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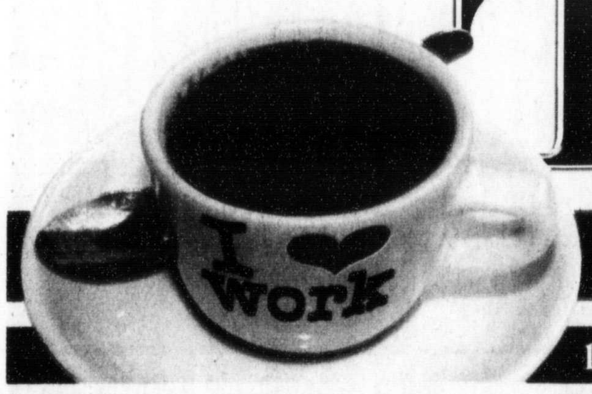


Our salute to administrative assistants | page 5

123rd Year, Issue No. 17 Wednesday, April 26, 2006 87 cents

Province cites Mountainview Turf for environmental violations

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • An inspection by the Québec Ministry of Environment has found two environmental policy violations on the property of Mountainview Turf.

Three separate visits by provincial inspectors on April 6, 7 and 11 discovered an illegal amount of cutting done on the property located east of Quyon. Also, the temporary road created over a stream for the transport of vehicles from one side of the property to the other was improperly built.

"People are allowed to cross the creek but there is a way to do it (legally). It has to conform to the guidelines. In this case, they did not," said Léon Martin, regional director of the Environmental Control Centre for Outaouais, who oversaw the inspections.

"They can cut 50 per cent or less of trees that are 10 centimetres (in diameter) or more. None of the trees were left."

The clearing on the property was completed by J.M.J. Sylviculture & Exploitation Forestiere Inc. of Papineauville.

Mountainview Turf owner, Bill Hamilton, said he was surprised to learn of the violations.

"I'm very surprised that you can't cut down trees for the clearing of farmland, I think all the farmers in the Pontiac would be surprised to hear that," said Hamilton, who said he learned of the violations for the first time in an interview with THE EQUITY on Thursday.

Hamilton argued that he only came into ownership of the property in January and that, by then, many trees had already been removed.

"Anything of any sized caliper was already harvested," he said.

Mountainview Turf's status as an agricultural firm dictates that the file must be handled municipally, and the province's findings have been forwarded to MRC des Collines and the Municipality of Pontiac

"When there's work for commercial, industrial, public use or public access, we take care of the authorization," said Martin, a provincial employee. "When it's agricultural, it's under municipal (law). In this case, it's the responsibility of the municipality to consider action to ensure the river bank is naturalized."

The municipal laws governing environmental violations are dictated by the province, but implemented by regional MRCs.

MRC des Collines Director of Local Development, Michel Belanger, said that the MRC and Municipality of Pontiac had yet to conduct their own investigation of the property and, until they did so, the violations were not officially recognized.

If the violations cited by the province in the report forwarded to the MRC were true, however, the most likely penalty will force Mountainview to revert the areas of violation back to their previous state.

Municipal Inspector for Pontiac, Isabelle Côté, said in two years on the job she has had only one other case similar to this current one and it, too, involved J.M.J. Inc., the forestry firm.

"They could receive a fine," said Côté.

J.M.J. denied knowingly breaking the law.

"If we knew, we wouldn't do anything," said Daniel St. Jean, the company's vice-president.

"We're a good-sized company. If we did that, we wouldn't stay in business very long."

Hamilton also defended the forestry firm.

"He's a very large and responsible contractor," said Hamilton. "They're a company that does a lot of this work, it's what they do for a living so it's inevitable that (the municipality and J.M.J.) would run into each other."

Environmentalist displeased

Ian Huggett, member of the non-governmental environmental organization, Eco-Watch, stated displeasure with the fact that the Municipality of Pontiac would be responsible for ensuring environmental regulations are followed by Mountainview Turf, and penalizing them if need be.

Please see TURF on page 2

Campbell's Bay ends water boil advisory

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

CAMPBELL'S BAY • Residents in Campbell's Bay were warned to boil their water before consumption last week.

For nine days, starting April 13, Campbell's Bay issued a 'water boil' advisory caused by high amount of movement, or turbidity, in the municipal water system.

The notice was lifted Friday.

"The turbidity was high," said Campbell's Bay secretary-treasurer Colleen Larivière. "We were concerned about the bacteria level."

Spring runoff caused high water levels and therefore more movement of water coming from the river.

"When the turbidity is high the chlorine may not be as effective, and there is a higher risk of having bacteria," said Larivière.

The advisory was made as a precaution only, in the event that the chlorine would not kill all bacteria completely in the village's tap water.

"There was never anything in the water to make people sick," Lariviere said.

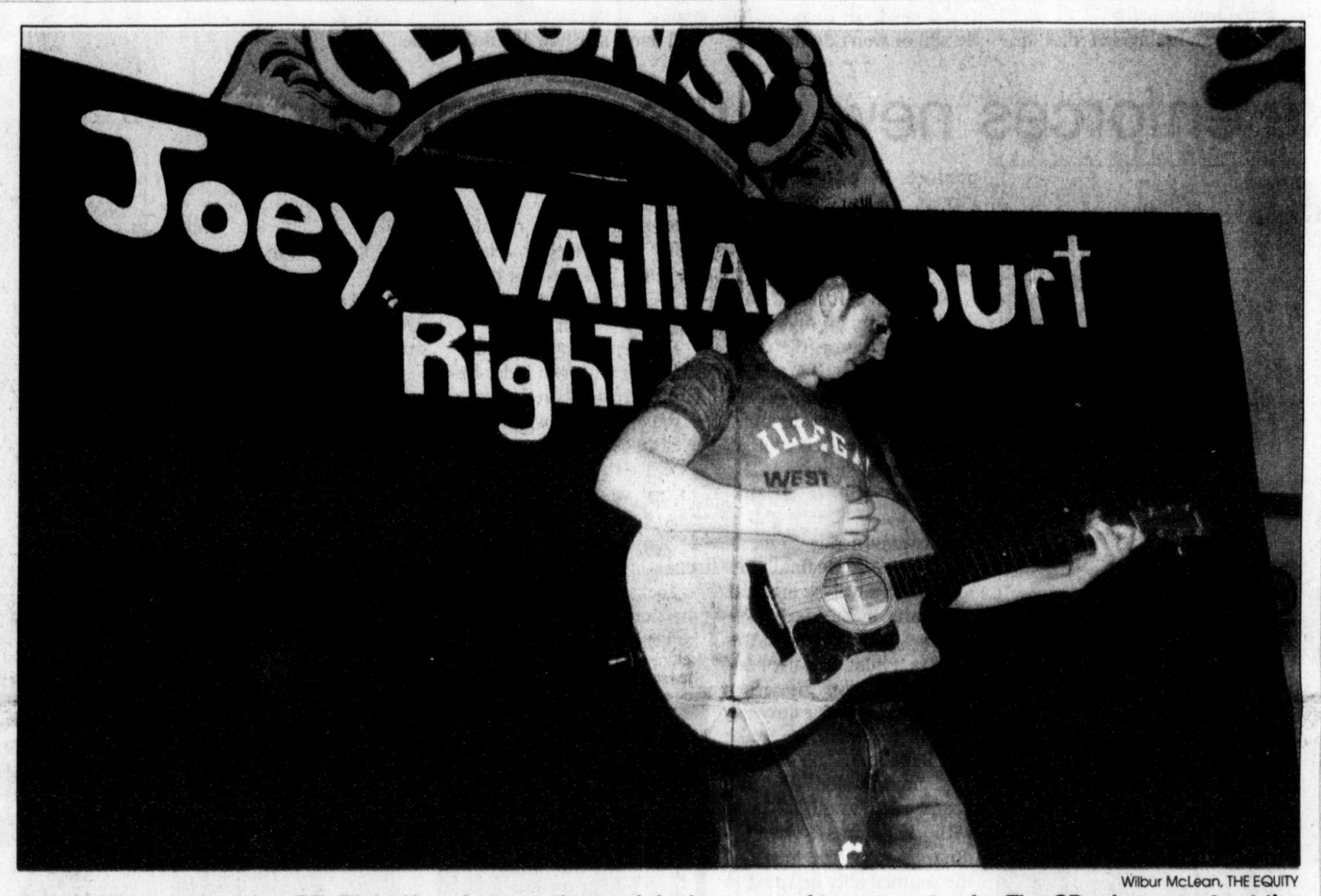
The notice sent out to residents suggested boiling water for one minute before consuming and to seek medical attention if anyone using the municipal water system suffered from nausea, vomiting or diarrhea that could be related to the consumption of the water.

The municipality conducted a series of tests over the Easter weekend and received the first results Friday.

"Both (tests) were good according to the department of health and welfare," said Larivière of results confirming that the turbidity had not affected the chlorine.

Larivière said it is not uncommon for turbidity levels to rise in the spring in Campbell's Bay.

"It's a natural thing to happen this time of year."



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Joey Vaillancourt's debut CD, Right Now, features three original songs and two cover tracks. The CD release party at the Shawville Lions Hall on Saturday night was a success, with 263 advance tickets being sold. To view more photos of this event click on THIS WEEK'S PHOTOS at www.theequity.ca.

Local singer ready for success 'Right Now'

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Up-and-coming country music singer Joey Vaillancourt makes himself difficult to miss.

For the most part where ever he goes, perched atop his 20-year-old head is his black Stetson cowboy hat.

"I try to keep the country theme going," said Vaillancourt following his two-hour long performance at the release party for his CD, "Right Now", which took place at the Shawville Lions Hall.

At the rate his music career is going, however, Vaillancourt soon will not require the hat to be properly identified as a country music artist.

His voice and talent will do that for him.

"Right Now" is a five-track EP that contains three original songs written by Vaillancourt and two covers.

Having completed the tour of the Ottawa Valley singing and at karaoke competitions over the last couple of years, the release party was Vaillancourt's coming-out event.

With 263 advanced tickets purchased and over 100 people in attendance, Vaillancourt proved his ability to perform in front of a large audience as he impressed the crowd with both pure country and country-rock songs.

The whole time he was cool, calm and collected — surprising for a boy his father, Yvon, insists is "very shy".

"Being on stage allows me to express myself," said Vaillancourt, of Shawville.

For now, Vaillancourt divides his time between practicing daily, including about three hours per day on weekends, and attending Heritage College for Electronics.

"(Electronics) is my back-up. I've been balancing that," said Vaillancourt.

Ever-wise, Vaillancourt's father, Yvon, believes college is smart for his son because, "There are no guarantees in life."

Please see JOEY on page 2

Provided by Dennis Blaedow

The Pontiac Tourism Association has proposed to the MRC new tourist information signs be installed at the five main entrances to the county. In sketches drawn by Bristol artist Michael Neelin, the signs would feature maps and provide brochures to Pontiac attractions.

Tourism Association wants new information signs in county

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • The Pontiac Tourism Association has proposed the Pontiac MRC install new tourism information signs at the five entrances to the county.

"The Pontiac Tourist Association is concerned about our information system," said association president Dennis Blaedow.

"We have a proposal to have an information system starting at the five major entrances to the Pontiac. I think it's overdue. The cost is nominal for the return."

These identifying info booths would stand year-round at Rapides des Joachims, Portage du Fort, Danford Lake, Bristol and Allumettes Island to provide tourism information instead of a just few months through the summer.

"We are looking for support for the tourist association," said Blaedow.

Smaller signs could welcome visitors into each municipality. Each sign would look identical, except for a few pictures on the signs that would depict various themes in that particular area.

A quote given to Blaedow for these signs to be made was at a cost of $7,000.

"The Pontiac Tourism Association is pledging to supply the maps and the information," said Blaedow.

The MRC approved the idea, but was unable to financially back the initiative last month.

"I think it is excellent," said Bristol Mayor Jack Graham at last month's MRC council of mayors meeting. "Manning a booth and waiting for a car is unfeasible."

The association suggested the signs be paid two-thirds by the MRC and one-third by municipalities.

Currently there are tourist booths in Bristol, Portage du Fort and Allumettes Island providing information to tourists only in the summer months.

Please see SIGNS on page 2

Otter Lake enforces new garbage regulations

New rules include charging $2 per garbage bag

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

OTTER LAKE • Providing a solution to new restrictions on the municipality's landfill, Otter Lake's environmental and waste disposal committee proposed strict regulations to residents at a public consultation Thursday.

Reacting in response to the cease burning notice sent to Quebec municipalities in the last few months, Otter Lake informed residents it would be restarting its recycling program.

"The object of the consultation is to get everyone up to speed on the landfill and what changes need to be made to our site until we get a permanent one within two to three years," said Otter Lake Mayor Terry Richard to a large crowd at the Otter Lake R.A. hall.

By 2008 all dumping at in-trench landfills within 100 kilometres of an engineered site will not be permitted.

"The plan we're doing now is only temporary, we have two to three years left," said Richard. "We need to make sure we have enough room for that time."

Since the dump quickly filled up with the no burning regulation, the municipality was forced to clean it up and come up with a solution that could make the dump last until 2008.

"We started yesterday," said Richard on the dump's clean-up.

"It took us two full days."

Workers moved the main gate closer to the highway and blocked off a second entrance.

"We spent $10,000 on the dump to clean it up," said Richard.

"We buried it with sand, made a new road and we don't want people going into the dump from the bush."

If the dump is caught on fire, fines would start at $2,500 and double each time up to a maximum fine of $10,000. The government can automatically take money out of the municipality's bank account when fined and even lock the dump. The municipality would then be forced to transport garbage to the nearest engineered landfill, which is in Lachute.

So far, no fines have been issued.

"There is no more risk of fire. We may make enough money just by not fighting fires to pay an employee," joked Richard.

The environmental and waste disposal committee, made up of councillors Claude Piché, Vital St. Aubin, Jerry Dubeau, Gil Lavigne and the mayor, looked at several nearby waste management plans before choosing what they thought would suit Otter Lake best.

"We should have been thinking about this a long time ago," said Coun. Dubeau.

Coun. Dubeau said the plan council came up with is not new.

"One thousand other municipalities reward residents who throw out less," he said. "By doing this, we reduce the amount of garbage, which helps everyone."

The newly designed dump will have additional sites for steel, tires and construction materials, another for recycling and one more for compost.

Please see DUMP on page 2

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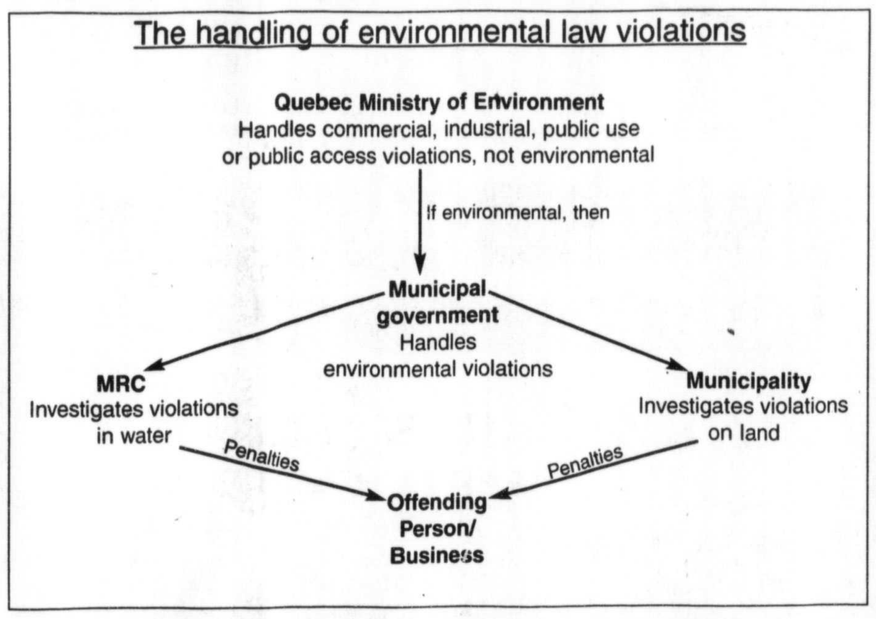
Turf: Province cites Mountainview for violations

Provided by Ian Huggett

Environmentalist Ian Huggett took photographs of Mountainview Turf's expansion project when he conducted a "reconnaissance inspection" of the property, as stated in Huggett's report to the Ministry of Environment. The province found two infractions on the property and the file has been forwarded to the MRC des Collines and Municipality of Pontiac, who must handle environmental laws of agricultural land.



Continued from page 1

Huggett was the person who initially inspected the property, unbeknownst to Mountainview, and he submitted an informal report to the Ministry of Environment that led to the provincial inspections.

"Mountainview Turf is probably the single largest tax payer in the MoP, making large contributions to the municipal coffers. It would be inconceivable for the MoP to objectively charge one of its best corporate citizens," said Huggett in an e-mail.

"The mayor (Eddie McCann) has publicly supported the forest conversion to a monoculture of turf ... Thus, the two violations are a non-issue in the eyes of the municipality."

McCann agreed that he, personally, saw no problem with the clearing of the land, considering what Mountainview Turf wanted to do with it — "You can't return a ... brush into workable farmland by cutting every other tree," he said — but noted that he would be in contact with both the MRC and Ministry of Environment regarding the legalities of what was done to the land.

"I don't want to say what we will or won't do until I've talked to the right people," said McCann.

Huggett also charged that the municipality handling Mountainview Turf's violations was a conflict of interest, considering the company owns the garbage contract for Pontiac.

However, the Director of Regional Municipal Affairs for Québec, James Simpson, denied the situation could be construed as a conflict of interest.

"I don't see how it could be," said Simpson.

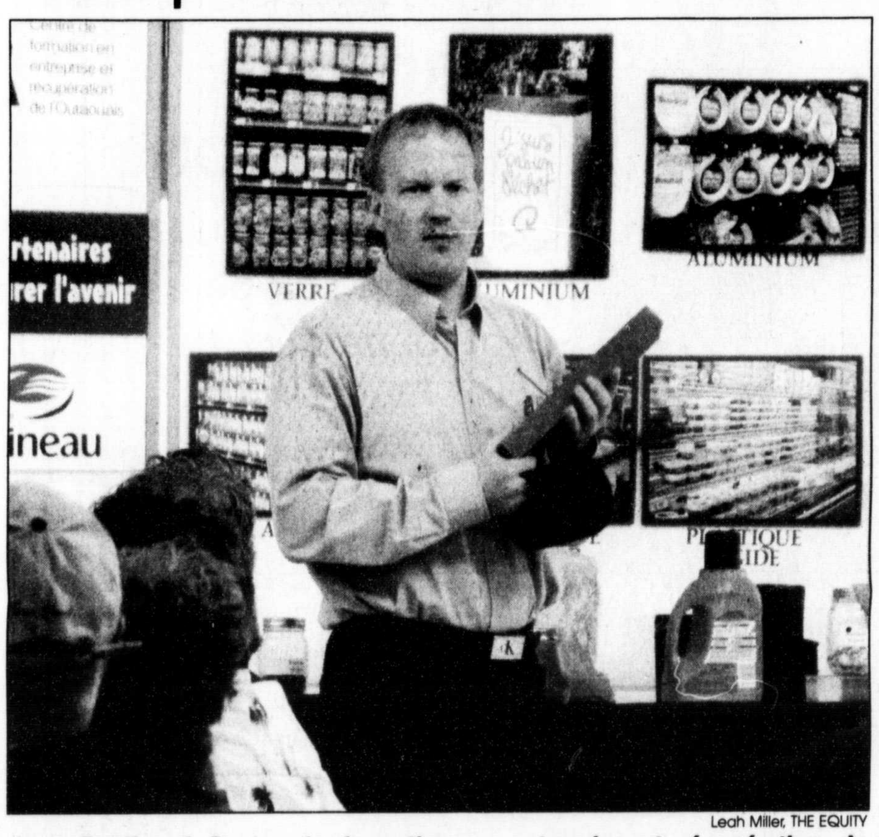
"They still have to provide the service. It's a contract. They're two separate issues."

With all of the accusations and violations surrounding his business, Hamilton is just hoping to get the situation eradicated as quickly as possible.

"I'd like everybody to be reasonable and get on with life," sighed Hamilton.

"Let's all just be sensible."

Dump: Otter Lake enforces new garbage regulations



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Jean Poulin of Centre de formation en entreprise et récupération de l'Outaouais recycling group in Gatineau, explains to Otter Lake residents what can and cannot be recycled. Otter Lake consulted the community on its new proposed regulations on waste management, which includes a $2 fee per garbage bag dumped.

