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THE EQUITY

123rd Year, Issue No. 8 | Wednesday, February 22, 2006 | 87 cents



Pontiac minor hockey teams play tough on weekend | page 6

Pontiacs capture exciting seven-game series

Shawville Pontiacs vs. Carleton Place Kings
Playoff Fact Sheet
Season series: Teams split the six games, three apiece
Last meeting: Pontiacs 5, Carleton Place 3 on Jan. 8

	Shawville	Carleton Place
Regular season record:	17-21-1-0	19-17-2-2
Leading scorer:	Jordan MacDougall (6g, 2a)	Chris Lemay (2g, 14a)
Best goalie:	Adam Loback (2.29 GAA)	Josh Blank (3.33 GAA)
Top rookie:	Marc Maurice (1g, 3a)	Ryan Laird (2g, 2a)
Penalties:	44.9 minutes per game	18.2 minutes per game
Power play success:	8.7 per cent	26.5 per cent
Penalty killing :	84.9 per cent	88.6 per cent
Season home record:	14-9-0	12-9-2
Season away record:	7-15-1	13-8-2

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Late in the second period of game four against the Renfrew Timberwolves, Junior 'B' Pontiacs player, Jorge Ehlers, was checked into the boards well after the whistle by Brennan McGrath of the Renfrew Timberwolves.

Ehlers gathered himself, skated towards McGrath in a confrontational manner, but then decided against fighting him and turned the other way.

The power play handed to the Pontiacs as a result of the late hit produced a goal, extending the Shawville lead to 4-2, ultimately winning game four for the team.

The newfound discipline instilled by Head Coach Pierre Lagacé was evidenced in that particular situation and throughout the seven-game series against Renfrew, which the Pontiacs won after a thrilling decisive game victory, 2-0.

The Pontiacs came back from a 2-0 series deficit to top the Timberwolves and will now move on to face the Carleton Place Kings in the second round of the playoffs.

Lagacé said he never questioned his team's ability to win the series.

"As a coach, you never doubt," said Lagacé.

"Coaching for the past 14 years, it's not in my nature. To tell you the truth, if it wasn't for (Renfrew goalie Andrew) Hamilton we should have won that series in six games, taking nothing away from Renfrew."

In the decisive game seven on Saturday, Bryan Kealey scored late in the second period to put the Pontiacs up one on the power play. Then, late in the third period with the Timberwolves pressing for a goal, Jordan MacDougall scored his sixth of the playoffs, an empty-netter, to guarantee the Pontiacs' passage into the second round.

In goal, Adam Loback was solid, stopping 23 shots to pick up the shutout, his first since joining the Pontiacs in December.

"He had something to prove to them and he did just that," said Lagacé, referring to Loback's three-season stint with the Timberwolves before being cut at the beginning of this season.

Loback was also of great importance in the game six victory, a 3-1 win at home last Friday. There, he stopped 23 of 24 Renfrew shots to pick up the win.

MacDougall provided the offensive firepower for the Pontiacs, scoring a goal in the second and another in the third.

Alex Taschereau provided the early start for Shawville, scoring the team's first goal 3:54 into the game.

Please see JUNIORS page 2

Chief, volunteer fire department resign

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

ALLUMETTES ISLAND • The chief and a dozen firefighters have resigned from the Allumettes Island Fire Department due to a violation in the municipal code.

Because ex-chief Kevin Vickers' company, Vickers' Utility Services holds a snow plow and other contracts with the municipality, and section 269(4) states that no municipal employee can hold a contract with the municipality, Vickers had no choice but to resign from one of his positions. He resigned from his position as fire chief Feb. 13.

"I don't think it was necessary," said Vickers, who had been on the fire department for 16 years. "There are no winners anywhere in this situation."

Vickers says he had no idea there was a conflict of interest.

"I don't think there is (a conflict) because the only time we're considered a part-time employee is when we are fighting a fire," said Vickers, who added that training and fire prevention are not included in part-time pay.

In October, a written complaint was filed to the municipality citing the violation.

"It was a complaint from a competitor," said Vickers.

After the first three years of the contract, it returned to tender in July of last year.

"There were only two bids for the plowing," said Vickers. "They took a business vendetta that should have had no play at the table."

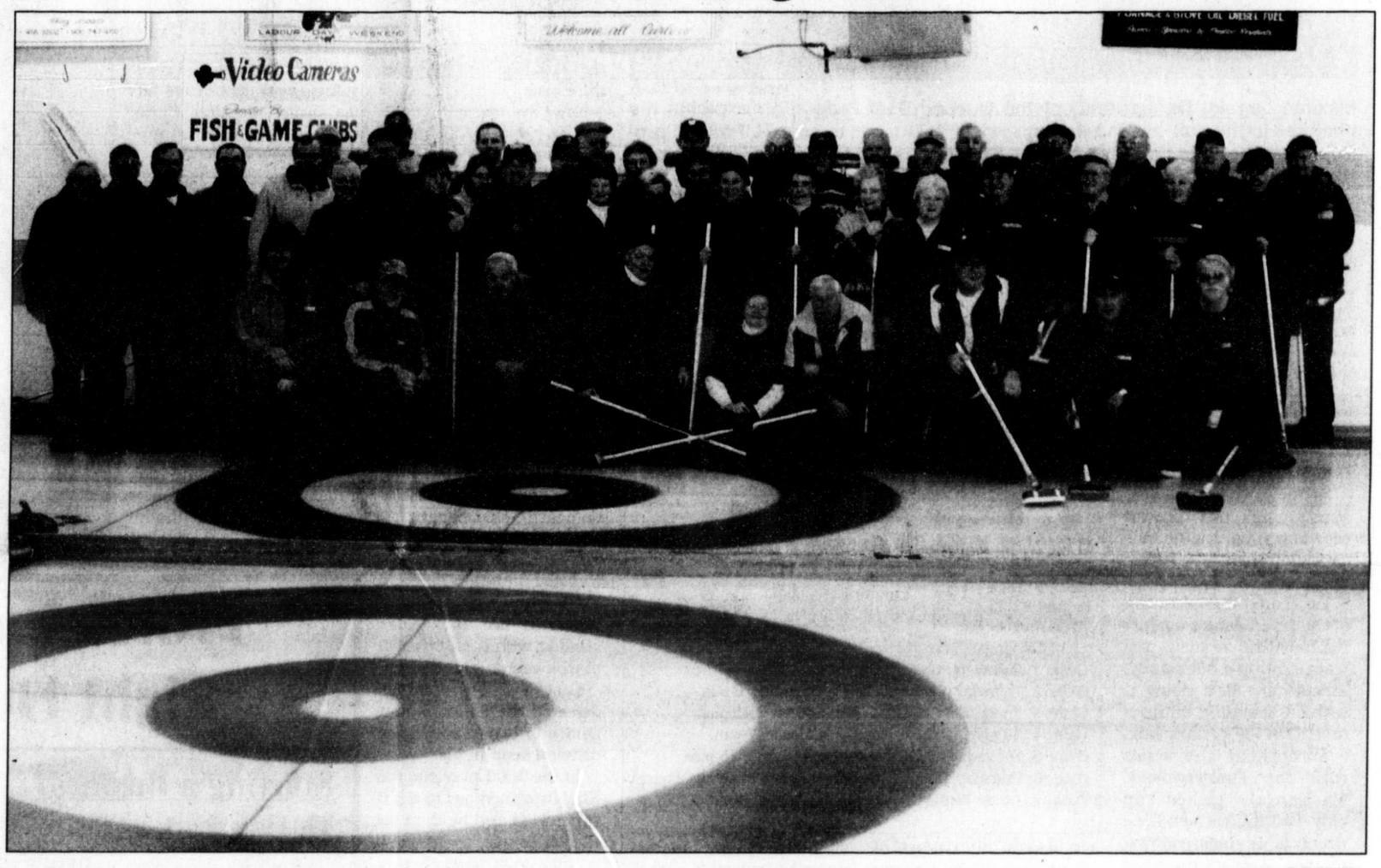
This section of the code excludes firefighters from joining council.

The blow of losing the chief was hardened when 12 of the department's firefighters handed in their resignation letters. The department is made up of 15 firefighters.

"All the firefighters wanted was to allow (Vickers) to tender on work," said former department captain John Lapierre. "The municipality can give it to whoever they like, but with no communication, what could we do?"

Please see ISLAND page 2

Love of the game



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Two senior divisions who participated in the Heart Institute Curling Bonspiel over the weekend in Shawville pause between rounds Saturday to celebrate the success of the bonspiel. The 36-team event raised $4,300 for the Heart Institute, which will be added to funds raised at an annual golf tournament, totalling $7,500.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

A GMC truck, shown here with its back windows out, lost control in bad road conditions on Aylmer Road in Bristol Sunday morning. This accident was one of a string of accidents taking place in Pontiac over the weekend.

Flash freeze causes traffic problems

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • A flash freeze on Friday caused a few days of havoc on Pontiac roads.

Within three days, six serious accidents took place across the Pontiac.

During the worst of the weather, which saw winds reach up to 90 kilometres an hour, three accidents took place in one hour.

The first accident took place at 10:08 a.m. at Hwy. 148 at Herbie Road in Clarendon. A Toyota and a Buick both heading west lost control in the high winds and drifting snow, sending one person with injuries to the hospital.

The second accident took place close to the same area two minutes later, where a driver lost control of a Ford truck. An accident involving three vehicles took place on the highway in Clarendon.

Please see CRASH page 2

Bonspiel wins for Heart Institute

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • Those with heart helped raise over $4,000 at the annual Heart Institute Curling Bonspiel this weekend at the Shawville Curling Club.

For the bonspiel's 10th anniversary, 36 local rinks, or 144 curlers, raised a grand total of $4,300. This donation, which was pledged last week during the Institute's annual charity campaign, was added to funds raised at a golf tournament last year, totalling a whopping donation of $7,500 from the Pontiac.

This year's bonspiel is the largest its ever been, as only 29 teams participated in 2005.

"It's not just for people who have had heart transplants," said bonspiel organizer, Royce Richardson, who received a heart transplant at the institute in 1996. "There are 50 or 60 people here in the club who have been affected — almost every second person."

This year a special guest at the bonspiel was Brent Bowie of Shawville, who received a heart transplant last July.

"I went to the Heart Institute for a transplant," said Bowie. "I was glad to get it."

A virus attacked Bowie's heart and doctors told him he didn't have much time, but they wanted to insert a mechanical heart.

"They put me on a waiting list and said, 'wait a few weeks'," said Bowie, whose heart was only working at 18 per cent.

In nine hours he received a live heart from a 28-year-old man from Toronto who died in a skateboarding accident.

"I didn't feel different at all," he said after recovering successfully from the operation.

"It was a good experience with the Heart Institute. They gave me excellent care down there."

Other curlers played because the institute has been there for them over the years.

"It's for a good cause," said Peter MacIntosh of Shawville, who has played the bonspiel just about every year. "I went to get my heart checked last year and a couple of friends of mine are going to take tests this week."

Participants won raffled prizes such as a handmade wood table built by Willard Smith of Portage du Fort, an autographed Dr. Wilbert Keon hockey jersey and a bench built out of hockey sticks constructed by Glen Richardson. Keith Philips, Shirley Marion, Laird Murray and Willard Smith donated other gifts for the raffle, and the Shawville Curling Club donated the rink time.

Please see CURL page 2

Another man presumed dead in Ottawa River

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

QUYON • For the second time in eight days, a man went through the ice on the Ottawa River near Quyon on a snowmobile.

A 36-year-old man is presumed dead after being pulled beneath the ice near Chat's Dam at about 11:40 p.m. on Sunday night, according to police.

He was a passenger on the back of a snowmobile. The driver was able to save himself, walking for over two hours to find help at a Fitzroy Harbour residence.

Police are not identifying either man.

"It's the same principle as (last week). They were going out at night," said Staff Sgt. Monique Perras, of Ottawa police.

The most recent incident takes place just over a week since 20-year-old Brandon Nash of Fitzroy Harbour was presumed dead after being pulled under the ice on the river.

Police wish to remind snowmobilers to practice safe driving to prevent future incidents:

- Never drive on ice at night unless you have travelled that portion earlier in daylight.
- Reduce your speed and be prepared to react within the distance of your headlights.
- Check with local residents or snowmobile clubs to determine current ice thickness in the area you are travelling.
- Never ride alone at night or during the day, if possible.
- Ice conditions change daily and the area you travelled the day before may now be dangerous.
- Ride on well-travelled trails, and never attempt to cross water in new locations unless you are sure it is safe.
- Alcohol and riding don't mix, especially when travelling on ice.

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Shawville chosen as site for slaughterhouse

CAMPBELL'S BAY • Bob Griffin, president of the Outaouais Valleys Fine Meats Co-operative, announced that the Co-operative's Board of Directors has accepted the recommendations of its Site Committee and is favouring a location in Shawville on which to build and operate the new facility.

The committee had issued a call for tenders and reviewed all responses. Each was evaluated on detailed selection criteria that included location, price, access to water and sewage treatment, and other environmental considerations.

"This is an important step. It answers the numerous questions we've received about the location of our facility," said Griffin.

"Everyone should be very pleased with this decision. We can now make concrete plans and move forward."

Negotiations are proceeding with the landowner to finalize the purchase terms and conditions. Critical are those conditions that rely on the town of Shawville's ability to fund and obtain the necessary hookups and permits.

Other developments

• On Jan. 20 the co-operative engaged the services of Michel Laporte as interim project manager.

• At their meeting on March 15, the Board will receive a new engineers' floor plan for the building.

• This week all members of the co-operative were mailed a first newsletter along with their share certificates.

• The co-operative has engaged engineering firms to assist with obtaining permits and to finalize design.

• Applications are proceeding for government grants and contributions. Private sponsorships are being actively solicited.

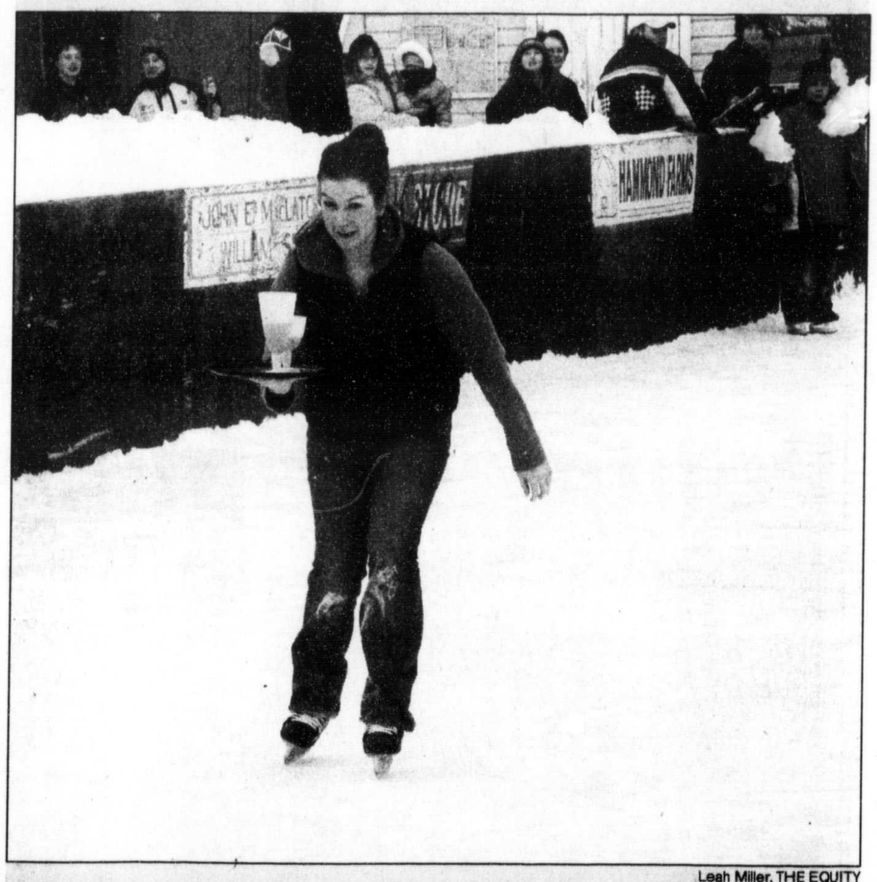
Presently, 233 agricultural producers have bought shares in the co-operative, in addition to other support members in the community.

Shares are still available for purchase from any of the directors. Payment can be made at the Promutuel offices in Gracefield, Shawville and Fort Coulonge.

Founded in 2005, the goal of the Outaouais Valleys Fine Meats Co-operative is to offer products and services in connection with animal slaughtering, meat processing and other related services.

For information contact: Bob Griffin, president, at (819) 648-2230 or Ivan Hale, vice-president, at (819) 459-2264 or by e-mail: i.hale@wakenet.ca.

Waiter race



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Samantha Twolan, 16, carefully makes her way down the rink in Norway Bay to win the waiter race at the Bristol Carnival Sunday. After activities at the rink, everyone was welcome to a bean supper at the town hall.

Cull cow changes affect beef producers



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Maxime Legault (foreground) of the Quebec Beef Federation explains the changes to the cull cow marketing system in Quebec to over 70 Pontiac producers at the Pine Lodge in Bristol. Standing is the Outaouais President of the Quebec Beef Federation, Gib Drury.

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Beef producers gathered for a meeting at Pine Lodge in Bristol on Feb. 6 to discuss changes to cull cow procedures in Quebec.

In all, over 70 people with a vested interest in cull cows were present at the information session.

"During the last year, it has been a very difficult time for beef," said Michel Dessureault, president of Quebec's Beef Federation.

With limitations on the export of beef to the United States because of BSE, or mad cow disease, many Quebec beef producers have experienced turbulent financial times.

Dessureault was present to explain recent changes to the production of beef in Quebec, which include an alteration in the manner that beef will be weighed.

Currently, a cow's live weight is used to determine its worth for beef production. As Maxime Legault, the Director of Cull Cow, Dairy and Beef Calf Marketing explained, "Even though cows are the same weight when they are alive, they do not always have the same yield."

Now, the carcass weight will be used to determine the cow's worth to the producer.

"With live weight, producers are paid on a guess weight," said Dessureault.

The change is designed to create a more legitimate system so that producers will be paid more fairly, rather than some producers being underpaid for superior cows and vice versa.

Another change to the cull cow system in Quebec is the introduction of a single desk sales system.

All sales will now go through the Quebec Beef Federation, a "single desk", rather than wherever the producer pleases.

This change is designed to produce equality in a cow's worth across the province.

Some producers present objected to this change, arguing that they could receive a better price in Ontario.

"We're all going broke selling these damn cows for too cheap," declared Chris Judd of Shawville, a producer.

Legault argued, however, that the system is designed so that Quebec producers will benefit and, despite fluctuations, the floor price in Quebec will always exceed the average price across Canada.





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Juniors: Pontiacs capture seven-game series

Continued from page 1

So far in these playoffs, MacDougall has proven his worth as the team's captain and Valley Division MVP.

