000 to build, including all required electrical equipment. The tower is a self-supported structure, standing 96 feet tall and spanning five-feet wide that will not be anchored by wire. The electronic equipment will be placed on the top of the tower.

In addition to the 500-kilometre network, two microwave towers will be built in Sheenboro and Rapides des Joachims that will connect those areas to the municipal fibre optic

network and offer the residents wireless access, as well as to Rapides des Joachims by road does not exist. Fibre optics are strung along telephone lines.

"The system we're buying is much faster than cable," said Ledoux.

Pontiac will open bids for its bandwidth April 6. Once the bandwidth is confirmed, the municipal buildings will be connected.

The technology proposed is WiMAX. WiMAX is a standards-based wireless technology that provides high-throughput broadband connections over long distances.

Project manager François Ménard of Xit telecom in Trois Rivières said that WiMAX is more stable than WiFi.

"It is better than cable modems and DSL because it is faster in both directions," said Ménard.

"It's very reliable. The quality that you get is insanely better."

The download speed will be four megabytes per second while uploading will be one mb.

"The wireless network is as good as the fibre optics," said Ménard. "It has nearly as high a level of reliability as fibre optics."

Ménard said the wireless broadband will be about three times faster than DSL. It allows users who are sharing the signal to have

access to the full capacity of the system.

"It's a big improvement," said Ledoux.

In particular, the project will use the Canopy system by Motorola, which is the ideal technology for developing, enhancing and extending advanced broadband networks and services, and for making delivery of high-demand technologies (like broadband internet access, voice over IP, video services and security surveillance) both much quicker and much less expensively.

Once up and running, the

approximate cost of the wireless broadband will be about \$45 a month. Installation may cost up to \$200.

"It will be reliable enough that you can take off the phone line," said Ménard.

Picanoc Connexion is currently applying for grants and creating a new business plan.

"Our objective is that everyone will get it," said Ledoux. He said that in some areas the broadband may not be as popular as in other areas, but the MRC's company is willing to take a loss if it can make it up in other

areas. "We visited Trois Rivières last year and have seen how the operation works," said Ledoux, of that region's 800-kilometre network.

"We cannot live without this technology anymore."

Ménard explained that the project has jump started programs that allows non-profit organizations to acquire fibre and make it available for the population through an open-access network.

"We are working towards a fibre optics network that empowers the population,

not just schools," said Ménard.

He said it could change the way organizations and the population operates. This could be especially beneficial for people with low mobility, a problem which grows daily due to the vast territory of the Pontiac.

"Making telecommunication a priority as much as roads are, will attract people and retain them in the region to boost the economy," said Ménard.

"That is truly what I believe to be the social benefits of this."

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Place for Youth dinner concludes annual recruitment program

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

BRISTOL • Three weekends of rigorous Pontiac reintegration completed, the participants of the Place for Youth program enjoyed a celebratory dinner on Sunday afternoon at Pine Lodge.

The nine participants enjoyed the final few hours of the program in the company of local community leaders and politicians at the dinner.

The Place for Youth program, in its 15th year, is designed to encourage post-secondary students from the Pontiac who are currently studying elsewhere to return to the Pontiac to live and find work.

The program is a response to the continuous problem of youths leaving the Pontiac to study in urban centres and never returning, over time dwindling the region's population.

On the third and final weekend of the program, participants listened to Jean-Pierre Ledoux of the



Attendees of the Place for Youth finale dinner enjoyed a meal at the Pine Lodge in Bristol. From the left, Gérard Bélec of Lance Construction, Diane Mousseau of Emploi Québec, Place for Youth participant Nicolas Thompson, Choiractor Dre. Isabelle Gagnon, Sylvie Benoit of Laurentian Bank and Jacques Lance, participant.

CLD discuss new programs being implemented in the Pontiac, were told of the region's job prospects in each of their respective fields of study, enjoyed a sleigh ride and visited the historic St. Alphonsus Church in Chapeau.

The weekend culminated

with the dinner at Pine Lodge.

For Lindsay Daley, an aspiring nutritionist who is studying at Kemptville College, the program was a good opportunity.

"It was good just to see what's in the Pontiac," said Daley, 18 years old.

Daley said she would ultimately like to return to the Pontiac to work, but the chances of her doing so rely largely on opportunities.

"It depends what kind of work I can actually find," said Daley. "It'd be nice to come back."

Region seeks recycling solutions

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Burn baby, burn — oops, not any more.

As of Jan. 1, 2006, the Environment Ministry of Quebec banned the burning of cardboard and other materials at local dumps. The Pontiac region is now struggling with the question of what to do with the vast amount of cardboard discarded by local businesses each week.

"We're scrambling to find a place to take all our (recyclable) materials," said Clarendon Mayor Jack Lang. "We thought we'd be able to burn (cardboard and other materials) until the dump closes in 2008. Businesses had been burning until we got the letter (from the ministry) Feb. 11 saying we couldn't burn anymore."

"Why they wouldn't have told us (about the burn ban) last fall when we were preparing our budget and could've made allowances for a recycling plan, I don't know."

CFER, the company currently employed by the region to handle recyclable materials, will not accept the high volume of cardboard produced by large area businesses. An alternative solution must be found.

Lang and Shawville Mayor Albert Armstrong indicated

they are in negotiations with a new company from Montreal to have the region's cardboard shipped away for recycling.

"This (Montreal) company already handles Canadian Tire's cardboard across Canada," said Armstrong. "They've told us they'll take (our cardboard), but now they want to figure out costs."

A meeting with the company is scheduled for this week.

Meanwhile, some local merchants are doing what they can to reduce the amount of refuse dumped at the region's landfill site.

Jason Yereck of Renaissance Variety in Shawville is among the region's leaders in the recycling race.

His entire shop can be considered a recycling facility of sorts as he deals mainly in second-hand merchandise including computers and components, furniture and books.

"We ship in 50 to 200 books a week," he said. "People around here like to read — why fill a dump with them?"

Yereck also takes in older-generation video gaming systems such as Nintendo and reconditions them for sale.

"(The older systems) are quite popular," he said.

Some people don't want a new X-Box sitting in their cottage. Again, these systems would otherwise end up in the dump.

In addition, Yereck encourages residents to bring in their used batteries and has them picked up by a company in Gatineau to be properly disposed of.

Ruth Smiley-Hahn, owner of Café 349 in Shawville, is conscious of the high volume of cardboard and other recyclable materials going to the dump and took steps to reduce her contribution to the region's escalating pile of rubbish.

Every second Tuesday, which is recycling day in Shawville, a veritable mountain of cardboard boxes and the like can be found curbside on Main Street in front of the café.

"I put out at least 15 boxes every two weeks in the winter and 20 in the summer," she says. "I just don't want to see it all in a landfill site."

Smiley-Hahn collects the boxes used by Café 349 and stores them in her basement until recycling day, then hauls them upstairs to pile them at the curb. She believes it's worth the effort and doesn't think she has to go out of her way to do it.

"You're either going to throw it in the dump or recy-

cle it," she said. "To the person putting it on the curb, what's the difference?"

Gayle Dumouchelle of E&A Carpets in Shawville said she hasn't done much recycling up to this point but recognizes the need to do so in the future. She thinks it will help, however, when the town finalizes its recycling procedures.

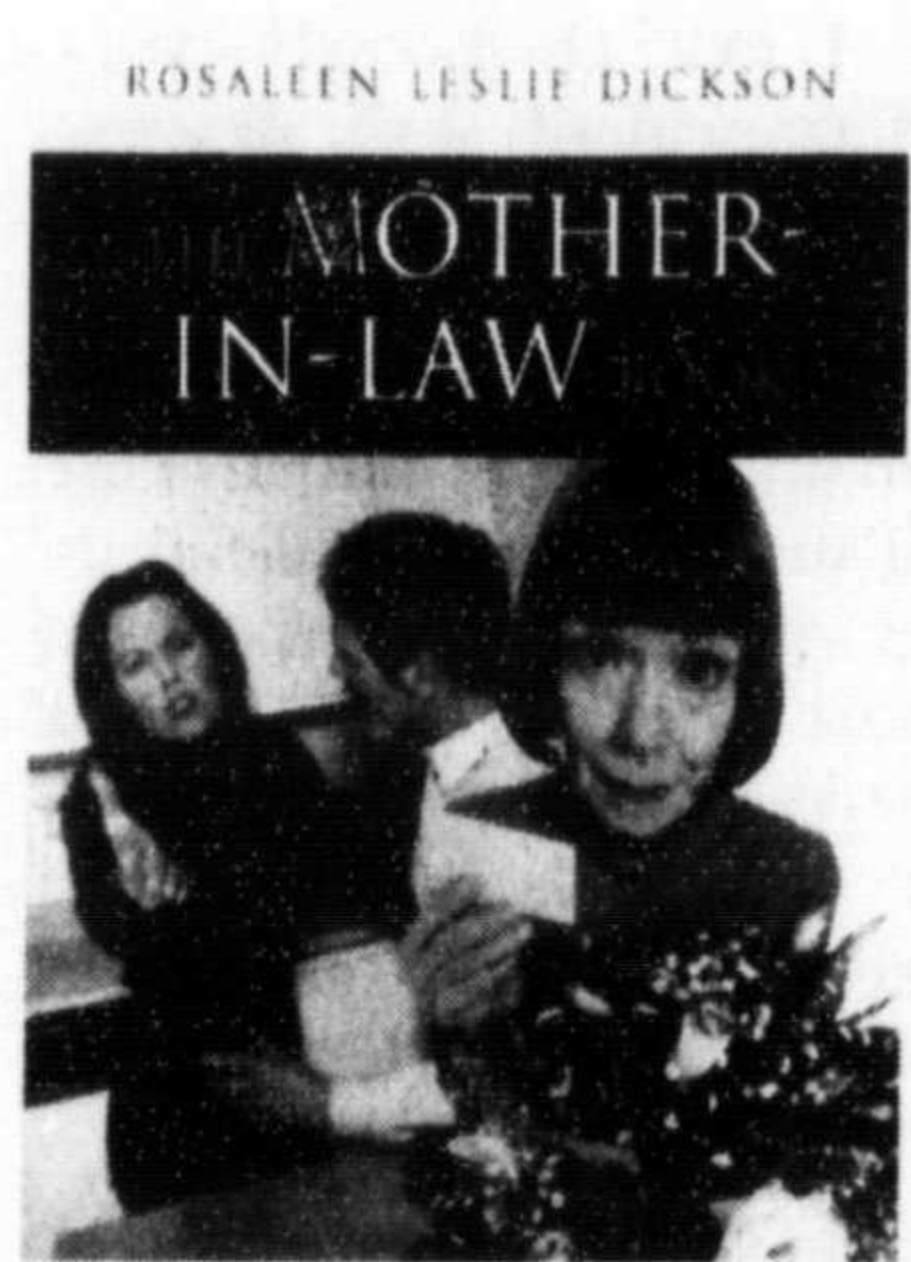
"There are no bins to put materials in except the small blue boxes," she says. "I think it would help if there were big bins nearby where businesses in the area could dump their recyclables. It would really cut down on waste in the town."

Lang said the Municipality of Clarendon is looking at purchasing more large bins to handle the volume of cardboard being discarded by local businesses. "We'd bring in a trailer — much like a hay trailer — bail it, have a truck pick it up and haul it away," he said.

Recycling programs should help reduce the six tonnes of garbage produced in the town of Shawville alone.

"A quarter of our garbage is still tin cans, paper and bottles — things like that," said Armstrong. "We're encouraging recycling right now and soon we'll have a company who can handle the amount we produce."

Former EQUITY publisher releases new book on mothers-in-law



PONTIAC • Rosaleen Dickson, former publisher of THE EQUITY, has recently released a new paperback called *The Mother-In-Law Book*. The book is a compendium of questions sent to "Great-Granny" on the internet by women desperate for answers. Dickson answers these questions with wisdom. There are questions and complaints from women cut off from their grandchildren, or who are putting up with more than their share of

babysitting, or whose sons have become mysteriously alienated, or who strongly disapprove of their in-laws. There are questions and complaints from daughters-in-law as well. The mother-in-law is deemed unsuitable as a grandmother, or seems to lack interest in the grandchildren, or lavishes expensive toys on the grandchildren. It is endless; it is the age-old problem of two possessive women loving the same man, one being his mother, the other his wife. They each have endless

complaints about the other, many involving grandchildren. The grandmother either ignores them or spoils them; the daughter-in-law is either an incompetent mother or a power freak. Stories were collected by Dickson through letters sent to her via a website called "Ask Great-Granny", which was part of a Winnipeg-based Creative Retirement program, SCIP. Dickson has been responding to hundreds of letters from Canada, Australia, the U.S. and U.K.

since 1996, on a variety of topics. After 10 years, Dickson decided to collect queries and responses from this website, and to put them together in a book to provide comfort to others suffering through the same problems. Dickson, who now has nine great-grandchildren, continues to respond to letters sent to the website. The book is published by General Store Publishing House based in Renfrew and can be purchased at the Pontiac Printshop.