Continued from page 1

"The compost is what will save you a lot of money," said Coun. Dubeau. "It will be on a user-pay system, so the more garbage you have the more you will have to pay.

"We are suggesting that one garbage tag cost $2," said Coun. Dubeau of tags that will mark each bag of garbage.

A bag can be as big as 26 by 36 inches. Larger items such as appliances will cost $15 each to dump. It could cost up to $30 to dump a half-ton trailer of garbage. Recycle and compost material can be dropped off at no charge. Unsorted materials will not be accepted. Money from the sales of tags will go towards operating the dump.

In council's studies of other municipal waste plans, costs for bags of garbage varied, ranging from $1 a bag to $5 a bag in Beachburg.

"You can see where it can be costly," said Coun. Dubeau.

An attendant will check garbage at the gate. Bags will be marked with a prepurchased tag. The remaining materials will be sorted and residents will be directed to a second worker who will show residents where to dump. At the end of each day, garbage will be covered with a 6 to 10 inch layer of sand.

"If we all do our part and recycle and compost, we will probably have less maintenance at the dump," said Coun. Dubeau. "It's not going to be easy, but times are changing. We can't do it like we used to. The more we can recycle on-site, the less we have to ship and pay. We started recycling three years ago, and will reinforce the need to recycle."

Recycling is a large part of the plan.

"We have to practice the three 'R's," said Richard of the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle principles. "CFER is the company we're dealing with."

Centre de formation en entreprise et récupération de l'Outaouais is a Gatineau-based non-profit company that works on recycling plans with many other Pontiac municipalities.

"CFER Outaouais started 14 years ago and is a non-profit organization," said Jean Poulin of CFER. "The money goes back to schools we prepared to work with drop-out students.

Poulin explained to residents what could be recycled, emphasizing that all products have to be clean. Fibres, glass, metal and plastic marked with a recyclable sign on it can be recycled.

"We plan to have hazardous waste, oil and paint containers put on the site," said Richard. "Effective tomorrow an employee will be at the dump all the time. It will never be open without anyone there anymore. The costs are still in discussion."

At council's May 15 meeting, prices will be finalized.

"Changes will be made at the dump in the next three weeks," said Richard. "We have to adjust, but the reality is we have no other option. It is our duty as elected members to make this happen."

Richard added that the health risks would be lower with less waste in the dump. And, in the future, if the municipality adapted to sort its own recycling it could sell it out instead of getting it picked up, bringing in added profit.

"It came as a surprise," said Richard. "It has already affected our 2006 budget. We didn't allocate for (the dump clean-up) in November."

Council may consider giving out some free tags to residents.

"It's in everyone's best interest to keep it clean," said Richard. "It's to your benefit to recycle properly. It will be costly if you abuse it."

Some residents were not convinced charging for garbage was the best choice.

"My taxes went up $150 this year," said resident Ray Dubeau. "I already don't get enough from my money. I have a real problem with paying for my garbage."

While others thought the initiative was well-founded.

"I am pleased with this," said resident Doug Gauthier. "I am glad it's a non-profit recycling group. But I am concerned about the amount of garbage along roads as we are in a tourism area."

Richard said the municipality considered roadside recycling pick-up, but being in a rural area would require a master plan.

Resident Jerry Chevalier said that with two kids, his family created three bags of garbage a week when they lived in Shawville.

"Once the recycling started we went down to one bag," he said.

"It's unbelievable with what you'll save."

Locks will be changed on the dump, and keys will no longer be given out to people who want access to the dump after hours.

"We may go back to using the ID dump cards," Richard said of identification cards that were issued previously to enter the dump.

Once compost is mature residents can take some at no charge.

"I know it's a hard pill to swallow," said Richard, "but we're all in the same boat. If you use it right, it won't cost you."

There will be no changes to the hours of the dump, which is closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Joey: singer ready for Nashville

Continued from page 1

Ultimately, however, Vaillancourt wants to be a professional country artist.

"I want to sell myself as a singer-songwriter," said Vaillancourt.

And what will get him there?

"Pure determination," opined Vaillancourt following his show.

The younger Vaillancourt began playing the guitar at age 14, to the chagrin of his father at the time.

"I didn't take him seriously. I was trying to push him with hockey," said the elder Vaillancourt.

"But he said 'I'm not going to go anywhere with hockey, I want to play guitar. I want to try to go somewhere with guitar'. So we let him play."

Now, six years later, Vaillancourt's CD is professional sounding and the liner notes are slickly reproduced, giving "Right Now" a sense of legitimacy few other amateur productions can boast of.

The disc is available at local stores throughout the Pontiac, and songs will be played on CHIP FM and, potentially, MY FM in Renfrew.

The CD's title seems appropriate for a young man who doesn't believe in waiting for success to come to him.

He's going after it 'right now'.

"He's determined to get somewhere and he's going to get there," said Yvon, with a knowing smile during his son's performance.

"He wants to go from Shawville to Nashville."

Signs: Association to provide tourism information

Continued from page 1

Blaedow said that Bell may be interested in equipping the signs with a pay phone booth. The signs will be looked after by the tourism association.

"Nobody else has initiated this in Quebec," said Blaedow. "Tourism Outaouais has also given its approval."

The Pontiac Tourism Association is also promoting the idea of installing proper signage along Hwy. 148.

"We want the (road) sign in Aylmer to say more than just Fort Coulonge," said Blaedow.

The association is also looking into the possibility of organizing a geocaching system, where GPS users participating in a cache hunt use location co-ordinates to find the caches and rewards.

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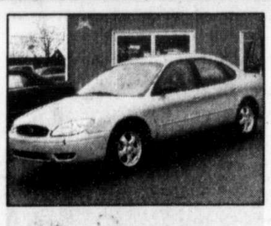

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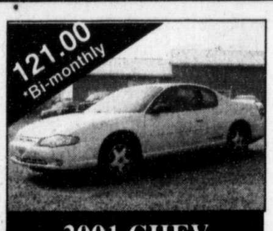

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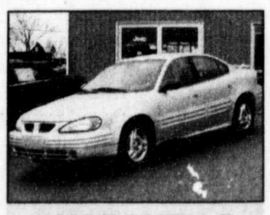

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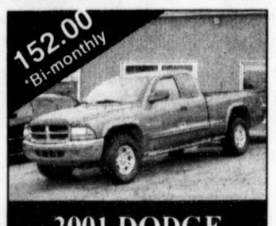

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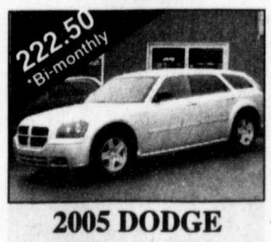

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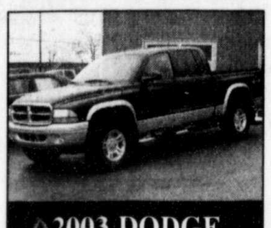

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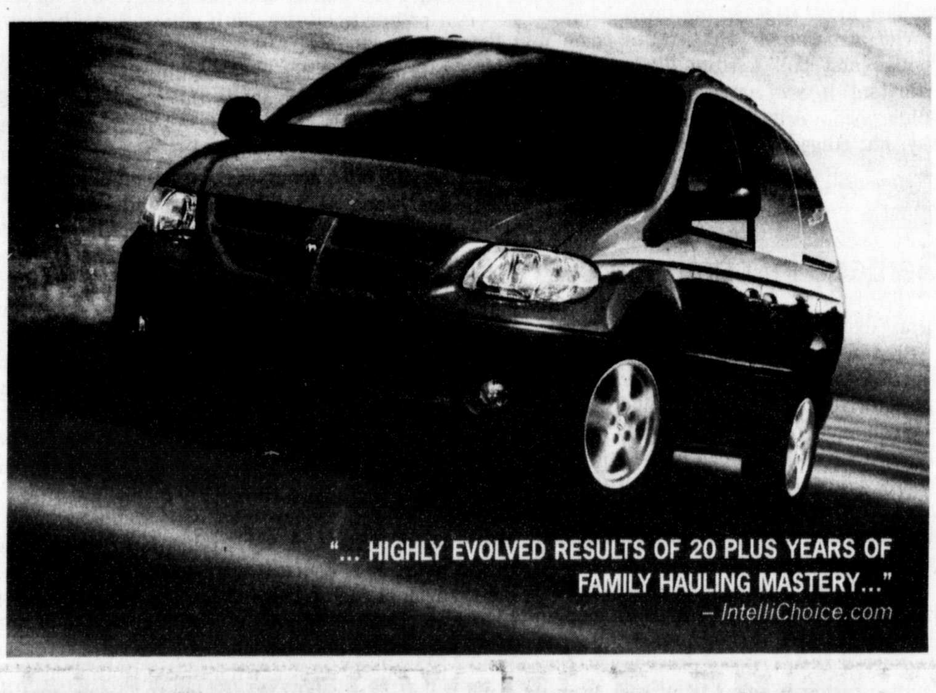


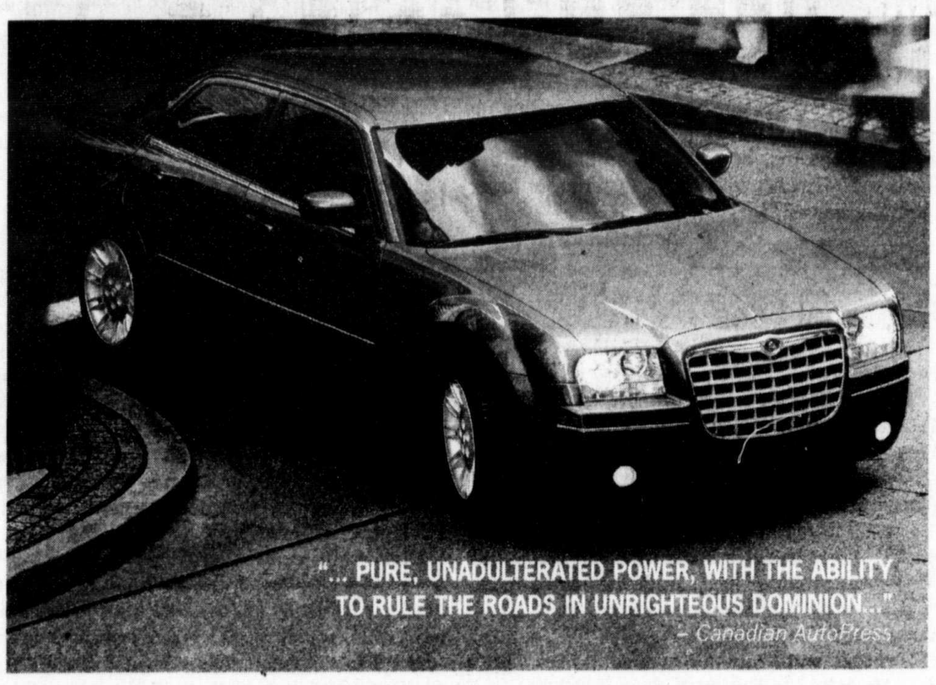
2006 DODGE CARAVAN

★★★★★ NHTSA FIVE STAR CRASH RATING for frontal impact*

• 3.3-L 180-hp V6 engine • Air conditioning • 7-passenger seating • Power windows, locks and mirrors • Cruise control • CD player • Roof luggage rack

Lease for
$189*
PER MONTH.
24-MONTH LEASE.
$3,900 DOWN PAYMENT.
$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT.
OR GET 0% FINANCING FOR UP TO 36 MONTHS△.

Fuel Consumption‡:
Highway: 8.2 L/100 km (35 mpg)
City: 12.2 L/100 km (23 mpg)

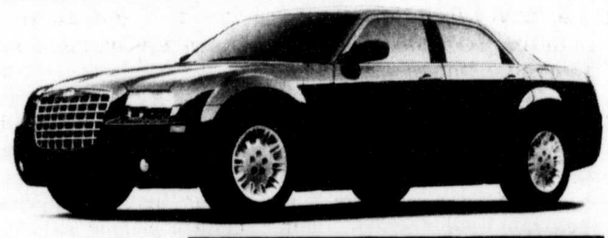


2006 CHRYSLER 300

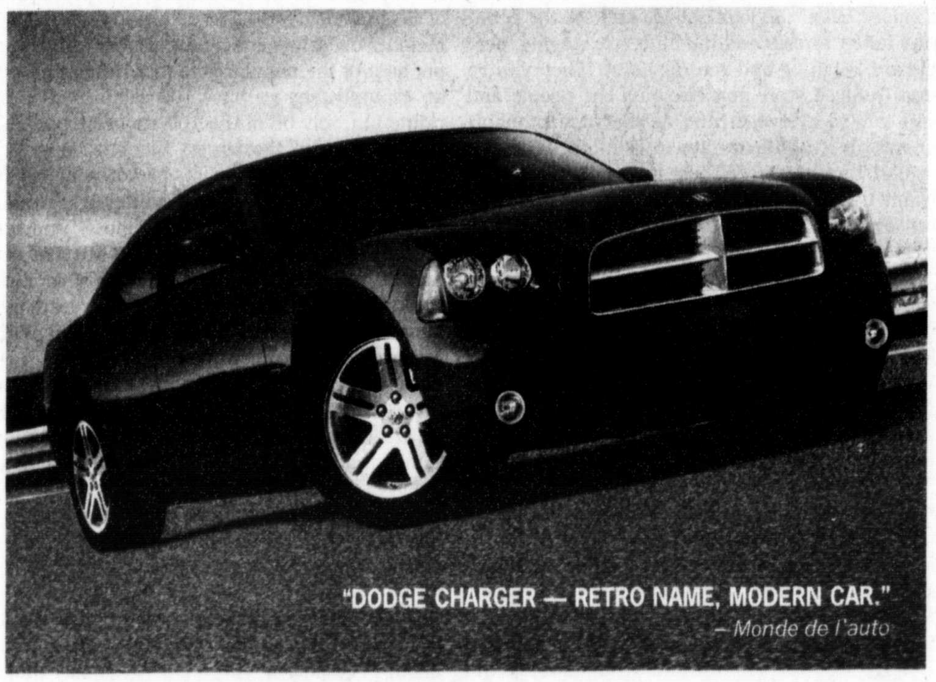
★★★★★ NHTSA FIVE STAR CRASH RATING for frontal impact*

• 3.5-L V6 engine, 250 hp • Five-speed automatic transmission • Air conditioning • All-speed traction control • 4-wheel antilock disc brakes • 17-inch wheels • Power locks, windows and mirrors • Sentry Key™ engine immobilizer • Remote keyless entry • Electronic Stability Program (ESP™) • CD player
• Fuel Consumption‡: Highway: 8.1 L/100 km (35 mpg)
City: 12 L/100 km (23 mpg)

Purchase for
$29,995†
or lease for
$299* PER MONTH.
36-MONTH LEASE.
$4,579 DOWN PAYMENT.
$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT.



Other 36-month lease offered	
Monthly	**Down payment**
$427*	$0



2006 DODGE CHARGER

• 2.7-L V6 engine, 190 hp • Automatic transmission • Air conditioning • All-speed traction control • 4-wheel antilock disc brakes • 17-inch wheels • Electronic Stability Program (ESP™) • Power locks, mirrors and windows • CD player
• Fuel Consumption‡: Highway: 7.7 L/100 km (37 mpg)
City: 11.4 L/100 km (25 mpg)

Purchase for
$26,495†
or lease for
$269* PER MONTH.
36-MONTH LEASE.
$3,662 DOWN PAYMENT.
$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT.

Other 36-month lease offered	
Monthly	**Down payment**
$371*	$0

Hurry! Offers end May 1st

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CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE FIVE STAR

FINANCING PROVIDED EXCLUSIVELY BY Chrysler Financial

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† Factory-to-retailer incentive is included in the price. Price based on the 2007 Dodge Caliber SE with 23A package, on the 2006 Chrysler 300 with 27H package and on the 2006 Dodge Charger with 23E package. Security deposit is $0 for a limited time only, and may change without notice. First monthly payment required upon delivery. Buy-back not required. Lessee responsible for metrage exceeding 40,800 km for 24 months (61,200 km/36 months) at a rate of 15¢ per kilometer. △, *, †, △ Freight ($1,050 for 2007 Dodge Caliber, $1,200 for 2006 Dodge Caravan, for 2006 Chrysler 300 and for 2006 Dodge Charger), taxes on air conditioning (when applicable), licence, insurance, duties on new tires, dealer administration charges and taxes extra. These limited-time offers are exclusive, and cannot be combined with any other offer except the physically challenged assistance program, and apply to retail deliveries for personal purposes only on selected new in-stock 2006 and 2007 models. Offers subject to change without notice. Retailer may sell or lease for less. Retailer may have to order or trade a vehicle. See retailer for specific pricing details and conditions. Vehicles are for illustration purposes only. ° Based on U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) scoring systems for front crash tests on the 2006 Dodge Caravan and on the 2006 Chrysler 300. See your participating retailer for complete details and conditions. ‡ Based on *2006 Fuel Consumption Guide* ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ® Jeep is a registered trademark of DaimlerChrysler Corporation used under licence by DaimlerChrysler Canada Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of DaimlerChrysler Corporation.

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OUR OPINION

Forget that day trip to the country

Here we are in April, cottagers haven't even arrived in Pontiac yet, and gas prices are as expensive now as they were last year in mid-summer at the height of the hurricane crises that halted the production of oil in the United States.

The price of a barrel of oil is the highest it's ever been, soaring above $75 a barrel. What are we to expect the price of fuel to be this summer, especially if we have a hurricane season like we did last year?

In April 2005, gas prices were on average at about 85 cents a litre. This year, we've seen prices in Shawville as high as $1.15 already.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper recently backed out on an election promise to cut the GST on fuel over 85 cents a litre, saying that the promise was from two elections ago. He added that the savings of that promise would be supplanted by the general one-point GST cut expected in the Tories' first budget set to be released early next month.

The high cost of fuel is making driving a luxury. It's no longer a tool a person uses to get to work in order to bring home a pay cheque at the end of the week. If we start to see gas as costly as $2 a litre, Pontiacers who commute may be faced with finding ways to reduce travels costs, including considering a move closer to the city.

If people can't afford to go to work, what effect is that going to have on our economy? There are so many out there just scraping by now, that if we raise the prices of fuel too high, making it uneconomical to go to work, we will just add more weight to Quebec's already struggling welfare system.

Driving in the country is not like in the city. We're not doing it for fun, showing off the car stereo while passing nearby bus stops. We drive to work, sometimes while working, and to get our necessities of life because we have no other choice. Driving is an essential part of life for those who live outside of the city, so it shouldn't be taxed like other non-essential products, such as tobacco.

When fuel prices go up we see an instant ripple effect on everything we buy, starting with groceries. Any item that is transported to a local store will jump in price. Taxes will be forced to rise even more because services such as snow removal will cost more in order to operate vehicles.

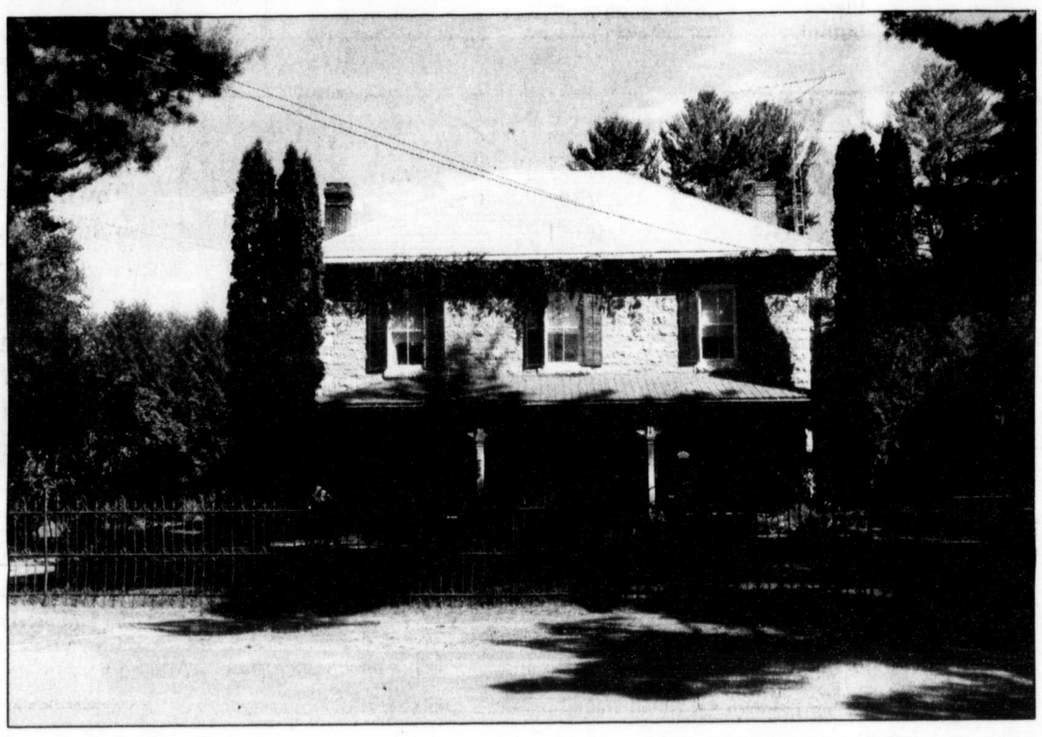
Canada is a country rich in oil. We should be helping ourselves instead of exporting so much of it. Oil is a non-renewable resource and there is no doubt prices will continue to rise. The best way to save money on gas is to find alternatives. We can take the bus, carpool, or drive a more fuel-efficient car. We'll save money, and enjoy other benefits such as a cleaner environment and less traffic. But the movement shouldn't be made solely by taxpayers.