He scored a goal in five of the seven games against Renfrew and remains the team's catalyst offensively, except now he's doing it without spending minutes on end in the penalty box.

Throughout the series with the Timberwolves, MacDougall picked up only two minor penalties, which is in stark contrast to the 60 minutes of minors the captain accrued in 31 regular season games, an average of about one minor penalty per game, which doesn't include his three-game suspension or misconducts he collected.

"He is the leader and the captain of this team, and you have to make him aware that you want him on board," said Lagacé.

"It was just a matter of him feeling comfortable with the situation."

Carleton Place and Shawville are two teams familiar with each other in playoff scenarios.

Last year, the Kings defeated the Pontiacs four games to two in the Valley division semi-finals

In the 2005 playoffs, the Kings stormed out to a 3-0 series lead and held on for the series win.

"The guys need to play the way they can and take care of the little things: winning faceoffs and not retaliating," said Lagacé.

"It'll probably be another long series."

EOJBHL Valley Division Playoffs

First round
Perth (1) over Arnprior (6) four games to two
Shawville (5) over Renfrew (2) four games to three
Carleton Place (3) over Stittsville (4) four games to two
Second round
Perth receives bye
Shawville (5) vs. Carleton Place (3), best-of-seven
Game 1: Last night, Shawville at Carleton Place, 7:15 p.m.
Game 2: Thursday, Carleton Place at Shawville, 8 p.m.
Game 3: Friday, Shawville at Carleton Place, 7:45 p.m.
Game 4: Sunday, Carleton Place at Shawville, 7 p.m.
Game 5: Tuesday, Shawville at Carleton Place, 7:15 p.m.
Game 6: Thursday, March 2; Carleton Place at Shawville, 8 p.m.
Game 7: Friday, March 3; Shawville at Carleton Place, 7:45 p.m.

Curl: Bonspiel wins for Heart Institute

Continued from page 1

Dorothy Morrison and Melba Powell also donated their time on the weekend collecting money for the Heart Institute.

"All the money will go to the Heart Institute," said Richardson, who added the institute really hits home because "Dr. Keon built the Heart Institute and he's from the Pontiac."

Each team in the bonspiel was divided into six divisions and played two games each.

Last year over $8,000 was raised.

"Over the years close to $90,000 has been raised at events," said Richardson.

Division winning rinks were Denis Boucher, Gary Harris, Barry Draper, Albert Armstrong, Laird Murray and Tom Fraser.

Each team will have their names displayed on the Billy Kuehl Memorial Trophy, which has been given away to winners of the bonspiel for 14 years. Kuehl died of a heart attack while playing golf.

The bonspiel and golf tournament have been running together since 1996, when it was renamed the Heart Institute Curling Bonspiel.

Crash: Flash freeze causes traffic problems

Continued from page 1

Drivers in a Mazda car, Honda car and a Dodge truck all heading west lost control in the weather, sending the 23-year-old Honda driver to hospital with minor injuries.

Although the wind had died down by Sunday, roads were not in the best condition. This could have been a factor for a family travelling on Aylmer Road in Bristol when the driver of a GMC truck lost control at about 9 a.m. The truck, driven by a 39-year-old man and carrying two children aged six and one, were taken to hospital with injuries.

Clarendon claimed another single-vehicle accident on Hwy. 148 south of Hwy. 303. A Chevrolet heading west lost control due to road conditions.

The last collision took place in Bryson on Rue Principal where a car crashed into a deer.

Police are warning drivers to slow down during bad road conditions and to stay off the roads if at all possible when weather is bad.

Island: Chief, volunteer fire department resign

Continued from page 1

Lapierre, who lost his seat as councillor after 17 years last November, said communication could have easily solved the problem.

"We had no support," said Lapierre. "We only wanted one thing. All we wanted was for (Vickers) to have a chance."

He said most of the firefighters who resigned were very upset that Vickers had no choice but to resign.

"My stomach is sick all the time," said Lapierre when he thinks of his resignation from the department after 15 years. "But there was just a lack of communication. Being a firefighter and the councillor in charge of the department, I know there are very few problems that can't be solved through talking."

Vickers said it was not his decision for his fellow firefighters to resign.

The municipality released a statement on the situation, saying council is quickly regrouping.

"The municipality is responding to the reality of the situation," said Mayor Brian Adam.

While recruiting new volunteer firefighters, the department will be receiving help from other departments in Chichester, Waltham and Sheenboro in case of emergency.

Adam said that other volunteers have offered assistance as well.

"We're not satisfied because we are in the midst of a significant setback for the municipality and the residents who live here," said Adam. "But council is determined to move ahead, regroup, and put a plan in place to offer fire protection."

He said council was optimistic that they could find new volunteers to fill the vacancies.

Last month Adam asked the MRC council for help with the situation, and the council resolved to ask the Quebec Federation of Municipalities (FQM) review to that law.

"The fact that a number of volunteer firefighters also resigned in protest to show solidarity is difficult for us to accept, but we will deal with it," said Adam.

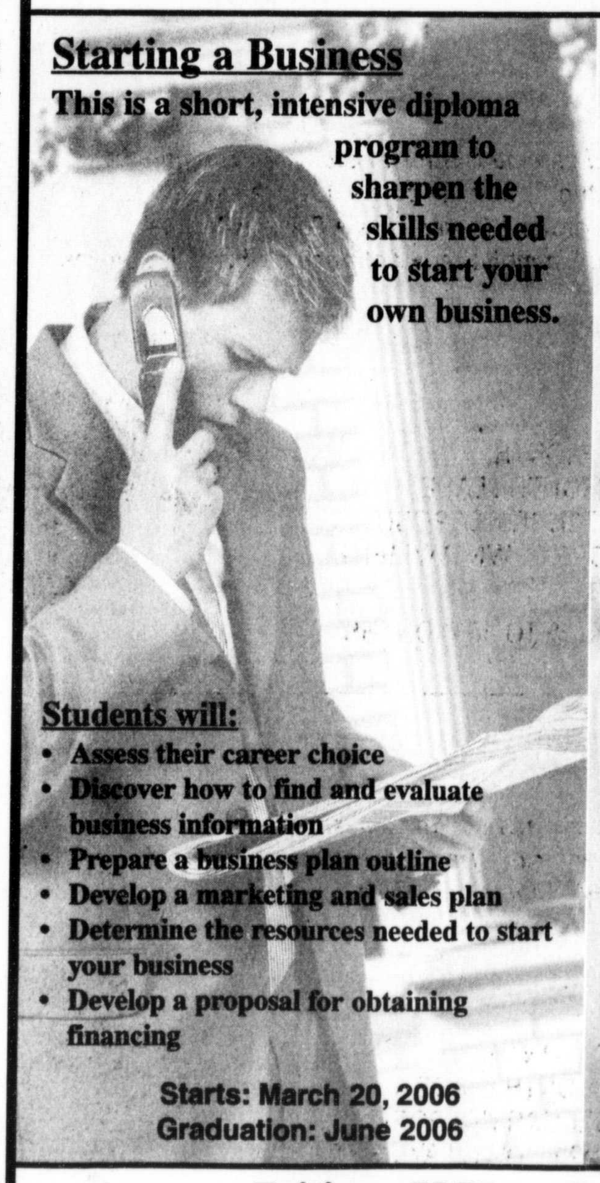
Vickers said he is disappointed with having to resign.

"It's pretty hard for me," said Vickers. "I don't understand what firefighting has to do with a conflict of interest. It's a numbered company that has a contract — not just myself."

Lapierre believes the municipality lost a strong and well-informed fire department.

"It is easier to work with an open hand rather than a fist," said Lapierre.

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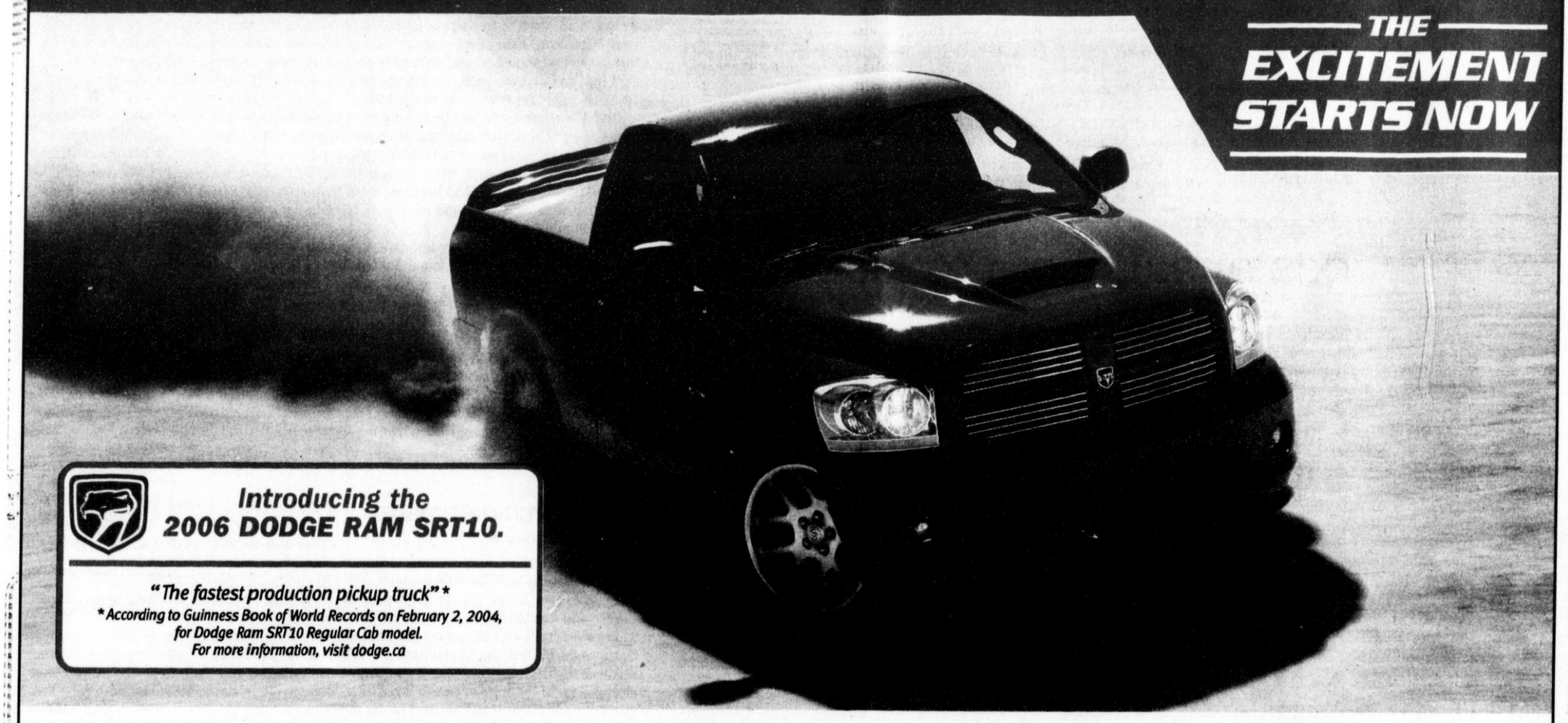
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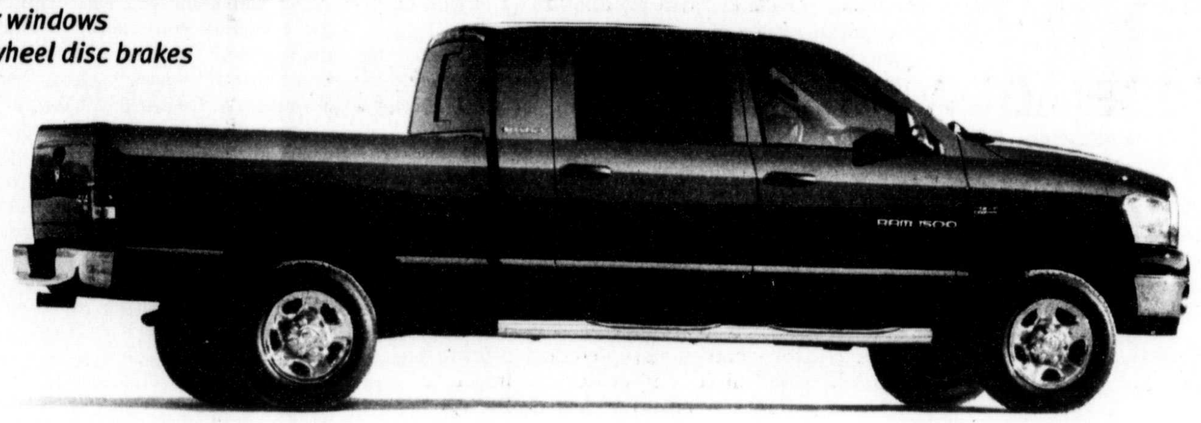
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OUR OPINION

The final connection

The decision by the City of Ottawa to move forward with the construction of a boat bypass at Chat's Dam will not only benefit the Pontiac, but it confirms the importance of our identity within the Ottawa Valley.

We are now connected to the nation's capital via the waterway, and have only to wait a few more months until boating season for new visitors to navigate west, and share the beauty we have to offer here in the Pontiac.

This is the last link in a system of six bypasses allowing boats to travel the river westward to Temiscaming, a distance of about 500 kilometres. The project has been struggling to open a bypass at Fitzroy Harbour since 1993 and it's about time we have some solid results.

The waterway, which runs right through the Pontiac from Luskville to Rapides des Joachims, finally has its last connector with a new boat bypass around Fitzroy Harbour. This means only good news: that people can now reach the Pontiac.

There are estimated to be 1,600 boats moving in and out of Britannia Bay. That's 1,600 opportunities for people to head our way.

Quyon can get a big boost out of this enterprise as well. The pickup and drop-off spots for boats would be near the Quyon Ferry landing, downstream from the dam at the end of Ferry Road. After a quick ferry ride across the water, this will give boaters a chance to stop for a walk through the town, pick up supplies at the gas station and grab a quick poutine at the snack shack before heading back onto the river. It may also increase business at service stations near other bypasses along the river.

The economic benefits will not only touch our side, but also at Lavergne Bay, upstream from the dam at the end of Dewolfe Street where the opposite drop-off site will rest once complete.

The bypass, which will move boats 18 kilometres around the village, can truck powerboats up to 10 metres long and with 15,000 pounds of displacement. Planners estimate five to 10 boats a day would use the system, for a fee.

It will not only expand the waterway west to Ottawa boaters, but it will give avid waterway navigators a destination. Now boats from Norway Bay, for example, can plan a day trip east to see the sights of Ottawa. Not a bad way to get people out on the river. Who wouldn't want to discover a new route and avoid the old bone rattler Hwy. 148 to reach the city?

Although opponents say there's no economic benefit to anybody in this area and that estimated usage figures are not accurate, there's no reason we shouldn't give it a try. Our other five bypasses are used in the warmer months. Opponents also say there aren't enough people to use it to make it worth the money being spent considering the city is in a deficit. But it's obvious the city values the access it gives to waterway travellers.

Smaller projects like this, ones that are ready to go as soon as funding is put through, are what makes the Ottawa Valley unique. To bring the urbanites into the countryside and the out-of-towners in for a day in the city opens the relationship of Ottawa and its valley.

We talk of the city spreading into the country and how eventually we will become one mega metropolis. It is plain to see the economic benefits of that for a rural county, and this is just one more step in that direction.

LM

Heavy opposition

Leah Miller, THE EQUITY



ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Saving energy equals saving your dollars



Katharine Fletcher

A few weeks ago I reported that Eric and I had an energy auditor associated with EnerGuide for Houses (EGH) come to our old farmhouse to assess how energy efficient it is. We have the report back and as promised, now I'll share some information with you.

Also this week I'm reporting more great energy savings you can achieve – as well as how you can monitor your electricity consumption – via Hydro Quebec's very informative, user-friendly website.

All of us can reduce our energy consumption and costs: I hope this information will encourage you to continue your personal efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Together, we Can make a positive difference.

EnerGuide for houses

A few weeks back I reported that a representative from Property Inspection Network Ltd. came to our farm to assess the energy efficiency of our farmhouse. We now have the results published in a customized "EnerGuide for Houses: Energy Efficiency Evaluation Report."

What is the assessment? Our home rated 51 on a scale from least efficient (0) to most efficient (100). A score of 51-68 is considered normal for a rambling old home like ours. The report notes 80 is a rating rarely achieved, and usually only by a highly energy-efficient new house.

The estimated annual energy consumption of our home is: oil: 6,382 litres; with electricity estimated at 9,558 kilowatt-hour.

Along with the report is a reminder to contact Property Inspection Network Ltd. after our upgrades are complete so that our assessment can be reconfigured. We will do this, and I'll pass on that information, too.

Estimated annual energy consumption

The report explains, "The energy advisor has estimated your house's annual energy consumption based on the house's general characteristics, its energy-using equipment and the following standard conditions: a complete air change approximately every three hours; four occupants; a fixed thermostat setting of 21C on main floors and 19C in the basement; average water consumption values; average electric consumption values; and, average weather data."

The assessment notes that our home and lifestyle may not equate to "similar size houses built in similar regions... Your house's actual energy consumption and your future savings may be significantly influenced by the number of occupants, their day-to-day habits and their overall lifestyle."

Improvements that they recommend would, the report suggests, potentially reduce our energy consumption significantly. Charts indicate we could probably achieve a 37 per cent energy saving by reducing the amount of energy required to heat the space in our home. Interestingly, the report suggests we are unlikely to achieve further savings in lights and appliances, and hot water. I expect this is because we have what they consider are energy efficient appliances.

Other charts indicate where our heat loss occurs: most is due to air leakage and ventilation, primarily in the main walls, closely followed by the basement, then windows and doors. The least energy loss is through our ceilings.

Recommendations

Recommendations include simple procedures such as caulking window frames (and removing old caulking) through to more expensive initiatives such as replacing the furnace with a high efficiency unit, which they note will assist us in two ways. First, the upgrade would improve the efficiency of the unit itself, but also significantly reducing air leakage.

Eric and I have already acted on several recommendations starting with the easiest and least-expensive. We re-caulked, insulated around holes and gaps we discovered alongside basement plumbing, and upgraded weather-stripping around exterior doors. As well, we re-insulated the attic trapdoor access along with a "door" leading into my office from above the foyer – a very draughty space.

Immediately our home felt remarkably warmer. Draughts we had lived with for years no longer exist.

Why bother?

The report notes, "Houses lose heat to the outdoors during the heating season through ventilation (e.g. exhaust fans in bathrooms and kitchen) and the transfer of heat through the basement, walls, roof, windows and doors. As a house ages in Canada's severe climate, and homeowners themselves make changes such as drilling holes in walls for new pipes and machinery, tiny cracks will open up over time in the building envelope. Just like anything else you value, houses need to be maintained with care and repaired whenever problems appear. A well-maintained house will pay you back with greater energy-efficiency and comfort."

"Pay you back." This is great incentive to us. After all, why "watch" our hard-earned dollars slip out of our home through cracks that can be sealed?