Seniors enjoying new services from Pontiac Respite

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter
CAMPBELL'S BAY • More events, activities and entertainment produced one of the busiest and most successful years for Pontiac Respite Services, which held its annual general meeting on Thursday evening. Housed at St. Joseph's Manor in Campbell's Bay, Pontiac Respite Services is a long-term residence — not a nursing home — for senior citizens. "There are lots of seniors in this area and they need to be participants rather than all tied up in a chair. They need to keep their minds alert," said Anna Bowen, general manager of Pontiac Respite Services.

The manor can house as many as 34 residents at any given time, and they are usually full, with a short waiting list for people wishing to move in once a spot opens up. "We come highly recommended so that's good news," said Bowen. There are also day-long participants who drop in to the manor for daily activities as well as seniors who live on their own but benefit from some of the services provided by Pontiac Respite. The past year was a remarkable one for Pontiac Respite Services, who greatly expanded their activities and level of service. A frozen dinner program was instituted, delivering

2132 frozen homemade meals to senior citizens throughout the Pontiac. The number of participants going on bus trips and playing bingo also increased, demonstrating the growing success of the program. "It's number one," said Elizabeth Lafleur, resident. Financially, Pontiac Respite Services had a very successful year, showing a net income of \$11,822.66 in 2005. The organization's board of directors remained identical to last year's and nominees were re-acclaimed to their positions. Members include Dawson Moorhead, Gilles Latreille, Duane Hicks, Susan Bastien and Bowen.

Homework | TOM MCCANN BBQ season

One of the things that I and other people like to think about this time of year besides summer yard work, is the upcoming barbeque season. It is hard to beat the thought of something hot off the 'Q after finishing a day's work or a successful weekend project. Sitting enjoying a cold beverage of your choice, the conversation of friends and supper cooked by you to your specs is hard to beat. It is also a good way to pay back the friends that have been persuaded to help out. I would like to see today's column to do some research on the area's best burger recipe. Although I am inclined towards beef burgers I will certainly consider recipes for other meat-type burgers as well as vegetarian recipes. I want to encourage you to send me your favorite burger recipe to be part of an informal survey. Between now and prime barbeque

season, I, with the help of friends and family, will test out as many recipes as possible and I will print the one that gets the most votes. After some testing I will print the chosen favorite in a future column. I will also try and arrange a catered twilight barbeque using the favored recipe in my back yard this summer for the person who submits the chosen recipe. A quick example of one of my personal favorites is a salmon portion cooked with a bit of orange juice on the BBQ, topped with ranch dressing, a bit of raw spinach and Swiss cheese. If you feel that you have the recipe for the best burger and it is something that you would be willing to share with this paper's readers, forward it to me using either hym@igs.net or C.P. 397 Shawville QC or through THE EQUITY office. Tom is the owner of HYM and can be reached at hym@igs.net.

Surplus used to keep Shawville taxes down

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
SHAWVILLE • The mill rate for the Municipality of Shawville will remain the same this year, as council was able to use last year's surplus to keep taxes down. Mayor Albert Armstrong said that council spent less than planned in 2005. "We didn't do a whole lot of paving in town or on sidewalks," he said, commenting on the municipality's 2006 budget that was adopted Dec. 28. "We want to try and keep the mill rate down." The rate remained at \$1.10 per \$100 of property evaluated. "We've been upgrading our spring system to monitor the chlorine amounts — it's a major expense," said

Armstrong. "Constructing security fences around the area may be in the next phase." He added that new chains are being added to the sewage system to aid processing. For the past two years, a property evaluated at \$100,000 will be taxed \$1,100. He said council plans on doing some road work on the south side of Elizabeth Street this year. "We want to restructure the sidewalks on Princess," he said, as well as paving and sidewalks on Argyle Street. The 2006 budget expenditures rose to \$1,307,811 from \$1,261,900 in 2005, a \$45,911 increase due main-

ly to hikes in expenditures in general administration (up to \$280,749), public security (up to \$202,346), environmental health (up to \$224,542) and recreational and cultural activities (up to \$244,193). The municipality appropriated \$26,924 from its surplus to balance this year's budget (minus a \$20,000 working fund repayment). Garbage rates rose to \$10 to cover costs of the dump and recycling programs. Sewer charges for users rose to \$5 to cover upgrading costs. Water service charges remain the same while fire costs rose to cover costs of new training courses for firefighters.

TransporAction seeks volunteer drivers

PONTIAC • The rural shared transit organizations have attracted numerous clientele, carrying hundreds of people per month, in particular to health and social service appointments. Clients are often isolated people with no car and who must get to these essential services. Les Transports collectives des Collines and TransporAction Pontiac co-operate in providing service in the Municipality of Pontiac, serving, for example, Guyon and Luskville. The municipality's service is undermined by the lack of volunteer drivers. The directors, Robert Dupuis in Campbell's Bay and Lyne Carpentier in La Pêche, are putting out a call for volunteers and ask the public for help in finding them. Volunteer drivers get reimbursed for their car costs at a normal per-kilometre rate, exempt from income tax and it is not added to your "other income" because the vehicle's use is paid for and not by the volunteer. A security check is required, and once that step is taken care of, the volunteers are called on to accompany and transport people who need this help. Many find this form of volunteering on four wheels to be very enriching. For more information or to offer one's services, call toll-free 1-866-310-1174 or 1-877-648-2223.

The total budget expenditures dropped to \$489,942 from \$493,270 in 2005, a \$3,328 decrease mainly to drops in expenditures in public security (down to \$61,980) and recreation and culture (down to \$10,700). The municipality appropriated \$9,995 from its surplus to balance this year's budget. "It's not a big budget to manage considering we're the second or third largest municipality in the MRC," said Squitti that road work and a new outer area built onto the post office were projects completed in 2005. "In the last two to three years we have worked on our roads network," he said. "We care about the municipality and are trying to provide services but we can't make everyone happy." He said that the municipality's back hoe will soon be paid off, and that will leave money to be put aside. "We had an exceptional year," said Squitti. "We have a very committed staff who work hard to keep the municipality within the budget's guidelines — there is incredible work being done."

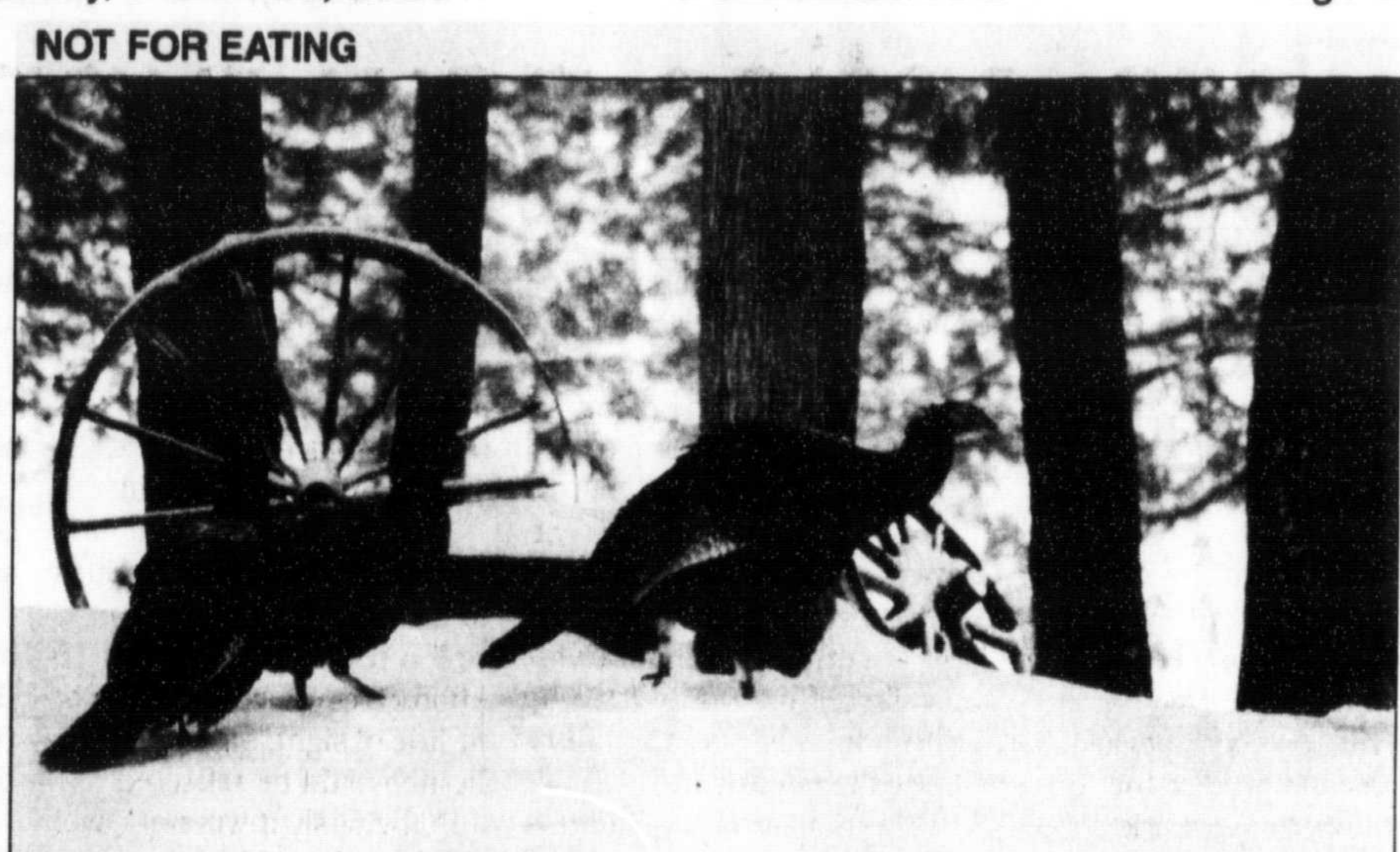
Alleyn-Cawood mill rate rises one cent



LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
ALLEYN AND CAWOOD • The increase of the general cost of living was reflected in the Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood's 2006 municipal budget. This year, the municipality's mill rate jumped .1327 cents to \$1.2067 per \$100 of property evaluation from \$1.17399 in 2005. "It didn't go up very much," said Mayor Joe Squitti. "We are trying to maintain services well and everything else is up. It's just a reflection of society." In 2006, a property evaluated at \$100,000 will be taxed \$1,206.70 compared to \$1,173.99 in 2005, a 2.71 per cent, or \$32.71, increase. He said part of the problem is how more and more responsibilities are being passed down to municipalities. "The 2006 total budget expenditures rose to \$2,002,520 from \$1,656,689 in 2005, a \$345,831 increase due mainly to hikes in municipal police protection (up to \$139,720), roads (up to \$1,429,710), in-trench disposal site (up to

\$31,346) and recreation and culture (up to \$50,883). Graham said nothing has been earmarked for large projects this year. "We're not building the Taj Mahal," he said. "Except in our road budget where we will make substantial improvements." He said the municipality will attempt to tap into the province's infrastructure program. "We're not going to be spending it if it's not available." A large amount of the 2005 budget expenses were related to the municipality's year-long 150th anniversary celebrations. "We're very pleased with the year," said Graham.

Wild turkeys were spotted recently wandering around Haughton's Bay in Quebec. In recent months the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Bristol Wildlife Federation have been running catch and release programs to reduce farm problems related to large numbers of wild turkeys.



Wild turkeys were spotted recently wandering around Haughton's Bay in Quebec. In recent months the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Bristol Wildlife Federation have been running catch and release programs to reduce farm problems related to large numbers of wild turkeys.

Centre de santé et de services sociaux du Pontiac

**ESTABLISHMENT OF USERS' COMMITTEE
CALL FOR CANDIDATES**

AN INVITATION IS HEREBY EXTENDED TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE CURRENTLY RECEIVING OR HAVE RECEIVED SERVICES FROM OUR INSTITUTION, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, PROVIDED YOU DO NOT WORK FOR OUR INSTITUTION OR PRACTISE YOUR PROFESSION IN ONE OF OUR CENTRES.

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You wish to see an improvement in the provision of health and social services.

Under the terms of section 209 of the Act respecting health services and social services (R.S.Q., c. S-4.2) our institution must set up a Users' Committee composed of five (5) members. Three (3) members of Residents' Committees will be added to this committee.

The functions of the Users' Committee set out in section 212 of the Act respecting health services and social services (R.S.Q., c. S-4.2) are as follows:

- 1° to inform users of their rights and obligations;
- 2° to foster the improvement of the quality of the living conditions of users and assess the degree of satisfaction of users with regard to the services obtained from the institution;
- 3° to defend the common rights and interests of users or, at the request of a user, his rights and interests as a user before the institution or any competent authority;
- 4° to accompany and assist a user, on request, in any action he undertakes, including the filing of a complaint in accordance with Divisions I, II and III of Chapter III of Title II of this Act or the Act respecting the Health and Social Services Ombudsman (Chapter P-31.1);
- 5° to ensure the proper operation of each of the Residents' Committees and see that they have the resources necessary to exercise their functions.

In addition, the Users' Committee must adopt operating rules, submit an annual report of its activities to the board of directors and, on request, transmit a copy of that report to the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais.