This is a good opportunity, since our new MP is the minister of transportation, to encourage the search for alternatives to oil such as ethanol, electric vehicles, fuel cells, hybrids and even solar power (that is if the government will not lower gas prices). Since it's doubtful there will be a light rail train system built along Hwy. 148 anytime soon, a new alternative or a price break are all we can hope for.

LM

Nestled in the shadows

Provided by Jim Cutting



ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Environmental workshops and activities

Katharine Fletcher

Spring is blossoming with a plethora of workshops and activities designed to inform us on a host of topics. Here are several in our area that have come to my attention. Some activities are free, others require admission.

Beck on birds

Many of you know Tony Beck, an Ottawa Valley bird authority who has roots in Pontiac's Leslie Lake region. Beck offers his annual field trips where participants head to the hills, lakes, and even into Ottawa to look for the incredible variety of species that live in the National Capital Region.

This year, Beck offers 18 half-day excursions and four specialty excursions (full-day or overnight or others). There are two half-day trips into the Pontiac area of Gatineau Park, while other destinations include Mer Bleue (a genuine peat bog), Morris Island and an overnight trip to Algonquin Park. You can book all 22 excursions for the reasonable price of $250 if you register before June 1. (That's quite reasonable, when you think about it, considering that the 18 half-day trips cost $35 apiece, if booked individually.)

Why bird with Beck? Because he is an excellent birder and naturalist, who is now leading tours throughout the world. Beck is a freelance photographer whose award-winning photographs have appeared in such magazines as *This Country Canada, Canadian Living, Nature Canada, and Canadian Geographic.* He is an excellent raconteur, and I can attest to the fact he knows his birds well. Beck leads great tours: try one and see.

For a complete list of Beck's birding trips, check: www3.sympatico.ca/beck.tony/

Watershed forum

All about watersheds: Getting to Know Your Watershed is the next event sponsored by the Ottawa Wildlife Festival, on Tuesday, May 2, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Canadian Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod Street, Ottawa. Free admission, free refreshments.

Description: We all rely on clean water. Watersheds play a tremendously significant role in the lives of both humans and wildlife. Speakers include Carol Dillon, Friends of the Tay Watershed, an organization that helped to protect their local watershed and influence provincial policy. Jacques Bouvier from Wetland Habitat Fund will discuss what habitats constitute a watershed – and terms such as "riparian."

Organizations represented include Canadian Wildlife Federation, Centre for Sustainable Watersheds, Friends of the Jock River, and H2O Chelsea.

Organics in the news

Want to learn more about organic farming, foods, and workshops? To browse top international and Canadian stories, go to the Canadian Organic Growers' website at www.cog.ca/. Here you can link to the Ottawa Chapter, and find out about upcoming organic-inspired events. For instance, enter beginner or intermediate organic gardening courses held throughout the capital (sessions are $5 a person else pay what you can). For more information, call Just Food at 236-9300, extension 301.

May 13 Organic Fest 2006

This year's organic festival includes music, organic food, speakers and exhibitors from local organic farms. Children welcome. When and where: Saturday, May 13, Noon to 6 p.m.; Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre, 102 Greenview Avenue, Ottawa. Cost: adults $15 in advance, $20 at the door; Students/Seniors: $10 in advance, $15 at the door; Kids: $5 in advance, $7 at the door; Children three and younger admitted free. For more information: www.organicfest.ca

Mother's Day: Annual rare plant sale

Friends of the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa host an annual rare and unusual plant sale, a great place for a Mother's Day outing. Find out more about these plants from local nurseries and specialty growers. Admission: A donation to the food bank. Information: telephone (613) 230-3276.

Volunteer for Wildlife Watch programs

Want to participate in loon, marsh, frogs, worms, plant and other wildlife monitoring programs? Volunteers are needed in a host of activities and most programs are free of charge. (Loon Watch involves a fee of $35.)

For information on Canada's wildlife watch programs on frogs, worms, and plants go to www.naturewatch.ca/english/

For information on the loon watching program, contact: toll-free 1-888-448-2473, (519) 586-3531; e-mail: aqsurvey@bsc-eoc.org.

For information on butterfly watching, contact, toll free: 1-800-565-6305, e-mail info@cwf-fcf.org. For information on the Marsh Monitoring Program, contact Aquatic Surveys Officer, Bird Studies Canada, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, ON, N0E 1M0. Toll free phone 1-888-448-2473; Tel: (519) 586-3531, fax: (519) 586-3531; e-mail: aqsurvey@bsc-eoc.org.

Friends of Gatineau Park

Friends of Gatineau Park offer several guided nature walks. May 13 is a birding-by-ear walk, where you'll learn to identify birds by their voices. June 9 is a nocturnal insect walk: learn about creepy crawlies and the role they play in our environment.

For information and costs for nature walks: Box 1817, Chelsea, J9B 1A1, amicigatineau@myexcel.ca, tel: 819-827-3113.

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance writer based north of Quyon. Contact her at chesley@allstream.net

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.

YOUR OPINION

A model institution

Dear Editor,

It is with great fondness that I think back upon my years at John Paul II High School and I am very saddened to hear that its future hangs in the balance once again.

I cannot emphasize enough, how the positive experience I had at the Campbell's Bay high school helped shape both my academic and social success that I now enjoy in the present. My time at John Paul II provided me with the necessary academic and personal social development to later graduate from Computer Science and acquire a position with the federal government. Yet, I am most grateful for the self-confidence and esteem that I received from my peers and teachers, in those critical teenage years, which enabled me to change courses later on and pursue the Catholic ministerial priesthood and receive a Bachelor's degree in philosophy at the university level. This development of confidence, independence and character, which is greater than any material success, is too often lacking in larger academic institutions.

Furthermore, all this is made possible because John Paul II High School allows for an environment where young adolescents are not intimidated by opportunities to achieve their goals, either by academic pursuits, roles on student government or athletic participation.

Finally, in an age where schools are overrun by bullying problems, drug abuse and over-populated classes where students are often forgotten, if not ignored, John Paul II High School should be promoted as a model institution and not be proposed for closure.

I have no doubt that the Western Quebec School Board has the best interests of the student, parents and teachers at heart and will, as they did in 1997, work towards other more positive solutions.

Richard Pilon
Ottawa

Concerning article 'Mountainview Turf and Ian Huggett'

Dear Editor,

I've witnessed, in Quyon, the disappearance of two grocery stores, numerous small businesses such as corner stores, a lumberyard, as well as a mining company. As a result, there have been lost jobs, loss of tax revenues, loss of our village's business core and increased welfare.

Along came Bill Hamilton who started a turf farm. He worked very hard for years to build a solid business, a man of unwavering honesty, credibility and a dedication to delivering the very best product to his customers.

With the turf farm's growth came more and more jobs for local men and women, who have families, mortgages and pay taxes.

Who are you Mr. Huggett, to come into the Pontiac and pull a stunt like you did on Mr. Hamilton! It was underhanded, deceptive and uninformed. A little human decency goes a long way, Mr. Huggett. You may want to try it sometime.

Donald L. Murdock
Quyon

Garbage in – garbage out

Dear Editor,

Area residents are right to be deeply concerned over Tom Orr's proposed human waste composting project (THE EQUITY, April 19). Apart from the obnoxious odors that may assault the nostrils of those unfortunate enough to live downwind of the facility, and the risk of bacteria leaching into the ground water, it is naive to expect all householders with septic tanks to avoid pouring toxic substances down the drain.

Does Mr. Orr propose to hire toilet police to monitor what goes into the bowl? Does he plan to test each load of guck that's pumped out of the tanks? And what about the various medications that Pontiac residents take? What goes in must come out, n'est-ce pas?

It seems inevitable that the waste collected would have trace amounts of various chemicals that, I presume, we do not want to see ending up in our lettuce and tomatoes? People might be willing to accept the, as yet, unquantifiable risk if there were benefits to be had, in terms of lower pumping costs.

Carole Robinson Oliver
Shawville

See what I see

Dear Editor,

The attached is a speech delivered by Crystal Lafleur, a Grade 4 student at Queen Elizabeth Elementary School in Kazabazua, to the entire student body on March 30. She tied for second place in the speaking contest.

Crystal would like to share her speech with the public and to let them know what she thinks the impact the proposed mega landfill will have on her future and her community and what she thinks of the project.

If you could only take the time and see what I see. My name is Crystal Lafleur and I am nine years old. I live in a beautiful little town called Danford Lake. You look outside and see the beautiful lakes, forests and the birds are singing, people are laughing and getting along. When you go into Danford store you know all the people and you talk to everyone. And as everyone probably knows all the Lafleurs live in Danford. Why else wouldn't we live here? There is no pollution, barely any traffic, we love it here because it is safe and fun and we get to see wildlife right in our back yard. How cool is that?

We get to go fishing and swimming in our lakes. Danford has always been known as God's country. Anyone that comes to visit Danford always loves it here. How much better can this place get? Well at least I thought that until one day the mayor broke the news that we were going to have a mega dump! Our water is going to get ruined from the garbage because this landfill site will be 300 metres from the river. Another scary point is that they are going to take the water that comes off of the garbage and run it into the river.

The landfill site will cover 545 acres of which 370 acres would be actual landfill. They are going to take into the landfill site 250,000 tonnes of garbage a year. The liners are supposed to prevent leakage into the ground and ground water, but they are not even the thickness of two dimes, and the best-engineered landfill sites end up leaking at some point. But one of our big concerns is what type of garbage we will be receiving. We know with all this garbage it is going to bring seagulls, rats, bugs and diseases. Just think, bears can get fenced out but rats cannot. Rats always carry diseases. Big ugly rats are not the kind of animal that you want to play around with.

At the Cantley landfill the rats are being found in the basements of the neighbouring homes. The seagulls are going to come in by the thousands. They are going to pollute neighbouring rivers, lakes and fields for many miles around the site. You know how I said there is barely any traffic?

Well, if this dump goes through there is going to be traffic non-stop. Most of these big garbage trucks will be coming up the Hwy. 105 from the Gatineau area, then along Hwy. 301, but smaller ones would be coming south on Hwy. 105 from the Gracefield area, and yet others along the 148 and then north on 301.

People say only household waste but there is lots of other waste that they are looking to get rid of like commercial waste, construction waste, from papermills, from slaughterhouses and other places. With all these garbage trucks passing by there is going to be garbage flying out and onto the road.

If there are 40 garbage trucks per day how much is going to be on the road in one day and in two days and in three days and on and on? Just one piece of garbage per trip will mean that 22,360 pieces of garbage will fly off each year. The 105 and 301 will be littered for miles.

If this dump goes through there is going to be garbage everywhere - on the roads, in the ditch, and other places. It is just going to end up being a polluted country. With side garbage from who knows where.

People that live in the country of a landfill site always complain about the toxic air. And the prevalent smell is from H2S ... hydrogen sulphide or commonly recognized as rotten egg smell. Landfill sites generate enormous amounts of biogas, none of it is pleasant and none of it is healthy. The gasses include methane, carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide, less smelly perhaps than H2S. But far more dangerous. It still seems from other sites that not all the gas is picked up. And over 30 or more years, through equipment or human error, there will be failures. This smell will go through Danford Lake and through Kazabazua and beyond. How far does a foul smell travel? All the residents of Ottawa know that on at least some days of the year they can very clearly smell the pulp mills in Thurso, 50 kilometres away.

You know now how I said that everyone gets along and helps each other out? Well not any more. It is a disaster. People have really turned against each other and lies are being told. People are always fighting and arguing and that really upsets me because I thought this was God's country where everyone helps each other and gets along and acts like a family. Now God's country is not God's country and that needs to change. Think again!

Pam Miles
Citizens Coalition Against the Proposed Danford Lake Landfill Project

Is Canada a democracy?

Dear Editor,

Surely the majority of us think that Canada is a democracy. Our politicians use the term. They are equally quick to advise us when our "democratic rights" are being subverted by the government in power. The Oxford Dictionary says "democracy n. 1 a system of government by the whole population, usually through elected representatives." The second Oxford definition reads "democratic centralism n. an organizational system in which policy is decided centrally and is binding on all members."

Democratic centralism seems to be what we have. We fail the first definition because the whole, eligible population of voters never turns out - 65 per cent of the whole would be a large turnout for a national election and about 40 per cent for municipal elections. Add to these figures the fact that we have a "first by the post system" of electing members. This means in reality that an member of Parliament can be elected with, say, 33 per cent of the popular vote in a riding. In way of an example, say we have 100 eligible voters in a riding but only 66 of the 100 choose to vote. Out of the 66 votes the largest block of votes is 22 votes with the balance of 44 votes being split amongst the rest of the candidates running. Because the 22 votes are the "most" under the current system we end up with an MP that never had 50 per cent plus one of the possible eligible voters! We follow this ritual every four years or so. Members are elected for the next term. With a majority, a government can do pretty much as it likes. Witness the last 12 years of Liberal rule and the promises broken, as outlined in their Red Book and programs brought forward with little understanding of the real fiscal costs or consequences, eg. the Gun Registry.

The real loss of financial control by Parliament has made projects like the Gun Registry and the sponsorship scandal possible but this is an issue for another day.

This "first-past-the-post system" has resulted in the Liberal Party of Canada being in power for about 70 of the last 100 years! No wonder they are not in favour of electoral reform. Canada is one of the last First World nations to cling to what is clearly a deficient system of electing government.

Other nations have found working solutions to the problems. Bring in some form of proportional representation. There are models available, eg. New Zealand. Secondly, make voting mandatory with fines handed out for not voting. This would mean that if the New Democratic Party had 20 per cent of the popular vote nationally, then they would have 20 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons and so on.

Parliament would then truly represent the will of the people. Citizens would then feel empowered knowing that their vote really does make a difference. It is time to democratize Canada!

Ronald M. Wilson
Westmeath, ON

123 years of news from the Pontiac

THE WAY WE WERE

Compiled by Heather Alberti-Dickson Publisher

25 Years Ago

April 29, 1981

DAVID CONROD APPOINTED DIRECTOR: At a meeting of the Protestant Regional School Board of West Quebec, the school board members representing the three areas, Pontiac, Northwest and Greater Hull, selected David Conrod as the Director of Curriculum and Student Services for the Regional School Board. Conrod, who has been the principal of the Pontiac Protestant High School in Shawville for six years, was selected from seven candidates who applied for the position.

PARADE OF SPRING FASHIONS: The Quyon United Church women sponsored a most entertaining evening for all who attended the "Parade of spring Fashions" on April 20.

50 Years Ago

April 26, 1956

ESSAYS BY CHILDREN BETTER THAN COLLEGIANS: Bruce Yemen and Dorothy Armitage of the Shawville High School were named two of the winners of prizes in an essay contest sponsored by the Western Quebec Home and School Conference. Bruce won second prize in the 15 years and over class and Dorothy came first in the age 10 and 11 group.

BAN MINNOWS FOR BAIT USE IN QUEBEC: The use of minnows as live bait in Quebec waters north of the St Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers has been banned, as announced by the Quebec Department of Game and Fisheries. It is also forbidden to sell, possess or transport live fish destined to be used as bait.

75 Years Ago

April 23, 1931

LOCAL NEWS: Following a brief thunderstorm on Friday morning, this section experienced cold, breezy weather on Saturday and following days.

The showroom of McCredie's Garage has a much improved appearance since the painter's brush has been applied. As Alex says, "A coat of paint works wonders."

Maple syrup from some of the outlying sugar bushes found its way into town last week. The season is reported to be rather poor for production, owing to scarcely any frost in the ground.

The balmiest Spring day thus far was Thursday last following hoar frost and a foggy morning. The "swamp angel" chorus was heard for the first time in the evening - the most convincing proof of all that Spring is here to stay, with due allowance for repercussions.

The summer cottage of Mr Oliver Murphy, situated in Kilroy's Bay on the Quebec shore of Chats Lake was completely destroyed by fire on Saturday evening. Burned also was the furniture which had been left in the summer home, the total damage is something in excess of $500. The building was covered by insurance, but the furniture was not protected. The fire was apparently started by a number of hoboes of Finland parentage who also were the cause of smaller fires which caused the destruction of surplus repair material stored at the CNR station which is quite close to Kilroy Bay.

INSTALLATION AT CHATS FALLS NOW NEAR COMPLETION: Excellent progress is being made by the contractors, Morrow & Beatty Ltd on construction of the 224,000 horsepower hydro electric development at Chats Falls, on the Ottawa River for the Ottawa Valley Power Company and the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario.

The major portion of the main dam was completed last fall, and recent construction operations have been concentrated at the power house site. Concrete portions of the power house have been completed, including the headworks, substructure for the turbines, intake and discharge tubes. The steel frame-work for the super structure is now being erected and turbines are being installed.

100 Years Ago

April 26, 1906

Provided by Esther Russell

Lewis Wiggins on his farm on the Third Line in Bristol, now owned by the Graham family. Wiggins died in 1922.

LOCAL NEWS: Shawville is to witness greater activity in the building line this spring than it has for some years past. The indications thus far are that these operations are to be confined to the new section south of the railway depot, which was laid out into lots and streets a couple of years ago by Mr J H Shaw. The prospective buildings will all be erected on Victoria avenue, which has the distinction of being the widest street in the corporation. On the east side of this street, south of the railway property, Mr Thomas Prendergast has acquired a block of six or eight lots with a frontage of two lots, on which he is making preparation for the erection of a residence and commodious outbuildings. Just opposite, on the west side, work is now in progress on the basement of a large up to-date residence for Mr Edward Hodgins, who lately sold his house on Main Street to his son Wm A.

Farther south on the west side Mr John S Dale, of Ladysmith has purchased the lot formerly owned by Mrs C McCagg, on which it is stated he intends erecting buildings this year.

Mr W A Hodgins, whose business development has necessitated increased room, has begun the work of transforming the adjoining dwelling house apartments into an addition to this already extensive store, which will be materially improved by the enlargement.

Frost again on Saturday and every night this week. Undoubtedly we are having a backward spring.

Country people coming into the village have been doing a good deal of grumbling at sundry very bad mud holes that have formed on the roads within the corporation limits this spring. There is certainly ground for complaint; but it must be admitted that it is very difficult to do much towards repairing these places until the frost has gone.

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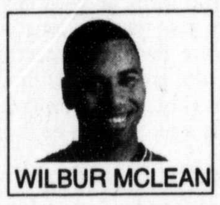
The staff administration of PONTIAC HIGH SCHOOL thanks its Secretarial Staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Sincere thanks to BRENDA BARR, NANCY BULLIS, BARBARA ZIMMERLING and NANCY HOBBS

MUNICIPALITY OF CAMPBELL'S BAY salutes our General Director COLLEEN LARIVIÈRE and her assistant DEBBIE BERTRAND for a job well done.

The Chrysler Team wish to thank RUTH for her dedicated work throughout the year. SHAWVILLE CHRYSLER Hwy. 148, Shawville 647-2073

The Municipality of the Township of Grand-Calumet would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to its Secretary-Treasurer, JACQUES MANTHA, for his dedication and commitment to our municipality. La Municipalité canton Grand-Calumet désire rendre hommage à son secrétaire-trésorier, JACQUES MANTHA, pour son dévouement et son engagement au bien-être de notre municipalité.

Secretaries make the world go 'round



WILBUR MCLEAN

PONTIAC • At the newspaper I worked at during university, there was a sign posted in the office that asked quizzically: "Do you want to speak to the man in charge or the woman who knows what's going on?"

Though humorous, it was a telling statement about the status of many different offices.

Despite the editors generally being male and the president of the organization that ran the newspaper being male, the person who most often knew what was happening was our dear advertising/administrative manner, who answered phones, welcomed visitors and, overall, knew what the heck was going on while the rest of us remained clueless.