Kyoto and emission control

By getting an energy assessment and following the recommendations (all or some) you not only reduce the amount of energy you use. You also reduce the production of such greenhouse gases as carbon dioxide. If we follow the EGH recommendations, the assessor suggests that we can "reduce your home's production of greenhouse gas emissions by 7.4 tons per year."

Want to make a difference? Yes, you can.

Get an assessment

Our assessor was Alain Charron, the energy auditor from Property Inspection Network Ltd. (819)-743-0138 alainc@propertyinspection.ca).

Future plans

Watch this space! We are considering geo-thermal heating instead of replacing our furnace. I'll keep you informed: friends of ours recently installed this intriguing system which uses the Earth's own temperature to heat their home.

Hydro Quebec monitoring

Did you know you can monitor the electricity your home uses on the Internet? Go to www.hydroquebec.com/en/ and click on "Residential Customers." You are presented with a menu of options. Click on "Consumption Profile" and follow the instructions to set up your own Hydro Quebec personal page. (It is easy and free. You must have your latest electricity bill handy while you create this page.)

We've been monitoring our consumption for ages. Last week we were startled to see a huge drop in consumption, as shown by bar graphs comparing last year to this year's consumption on a monthly basis. Suddenly last September, consumption markedly dropped. Why?

Because we've replaced almost all of our incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents.

You may recall that last year I reported recommendations from Canadian author and energy-saving guru Bill Kemp. He told me flat out: remove all your light bulbs and replace them with compact fluorescents. We did. Kemp was right: the energy savings are immediate and remarkable. Yes there is an initial cost, but the long-term savings are also immediately felt in your pocket book – and yes, you are also doing something for the earth.

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance writer who intends to reduce her environmental footprint on the earth. Contact her at chesley@allstream.net.

Correction

Incorrect information was given in the story "Otter Lake residents to receive phone service after 20 years" on page one of the Feb. 1 issue.

If they are qualified for a certain distance from the network, it is $1,000. If there are four people who want a line in the same area, it is a $100 deposit each.

YOUR OPINION

End of an era

Dear Editor,

Hermonie has been more of an institution to anyone who is familiar with THE EQUITY, the local weekly newspaper of the Pontiac. Please know this always. The first section of the paper that most of us always turn to, is the social "Caldwell" notes. Unlike "society notes" in the big city papers, she kept us informed on everything from who spotted the first robin of that year's spring or who was not doing well and needed our prayers or help. Hermonie made us a part of her family and our families part of hers, and I've always been proud to be a cousin of hers through marriage.

When my dad was alive, every Wednesday, still known across the Pontiac as "Equity Day" we would sit down to the supper table and he'd read mom and I Hermonie's notes and only hers. He enjoyed doing that so much, and he'd always make some cute comment just to be him ... "so and so and so and so went to so and so's home and a good time was had by all." Just that line that you used was soooooo special. He was not making fun, he thought as have we all thought that that line is so special.

Only Hermonie would silently slip her retirement into the middle of last week's social notes to not cause a fuss. Her 'dear john' letter as she wrote it will come as a shock and sadden so many of us. And yes I surely can't think that her decision couldn't be easy for her. I read where Hermonie's failing eyesight and hearing made the decision for her. And yes, the first thing I thought of was, how long has Hermonie been writing for THE EQUITY? And how many of us knew that while she wrote and ran a post office in her home while she was raising 10 children? I didn't.

I thought it was so cool, her last paragraph, when so many writers would make some great statement about a deer being found dead in the Bay, and told us it has been wolves that had killed it during the night.

To Hermonie, may I be one of the first to say, "I'll miss your notes." Is there no one in Caldwell that might be interested in social notes? No one in her family that could help out! I know they are all busy people, just a last ditch effort from me so Equity readers will not lose touch with Hermonie and the goings on of Bristol, Hermonie style.

I know it's a bit too much to ask when she's not feeling well, But I know Hermonie and her decision to retire must of been so terribly difficult, it's so much a part of her and vice versa.

Hermonie has given us so much over such a span of time. Is there anything we can do to help her? Tis what she wrote often that the "Pontiac is all about caring."

Judy Horner
Campbell's Bay

Safer commuter roads

Dear Editor,

Driving this past Friday morning to Quyon was enlightening as to the unacceptable condition the road turns into at the border of Bristol and Quyon. Driver error is definitely what causes well over 95 per cent of all accidents. Agreed? But road conditions on this sector of highway, especially on a morning of sleet pellets to the tune of two to three inches, is a grave factor if not cleaned off by the early morning commute. And by early morning commute, let's say 5 to 6 a.m. at the latest, all agree? This morning the only removal of snow on Hwy. 148 by 5 a.m. was the traffic wheel ruts. This made vehicle control virtually treacherous with the deluge of rain on the ice crystals.

When a condition such as the predicted storm of rain, freezing rain and snow followed by a flash freeze, have been advised 24 hours in advance; we deserve much better service as commuters than what is presently being given. In order to avoid sitting in traffic some leave at 5 a.m. and unfortunately have to deal with unattended roads.

Something must be done so that the continuity of our main arterial 148 highway is the same from start to finish. The poor maintenance left 148 up to Bristol in worse condition for the drive home than it was for the drive in. Can you be happy with that as a commuter? And it leaves 148 from Quyon down to Aylmer in a very unsafe condition until the ice is burned off. It is beyond my understanding how this contractor continually gets off the hook with the poor cleaning of the highway. Can anyone answer why?

I would at this point give a great word of thanks and praise to Dennis Findlay one of, if not the best grader operators around, for being continually on top of snow removal in Bristol township. And on an early morning like this our main roads were in excellent conditions even after the flash freeze which occurred here between 5:30 and 6:30 a.m. Great job and well done Dennis, it is nice to see somebody who cares about their quality of workmanship.

Barry Beardsley
Bristol

Better Canada

Dear Editor,

Recently a reader suggested the new Conservative government should tackle the abortion issue. That would be a gift for the ousted Liberal party. This issue would cause the immediate collapse of the fragile Conservative minority government and confirm in the minds of Canadians that the Conservative government represents only the conservative right.

There are few issues in Canada that are fought at the gut level. The right of choice/right to life is one of them. Regardless of the arguments to the contrary, this appears to be a no-win issue. Both camps have staked out their ground and will not be moved. In the past this issue has cost the Conservatives dearly in the urban centers of Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. This is a dog that will not hunt!

I, along with most Canadians, want this parliament to work. To wit, I will not forgive or forget the politician or party that does not contribute to success. The Conservatives have put forward a reasonable platform and have made a good start. This is what Canadians have voted for and expect. Hopefully their promises on the long gun registry will be fulfilled and the money redirected to programs that we all want, i.e. better universal health care, better police services, better customs controls and better social programs for our young people. This is the true solution for gun control.

Join the majority and work for a better Canada!

Ronald M. Wilson
Westmeath, ON

Wigging out

Dear Editor,

Stephen Harper wiggled out of the numerous requests by the Ethics Commissioner to meet with him, during four months, from August to November. On ethics, didn't Harper claim he would lead by example? It is to be hoped our new prime minister recognizes and rectifies a weakness in the Ethics Commissioner's ability to perform his role concerning the Grewal affair.

If Mr. Harper"s office always claimed his schedule was too full to make a space for even a single meeting, this shows that one of the 'ethics' loopholes which he needs to close is the one he discovered for himself.

No rule forced him to appear in person (not even once) to answer the Ethics Commissioner's inquiries in a timely manner. Mr. Harper ought to have agreed to a meeting voluntarily, but didn't. In the future that option ought not to be available.

Zeb Landon
Norfolk County, ON

My resolve

Dear Editor,

A member of the Agent Orange Association of Canada shared the fact that he received a letter from Veteran Affairs Canada Bureau of Pensions Advocates regarding his decision to appeal the decision of Veteran Affairs Canada. They have told him he doesn't stand a chance. They based their decision on the lack of medical research supporting an association between Agent Orange and his claimed conditions. He has claimed that his auto immune system has been affected by the defoliant sprayings at CFB Gagetown.

Perhaps there is not an association between Agent Orange and the auto immune system.

There is a definite association between Agent White and the auto immune system. Agent White contains Hexachlorobenzene. Animal studies have shown that HCB causes cancer and affects a wide range of organ systems, including the liver, lungs, kidneys, thyroid, reproductive tissues, nervous and immune systems.

The deadly chemical defoliants sprayed at CFB Gagetown containing Hexachlorobenzene totalled 1.1 million litres in liquid form and 2,038,461 pounds in dry pellet form.

This veteran is rattled to the core with complete disillusionment. This proud man served this country with dignity and pride. It sickens and angers me to think of a government that can be so callous towards a veteran. It has tossed him aside in his time of need. They need to hang their heads in shame.

This man's disappointment in his country has made my resolve – as well as my fellow members of the Agent Orange Association of Canada stronger!

Art Connolly, Vice-president, Agent Orange Association of Canada, London, ON

Bill C-407

Dear Editor,

During the election campaign, why didn't any of the party leaders denounce a scandalous Bill C-407 presented in the House of Commons on the 15th of June by Francine Lalonde, member of the Bloc Québécois? It is a bill for euthanasia and assisted suicide which is more scandalous than the Gomery affair because it is against human dignity, God's commandment (You shall not kill) and promotes murder as well as suicide. What scandal. And Mr. Gilles Duceppe, party leader of Bloc Québécois, did not raise his voice and say "scandal" as he did for the Gomery affair.

During the debate on Jan. 10, Mr. Duceppe declared that we must evolve. He and his party do excellent work. We started by accepting killing children before their birth and now they want to turn to the elderly, the sick and the handicapped. And we can add a list of illnesses that would give doctors the excuses necessary to kill a patient as they see fit without repercussions because it would be legal. Have we forgotten that World War II was to stop Hitler from doing the same destruction of human life by rejecting respect for life?

This means that we would have to change doctors' ethics. They would have to learn to kill as well as treat those who are ill, which is not normal. And what message are they giving youths and society? Must we then reject God as well as his doctrine and teaching? Where is the compassion for these people who need moral support?

The Bloc Québécois is not a political party but a revolutionary party — dishonest and criminal. How come these people are members of parliament and work at destroying our country as well as human dignity when they should be considered as traitors and put in jail? Is this part of our democracy?

Bertrand Jetté
Hawkesbury, ON

123 years of news from the Pontiac

THE WAY WE WERE

Compiled by Heather Alberti-Dickson Publisher

25 Years Ago

February 25, 1981

QUYON AND COULONGE OVERFLOW: It's spring thaw time again and once again several of our rivers are flooding their banks. Two in particular, the Quyon and Coulonge, are especially troublesome, because there are many buildings and roads in the flooded areas. In Quyon the two bridges giving access to the town from the east and north have already been closed, with several feet of water running over the surfaces. In Mansfield, where the Coulonge river begins its last couple of serpentine miles before emptying into the Ottawa River, the accumulation of ice jams and the thousands of logs left there from last year are causing the river to rise drastically.

This condition coupled with the high water condition in the Ottawa River creates a condition where serious flooding is imminent.

CLAUDE BOUCHARD APPOINTED CHIEF: Corporal Claude Bouchard of Campbell's Bay has been appointed commander of the Campbell's Bay detachment of the Quebec Police force. The previous commander of the local detachment, Serge Barbeau, has been transferred to the Outaouais headquarters of the QPF in Hull.

ARMED ROBBERY FOILED IN BRISTOL: A man and a woman, armed with a 12-gauge shotgun attempted to rob a home in Norway Bay this weekend. Mrs Bill Keindel was a home with her three children aged 14, 16 and 21 sunday morning when the two broke into her house. While the woman guarded the front door and the Keindels with the gun, her accomplice searched the rest of the house, apparently looking for firearms. Eventually Mrs Keindel was able to jump the woman with the shotgun. The gun went off, but fortunately no one was injured. The pair then fled the house, into the bush. Police have not yet been able to locate either of the would-be thieves nor their vehicle.

50 Years Ago

February 23, 1956

LEGION PLANS CENOTAPH AT CAMPBELL'S BAY: At a recent meeting of the Canadian Legion, Pontiac Branch No. 162 held in the Club room at Campbell's Bay it was reported by Jack Patterson, chairman of the March of Dimes Campaign, that a total amount of approximately $220 was collected in the County of Pontiac. Progress was reported on plans to erect a Cenotaph at the village entrance, and a delegation is to meet MPP Raymond Johnston to obtain a piece of land from the Department of Highway.

A CERTIFICATE AWARDED TO BRISTOL BOY: Young John Carmichael, of Bristol, has been awarded the Cornwall Certificate of Merit from the Boy Scout association on the occasion of founder Lord Baden Powell's birthday. John Carmichael merits this very special award through having carried on his Scout work through a series of unusually trying circumstances.

WYMAN SITE FOR GIANT NEW TRANSFORMER: A transformer worth $75,000 arrived from the General Electric plant at Guelph on Tuesday and was unloaded onto a Hugh Grant float on Wednesday to be drawn to its destination in Wyman. The transformer will repose on Gatineau Power property at Oswald Way's sixth line farm and will provide 2? 000 volts for the Bristol Iron Mines. The power line to the mine is now being constructed from Wyman.

75 Years Ago

February 19, 1931

LOCAL NEWS: Mr C A L Tucker, local CPR agent has supplied us with the information relative to the quantity of stock shipped here during the past year, which indicates the importance of Shawville as a shipping centre, doubtless eclipsing in that regard many large places in the province: Cattle - 1375 head; hogs - 2737, calves - 1174; sheep, lambs - 8756, horses - 36. Total animals 9,398.

SHAWVILLE WINS PLAYOFF BY ONE GOAL: On Friday night of last week and before one of the largest crowds that has ever filed into the Shawville Arena, Shawville again came into possession of the Cahill Shield and for the first time a trophy donated by the Canada Life Insurance Co., Morley Hodgins counter after 14 minutes of play in the first period being the only goal in the home playoff series with Coulonge.

On Thursday last, 12 inst., one of the most aged inhabitants of Otter Lake passed away. Mr William Milliken, who has been in poor health for some years, died at the old home in Leslie, now maintained by his son George, at the age of 93 years and two months. Mr Milliken came to this district as a young man about 70 years ago.

100 Years Ago

February 22, 1906

LOCAL NEWS: We regretfully record this week the death of Miss Annie Tippins, eldest daughter of Mr Frederick Tippins of North Clarendon, which occurred at noon on Wednesday the 15 inst., after a long and trying illness extending over a period of three years.

The late Miss Tippins was 24 years of age, of a quiet, reserved disposition and a person highly thought of in the community, a fact which was fully exemplified by the large number of friends who turned out to pay the last tribute of respect to her remains, which were interred in North Clarendon cemetery on Sunday after last.

The boys around town are telling a joke about a young man from the country who recently was performing the gallant act of driving a young lad home, when the horse made a break, succeeded in getting away and was shortly lost to view; nor was he recovered till the next morning.

As to how the remainder of the journey to the young lady's home was accomplished, deponent saith not; but it is hoped she was not allowed to proceed alone. The young man, whose name we have not learned, will probably call and tell us all about it, in order that the correct version of the affair may be given.

Mrs John Moodie of Shawville, has just been awarded the handsome sum of $250 for suggesting a name which came very near to being the one selected for the western terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. The name selected was Prince Rupert, which was two letters longer than the conditions called for.



St. Paul's Anglican Church, Shawville, P.Q.

Ice cold



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Ryan Fletcher, 10, of Portage du Fort, and Melanie Kluke, of Campbell's Bay, wait patiently for a bite during the fifth annual Fishing Derby at the River Club in Portage du Fort Saturday. Despite cold temperatures, many anglers competed for the largest walleye and pike.

Shawville figure skating competition approaches

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • During the Winter Olympics, figure skating becomes a focus of the sporting eye, as the public watches young men and women skate, dance and twirl for glory.

> "There's skills, there's dance, there's theatrical, there's technical. It gives you an opportunity to eventually go to the Olympics.
>
> —Lyse Lacourse
> Winter Invitational chairperson

The early years for those competitors are the formative ones, and for the sixth consecutive year local residents will receive an opportunity to witness possible future Olympians at the arena in Shawville for the annual Figure Skating Club Winter Invitational on Feb. 25 and 26.

"There's skills, there's dance, there's theatrical, there's technical," said Lyse Lacourse, invitational chairperson.

"It gives you an opportunity to eventually go to the Olympics."

After being reduced to a single day over the past couple of years, the event will be expanding to two days this year due to its recent success, and over 100 skaters are expected from clubs in Quebec and Eastern Ontario.

To compare the level of competition expected at the event, Lacourse said the invitational is "the (Shawville) Midget (hockey) tournament of figure skating" for the Pontiac.

Competitors will be judged on their technical and artistic merit.

Last year, Shawville won the invitational for the second time in five years, besting second place Pembroke and third-place Asticou.

The Shawville Figure Skating Club has about 40 skaters this year according to registrar Paula Hodgins, and they range in age from three to 17 years old.

Volunteers and sponsors are still required for the invitational. Those interested are encouraged to contact Lacourse at 613-990-8148 or 819-647-5932.

Women's day full of information

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • The three Pontiac chapters of the Quebec Women's Institute held their annual information day at the Shawville United Church Hall last Wednesday.

Fulfilling the four tenets of the organization — agriculture, health, education and crafts — the 32 women in attendance from the Stark's Corners, Bristol and Clarendon chapters enjoyed a full day of activities.

This year, speakers included a guest from CLSC who spoke on health care; representatives from WEpc, a computer store, who discussed computer-use and the Internet; visitors from Mountainview Turf who covered agriculture and a flower-design demonstration.

"The idea is to give information on topics we think mostly ladies would be interested in," said Beryl Smart, the event's organizer.

Those present also enjoyed a pot-luck lunch.

The Quebec Women's Institute began in 1911 and was originally designed for farmers' wives to help them be more self-sufficient.

It is now open to any female and memberships are $25 per year

Post-secondary students discover Pontiac in Place For Youth program

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • Sixteen young Pontiacers have returned home from school in the city for the second of three weekends to learn about their home and its opportunities.

Under the province-wide Place for Youth program aimed at increasing youth retention in rural areas, 16 post-secondary students are participating in the program rediscovered, or discovered for the first time, things special to Pontiac.

The students were in Fort Coulonge and Mansfield on the weekend. The group spent Saturday discussing the benefits and disadvantages of rural life with a handful of MRC mayors, and later debated on whether rural or urban life was better.

"It is to encourage the youth to come back here," said Place for Youth co-ordinator Catherine Poirier.

The efforts of the program have already hit home for some participants.

"I was planning on coming back, but this confirmed it," said Léon Lance of Otter Lake, a 2002 ESSC grad. "There are lots of things I didn't know about the Pontiac."

Lance, who is studying nursing, said he found the history helpful and Saturday was his first day to Spruceholme.

Sunday was busy for the students, who met at the Chutes Coulonge in Mansfield. The students listened to presentations from CREP, PYEM and Woodland Advantage services and took part in a resume workshop with Gaétanne Mousseau and Kelly McMahon. They also held interview simulations and heard a workshop on entrepreneurship by Amy Taylor from the CLD and Rhonda Perry from the SADC.