The Users' Committee shall also designate two persons to sit on the Board of Directors of the institution and one of these two persons shall be designated to sit on the Risk and Quality Management Committee. All those interested in sitting on the Users' Committee are invited to contact Mr. Michel Pigeon (819 683-2229 or 1-800-567-9625) to obtain a candidate application form. This form, duly completed, should be returned to Mr. Michel Pigeon, General Administration, at the CSSS du Pontiac, 160 chemin de la Chute, Mansfield, Québec, J0X 1V0.

FINAL DATE FOR RECEPTION OF FORMS: Wednesday, April 12th 2006, before 4:00 p.m.

If the number of persons indicating an interest in becoming a member of the Users' Committee is five or less, these persons are elected to the committee by acclamation.

If the number of applications received is greater than the number of positions to be filled, users will be invited to elect at least five members at an election (vote) to be held on:

DATE: Thursday, April 13th 2006
TIME: From 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: 420 Terry Fox, Bryson (CLSC)

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Michel Pigeon.

**GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
JOINT PLAN OF THE PONTIAC FOREST
PRODUCTS PRODUCERS BOARD**

NOTICE OF MEETING

To all woodlot owners covered by the joint plan of the Pontiac Forest Products Producers Board

You are invited to participate in the 46th general annual meeting of the joint plan of the Pontiac Forest Products Producers Board that will be held on:

Date : Thursday, April 27th, 2006
**Time : 6:00 p.m. Registration
6:30 p.m. Meeting**

Place : Recreation Centre, 2 Second Street, Campbell's Bay, Quebec

The subjects to be dealt with this meeting are detailed in the agenda features below. Copies of the agenda and minutes are also available at the office or at the door the night of the annual meeting.

Please take note that the producers must identify themselves and possess a recent proof of ownership. The producers of ownership accepted are the following:

- Municipal tax bill
- A notarised deed of ownership
- Pre-registration certificate

Article 4.1 of the regulation

The persons having the right to vote are: property owners owning four (4) hectares or more of woodlots; jobbers with written proof of cutting rights contract accompanied by the corresponding municipal tax bills; and in the case of a corporation, the vote may be given by proxy provided it has a power of attorney. A physical person is entitled to only one vote. (Article 86).

We are counting on your presence.

**GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE JOINT PLAN OF
THE PONTIAC FOREST PRODUCTS PRODUCERS BOARD**

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting by the President
2. Reading and adoption of the notification of meeting
3. Reading and adoption of the meeting procedures
4. Reading and adoption of the agenda
5. President's message
6. Adoption of the minutes of the general annual meeting held on April 27, 2005
7. Presentation and adoption of the 2005 activities report
8. Presentation and adoption of the 2005 financial statement
9. Nomination of the auditor for 2006
10. 2006 marketing
11. Special guests
12. Other motions
13. Election of directors:
 - Districts : No 1: Municipality of Pontiac;
 - No 2: the township of Bristol and Clarendon, as well as the village of Shawville ;
 - No 4: the united townships of Leslie, Clapham and Huddersfield;
 - No 6: the villages of Campbell's Bay and Fort-Coulonge, the united townships of Mansfield and Pontefract and Waltham and Bryson as well as the township of Upper Litchfield;
 - No 7: Townships of Chichester, Allumette Island and Allumette Island East, the united townships of Sheen-Esher-Aberdeen-Malakoff, the town of Chapeau and the municipality of Rapides-des-Joachims.
 - No 8: municipality of Cayamant.
14. Draw for door prizes
15. Adjournment

Bristol mill rate jumps with inflation

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
BRISTOL • Inflation has taken its toll and is now showing signs as municipalities strain to make ends meet. The situation, common to many Pontiac municipalities, has warranted a seven-cent rise in the Bristol mill rate. Mayor Jack Graham, commenting on the municipality's 2006 budget adopted Dec. 15, said the rate increased to .88 cents per \$100 of property evaluation from .81 in 2005. "Inflation went to 2.6 per cent," said Graham. "Add that to last year's expenses — something's got to give. It's not something we enjoy, it's a necessity."

In 2006, a property evaluated at \$100,000 will be taxed \$880 compared to \$810 in 2005, a 8.7 per cent, or \$70, increase. Six years ago the mill rate dropped from .89 cents to .81. "The inflation rate alone in the last five years has risen 12 to 15 per cent roughly," said Graham. "I think we've been trying to administer in a responsible manner and try our utmost to keep a rate to what is affordable." The 2006 total budget expenditures rose to \$2,002,520 from \$1,656,689 in 2005, a \$345,831 increase due mainly to hikes in municipal police protection (up to \$139,720), roads (up to \$1,429,710), in-trench disposal site (up to

\$31,346) and recreation and culture (up to \$50,883). Graham said nothing has been earmarked for large projects this year. "We're not building the Taj Mahal," he said. "Except in our road budget where we will make substantial improvements." He said the municipality will attempt to tap into the province's infrastructure program. "We're not going to be spending it if it's not available." A large amount of the 2005 budget expenses were related to the municipality's year-long 150th anniversary celebrations. "We're very pleased with the year," said Graham.

La députée de Pontiac souligne l'importance de l'implication des femmes parlementaires

PONTIAC • À l'occasion de la Journée internationale de la femme, madame Charlotte L'Écuyer, députée de Pontiac, a tenu à souligner la contribution de nombreuses députées de l'Assemblée nationale dans divers réseaux de femmes parlementaires d'organisations internationales. Madame L'Écuyer est présidente de la section du Québec du Réseau des femmes parlementaires du Commonwealth depuis décembre 2005, réseau qui est une instance de l'Association parlementaire du Commonwealth (APC).

En juillet 2005, le Conseil régional canadien mettait sur pied la section canadienne de ce réseau, qui vise à promouvoir une meilleure participation des femmes à la vie politique, économique, sociale et culturelle et ce, tant au niveau national que dans l'ensemble du Commonwealth. Il a également pour objectif de renforcer la place et le rôle des femmes dans les parlements membres et dans les organisations internationales, de favoriser les échanges d'expérience et d'encourager la solidarité entre femmes parlementaires.

« Les femmes composent près de 14 % de l'effectif de l'APC. Il est important qu'elle puissent avoir une voix sur la scène internationale et prendre une plus grande part aux décisions qui les touchent », a poursuivi la députée.

L'Assemblée nationale du Québec est membre à part entière de l'APC depuis 1933, lequel regroupe près de 16 000 parlementaires issus de plus de 170 parlements d'États unitaires, fédéraux et fédérés, provenant de 51 des 54 pays qui forment le Commonwealth. L'APC a pour but de réunir les parlementaires du Commonwealth autour de la poursuite des idéaux de la démocratie parlementaire et de ses institutions.

Elle réalise ces objectifs au moyen de séminaires, de colloques et de visites parlementaires. Elle tient également une assemblée générale sur une base annuelle: la Conférence parlementaire du Commonwealth.

Biblio quiz terrestre

Compétition avec l'objectif de stimuler la fréquentation des bibliothèques de la région

PONTIAC • Avec l'objectif de stimuler la fréquentation des bibliothèques de la région, le Réseau Biblio de l'Outaouais, en collaboration avec le Réseau Biblio du Québec, lance le concours Biblio Quiz terrestre.

Ce concours se déroulera du 6 mars au 22 avril 2006. Durant cette période, toute personne qui se rendra à sa bibliothèque municipale pourra remplir un bulletin de participation et être éligible au prix local (jumelle Tasco) ou à un des quatre prix régionaux :

- Prix du réseau régional 1 lecteur MP3 (iPod Shuffle MAC/PC)
- Prix Druide Antidote 1 logiciel Antidote Prisme et 1 Petit Druide des synonymes
- Prix Renaud Bray
- 1 volume « La terre en partage »
- Prix Québec-Science 1 abonnement à Québec Science

Les personnes désireuses de participer à ce concours devront préalablement trouver le mot mystère à inscrire sur le bulletin de participation en répondant aux questions du Biblio Quiz terrestre.

Les détails et les règles du concours sont disponibles dans toutes les bibliothèques participantes.

1 027 149 \$ pour 180 jeunes de la région

PONTIAC • Les députés(e) de l'Outaouais, MM. Roch Cholette (Hull), Benoit Pelletier (Chapleau), Norm MacMillan (Papineau), Réjean Lafrenière (Gatineau) et Mme Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac) se réjouissent que 180 jeunes de la région de l'Outaouais aient pu bénéficier d'un montant total de 1 027 149\$ dans le cadre du crédit d'impôt pour nouveau diplômé travaillant dans une région ressource éloignée. Pour l'année fiscale 2004, ils

ont reçu en moyenne 5 706\$. Cette mesure a été mise en place pour inciter les étudiants professionnels, collégiaux ou universitaires à acquérir leur première expérience de travail dans notre région. Il s'agit d'un excellent coup de pouce pour qu'ils s'installent ici et y fassent carrière », a déclaré la présidente du caucus, madame Charlotte L'Écuyer. Mis en place en 2003, ce crédit d'impôt équivaut à

40% du salaire du diplômé et peut atteindre 8000\$. Pour être éligible, le diplômé doit débiter son emploi dans les 24 mois suivant la fin de sa formation. Le crédit s'adresse aux jeunes qui travaillent dans les régions de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue, du Bas-Saint-Laurent, de la Côte-Nord, de la Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine ou dans les MRC d'Antoine-Labelle, de La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, de Mékinac et de Pontiac ainsi

que dans la ville de La Tuque. Notre gouvernement est celui des régions. Depuis notre arrivée au pouvoir, nous avons multiplié les gestes en faveur des régions. Pensons entre autres à l'établissement de satellites des grandes facultés de médecine en Mauricie, en Abitibi-Témiscamingue et au Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, à l'installation des bureaux du Forestier en chef à Roberval et à la création du Centre

canadien de valorisation du diamant à Matane. Ce crédit d'impôt pour nouveau diplômé est donc un pas de plus pour soutenir nos régions », a mentionné madame L'Écuyer.

Les renseignements complets concernant le crédit d'impôt pour nouveau diplômé travaillant dans une région ressource éloignée sont disponibles dans le site Internet du ministère du Revenu au www.revenu.gouv.qc.ca.

L'histoire se raconte à la Biblio de Fort-Coulonge

PONTIAC • En collaboration avec le Centre Régional d'archives de l'Outaouais, la Bibliothèque de Fort-Coulonge est heureuse de vous inviter à un Circuit de conférences à caractère historique.

Voici une brève présentation des conférenciers, des sujets abordés et des dates retenues.

Le 12 avril 2006 (19h00)
Roger Blanchette : Quel est le point commun entre la

Chasse-Galerie, la drave, la truis, la gigue, la Rébellion de 1837-1838 et la famille traditionnelle?

Découvrons ensemble comment l'Outaouais a été au cœur de l'évolution économique, politique, sociale et culturelle du Québec au XIXe siècle.

Le 27 mai 2006 (13h30)
Laurent Lavergne : L'auteur aborde en premier lieu le cheminement des ancêtres d'Ovila Lavergne,

de Saint-Jean de Côte, en France, jusqu'à Ripon (Québec). Ovila nous raconte, à travers un DVD, l'arrivée de ses parents et grands-parents à Ripon dans la Petite-Nation. Son enfance dans le rang avec ses frères et sœurs, L'histoire de sa vie familiale avec sa femme Simone Bélisle et leurs enfants au pied de la Montagne Noire.

Ovila nous parle fièrement de son époque en tant

qu'éleveur de cochons. Une nouvelle vie débute lorsqu'ils vendent leur terre pour s'établir au village. Sa sœur Ubalda et son compagnon de marche Hervé Sabourin nous plongent dans leur passé vécu avec lui. Homme solide au grand sourire, Ovila nous légue une tranche du patrimoine québécois à conserver et à transmettre aux générations futures.

Le 13 septembre 2006

(19h00)
Marie-Paule Villeneuve : Cette conférence traitera de la réalité ouvrière à l'ère industrielle en Outaouais. Les sujets traités seront, entre autres, les conditions de travail, la misère et les revendications sociales que l'auteur a si bien interprétées dans ses deux livres : L'enfant cigarié et Les demoiselles aux allumettes.

L'admission à chacune des conférences est gratuite.

Budget 2006-2007 Fardeau fiscal des particuliers

GATINEAU • Nous maintenons notre engagement pris en campagne électorale de ramener le fardeau fiscal des Québécois et des Québécoises à la moyenne canadienne tout en préservant l'équilibre budgétaire et le financement des services publics. Le budget présenté jeudi dernier le confirme », ont mentionné les députés(e) de l'Outaouais, MM. Roch Cholette (Hull), Benoit Pelletier (Chapleau), Norman MacMillan (Papineau), Réjean Lafrenière (Gatineau) et madame Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac).

« Jusqu'à maintenant, les contribuables ont bénéficié de réductions d'impôt de 2,2 milliards de dollars. Avec le discours sur le budget 2006-2007, le gouvernement va plus loin », a dit madame L'Écuyer.

En effet, le budget du gouvernement Charest prévoit une diminution de l'impôt des Québécois de 362 millions de dollars sur une pleine année.