Now working at THE EQUITY, I've learned that to be more often the rule, rather than the exception.

On a weekly basis, various mayors of municipalities and leaders of local businesses need to be contacted for a myriad of articles for THE EQUITY.

Typically, it's the secretary who knows the most information, is aware of the most recent developments and provides us with the knowledge we need to write the story. Sure, mayors are the ones quoted but usually the secretaries are the points of reference.

Even in our offices here, recently retired Claire Lunam spent the majority of her career as an administrative professional for THE EQUITY.

She was the constant source of information for people's names, phone numbers and usually knew who was involved in any organization. Her ability to recite people's phone numbers was not only useful, but at times a little frightening. In the weeks since she's entered her post-work life, she has been missed here.

The anecdotes could go on forever, but the point is that administrative professionals are vital in the workplace.

Unfortunately, quite often, they are taken for granted. It's easy to wait until a designated week to appreciate the people who do so much for the efficiency of one's office. A card is nice, but don't the people who are on the front lines of business on a day-to-day business deserve more?

Value your administrative professionals. Thank him or her for a job well done whenever it's warranted. Don't wait until the calendar dictates to give an appreciative card.

While Administrative Professionals Week only lasts five days, the hard work they perform happens all year long.

So should our acknowledgements of them.

The MUNICIPALITY OF ALLEYN AND CAWOOD wish to thank KIM CARTIER-VILLENEUVE and DANIELLE for their hard work, dedication, caring and always being team players.

Thanks to our secretary ANN DRISNER for a superb job. ST. JOHN'S ELEMENTARY and JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL, Campbell's Bay

Thanks to a great secretary JOAN ZIMMERLING from PONTIAC CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTRE

Thank you to DON MARION, MARIE-PAULE MENARD and DOUG CORRIGAN and all those in the past who have worked for the MUNICIPALITY OF MANSFIELD and PONTEFRACT

For a super secretary BETTY-LOU TRUDEAU thank you for 18 years of dedication and hard work. TRU-LINE COLLISION Victoria St., Shawville 647-2937

TOM ORR CARTAGE CONSTRUCTION would like to thank RHONDA MEISNER and SUZIE for their dedication and hard work. Hwy. 148, Shawville 647-2670

Thank you to RUTH STRUTT for all her hard work and dedication and to LORNA YOUNGE for her years of dedicated service to the mayors and councillors. MUNICIPALITY OF CLARENDON

Sincere thanks to MARIE-PAULE I appreciate your dedicated service CLÔTURE DUMOUCHEL FENCE INC.

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Sincere thanks to our secretary GLORIA RICHARDSON for her invaluable service. SHAWVILLE AUTO SERVICE Main St., Shawville 647-3881

For her hard work and dedication, we salute KAREN NAYLER for a job well done. MUNICIPALITY OF THORNE

Thank you for your dedication TRACEY CAMERON. MUNICIPALITY OF PORTAGE DU FORT.

We recognize the important role that our secretary NELDA BRETZLAFF plays in our business. Our utmost thanks! BEAN'S SERVICE STATION Hwy. 148, Shawville 647-2545

The MUNICIPALITY OF CHICHESTER wishes to thank JOCELYNE and KATHY for their hard work and dedication. From the Mayor and Councillors

MUNICIPALITY OF ALLUMETTES ISLAND would like to thank the secretarial team of RICHARD, JOCELYNE and KATHY for their dedication also Board of Directors of the AIC

Transplant recipient promotes importance of organ donations

National Organ Donation Week celebrated April 24 to 30

CALUMET ISLAND • Hello again! It's been a while since you last heard from me. In case you don't remember me, I'll give you a few facts about myself to refresh your memory. My name is Nancy Derouin-Lapratte. My husband Sylvain and I live on Calumet Island. We have been married for almost nine years. I'm the youngest from a family of three girls. My parents are Melvin and Huguette Derouin also from Calumet Island.

At the age of two months old, I had to be admitted at CHEO because I was always losing weight, I couldn't digest any food and my stools were not formed at all. Finally, after all the tests and examinations were over, my pediatrician informed my parents that I had a disease called Cystic Fibrosis (CF) and at that time (1976), research for a cure was not very promising. The treatment at that point was taking close to 60 pills a day, and getting chest physiotherapy three times a day. The one good thing about this ugly disease was as I got older being able to eat all kinds of junk food because they considered that as 'gaining weight' food.

Therefore, the doctor told my parents that I would be lucky to make it to my fifth birthday. As I got older, my CF was starting to give me trouble. I had to be admitted to CHEO more and more for intravenous antibiotics and once I turned 17, I had to switch to the CF Adult Clinic at the Ottawa General Hospital. I also liked the staff there and I was lucky to have met Dr. André Péloquin. He was such an honorable man, doctor, friend, etc. He treated me during my whole pre-transplant days, when I was at my all-time low.

Then one day, during my monthly check-ups, he asked me what I thought about double-lung transplants. Back then I had only met two CF patients that had gotten it done and every time I saw them, I was amazed to see them talk without being short of breath, no oxygen tank to drag around, nice pink cheeks instead of a dull, pale, almost blueish face because of the lack of oxygen, etc.

I was already on 24-hour oxygen, which really limited my social lifestyle. Although, my friends continued calling up just to chat, they sometimes came for a visit. But the thing I appreciate the most was that they always continued treating me like my old self. They knew I was going down hill and my energy was not there anymore. Just trying to breathe took all the energy I had.

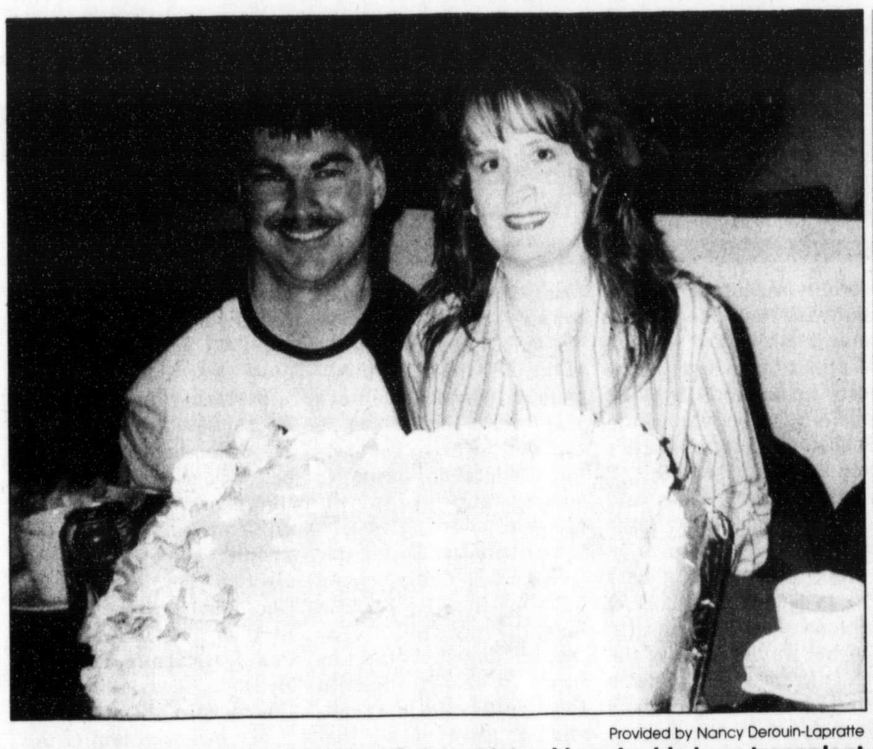
One day during my many hospital admissions, Dr. Péloquin came to check on me because my oxygen levels were dangerously low. We talked again about a transplant which would have to be done in Montreal. For a long while, I knew I was getting worse and worse but just being sick and crying all day was not going to make me better.

Then finally my doctor told me that I was at the end stage of CF and I would not be going out of the hospital walking and that at the most I had two to three months left to live. Finally, I decided to go for it because I had really nothing to lose. After waiting six months on the transplant waiting list, it was my time. The Ottawa General had a precise plan just in case I would get my call and I will always be very appreciative towards them. They were great and so organized. Even though I was just a patient they saw almost everyday, they cried tears of joy. They even walked with me on the stretcher towards the elevators. They all gave me a kiss and wished me luck. The best part of it was that Sylvain was visiting me that same night. I knew that God was watching over me because he made Sylvain come visit me that evening. The funny thing was that he never usually finished working on time but that night, he finished early!

As we arrived at Notre-Dame for my transplant, they started preparing me for the operating room while my surgeon and his transplant team made last minute check-ups on my soon-to-be healthy lungs. During that time, my parents and sisters arrived just on time to give kisses and say I love yous. I went in the operating room at around midnight which was on Oct. 18 and 10 hours later, I was in the Intensive Care Unit. After three days I felt not too bad.

The best part was breathing on my own. The pulmonary transplant team at Notre-Dame Hospital in Montreal are absolute medical geniuses and very competent and capable to perform almost the impossible. But for me, in my heart, my real hero was and still is my donor.

Today, thanks to my donor and his healthy lungs I am living life more than I ever thought possible. First of all, I would not be here today. These past few years, I've been pedaling my bicycle for the first time in 15 years. I've gained over 40 pounds; I love eating now. I've even had a few short-term jobs! Presently, my name is on the school board's list as a teacher's substitute. I really enjoy being with young kids and seeing their reaction when they understand the lesson I showed them. For me, it's still new because before my transplant, I didn't really pay attention to anything, but now my eyes are wide open and I enjoy life now. I take it day by day! I look forward to the future because I know there is a future to look forward to.



Provided by Nancy Derouin-Lapratte

Nancy Derouin-Lapratte (right) of Calumet Island is a double lung transplant recipient. She celebrated the fifth anniversary of her surgery with her husband Sylvain Lapratte last October at Auberge Mont Blanc in Portage du Fort. Derouin-Lapratte is encouraging others to become organ donors by telling her story.

Unfortunately, here in the Pontiac more than half of the population are not informed about organ donation. It's sad because anyone, either rich or poor, black or white, English or French, woman or man, adult or child, sick or healthy could one day need a transplant. Statistics show that one donor could save the lives or improve the quality of life of 10 people. I am aware for some people the thought of having your organs cut out from your body is absolutely gross but please keep in mind that you won't be alive and you won't have any use for them anymore. Wouldn't you rather give an organ that will give life to another person? Becoming an organ donor is not hard. Choose one of these three suggestions or choose to do all of them:

1) Sign your name on an organ donation sticker;

2) Share your wishes with your family;

3) Since a short time ago, it is now possible to register your consent with "The Organ and Tissue Donor Registry of the Quebec Chamber of Notaries" next time you consult with a notary to prepare wills or mandates.

Please consider tissue donation. Take it from someone who knows hands-on: it can work, it's a second chance at life!

If you have further questions about organ donation, or you need a donation sticker to put behind your health card, please don't hesitate to call (Nancy Derouin-Lapratte) at 648-5069. If you get the voicemail, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can. If you would like more information about the process of becoming an organ donor or even if you are still not sure, ask me. At the end of the day, it's still your choice, you decide. I also have green ribbon pins to sell for $1 and green bracelets with "Organ Donation" written on the inside for $2.

If anyone would like to help promote organ and tissue donation, give me a call. It would be great to get more people interested. More people equals more possible donors

Submitted by Nancy Derouin-Lapratte double lung transplant recipient.

Quebec invests in youth

PONTIAC • A total investment of $1,027,149 was given to 180 youths last year in the Gatineau area.

At the end of February, Outaouais MNAs Roch Cholette (Hull), Benoît Pelletier (Chapleau), Norm MacMillan (Papineau), Réjean Lafrenière (Gatineau) and Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac) announced that 180 Outaouais youth received $1,027,149 back in tax credits as a group for being a new graduate working in a remote resource region.

For the fiscal year 2004, youth received an average $5,706 under this tax credit.

The measure is designed to encourage professional, graduated students to find jobs in their field of study in the area.

L'Écuyer said it is a great way to encourage young adults to settle and work in the area.

The tax credit, which was set up in 2003, is equivalent to 40 per cent of the wages the graduate makes during their first year, to a cap of $8,000. To be eligible, the graduate must begin their employment in the 24 months following graduation.

More information concerning the tax credit for a new graduate working in a remote resource region is available at www.revenu.gouv.qc.ca.

HOME WORK | TOM MCCANN

Decks and tile tips from a pro

PONTIAC • When planning a deck project there are important things to consider and your budget should be one of the first.

Generally half of your budget will go to your tradesperson(s) and the second half for supplies and permits. If you decide to tackle the job yourself or with the help of friends and family, you will extend your budget on materials but you run the risk of getting caught with nasty surprises that may unfortunately increase your end expense.

The type of footing required depends on the size and nature of your intended deck and the ground it sits on. If you are attaching a roof from your deck to your house the deck footing should be made to the same depth as that of your house.

Fewer support posts with a heavier beam and footing design may help minimize possible shifting points. Clay ground will shift objects faster than lighter ground, so plan to remove clay ground and replace it with gravel to provide better water drainage and help minimize shifting due to frost.

The cheapest building materials are local woods such as spruce, pine and cedar. Pressure treated lumber and western cedars are also good choices but cost more.

Composite lumber products are probably the most expensive but come with the advantage of having the least maintenance for the homeowner.

The higher the investment in quality materials, the longer your deck will last and the less upkeep you will have later on.

There is a lot of valuable information available on decks. Just beware that deck plans may not be designed with our soil or weather conditions in mind. Extra effort in the planning and building stages will increase your enjoyment of the finished project.

A properly finished deck will add extra living space and value to your home.

Ceramic Tile

Ceramic tile installation is actually a simple job once a couple of basics are understood.

Proper preparation is probably the biggest thing to take care of and commonly one of the things not done to the degree it should be.

First the base needs to be clean, dry, rigid and flat. Clean and dry are self-explanatory so I will skip ahead to rigid.

Rigid is very important, there should be absolutely no movement in the base material that the tile is attached to. An extra layer of plywood on the floor prior to installing the tile is a common practice.

This plywood is heavily screwed and often glued to the plywood beneath. This brings us to flat, any waves in either a cement or wood floor need to be taken out using a floor-leveler compound.

Each ceramic tile needs to be supported over its entire dimension. A hollow or high point under a tile will eventually be the cause of the tile breaking. When calculating your square footage, make sure to consider any corners or countertop edges that you may want special tile for and measure these area separately.

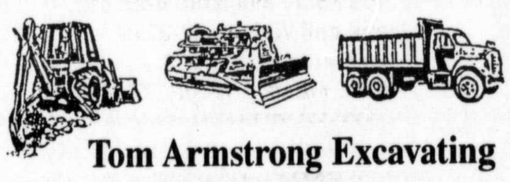
As for the tiles themselves, floor tiles are thicker and can really be used anywhere you want as long as they are installed properly. Wall tiles are normally thinner as they are not designed for the same stresses as floor tile.

Tiles come in thousands of styles and finishes making your imagination the only limiting factor in their use. The tools required for a do-it-yourself or weekend reno-warrior are actually quite reasonable to buy.

Recently I priced a set of tools and $250 would cover almost everything including a wet saw. Although ceramic tile is a very particular product to install, it is something that you need not necessarily be afraid of.

Oh, and my last thought is to buy extra because you are definitely going to break some.

Tom is the owner of HYM and can be reached at hym@igs.net



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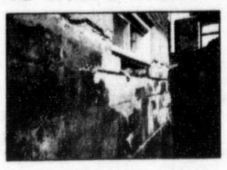
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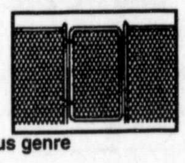
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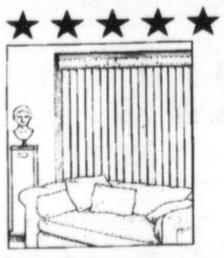
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Provided by Ruth Cowley

Three students were awarded prizes in the Western Quebec School Board's school bus transportation safety contest recently. The awards were handed out at the board's council of commissioners' meeting on March 28. From the left: Marley Weckworth from Dr. Wilbert Keon School in Chapeau, Cameron MacLaren from Queen Elizabeth Elementary School in Kazabazua and Zach Sequin-Forest from Poltimore Elementary School in Val des Monts.

Kids win with school bus safety

PONTIAC • Three students were awarded prizes in the Western Quebec School Board's school bus transportation safety contest recently.

The awards were handed out at the board's council of commissioners' meeting on March 28.

The three finalists were presented with certificates and prizes. Zach Sequin-Forest from Poltimore Elementary School in Val des Monts won first place and was presented with a new bicycle.

Marley Weckworth from Dr. Wilbert Keon School in Chapeau won second place and was presented with an iPod. Cameron MacLaren from Queen Elizabeth Elementary School in Kazabazua won third place and was presented with a backpack.

The WQSB, in partnership with L'Association du transport écolier du Québec and their school bus contractors, launched the 18th annual school bus safety campaign on Jan. 30.

The campaign was made possible thanks to the financial support of Autobus LaSalle, Autobus Outaouais, Aylmer TV and Signs and la Société de Transport de l'Outaouais.

Armstrong Heritage Farm releases feasibility study results

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • The Armstrong Heritage Farm released the results of a feasibility study to its members and the public recently.

At the farm's annual general meeting April 19 at the Lions Hall in Shawville, the farm's steering committee announced that the $3.6-million study found that an outdoor musical theatre on the site of the farm was not feasible. The feasibility study was completed in November of last year.

"At the meeting we asked for people's comments and most were not in favour of the theatre project," said Armstrong Heritage Farm president Grant Rogers.

The idea was to build the Armstrong Heritage Farm around a musical theatre production where local actors would tell the story of the Armstrong Farm.

The plan claimed the farm would have to provide an 'impressive, high visual-impact sound and light technologies, stunning scenery and costumes, complimented with activities during intermission and after the show with a country-type supper of excellent quality'. It also recommended the farm would need to be able to seat 1,000 visitors at a time, park 450 cars and receive about 58,000 visitors a year.

The project would have cost $1.4 million with a capital investment of $2.2 million to start up. Ticket sales would need to be $40 each.

"It's not feasible for the community," said Rogers.

Despite the farm's original concept of a living museum being deemed weak in a 2005 feasibility study done by a Montreal firm, the farm's executive decided to go back and work towards the farm's original goal instead.

The farm's steering committee will be working to create an attraction much like a small-scale version of Upper Canada Village to run on a large patch of land east of Shawville on Hwy. 148.

Buildings and equipment found on the farm will be functional, dating back to the 1920s. In addition, an antique miniature train will run across the grounds.

Plans are under way to construct a covered stage for the July 15 weekend Jamfest that will be held on the farm's grounds and to develop walking trails by the creek.

"It will be a permanent structure on the farm," said Rogers. "We'll still put the train in and see what else we can do."

The farm still requires a land survey to be done on the property, as well as an engineer hired to map out the buildings on the property.

"We want to try to have the train in for the show," said Rogers.

Land for the farm was donated to the Municipality of Shawville by the heir of Harold Thomas Armstrong in 1993.

A steering committee was formed in 2002, who worked out a 10-year plan for the project.

Between 2003 and 2004, the farm constructed a fence, parking lot, road and welcome sign as well as purchase the mini train, move a tourist booth cabin onto the grounds and build a bridge at the north entrance. So far, $62,677 has been spent.

In the coming year the farm hopes to make a second parking lot, construct walking tour paths, complete a land survey and build a gift and general store.

Eventually, $420,277 will be spent building up the farm.

Young Gunz hockey league taking shape

Pontiacs GM 'concerned' about future of Junior 'B's

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Initial steps in the formation of a young men's hockey league that would house teams in the Pontiac are under way.

A group led by former Central Junior Hockey League executives Mac MacLean and Wayne McKnight are in the process of forming the Young Gunz hockey league, which would feature teams of 19-to-34 year-old players from eastern Ontario and western Quebec.

The pair of men, along with Skip Brown of Fort Coulonge, have been meeting with municipal councillors in various villages and towns regarding the formation of teams for the league, which would start this fall.

The league hopes for 12 teams in its inaugural season, six each in Quebec and Ontario and the organizers believe the quality of the league will be higher than the Junior hockey played in the area.

Fort Coulonge and Shawville have been targeted for teams in the Pontiac.

The league's teams would primarily feature players from their respective towns.

"There's a great hockey history in this area," said Brown, as to why those towns had been chosen for potential teams.

In Ontario, Petawawa, Carleton Place, Almonte and Renfrew are amongst the locales Young Gunz are hoping will host a team.

"These young guys, there's nothing for them. Everything's taken up by kids' hockey and then older guys," said Brown.