"I'm from the Pontiac and when I lived here I saw all the little details and found them less interesting," said Jérémie Thompson, of Calumet Island, program animator. "I wanted to leave but when I came back I discovered things."

Thompson, now in his third year of CEGEP, graduated in 2003 from École Secondaire Sieur de Coulonge in Fort Coulonge. He participated in Place for Youth last year.

Not only is he helping out others his age to discover the Pontiac, he plans on looking into placing his career of computer science here once he graduates.

Poirier said the purpose of the program is to find employment in Pontiac for students once they complete their post-secondary education.

The program, now a year-round venture, will develop a teenager-aged Place for Youth single-weekend event, to encourage students to come back even before they leave.

"We want to also come up with a policy with the mayors to bring new opportunities to the youth," said Poirier.

The students return for the third excursion at the end of March to hear about job opportunities from Emploi Quebec and to be paired up with professionals in their respective fields of study.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Pontiac mayors hold a discussion with participants in the Place For Youth program, which held a session Saturday at Spruceholme Inn.

Read the whole story... ...every week in THE EQUITY
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SPORTS



Members of the Shawville Pontiacs Novice 'B' hockey team suit up in the dressing room before a tournament game in La Peche last week. Despite strong play, the Pontiacs lost an exciting double overtime thriller in the semi-finals of the tournament. From the left: Briggs Richardson, Brett Shepperd, and Danny Pasch.

Novice 'B' Pontiacs fall in tourney double-OT thriller

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • The Novice 'B' Shawville Pontiacs lost a double overtime thriller in the semi-finals of a hockey tournament in La Peche on the weekend of Feb. 11.

The host La Peche Coyotes defeated the Pontiacs 3-2 after plenty of exciting hockey that left the Pontiacs defeated ,yet encouaged by their strong play in the tournament.

In the semi-final, Zachary Elliott and Austin Duggan scored goals for the Pontiacs, while Danny Pasch had an assist.

Strong round robin play from the Shawville-based team put the Pontiacs in the semi-finals.

In the first game, the team defeated Loups La Peche 4-2 thanks to a pair of goals by Pasch and Elliott.

Brett Shepperd, Thomas Barry and Kyle Misener all had assists in their first game victory.

The second game was a setback for the Novice side, who fell in defeat 9-2 to the Aylmer Express.

Recovery was quick, however, as the subsequent match was an 8-1 mercy thrashing of the Coyotes Loups La Peche.

Pasch had an outstanding game, scoring five goals for the Pontiacs.

Elliott, Alexi Gauthier and Misener each had a goal of their own to punctuate the defeat over the Coyotes.

Barry had three assists in the win, while Curtis Huckabone and Savannah Harris picked up a helper apiece.

The Pontiacs returned from their weekend away with two regular season games last week.

On Saturday, the team drew 3-3 with the Aylmer Faucons.

Jared Murray, Elliott and Bradeon Picard all scored in the game.

The Pontiacs followed that with a revenge game against the La Peche Coyotes, defeating them 5-2.

Elliott and Pasch both scored twice and Barry added the fifth goal.

Barry and Darron Bruce had an assist each.

Midget CC

The Midget 'CC' Pontiac Lions began their playoff run disappointingly, losing the first two games of the round-robin playoff format.

On Saturday, the Gatineau Avalanches shut out the Lions 3-0, with three Lions serving suspensions.

Sunday was a tight contest that resulted in a controversial 4-3 loss to the Aylmer Mariniers.

The Pontiac team had two goals disallowed in the contest.

Sandy Dubeau, Jeremie Chretien and Keven Lachapelle scored for the Lions.

Lachapelle notched two assists, while Mike Kelly, Jacob Sincennes, Dubeau and Chretien each had singles.

Bantam BB

Fresh from their tournament victory last weekend in Gatineau, the Maniwaki Forestiers defeated the Gatineau Avalanches 2-0 in the first game of their playoff series.

Jason Bédard scored a shorthanded second period goal and Nicolas Francoeur added the dagger in the third period for the Forestiers.

David Hobbs earned an assist on Francoeur's goal.

In goal, Justin Bois was stellar, stopping 23 shots to earn the shutout.

Novice A

It was a disappointing weekend for the Shawville Pontiacs Novice 'A' squad, who lost both of their games to the Maniwaki Forestiers.

On Saturday the team fell 5-1, with Simon-Richard Corriveau scoring the Pontiacs' lone goal.

Sunday, the players of Shawville were blanked, 5-0.

Clarendon mill rate holds for 28th year

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

CLARENDON • Residents of Clarendon will once again be paying the same rates on their properties as they have for the past 28 years.

The municipality's rate remains at .50 per $100 of taxable evaluation.

"There are just enough new buildings going up," to bring in enough revenue to maintain the rate, said Clarendon Mayor Jack Lang.

Overall, the $1.6 million budget for 2006 remains largely unchanged from 2005.

The biggest changes in expenditures for the municipality in the coming year will include more money spent on road repairs.

Clarendon has budgeted $529,680 for this area, up 6.5 per cent from 2005's $497,665.

Included in that section are planned repairs to two bridges, those on Emerson Road and the Hamilton Bridge, both of which need new wood, according to the Clarendon mayor.

"It's quite costly," said Lang.

Firefighter training has also increased, bringing up fire protection expenses.

Thirty-five thousand dollars has been allocated to firefighter remuneration and training, up from $15,000 a year earlier.

"We didn't get very much training in 2005, so we had to put more money in it for 2006," said Lang.

Capital expenditures have also increased significantly, as the municipality plans on purchasing a new front-end loader and half-tonne truck.

Clarendon has budgeted $300,000 for those expenditures.

Spelling queen



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Eight-year-old Jessica Miron-Dunbar was recently awarded two tickets to the Ottawa Senators game on March 2nd as part of the Spelling with Spezza program. The Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School third-grade student had perfect spelling in the month of January and was entered into a draw with other students from throughout the Ottawa area.

Original 6 Hockey League

Standings

Team	W	L	T	OTL	P	GF	GA
Rangers	6	3	0	0	12	34	26
Canadiens	5	4	0	0	10	45	38
Red Wings	5	4	0	0	10	36	37
Leafs	4	4	0	1	9	40	47
Black Hawks	4	4	0	1	9	33	35
Bruins	3	6	0	0	6	36	41

Sunday, February 19

Metro Canadiens 13, Francoeur Leafs 3
Canadiens: Dan Dube, 5 goals, 2 assists; Kevin Godin, 3 g, 4 a Leafs: Martin Danis, 1 goals, 1 assist; Jason Durant, 1 g
Shots on Goal: Canadiens 34, Leafs 13

Bowers Black Hawks 1, Mega Dollar Bruins 0
Black Hawks: Louis-Phillipe Carle, 1 g; Stephan Villeneuve 16 saves
Bruins: Maurice Ladouceur, 28 saves
Shots on Goal: Hawks 29, Bruins 16

Draveur Red Wings 5, Proprior Rangers 3
Red Wings: Jean-Pierre Herault, 3 goals; Sylvain LeGuerrier, 1g, 1a
Rangers: Rhobbie Dionne, 1 goal, 1 assist; Darcy Mitchel, 1 g
Shots on Goal: Red Wings 28, Rangers 15

Tim Hortons Timbits coming to Pontiac

... in the form of children's hockey

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • While not the Tim Hortons news some in the Pontiac were hoping for, a fruitful new opportunity has arisen for the region's hockey-playing children thanks to the coffee and donut giant.

Tim Hortons is the new sponsor of Shawville Minor Hockey, meaning a Timbits league will be implemented for the association's four to seven-year-olds.

Perks include up to 40 uniforms for the children, medals at the end of the year, the opportunity to participate in Timbits tournaments and, yes, coffee and donuts at the league's year-end event.

"It's a great opportunity," said Kristina Misener, secretary of the Shawville District Minor Hockey Association.

"To have a big company come in and help out our minor hockey is really great."

Timbits leagues exist country-wide in a number of sports, including baseball, soccer and hockey. In all, approximately 40,000 children participate in Timbits leagues throughout Canada and the United States. The leagues are non-competitive and focus on development and skill-building.

"They learn the fundamentals," said Misener.

The agreement between the two sides will last four years, starting in the fall of 2006.

"We were looking for somebody to help our MAHG (developmental children's hockey) association to provide some sort of sponsorship," said Misener.

"We contacted Tim Horton's and asked if they would sponsor us."

Sponsorship is conducted regionally and the Tim Horton's in Aylmer, the closest franchisee to Shawville, is officially the sponsor of the Shawville Timbits league.

Hervé Lavellée, owner of the Aylmer Tim Hortons, told THE EQUITY he had been away on vacation and declined to comment on his store's sponsorship.

In all, Misener estimates the value of the sponsorship to be $5,000 annually.

The most famous Timbit player ever is Sidney Crosby, hotshot rookie for the Pittsburgh Penguins, who participated in a Timbit hockey league in Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia in 1993.

PHS places second in volleyball tourney

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • The Pontiac High School Cadet girls' volleyball team placed second overall at a tournament over the weekend.

"It was pretty good," said coach Shawn MacDonell of Sunday's tournament at Hormisdas-Gamelin school in Buckingham.

The team, comprised of aged 12- to 15-year-old girls, won four out of eight sets.

The girls took on Érablière first. They lost their first set 19-25 but then won 25-19.

Home team Hormisdas-Gamelin gave the girls an easy start when PHS won the first set 25-14 but then beat them 18-25.

Le Carrefour proved to be the team to beat as they won over PHS in both sets 24-26 and 18-25.

But the girls fought back against Des Lacs 2, winning both sets 25-17 and 25-21.

"We came out second in the 'D' division," said MacDonell on the girls' outcome.

The results will keep the team in the 'D' division, as only the first-place team moved up to the 'C' division.

"It was the first time we played in the 'D' division," said MacDonell on another reason he was happy with the team's performance.

At a previous tournament before Christmas, PHS won the 'E' division and moved up into the 'D', which also includes Juvenile-aged teams.

"They had great service and spiking today," said MacDonell Sunday. "Those are two things we will be working on, as well as blocking and tipping."

MacDonell said the girls played their positions well, and stepped up to the faster and more difficult level of play.

The team participates next in a tournament hosted at PHS March 12.

Funding approved for viability study to retain Anglophone nursing students

GATINEAU • The Regional Association of West Quebecers is pleased to announce the approval of $25,000 in Health Canada funding to develop a project proposal aimed at retaining Anglophone nursing students in the Outaouais. The viability study will be conducted together with Heritage College and regional health care providers. More details were announced Feb. 8, at the first public forum being hosted by the Outaouais Health and Social Services Network for the English-speaking population (OHSSN) at the Tétreau Community Center, 361 Lucerne Road in the City of Gatineau's Hull sector.

At the forum the OHSSN will released a 'Report on Health and Social Services Needs of the English-speaking Population' which detailed extensive research conducted over the past year, an analysis of recent demographic data, and the English-speaking population's perceptions and needs concerning health and social services.

OHSSN project coordinator Danielle Lanyi says it's been an interesting year. "We conducted 14 focus groups in both urban and rural areas and one of the main concerns expressed across the region was the need to improve access to information about health and social services in English.

The Outaouais is quite diverse, so it has been a real challenge compiling all the research into one comprehensive report."

Aside from the health needs assessment report, forum participants heard about ongoing initiatives in the Outaouais from public health care providers and community organizations from the English-speaking community.

A workshop in the afternoon provided the opportunity for participants to discuss the information received from the presentations and to explore strategies to foster partnerships and improve access to English health and social services.

For further information on the announcement regarding the Anglophone nursing viability, the Health Needs Assessment report or public forum, contact Danielle Lanyi at 613-769-1017 or via email at dlanyi@magma.ca.

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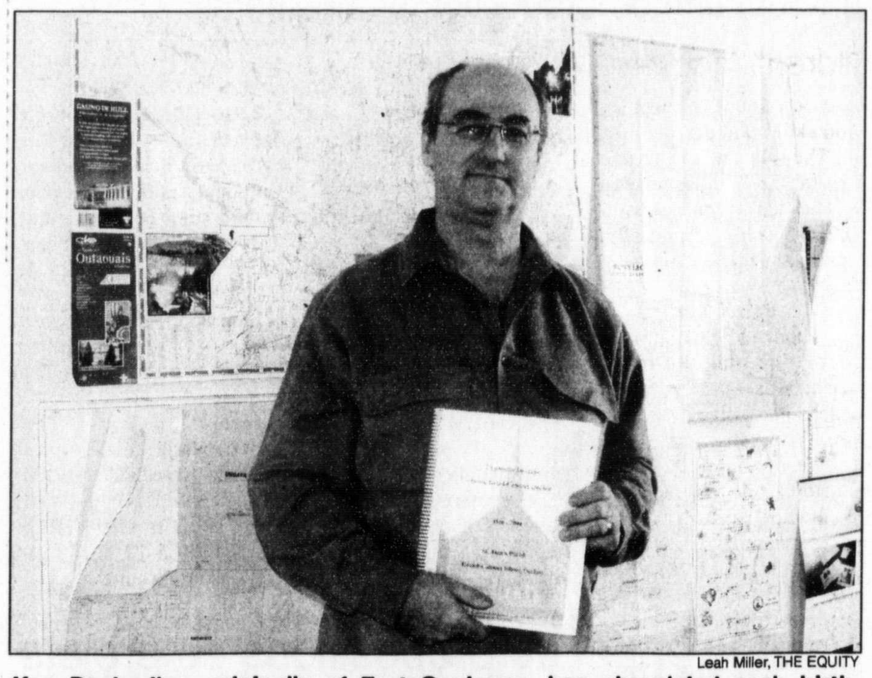

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Researcher gathers parish history



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Ken Desjardins, originally of Fort Coulonge, has chronicled each birth, death and wedding of members of Ste. Anne's Roman Catholic Church on Calumet Island since it was incorporated in 1846.

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

CALUMET ISLAND • If the walls of a parish hall could talk, there would be many stories told.

A man who understands that, and who hopes to treasure the names of those who walked through them, has spent years compiling a list of parish members for churches across the Pontiac.

Ken Desjardins of Orleans, but originally from Fort Coulonge, recently published *1846 - 2004 St. Anne's Parish Grand-Calumet Island.*

His fourth book published of this kind, Desjardins has also completed editions for the Catholic churches of Fort Coulonge (*1884 - 1992 The marriages of Saint Peter's Parish, Fort-Coulonge*), Vinton (*St. Elizabeth's of Hungary Parish Vinton 1875 - 1996*), and Portage du Fort (*1851 - 1998 La paroisse Saint-Jacques-le-majeur Portage-du-Fort*).

"People love this," he said of the final product.

Desjardins recently retired, and when he's not volunteering at a retirement residence, he's neck-deep in church research.

"I go into church records, cross references names, burials and births, and sort through lots of personal information," he said.

The Calumet Island book includes 7,330 baptisms, 1,572 marriages, 2,816 burials, 10 religious orders, 390 births, nine deaths, 1,388 marriages, 611 cemetery tombstones and a chronological history of the parish.

Desjardins will be selling the books and giving the difference after publishing expenses to the church.

Desjardins thinks he's been researching parishes for 25 years now.

"My Dad hoodwinked me into doing it," he said. He has been working on the last edition for the past six or seven years.

"I received permission to access parish records," he said on how he gets the information. Once he has access, he and his wife Monique transcribe the endless lists.

"Once that's done I type the information into a database, and it is double checked once more against the records," said Desjardins.

One of the biggest hardships of the task is deciphering the different priests' handwriting styles, he said.

"And spelling is interesting," he said. "In Vinton, the name Hearty originated from Heartz."

As well, name changes made referencing confusing when families such as Leblanc changed their name to White. Families also used to have nicknames for their last names.

"It shows economic migration," he said.

An interesting fact is that he found out Paul Martineau (elected in the 1958 election as the Progressive Conservative Member of Parliament for Pontiac—Témiscamingue) was baptized on Calumet Island.

Not just anyone is granted access to parish records, and in each of his books he heartily thanks each reverend who helped him to his work.

Desjardins was an altar boy in Fort Coulonge in the late '50s in the same church as the priest in charge of records at that time.

Desjardins therefore knew the priest and was granted access to the records.

"It is now impossible to get information," said Desjardins on why he's not jumping into a next edition.

In January 2004 there was a privacy of information act passed that requires an enterprise to protect the information of its clients.

The Catholic church decided that law included them.

Future books may not be in store at all for Desjardins, as the new privacy law has been taken seriously by the Pembroke Diocese. Bishop Richard Smith issued a decree prohibiting access to parish records.

Desjardins says this unfortunate decision is an overreaction to legislation passed on the protection of personal information.

Fortunately, information collected for the Calumet Island book was taken before the decree was implemented.

"Genealogists are people who share their information, there are few who make money off it," said Desjardins says of his hobby.

"Most people do it for themselves."

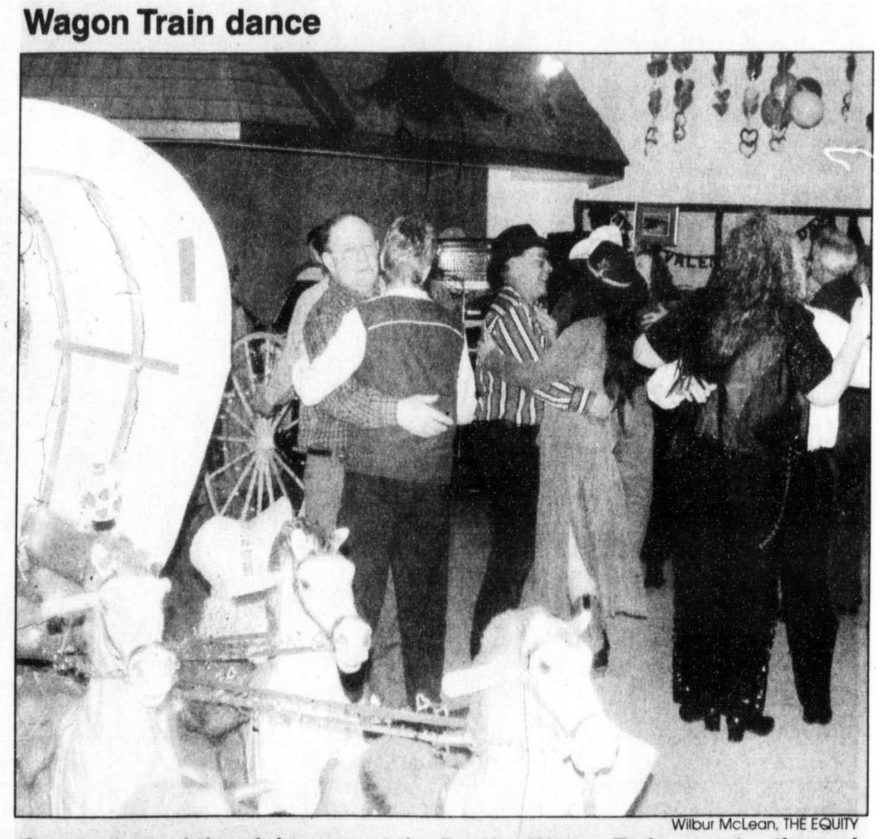
He hopes to move onto Presbyterian church parishes.