Cette diminution résulte des mesures suivantes :

- une hausse de 500 à 1 000 dollars de la déduction pour les travailleurs au 1er janvier 2007 qui permettra de réduire de 288 millions de dollars par année l'impôt des contribuables;
- la bonification du crédit d'impôt remboursable pour le maintien à domicile d'une personne âgée;
- l'amélioration à la fiscalité relative aux dons de bienfaisance et aux autres dons;
- des mesures fiscales pour encourager l'utilisation du transport en commun;
- la bonification de la mesure d'étalement du revenu pour les artistes.

Cette réduction d'impôt profitera aux Québécois, mais aussi à l'économie du Québec dans son ensemble.

Nous ainsi pourrons mieux concurrencer nos principaux partenaires commerciaux pour attirer et retenir les entrepreneurs et

les travailleurs les plus compétents, les plus dynamiques et les plus créatifs.

Parce que rappelons-le, en 2006, la compétition n'est plus entre Montréal, Québec et Trois-Rivières, mais plutôt avec Toronto, Boston et le reste du monde », a affirmé la présidente du caucus de l'Outaouais.

Avec l'indexation du régime fiscal, les baisses d'impôt accordées aux contribuables québécois depuis 2003 atteignent 2,9 milliards de dollars en 2007.

« On doit le souligner, lorsqu'on indexe les tables d'impôt, c'est de l'argent qu'on remet dans les poches

des contribuables. Lorsqu'il était au pouvoir, le Parti québécois n'a jamais indexé le régime fiscal. Ce qui veut dire qu'en 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 et 2002, les gens perdaient de leur revenu à cause de cette hausse d'impôt déguisée. En somme, lorsqu'ils ont quitté le pouvoir, les péquistes nous ont laissé le triste titre des citoyens les plus taxés en Amérique du Nord. Nous, depuis notre élection, nous travaillons fort pour renverser cette tendance et on commence à en voir les bienfaits », a continué la présidente.

Centre de santé et de services sociaux du Pontiac

Recherche les services d'une agence de sécurité pour l'hôpital du Pontiac au 200, rue Argue, Shawville (Québec) J0X 2Y0 et ceci pour une période de trois (3) années à compter du 1er mai 2006.

Les documents d'appel d'offres sont disponibles au bureau du directeur des services techniques à l'adresse ci-haut mentionné. La date limite pour soumissionner est le 15 avril 2006.

L'ouverture des soumissions est prévue pour le 15 avril 2006 à 14h00 au bureau du directeur des services techniques, à l'hôpital du Pontiac, au 200 rue Argue à Shawville (Québec).

ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE DU PLAN CONJOINT DE L'OFFICE DES PRODUCTEURS DE BOIS DU PONTIAC

AVIS DE CONVOCATION

À tous les propriétaires de boisés visés par le plan conjoint des producteurs de bois du Pontiac

Nous vous invitons à participer à la 46ième assemblée générale annuelle du plan conjoint des producteurs de bois du Pontiac qui se tiendra :

Date : Jeudi le 27 avril 2006
Heure : 18h00 Inscription 18h30 Début de l'assemblée

Endroit : Salle récréative, 2 rue Second, Campbell's Bay, Québec

Les sujets traités au cours de cette assemblée sont détaillés dans l'ordre du jour ci-après. Des copies de l'ordre du jour et du procès-verbal de l'assemblée précédente sont aussi disponibles au bureau ou à la porte le soir de l'assemblée.

Prenez note que les personnes doivent s'identifier et posséder une preuve de propriété. Ces preuves de propriété seront exigées à l'entrée. Les preuves acceptées sont l'une des suivantes :

- Compte de taxe municipale
- Acte notarié d'achat de propriété
- Certificat de préinscription

Article 4.1 du règlement :
Les personnes ayant un droit de vote sont : les propriétaires de quatre (4) hectares ou plus de lots boisés ; les entrepreneurs avec un contrat d'achat de coupe de bois accompagné de la facture de taxe municipale correspondante ; et dans le cas d'une corporation, le vote peut être donné à un autre pourvu qu'il ait une procuration. Chaque personne physique a le droit à seulement un vote (article 86). Nous comptons sur votre présence.

ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE DU PLAN CONJOINT DE L'OFFICE DES PRODUCTEURS DE BOIS DU PONTIAC

ORDRE DU JOUR

1. Ouverture de l'assemblée par le président
2. Lecture et adoption de l'avis de convocation
3. Lecture et adoption des procédures d'assemblée
4. Lecture et adoption de l'ordre du jour
5. Message du Président
6. Adoption du procès-verbal de l'assemblée générale annuelle du 27 avril 2005
7. Présentation et adoption du rapport d'activités 2005
8. Présentation et adoption des états financiers de 2005
9. Nomination du vérificateur pour 2006
10. Mise en marché 2006
11. Invités spéciaux
12. Résolutions
13. Élection des administrateurs :
 - Régions : No 1 : Municipalité de Pontiac;
 - No 2 : les cantons de Bristol et de Clarendon ainsi que le village de Shawville;
 - No 4 : les cantons unis de Leslie-Clapham-Huddersfield;
 - No 6 : les villages de Campbell's Bay et de Fort-Coulonge, les cantons unis de Mansfield et Pontefract et de Waltham et Bryson et le canton de Litchfield (partie haute);
 - No 7 : Cantons de Chichester, de l'Île-aux-Allumettes et de l'Île-aux-Allumettes-Partie-Est, les cantons unis de Sheen-Esher-Aberdeen-Malakoff, le village de Chapeau et la municipalité de Rapides-des-Joachims.
 - No 8 : municipalité de Cayamant.
14. Tirage
15. Levée de l'assemblée

Avis important aux employeurs

Avez-vous besoin d'aide cet été?

Service Canada 1 800 935-5555 servicecanada.gc.ca

Embauchez un étudiant!

L'initiative Placement carrière-été offre des subventions salariales afin d'aider les employeurs à embaucher des étudiants pour une période de 6 à 16 semaines pendant l'été. Les employeurs des secteurs privé, public et sans but lucratif sont invités à présenter leur demande au plus tard le :

vendredi 31 mars 2006

Cette initiative fournit aux étudiants une expérience de travail liée à leur champ d'études. Les demandes seront évaluées en fonction des critères d'admissibilité, des priorités nationales, régionales et locales, de la qualité de l'expérience de travail offerte et du budget disponible.

Pour présenter votre demande ou obtenir plus de renseignements au sujet de cette initiative, **COMPOSEZ** 1 800 935-5555 (ATS 1 800 926-9105)

CLIQUEZ servicecanada.gc.ca

VISITEZ Votre Centre Service Canada (consultez servicecanada.gc.ca pour connaître les adresses de nos centres)

Gouvernement du Canada / Government of Canada

Bryson implements Neighbourhood Watch

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
BRYSON • The Municipality of Bryson has the support of the community to start up a Neighbourhood Watch program.

The program will build a network of citizens that will keep an eye out for crime that takes place in the village.

Bryson has been divided up into four separate sections. Each will be manned by a captain who the community can call when an incident is witnessed.

The four sections are

divided by the north, south, east and west corners off Rue Principale.

Incidents seen by residents will then be recorded and passed on weekly to the police.

Signs will be posted in and around the village warning that the community is protected.

"It had to be the people who wanted it," said Bryson Mayor Al Davis.

"And they all want it 100 per cent. We're very pleased with the support."

The Neighbourhood Watch was officially started Feb. 23.

Councillor David Harper heads the committee.

"We had a huge turnout," said Harper of the watch's first three meetings.

Over 80 people in total attended the planning meetings for Neighbourhood Watch.

"It's very representative of the community."

Fellow councillors Lucie St. Jacques and pro-mayor Pierre Graveline joined Harper in organizing the watch.

St. Jacques focuses on beautifying the town and creating activities for youth in the area while Graveline is

in charge of streets.

"We're standing up for ourselves, they pushed the community to take the town in their own hands," said St. Jacques.

The creation of the program came after over \$7,000 worth of damages had been made in the municipality since last summer.

"The elderly people are harassed by kids," said Davis. "They were destroying signs and painting on the Havelock building."

Graveline said Bryson has gotten worse for crime only in the past two to three years.

"It's gotten bad," said Graveline, who has lived here for the past 12 years.

"They've done graffiti, destroyed properties and broken bottles," said St. Jacques. "They are even terrorizing the seniors at their home."

"They have no respect for seniors," said Graveline.

Davis said that since talks about starting a Neighbourhood Watch program began at Christmas time, only one incident has taken place.

"We are seeing a result right away," said Davis.

St. Jacques said that not

all kids in the neighbourhood are troublemakers, just a small group.

"It's because there is nothing in Bryson to keep them busy," said St. Jacques.

To help solve that problem, St. Jacques is leading a committee that will work on creating activities for kids aged 12 to 17.

"We are aiming to involve all the community," said St. Jacques.

Other municipalities in Pontiac such as Quyon, Shawville and Bristol also have Neighbourhood Watch programs running.

Flu season arrives late

PONTIAC • Small outbreaks of influenza in schools and the general population mark the beginning of the annual flu season in the region, several months later than usual, reports the Outaouais Health and Social Services Agency.

"Normally we see this in November and December," said Martin St-Louis, a spokesperson for the Agency, in a conversation with The Equity. "We don't know why it is so late this year or how long it will last," he said. "But normally it dis-

appears again when spring arrives and people start spending more time out in the fresh air."

St-Louis suggests that anyone still wishing to obtain a flu shot should contact their local CLSC. Otherwise, he advises, normal precautions should be taken to avoid the spread of influenza, in particular, regular hand-washing. Anyone with flu, or who has been in contact with people who have it, should not visit hospitals or the elderly.

Quyon Ferry continues plan to upgrade

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
QUYON • Quyon's Don McColgan, owner of the historic Quyon Ferry, is continuing his plans to upgrade his ferry to a cable system.

At a meeting March 22, McColgan met with 30 interested people and the Local Development Centre (CLD) of the MRC des Collines to explain his plans to install a new 21-car cable ferry where the Quyon Ferry currently sits.

"It's still in the preliminary stages," said McColgan

on his plans.

The meeting, held at the Quyon Lions Hall, had visitors from Quebec City and Prescott as well.

"We still have a pile of government and environmental agencies to go through," said McColgan.

The ferry he wants is 120 feet long and will be able to hold up to 21 cars or two tractor trailers and 10 cars.

Last year when McColgan first began looking into the expansion, he knew that it could take up to two years to move the project forward.

The ferry he hopes to get will allow vehicles to drive forward when loading and straight off once it docks on the opposing bank.

Right now the ferries are side-loading. It will also be self-propelled and much quieter with no moving parts.

"It will be more environmentally friendly," he said.

"And because it will be cable-anchored it will be easier to drive."

McColgan said the new ferry would only require about a week's worth of training while the current

ferry requires training of up to one year.

So far, only a feasibility study has been completed.

Surveying to get shoreline property markings and water depths so that costs for the docks could be ascertained were done in October.

"Now I'll head to banks for funding," he said.

The ferry operation has been in McColgan's family since 1956. Right now, two ferries can hold a maximum of seven vehicles each.

William Maclean ran the ferry from 1893 to 1916.

His son Angus took over and replaced the horse-driven ferry with a Fairbanks Morse gas engine ferry. He ran the ferry until 1956 when he retired after 40 years.

McColgan's father Ed bought the ferry from the Maclean family.

In 1957, the gas driven paddle wheel was replaced by a Harbourmaster outboard diesel engine.

It was built right on the Quyon shore.

Later on, Ed built two larger all-steel ferries in

1968 and 1971 to replace his original ferry.

In 1973 Ed's sons Don and Mark took over the business.

McColgan hopes to start running the ferry this season beginning Friday, April 7.

"The ice must come in a long way toward the Quebec side and this happens very slowly because there is no current on the Quebec side," said McColgan.

McColgan suggests commuters verify this date by phoning 819-458-2286 or check quyonferry.com.

7 projects to move Pontiac forward

Region plans economic development in wake of Tembec Davidson and PFC mill closures

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
PONTIAC • Seven projects were put forth by the Pontiac MRC as viable means to advancing the county's economic development.

The projects were first brought together by the emergency committee, which consists of elected officials and development agents, that formed after the Tembec Davidson mill closed last year. Their goal was to find a strategy to reduce the negative impact the closures would have on Pontiac.

More recently, a meeting arranged by Quebec ministries was set for the end of January at various regions in the province. The main agenda of the meeting was for the MRC to accept funding from the government to aid mono-industry cities and support for territories in difficulty.

The key to funding of \$300,000 was the MRC agreeing at this meeting that the municipalities of Mansfield and Pontefract, Fort Coulonge and Litchfield were mono-industry towns

devastated by the loss of the Tembec Davidson and Produits Forestiers Coulonge (PFC) mills.

"These municipalities are the most affected, but they showed tremendous leadership to not take the money and run, but say that we're not in this alone," said Warden Mike McCrank. "In my view, the \$300,000 is just a down payment."

With the agenda in hand the day before the meeting, the MRC worked over night to rephrase the proposed resolution to incorporate that the entire MRC and its 18 municipalities were heavily affected by the closure of two main saw mills in the area.

"We took a stance as the SOS committee to come up with a plan to show these ministries we had projects ready to go and that we were waiting for money," said McCrank.