Much of the league's blueprint has already been laid. Players would be charged $495 per season for a 40-game schedule, and the league would provide every player's equipment.

There will also be a no-fighting, no-body checking policy.

"We want to make sure these guys can get to work the next day," said McKnight.

Initially, all of the teams would be operated by the league but there would be the opportunity for individuals or groups to purchase teams.

Within a few years, the organizers are ambitiously hoping to expand the Young Gunz hockey league across Canada.

"We're here to enhance hockey for young guys, the young professionals," said MacLean.

The league's website is already fully operational at www.gunzhockey.com.

Despite Young Gunz being open to players that overlap with Junior 'B' teams in the region, the organizers insist they're not out to compete with the likes of the Pontiacs Junior 'B' club.

"We don't think we're going to interfere with them. We're not after Junior 'B' players," said Brown.

"For the true hockey fan, how much hockey is too much?"

President and General Manager of the Pontiacs, Chris Young, strongly disagrees.

"If they're looking for Junior 'B'-aged players then, yes, it's a concern for me," said Young, whose Pontiacs are between 18 and 21 years of age.

"I firmly believe to bring something like this into the area would hurt all the Junior 'B' teams (in the Eastern Ontario Junior 'B' Hockey League), not just us."

At the Young Gunz meeting with Shawville council last Thursday, MacLean said their league would not be opposed to players leaving to join the Junior 'B's, if so requested.

Young said his concern is more the financial viability of his hockey club with the Young Gunz competing for sponsorship and fans.

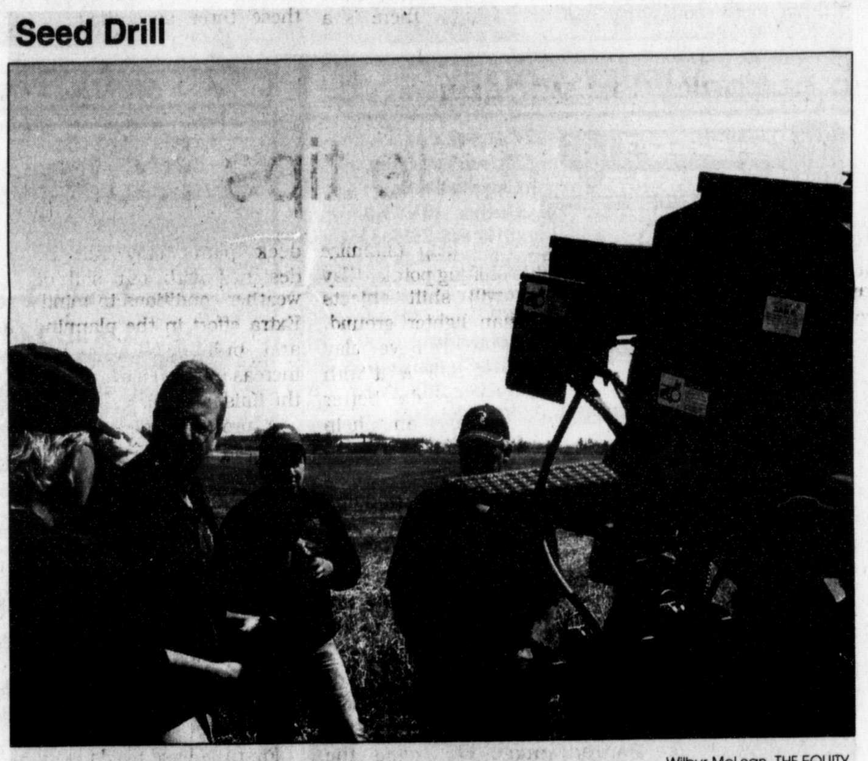
"Where is the money going to come from in this area?" asked Young.

"For one to survive, the other would have to die. If (the Young Gunz league) flies, then I think the Junior 'B's would eventually be gone."

The Young Gunz executive will continue to meet with municipalities in the coming weeks.

The recruitment of players for their Aug. 18 to 20 training camp will also begin taking place.

Seed Drill



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Local farmers received the chance to learn details about different types of machines used for seed drilling at RM Lang Farms in Clarendon on Thursday. The clinic was hosted by the Pontiac Soil Management Club.

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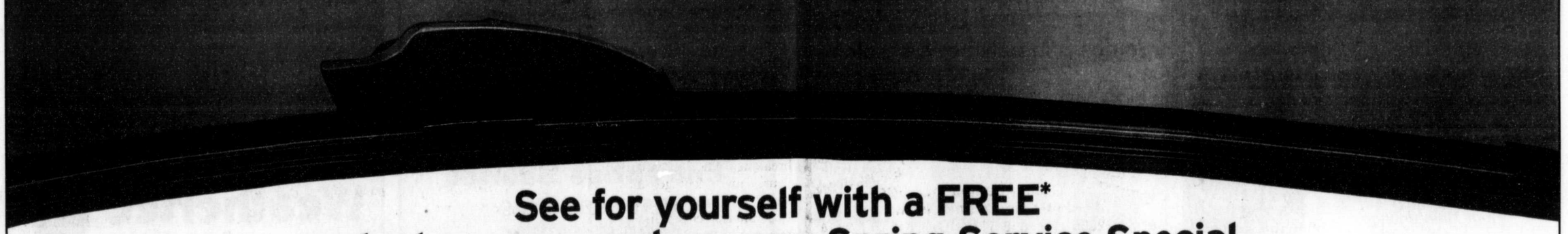

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Workshop focuses on Pontiac heritage

'Kids don't know what a one dollar bill is'

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

CALUMET ISLAND • The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network hosted a heritage awareness and stewardship workshop on Calumet Island last week.

The workshop, held at the municipal hall April 19, covered topics such as relevant laws, regulation and measures, and available resources and funding to maintain heritage structures and sites.

"A well-maintained historic property is a source of community pride," said Jonathan Murphy of Geocognition, a consultant firm specializing in geomatics and cultural resources management based in Chelsea, who acted as workshop co-ordinator for the Outaouais and Hudson regions.

The workshop spread the idea that sound and responsible management and promotion of local heritage was not a drain on municipal budgets, but can stimulate community development.

The CLD's cultural development agent, Ben Kuhn, was also on hand to guide the workshop.

"If we want to get serious on tourism, we need to concentrate on heritage," said Kuhn.

Heritage preservation regulation can potentially help protect heritage buildings such as the Spruceholme Inn, churches and other Pontiac destinations. Currently the only officially-named heritage sites in Pontiac are the Marchand Bridge, the Bryson House and Fort William.

"The exhibition hall on the fairgrounds (in Shawville) used to be," said Kuhn.

Kuhn said that Oiseau Rock and the Clarendon roller mill were being studied to become protected, but lack of community support stopped them from being so.

"Heritage buildings are precious, non-renewable resources that make our communities unique and attractive to visitors and residents alike," said Murphy of Wakefield, who has a background in archeology history. He has also studied in Europe and Calgary.

"Buildings are one thing," said Kuhn. "If you lose a building, the icon of that is hard to keep. If you wait another five years, who knows what will happen. I know near Sheenboro many timber buildings have been removed."

A good example of building removal would be the Usborne logging depot, with its axes and piles, now all moved to a site in the United States.

"Now it's gone," said Kuhn. "And the fiddling and dancing indigenous to the Ottawa Valley are gone with it. There is a way of using buildings as a window to the rest of its identity."

Some saw the financial benefits of preserving heritage.

"We need to convince people it makes good business sense and that it's good for people to use that heritage because people want to see this," said Gord Graham of Bristol, who also teaches history at Pontiac High School. "We need to convince people it will be profitable to keep what they have.

"We need a fine balance of applying standards but not discouraging development," said Graham.

Murphy went over certain tools a municipality can use in order to protect local heritage.

"There has been a lot of help in Wakefield from the SADC, CLD to put parking, a band stand and washrooms at the bridge," said Murphy of Wakefield's covered bridge. "Now we have as many as 20 weddings booked there a year."

Municipalities can adopt a Site Planning and Architectural Integration bylaw, amend local planning bylaws or implement a Cultural Property Act.

"If something is over 75 years old, it can go up for review," said Murphy. "This PIIA can address when people want to do something against the city's landscape."

These types of guidelines can allow municipalities to keep heritage in mind when building permits are requested.

"When someone asks for a renovation or to demolish, the municipality can ask to renovate instead," said Kuhn. "We can show them cost differences between renovating and rebuilding, and offer good incentives to keep it. If you make a law that you can't renovate heritage buildings, people will tear them down right away."

These guidelines are commonly not applied to the whole municipality, but to certain areas or a single building.

"It's a tool for creating a pleasant neighbourhood," said Kuhn. "It protects people's investments. It's a way of being able to preserve things and allow the community to evolve pleasantly."

Shawville has a committee that resembles a planning advisory committee — its Main Street program. It provides guidelines for buildings along Main Street.

People follow a colour scheme and are encouraged to remove any aluminum siding to reveal Shawville's characteristic red brick.

"We have a planning advisory committee in Shawville that works according to the act respecting planning bylaws," said Pierre Deschense, MRC planner. "That controls specific uses in environment, for example, allowing a convenience store on a heritage site. There are so many tools available to municipalities to help preserve heritage sites."

Other areas in Pontiac are in need of some heritage site preservation guidance.

"Campbell's Bay's waterfront is an example" said Kuhn.

"Lately is has been closed up with the wharf in the last decade. If you do your homework you can fine tune to certain preferences."

As well, abandoned houses dot the countryside as farms expand, Kuhn said.

Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Jonathan Murphy of Geocognition, a consultant firm specialized in geomatics and cultural resources management based in Chelsea, led a heritage preservation workshop at the Calumet Island municipal hall April 19.

"Things change so fast that as we live it we lost it at the same time," said Barbara Haughton of Bristol, who also teaches at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School.

"Kids don't know what a $1 bill is."

Educating children was not the only suggestion to draw interest to.

"People are fascinated by timber barn raisings," said Michael Neelin of Bristol, an artist who has a degree is architectural history. "That's something that could immediately raise community interest."

The evening resulted in providing a starting point for protecting Pontiac heritage.

"A policy committee will be set up to look at buildings and create a plan and to present a proposal to the MRC," said Kuhn.

Murphy said Pontiac was moving in the right direction.

"It is so much more difficult to have heritage when everything is gone," said Murphy. "It's easier when you have it."

Murphy also suggested that Pontiac have an inventory done of what sites are important, the conditions of each building and to come up with a plan of what the MRC would like to do first.

"This is a starting point," said Kuhn after the workshop.

An informal committee has been created to work on a plan to present to the MRC council of mayors in the near future.

Eventually, the group would like their recommendations on heritage buildings and landscapes be adapted into the MRC's master plan.

The committee includes Michael Neelin, William McDowell, Joanne Brownlee, Graham, Barbara Haughton and Anna Babinski.

Also encouraging the region's heritage are new initiatives being introduced such as a heritage magazine to be released later this month and the creation of a Pontiac church tour.

"There's something magical looking at these abandoned places," said Kuhn. "It's a mystery trying to imagine how people used to live."

Kuhn eventually wants to create an on-line database that will list buildings, significant individuals and events.

"There's a lot of defeatism out there," said Kuhn. "If you look at how pioneers raised a barn, it is a testament of our capacity as humans. It's a good model to follow."

Strategic approach to highway safety for the year

PONTIAC • Since the beginning of this year, the MRC des Collines police service, which includes the Municipality of Pontiac, has intensified its preventive and repressive presence on its main highways in an effort to reduce the number of accidents.

Tactics used to perform these duties include informing the population on preventive driving habits and more dilligently enforcing the Highway Traffic Act.

This strategy is the result of an evaluation on the number of roadway accidents over the last four years, where a total of 4,642 accidents was registered. Of this number 23 were fatal, 603 involved minor or serious injuries and 3,636 caused material damages only.

It should be pointed out that the police force patrols six provincial highways with a traffic flow of 55,450 vehicles. This number increases by at least 10 per cent during the summer months with an increased number of seasonal residents, as well as tourists.

In 2005, MRC des Collines officers conducted 990 preventive operations on roadways and issued a total of 3,609 traffic violations.

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Pontiac health centre does well in annual report, magazine

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • Outaouais Health and Social Services recently released its 2004-2005 annual report, showing the Pontiac health centre doing well.

Pontiac Health and Social Services Centre director-general said the health centre fared out well.

"The year went well, we were able to stabilize our deficit and begin the year without a deficit," said Grimard.

But the report pointed out the regional agency finished the year with a $19,360 deficit.

"We are facing major issues of recruitment, finding nurses, psychologists and other professionals," said Grimard.

He said the health centre is also hoping to attain some goals the Outaouais Health has asked for, such as a more complete palliative care centre, a project which has recently begun construction at the hospital in Shawville.

"We are also working on projects such as constructing a new long term care facility," said Grimard, who said currently the facility is being reorganized and upgraded. "It needs to be updated — it's not adequate."

At the same time as upgrading the health centre, people working in Pontiac health care are also maintaining the increased quality of service, said Grimard.

"More people are coming from the city to use our emergency room," said Grimard. "We have one of the best waiting times in Quebec."

At the emergency room in Shawville, the total average stay on a stretcher in the emergency room was 11.24 hours, up from 10.89 last year. The average number of patients remaining on a stretcher for more than 48 hours was 2.28, down from 3.15 last year. Other emergency room wait times average out to a maximum of 27.81 hours and up to 16.12 people in a stretcher for more than 48 hours.

The positive report is accredited to the health care workers.

"We are very proud of the workers we have here," said Grimard.

Holding true to Grimard's praise of the health centre, *Harrowsmith Country Life* magazine, in its April 2006 issue, listed the hospital in Shawville as a winner in Canada.

"Shawville, Quebec, has its own hospital, several specialists, general practitioners who can perform surgery, anesthetists and even its own CT scanner. After they discovered people were going to Ontario for CT scans, they convinced the Quebec government it would be more cost-effective to have their own."

The article also mentioned Alberta and Goose Bay, Labrador as winning hospitals and the Maritimes and British Columbia as losers.

The Outaouais Health and Social Services' territory includes establishments in the Pontiac, Vallée de la Gatineau, Papineau and des Collines de l'Outaouais MRCs.

Dépotoir Otter Lake

Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Le comité environnemental de la municipalité d'Otter Lake avec l'aide du Centre de formation en entreprise et récupération de l'Outaouais a tenu une consultation publique pour les résidents. En ce qui concerne le dépotoir, dès vendredi, la municipalité met en vigueur des nouvelles lois sévères. De gauche à droite: Jean Poulin, Jerry Dubeau, le maire Terry Richard, Vital St-Aubin, Claude Lafleur et Gil Lavigne.

La Députée demande à André Boisclair de se dissocier de l'initiative du conseil de la souveraineté

CAMPBELL'S BAY • La députée de Pontiac, Madame Charlotte L'Écuyer demande à André Boisclair de se dissocier de l'initiative du Conseil de la souveraineté du Québec qui publie aujourd'hui un guide d'activités pédagogiques à l'attention des professeur(e)s et des autres travailleurs du réseau de l'éducation des niveaux préscolaire à universitaire.

« Le Parti québécois doit se dissocier immédiatement de cette publication qui soulève de graves questions d'éthique. Il s'agit d'abord d'une démarche visant clairement à influencer le contenu du curriculum des professeurs, en suggérant des activités pédagogiques adressées à des élèves de niveau maternel, primaire et secondaire. Qu'en plus, on tente de draper cette initiative des vertus du développement de l'esprit critique chez les jeunes, c'est renversant.

Il y a beaucoup de parents qui se posent des questions ce matin, et ils ont raison. L'école est un lieu d'éducation, pas d'endoctrinement », a déclaré la députée.

Rappelons que le Conseil de la souveraineté a été créé par le premier ministre Jacques Parizeau en mai 1995 et a été grassement financé par le gouvernement péquiste, notamment à l'occasion du référendum de 1995 (3,8M$ en 1995 seulement). Aujourd'hui, il est financé par le Parti québécois, entre autres. André Boisclair s'est, pour sa part, déclaré un ferme partisan de l'utilisation des fonds publics pour financer les activités de promotion de la souveraineté.

« Quand André Boisclair clame sur toutes les tribunes qu'il ne se gênera pas pour utiliser les fonds publics au service de la cause mais qu'il le fera de façon "responsable", est-ce que sa définition de "responsable" inclut aussi le financement d'initiatives de propagande adressées aux enfants ? », s'est interrogé la députée.

Résiliation du bail pour violence conjugale ou agression sexuelle

Les député(e)s de l'Outaouais annoncent l'entrée en vigueur de l'article 1974.1 du Code Civil

GATINEAU • Les député(e)s de l'Outaouais, MM. Roch Cholette (Hull), Réjean Lafrenière (Gatineau), Norman Macmillan (Papineau), Benoît Pelletier (Chapleau) et madame Charlotte l'Écuyer (Pontiac), se réjouissent de l'entrée en vigueur, le 1er avril dernier, de l'article 1974.1 du Code civil du Québec permettant la résiliation du bail résidentiel pour motifs de violence conjugale ou d'agression à caractère sexuel.

Cette nouvelle disposition législative permettra dorénavant à un locataire de résilier son bail si, en raison de la violence d'un conjoint ou d'un ancien conjoint ou en raison d'une agression à caractère sexuel, sa sécurité ou celle d'un enfant qui habite avec lui est menacée.

« Le Québec est la première province à légiférer en ce sens », a déclaré la présidente du caucus, madame L'Écuyer.

« En effet, aucune autre province au Canada ne prévoyait jusqu'à présent la possibilité de résilier un bail pour des motifs de violence conjugale ou d'agression sexuelle. L'entrée en vigueur de l'article 1974.1 confirme la volonté du Québec de lutter contre la violence conjugale et de venir en aide aux victimes. C'est un geste de plus qui montre bien la détermination du gouvernement de mettre un terme à la violence conjugale et d'apporter son appui aux personnes victimes qui veulent intenter une poursuite criminelle contre leur agresseur », a-t-elle ajouté.

Dans les faits, le locataire devra envoyer au locateur un avis accompagné d'une attestation d'un substitut du Procureur général ou d'un procureur de la cour municipale de Montréal qui seront désignés par le ministre de la Justice.

La résiliation prendra effet dans un délai d'un à trois mois, selon la durée du bail, à moins que les parties n'en conviennent autrement.

Les locateurs et les locataires trouveront de plus amples renseignements, dont le formulaire « Demande d'attestation en vue d'une résiliation d'un bail pour motifs de violence ou d'agression sexuelle (1974.1 Code civil) », en consultant le site Internet de la Régie du logement à l'adresse www.rdl.gouv.qc.ca ou encore celui du ministère de la Justice à l'adresse www.justice.gouv.qc.ca.

Le Gouvernement du Québec dépose un project de loi sur les véhicules hors route

CAMPBELL'S BAY • La députée de Pontiac, Mme Charlotte L'Écuyer, a le plaisir de vous informer, au nom de la ministre déléguée aux Transports, Mme Julie Boulet, que le projet de loi no 9 modifiant la Loi sur les véhicules hors route, a été déposé à l'Assemblée nationale le 12 avril. Ce projet s'inscrit dans une démarche entreprise en décembre 2004, dans laquelle le gouvernement s'était engagé à trouver des solutions permettant l'utilisation des VHR dans le respect des citoyens et à tenir une consultation publique ainsi qu'une commission parlementaire.

La vaste consultation publique qui s'est tenue dans 16 régions du Québec, a permis de rencontrer un millier de citoyens du Québec et de recevoir plus de 370 mémoires et commentaires.

« Le gouvernement, en collaboration avec les gens du milieu qui ont été présents tout au long de cette démarche, a conservé le même objectif, soit de proposer un juste équilibre permettant une cohabitation plus harmonieuse entre les citoyens et les utilisateurs de VHR. D'ailleurs, la commission parlementaire, tenue en mars dernier, a été l'occasion d'écouter 30 groupes qui ont accueilli favorablement la majorité des solutions mises de l'avant. Leurs interventions nous ont aidés à bonifier les propositions retenues», indique Mme Boulet.

« Le citoyen a été au cœur de nos préoccupations. Nous croyons que le resserrement des règles, la concertation régionale, la sensibilisation et la surveillance accrue permettront de mieux encadrer la pratique afin de la rendre plus respectueuse des riverains », complète la députée.

Afin d'avoir une approche adaptée à la réalité de chaque région, le gouvernement met en place des tables de concertation régionale présidées par les Conférences régionales des élus ou une instance désignée par celles-ci. Cette mesure répond aux demandes exprimées par les citoyens rencontrés, tout comme la création d'un comité consultatif qui traitera les plaintes des citoyens et assurera une conciliation entre les diverses tables régionales.