"I would love to do it," he said. "It's a nice way to commemorate a parish."

He printed 200 copies, but will print more if they are in demand.

His father, Emeril Desjardins of Fort Coulonge, has copies of the Calumet Island book for sale.

Wagon Train dance



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Guests danced the night away at the Pontiac Wagon Train country-themed Valentine's Day dance at the Shawville Lions Hall Feb. 11. Money was raised to go towards the annual Wagon Train, which will be held in Norway Bay from July 24 to 30, 2006.

Clarendon man charged with sexual assault

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

CAMPBELL'S BAY • A 49-year-old Clarendon man has been charged with sexual assault on a minor.

The man faces charges of sexual assault, invitation to sexual touching and sexual contact with a minor under the age of 14.

Police say they began their investigation in August 2005 when they received a complaint through family services on Aug. 29.

The man was arrested at his home Sept. 2.

"I was outraged and disgusted," said the mother of the victim, whose name will be withheld to protect the victim, when her child first talked about an encounter.

The mother says her child is still suffering emotionally from the incident and is receiving counselling.

"(The child) has a lot less friends, but used to be very popular," she said.

"And the school work did suffer, but it seems to be okay now."

The man is set for his next court date at the Campbell's Bay Court March 16.

Québec looks at election reform

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Canada's current election system is like bingo, believes Brian Gibb.

All the parties have their cards and compete with one another, but when one party receives the most votes in a riding, they win and everybody else is automatically declared the loser, no matter what their results were up to that point.

"It's winner take all. All the information on the other cards is discarded," said Gibb, Executive Director of the Regional Association of West Québecers and staunch supporter of electoral reform.

"The first-past-the-post system is political bingo."

Québec is in the proposal stages of sweeping reforms to its elections. Proposed changes include ridding the province of the first-past-the-post system, the structure used throughout North America.

In it, the party that receives the most votes in an electoral riding wins.

The party with the most number of victorious electoral ridings controls the government.

"A party will win 40 per cent of the vote, 60 per cent of the seats and have 100 per cent of the power," said Gibb, in regards to the current system.

While the current proposed changes are numerous, almost all of them include a system of proportional representation.

Many European countries use various forms of proportional representation, including Germany, Italy, Scotland and the Netherlands.

In one of the most popular forms of proportional representation, ridings are redrawn to be larger.

Then, each riding is assigned a number of seats, for example, five. Every party in that riding that receives a percentage of the vote above a certain threshold would receive the corresponding number of the five seats.

If such a system were implemented for the 2006 federal election, the riding of Pontiac, in its current form, would have been represented by two Conservative seats, two Bloc Québecois seats and one Liberal seat.

Gibb holds that to be more fair.

"Proportionality is just the result when each and every vote counts equally," said Gibb.

Other proposals include double-voting, whereby each voter casts two votes, one for a candidate and a separate one for a party.

List voting is also a popular alternative. In that system, a party produces all of its candidates in a list, and a voter casts a ballot for that list. Seats are then awarded based on the percentage of votes allocated for each list.

Despite the strong arguments in favour of changes, Gibb wonders whether alterations will actually be made.

It would appear counter intuitive for members of the National Assembly to change the voting system, because it is the current format under which they achieve their power.

"They don't want to lose their monopoly on controlling the province," said Gibb.

However, Pontiac MNA, Charlotte L'Écuyer, said she is in favour of changes to the system.

"It's time we get into the 21st century," said L'Écuyer. "Everybody supports it. We can't do it without the support from everybody."

Yet L'Écuyer, like many Québecers, finds it difficult to pinpoint which changes she prefers, because of the sheer number of proposals being offered.

"It's very complex, I'm still trying to understand it all," said L'Écuyer.

As part of the process of change, meetings have been held across Québec where voters gathered to discuss proposals and have their input into the province's voting system.

The Pontiac MNA does not buy the criticism that is often made of proportional representation: that it reduces the ability to make changes because of the greater number of voices present.

"Once you're a member of parliament, your influence is there. It doesn't matter how you were elected, you'll have the same power," said L'Écuyer.

Gibb, too, finds the argument of proportional representation being too convoluted a weak one.

"The countries at the top of the G20 use proportional representation," said Gibb, in reference to the collective of the top 19 world economies along with the European Union who meet annually to discuss the state of the world's economy.

"You don't have to centralize power to get results. Perhaps it's easier to make drastic decisions, not to make better decisions."

Gibb, believing parliament may never make decisive moves to alter the parliamentary system, has launched a constitutional challenge to Québec's current voting system, and hopes to find it deemed invalid because of the manner in which it discriminates against language minorities.

He has won the initial stages of the trial and is now awaiting his next court date, sometime this year. He's hopeful of a decision in 2007 and is quite confident of victory.

"We have the jurisprudence," said Gibb. "The concept of equity is primordial."

Shawville ladies hospital auxiliary meets

SHAWVILLE • The Shawville Ladies Hospital Auxiliary met at the home of Doris Orr on Jan. 10 for their monthly meeting.

The meeting opened with prayer by Pauline Grant.

President Lucy Hamilton thanked Orr for having them in her home. She welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

Marjorie Smith had a reading "A New Year's Message." Helen Towell gave the secretary's report, Pauline Grant gave the treasurer's report, and the central auxiliary report was read by Margaret Willis.

The meeting was adjourned by Marjorie Smith. The closing prayer was read by Margaret Willis.

A delicious afternoon tea was served by the hostesses Orr and Kay Smith. The February meeting is to be held at Pauline Grant's.

Late night Shawville restaurant



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Marie-Joe Restaurant Pizza opened last week on Hwy. 148 in Shawville. New owners Joe Faraj and Marianne Mallo of Luskville, offer tempting pizza, pasta and donairs. It is the only restaurant in Shawville that is open weekends until 4 a.m. From the left: Mallo and cook Mado Larose.

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C'est froid



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Ryan Fletcher, 10, de Portage du Fort, et Melanie Kluke, de Campbell's Bay, attendent pour un poisson durant le cinquième Tournoi de Pêche chez le River Club à Portage du Fort samedi. Il y a eu beaucoup des pêcheurs dans le tournoi.

Semaine de la prévention du suicide

GATINEAU • Chaque jour au Québec, quatre personnes s'enlèvent la vie. Des dizaines d'autres effectueraient une tentative de suicide.

Malgré l'ampleur du problème, le suicide demeure un sujet difficile à aborder et il est porteur de nombreux préjugés.

En Outaouais, les Centres jeunesses (CJO) travaillent activement à prévenir le suicide chez les jeunes.

À cet effet, au cours des cinq dernières années, les intervenants des CJO ont œuvré auprès de 294 jeunes qui avaient fait des verbalisations ou des gestes suicidaires.

Ces jeunes ont donc bénéficié d'un accompagnement spécialisé en lien avec leur détresse psychologique.

Dans le cadre de la Semaine de prévention du suicide, qui se déroule du 5 au 11 février partout au Québec, Mme Monique Séguin, Ph. D. professeure de psychologie de l'Université du Québec en Outaouais et chercheure au Groupe McGill d'étude sur le suicide, a présenté ce matin une conférence sur les trajectoires de vie : cumul de facteurs de risque, psychopathologies et difficultés de recherche de services. Cette conférence référait à une étude réalisée dans la province du Nouveau-Brunswick dans laquelle tous les cas de décès par suicide survenus sur une période de 14 mois étaient documentés. Malgré les variations importantes quant aux différentes trajectoires de vie, un effritement de la protection et du soutien qui se produit en même temps qu'un cumul de plus en plus important de facteurs de risques dans la vie de ces personnes ont été constaté.

Le cumul de ces difficultés contribue à développer ou à augmenter ou à exacerber des difficultés de santé mentale.

Ainsi, il a été observé que dans les dernières années de vie, il y avait un nombre important de problèmes multiples de santé mentale pour lesquels les besoins étaient non comblés.

En Outaouais, il est possible de bénéficier d'aide en tout temps en communiquant avec le Centre d'intervention de situations de crise au numéro de téléphone sans frais 1 866 APPELLE (1-866-277-3553).

Demi-journée d'information sur le démarrage d'une enterprise horticole Thème : L'horticulture, un domaine de production à considérer

OUTAOUAIS • Les conseillères et conseillers de la direction régionale du ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation en Outaouais invitent les productrices et les producteurs agricoles à une demi-journée d'information intitulée « L'horticulture, un domaine de production à considérer ».

Cette activité s'adresse aux productrices et producteurs agricoles ainsi qu'à toutes les personnes qui s'intéressent à l'horticulture et qui envisagent de démarrer une entreprise dans ce domaine sur le territoire de La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau.

Les participants y découvriront d'excellentes raisons de pratiquer l'horticulture ainsi que de nouvelles façons de faire.

Ils obtiendront des renseignements utiles à connaître pour prendre des décisions d'affaires éclairées et rencontreront des personnes qui pourront les accompagner dans leur projet horticole.

Le coût d'inscription est de 10 $ par personne, goûter inclus.

Les personnes intéressées doivent s'inscrire à l'avance auprès du centre de services agricoles de Maniwaki en composant le 819-449-3400 ou le 1-800-266-5217.

Cette journée est offerte dans le cadre des journées agricoles « Rendez-vous Outaouais 2006 ». On peut se procurer le programme de la journée auprès du centre de services agricoles de Maniwaki ou en prendre connaissance dans Internet à l'adresse www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/Outaouais.

Samedi 18 février 2006 Lieu : Salle communautaire de Gracefield (anciennement salle de Wright) 351, route 105, Gracefield. Heure :De 9 h 30 à 13 h 15 Coût :10 $ par personne.

Volet II: appel de propositions de projets

PONTIAC • La Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais (CRÉO) invite les promoteurs intéressés à la protection et à la mise en valeur du milieu forestier à présenter leurs projets dans le cadre du Programme de mise en valeur des ressources du milieu forestier, Volet II 2006-2007.

Ce programme vise à soutenir des projets à caractère sylvicole, faunique, récréatif, éducatif ou environnemental qui stimulent le développement économique et social en Outaouais. Ce programme vise de plus à favoriser la création d'emplois et impliquer la collectivité dans une véritable gestion des diverses ressources du milieu forestier.

Le financement du Programme de mise en valeur des ressources du milieu forestier, Volet II, provient du Ministère des Ressources naturelles, de la Faune du Québec qui verse à la CRÉO les enveloppes budgétaires puisées à même le Fonds forestier.

La CRÉO en assure la gestion en partenariat avec les MRC de Pontiac, des Collines-de-l'Outaouais, de Papineau et de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau.

L'information relative au programme et les documents nécessaires à la présentation de projets sont disponibles dans les bureaux des MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais, de Papineau, de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, au bureau du CLD de Pontiac et à la Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais. Les promoteurs sont invités à déposer leur demande au plus tard, le vendredi 24 mars 2006, dans les bureaux de la MRC et du CLD mandataire du programme sur le territoire de réalisation du projet.

Les projets admissibles seront évalués et sélectionnés selon des critères spécifiques adaptés à la réalité régionale. Les montants alloués à la région pour l'année 2006-2007, seront connus ultérieurement.

Les viandes fines des Vallées de l'Outaouais favorise un emplacement à Shawville

CAMPBELL'S BAY • Bob Griffin, président de la Coopérative de solidarité Les viandes fines des Vallées de l'Outaouais, a annoncé que le conseil d'administration de la Coopérative avait accepté les recommandations de son Comité d'emplacement et favorise un site à Shawville pour bâtir et exploiter la nouvelle installation.

Le Comité avait lancé un appel d'offres et a étudié toutes les propositions. Les offres ont été évaluées selon des critères de sélection détaillés qui comprenaient l'emplacement, le prix, l'accès à l'eau et au système d'égout ainsi que d'autres considérations environnementales.

« C'est une étape importante. Cela répond à de nombreuses questions que nous avons reçues à propos de l'emplacement de notre installation. Tout le monde devrait être très satisfait de la décision.

Nous pouvons maintenant faire des plans concrets et aller de l'avant », a déclaré Griffin.

Les négociations sont en cours avec le propriétaire foncier pour finaliser les modalités. La capacité de la ville de Shawville de financer et d'obtenir les raccordements et les permis nécessaires demeure des conditions critiques à la détermination du choix final.

Autres développements :

• Le 20 janvier 2006, la Coopérative a retenu les services de Michel Laporte en tant que gestionnaire de projet intérimaire.

• À l'assemblée du 15 mars, le conseil recevra un nouveau plan d'étage de la bâtisse qui sera érigée.

• Cette semaine, tous les membres ont reçu par la poste un premier bulletin d'information ainsi que leurs certificats d'actions.

• La Coopérative a retenu les services de firmes d'ingénieurs pour aider à obtenir les permis et à finaliser la conception.

• Des demandes sont en cours pour l'obtention de subventions et de contributions gouvernementales. Des commanditaires privés sont activement sollicités.

À ce jour, 233 producteurs agricoles ont acheté des actions de la Coopérative et ceci, en plus des actions achetées par les membres de soutien de la communauté.

On peut encore acheter des actions auprès des directeurs de la Coopérative. Les paiements peuvent être effectués aux bureaux de Promutuel de Gracefield, Shawville et Fort Coulonge.

Fondée en 2005, la Coopérative de solidarité Les viandes fines des Vallées de l'Outaouais a pour but d'offrir des produits et des services associés à l'abattage d'animaux, à la transformation de viande et à d'autres services connexes.

Pour information, communiquez avec : Bob Griffin, président, tél : (819) 648-2230 ou Ivan Hale, vice-président, tél : (819) 459-2264, courriel : i.hale@wakenet.ca.





Valentine fundraiser



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Willie Rivet and Robbie Lariviere of the band Streamer, perform classic rock songs as part of the Campbell's Bay Valentine's Day dance. Proceeds from the dance went to support the Lunam Street Park revival. Organizers are hoping to get some aspects of the park built for this upcoming summer.

Elevated levels of airborne activity registered at AECL

CHALK RIVER • AECL has identified the source that contributed to elevated levels of airborne activity in the NRU Facility recently.

The evaporator, which cleans the coolant contained in the reactor cooling system, experienced an upset, which resulted in the reintroduction of impurities containing a small amount of uranium back into the reactor cooling system.

The uranium produces radioactive noble gases and these gases were released inside the building when an assembly was being removed during normal operations. A few employees were subsequently exposed to very low levels of radiation in the short time period before ventilation systems removed the noble gases. As previously noted, the employees were quickly checked and activity was removed from the surface of their clothes. Other building occupants were monitored.

At no time was the public or the environment at risk, says AECL. No respirators were required during the event and the Emergency Operations Centre was not convened. In keeping with our normal procedures, action was taken to ensure that non-essential staff were removed from the area until the gases had dissipated.

As is normal practice for all unplanned events, an investigation using our Operating Experience program was initiated. The investigation is ongoing with the goal to determine the cause and develop an appropriate corrective action plan to prevent a recurrence.

The results of the investigation to date been communicated to employees, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and community stakeholders.

Positive results for the 2005 Christmas Food Sharing Store!

PONTIAC • During the months of November and December 2005, the population of the Pontiac was asked to participate in the first Christmas Food Sharing Store (CFSS) in the Pontiac.

The objective was to offer an enjoyable holiday season for hundreds of people living with a precarious financial and dietary situation. Dec. 15 and 16, 2005, the CFSS greeted over 87 families from the Pontiac for a total of over 280 people, including about 120 children under the age of 18. On behalf of all those directly or indirectly involved with the organization of the CFSS, we would live to thank you warmly. The CFSS enabled hundreds of people to choose food items in accordance to their dietary preferences. This is no small accomplishment when we recognize the fact that being deprived of the food items one prefers is the most difficult thing to live with when one is dealing with food insecurity. Thanks to the participation of those involved, including a CFSS organizing committee comprised of five members, about 40 volunteers, as well as all donors, organizations and businesses that gave generously in the form of food and cash donations. The participants of the CFSS were able to live a happy holiday season and hundreds of children received a present for Christmas.

Positive results were achieved throughout, except on the financial level. We amassed close to 3 207 food items, which includes about $9,000 in non-perishable goods that were gathered throughout the region during the months of November and December 2005. We received $ 2,405.82 in cash donations (including the donations made during the breakfast organized by the SADC on Dec. 9 2005) and $497 from CFSS participants for a grand total of $2,902.82. We bought $2,824.08 worth of perishable food items and $429.31 were dedicated to operating expenses for a total of $3,253.39 in expense. Despite a budgetary deficit of $350.57, we sincerely believe that this activity was well worth it. For the nominal sum of $2 a person, each family was entitled to a whole turkey, five pounds of potatoes, two pounds of carrots, a dozen eggs, four litres of milk, a dozen tangerines, at least two loaves of bread, as well as a non-perishable food items, the quantity depending on the size of the family. According to our in house survey, 100 per cent of the participants were satisfied with the price paid for their purchases (97 completed surveys). Thank you to all volunteers, donors, to Pontiac Dairy for having given us a discount on the purchase of perishable food items and for having delivered them on time, as well as the mMunicipality of Grand-Calumet Island for having lent us their municipal hall during a whole week. Thank you to everyone who allowed us to realize this beautiful and grand project for our fellow Pontiacers having a difficult time this holiday season.

The Bouffe-Pontiac project, under the responsibility of Marie J. Loisel, will be busy setting of a permanent Food Sharing Store for this spring in order to go from emergency food aid to mutual food aid. You may continue to give generously. The Bouffe-Pontiac project accepts cash donations, as well as donations of food and materials, throughout the year in order to support all persons in need through its dietary mutual aid program.

For information, contact : Marie J. Loisel, Responsible for the Bouffe-Pontiac project, or at (819) 647-2253 / bouffepontiac@yahoo.fr

Suicide statistics:

Every day, in the province of Quebec, four to five people commit suicide, comparatively to more than ten , in Canada. It is estimated than more than 80 per cent of the Canadian population have been or will be affected, at one time or another in their lifespan, by a suicide committed either by a family member, a friend, a colleague or a neighbour.

In fact, every year worldwide, we estimate the number of suicides to be more than a million. In most industrialized countries, suicide remains one of the ten major causes of death. In Quebec, it is the second cause of death attributed to age ranging between 15 and 30, in 2003.

In Canada, the number of men who die by suicide is more than three times higher than women, despite the fact women's attempts are eight times greater than men's. This can be explained by the fact that men are generally known to use more lethal means to end their lives than women.

Myths and facts about suicide

We often hear that :

1. Those who talk about wanting to kill themselves just want to attract attention, or on the contrary, those who speak thus really want to die.

In fact, those who express intentions towards committing suicide do not really know whether they want to live or die. Nevertheless, nobody attempts suicide without sending signals, signs or calls for help prior to their attempts.