Representatives from the Ministry of Economic Development, Innovation and Export of Québec (MDEIE), the Ministry and Natural Resources, Emplo-

Québec, the Ministry of Municipal and Regional Affairs, Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais (CRÉO) and Economic Development Canada attended the meeting.

Part of the resolution was to prove the MRC's determination to make up for the loss the forestry industry has caused by organizing new projects.

A list of seven that were ready to go once funding is given were cited.

The first is the slaughterhouse, which is currently in the planning stages of being built in Shawville. The slaughterhouse is set to open in the spring of 2007.

Another is the Main Street revitalization program in Fort Coulonge.

A woodworking (cabinet making) school could be started up and PFC chipping mill could be restarted. As well, a project of forestry sole representative and adaptation of norms using the Ontario method of local management of forestry supply and management could be started. Pontiac could develop its high speed inter-

"They weren't expecting us to come up with this synopsis. Our loss of jobs and income affect more than just Fort Coulonge and Mansfield."

—Mike McCrank
Pontiac MRC warden

net distribution to communities and commercial sectors by way of a wireless broad band network.

A project of management of forestry road networks could be established, much like La Tuque's model.

Many of these projects are well under way, but require appropriate funding from various levels of provincial and federal government.

Other major projects brought to the functionaries' attention were campground development projects in Leslie Park,

Calumet Island and Rapides des Joachims, the creation of major tourist resort centres, a development project at the Chutes Coulonge and projects for development of the MRC's fibre optic network (Connexion Fibre Picanoc).

"They came to us as a unit," said McCrank. "They met us in the morning, then with another area in the afternoon, and they thought their job as functionaries was finished."

McCrank said that when they saw the MRC's alternative contract, they were in total disbelief.

"They weren't expecting us to come up with this synopsis," he said. "Our loss of jobs and income affect more than just Fort Coulonge and

Mansfield." The unit that visited the MRC accepted the resolution and took the vision to the Ministry of Economic Development and to the Ministry of Municipal and Regional Affairs to be accepted as it stands.

Three days after the meeting, six other MRCs put forward similar motions and were accepted.

"They were approved and recognized as MRCs in need, not just local areas," said McCrank. "It shows we are on the right track."

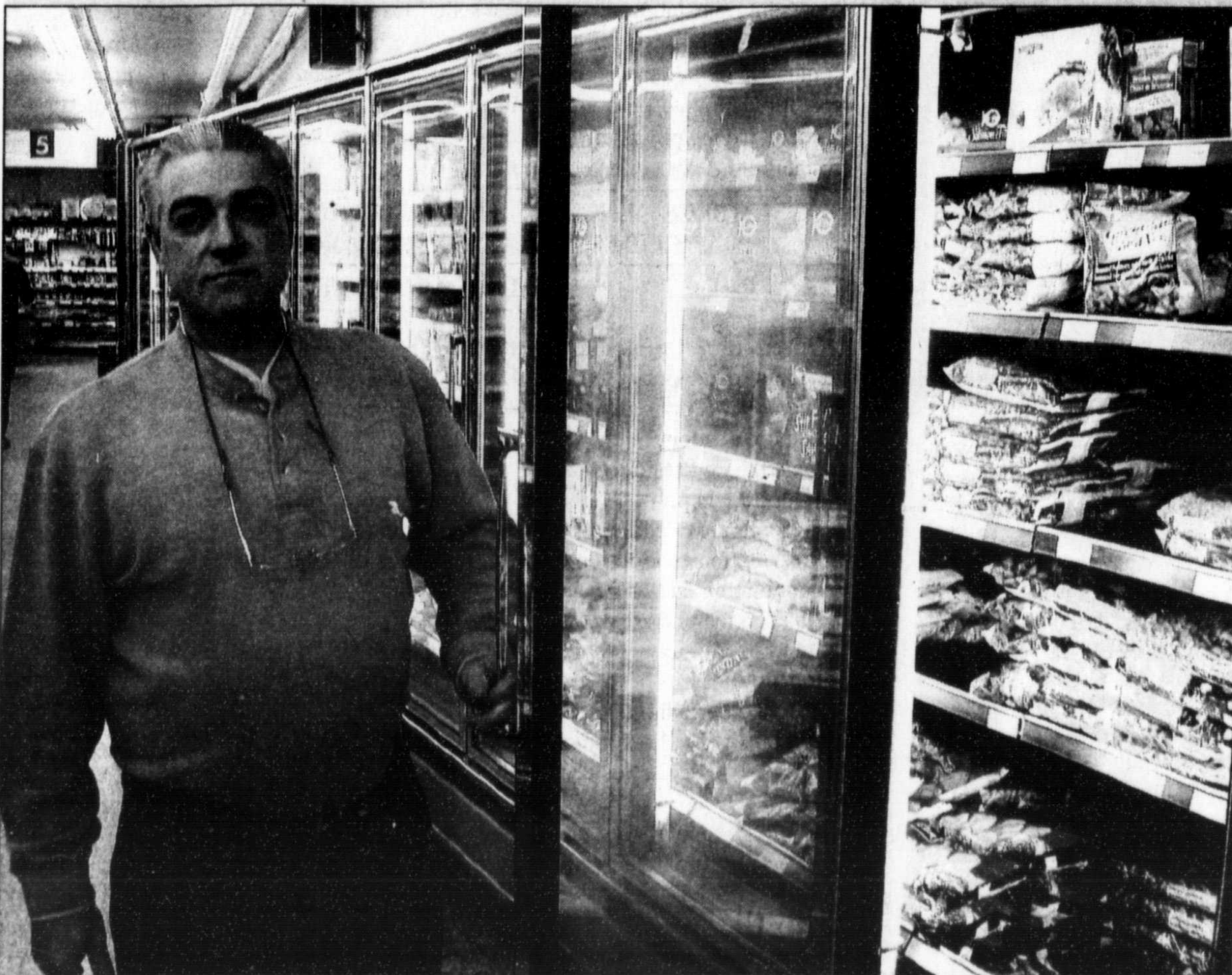
Although the funding looks positive, the MRC will wait to see a cheque. Pontiac is still waiting on \$2.3 million from a resource commitment made by the government in 2002.

***** NOTICE *****

Due to the upcoming Farmers Protest on Parliament Hill, **GALETTA LIVESTOCK SALES WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th**, in support of the Farmers.

The scheduled Vaccinated Sale on April 5th will now take place on **Wednesday, April 12th at noon.**

New freezers



John Drouin, owner of the Shawville Valu-Mart, displays a brand-new freezer, one of the latest additions to his store. The month-old freezers took workers three nights to install and are a vast improvement over the store's previous freezers.

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Herd Reduction Sale

for **Mike Hodgins**
April 4, 2006
at Cobden Sale Barn at 1 p.m.
27 crossbred cows bred Charolais due to calve mid-April to end of May, mostly 5 to 7 years old.
Will be vet checked.

PRESTON CULL AUCTIONEERING UPCOMING AUCTION SALES

April 8 - JACK and GLENNA YUKE, R.R.#4, Cobden, Ont. to be held at Cobden Fairgrounds, Cobden at 11:00 a.m. I.H. 1420 axle flow combine, I.H. 3688 tractor, J.D. 4030 tractor, Case I.H. round baler, bale wrapper, haying equipment, cropping and harvest equipment, cattle truck, 4 wheeler, misc. farm items.

April 15 - LATE JOHN W. ANDERSON, 1622 Bromley Line, R.R.# 1 Westmeath, Ont. at 10:30 a.m. 5 tractors, full line of farm machinery, upright silo, antiques, tools and misc. farm items.

April 22 - GERALD WATSON (Watview Farms), C363 5th Concession R.R.# 1 Shawville, Que. at 10:30 a.m. 3 Ford tractors, haying and cropping equipment, cattle trailer, misc. farm items, some household items.

April 29 - RAYMOND and ISOBEL FULTON, 306 Cedar Hill Road, Pakenham, Ont. at 10:30 a.m. M.F. tractor, haying equipment, cropping equipment, antiques, sleigh, sloop, household items.

May 6 - LATE BLAIR IRELAND, 67 Ragged Chute, Bristol, Que. at 10:30 a.m. Case I.H. 5140 Maxxum tractor, White 7300 combine, Gehl 5'X6' round baler, new Brillion seeder, good line of farm machinery, 20 Charolais-X cows, majority with calves at foot, bred Charolais. 1 Charolais Bull.

May 13 - MR. and MRS. LLOYD TIMMINS, 3608 Timmins Rd, Pakenham, Ont. at 10:30 a.m. Farm machinery and household items.

May 19 - JACK and GLENNA YUKE, R.R.#4, Cobden, Ont., HERD DISPERSAL at Renfrew/Pontiac Livestock, Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. 35 Limousin cows, 20 Limo/Charolais cross cows, majority with calves at foot, bred Charolais. Cows vaccinated with Triangle 9, Ivomec, scour-guarded. 5 year old Charolais Bull.

May 20 - LATE DEAN WILSON, Renfrew, Ont. at 10:30 a.m. Household and shop equipment.

May 27 - ROYCE and HELEN HODGINS, Shawville, Que., at 10:30 a.m. Full-line of farm machinery

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March '06

April '06

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Fri., April 7 - 7 p.m. Radford Hospital Auxiliary presents a "Night of Music." Bristol Town Hall admission \$5. Light refreshments. Everyone welcome. 2xa5

Sat. April 8 - Onslow Home and School Spaghetti Supper at Quyon Lions Hall 4:30-6:30. 2ba5

Sat. April 8 - Wild Life Dinner 4:30 to 7 p.m. Masonic Hall, 244 Main St., Shawville. Donations to "Children's Wish Foundation" Sponsored by Shawville Chap. #50, O.E.S. 2BA5

Sat., April 8 - 9 to 1:30 a.m. Shawville/Clarendon Firemen's Ball. Music by Foundation Band at Shawville Lions Hall, door prizes. Tickets \$5 each. Can be obtained from any fireman, Doug Hodgins or at the door. Lunch served. 4bm29

Mon., April 10 - Armstrong Heritage Farm Annual General Meeting. Dr. S. E. McDowell School Cafeteria. 7 p.m. bm29

Sat., April 15 - Chutes Coulonge - Easter Egg Hunt - 1 pm to 3 pm - reservations required. Crafts and games for children. Open that weekend, Friday/Saturday/Sunday/Monday. (888) 683-2770 www.chutescoulonge.qc.ca. 3ba12

Wed., April 19 - Armstrong Heritage Farm Public Meeting. Shawville Lions Hall, 7 p.m. Community input on the results of our feasibility studies is the goal. bm29

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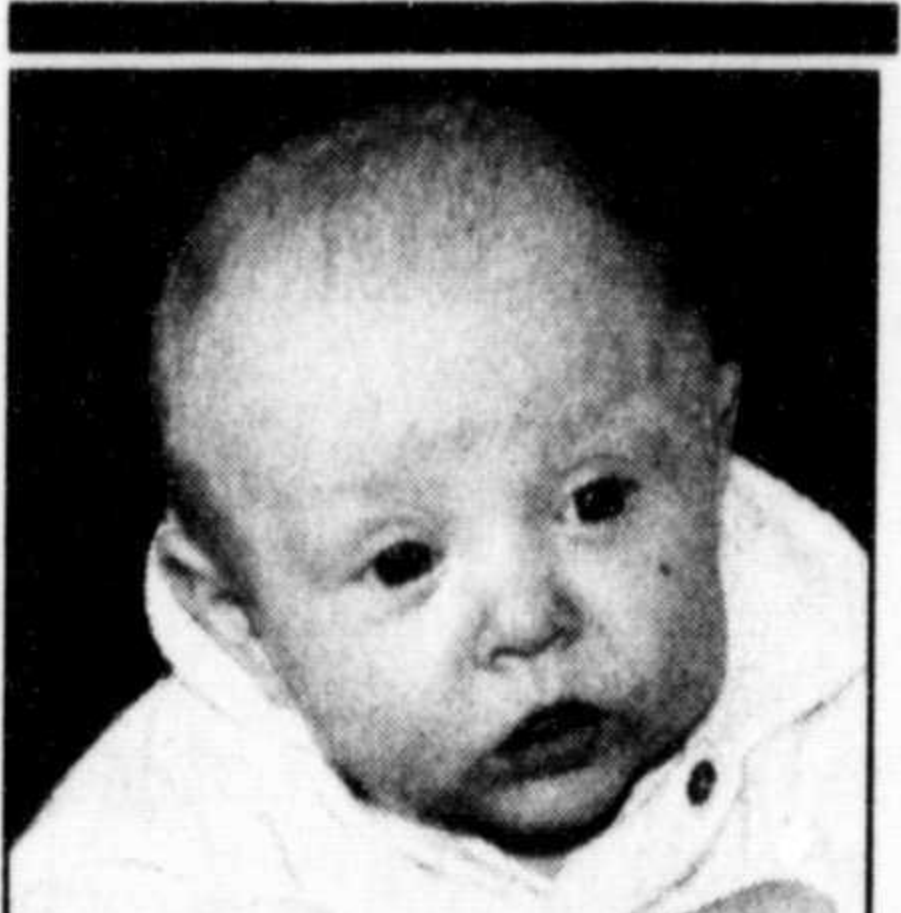
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BIRTH



Donnelly, Morgan Gina It's a Girl!

