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NEWS BRIEFS

Drivers' licence office in MRC building still open

LITCHFIELD — The SAAQ licensing office in the Pontiac MRC building at the intersection of Hwys. 148 and 301 in Litchfield is still open for business despite rumours to the contrary.

"Some people think it's going to close," said SAAQ office manager Yvette Mellon. "The service has not changed."

The office provides drivers' licence renewals and vehicle registration and is open Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

An application made to the SAAQ to provide services for first-time drivers' licences and inter-provincial licence transferrals was rejected. The SAAQ wanted to keep those services centralized at its Gatineau office.

72 trucks stopped in 4 hours at 3 check points

PONTIAC — There's a whole lot of trucking going on in Pontiac, with the vast majority of drivers abiding by the rules of the road, according to the results of a series of police checkpoints.

On Thursday, Feb. 12, the Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec, assisted by six SQ officers from Gatineau and four agents of the SAAQ, set up checkpoints at Davidson, Portage du Fort and Otter Lake as part of ongoing inspections of tractor-trailers.

"In that four-hour operation (Feb. 12), 72 trucks passed by the road-blocks," said Lieu. Jacques Piché, of the Pontiac MRC SQ.

"We gave out one ticket for a load that wasn't secure and 13 warnings.

"Four trucks were taken off the road for major defects, one with a cracked wheel."

Lieu. Piché said police will continue checking trucks travelling in Pontiac, focusing on load safety, mechanical problems and speeding.

"One of our guys stopped a log truck last week with a full load on; he was doing 124 km/h," Lieu. Piché said, adding another truck had been stopped earlier that day doing about 110 km/h.

WHAT'S ON

Winter Invitational

SHAWVILLE — Skaters from across Québec and Ontario will hit the ice at the arena Saturday and Sunday to compete in the 4th annual Shawville Winter Invitational Figure Skating Tournament. Skating begins Saturday at 9 a.m. with the last flight at 5:30 p.m. The Invitational resumes Sunday at 9 a.m. with the last flight at 12:25 p.m.

Party for local curlers Friday

SHAWVILLE — The Shawville Curling Club will celebrate the success of three local curlers — skip Steve Allen, second Rickey Lee Allen and lead Rob Lang — and a Gatineau curler — Charles Chartrand — who made it all the way to the semi-finals of the Coupe Desjardins provincial championships in Amqui Feb. 15 before losing to Guy Hemmings.

A party will be held at the curling club Friday, Feb. 27 beginning at 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend to toast the curlers' accomplishments.

SQ investigate MRC des Collines police gun incident

Woman complains officer pointed handgun at her and her husband near Cantley

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

CHELSEA — An MRC des Collines police officer who allegedly pulled a gun on a couple on their snowmobile is being investigated by the Sûreté du Québec.

The incident happened on Feb. 8 near Cantley, and prompted police to remind snowmobilers that the same rules apply when driving a snowmobile as when driving a car.

The maximum speed limit on a snowmobile trail is 70 km/h, and the officers' snowmobiles are equipped with radar guns.

Rules

"Snowmobile drivers must stick to marked trails, wear helmets, and have insurance," said Const. Martin Fournel of the MRC des Collines police.

"If a snowmobiler is crossing a road, they need to have a valid driver's licence."

The criminal investigation was launched after the woman on the snowmobile complained the officer pointed his handgun at her and her husband to stop them.

"It is a criminal offense to avoid stopping when an officer is pulling you over, whether you are on a snowmobile or not," said Const. Fournel.

MRC des Collines Capt. Michel Regimbal said the officer exercised his right to not make a statement to investigators, and began an extended sick leave two days after the incident.

"If we have reason to believe there is an infraction, a citizen is obligated to stop," said Regimbal.

The officer at the time of the incident was in a patrol car, and the couple on the snowmobile were crossing a road to get to the other side of a trail.

Police action

"Police are allowed to pull their guns out," said Const. Fournel.

"But it's all a matter of perception if there is a danger there or not."

There are two police officers who patrol full-time on ATVs and snowmobiles in the Pontiac MRC.

"If an officer pulls you over, you have to abide by them whether you are in a car or a snowmobile, or they are in a car or a snowmobile," said Const. Fournel.

The snowmobiles are fashioned with a readable police sign on the side, officers wear police uniforms with crests on the jacket, and there are red and blue flashing lights on the snowmobile, just like on a patrol car.

"If we have to point our guns, there has to be a good reason," Const. Fournel said. "But we always observe the rules."

DIGGING FOR THE PUCK



Leah Miller THE EQUITY

SAFE TO THE GOALIE: A member of Daniel Bilodeau's blue team feeds the ball to their goalie at a hockey puck tournament Saturday at the Calumet Island Carnival held at the R.A. Centre.