2. Suicide is a cowardly act, or on the contrary, suicide takes courage.

False. In fact, suicide is not a matter of cowardice or bravery. Suicide is about despair, when a person can no longer contemplate any other solution to solve his or her problems. Suicide will appear as the final solution to solve all problems, to heal all pain definitively.

3. Only mentally ill people attempt suicide.

False. In fact, suicide can affect anybody.

4. More women commit suicide than men.

False. In fact, women attempt suicide in greater proportion, but men die more often than women from their attempts.

5. Publicly speaking about suicide can provoke more suicide attempts in the population.

False. In fact, we observe that it is necessary to talk about suicide, in a responsible, precise and respectful manner. Awareness of the suicide phenomena in our culture supports prevention. If you know someone who thinks about attempting suicide, do not hesitate to talk to him or her about it. Encourage the person to get help and accompany him or her if necessary. Keeping the person's plan secret means taking the risk and the responsibility of the person's well being on your own shoulders.

What causes suicide

Causes are extremely variable and merely depend on the individual. Generally speaking, they are linked to despair or to personal losses. Most common causes are relationship break-ups, feelings of failure, diseases, grieves, alcohol and/or drug abuses and depression.

Elements of protection

The following factors are known to protect partially from suicidal ideations:

1. The ability to communicate, to express our emotions and feelings.
2. A good social support network (friends, family, professional help, etc.).
3. The presence of a confidant.
4. Healthy habits (alimentation, physical activity, good sleeping patterns, etc.).
5. The ability to satisfy primary needs (social, relational, economical, etc.).
6. Good self-image and self-confidence.

How to prevent suicide

Individuals who think about attempting suicide more often than not, send messages. Sometimes, these messages can be direct and easy to read, but on some occasions, they tend to appear ambiguous and indirect.

Direct messages are often expressed more clearly. The person will communicate directly their intentions. For example, they might say: "I want to die" or "I am going to kill myself." The way to respond to such affirmations should be to verify directly these intentions and ask if they are seriously considering what they are saying, or if it is just a figure of speech.

Indirect messages can often be more difficult to read. For example, a person might say: "Sometimes, I would be better off dead" or "Don't worry, soon you won't have to endure me anymore" or "I'm useless."

Other indirect signs can include changes in their usual behaviour: Isolation, decrease in motivation or in performance (at work, at school, or in other activities), irritability, mood swings, giving away possessions, loss of self-esteem and neglects in personal appearance or hygiene.

One major risk factor can be the accessibility and/or an increased interest for lethal means such as firearms, prescribed drugs, etc.

Therefore it becomes important to listen and be aware of those signs in order to detect indirect messages and risky behaviours.

How to help?

When you believe someone may be suicidal:

1. Ask directly the person if he or she is thinking about committing suicide, and if they are, try to find out how, where and when they intend to do so. The clearer the person's plan, the faster and more determinedly you will have to work to get them help.
2. Encourage them to talk about how they feel. Show that you care and that you understand how distressed they are.
3. Take the person seriously. Do not panic. Avoid making fun of them. Avoid also moralizing or daring them to go ahead with their plans.
4. Help the person recognize their incertitude towards suicide. Insist on the part of them that want to keep on living.
5. Insist that the person takes one little step towards life and one little step away from suicide. Just a little step.
6. Support them in their search for solutions rather than doing it for them.
7. Encourage the person to get help and go with them if they need to be accompanied.
8. Get the information and support you need yourself in order to be better equipped to help. Remember, you are one of the resources and you are not alone.

Resources available

1. Your local CLSC or the hospital can provide social workers, psychologists and medical or health-care professionals accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call : 683-3000 or 1-800-567-9625.
2. A friend, a family member or someone close to the person in which he or she could trust and confide in.
3. Resources from their entourage (work place, school, community, professionals, etc.)
4. The toll-free number crisis-line: 1-866-APPELLE (1-866-277-3553).

Never trivialize the problem. Always take the situation seriously.

Dr. Serge Bensiman is a clinical psychologist at the Pontiac Health and Social Services Centre.

Quyon CWL news

The first Quyon CWL meeting of the new year was held the evening of Jan. 10.

President Claire Dubois welcomed everyone and wished for a good year for the league and members. The secretary's December minutes were read followed by correspondence and the treasurer's report.

The CWL Christmas Tea and Bazaar in early December drew a large crowd. Thank you to all parishioners supporting the league in their annual events. League members put much effort and time toward the success of the various happenings within the CWl and parish.

The Christmas party and pot luck was held this year after mass on Dec. 11. Small items and toiletry gifts were taken to long-term patients at the hospital.

Thank you notes were received from the recipients of the CWL school bursary. The CWL gives a small bursary to each of the four schools that Quyon students attend.

Father Costello, always in attendance at monthly meetings, thanked the league for the recent generous donation to the church.

President Claire mentioned the annual Share-Lent Breakfast to be discussed at the next meeting.

Meetings conclude with closing prayers and light luncheon. As always (and perhaps repetitious), there is a welcome to all parish women to join the CWl. second Tuesday 7:30 p.m. at the church.

But what a pleasure to be able to walk on top of the snow, which is now covered with a hard crust and just enough powder to show the animal and bird tracks. Nine wild turkeys have become regular visitors to the neighborhood. By the number of tracks out near the barn, it appears that they are eating the seeds of burdock, stinging nettle and Manitoba maple. I got a really good look at them when they were down in the ravine – enough to see the white and grey markings on their backs, which aren't as apparent when viewed on the level.

My sympathy goes out the people of Danford Lake who are fighting another proposed mega-dump in the Pontiac. We fought the dump for 15 years here in Bristol. It was a long haul, but we don't have a dump today. I wish you the best of luck. As I'm sure you are all too aware, no dump today means no regrets tomorrow.

Sheenboro



Myrtle Sullivan
689-2236

Well I hope everybody had a nice St. Valentine's Day. My daughter Betty took me over to the Pembroke Hospital for a check up and x-rays. While there I met many old friends and made a few new ones so I very much enjoyed the trip. Before leaving for home we got a little shopping done and then headed for my daughter Myra's place in St. Joseph's for a Valentine's Day dinner. The girls had planned ahead for this and served all my favorite foods and presented me with a lovely bouquet of flowers, so that topped off a really good day.

Wasn't the weather terrible last week. First the mild temperatures, then the snow, freezing rain and a quick freeze-up with high winds which caught a lot of people unprepared judging by the number of vehicle accidents. The snow and drifting snow shut me in for two days and the plows had trouble keeping the roads open.

After the storm Frank Retty was kind enough to bring my mail in and while here he helped with a few chores. Thanks Frank, I really appreciate your help.

Frank and Janet had visitors this weekend. Their daughter, Ann Marie, and husband Mike were up from Ottawa.

A welcome back to Donald Retty and wife Angie who just returned from visiting family in Whistler, BC.

Congratulations to my granddaughter, Aime and husband Shawn on the arrival of a baby girl, McKenzie. Her grands Jerry Sullivan and Colleen Spence are thrilled as is great-grandmother, Mary Spence from Pembroke. Their son Brody is excited to have a little sister to play with. McKenzie weighed in at 8 lbs and is my 25th great-grandchild. As I mentioned last week number 26 and 27 will be along over the next few days or weeks. I think it's time for another Sullivan family reunion!

Get well wishes go out to Gary Kelly who is hospitalized at the General in Ottawa. It turns out that he is sharing a room with my son-in-law, Jean Guy Ouellette. I am sure they will be trading yarns about the Valley and that will help them pass the time.

A happy birthday to Ken Venasse who celebrates on Feb. 20 from mom Jean and grandmother Mary King. Mary will celebrate her 94th birthday on April 14.

Awfully sorry to hear that Brady Fitzpatrick's mother passed away. My condolences to her family and friends.

I mentioned last week that the Chapeau Hotel (Fred's Place) was closing. Well that was not entirely accurate. The dinning room will be closing as I mentioned but the pub portion of the hotel will continue on. I understand that light lunches will be available at the pub.

Theresa and Kathy Shea from Orleans spent the weekend with Peter and Karen Gleason and Jennine Jennings from Ottawa was up visiting with son Mark and family.

Get well wishes to John Stitt of Fort Coulonge. John is the son of Maureen Gleason and is recovering from a kidney transplant.

Happy birthday to John Donlan's girlfriend Laurie, from Ottawa. They celebrated with a party at O'Connor's pub in Ottawa.

Shannon and Steve McDonald and Tim and Gail McDonald travelled to Ottawa to help with the celebrations. My granddaughter, Suanne Clyde from Ottawa arranged a party for her twins, Jake and Liam to celebrate their second birthday today. A house full turned out for the party which commenced after their nap at 3 p.m. and went into the early hours of the evening. A wonderful time was had by all. I'm sure the two little boys will have sweet dreams tonight.

A welcome to Sandra Jennings and husband who recently moved back to Sheen. It's nice to see our little village growing one family at a time.

I talked to my son-in-law, Dave Clyde, earlier today. He said he had to laugh when listening to CBC radio and a discussion on the pros and cons of jazz music. A number of callers praised the art form while another called in to say she was invited to a jazz concert recently but turned down the invite because she said she would rather stay at home and listen to the tap drip. Like they say, one man's meat is another man's poison, or is it one lady's ..... Oh well, see you next week!

Otter Lake



Elizabeth Hahn
453-7326

On Tuesday, Feb. 14 the Otter Lake Golden Age Club held its weekly euchre game. Lucky winner of the 50/50 draw was Rosette Fleury. Ladies high score was won by Gilberte Bussiere and second by Mabel Kluke. Men's high score was won by René Graveline and second by Barry McWilliam. Delicious refreshments were provided by Janet Lafleur and Marlene McWilliam.

Sunday visitors at the home of Floyd and Lola Mayhew and their children Jesse, Tina and Troy were Floyd's brother Reuben and his wife Claudette Mayhew of Ottawa. Everyone had a great time. A delicious supper was served and enjoyed by all.

Sunday super guests with Hilda and Edgar Mayhew was his son Carl Mayhew and Betty of Winchester.

Happy birthday wishes to my niece Tammy Loësche who has a birthday Feb. 25 also belated birthday wishes to my nephew Terry Loësche in Thailand who had a birthday Feb.18. Terry reports it's cool there this winter with temperatures in the 20s (Celsius). It is usually in the 40s .

Get well wishes and a speedy recovery to Maureen Beauchamp (Red's wife) who is in the Shawville Hospital.

Pontiac Station



Hope Cadieux
647-5452

On Sunday evening, I had a surprise visit from my daughter Angie and her two best buddies from way back, Isabelle Gagnon Bertrand and Mélissa Dupuis-Bowie. Isabelle is now settled in Calumet Island with her husband, Martin Bertrand of Fort Coulonge, and is a chiropractor in Shawville and Fort Coulonge... much to the delight of her parents Gaetan and Michelle of Bristol who are pleased that she has elected to settle in the Pontiac.

Mélissa is studying international affairs and languages at Laval University, after a year of volunteer work in Honduras and extensive travel in Latin America. Mélissa is fluent in Spanish, as well as English and French, which no doubt sparked her interest in her area of study.

Angie has been working at Wakefield Hospital since graduating from a nurse's aid course last March, and is pursuing further studies in nursing.

Alex Collins informs me that Kelly Schumacher and her Spanish team are in Moscow competing for the Euro Cup. We wish you the best of luck, Kelly! I wonder if it's as cold in Moscow as it has been here this past week...

Wasn't that a wicked storm we had Thursday night? My house has been sitting here for more than a century. But it was shaking in the wind. Outside the trees cracking sounded like gunshots. When the storm finally stopped, both doors on the driver's side of the car were iced shut and I had to get in from the passenger side and run the car for awhile before I could get them open.

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February '06

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March '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

Feb. 18 & 25, 2006 – 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Church of Faith, Praise and Prayer, 1289, Hwy. 148 Campbell's Bay, Quebec will be holding a special seminar on abiding in God's financial abundance with Paul Gopal managing editor of The Word Barn Inc., publisher of Christian literature and books. All are welcome for more information 613-744-7425. 2bf22

Feb. 25, 26 – Shawville Figure Skating Club hosting the Shawville Winter Invitational at the Shawville arena. Admission is $5 per day or $8 for the weekend pass. bf22

Feb. 25 – Beechgrove Carnival ham and bean supper at Wesley United Church from 4 to 7 p.m. Adults $8, kids under 12 $5. xf22

Sun., Feb. 26 – From 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. A delicious pre-Lent brunch at the TCRA in Ladysmith. Cost $10 for adults, $5 for children aged 3 - 12. An all-you-can-eat meal with ham, sausages, beans, pancakes, local maple syrup, various salads, dessert and tea and coffee – a quality and quantity meal! Sponsored by St. George's Thorne Centre (Anglican Parish of Northern Pontiac). Come join us for this feast! For information call 648-2949 or see www.pontiacanglican.org. 3bF22

Tues., Feb. 28 – Pancake Supper St. Paul's Anglican Church, 5 - 7 p.m. Shawville. 2bf22

Feb. 28 – Pancake Supper, St. John's Anglican Church, Quyon, 4:30 - 7 p.m. Adults $8, children $4. Everyone welcome. 2bf22

Feb. 28 – CWL Mardi Gras Supper; Municipal Hall Calumet Island. 4 - 7 p.m. adults $7, children $3. Everyone welcome. bf22

Tues., Feb. 28 – 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. CWL Shrove Tuesday Supper St. John The Evangelist Parish Centre, Campbell's Bay. Adults $6, children 12 and under $4. Menu: sausages, home fries, baked beans, pancakes, coleslaw, rolls and dessert. 2bf22

Fri., March 3 – World Day of Prayer St. Paul's Anglican Church, Main St., Shawville at 2 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Fri., March 3 – World Day of Prayer St. Edward's Church, Bristol, Quebec 2:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. 2bF22

Sat., March 4 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fishing Derby at RVI, Norway Bay, QC. 100% payback for info call Viola at 647-3340. bf22

Sun., March 12 – from 1:30 - 5 p.m. The Heritage Old Time Country Music Association (HOTCMA) will feature music by The Irish Connection at its Irish Dance Party in the Shady Nook Rec Centre, Pembroke. Step dancing, cash bar, smoke free, food available. Admission: $10.00. Information: 613-735-9682. xf22

August 4, 5, 6 – Civic holiday weekend. Riverside Jam, Carleton Place, Ontario. Early bird pricing www.riversidejam.com or call 613-226-9178. 10bA19

MISCELLANEOUS

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Canada trailer, 6' x 10' 3.5 ton tandem dump trailer, 1 year old, like new $5,300 or best offer 648-5262. 2 bm1

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Washer, good working condition $75, side by side fridge freezer with ice and water $600 647-2481. 2xm1

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Stock liquidation, commercial carpet in stock 89 cents sq. ft. one colour only at 69 cents sq. ft.; 8 mm laminate $2.49 sq. ft. including foam; Vinyl floor reg. $16.95 yard from $8.95 - $12.95; 500 colours of ceramic tile colours to choose from, 10% off regular price; Special prices on Mirage hardwood flooring. John Lambert Carpets, 214 Raglan St. S., Renfrew. Tel: 613-432-8111. otc.

Pool tables starting at $1,395. All made in Quebec! - 40 models. Soccers, Shuffleboards, Games tables, Poker chips, etc. The biggest manufacturer in Canada: www.canadabilliard.com. 450-963-5060. qf22

F O U N D

Large black and brown, well behaved female dog, Norway Bay area 647-5853. xtc

P E T S

Cocker Spaniel puppies, 2 black males, one blonde male, 2 black females, for sale. Phone (819) 647-2079 after 5:30 p.m. 2xf22

CARS AND TRUCKS

2004 Chev Impala, 3.8 litre V6, full load, power moon roof, On-star, black in colour, 43,000 kms. $18,000 or best offer 648-5262. 2bm1

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WANTED TO RENT

Looking for house to rent for the summer or year round in the Pontiac area, country preferred, 819-688-5587. 3xF22

Accommodation required for journalism intern at THE EQUITY from March 6 - April 13. With or without board. Please contact Heather Dickson at 647-2204. xtc.

WANTED TO BUY

Pontiac/Shawville - farm wanted, workable 100 acres plus, 613-301-3709 or one farmwanted@yahoo.ca 2xf22

Looking to buy bush lots with mature trees 648-5262. 2bm1

Looking for old service station gas pumps, air pumps, advertising signs like Shell, Texaco, Fina, BP, BA, Gulf, Esso, Red Indian or others. Also looking for old toys, peddle cars, peddle air planes, peddle tractors, Sona signs, Coca-Cola, Pepsi, 7-Up, Orange Crush, thermometers, clocks or any other nostalgic garage items, glass/oil quarts, Pennzoil, Quaker State, Raybestas, Kendall, barber shop signs and chairs. Please call in French Claude 450-431-2814 in English Benoit 450-979-5399. 2xf22

Bush lots or wood standing. We buy spruce that has been damaged by the spruce budworm (cord or ton). Cut by fellow buncher and delimber so limbs and tops come out of bush. Call 1-819-467-3749 - if no answer please leave a message. 3bm8

F O R R E N T

Bryson – 2 bedroom, apartment 648-2222. otc

Campbell's Bay – Bachelor and 2 bedroom apartment, utilities included $225 or $460 per month 647-2967. otc

Campbell's Bay – 2 bedroom apartment heat and hydro included. Bachelor apartment, heat and hydro included. Call 648-2362. otc

Shared accommodation. Female non-smoker preferred. Brand new condo in Hull near Champlain Bridge. 20 min. to downtown Ottawa. Available May 1st $425 plus utilities (app. $50) per month. Call 647-2457. 2xm1

Shawville – 2 bedroom apartment for rent Elizabeth Court, Shaw Street, Shawville, Quebec. 648-2222. otc.