Owen and Christina Donnelly along with big brother Liam, welcome home with love and happiness little Miss Morgan to their family. Morgan was born 2 months premature on October 7, 2005 and weighed 4lbs, 5oz. Proud grandparents are Robert and Phyllis Laframboise and Austin and Bonnie Donnelly, and great-grandmothers Georgina Laframboise and Jacqueline McGovern. A special thanks to the Special Care Nursery at the Ottawa Civic Hospital for their outstanding care and support.

THANKS

Lance/Dumouchel - La famille de Laurentine Dumouchel aimerait remercier toutes les personnes qui nous ont supportés suite à son décès. Les amies, le curé Tanguay, la chorale, le personnel qui a servi le repas et les dons de nourriture. Spécialement un gros merci au personnel du Manoir Sacré-Coeur pour leurs supports et les soins prodigués lors son séjour au manoir. The family of Laurentine Dumouchel would like to thank everyone for their support. Friends, Father Tanguay, the choir, the personnel who served the lunch, and donation of food, and many more. Special thanks to the staff at the Manoir Sacré-Coeur for their support and care given during her stay.

Petty - We would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our friends, neighbors, colleagues and the community following the death of my brother, George, on March 15th, 2006. We deeply appreciate the thoughtful gestures, kind words, donations, food, cards, phone calls and specially your prayers. John, Betty, Shannon and Andrea

Prayer to the Holy Spirit Holy Spirit, You who make me see everything and who shows me the way to reach my ideals. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget all that is done to me and You who are in all instance of my life and with me. I want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. A person may pray this prayer three consecutive days without asking for their wish. After the third day, their wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this dialogue as soon as your favour has been granted. L.G.

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MEMORIAM

Delorme - In loving memory of a dear wife and mother, Ethel, and great-grandmother who passed away suddenly on April 3, 2003. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you are always there The gates of memory will never close, We miss you more than anyone knows. With tender love and deep regret We who miss you will never forget. Love Arnold, Terry, David and families

Rutledge, Viola - April 1, 2000. This day brings back with sad regrets A day we will never forget. Nothing can ever take away the love Our hearts hold dear Fond memories linger every day We miss you more each year. Lovingly remembered, Alex, Lois, Goldie, Susanna, Brenda, Jewell and families

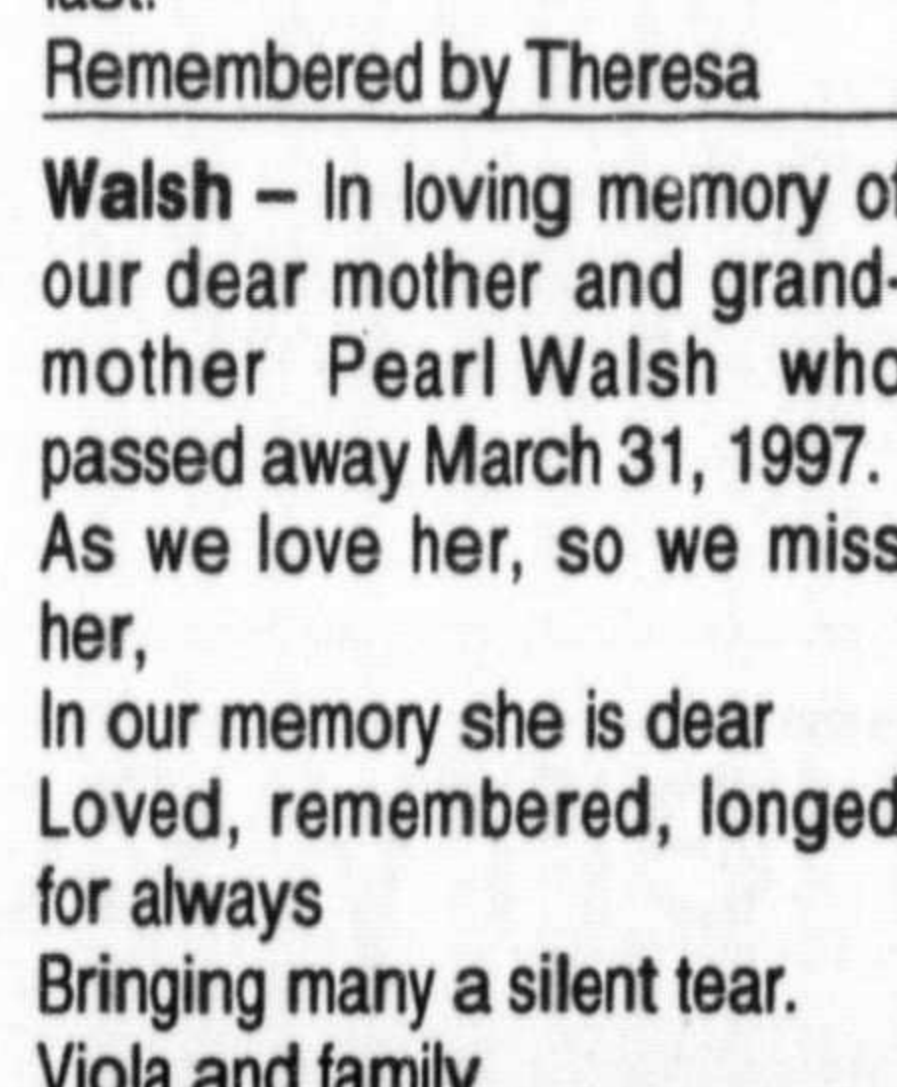
Smith, Charlie - In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandpa and great-grandpa. You left us March 19, 1997. Sadly missed and loved by his family, and wife Eileen

Yach - In loving memory of dear parents and grandparents, Esther Fern - April 3, 2001 and Edward Carl - April 13, 1991 A silent thought, a secret tear, Keeps their memory ever dear. Time eases, the edge of grief Memory turns back every leaf. Sadly missed but fondly remembered by Donna, Brian and girls

MEMORIAM

Tubman - In loving memory of a dear friend, Jean who passed away March 26, 2005. Jean's beautiful smile we see no more Nor her gentle laugh But her Spirit is all around us, And her memories will always last. Remembered by Theresa

Walsh - In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother Pearl Walsh who passed away March 31, 1997. As we love her, so we miss her, In our memory she is dear Loved, remembered, longed for always Bringing many a silent tear. Viola and family



Stanley - In loving memory of my dear brother and brother-in-law Lawson who passed away suddenly 3 years ago March 29, 2003. Those whom we love go out of sight But never out of mind, They are cherished in our hearts, Of those they left behind. Love always, Irma and Wilfred

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Mental health in Pontiac may be at risk

Personal financial difficulties cause of most cases

LEAH MILLER Equity Editor
BRYSON • The two mills in Pontiac that have closed in the past few years are having a direct effect on the population's mental health status. Yvon Vaillancourt, coordinator of the mental and social health program at the Pontiac Health and Social Services Centre, is expecting an increase in mental health cases in the coming months. May will coincide with the one-year anniversary of the Tembec Davidson mill shutting down, and consequently, when the first wave of laid off employees' Employment Insurance runs out. "I haven't seen the effect at its full bloom now," said Vaillancourt. "People are still hoping the mills are bluffing and will reopen." Vaillancourt said many who lost their jobs are still in a state of denial. "At the beginning, they

thought 'oh well, they've closed before,'" said Vaillancourt. He said winter activities may have also helped ex-workers forget about the situation for the time being. "We have to look at a big impact when the EI runs out," said Vaillancourt. Currently he is working with a team to handle the impending crisis. There is a full staff at the centre with three psychologists, two social workers, a special educator and two nurses. "We are hoping it will not be a big impact," said Vaillancourt. But preparations are being done just in case by the team in order to prepare for cases of depression and anxiety. "We are there for support," he said. Most patients having mental health difficulties are referred by their family doctors to the mental health

services of the Pontiac health centre. "Depression has a snowball effect," said Vaillancourt. "When there is no money coming in and no possibilities of jobs in view, adapting to welfare is difficult." He said he tries to convey the idea that welfare was created to help people in need. "There are a lot of economic problems in Pontiac now and jobs are scarce," said Vaillancourt, although he acknowledges that the number of cases may not be too great, as some have found jobs elsewhere. So far, Vaillancourt says there has been no large impact on mental health due to poor economy. Vaillancourt encourages anyone with questions about mental health to call the mental health information line 24 hours a day at 1-800-567-9625.

Hammin' it up



Hiram Davis helps serve food and drink at the 48th annual Ham and Bean Supper at the Masonic Hall in Shawville March 18. Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star Margaret Davis said people came from as far as Ottawa and Kingston to enjoy the dinner. About 50 people were served the traditional ham and beans before settling in for an evening of euchre.

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Property to be selectively cut in Bristol

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

BRISTOL • A 237-acre lot owned by the Municipality of Bristol is set to be selectively cut.

At the municipality's March 6 meeting, council passed a resolution to commission a forestry engineering company to make a plan for a selective cut on a property near Pontiac Station.

The resolution is following a forestry plan the municipality created six years ago. "We are going to continue on with that thinking," said Bristol Mayor Jack Graham. "We had some delays with boundaries."

The property, Lot 28, Range 1, which spans 237 acres, was bought in 1994 and is located east of Pontiac Station along the river.

An analysis was completed by a forestry technician and he advised the municipality that they should make selective cuts on mature trees.

"These mature trees are trees that have fallen over or have reached their life span," said Graham. "They will be harvested and dealt with responsibly."

If the recommendation is accepted by council, a selective cut will take out approximately 30 to 40 per cent of the lot's trees.

Graham added that the area of the lot between the river and the rail road track will not be select cut, in hopes that cottages and houses can be built there in the future.

"No one's going to build houses on swamp," said Graham.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada, a non-profit, non-advocacy organization that takes a business-like approach to preserving Canada's natural heritage, offered the municipality \$61,000 to buy the lot at the same council meeting.

"We're not going to sell," said Graham. "We're going to

proceed with the forestry engineering plan."

A local biologist with Environment Canada says that there are a significant number of rare species found in that area.

"There are plants along the shore that are not common in this area," said Theresa Aniskowicz-Fowler, who has lived in Bristol for 30 years.

As well, a threatened species, the Blanding's turtle, can often be found in the area.

"We happen to have a real nice pocket of turtles there," she said. "They are seen regularly near the golf course."

She said sighting have also been made of these turtles on the north side of Hwy. 148, as females tend to find sand above water level to lay their eggs.

"There is habitat that you don't see often," said Aniskowicz-Fowler.

The last select cut the municipality made was to 37

acres totalling \$22,000.

"The decision has been made based on the elements presented to us," said Graham. "We feel that lots of land have been preserved already."

Aniskowicz-Fowler said she would like to see the municipality sell the property to the Nature Conservancy as their mandate does not include developing it.

"Who will we sell it to after there has been a selective cut?" said Aniskowicz-Fowler.

Graham said the municipality may decide later to sell the land to the Nature Conservancy.

"I would personally like to leave it the way it is," said Aniskowicz-Fowler. "It's not a mature forest, but there are some pretty nice old trees there."

A petition against the select cut can be signed at Henderson's store in Norway Bay.

Quyon



Jill McBane
458-2366

On Saturday afternoon Russ and Janet Taber's dog Max was barking vigorously. When they looked out to see, Max was barking at their guests. Eleven wild turkeys, some very large, came out of the bush and started walking across the river. Half-way over they took flight, proving they can fly.

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Barbara Cruickshank who passed away after a lengthy illness. I grew up with her daughters, Bonnie and Peggy, and we have lots of good memories.

Also sympathy is expressed to the family of

Bella Desabrais who passed away last week.

Get well wishes are sent to Clem Foran who had the misfortune of breaking his foot. This is a good time to spend some quality time with Joan. Hope you have a speedy recovery.

On Friday, 46 family and friends of Madeline Chamberou surprised her at Baton Rouge in Ottawa to help her celebrate her birthday. Hope you had a good one Madeline.

St. Mary's C.W.L. held its annual Share Lent Brunch Sunday at the Lions Hall. Door prizes were won by Mervin Conroy, Mae McCann, Henri Beaudoin and Madeline Gauthier. The 50/50 was won by Eric Gibson.

Quyon United is back in Quyon for the month of April.

Campbell's Bay



Denis Smith
648-5821

Denis and Sylvie Morin have moved back into town. Nice to see them back. Mahlon Frost was in town to visit relatives and spent time with Mervin and Phyllis Smith on Calumet Island.

St. Andrew's United Church was the scene of the christening of Memphis Mitchell Laroche, son of Jean Claude Laroche and Lena (Baird). Proud grandparents are Ross and Colleen Baird. Great-grandparents are Allan and Jeannette Hill of Calumet Island and the late Mervin and Mary Baird. A delicious meal was served at Café 349 following the service for relatives and friends.

The Golden Age Club held its euchre Party on Tuesday evening at the club room. Ladies high was won by Anna Porter, second was a four-way tie between Carroll Mainville, Gergette Robitaille, Rita McGuire and Annette Lepine. They split the prize. Men's high was won by Lucien Dumouchel, second was a tie between Gordon Porter and Roger Lacroix. They split the prize. The door prize was won by Anna Porter. The 50-50 was won by Tom Hearty. Refreshments were by Lorraine Gagne and Isabelle Croix.