« Cette démarche permet de préserver les investissements qui seront faits conjointement par le gouvernement et les régions pour aménager ou réaménager les sentiers interrégionaux problématiques. D'ailleurs, c'est avec un grand plaisir que nous annonçons aujourd'hui un fonds de 8 millions de dollars provenant d'un programme d'infrastructure du ministère des Affaires municipales et des Régions, dont 4 millions du gouvernement et 4 millions des partenaires régionaux », affirme Mme Boulet.

Les faits saillants du projet de loi présenté aujourd'hui sont :

- Le renforcement de l'interdiction de modifier les véhicules;
- L'interdiction de vendre des équipements servant à modifier les véhicules;
- L'augmentation de l'âge minimal requis pour conduire un VHR de 14 à 16 ans;
- Une formation obligatoire pour les conducteurs de 16 et 17 ans;
- Un pouvoir réglementaire d'établir des normes relatives aux émissions sonores polluantes et d'interdire la circulation des véhicules ne rencontrant pas ces normes;
- Le pouvoir de réglementer pour limiter la puissance des VHR offerts en location de courte durée;
- L'instauration d'amendes progressives liées aux excès de vitesse;
- L'imposition d'une amende pour un conducteur qui circule sur un terrain privé sans autorisation;
- La mise en place d'une nouvelle catégorie d'agents de surveillance de sentiers bénévoles ayant plus de pouvoirs, notamment celui d'émettre des contraventions pour les infractions liées aux modifications de véhicules, au port du casque protecteur, aux droits d'accès et aux heures de circulation;
- Une protection pour les propriétaires qui accordent des droits de passage contre les recours en cas d'accidents dans les sentiers situés sur leur terrain;
- Une protection, limitée aux sentiers interrégionaux, contre les recours basés sur les inconvénients de voisinage, le bruit et les odeurs. Elle sera d'une durée de cinq ans et sera révisée après trois ans par l'Assemblée nationale.

« Les mesures proposées s'inscrivent dans le plan gouvernemental d'autonomie régionale et locale. Elles laissent aux municipalités et aux régions les possibilités d'adapter les normes aux réalités de chacune des régions », a conclu Mme L'Écuyer.

PAVILLON DU PARC

Le Pavillon du Parc est le centre de réadaptation en déficience intellectuelle et en trouble envahissant du développement de la région de l'Outaouais (C.R.D.I.-TED).

Le Pavillon du Parc est à la recherche :

- D'un psychoéducateur (Fort-Coulonge)
- D'un travailleur social (Pontiac)
- De travailleurs sociaux pour combler la liste de rappel du Pontiac

Pour toute précision relative à ces postes et à l'établissement, veuillez consulter notre site Web www.pavillonduparc.qc.ca ou communiquer avec Mme Line Sénécal, Direction des ressources humaines au numéro suivant : (819) 770-1022.

768, boulevard St-Joseph
Gatineau (Québec) J8Y 4B8

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
MUNICIPALITY OF
PONTIAC

To the ratepayers of the aforesaid municipality

PUBLIC NOTICE

IS HEREBY GIVEN by the undersigned Secretary-Treasurer of the aforesaid Municipality, THAT:-

Tenders are requested by the undersigned for the maintenance of green spaces and parks within its territory from , May 15 until October 15, for one year (2006) and for three years (2006-2008).

Any person interested in bidding can obtain the contract documents by communicating with the undersigned by calling (819) 455-2401 or in person at 2024 Route 148, Pontiac, Quebec during office hours as of ***April 19, 2006***.

Tenders must include a certified cheque or a bid bond representing at least 10% of the price submitted.

Sealed tenders clearly identified as to their content must be received at the undersigned's office ***on or before May 2, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.*** and will be opened publicly at that time.

The contractor must obtain and maintain active all permits and authorizations required by any government level necessary for the execution of his contract.

The Municipality of Pontiac does not bind itself to accepting the lowest or any of the tenders submitted and without any compensation to the tenderer.

GIVEN IN PONTIAC this seventh day of April two thousand six.

Sylvain Bertrand
Secretary-Treasurer

PROVINCE DE QUÉBEC
MUNICIPALITÉ DE
PONTIAC

Aux contribuables de la susdite municipalité

AVIS PUBLIC

EST PAR LES PRÉSENTES DONNÉ par le soussigné secrétaire-trésorier de la susdite municipalité, QUE :-

Des soumissions sont demandées pour l'entretien des espaces verts et des parcs sur son territoire pour la période du 15 mai au 15 octobre, soit pour un an (2006) et pour trois ans (2006-2008).

Toute personne intéressée à soumissionner peut se procurer des documents contractuels au bureau du soussigné en composant le (819) 455-2401 ou en se présentant à son bureau au 2024, Route 148, Pontiac, durant les heures de bureau à compter du ***19 avril 2006***.

Les soumissions doivent être accompagnées d'un chèque visé ou d'un cautionnement de soumission représentant au moins 10% du prix soumis.

Les soumissions scellées et clairement identifiées quant à leur contenu doivent être reçues au bureau du soussigné ***le ou avant le 2 mai 2006 à 15h00***, et seront ouvertes publiquement à cette même heure.

L'entrepreneur devra obtenir et maintenir en vigueur tous permis et autorisations requis par toute instance gouvernementale, nécessaires à l'exécution de son contrat.

La Municipalité de Pontiac ne s'engage pas à accepter ni la plus basse ni aucune soumission déposée, et ceci sans dédommagement aux soumissionnaires.

DONNÉ À PONTIAC ce septième jour d'avril deux mille six.

Sylvain Bertrand
Secrétaire-trésorier

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
MUNICIPALITY OF
PONTIAC

Public notice announcing the registration period

PUBLIC NOTICE

To persons of legal capacity to vote and having the right to be registered on the Municipality of Pontiac referendum list.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given of the following:

1. During a meeting held on April 11, 2006, council adopted by-law no. 06-10 titled: « BY-LAW WHICH DECREES A LOAN AND EXPENSE FOR PAVING CERTAIN STREETS AND ROADS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC»
2. Persons of legal capacity to vote and having the right to be registered on the municipality's referendum list may request that this by-law be subject to a referendum by inscribing their name, address and status and signing a register for these purposes.
3. This register will be accessible from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on **May 8, 2006** at the town hall, 2024 Route 148, Pontiac.
4. The number of requests required to hold a referendum is **372**. If this number is not met, the by-law will be reputed approved by the persons of legal capacity to vote.
5. The results of the registration will be announced on May 8, 2006 at 7:10 p.m. at 2024 Route 148, Pontiac.
6. You may consult the by-law at 2024 Route 148, Pontiac, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
7. The following are the necessary conditions to qualify as a person of legal capacity to vote and having the right to be registered on the municipality's referendum list.
   - A person from the municipality, of legal capacity to vote, on the reference date, is any person who has not been incapacitated to vote, described in article 524 of the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities*, and meets one of the following conditions:
     - To be living on the municipality's territory and for at least six months in the province of Quebec.
     - Be the owner of a business establishment situated on the municipality's territory for at least 12 months, as described in the *"Act respecting municipal taxation"* (chapter F2-1).

A physical person must also, on the reference date, be of age, be a Canadian citizen, and not be under legal guardianship.

An additional condition specific to undivided co-owners of a property and co-occupants of a business establishment applies:

- Be assigned by proxy, as being the only co-owner or co-occupant of a business establishment, and signed by the majority of co-owners or co-occupants. (Note: A co-owner or co-occupant should not be designated if he/she qualifies as a resident, sole owner of a property or sole occupant of a business establishment).

Condition for being able to exercise the right to register as a corporate body:

- To designate by resolution, among members, administrators or employees, a person who as of April 11, 2006 and when exercising this right, is of age and a Canadian citizen.

Persons wanting to register must present a legally recognized piece of identification (health card, driving permit or passport), (artile 545 and 215 of the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities*).

April 18, 2006
Sylvain Bertrand
Secretary-Treasurer

PROVINCE DE QUÉBEC
MUNICIPALITÉ DE
PONTIAC

Avis public annonçant la période d'enregistrement

AVIS PUBLIC

Aux personnes habiles à voter ayant le droit d'être inscrite sur la liste référendaire de la municipalité de Pontiac.

AVIS PUBLIC est donné de ce qui suit :

1. Lors d'une séance tenue le 11 avril 2006, le conseil a adopté le règlement numéro 06-10 et intitulé : « RÈGLEMENT DÉCRÉTANT UN EMPRUNT ET UNE DÉPENSE POUR LE PAVAGE DE CERTAINS ROUTES ET CHEMINS DE LA MUNICIPALITÉ DE PONTIAC »
2. Les personnes habiles à voter ayant le droit d'être inscrites sur la liste référendaire de la municipalité peuvent demander que ce règlement fasse l'objet d'un scrutin référendaire en inscrivant leurs noms, adresse et qualité et en apposant leur signature dans un registre ouvert a cette fin.
3. Ce registre sera accessible de 9 à 19 heures **le 8 mai 2006** au 2024, Route 148, Pontiac, au bureau municipal.
4. Le nombre de demande requis pour qu'un scrutin référendaire soit tenu est de **372**. Si ce nombre n'est pas atteint, le règlement sera réputé approuvé par les personnes habiles à voter.
5. Le résultat de la procédure d'enregistrement sera annoncé au 2024, Route 148, Pontiac le 8 mai 2006 à 19h10.
6. Le règlement peut être consulté au 2024, Route 148, Pontiac du lundi au vendredi de 8h30 à 16h00.
7. Conditions pour être une personne habile à voter ayant le droit d'être inscrite sur la liste référendaire de l'ensemble de la municipalité.
   - Est une personne habile à voter de la municipalité, toute personne qui, à la date de référence, n'est frappée d'aucune incapacité de voter prévue a l'article 524 de la *Loi sur les élections et les référendums dans les municipalités* et remplit une des deux conditions suivantes :
     - Être domiciliée sur le territoire de la municipalité et, depuis au moins six mois, au Québec.
     - Être, depuis au moins 12 mois, le propriétaire d'un établissement d'entreprise, au sens de la *Loi sur la fiscalité municipale* (chapitre F2-1) situé sur le territoire de la municipalité.

Une personne physique doit également, à la date de référence, être majeure et de citoyenneté canadienne et ne pas être en curatelle.

Condition supplémentaire particulière aux copropriétaires indivis d'un immeuble et aux cooccupants d'un établissement d'entreprise :

- Être assignée, au moyen d'une procuration signée par la majorité de ceux-ci, comme le seul des copropriétaires ou des cooccupants de la place d'affaire. (Note : Un copropriétaire ou un cooccupant n'a pas à être désigné s'il est par ailleurs qualifié a titre de personne domiciliée, de propriétaire unique d'un immeuble ou d'occupant unique d'une place d'affaires.)

Condition d'exercice du droit à l'enregistrement d'une personne morale :

- Désigner par une résolution, parmi ses membres, administrateurs ou employés, une personne qui, le 11 avril 2006 et au moment d'exercer ce droit, est majeure et de citoyenneté canadienne.

Les personnes voulant faire enregistrer leur nom doivent présenter une carte d'identité légalement reconnue (carte d'assurance maladie, permis de conduire ou passeport) article 545 et 215 de la *Loi sur les élections et les référendums dans les municipalités* (LERM)

Le 18 avril 2006
Sylvain Bertrand
Secrétaire-trésorier

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April '06

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May '06

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COMING EVENTS

Every Saturday night til May 13 (included) Old Time Dance, Bryson Lions Hall. Music by The Brysonnaires. Door opens at 7:30 p.m. Round and square dancing 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Hot lunch 11:30 p.m. $6 per person. Everyone welcome. otc

April 28, 29 – Shawville Flea Market 193 Centre St. Family clothes $1, videos $1 - $3 jeans $3, books, toys, golf, antiques, collectibles, etc. xa26

Sat., April 29 – At 6:30 p.m. Shawville and District Snowmobile Club will be having their Landowner's Appreciation Supper at Bristol Town Hall. ba26

Sat., April 29 – Ranger Family Bluegrass St. John's Lutheran Church, Ladysmith 7 p.m. Free will offering, light refreshments. 2xa26

April 29 and 30 – Estate Sale of Bella Desabrais, 858 Clarendon St., Quyon, 10 - 4 Saturday, 12-4 Sunday. ba26

Sun., April 30 – Chutes Coulonge - Official Opening noon to 4 p.m. Local artisans exhibits, bake sale and BBQ. 3A26

Mon., May 1 – Western Quebec School Board Commissioners community meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Campbell's Bay to answer questions about St. John's/John Paul II school's future. Make your voice heard. ba26

Computer Basics Course – Tuesday or Thursday mornings, afternoons and evenings starting May 2, 2006. Learn the basics of computers including Windows, Internet, E-Mail and Word Processing. Call the Renfrew Learning Centre for more information, 613-432-1002 or E-Mail Programs@thelearningcentre.ca. 4bm17

Fri., May 5 – Rummage Sale in St. Paul's Anglican Parish Hall, Shawville. 2xm3

Sat., May 6 – 7:30 p.m. St. James' Anglican Church, Otter Lake, Concert Series presents The Northern Sons live at the church! Tickets are $15 each. For concert tickets and info call 648-2949 or 453-7898. ba26

Sun., May 7 – Pontiac Environmental Protection (PEP) Annual General Meeting, 4:00 - 6:30 pm. Old and new members welcome. 12th Concession Road. For directions call: 647-3997. 2bm3

May 7 – Hot Roast Beef Supper, Foresters Falls Orange Hall 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Adults $10, children 5 - 12 $4. Preschoolers free. Sponsored by LoL and LoBA. Everyone welcome. Handicap access, take outs. 2xm3

Sat., May 13 – Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings and dessert. Celebrating Mother's Day, 5 p.m. at the Bethany Hall, Danford Lake, Que. Price Adult $12, children 12 and under $5. Dance to follow 7:30 p.m. By The Country, $6. 2bm3

Fri., May 26 – 6:30 p.m., Murder Mystery, "Mob Mayhem" Dinner and a Murder, Pontiac Community Players, PHS gym, tickets $25 available until May 19 at PHS main office. 3bm10

COMING EVENTS

Tours – Jamieson Travel and Tours: Fantastic musical trip to Branson - May 12-20 featuring Danny O'Donnell, Mickey Gilley and many others. A special 7 Country European Tour - June 7-21. A complete Canadian East Coast tour including Newfoundland - July 28-Aug. 10. "Rockies by Rail" tour. Our fabulous Ireland/Scotland tour in Sept. Fall tours to Branson, Australia/New Zealand, Tuscany/Rome, South Africa, St. Jacobs and a great 5-day tour to the Gaspe/St. Anne de Beaupre and Grosse Ile. Call our office in Beachburg, ON for a free catalogue 613-582-7011 or toll free 888-582-7011. Visit our website www.jamiesontravel.com. ON. Reg. 50013556. 5bm3

June 30, July 1 & 2 – Quyon Country JamFest. Featuring: George Fox and Shania Twin. Advance Tickets Available now – call 458-2139. 11bjn21

August 4, 5, 6 – Civic holiday weekend. Riverside Jam, Carleton Place, Ontario. Featuring Ricky Skaggs, Lisa Brokop, Amanda Wilkinson, Aaron Pritchett, Aaron Lines, George Fox, Ambush, Ronnie Prophet and many others. Early bird pricing www.riversidejam.com or call 613-226-9178. 3bA26

Bus Tours – May 28-30 Daniel O'Donnell in Lake George, Eastern Canada Aug. 16 - 26, Gordon Lightfoot Nov. 11. Call for free brochures. Thomas Cook/Highland Travel 432-5815 or 1-800-865-8738. 2ba26

YARD SALE

April 28, 29 & 30 – 'Tis that time of year, cleaning house, 3 River Rd. Campbell's Bay, Judy and Sara's. ba26

Fri., April 28 - Sat., May 6 – Week long Yard Sale, 7 Ragged Chute Rd., Bristol. xa26

April 29 & 30 – Gazebo screen house, 3 wheel bicycle plus odds and ends, 25 Wharf Road, Norway Bay. xa26

Sat., April 29 – 48 MacFarlane St., Campbell's Bay, 8 am to 4 p.m. Lots of toys. ba26

Sat., April 29 – Garage sale, 715 Gibson St., Shawville 8 to 4. xa26

Sat., April 29 – Yard Sale, 1441 Concession St., Campbell's Bay. xa26

Vente de garage – Samedi et dimanche du mois de mai de 11 à 4 à 40 ch. des Outaouais, Ile-du-Grand-Calumet..

Garage Sale Every Saturday and Sunday in May from 11 to 4, 40 ch des Outaoauis, Grand Calumet Island. xa26

MISCELLANEOUS

Furniture at huge savings as well as TV and appliances. Al Utronki Appliance & TV. Renfrew 613-432-5318. We sell the best for less. otc

30" beige stove with matching hood rapid clean oven. Call 647-5691. ba26

Hot tub (Spa) Covers. Best Price, Best Quality. All Shapes & Colours Available. Call 1-866-652-6837. www.thecoverguy.ca. qa26

1992 Thundercraft 240 Express, 5.7 litre Mercury cruiser fully equipped, excellent condition complete with trailer asking $23,500. 819-648-2232. otc.

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A new PC only 99 cents/day! Everyone's approved!*! Get a fully loaded MDG Computer with an Intel P4 3ghz from 99 cents/day. Includes everything you need: 512MB RAM, 17" LCD flat panel, Windows XP and a free* printer/scanner /copier for first 500 callers (*call for conditions). 1-800-236-2504. qa26

14 foot aluminum deep boat and trailer with new rims, tires and oars. Mike 648-2325. ba26

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Pool table. Solid maple, 1" slate, with accessories. Never used. Cost $4,800. Sell $2,300. The Furniture Guy 514-745-6536. qa26

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2003 Bombardier Outlander 400 4 wheel drive. Asking $4,000. Call after 7 p.m. Ask for Clement 647-3931. xa26

Hot tub/Spa 2005 fully loaded w/5" cover. Never used. Cost $9,100. Sell $5,500. The Furniture Guy: 514-989-7488. qa26

Heavy Industrial solid ibeam steel buildings for sale with Canada stamped drawings. Clearance models available for balance owed, 60 x 100, 70 x 150, 90 x 180, others available. Call 1-800-259-5946. qa26

LOST

Black dog in Quyon, 5th Concession white spot on chest and brown feet 458-1278. 2xa26

LIVESTOCK

Purebred Blonde D'Aquitaine bulls and heifers for sale. Call 819-683-3278. 3bm3

Mixed beef herd, due to calve Aug. 2006, Hay for sale, 613-646-7377. 2xm3

FARM PRODUCE

4 x 5 round bales of hay, first cut, no rain, stored inside. 613-582-3984 ba26

FARM PRODUCE

Round bales of mixed hay. Also round bales of straw. Both 4 x 5. No rain. excellent horse hay. Stored inside. Keith Emmerson 647-5517, Shawville. xa26

Round bales of hay for sale 647-5586. ba26

Manure spreader, 140 bushel, Farm Eze $1,500, rotary hay rakes, Vicon $1,000; Deutz Allis $1,500;Stoll $1,500 458-2227. ba26

FARM EQUIPMENT

JD 7000 4 row N planter, dry fertilizer, field ready $2,800; NH718 Harvester hay and corn, electric controls. Ford 4 x 16 plow same as (White). Gehl forage blower $300, good make an offer. Harvey Martin 613-587-4696. 2xm3

International 350 Disc Harrow round baler; 630 New Holland; 7600 Ford tractor, New Holland flail chopper, New Holland haybine 7' cut, Massey seed drill; Leveling harrows; 4 score International Plow; Elias cattle scale. 647-3583. 2xm3

Cockshutt # 11 seed drill combination fertilizer, grain, grass seed; NH square baler; MH 8 foot tandem disc harrows; MH manure spreader; bale spear for 3 pt. hitch; manure fork for 3 pt. hitch 647-5857. ba26

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1998 1 ton Dodge truck asking $1,800 or trade for livestock 455-2439. 2bm3

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FOR RENT

Bristol – 2 & 3 bedroom apartments available now, heat and hydro included. Credit check and references required. Call George at (819) 771-6117. otc.

Campbell's Bay – 2 bedroom apartment overlooking the Ottawa River 648-2500. otc.