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

Shawville – 1 bedroom apartment for rent. Fully furnished. All inclusive. Available immediately. Serious inquiries only 819-647-3730. 0-F22

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Campbell's Bay – 2 storey house, 4 bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, add on sun porch, hardwood floors, new roof, new windows, new doors, new chimney, paved driveway, 2 car garage, large lot $52,000. 819-648-2419. 3bm8

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

New listings - Quyon new bungalow, Gatineau - 4 Plex, Waterfront custom built home 7 minutes to Aylmer; 3 bedroom, double garage; 250 acre farm 1000 ft. of waterfront; 13 acres Ottawa River; 125 acres Quyon River; Zoned commercial, 3 bedroom bungalow custom built large lot Aylmer; Norway Bay bungalows 3 bedrooms; 2 bedrooms; farms 250 acres; 109 acres; Bristol newer home only $72,500 large lot; Cottage $42,000 Quyon; Otter Lake 3 bedroom needs TLC; Cheaper than rent two 3 bedroom homes large lots; Call Laurena Matechuk La Capitale Outaouais Inc. 1-819-458-1989 or e-mail Immatechuk@hotmail.com bf22

HELP WANTED

Full-time and part-time experienced hairstylists required for busy salon in Shawville. Call ahead for interview, CV and references required, to Studio Jenn 647-3168. 2bm1

Experienced workers needed with building and carpentry skills. Also require workers with experience in equipment maintenance and repair. Full-time or part-time work available immediately. Seasonal employment with potential for year-round work. Call Barclay Dick & Son Farm Supply, Douglas 613-649-2620 or 2440. 2bm1

2nd year, 3rd year, Journeyman Welders required for oilfield fabrication shop, Nisku, Alberta. Journeyman shop rate $27./hour + bonus. Fax 780-955-2780. Phone 780-955-17433. Email: safety@mastco.ab.ca. qf22

Looking for honest reliable person for full-time or part-time position at gas station/convenience store. Apply to Box 201, Shawville, QC J0X 2Y0. 2bF22

$$$** Attention chocolate**$$$ Here's a great opportunity to make extra income by selling chocolate bars and new products. Managers wanted. Fundraising services available. Call now: 1-800-383-3589. qf22

Full-time, experienced only, mature staff to work in busy chip stand from April to November. Call evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 647-5684. 2bf22

Person to work on farm, general chores, phone 647-3961. 2bf22

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S E R V I C E S

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B I R T H

Dickson – Charles Dickson and Erica Phipps are pleased to announce the birth of Eric Rutherford Phipps Dickson on 2 January 2006 in Ottawa. A brother to Thomas Phipps Dickson, Alex, Arthur and Sophie Kuijper Dickson, a sixth grandchild for George and Cynthia (née Wilmot) Phipps and a 17th for David (late) and Rosaleen (née Leslie) Dickson.

Rusenstrom – Michael and Jennifer (Judd) are excited to announce the birth of their daughter Reese Jessica Rusenstrom on Feb. 11, 2006 at the Shawville Hospital. Reese came into our lives weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. She is the first grandchild for Bruce and Dianne Judd and David and Joan Rusenstrom. Proud great-grandparents are Joe and Patricia Belsher, Mona and Russell (late) Judd and Lawrence and Margaret Lang. Special thanks to Dr. Talko and the amazing OBS nurses (Mary, Madonna, Cindy, Michel and Ingrid) for your friendship and support.

T H A N K S

Fierobin – I would like to thank everyone for attending my surprise 40th birthday party at Hotel Ladysmith on February 11th and for the beautiful cards and gifts I received. Thanks to Essie and Ernie Schwartz for the beautiful birthday cake. Sincere appreciation to Donna, my parents, Gordon and Elizabeth, Joanne, Clara, Ernie and Cathy for their hard work in trying to keep this wonderful event quiet.
Janice

Ladouceur – We would like to thank our neighbours and friends for their prayers, food, cards, etc. with special thanks to Dr. Potvin and staff at Pontiac Community Hospital for their caring of Violette Ladouceur and their empathy for the family members who visited her.
The Ladouceur family

M E M O R I A M

Cole, Cecil Waller – Who passed away 29 February 1972.
Gone but not forgotten.
The Cole family



Corrigal – In loving memory of a dear husband, father, Jim who passed away Feb. 22, 2002.
Remembrance is a golden chain
Death tries to break but all in vain
To have, to love, and then to part
Is the greatest sorrow of one's heart.
Time may wipe out many things
But this they wipe out never,
The memory of those happy days
When we were all together.
Sadly remembered by Ruby, Pat, Kathy and grandchildren

Gravelle – In memory of Darlene (Brown) Gravelle who passed away Feb. 21, 2002.
God hath not promised skies always blue
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labour, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.
Love always: Twin sister: Eileen

M E M O R I A M

Gravelle, Darlene Brown – Feb. 21, 2002
In loving memory of my wife Darlene, and cherished mom.
Life has never been the same
Since you left us.
In our hearts your memory lives on.
Your loving smile,
And tender touch that meant so much.
There is not a day that we do not think of you.
Love Lionel and Natalie

Hayes – In loving memory of our dear father and grandpa, W. M. (Mac) Hayes, who passed away on February 26, 1996 and our big brother and uncle, Edward James (Ted) Hayes who left us so suddenly on February 17, 1971. Ten and thirty-five years have passed. Such a long time without you. You will always live in our hearts and memories, now and forever.
With love, Bruce, Katharine, Greg, and Jennifer

Kearns, Lois – In loving memory of a beloved daughter, sister-in-law, and aunt (Lowie) who passed away February 25, 2005.
It's lonely here without you
We miss you more each day
For life is not the same for us
Since you were called away.
To us you were so special
What more is there to say
Except to wish with all our hearts
That you were here today.
Sadly missed by Stanley, Marie, Earl, Karen, Mark, Mona and families

Lance, Lloyd J. – In memory of my dear son Lloyd who passed Feb. 26, 2004.
So many memories to cherish,
with love, we miss you.
Mom, Goldaline Lance and family

Orr, Basil – Remembering a dear husband, Dad and Grandpa, who left us three years ago, Feb. 25, 2003.
Your presence we miss
Your memory we treasure
Loving you always
Forgetting you never.
Doris and family

Orr – In loving memory of our dear Dad and Grandpa, Basil, who passed away February 25, 2003.
Never more than a thought away,
Quietly remembered every day,
No need for words, except to say,
Still loved, still missed in every way.
Lovingly remembered,
Barb, Ralph, Beth and Chris

Palmer – In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother, Edith, who passed away one year ago.
Your love and thoughts will always be in our lives.
Roy, Joan and family

Stanton, W. J. – (Aug. 17, 1917 - Feb. 21, 2001)
Five years ago, he left this world
While we watched, so helpless and sad.
Five years ago, we said goodbye
To a wonderful husband and dad.
We never could have imagined,
That his gentle "light-hearted" way,
Would continue to bless our lives,
In many a "future day."
When the weather is dreary or gloomy,
Our moods are sad or down
Sure enough, a phrase, or a mem'ry
Will "turn the day around."
W. J. loved to tell "his stories,"
And we'd listen ... or we'd try
As he'd recollect and "recount a tale"
("without a word of a lie!")
With six of a family – you can bet,
There were many "ups and downs"
But W. J. taught us all...
How "to turn the day around."
We can't recall, in his life with us
Too many a sad, dreary day...
W. J. was too "light-hearted,"
Positive was his way!
...What we'd give for a couple of hours,
Listening to "Jay" sing a song
Inserting an Irish tale "here and there"
All of us – singing along! ...
But, if he were here, he would tell us ...
"Now look-it, it doesn't work that way!
Get on with your lives and we'll see ya!
Everything's going to be ok!"
Love you, miss you, Jay!
Pat and family

PUBLIC NOTICE

Canada
Province de Québec
District de Montréal
Cour du Québec
No: 500-22-096311-041
Banque Toronto Dominion
demanderesse
vs.
Hilaire Guillemette
défenderesse
Le 4ième jour de mars 2006 à 11:00 heure au 280, Grand-Marais à Mansfield (Fort-Coulonge) QC, district de Pontiac, je procéderai à la vente par ancan des biens meubles et effets mobiliers saisis par moi en cette cause consistant en:
1998 Pontiac Sunfire # 1G2JB524XW7522425 immatriculé 881 JCH. Le tout devant être vendu pour argent comptant ou chèque certifié suivant la loi.
Chapeau ce 17 février 2006
Gilbert Dupuis Huissier
151 St-Jacques, Chapeau, QC
(tél: 819-689-2158) 0-1-F22

Canada
Province de Québec
District de Montréal
Cour du Québec
No: 500-22-096311-041
Toronto Dominion Bank
plaintiff
vs.
Hilaire Guillemette
defendant
On the 4th day of March 2006 at 11 o'clock at 280 Grand-Marais, Mansfield (Fort Coulonge), QC, district of Pontiac I will proceed to the sale by auction of the moveable effects and objects of the defendant by me seized in this cause; to wit:
1998 Pontiac sunfire # 1G2JB524XW7522425 plated 881JCH the whole to be sold for cash or certified cheque according to law.
Chapeau this 17 February, 2006
Gilbert Dupuis Huissier
151 St-Jacques, Chapeau, QC
(tel: 819-689-2158) 0-1-F22

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N O T I C E

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Novena. Prayer of Thanks. Ask 3 angels. Light 3 white candles in a plate with sugar for 3 or your archangels; Gabriel, Raphael and Michael. Thank ask for your petition. In 3 days your blessings will come true. Publicize this Novena on the 3rd day and observe what happens on the 4th day. T.E.

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Cozy, warm atmosphere



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Colette Rivest provides a cozy and warm atmosphere at Cafe Mondial, which opened in Campbell's Bay last month. Soon to be an internet cafe, she offers flavoured coffee, home baked pastries, salads, sandwiches and more. The menu changes each month. Open weekdays at 5:30 a.m., its location on Hwy. 148 is perfect for a quick stop on the way to work.

Campbell's Bay



Iris Smith
648-5821

Kids Club started again at the Free Methodist Church the beginning of February. The children are enjoying the events that are held each week and anxiously look forward to the nights when Kids Club rolls around.

Birthday wishes go out to Vera (Smith) Thomas who celebrated her 108th birthday. A party was held in Ottawa to mark this special occasion. Clifford and Marjorie Stevenson of Renfrew attended this happy event. Aunt Vera is a remarkable woman who grew up in Campbell's Bay.

The Golden Age Club held its Valentine's euchre on Tuesday evening. Ladies high was a tie between Lucy Kelly and Rose Gutoskie. They split the prize, second was a four-way tie between Fay Moorehead, Gwen Black, Maxine Fenton and Veronica Perrier. They split the prize. Men's high was won by Perry Kluke, second was a tie between Ed Gutoskie, and between Lewis Johnson. They split the prize. The door prize was won by Ed Gutoskie. The Valentine door prize was won by Roger Lacroix. A door prize donated by Laurent Chevalier a box of chocolates was won by Fay Moorehead. The candy was won by June Burman. Refreshments were by Gorman Nadeau. Theresa had been a longtime resident, of Waltham but had moved to Pembroke. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this sad time.

I was sorry to read in last week's EQUITY that Hermonie Sharpe is giving up her social column. I really enjoyed your column. Hermonie, and I am really going to miss it. All the best is wished to you.

Roger Perry and a group of students, from Bishop Smith Catholic High school in Pembroke have just returned from a one-week's stay in the Dominican Republic. They were in Yamasa where they were reaching out to the Third World. It is an unforgettable experience.

Vi and Jean Pelletier and family had a surprise visitor on Friday evening. Their son Donald from Edmonton, Alberta arrived for the weekend. Donald is in meetings in Ottawa for a couple of days, so he managed to make it up to Waltham.

Weekend visitors at Vi and Jean Pelletier's were Jeannette, Joe and Stephane Brazeau of Hull.

Wow,, wasn't that terrible weather that we had on Friday! There were terrible accidents in the Ottawa Valley. We heard that a tractor-trailer had jack-knifed near Bryson. We had a bad scare on Friday afternoon, when we learned that four people were killed and that there were many injuries in a 38-vehicle pileup on the 417 east of Ottawa. It was at the Vars/Limoges turn off. This is where Jodi and Mike turn in to go into Embrun. My sister Susan travels to Ottawa from Casselman every day to work and our nephew Chris and his wife Sherril live in Limoges. We were very blessed that none of them were involved in this terrible tragedy. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to the families, of the victims killed and to all those that were injured and also in other accidents. There was also an accident near Renfrew and a 30-vehicle pileup near Arnprior. Because of the whiteouts, Hwy. 417 from Pammure Road exit to Pembroke was closed for a couple of hours. It wasn't a day to be out!

Birthday wishes are extended to Gerard Pharand, who celebrated Feb. 17.

Birthday wishes and all the best of everything are wished to Jackie Collin of Chapeau who celebrated on Feb. 18. Family and friends treated her to a tasty breakfast at the Waltham Station on Saturday morning. We hope that you enjoyed your day Jackie.

On Saturday evening Dan Sullivan of Ottawa, who is an imitator of Johnny Cash entertained at the Waltham Station. They say that it was a great performance.

Annette Lepine and Paulette Gauthier.

Get well wishes to Jean Sparling, after she fell and sprained her ankle. It is indeed slippery out there after the snow covered the ice. So take care.

The United Church Women met at the home of Florence Wadge this past Wed afternoon. Following the business meeting delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

Anniversary wishes to Phyllis and Arnold Sloan who celebrate their special day on Feb 27. We hope you enjoy many more.

Gladys Walsh spent the weekend in Alymer visiting with relatives and friends She helped her daughter celebrate her birthday.

Birthday wishes to Kristen Morin, Abigail Leach, Nicole Pare, Ina Poisson, Debra Frost, Donna Ringrose, Vicki Belanger and Grant Ferrigan all having a special day to celebrate this week.

Waltham



Helen Perry
689-2652

On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 12 Elaine and Ray Feeley hosted a get-together for the Carroll family. They had a mini euchre tournament. Grace and Carmel were the overall lucky winners! Grace was telling me what a wonderful time they had. After the card game, everyone enjoyed a delicious supper.

Congratulations to Tanya (née Fitzpatrick) and Dean Felhaber, of Pembroke on the birth of their second beautiful daughter, Reegan Rachelle. Reegan was born on mommy's birthday on Jan. 30. She weighed in at 6lbs. 8 oz. and measured 18 inches long. Big sister Nadia and brothers Merick and Kaden are tickled pink!

Get well wishes and love are extended to Aunt Doris Throp who had the misfortune of falling and breaking her arm. She is presently in the Pembroke Regional Hospital. We hope that you come home soon!

Hello to Sylvia Hodgins. It was nice chatting with you last week. I hope that I was of help to you.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the Lepage family of the Azilda and Sudbury area in the recent passing, of their dearly loved brother Herby. He was the son of the late Priscilla (née Cooney) and Joseph Lepage. Herby was my first cousin. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this sad time.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Hilary Dube in the recent passing of his dearly loved sister Theresa Nadeau (nee Dube). She was the beloved wife of the late

Otter Lake



Elizabeth Hahn
453-7326

On Tuesday, Feb. 14 the Otter Lake Golden Age Club held its weekly euchre game. Lucky winner of the 50/50 draw was Rosette Fleury. Ladies high score was won by Gilberte Bussiere and second by Mabel Kluke. Men's high score was won by René Graveline and second by Barry McWilliam.

Delicious refreshments were provided by Janet Lafleur and Marlene McWilliam.

Sunday visitors at the home of Floyd and Lola Mayhew and their children Jesse, Tina and Troy were Floyd's brother Reuben and his wife Claudette Mayhew of Ottawa. Everyone had a great time. A delicious supper was served and enjoyed by all.

Sunday super guests with Hilda and Edgar Mayhew was his son Carl Mayhew and Betty of Winchester.

Happy birthday wishes to my niece Tammy Loëssche who has a birthday Feb. 25 also belated birthday wishes to my nephew Terry Loëssche in Thailand who had a birthday Feb.18. Terry reports it's cool there this winter with temperatures in the 20s (Celsius). It is usually in the 40s .

Get well wishes and a speedy recovery to Maureen Beauchamp (Red's wife) who is in the Shawville Hospital.

Shawville



Ron Hodgins
647-6001

My how time flies when you are busy. It is almost the end of the month and yes the days are really starting to stretch out. It has been a good winter so far so we shouldn't complain too much.

It has been a while since I have dawned the pages of THE EQUITY but after reading some of the news last week I was compelled to write. I was somewhat surprised with three of the articles that I saw. First, my good friend and fellow corespondent Hermonie Sharpe tells us that she is not going to write her column any more. You have been an icon for 40 years plus in this paper. You have come into our homes every week and filled us with your news, coming events and family life. There have been many reporters, journalists and staff come and go but you have always been there. Some of us other correspondents have always looked up to you and joked about getting a column on the back page next to you. It was a sign that we too have been given a place of recognition in the paper. I know many people read your column in the paper first and look forward to it each week.

Now I know that your eyesight is getting you down and it has been struggle to get your writing done and yes we all look forward to the day we retire. But, make no mistake, you will certainly be missed by everyone who enjoyed your column.

Also on the same note we have all heard that Murray's Automotive is closing its doors after 33 years in operation. Barry and his staff are also well known in the Shawville business sector. They have provided many supplies such as tools, tires and other goods needed in this community. I'm sure that Barry has looked forward to the day he can retire and after 33 years in business he is certainly entitled to it. I guess those of us who were customers thought that the store would always be there when we needed it. We also have to feel for the staff who has worked there over the past few years.

Last but not least Fred's Dining Room in Chapeau is also closing down. This business is also a landmark well known for its great food and friendly service. It has always been a treat for me to go to Fred's and enjoy their hospitality. If you ever had a meal there I'm sure we can all say that it will be missed.

Sympathy is expressed to the family and friends of Claudia Kilgour who suddenly passed away this week. She was well known in the area and was an active member of Starks Corners when she lived and farmed there. In later years she moved to the city but always enjoyed getting back to Shawville to see friends and relatives. I often sat down with her and played a good game of cards. She will certainly be missed by everyone who knew her.

Danford Lake



Stephanie Milford
467-1091

Hello everyone! I'm sorry I haven't been writing as of late. I have been in London having surgery done on my elbow. Dr. Graham King worked a miracle on me. He replaced my seized elbow with an artificial joint and now I can bend my arm! I hadn't been able to use my arm in about 20 years or so. The nurses and staff at St. Joseph's Hospital are so nice. London has three major hospitals and they all work together. Together they make a formidable team. Now, a week later I am starting to feel much better. I was operated on Feb. 7 and as soon as the cast came off my arm on Feb. 9 I began physio. As mom and I made our way to the train station in Ottawa we left with flurries and cloudiness. When we reached Toronto there was green grass everywhere. As we continued on to London we got caught in a blizzard just before we reached St. Mary's. Our train broke down, the electronic went. We had to wait for another train to come behind us and push us to London. All this time that we were stopped no one had a signal on their cell phones. By now it's dark. We were sure glad to see the train station in London. When we arrived at the station we called for a cab. But seeing as it was Super Bowl Sunday were were fresh out of luck! Needless to say mom was ticked and the blizzard I mentioned earlier didn't help. Since no cab was coming to our rescue a man and woman did and offered us a ride to our motel. To these good natured people mom and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Normally we would have have done this. But there are a lot of kind people in this world. On the train we met a group of ladies who are called "The Weekenders" they sell fashion clothing and are loads of fun to be with. On the way home the train attendants were especially good to me. Thank you Via Rail.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Valentine's Day. Don't forget to hug and kiss your sweetheart.

Wasn't that a storm we had Thursday night through Friday. When we left here Thursday night to play darts it was snowing. When we left Otter lake at about 9:45 p.m. ice pellets were falling. The next day it rained. This storm wreaked havoc on the roads. Flash freezing and motorists produced some major accidents. Along our driveway Friday morning, both Robyn and Karl got stuck. They spent an hour and 15 minutes digging Karl out of the snowbank. Mom had to go to Shawville Friday morning and reported that the open fields along Charteris and the gusting wind caused total white-outs.

There are two weeks left to the W. T. Outfitter dart league for this season. I'm till waiting to see someone shoot that elusive 180.

My elbow is getting better all the time. I was finally abel to put my ring back on Wednesday morning. My stitches come out Tuesday. They're itchy and pinching.