Saturday the Golden Age Club travelled by bus to Fortin's Sugar Camp for a delicious meal that was enjoyed by everyone. People could buy the syrup as well, which many did. This is usually the first trip of the season. Another trip is planned for next weekend at the Ottawa Little Theatre. Deepest sympathy to the family of the late Griffin Bowie who grew up in Campbell's Bay.

Saturday when we were at the sugar bush I met some friends and my other name sake, Iris Smith the wife of the late Ray Smith, son of the late George M. Smith. Nice to meet you again. I hadn't seen her in years.

Joyce Leach dropped in on Friday evening for a short visit. Always nice to have her.

Stacey Smith and Wayne Robinson have returned from a holiday at Daytona Beach. They enjoyed the good weather.

Rita Dayton visited with Gladys Walsh on Sunday afternoon.

In last week's column I mentioned a happy bingo winner who won 5000 dollars. Apparently another lady from town won 1000 dollars that evening. It seems that it was Campbell's Bay's lucky night.

Paye Hodgins spent a few days in Oshawa last week. The tickets are on sale for the Duck Race on April 15. If anyone is interested, get in touch with a Lion or Lionette.

Birthday wishes to Marc Racine, Rose-Marie Landry, Laura Crawford, Noel Kelly, Robert Bertrand, Jimmy Belanger, Cindy Corriveau, Tyler Newman, Relics Leach, Cathy Sloan, Mark Shea, Kim Rivet, Kenneth Lagarde and Laura Graveline. These people in our community celebrated their special day during the past week.

Jeannette Hill celebrated her 70th birthday with a birthday party in Alymer at the home of her daughter Lynn and her husband. Many family members attended.

Happy anniversary to Debbie and Mike Bertrand and Gc and Cathy Meilleur couples celebrating this week. Enjoy the years you have ahead.

cerning the proposed "mega dump" on April 3 at Bethany Hall here in Danford. Your support against this mega dump is greatly appreciated. Can anyone possibly tell me who will benefit from this plan? Will it be the Municipality of Allevy and Cawood? New signs have been erected saying "Yes" to the mega dump. This has caused controversy between the people putting up the signs and where they are trying to put them. If a person does not want a sign to be put on their land, the other people for the dump should respect the land owners' wishes. If they are in favour and give their permission then by all means.

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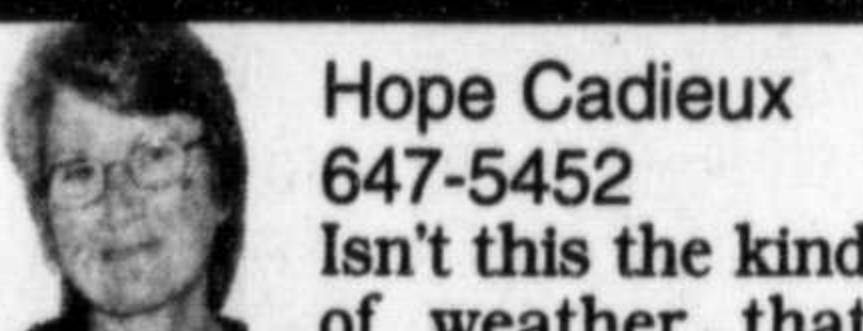
Speech, speech!



DOB BROWN, THE EQUITY

At Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School March 20, children from Grades 5 and 6 presented speeches in French for the concours d'Art Oratoire. The speeches were two to four minutes in length and were on the topic of space and our solar system. Bai-Leigh Chapman took first-place honours, Vanessa Prévost placed second and Matthew Lafleur finished third. Front row, from the left: Matthew Lafleur, Victoria Crawford and Bai-Leigh Chapman. Back row, from the left: Keri Beck, Shania Hodgins, Vanessa Prévost, Tiffany Bretzigh and Melissa Henderson display their certificates and awards.

Pontiac Station



Hope Cadieux
647-5452

Isn't this the kind of weather that just makes you want to haul out the lawn chairs, set up the barbecue and pick up the rake? The signs of spring are all around. The geese are heading north, the cottagers are returning to Pontiac Station, the kids are out on their bikes. I was awakened by the dawn chorus at six a.m. This morning and went out to feed the birds. I was able to walk on the crust of the snow and across the bit of ground that's bare around the edge of the receding snowline without sinking in. But by nine o'clock, however, the snow was a mass of wet crystals and the ground a sea of mud.

Yesterday a large flock of redpolls visited my bird feed-

er. I used to wonder why people found these inconspicuous little birds so appealing. Seen one at a time they are not much to look at. But in a group of 40 or 50, chirping and bobbing as they peck at the seeds, they are lively and cheerful and a joy to behold.

This week while driving in to Shawville, I saw a lone turkey hanging about on Bristol Mines Road near the four corners. It is a mystery as to what happened to his three companions, or indeed what brings them there at all.

And speaking of mysteries, the reason why Doug's tomato seeds sprouted in three days while mine took two weeks has been cleared up. He sprouted them on a paper towel before planting them. And I thought it was just a green thumb!

Readers of this column will know that I am concerned that the Municipality

of Bristol is planning a cut on Lot 28 Range 1, a large section of land that borders the river near Pontiac Station. The land is rocky and swampy but the trees have grown undisturbed for about a century and there are a few big pines on it. This area is of interest to the Nature Conservancy and they have offered to buy it with a view to protecting the land and the wildlife habitat it offers. I have been told by a representative of the Conservancy that their ownership would not preclude hunting or other activities such as ecotourism subject to their approval. Such activities could be worked out between the municipality and the Conservancy even if the Conservancy were to become the owner.

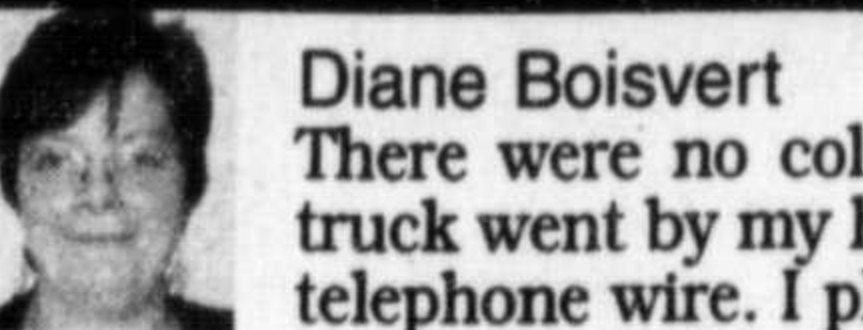
It may be that council feels under pressure to get some money from the land to recoup the cost of buying it.

If this is the case, then a sale to the Conservancy represents a golden opportunity. But if the municipality logs the land, for no other reason than to be seen to be doing something, the land will be worth less no matter what they decide to do with it.

Since the municipality purchased the land, the land belongs to all of us as residents and ratepayers of Bristol. It is to be hoped that council will take a longer-term view than to mess up the bush just to put a few dollars into general revenue. All we have to show for the earlier cut (30 acres) is a pile of hollow oak rotting by the side of Pontiac Station Road.

If you would like to let council know that you see the value in preserving this land in its natural state as a wildlife refuge, I have left a petition in Henderson's store. Or, you can call me at 647-5452.

Vinton



Diane Boisvert
648-5296

There were no column last week because a log truck went by my house on Saturday and cut my telephone wire. I phoned Telebec from the neighbors. They told me they could only send a repair guy out the following Wednesday. That was five days without a phone. So I took advantage of the situation and got some work done around the house. You'd be surprised what you can accomplish when you're not yacking on the phone.

The week before that I had to have my septic emptied. That wasn't too bad except that I had to find the right spot under all the snow and then dig through frozen ground. Now, I have a whole bunch of groundhog holes in the yard. Oh well, spring is here now so I will patch them up when it gets milder and the snow disappears.

The snow is almost all gone so all I have to contend with now is the flooding in the basement. But, that's okay too, because the floors in the basement keep clean. It is so nice to have above zero temperatures and see the birds returning. Before you know it, it will be time to start the gardens.

Remember your blue boxes tomorrow. You will notice that there are recycle bins at the dump. Please do your part to keep our environment clean.

On Friday, March 17 Allyson, Casey and Eric Belanger entertained the crowd by singing at Mickey Creek. Their sister, Kelsey, did her share by stimpdancing. What a talented family. Speaking of the Belangers, Min and Barry asked me to tell everyone that the lucky recipient is for the "Sudsy Babysitting Contest." It is Helen and Neil Desjardins because they have previous experience babysitting his older brother. So, they know just what to do. Congratulations and good luck. I would like to send out a get well wish to Leo O'Brien.

Look who just turned 18. Angela Dunahew of Ottawa, daughter of Ramona Dunahew Mayhew, celebrated on March 23.

ed the certificate. The lucky recipient was Barb Harris. Congratulations. On behalf of our entire class I would like to thank all who participated.

Happy belated birthday to Rose-Marie Landry and Noël Kelly March 25, Robert Bertrand and Cindy Corriveau on March 26. Happy birthday to Barney Holland, Laurie Graveline and Shane Jolin on March 29, Michel Dubeau and Lyle Brown on March 31, Barry Pepin on April 1, Debbie Bertrand April 2, Jean-Pierre Landry April 4.

Happy anniversary to Debbie and Mike Bertrand March 28 and Gc and Cathy Meilleur March 30.

April 1 to 7 is Adult Learners Week. On Monday, March 20 six students from the Family Social Assistant and Home Care and Office Secretarial Course went with Kelly Butler, our interviewer to CHIP Radio Station in Fort Coulonge to have a round table discussion about Adult Education. Helen Labouef from the Western Quebec School Board, was our service consultant. This program will be aired on CHIP Radio on April 5 between 4 to 5 p.m. So I hope everyone will be listening. So please listen in during the entire week to see how you can improve your life by continuing your education. Some people need to learn new skills because their jobs now are fading out. Others want to get their GED or extra courses to get better jobs. While some people just want to change their positions. Whatever your reason is, don't be afraid to try. You will find it very rewarding and a real esteem builder.

Another belated birthday goes out to Patricia Kluge who celebrated March 25.

Friday night there was another Chinese buffet served at Mickey Creek. Although I wasn't able to attend I was told by different people how good it was.

On Saturday, my daughter, Shelley came over with the two boys so she could go out with Cheryl Mayhew in Otter Lake. So the galloping Granites and Aunt Isabel Kluge babysat them. They were good, as usual but busy. It took all three of us to keep them occupied and out of mischief. I don't know how Shelley does it by herself.

On Sunday, Anna, Emily and Steve Mayhew from Luskville came for a visit with me. We played 14 games of Marteau and the boys won eight games. That's okay though because Anna and I will get you guys next time.

It was a beautiful day on Sunday and everyone was out walking, biking or poking around their yards. Hope you all have a great week.

Paris



Mona Rutledge
647-6250

Well Junior B players if you don't win the Metro Division at least you can be very proud of yourselves because you are the Valley Champions. So way to go guys!

The Shawville Hospital Auxiliary met at the home of Doris Orr on Tuesday, March 14. There was a good attendance and a pot luck lunch was enjoyed by all.

On Tuesday, April 11, at 1:30 the ladies auxiliary will

be meeting at the Respite Centre in Campbell's Bay to visit with former members who are new residents. As always new members are most welcome.

Happy birthday to Ross Vowles on March 30. Betty Petty on March 31. Betty, John and the girls wish you a very happy birthday with many more to come. Carol Pirie on April 1 and David Way on April 2.

Happy anniversary to Joy and Dalton Hodgins on March 30 and my friends Frank and Marie Finnigan on April 2 and also Wendy and Dave Lalonde on April 2.

Waltham



Helen Perry
689-2652

A cheery hello and get well wishes to Colleen Belanger. Colleen sustained a bad fall, on the ice, a week ago Sunday. Colleen was one of my nurses, when I had surgery in Shawville. She was very compassionate and kind. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Colleen!

Get well wishes are extended to Aunt Chrissy Gagnon, who has been down with a bad cold the past week or so. We hope that you feel better soon!

Dear, deer, deer, they are our deer, deer, and in our yards. They are everywhere! They seem so tame, they are not afraid of anything. There have been sightings of them, on Lyne and Ray Bechamp's front step! Patrick Morin was telling me that the deer are eating his hedges and that he still has his Christmas lights on them and they are nibbling at the lights. He was laughing and said "maybe next Christmas we will see blue reindeer running around town."

Laurence and Charles de Bruyn of Paris, France are visiting Isabelle and Patrick Morin for a month. Isabelle and Patrick are happy because Isabelle's parents will be here, for the birth of their baby.

Hi, to Colleen Barr, it was nice meeting you the other day while out shopping. I am glad that you enjoy my column.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Lawrence

(Sunnie) Pryer of Beachburg. He was the beloved husband of Eva Pryer (née Haney) of Beachburg and by first marriage the late Dorothy Pryer (née Bradley). He was the dearly loved brother of Margaret Cooke (late husband Francis). Our deepest sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

Many of the school children in the area are down with a nasty flu and Jacob is one of them. We hope that you feel better soon Bud!