Cottage for rent summer months June to Sept. Book early! Jill McBane 458-2366. xtc

Quyon – 1 bedroom apartment, new fridge and stove, dishwasher, laundry facilities, satellite package "the works", heat and hydro $435 per month. 458-3417. ba26

Quyon – Apartment for rent 2 bedroom heat and hydro not included $375 monthly 458-2169. 2bm3

Shawville – 2 bedroom apartment for rent 647-3256. otc

FOR RENT

Shawville – Spacious one bedroom apartment (living room, kitchen). dishwasher included, washer and dryer, hook ups. Close to hospital, very quiet area, 2 references and recent written credit check required. Call 647-3714. 2xm3

Shawville– commercial space 42 Victoria St., 1400 sq. ft. or 3,000 sq. ft. Info Eric Smith 647-5015. otc.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Clarendon – 50 acres of recreational land, lots of wild life. Contact Terry Lafleur @ Remax 647-6996. xtc

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THE EQUITY is searching for a freelance news reporter that is ambitious, has a strong work ethic and a passion for journalism to cover local events in the Pontiac. Salary will vary with experience. A bilingual applicant is preferred. The job will require evening and weekend work. A digital camera (minimum of 4.0 megapixels), a valid driver's license and car are required. Mileage will be paid. Forward your resume, along with samples of published writing, to Box 4300, Shawville Quebec, J0X 2Y0 or via e-mail to leahmiller@theequity.ca xtc

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PERSONALS

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DEATH

Harris-Devine-McCranie, Barbara Jane, one of the twins born to Thomas and Lola Harris, October 14, 1932, died April 14, 2006 as a result of a stroke in her home, Cape Coral, Florida. Barbara is survived by her children Monica Feinstein (Randy) of Florida, Michael Devine (Linda) of North Carolina, Perry Devine (Lucille) of Oregon, and Lisa Haneberg (Bill) of Seattle. Also by her sisters, Betty Dubé (Ronald) and Laura Stanger (Charles) of Ottawa. Barbara was predeceased by her husband Asa McCranie, April 2005 and her only brother Iverson Harris, May, 1987. Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by her children, grandchildren, sisters and all who were privileged to know her and delight in sharing her life.

THANKS

Hearty – We would like to thank the Campbell's Bay and Litchfield Fire Department for their quick response in trying to save our mother. We would also like to thank everyone for all their wonderful food, and flowers and donations. They are greatly appreciated. Especially like to thank the pallbearers for helping us on this sad occasion. Thanks to everyone from the Hearty family and the late Imelda Hearty.

Smith (née Gibeault) – The families of the late Linda Gibeault would like to give a special thanks to Dr. O'Neill, Jayne Hayes, Linda Rooney, my cousin Dianne Smith and all family members and friends for their support through our loss. Also like to thank all the nurses and staff of the Pontiac Community Hospital for making Linda's last couple of days comfortable after going through a long battle with cancer. We would also like to thank all who gave donations and to the pallbearers, Hayes Funeral Home, Father Costello for a wonderful mass, the C.W.L. for preparing a great meal. The Women's Institute, Paul Desjardin for being a great help and to everyone else who helped out in any way. Thanks Randy, Joey

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MEMORIAM

Black, William (Bill) April 28, 1998
In loving memory of a wonderful husband, father and grandfather.
So many things have happened dear,
Since you were called away,
So many things to share with you,
If you were here today.
We cannot bring the old days back,
Your hands we cannot touch,
Your smile we cannot see,
But God has given us many memories,
Of the one we loved so much.
When we are sad and lonely,
And everything goes wrong,
We seem to hear you whisper,
"Cheer up and carry on."
"Love and memories are forever."
Irene, Bill Jr., and family

Black, William (Bill) Hewitt – Sept. 3, 1946 - April 28, 1998
We will always love and remember you.
Dad, Mom and Gord

MEMORIAM

Gibeault – In loving memory of Delores who passed away April 29, 2003.
Three years have passed, our hearts still sore,
As time rolls on we miss you more,
Your welcome smile and pleasant face,
No one can fill that vacant place.
Sadly missed by children and grandchildren, son-in-laws and daughter-in-law

Lance – In loving memory of our dear mom, nan and great-nannie Sadie, who passed away on April 22, 2003.
We think of you in silence
And often speak your name,
But all we've got are memories
And your picture in a frame.
Your resting place we visit
And put flowers there with care,
But no one knows the heartache
As we turn and leave you there.
Your smile is gone forever
And your hand we cannot touch,
Still we have so many memories
Of you, we loved so much.
These memories are our keepsake
With which we'll never part
God has you in His keeping
We have you in our hearts.
We miss you so much.
Love Brenda, Cyril, Kim, Tim and Sara, Steve, Leanne, Ryan and Connor

Smith – In loving memory of our beloved son, brother, brother-in-law and a special uncle Scott who passed away April 28, 2002.
Just when his days seemed brightest,
Just when his hopes seemed best,
Four years ago today,
Scott was called to his eternal rest,
So remember him with a smile today,
For he was not one for tears,
Reflect instead on memories of all his happy years,
The funny things he said,
His jokes, his smile, the way he walked,
Remember these instead,
The good advice he'd give us
His eyes that shone with laughter,
So much of him will never die,
But live on ever after
Think of him as living,
In the hearts of those he touched
For nothing loved is ever lost
And Scott was loved so much.
Always loved and missed every day.
Dad and Mom (Harvey and Fern) and all your family

MEMORIAM

Smith, Scott – In loving memory of a dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and best friend who left us on April 28, 2002.
A million times I've missed you,
A million times I've cried
If love could have saved you,
You never would have died.
In life I loved you dearly,
In death I love you still,
In my heart you hold a special place,
That no one could ever fill.
Forever loved and missed.
Kimberley, Jeff and Caitlin

Thomson – In loving memory of a special wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Merle who passed away April 28th, 1996.
Ten years have passed dear Merle
Since you were called away
How well do we remember
That sad and weary day.
No one knows how much we miss you
No one knows the bitter pain
We have suffered since we lost you
Life has never been the same.
In our hearts your memory lingers
Sweetly tender, fond and true,
There is not a day dear wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother,
That we do not think of you.
Sadly missed, Dale and family

BIRTH

Yach – Jennifer, Shawn and Travis announce with great joy the early but safe arrival of their baby girl, Koree Bridget-Lyn born Tues., April 18, 2006 weighing 5 lbs, 15 oz. Many thanks to Dr. Courchesne and the nurses at OBS, to family and friends for gifts and visits

NOTICE

If you saw the picture in THE EQUITY we can make you a full colour 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 prints for $10 plus tax, at The Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0 819-647-2204. xtc

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Bryson

Heather Stewart 648-5413

Results for the Golden Age Euchre held on Monday, April 17 are as follows: Door Jim Stewart, 50/50; Yvonne Hamelin, ladies first; Anna Porter, Georgette Piche and Bernadette Piche, ladies second; Antoinette Leblanc, Marie-Laure Godin, Collette McTiernan, Phyllis Smith and Veronique Perrier, men's first: Jim Stewart and Gilbert Letts, mens second: Fern Lepine and Jean-Guy Mainville.

Happy birthday to Rolly Lepine on April 26.

Celebrating on April 27 are Nicole Lemaire and Andre Newberry.

Congratulations to Kelly Stewart and Theode Turgeon who were married on Saturday. The bride and groom looked awesome in their attire as well as their wedding party. The Forest Inn was packed with everybody dancing to the music played by the Dubeau's. The band did an awesome job playing country and some rock. Kalie Dufault sang some songs and did an amazing job. There was a large crowd of people and the dance floor was packed. A lovely lunch was put out. Wishing this newly married couple many happy years together as husband and wife!

Nannie and Papa, along with Mom and Shawn, Troy and Shinne send out Birthday wishes to Matthew Lepine of Calgary.

Happy 16th birthday to Sheldon Ostrom who celebrates on April 26th.

Visiting my Mom and Dad and Aunt Monique and Uncle Melvin were Aunt Diane Stewart and Uncle Larry Besserer of Ottawa.

Happy birthday to Nicole Lemaire and Andre Newberry who celebrate on April 27.

Rev. Angus McDonald and his wife Pat dropped in to my Mom and Dad's place Sunday afternoon all the way from Ottawa. It was nice to see them both.

Happy birthday to Morgan Benoit on April 28. Morgan is the daughter of Shelley Normandeau and Jeff Benoit.

Uncle Melvin is finally out of the hospital and is doing well. So glad to see you out and about again! Just remember, slow and steady wins the race!

Having a birthday on April 29 is Normand Perrier.

The Bryson Fire Department is still picking up stuff for their yard sale. If you have anything that you would like to donate please call them. The money is going to a great cause. It is important that they raise the money in order to get the stuff they need. It is for all of us. You never know when you may need the aid of our firemen. Remember one person's junk is another person's treasure.

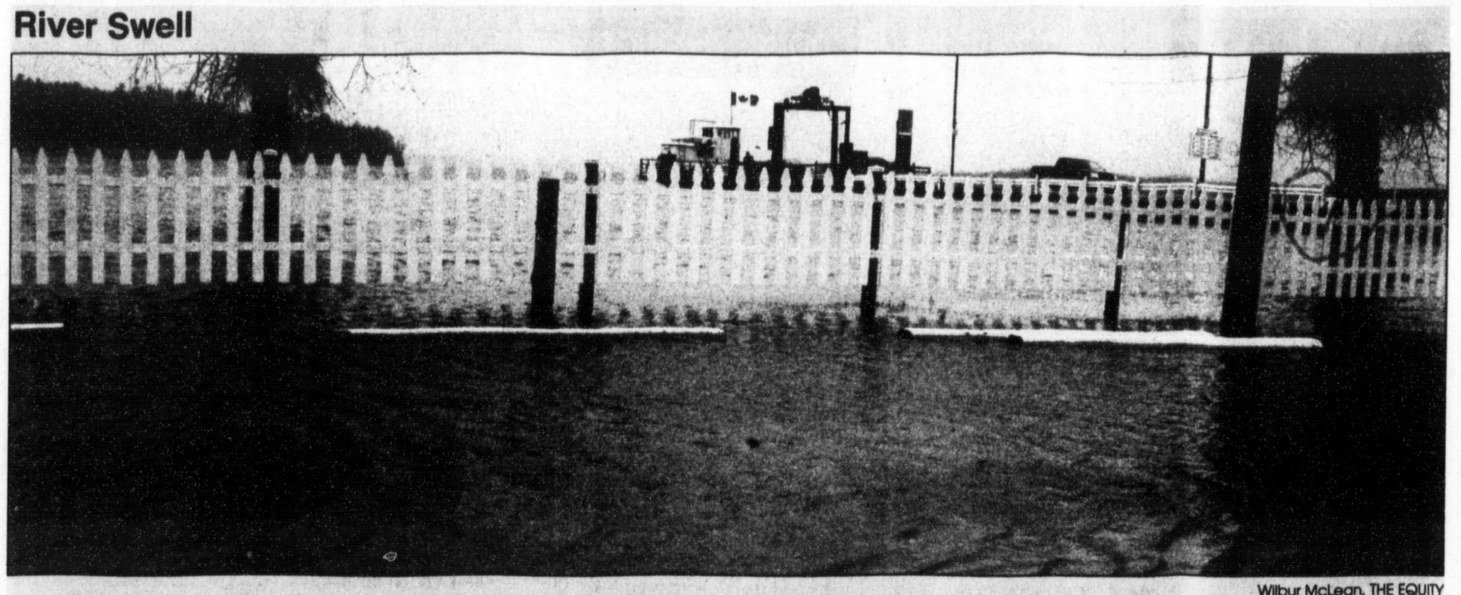
Happy birthday to my sister-in-law, Amber Morrison, on April 30. Have a wonderful day Sis! Scott Dubeau also has a birthday on this same day!

While at Kelly and Theode's wedding I had the opportunity to run into some old friends. It was wonderful seeing you all! It's sad how distance and time can come between friendships. It takes only a minute to pick up a phone and call or take a few minutes to write. Show the ones that matter that you care, because you can never get back a yesterday, or even a minute and you never know when you will ever get that chance again.

Special greetings to Richard Kelleher. We sure miss you and we are sending sunshine your way!

Some of the girls took Annette Lepine out last week in honor of her birthday. I heard you got some pretty snazzy gifts Annette. I hope you enjoyed your day girl!

River Swell



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

The Ottawa River has swelled this spring and it's now crept into the Quyon Lions Hall parking lot. While this occurs annually, local residents said this year's has not been as bad as others, when sometimes the entire parking lot has flooded. One resident recalled a year when the flooding was so bad that a wedding party had to reroute itself through the side door of the Hall.

Quyon CWL prepares for banquet

QUYON • St. Mary's CWL met March 14 in Quyon.

President Claire Dubois called the meeting to order and Father Costello, always in attendance, led all in opening prayers. Following this was the reading of the February minutes, items of correspondence and the treasurer's report.

Preparations for the scheduled March 26 CWL Share-Lent Breakfast were discussed. This annual event always receives a good crowd.

There was a Rock-a-Thon planned for the evening of April 20 at the church.

Invitations were received for the Diocesan spring meeting on April 1 at St. John Chrysostomo Church in Arnprior. Several Quyon members attend the spring meetings.

The Mount Carmel Parish CWL, in La Passe are planning celebrations for their 70th anniversary on April 29.

There was a mention of the upcoming May CWL banquet. This year marks the 51st year of the Quyon CWL.

The Faith First program is reportedly progressing well with good response from both children and their parents.

Once again, all parish ladies are invited to join the CWL and would be most welcome.

Seen on a sign outside a church, "Good seats still available."

MRC begins second draft of fire safety cover plan

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • Fire departments can expect to receive a second inventory questionnaire to fill out since the MRC's first draft of its fire safety cover plan was turned down by the provincial government.

Claude Lafleur, the MRC's fire safety cover plan project manager, says he sent of the first section of the revised plan last week.

"We are not that far from being approved, we just have to justify our plan," he said.

The fire safety cover plan ensures that all of the MRC's fire departments are in conformity with ministerial guidelines and the Fire Safety Act. The plan determines objectives of fire protection as well as how to obtain those goals.

This first draft was completed last March after close to three years of work. Only 11 MRCs and cities in Quebec have had plans approved.

This February Lafleur had the plan returned to him for further revisions.

"They want more on everything," he said. "We need to justify why there is only so much we can do in terms of money and resources."

Lafleur has six months to modify and submit the second draft.

"The reality of this is that other municipalities are doing the same thing, but have been negotiating a year," said Lafleur.

Lafleur will be taking on the second draft differently.

"Instead of modifying the entire plan, I've divided the plan section by section," he said.

"While I wait for approval of section one I can work on section two."

Lafleur will be getting the plan's nine sections preapproved before it is translated into English. He said that it took 285 days before he received a response regarding the first draft of the plan.

In order to make alterations for the second draft, Lafleur has sent out a questionnaire to fire departments.

Lafleur expects it will take him about six to nine more months to complete the second draft. Once approved by the Ministry of Public Security, fire departments will begin updating equipment and staff to provincial standards.

To meet requirements, some departments may be joining together.

"They said everyone shall have a plan, even Rapides des Joachims," said Lafleur.

The Municipality of Rapides des Joachims hoped to opt out of the plan as they currently work with Ontario for their fire service. Part of each municipality's fire safety plan will include each department's inventory of equipment.

As well, no more funding will be granted until the plan is enforced.

The plan will cost close to $10,000 for each municipality. This does not include the costs of purchasing new required equipment.

"The law is clear, we have to invest in fire training," said Fort Coulonge Mayor Raymond Durocher at a recent MRC meeting. "Let's stop talking panic and put it in mobilization."

He said even for his municipality, he will spend about $50,000 to buy five more full suits.

"We have to mobilize it and don't worry about it," he said.

English training material

At the MRC's council of mayors meeting Feb. 27, Pontiac decided it would back fire departments' appeal for English fire training material.

"I recommend to the MRC to adopt the resolution sending the Ministry of Public Security and the school (Quebec National School of Firefighters) to make sure all documentation is provided in both French and English," Lafleur said.

"All of the tools are only in French."

At the meeting, mayors understood that the Western Quebec School Board, the program provider, did not feel that translation of the work books was a part of their contract with the MRC.

"They say they get a grant that covers the cost of giving the course only," said Lafleur.

Some other problems firefighters have encountered in the program are the minimum 75 per cent required to pass a test. Lafleur added that all tests are in French.

"They told me they are finishing up the translation," said Lafleur.

Council resolved to demand the course be in English and that the MRC receive an extension on the fire safety plan deadline, as departments have lost time waiting for promised English work books on required firefighter training.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO STAKEHOLDERS OF THE WESTERN QUEBEC SCHOOL BOARD

The Western Quebec School Board will hold a second round of consultation meetings about its Strategic Plan.

All interested individuals are invited to public meetings as follows:

Monday, May 1, 2006 at the R. A. Centre, 2 Second Street Campbell's Bay, Quebec at 7:00 p.m.
(regarding St. John's/John Paul II School, Dr. W. Keon, Pontiac High School, Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary and Onslow Elementary School)

Tuesday, May 2, 2006 at Eardley Elementary School 180 North Street, Gatineau (Aylmer sector), Quebec at 7:00 p.m.
(regarding Eardley Elementary School, Lord Aylmer Elementary School, South Hull Elementary School, Symmes Junior High School and D'Arcy McGee High School)

Wednesday, May 3, 2006 at St. Michael's High School 26 Principale Street, Low, Quebec at 7:00 p.m.
(regarding St. Michael's High School, Queen Elizabeth Elementary School and Wakefield Elementary School)

Given at Gatineau, Québec this 20th day of April 2006.
Mike Dawson
Director General

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A.I. Technician
Pontiac area

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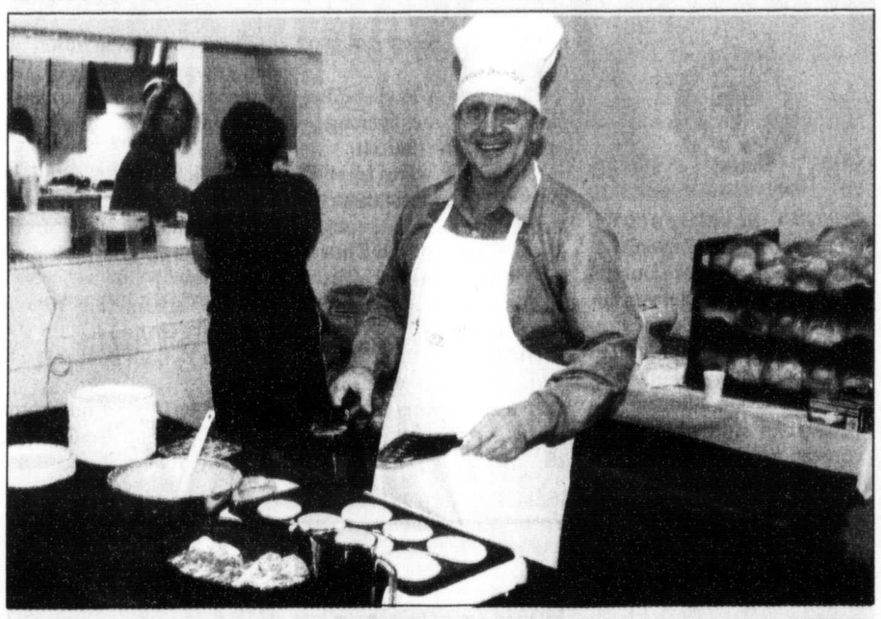

Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Municipality of Pontiac Mayor Eddie McCann traded in his slacks and ties for chef's gear at the annual Onslow Home and School Spring Brunch at the Quyon Lions Hall on Sunday. A wide array of foods was served in an attempt to raise money for the school. Onslow Home and School have almost completed fundraising for an air conditioning system for the school, which should be installed this summer.

Sheenboro

Myrtle Sullivan
689-2236

Get well wishes to Teresa Shea who broke her hip last week. Teresa is the mother of Karen Gleason from Sheen. Mrs. Shea was always so involved with her grandchildren I'm sure they will miss her while she is laid up.

Welcome back to Doris and Donat Ranger who returned from a trip to Las Vegas where they went with Doris's sister Melissa and her husband. They enjoyed the shows and especially the helicopter ride into the Grand Canyon. She said they didn't come back any richer. I hope you have better luck at our Casino night on May 6 in Sheen.

Happy birthday to Roy Perrault who celebrated on the same day as the queen. I hope he had a great day but I hear he spent a good part of it helping to fix up the graveyard. Roy is always so helpful in the community. They had a good turnout this year to help fix up the graves. For such a small place there is great community spirit and we appreciate the time and effort these volunteers put into keeping the resting place of our loved ones looking neat and tidy.

My sympathy to Dolores Krieger Ryan whose husband passed away last week. Dolores is the daughter of Geraldine McParland from Sheen. The McParlands were good friends of my husband Emmett and myself.

Welcome back to the Tallon girls who were away on vacation last week. I hear they had lovely weather and a fabulous time.