Deepest sympathy to the family of Gatean Brazeau who passed away suddenly last week. Our prayers and thoughts are with you at this time.We plunged into another cold snap this weekend. We've been spoiled all year though. A lot of homes had pipes feeze. It's terrible when that happens. Just remember to keep the plumbers best tool handy, the hair dryer.

A dart tournament will be held at the Little Bar in Otter Lake on April. Come on out and show your support.

A special thank you to Winnie Beauchamp for starting a novena for me.

Danford Lake has a petition against the proposed "Mega dump." I certainly don't want it. This dump can only cause damage to our lakes, streams, animals and our lives! Can you imagine the rats, the waste of the seagulls that will pollute the waters and all the bears this dump will attract. We're able to have fun in our lakes and rivers now and not be afraid to eat our catch. But when the liner from this mega dump tears and waste seeps into the bodies of water, no one or animal will be safe. The waters will be polluted, the fish contaminated. You have to think of all the devastating factors here. What could possibly be one good thing to come from this? Let's see. Some jobs are promised. Will we get them in this community? Do you think anyone will want to continue to live here or move here? What do you think the property values would be if this dump happens? Some residents are even talking of selling out now, fearing this new "Mega Dump." We sleep so well now with the sounds of the frogs in the he spring and crickets in the summer. What will we hear if this dump happens? The sound of trucks and the smell. Do you want your children out at play breathing that dump smell? All those chemicals that will be released into the air and we will breath them in. This will be detrimental to our future generations. I Do you want to be remembered as the people who helped stop a catastrophe or the people who brought devastation to our families? The choice is yours!

Happy birthday to Guy Beaudoin on Feb. 21, Abigail Leach Feb. 23, Megan Dubeau Feb. 23, and Heidi SmithFebe 24.

The students attending the Home Care course at Pontiac Continuing Education will be graduating in June. My sister Robyn has informed me that they are selling tickets on a chance to win a $100 value on a car shampooing provided by Chrystal Shine Car Care in Campbell's Bay. For more information call 647-5605.

Belated birthdays and birthdays to come are as follows, Nathalie Bennett of Otter Lake on Feb 5, Martin Heeney of Danford Lake on Feb. 9, Georgie-Ann Evans of Portage-du Fort on Feb. 12, Sean Troke also of Portage on Feb. 14, as well as Monique Racine of Otter Lake on Feb. 14 from Danford Lake, Larry Morgan on Feb. 19 and Michel Chartrand on Feb. 20. I hope everybody had and will have a great day.

Saturday evening family and friends threw together a surprise birthday party for Janice Ardhern at the Ladysmith Hotel. A full house attended and Everett Hodgins entertained everyone with good old country music.

Saturday evening the Free Loaders played the Danford Hotel. They are a young group and really good from I've heard.

An arm wrestling competition was held at the Little Bar in Otter Lake. When the competitors took a break the one and only Hughie "Teddy Bear" Desmond and his nephew Ray Desormeaux played to everyone's delight.

Our days are sure getting longer and the sun is getting warmer each passing day. Daylight is coming earlier and this makes me think of spring and best of all summer.

I'm so proud of my little sister, Robyn, who is working on his first clinical placement at Pavilion du Parc in Fort-Coulonge. She enjoys her work placement very much. And Robyn is also proud of all her classmates for having the courage to go on their work placement as well. Suzanne Poirier and Heidi Hall are taking their own time to go and see each student individually making sure they are all having fun and doing their job. It just goes to show how much a teacher really cares if their students achieve.

My brother, Karl, and Dennis went fishing recently. They caught one four pound pike. The say the ice is good but not as good as other years.

Get well wishes go out to Aunt Suzanne Beaudoin of Otter Lake who sent a few days at Pontiac Community Hospital.

Deepest sympathy to the family of Neil Lacharity who passed away recently. Our prayers and thoughts are with them at this time.

At W. T. Outfitters all the dart league members were given T-shirts. Robyn won the 50/50 which she kindly shared with her father.

I'd like to say a big hello to our friend Yvain Brazeau of Otter Lake. Yvain is feeling poorly but just remember you have a lot of friends who love you.

The 50/50 winner of the Otter Lake dart league was Jane Ardhern. She seems to win often. Share the wealth Jane.

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School Bus Safety



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Winners at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School were awarded cash prizes for their artistic depictions of school bus safety, as part of the annual School Bus Transportation Safety Campaign. From the left: kindergarten winner Darby LeGard, who received $10; Grade 5-6 winner, Tiffany Bretzlaff, who received $20; Grade 1-2 winner, Mackenzie Kelly, who received $20; Grade 3-to-4 winner, Madison Blair, who received $20. Bretzlaff's piece will be submitted to the Western Quebec School Board and she will be eligible for grand prizes of a bike, mp3 player or backpack.

Vinton



Diane Boisvert
648-5296

Camille Ringrose, daughter of Pauline and Bobby will receive her chartered accountant designation on Toronto on Feb. 25. Congratulations.

Happy belated anniversary to Laurette and Maurice Dubeau on Feb.16. Happy belated birthday wishes go to Norma Gagnon and Mike Mcguire, Sr. Feb. 18, Linda Sloan, Lindsay Frost and Merrill Hearty Feb. 19.

Happy birthday to Georgette Paquette, Laurette Dubeau, Debra Frost and Vanessa Sloan Feb. 24, John Patrick Sloan Feb. 25, Bride Holland and Gisèle Pepin Feb. 26, Happy anniversary to Phyllis and Arnold Sloan Feb. 27. A special happy birthday to Iris Smith, the Campbell's Bay correspondent who will celebrate on Feb. 17.

The March Break runs Feb. 25 - March 7. There will be a lot of happy students, me included.

The weather was real nasty last Friday. They closed the 417 between Pembroke and Arnprior because of a huge car pile up and white-out conditions. The Shawville - Otter Lake and Campbell's Bay to Otter Lake Road was closed for a period of time. The snow was drifting faster than the plows could go. Visibility was nil at times. It was extremely scary being out on the roads that day.

We would like to wish Jeanette Bertrand a speedy recovery. She is a patient in Shawville Hospital.

There was a chimney fire on Friday at the home of one of the Bank Street residents. There was also a truck fire on Pinery road. Fortunately both fires were contained and no serious damage done.

I see that George and Shirley Dubeau are settling down in their new home We wish you the best and are all happy to see you both back in your safe comfortable spot in Vinton.

Friday when I got home some good samaritan had done my driveway again. Thank you so much. I keep telling you all how great the neighbors are here.

I guess by now most people have heard that all of the dumps in the Pontiac might be closing within the next three years. We really better get used to composting, recycling and reducing our waste. I suppose we will all tart being creative in how to recycle our unwanted articles. We'll be seeing a lot of tin can and plastic bottle art on everyone's lawns. There will be the sweet smell of compost everywhere. Recycling plants will spring up all over. Imagine the jobs this will create. Not to mention the manpower and trucks needed to haul the garbage wherever.

This past weekend I went snowmobiling for the first time in over 15 years. I had almost forgotten how much fun it was to freeze my face off following the other machines. Next time I want to be in the lead. Seriously,it was great fun being in the fresh air and enjoying being with friends. Maybe I'll try cross country skiing next.

My son, Alex and his wife Suzanne will be visiting with Shelley and I this week. They live in Thompson, MB and I haven't seen them in two years. So, I'm quite excited to have them home.

Sorry to hear that Peggy's Restaurant will be closing this spring unless someone else takes over. I will sure miss hearing Peggy's giggles as you come through the door. Who is going to cook liver like you do Peg? We are all going to miss you but I guess all good things come to an end.

I was talking to a few ice fishermen this past weekend and they were telling me that the fishing wasn't that good this year due to the poor ice conditions. They said that usualy they would have been out at least 15 times by now but so far this season they've only been out twice.

Last, but not least, we would like to wish George Sloan a very sepcial birthdaywish on Feb. 27. Hope you have a great day.

Charteris



Mona Rutledge
647-6250

Congratulations to all of the Shawville Jr. B players as they won the first round. They beat out Renfrew. In the second round they will be playing Carleton Place Kings. The first game will be Tuesday night in Carleton Place, then in Shawville Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. then Friday night in Carleton Place and back home again on Sunday at 7 p.m.

Happy birthday wishes are sent to Craig Desabrais and his uncle Lawrence Smith on Feb. 21, Billy Dagg on Feb 23, my husband's great-niece Heida Marples on Feb. 24 and my friend Deila Smith on Feb. 26.

My, but is this weather cold for February. On Sunday I was outside to feed my chickens and boy was I cold. It didn't matter how many clothes you had on you were still cold.

It was nice to see Barry Way as he came home for the weekend to see his parents. Have a safe trip back home Barry.

I am very sorry to hear that Mrs. Hermonie Sharpe will no longer be writing for THE EQUITY as she is a grand old lady and everyone will sure miss her. I hope that you have a very happy retirement Hermonie and enjoy yourself.

Bryson



Heather Stewart
648-5413

A very happy 50th birthday to my fellow correspondent for Charteris Mona Rutledge who celebrated on Monday. I hope you had a wonderful day!

Happy birthday to Julienne Beland of Fort Coulonge and to Uncle Larry Besserer of Ottawa.

Results for the Golden Age Euchre held on Feb. 14 are as follows: Door: Isabelle Lacroix, 50/50: Georgette Robitaille, Men's first: Jim Stewart, Men's second: Roger Lacroix and Laurent Chevalier, Ladies first: Anna Stewart, Ladies second: Phyllis Smith.

I was told to put in that Ed Gutoskie was down there bragging about all of his deer in his back yard..but you failed to mention your skunk.

Happy birthday to Diego Morales, my cousin Mark Benoit of Renfrew and Abigaile Leach of Campbell"s Bay who celebrate on Feb. 23.

Dennis Dufault was telling my Dad Jim that he found dew worms underneath his bails of hay in the barn. A sure sign that spring is right around the corner.

Happy birthday to my cousin Matthew Stewart of Montreal who celebrates on Feb. 25.

On Feb. 28 the Calumet Island CWL are hosting their annual Mardi-Gras Supper in the Municipal Hall on Calumet Island. Everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy an all you can eat Old Fashioned meal cooked by CWL Chef Leopold Ryan. Baked ham, sausages, home fries, beans, coleslaw, pancakes, local maple syrup and island famous homemade bread. The cost is $7 and adult and $3 for children under 10 years old. See you there!

Birthday wishes going out to Sara Lepine and Joshua Kluke who celebrate on Feb. 27. Have an awesome day!

The Bryson Lions held a Valentine's supper with invited guests. A delicious meal was served by Elka Beeb and her staff. Lion Ed Gutoski was emcee for the evening and did a wonderful job. I still have a complaint about Lion Guy Racine's game of Simon Says..Ha Ha! Cards were played following the dinner. A wonderful evening was had by all. On behalf of the Lionettes, we would like to thank the Bryson Lions for including us in their special evening.

Visiting on Saturday evening at the home of my Aunt Rita and Uncle Keith Benoit's on Calumet Island were Mary and Bert Forrest of Ottawa, Aunt Helen and Uncle Pat Wallace of Ottawa. My parents Anna and Jim Stewart, Uncle Ryan and Aunt Gisele Benoit, Richard and Monique Wallace. Mom was telling me that they had a lovely meal and they had a very enjoyable evening of music, laughter, great chatter and card playing.

Happy anniversary to Gisele and Lucien Lemaire of Calumet Island.

The Bryson CWL held their annual Valentine's Brunch in the basement of the Immaculate Conception Church on Sunday morning. The ladies out did themselves cooking and serving a very delicious meal. They appreciated all who came out to support them.

My Dad Jim was pretty proud to tell me that he and my Mom went to play cards at the Lion's Hall on Sunday afternoon and my Mom won first place. Then he chuckled and told me that he got a skunk. Mom is still offering to give you some card lessons Dad. I think you should take her up on that offer!

Get well wishes to Dennis Dufault of Calumet Island who had the misfortune of breaking his arm. Hope you are feeling better soon.

I had the honor of spending the day with my niece and nephew Jacob and Caley Stewart of Fort Coulonge. We had a wonderful day of shopping and running the roads. They sure are terrific kids and let me tell ya..you never know what Jacob is going to come out with. I was pooped by the time I got back home..and all I have to say is I tip my hat to all of the Mothers in the world. Your job is never done..and what a job it is!!

Welcome home to Basil Belland of Campbell's Bay who is back home from his stay in the hospital. It sure is great seeing that you feeling better and back to your old self!

Cindy Belland would like to send out a special hello to her Nanny, Claire Belland of Kanata. She misses you and hopes you are keeping well.

Ladysmith



Debbie Thrun
647-3927

Winter arrived again last Thursday with quite a snowstorm and freezing rain in some places. But I'm sure this isn't the end of the white stuff yet. We still have March to go through which can be a very surprising month with snowstorms and some times a little bit of everything. But, at least whatever we get in March won't stay that long. The big question is will it come in like a lamb or a lion?

We wish a Claire Lunam a very happy retirement after many years at THE EQUITY. Her cheerful and charming personality was always there behind the counter. Best wishes go out to her. May you have many years of good health and happiness.

Special birthday congratulations to Mabel Erfle of Shawville on Feb. 28.

Get well wishes to June Krose who recently underwent eye surgery.

Visiting with us on Wednesday were Kip and Donna Smith of Eganville.

We received a call from our summer neighbor Eva Grodde of Ottawa. She reports she is well and is looking forward to summer.

We will certainly miss Hermonie's great column. Her news always contained a wealth of information and had a homey touch, which was much enjoyed by all. It seems that Hermonie's column was always a main feature of THE EQUITY. We all join in wishing her all the best.

Birthday congratulations to Brenda Schoenermarck of Nepean on Feb. 26. Hope you have a great day. Brenda is a niece of Margaret Fieroben's of Shawville.

Get well wishes to Barbara Cruickshank who is a patient in Shawville Hospital.

There has been some ice fishing going on at Grey's Lake. Scott Friendship caught a five pound pike last weekend.

We have seen a huge bald eagle. He is probably feeding on road killed deer.

We're happy to report Aunt Violet Mielkie is feeling much better.

Well I'm sure the school children are getting anxious and excited. March break is coming up and with the new snow we've received I'm sure they will find lots of activities to do.

Get well wishes to our correspondent, Stephanie Milford who recently underwent surgery.

What a dog's breakfast of a day we had on Friday with snow and blowing snow at that along with freezing rain. A real old-fashioned winter storm. It was a good day to stay in and look out. But by afternoon the storm had let up some.

Get well wishes to my good friend, Evelyn Campbell who has been on the sick list.

Sending out birthday congratulations to my special Aunt Sharron Smith on Feb. 18 from your niece Barbara Hope you had a wonderful day.

The St. John's Lutheran Church annual meeting was held Sunday following the service. A delicious pot luck lunch was enjoyed by all present. Afterwards the church business was conducted. Congratulations to Raymond Pasch on his new position as church councillor. The annual T.C.R.A. spaghetti supper was held on Saturday evening. A large crowd enjoyed the usual great cooking of the T.C.R.A. ladies and a great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all present.

Visiting us on Sunday was Karl Kappa.

Quyon



Jill McBane
458-2366

Happy anniversary to Lyle and Susan Fraser who celebrated 18 years of marriage.

Mona and Laurie MacKechnie entertained the highest bidders of the fall church auction Saturday evening with supper and cards. Betty and Sharron Young and six of their friends Julie and Rod, Tina and Michael and Dave and Kim played euchre and had lots of laughs. The evening was concluded with pass the ace.

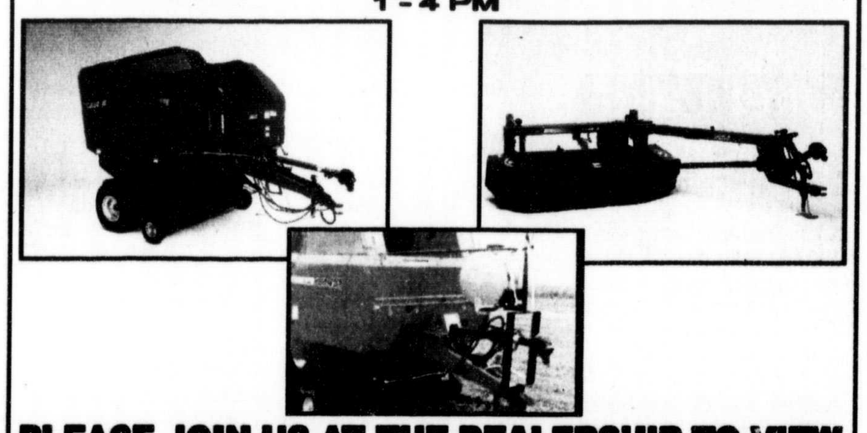
Truth is stranger than fiction and this two part story is true.

Part one - Last fall a local farmer was returning from a sales barn. He had a pig in the back of his pickup. When he arrived home the pig was missing. He knew it couldn't have been stolen so it must have jumped out. Nothing he could do so he went for supper. The phone rang. It was the police. He was asked if he had lost a pig. He said "yes." Well the pig had been found on the four-lane highway and was not injured. After some conversation the policeman said he would deliver it. The pig was delivered in the dog catchers cages, no ticket or charges. How it was caught and caged is not known. Must have been fun.

Part two - A week or so ago our lucky farmer took very sick and unable to phone 911. Somehow a friend was notified and called 911 but couldn't give directions to his remote farm house.

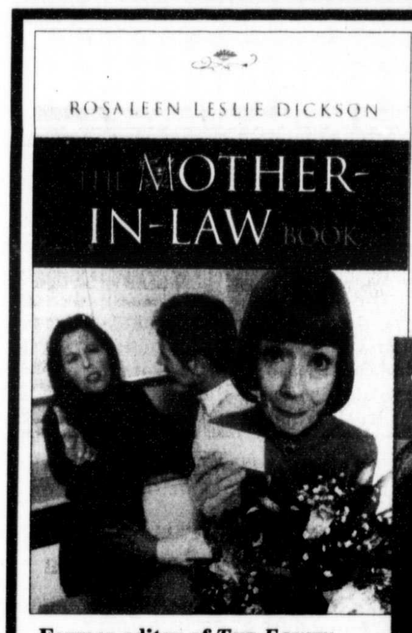
Police were called and the officer said. "Oh I know where he lives. I delivered a pig to his house last fall." As a result ambulance arrived and took him to hospital. He recovered quickly with good care and is now home where he belongs.

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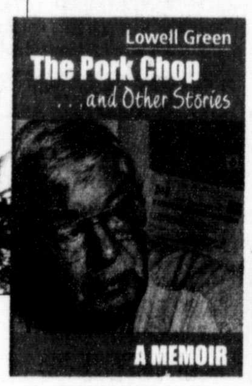


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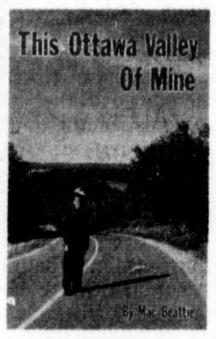
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