On Sunday morning after mass, Marlene, George, Corey and Carley Campbell enjoyed a tasty breakfast at the Waltham Station. They joined Marie Campbell, Lucie, Joe, Maria, Gabrielle and Anna Rochon.

Belated birthday wishes are extended to Corey Campbell of Pembroke, who celebrated his birthday on March 27. We hope that you had a great day Corey!

Ray and Bert Bechamp started tapping their maple trees for the maple syrup run. Gerry Perry also has his started. He said that the run is slow.

Birthday wishes all the best are wished to Gerry Perry and Carolyn Pharend, who are celebrating their birthdays on April 3 and to Sheila Bissonnette who is also celebrating the same week. We hope that you all have a wonderful day!

Don't forget to turn your clocks an hour ahead before you go to bed this coming Saturday night. We spring ahead as Sunday, April 2 is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. It will be so nice the days and evenings will be longer.

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Homemade



Sisters Sandra and Gisele Lamothe recently purchased the Voyageur Restaurant in Bryson. The pair served approximately 70 breakfasts and 40 lunches during their first Saturday last week. The restaurant's meals are all homemade from scratch.

Caldwell



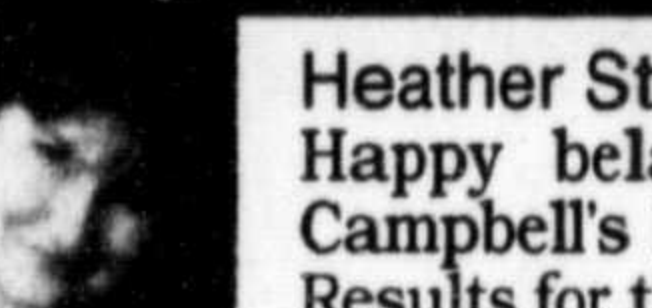
Harmonie Sharpe 647-3459 It has come to that time of year again, spring time. The sap cans will be put on the trees to give us that wonderful treat, maple syrup. As the weather is cooperating with cold nights and warmed days the sap is really on the run. I hope we have a good year.

My car is having a little rest. It is sitting at the side of the house and because of my eyesight I cannot drive it. I guess I should get a horse and buggy because I do not need a license to drive the old nag. Wouldn't that be cute, seeing me coming down the back road to Shawville. But what would I tie the old nag to? Just maybe W.A.'s would put in a hitching post.

On March 21 a grand old lady, Laura Moore of Campbell's Bay celebrated her 94th birthday. It doesn't seem that long since we celebrated her 90th. What a storm we had that night as we travelled up Hwy. 148. Cars were parked on the side of the road and the roads were partially blocked. But a good many of us came through to help you celebrate your glorious 90th. Congratulations Laura we hope you have many more years of health and happiness.

Now I will take you into the next birthdays for March. On March 17, Donna Young of Shawville and John Kelly of Caldwell, March 20 Lloyd Cone of Shawville, March 22, Evelyn Sharpe of Pembroke and Tommy Sharpe of Australia, March 23, Margaret Sharpe of Shawville, March 25, Diane Wilson of Norway Bay and

Bryson



Heather Stewart • 648-5413 Happy belated birthday to Relics Leach of Campbell's Bay who celebrated on March 27. Results for the Golden Age euchre held on Monday, March 27 are as follows: Door: Perry Kluge, 50/50: Jim Stewart, Men's first: Tommy Hearty, Men's second: Gordon Porter, Ladies first: Joan Sicard, Anna Stewart and Georgette Piche. Ladies second: Georgette Robitaille, Collette McLernan and Rose Gutoskie.

Nanny and Papa would like to send out a big happy birthday to little Shianne all the way out in Alberta. Shianne is the daughter of Monique Lepine. I am sitting here wondering when Shawn and Monique will decide to come out and visit. Hint, hint!

My Dad, Jim, has been busy in the sugar bush these last few days. He is boiling and gathering sap. Visitors pop in and out to see him all day long and that is something he loves. He is always talking about who comes to see him. He is anxiously waiting for Uncle Melvin and John Chinard to arrive on Wednesday. I think some of the best times they spend are in that sugar bush. It is a time of the year that we all love. Wishing all the maple syrup makers a good run this year!

Home for the weekend were my brother Shawn, Amber and Dakota. It was really nice seeing you again. I hope Shawn practices his card playing before he comes back! Congratulations to Sandra Kluge and Gisele Lamothe who reopened the Voyageur over the weekend! The restaurant is on Hwy. 148 just outside of Bryson. Wishing you both much success!

The weather has been beautiful for the last few days. I think spring has finally arrived and that is one thing I am happy about! Goodbye to winter for another year!

Sheenboro



Myrtle Sullivan 689-2236 Get well wishes to my brother Hubert Nephin who is in the hospital. I went to see him yesterday with my daughters and he said he was glad to see us as he gets pretty lonely.

I was sorry to hear of the death of Christy Jennings who was originally from Sheen. My sympathy goes out to his family.

Happy birthday to Bailey McLeese who is turning 14 on April 1 from grandmother Mary and Ray Walker.

Happy birthday to my granddaughter Robin Sullivan who also celebrates a birthday this week.

Well I heard a rumor that there is a big Casino Night planned in the Sheen Hall on May 6. Sounds like a pretty exciting night.

My son Jim and his wife Ellie and Pat and Karen

Bernie Doherty of Starks Corners, March 27, my niece Lorraine Webster of Rochester N.Y., March 29, Chris Tremblay of Caldwell and Jessie Cameron who celebrates her 102 and March 31, Mary Doherty of Starks Corners, Eugene Soubliere of Ottawa and Madeline Wittig of Caldwell. Birthday congratulations to you all and may you have many more.

This past week I have had my son Donald, from Marathon visiting. He has been visiting his son, Scott, wife Sheri and granddaughter Taylor in Kitchener and then on to Embrun to visit daughter Stephanie and husband Jason Howe. He has returned home but he and his wife Joanne will be returning for Easter.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Amelia Smart Bretzlaff who passed away on March 6. Amelia was well known throughout the Pontiac and was raised in Shawville. She and her parents, the late Wellington and Lucy Smart lived where the Shoe Shop is now. Her father ran a butcher shop where many of us bought our best cuts of meat. His son, Asa ran the restaurant beside the meat shop.

Also deepest sympathy goes out to family and friends of Barbara Cruickshank who passed away on March 14 in the Pontiac Community Hospital.

Get well wishes to Jack Boyd who has been a patient in Shawville Hospital. His son Leslie has been home from he west to visit with his parents for a few days.

On March 17 Raeburn Orr of Shawville called to see if I would like to visit our friends at St. Joseph's Manor in Campbell's Bay.

When we arrived, having forgotten the date, we were presently surprised to arrive at the St. Patrick's Day party. This had been arranged by the manor for the occupants. We enjoyed the afternoon of the very best of Irish music, step dancing and singing. All the residents were dressed in Irish fashion and even the help danced along with the music. After the afternoon entertainment a lovely lunch was served to us all, which we enjoyed having with our friends.

This column may not be a weekly affair because I'm not able to write or type this myself and need to rely on help. The CNIB has given me a monitor that helps me read and write but it will take a lot of practice to get used to it. CNIB has given me a great deal of help and deserves a helping hand from all. One of our club members from Shawville has already given a donation which I am sure will be appreciated.

COLOUR COPYING advertisement with large text and business card examples.

Seed Now, Pay Later advertisement featuring a man in a field.

Tirecraft Renfrew advertisement with rebates and contact information.

Otter Lake



Elizabeth Hahn 453-7326 Belated wedding anniversary wishes to Randy and Nicole Lance who celebrated March 19. Best wishes from their son Kyle, mom and dad, Millie and Willard.

Belated birthday wishes to Willard Lance who had a birthday on March 25. Best wishes from sister Erna and brother-in-law Mervin and the rest of the family.

Belated birthday wishes to Kyle Lance who was 18 on March 28. Also best wishes to Joyce Beaudoin who celebrated on the same day.

Congratulations to Florence and Warren Sparing on their 52nd wedding anniversary.

Happy birthday wishes to Lloyd Kluge April 1 and Jill Racine on April 2.

Terry Loësche who has been spending the winter months in Thailand. He called his grandmother, Hilda Mayhew on Sunday. He reported that the weather is beautiful, sunny and very warm. It was 35 degrees Celsius in Phuket on Sunday.

Happy birthday to Yvonne Ladouceur from your grandparents Mémère and Pépère Rebertz.

Pam and Randy Thoms, their children Kathryn and Graham have returned home after spending 10 days of March break in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. They had a wonderful time. The weather was sunny and warm in the high 70s.

Kathryn was 15 on March 15 and they celebrated her birthday in Myrtle Beach with 16 of their friends from Kanata and surrounding area. They enjoyed pizza and ice cream birthday cake by the outside pool overlooking the ocean. They all had lots of fun. Belated birthday wishes from Grandma Hahn, Mémère and Pépère Mayhew.

Happy birthday to my mom, Hilda Richard

Gravelle Mayhew who will be 99 years young on April 9. Also celebrating on the same day is her grandson and my son Pat Hahn. We wish you both all the best from your families.

Visiting with Laurette and Ted Richard were nieces Nancy Richard of Ottawa, Debbie Saikaley of Orleans, Sharon England of Pembroke and June Francoeur of beautiful Leslie Lake.

I have a new great-grandson who was born on Sunday, March 26 to my grandson and his wife Naomi Russell. Congratulations to Patricia and Carson Russell on their first grandchild.

Visiting with me for lunch on Sunday was my son, Pat Hahn and his granddaughter Julia of Pembroke. They also visited with grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Mayhew.

Visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Mayhew on Saturday for lunch were Hilda and Blake Keayes of Bells Corner and Liz Hahn.

On Saturday, March 18 the Otter Lake Golden Age Club executive hosted a St. Patrick's dinner. Many thanks to Maureen and Barry Racine for cooking a delicious Irish stew with helpers Janet and Denis Lafleur and June Francoeur. A big thank you to everyone who helped make the evening a success.

On Tuesday, March 21 the Golden Age Club held its weekly euchre game. The 50/50 draw was won by Maureen Racine. Ladies high score for the night was Dolly Lepack and Geneva Racine won second. Mens high score was won by Médard Allard and second was a tie between Lionel Racine and Laurier Francoeur with Lionel winning the draw.

Delicious refreshments were prepared by Gilberte Bussiere and Beverly Dubeau. Happy birthday wishes to Richard Dubois.

Ladysmith



Debbie Thrun 647-3927 Here we are again, at the end of another month. Friday is the last day of March. Now the big question is will it go out like a lion because it came in like a lamb? I guess we'll just have to wait.

Well it's almost that time of year again. Don't forget Daylight Saving Time starts this weekend. So turn your clocks ahead one hour before you retire on Saturday night. We will end up losing an hour of sleep but the nice part is we receive more day light.

I would like to make a correction to last week's notes. I had written sympathy to the Cruickshank family and friends on the recent passing of Barbara but I forgot to mention sympathy to her companion, Wayne Dunlop and family. They had a beautiful home in Thorne for 22 years. I apologize for this mistake.

Visiting with us on Tuesday afternoon were Kip and Donna Smith of Eganville.

We were looking out the window Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. and there were two large wild turkeys walking in

front of the house. These are the first we have ever seen. They seemed to be quite tame because they were walking at a slow pace. A very pretty sight to see.

Welcome back to Dorval and Elda Wickins who have returned home safely after a winter holiday.

Birthday congratulations to Kenny Emmerson of Charteris on April 2.

Visiting with Freida Krose last Saturday were her grandson, Steven Krose and his friend Dan of Arnprior and on Sunday were her granddaughter Angela Krose and her friend Mike of Ottawa. She had a lovely weekend visiting with her grandchildren and their friends.

While shopping in Shawville last weekend we met cousin Melvyn and Sharron Mielkie of Arnprior and enjoyed a great chat.

Get well wishes to Mabel Erle who has been on the sick list. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you.

This past week I had a great chat with Evelyn Campbell. She tells me they're not tapping yet as it is still too cool and still too much snow on the lawn down in the Holy Land. They are hoping for a good year because last year wasn't as good as some years.

Eric tells me that he was once showing his operation to a city person who asked how he could tell the maple trees from the others. He replied "Easy they're the ones with the buckets hung on them."

A correction, I reported that the robins returned last year on March 16 but it was March 26 when they returned. So they arrived very early this year on March 12.

Well, it is finally starting to look and feel like spring. As I write this it is Friday and a beautiful warm day. What we need now is plenty of sunshine to dry everything up. Spring is usually a very messy and dirty time of year. I've noticed even the roads are not in very good condition. They are so rough and bumpy. This makes it so hard on your vehicle.

We received a call from Alex Rutledge of Bristol on Saturday. He reports that he has a pair of robins that have arrived at his place.

While walking in the bush the other Dennis saw three partridges. They seemed big and robust.

Calling us on the weekend was our good friend Harold Mahlitz of Kitchener. He is returning a vacation to this area sometime in late spring or early summer to visit.

Large advertisement for Biotechnology products including BIO WAY, BIO DOR, and BIO CARE, with images of bottles and text describing their uses.