Congratulations to Paige Vera Morin who was baptized this past weekend. She is the granddaughter of Donna and Donald Gagnon.

My grandson, Rod Morris, attended a Big Brothers Hockey Tournament in North Bay this weekend. Some of his friends from Chapleau met there so they had some time to renew friendships.

There was a volleyball tournament on Saturday in Chapeau for a fundraiser for Dr. Wilbert Keon School. They had some great teams and lots of fun and the money they raised was great!

Quyon

Jill McBane 458-2366

The Bell-Gibbons Hockey Tournament was recently held in Chelmsford. This year they won the "B" Division Championship.

Each year a new player is added to the team , the most recent was Matt Bean.

The players this year were: Des and Ryan Allen, Larry, Tyler, Amanda and Travis Tanner, Pat, Calvin and Dave Bell, Rick Poulin (husband of Colleen Gibbons), John, Dean, Greg and Clint Gibbons, Lorne, Matt, Colin, Scott and Andy Bean. Dar Bean had the honor of being Stick Boy, a position that has been previously held by Andrew Gibbons who is now with the Belleville Bulls and by Brendon Bell who is signed with the Toronto Maple Leafs and plays for the Toronto Marlies.

As usual the tournament brings together many non-players for family fellowship, fun, and lots of music.

Everyone appreciated John and Sue Gibbons continued hospitality.

Vacationing recently in Cancun Chad Gibbons (son of John) landed an 800 pound shark...some achievement!

Get well wishes go out to Eileen Gibbons who recently spent time in the Sudbury Hospital, She is home now, and feeling much better.

Also, get well wishes go out to Mary Allen who has also been under the weather for the past few weeks.

Congratulations to Ronnie and Bonnie Bean, proud grandparents of a new grandson, Adam. A baby boy for Jen and Bart, a new playmate for sister Kelly, Yes, Uncle Chris is happy too.

Happy birthday to Gary Allen and Ron Bean April 26 and Bob Bean and Bonnie Bean April 28.

Sympathy is expressed to Austin, Jack and Catherine clarke on the passing of their uncle Jack Kelly of Ottawa.

The Quyon Lions Club is hosting a casino night on April 29. It is all for fun.

The Onslow Home and School Committee hosted a lovely brunch at the Quyon Lions Hall Sunday morning.

A surprise 65th birthday party was held at the sugar camp for Eddie Desabrais. Many friends and relatives attended to help celebrate this big day. Lots of good music and food. A great time was had by all.

Nine Quyon Lions and their wives attended the A-4 Lions Convention in Cornwall this past weekend. They reported having a great time. Rolly Bernier kept them well entertained with his guitar and singing and I believe the famous "Yuk a Fluk" was served.

It's that time of year for yard sales and flowers. The Wesley United Church Women are holding a yard sale at Buster and Anita Draper's. They are looking for baked goods and yard sale items.

Birthday wishes are sent to our daughter Jennifer McBane and my niece Liana MacDougall who both celebrate on April 29.

Ladysmith

Debbie Thrun
647-3927

Well, here we are at the end of another month once again. Everyone is so busy that we don't realize where the time goes.

Get well wishes to Thelma Schroeder who had the misfortune of breaking her leg.

Freida Krose recently spent two weeks with her daughter Darlene Brouillette in Grand Mére. She had a most enjoyable time. Darlene brought her home on Good Friday and spent Easter and the holiday weekend with her mother.

Also spending Easter weekend with Freida were Darlene's daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Karl McIntyre of London and her other daughter Lysanne Brouillette and her friend, John McIntyre of Grand Mère.

Spending Easter Saturday with Freida and the rest of the gang were Darwin, Sandy and Steven Krose of Arnprior and their daughter, Angela Krose of Ottawa and her friend Mike of Toronto.

Freida had her Easter dinner on Saturday . She had a house full over the weekend. It was nice that the family could be together for this special occasion.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the Young family and friends on the recent passing of Orla. He was a great man and did so much for the Shawville community over the years.

Birthday congratulations to Arminta Hynes who celebrates April 29.

The frogs are really peeping. This is the first we have heard them in a long while. Some people say this means colder weather is on the way.

Margaret Fieroben was a guest at the home of Wayne and Claire Park on Good Friday. The occasion was to celebrate three birthdays. Celebrating were Melissa Tubman on April 13, Margaret Fieroben on April 14 and Grace Stewart on April 17. Other guests attending were Jean Thompson. George McCagg and Jeff Park and Bob Stewart. A most delicious meal was served including a lovely, decorated birthday cake. It was a birthday party that was enjoyed by everyone.

Visiting with Margaret on Easter Saturday were David and Rick Stewart of Ottawa.

On Easter Sunday Margaret was a supper guest with Amanda (Early) and Wayne Cameron and children of Bryson. The Early family was also present to celebrate the occasion. A most enjoyable time was had by all.

This past week we received a lovely call from our friend Yvonne Mahlitz of Edmonton. She told me that they had snow out there on Easter Sunday. It was so cold and windy and then last week the temperature went up to 22 degrees. She tells me that where she lives the temperature changes within a matter of a day or two. She's planning a vacation this summer up to this area to visit with us. It will be nice to see her again.

My niece, Crystal Thrun of Ottawa, was home for Easter weekend visiting her parents Denver and Debbie Thrun and brother Christopher and also friends.

Beverly (Krose) Diotte and Connor of Ottawa came home to spend the Easter weekend with her parents, Velma and Clifford Krose. Also spending Easter Sunday with them were Audrey and Claus Carstens, Pam and Iris and Brent Krose.

Connor's birthday was on Easter Sunday. So, a little birthday party was held for him with a special cake and all the trimmings. His big party will be in Ottawa with all his friends. Everyone had a most enjoyable time. Velma tells me Connor had a fun weekend to be up in he country for a change. He kept his uncle Brent quite busy doing different activities.

Pam Carstens recently returned from England. She went there in January to go to university. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for her and quite an experience. She saw six different countries while there. Congratulations Pam.

Frank Wiggins and Trueman Lusk spent Easter weekend at their Hunters' Paradise hunt camp.

We had our first two mosquitoes in the house this past week. I guess they were scouts.

Denver and Debbie Thrun, Crystal and Christopher were supper guests on Easter Sunday at the home of Mary and Mike Hodgins and their girls Hailey and Jamie. They also celebrated Hailey's ninth birthday. A most delicious meal was served including birthday cake. A great time was enjoyed by everyone. Happy belated birthday wishes go out to you Hailey.

Birthday congratulations to Lindsay Pasch who celebrates May 1.

Deepest sympathy goes out to the Gratton and Zimmerling families and friends on the recent passing of Freddie Gratton of Sudbury. Dear husband of Betty Zimmerling.

The rain we had on the weekend was most welcome. You could almost see the lawn turning green. It was much needed because it was getting very dry.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the Sparling family and friends on the recent passing of Doris.

Otter Lake

Elizabeth Hahn
453-7326

On Tuesday, April 18, the Otter Lake Golden Age Club held its weekly euchre game. The 50/50 draw was won by Marguerite St. Aubin. Ladies high score with nine games was Gilberte Bussiere and second was a three-way tie between Paulette Lewis, Claudette Dagenais and Gisèle Labelle with Paulette winning the draw. Mens high score was a five-way tie between René Graveline, Hervé Wolfe, Rejean St. Pierre, Felix Kluke and Barry Mcwilliam. First draw was Hervé and second draw was Barry. Delicious refreshments were prepared by Theresa Blaskie and Geneva Racine. Happy birthday to Robert Wilson who celebrated on April 19. The club welcomed Hervé Wolfe as a new member.

Visiting with Mr and Mrs. Edgar Mayhew on Friday were his grandchildren Shawn Mayhew and his sister Carmela Cook of Saskatchewan.

Vinton

Diane Boisvert 648-5296

Last October, Allyson and Casey Belanger won a free recording session at Rene Corriveau's studio on Calumet Island. This March they started to record and their first CD was released April 12. There are ten songs on it and you can hear them being played on CHIP Radio on Friday and Saturdays. If anyone would like a copy you can contact Min.

A big bouquet of thanks is being sent out to our dedicated and dependable postal workers, Neil and Helen Desjardins for a job well done.

Margaret Ann and Cathy would very pleased how everyone kept Mike McCrank's 50th birthday a surprise. He thought he was going to a wedding reception and was completely surprised when he go to the RA in Campbell's Bay. The firemen ran the bar and Joe's Video looked after the music. Also, Allyson, Carey and Eric Belanger sang during the evening. The hall was tastefully decorated by Beverly Lepack (Elegant Occasions) from Fort Coulonge. People attended from all parts of the Pontiac, Ottawa and Chalk River. The money raised at the bar was donated to the fire department and any other money will be donated to charity.

Now that Barry (Rat) has been watching so much TV because he has new rabbit ears, his cat Kiki has been bored. So, this week she has taken up playing the piano. Rat says she needs a bit more practice playing "Knocking on Heaven's Door."

Speaking of cats, Frosty Bitten has moved to a new home and quite quickly figured out how to open doors so he can manoeuvre easily throughout the house.

While we're on the animal subject, I wanted to let youall know that the chickens are flourishing quite well on Tucker Street.

Did anyone lose a black and white dog? There is one that showed up in Vinton half starved. If you are the owner you can contact me after 4 p.m.

Happy birthday to Kelsey Belanger April 27, Anna Crawford April 29, Leo McGee and Bob Smith April 30, Rod Quinn on May 1 and Barry Belanger on May 2.

Easter Monday Shelley and they boys were visiting with me and helped me celebrate my birthday. It was a nice day so the boys really enjoyed playing outside all day.

This past week we've had beautiful.weather but the weekend wasn't so nice.

Waltham

Helen Perry
689-2652

On Easter Sunday Cindy Gagnon and Tony Van Gurp of Aylmer were up with the twins, Aidan and Conor. They are so sweet and they are really growing. I cannot believe that they will soon be a year old!

Paulette Richer and Deah Gagnon were also up from Aylmer on Easter weekend. They are really getting anxious to move back up to their trailer for the summer.

I hear Aunt Theresa Perry, of Pembroke and Vi Pelletier celebrated birthdays this past week. We hope that you both had a nice day!

My, the weather is just beautiful this week. We are experiencing summer like temperatures.

Elizabeth Ethier spent this past weekend visiting Janice and Sid Tedford in Mallory Town.

Birthday wishes are wished to Lydia Marion who celebrated her birthday on April 22. We hope that you had a lovely day Lydia!

This past week Mike Tubman of Shawville has been sweeping and cleaning our streets here in Waltham. On Friday I walked up to the fire station and Mike was there refilling the truck with water. I asked him when he was going to clean our street and he smiled and said, "If you make me a lemon pie, I will clean it." You guessed it, Mike got his lemon pie and we got our street cleaned. Mike, you are doing a fantastic job cleaning the streets and I sure hope that you enjoyed the pie!

Judy and Andy Gardyne of Ingersoll spent this past weekend with Art Chaput.

Sherill and Chris Perry of Limoges and Myles and Scott spent the weekend at Gail and Roger Perry's and also Grant and Jordan Perry of Stittsville.

On Saturday evening, April 22 Lise and Peter Gauthier and granddaughter Alexandra enjoyed a spectacular performance of Jaimie Sale and David Pelletier at Scotia Bank Place in Ottawa.

On Sunday evening, Larry and I enjoyed a tasty supper at Rhonda and Mark's. Joan and Harvey Gale (Mark's parents) were there. It was nice being with them and getting caught up on the news, as they have just returned after spending the winter in Florida.

Birthday wishes and all the best are extended to Gilda Heaney and Fay Leroy, who are celebrating their birthdays April 27. We hope that you enjoy your day girls.

A very happy birthday is wished to Lisa Bechamp of Bryson who is celebrating her birthday on May 30.

A very special birthday wish and lots of love are extended to our dear Michael who is celebrating his birthday on May 2. May the coming year be filled with God's many blessings, of love, peace and joy.

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Pontiac Station

Hope Cadieux
647-5452

There was considerable excitement at Pontiac Station this week occasioned by the discovery of possible human remains on the beach. One of the seasonal residents was raking the beach in front of her cottage at about 12:30 last Friday, April 21 when she snagged something half-buried in the sand along the water line. At first she thought it was a dead fish. On closer inspection, though, it began to look uncomfortably like a human foot cut off half-way to the knee. The lady called some of her neighbors to come and take a look. They agreed that it looked like a foot, although some speculated that it might be a root.

In any case, caught between her civic duty and the possibility of "looking like a fool," the lady called the police the next day. To her relief, the police took the call seriously and were very polite. Two officers arrived to investigate. The older one thought that the item was probably a root but was doubtful enough not to dismiss the idea that it might be a human foot. When they picked it up, it broke at about the ankle, revealing something that looked like marrow in the interior. They put the item in a plastic bag and took it back with them. They also walked up and down the length of the beach to see whether any other suspicious articles had been brought in with the high water. None were found.

By the time the story reached Keon Road it had developed legs, so to speak. The foot had become a leg and was crying out for further investigation.

Every year two or three people are drowned in the Ottawa river and anybody who swims or fishes can't help but think of the possibility of accidentally coming across a body. Indeed, Jewell Tate once told us a story that actually happened to her years ago. None of us who heard the story has ever forgotten it. One time when she was out with her family fishing from a boat near the islands, her lure got caught on something. She gave a yank and the lure came free. When the line was reeled in, there were three long blond hairs attached. As Jewell recounted it, they got out of there as quickly as possible.

In retrospect, however, I note that Jewell herself had long blond hair. But this doesn't mean I've lost the will to believe. What lies beneath the water will always be a source of harrowing but delightful speculation.

Editor's note: Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec Lieut. Jacques Piché said the item found was a tree root.

Campbell's Bay

Iris Smith 648-5821

Gordon and Lois Smith of Ottawa visited with Florence Wadge last weekend and visited in Otter Lake with their Aunt Hilda who celebrated her birthday.

Jean Cuthbertson visited with her daughter, Audrey and husband Brent in Renfrew last weekend.

The Golden Age club held its euchre on Tuesday at the club room. Ladies high was a tie between Annette Lepine and Isabelle Lacroix. They split the prize. Second was a three-way tie between Carroll Mainville, Veronica Perrier and Rose Gutoskie. They split the prize. Men's high was won by Lucien Dumouchel. Second was a tie between Gordon Porter and Boyd Ebert. They split the prize. The door prize was won by Gordon Porter. The 50-50 was won by Anna Porter. Extra draws for maple syrup donated by Roger Lacroix were won by Carroll Mainville and Laurier Dumouchel. The refreshments were by Lorraine Hearty and Isabelle Lacroix.

It is funny the change in the weather. One week there was ice on the pool and Carl Havekus walked across it twice. Exactly one week later there was no ice at all and the water was flowing.

Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Imelda Hearty who passed away on Sunday, April 16 at the age of 77. She was a well known lady and a friend to many She will be sadly missed. Friends were able to call at Ringrose Bros. Funeral Home on Tuesday for visitation. The funeral was on Wednesday from St Elizabeth's Church, Vinton. Interment was in the parish cemetery.

A bridal shower was held on Saturday, April 22 at the home of Shirley Palmer (Lucas) in Ottawa to honor bride elect Sandra Micucci. Sandra will be marrying my nephew, Mike Hodgins, on May 20.

Several ladies from the area attended to wish her all the best as plans quickly fall in place for the big day. The bride received many beautiful gifts and showed her appreciation by thanking those present for coming out on such a rainy day and making it a day to remember.

One of her sisters was present with twins who are five- and-a-half-months old. They stole the show at times and added to the entertainment. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess following the shower.

Sandra will be a neighbor of the hostess, Shirley, in the near future. This was a great way for her to get acquainted with her new relatives and neighborhood. We wish her all the best in the future.

Doris Jean Sparling passed away on Friday, April 2 at the Pontiac Reception Centre in Shawville. She will be sadly missed by family and friends.Visitation was at W.J. Hayes Funeral Home on April 24 and the funeral service was Tuesday at the chapel. Deepest to this family at this time.

Congratulations to Katie Taylor for making the Dean's List at Ottawa University. Her grandmother Jean Cuthbertson is really proud of her as well as other family members.

Michael McCrank celebrated his 50th birthday with a celebration at The Junction. May he enjoy many more birthdays.

Birthday wishes go out to Victor Lance, Steven Lafleur, Melissa Bennett, Raymond Wall, Susan Belanger, Katelynn Bakke, Sue Bisson, Bradley Frost, John Stopa, Rachelle Ringrose, Helen Duquette to my sister Norma Stewart and my niece, Cathy Hodgins. Sorry I forgot to put in the birthdays last week. Too many things on at Easter.

Anniversary wishes to Louise Newberry and Jean Pierre Landry, Marilyn and Armand Paquette, Denis and Sharon Lariviere, Katherine and Dennis Laliberte. We wish you all the best in the future.

Danford Lake

Stephanie Milford
467-1091

Have you heard the spring time lullaby yet. The frogs are croaking. I heard them a week ago Friday night. Karl went down to the creek and he said the sound of all the frogs, croaking was nearly deafening.

Happy birthday to Steven Lafleur formerly of Lawless Lake on April 20, Lance Cole of Calumet Island and next Saturday, April 29 will be my brother Karl's birthday.

Congratulations to Jessica Cayer and Jason Sequin on the birth of their little girl.

How was our Easter? We shared a delicious turkey super with friends Gerry Lafleur of Otter Lake and Sonny and Beth Larche of Kazabazua. Once again my mom made everyone drool over the delicious meal and mouth watering desserts. Nobody could stuff another bite in their mouths when they left the table. I hope you all had a great Easter.

Saturday night at the Curling Club in Shawville they had their annual dinner and handed out the awards and trophies. Following dinner there was a dance with the band Skaliwag playing to everyone's delight. Special guest singers included Rick Allen and Joanne Dubeau.

Next weekend will be the beginning of fishing season. Great for the fisherman but as this event happens once a year, it will be a small taste of the catastrophe that will happen if this idiotic idea of a mega dump should go through. We will have increased traffic in our area and people who appreciate our lakes and rivers. These people will come in cars and trucks and all this extra traffic along Hwy. 105 is dangerous but not as destructive as 82 garbage trucks per day. Many letters have been handed in to council against the by-laws but, as yet there has been no response.

We have not heard any more on the loss of Denis Rouleau's cottage. The only thing we have heard is the wagging tongues of those who have nothing better to do with their time than to sit back and speculate on this one and that one. Please, let's let the police do their jobs. They know what to do and when the find some evidence, they'll know what to do.

As you all know, Danford Lake is a town. But every day the police are in our town. We welcome you. Maybe some of those big logging trucks mays see the seed limit sign when they see the police car. It seems they can see the car better than the sign.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Ellard Mollyneaux of Allwin, Quebec.

This past week was full of sunshine. A lot of people took advantage of the weather by cleaning and raking outside. The early flowers are out like tulips and daffodil I guess next will be the dandelions. These dandelions are pretty but they have nasty roots. My grandmother used to make wine with dandelions. She gave Robyn and me the recipe one year. Yeah, we made some. But the night we put it into bottle that's when we found out just how powerful these little flowers with other ingredients can do to a person.

As I mentioned about all the early flowers are out and I guess next will be the wild garlic. Wild garlic is so good. It does have its side effects. It's good for high blood pressure and cholesterol. The only bad effect is the bad smell it leaves on someone's breath after they have eaten it.

I want to wish Huey Desmond a speedy recovery.

On May 6 a supper will be held at the Little Bar for the dart players. After supper we invite everyone to the Little Bar to spend the night and enjoy the music of the Skaliwag Band.

I want to say welcome home to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Morgan of Danford Lake also Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Stevenson and Mrs. and Mrs. Sandy Cook. They have spent some time in warmer countries.

Well this week brought shocks at the gas pumps again from what I can see this is just a government game. In the morning the price is real high, in the late evening in the city it goes down. I guess we need more competition around here because all it does is go up.

A lot of people from around these parts that travel to Hull or Ottawa find it very costly to travel. Some are saying that after putting gas in the car, just to do their weekly shopping, they have to cut back.Where will it all end? Free trade.

Linda Milford of Lindale Gardens is busy in her greenhouse these days. She has so many beautiful plants and flowers that you just want to by one of each kind.

I'd like to ask John Atkinson if he has washed his hands lately?

Thanks to the warmer temperatures the men have started to return to the bush to work. The roads however will still be closed until approximately the middle of May for half loads. While in Hull last week we saw that construction companies are returning to work as well.

While I was in Hull I spoke to some people and they are totally against this mega dump as well. They have seen the disaster this can cause. So please come to the next council meeting on Monday, May 1. Only together can we stop this.

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