Calumet Island carnival impresses tourists with warmth and camaraderie

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

CALUMET ISLAND — The annual Calumet Island carnival brought locals and visitors to the R.A. Centre on the weekend.

With over 125 visitors this year, the carnival was organized by the R.A. Centre's committee.

"We're playing ball hockey all day," said Marie Paule, president of the R.A. Centre committee. "It's just getting started."

The committee changes each year, but this year the members are treasurer Marilyn Brousseau, secretary Lise Fleury, and members Gayle Dumouchel, Isabelle Lance, and Michel Graveline.

On Friday there was a spaghetti supper at the municipal hall as well as a hockey puck tournament at 8 p.m. back at the R.A. Centre.

"The Ski-Doo parade is usually on the ice, but it may be on the road this year because of the weather," said Paule.

The carnival has been running for more than 25 years, except for a few carnivals missed in the past decade. So, for five years straight, the carnival has been a big success.

"It's fun and there is lots of hockey," said Daniel Newberry, 11. "I like pretty much all of it, especially the snowman making contest."

Full slate

Saturday held a full day of events including activities for kids like "fear factor" beginning at 10 a.m., a hockey puck tournament for kids, an ATV and snowmobile parade, a bonfire, and a tug-o-war game for adults.

The first game for the kids team was won 9-4 against their mothers.

"We mostly cheated," said Tina Stewart, a mother.

"And we still lost."

A disco dance winded down the evening until 3 a.m., but it only gave the R.A. committee a few hours to get ready for breakfast the next morning at 7 a.m. sharp.

"People are coming from Otter Lake, Ottawa," said Dumouchel. "Everyone's showing up."

The carnival took three months to organize, and the committee is getting good feedback so far.

"I am really impressed with the atmosphere and events," said a guest visiting from Ottawa for the weekend. "The warmth and camaraderie here is something you don't see too often."

There was lots of hockey all day long, and a musician as well.

"Everyone is getting together this time of year," said Dumouchel. "We're watching the kids and having a good time."

Sunday was the last day of the carnival, but a brunch at the municipal hall helped continue the excitement until the very end. Activities resumed at the R.A. Centre like the finals for the kids' and adults' hockey puck tournament, wagon rides, and the medals presentations for the winning teams.

Hot country at Mickey Creek carnival

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

VINTON — Mickey Creek Golf Club patrons made sure to order their winter carnival events with some good old country music on the side during the weekend.

"We just like getting kids out here," said owner Susan Narlock. "Having fun is what we like to see."

In its second year running, the carnival brought in more than 200 people last year with standing room only in the club. This year the Saturday night didn't quite pick up until after 6 p.m. with more than 75 people.

"We even built a slide outside for toddlers to play on," said Narlock on encouraging all ages to come out and have a good time.

"Last year we had a lot of kids outside playing broomball," said Narlock.

On Friday night there was a crib tournament beginning at 6 p.m.

Saturday morning there were some games inside and outside for children, but the rainy weather put a damper on a cross-country ski race and an old-timer hockey game that was planned for the day.

But by 4 p.m. the Pontiac Drifters hit the house and played the crowd's country music favourites until 9 p.m.

The crowd loved Tim Hermitte on lead guitar and vocals, Steve Romain on drums, Larry Kenney on rhythm guitar, and Roy Bertrand on bass, and couples filled the dance floor to prove it.

"We enjoy playing good old country," said Hermitte of the band's '50s to '70s country music repertoire. "It's making a comeback now."

The band has only spent one year together, but they all have well over 25 years experience playing.

"We grew up with old country music and we haven't forgotten it," said Hermitte.

The Drifters mainly play covers, and consider their music a lifetime hobby. Hermitte and Romain have full time jobs as an atomic energy cost estimator and a CLSC worker, respectively. Kenney and Bertrand are retired.

The Drifters practice once every two weeks for about five hours.

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'Call off your dogs': lawyer Brent Tyler to Quebec government

Lynn Wilson acquitted of failing to provide business information to language cop in 1999

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

CAMPBELL'S BAY — After five years fighting a charge her defense lawyer says should never had been laid, Clarendon's Lynn Wilson was acquitted last week of failing to provide information requested by a language cop.

In his ruling he read in English at the Campbell's Bay court Wednesday, Feb. 18, Judge Georges Benoit concluded that "The evidence tendered by the defence raises a reasonable doubt and therefore the charge is dismissed."

Wilson's lawyer, Brent Tyler, former president of anglophone rights group Alliance Québec, argued in Campbell's Bay court last December that Wilson should never have been charged with failing to provide information because she was unable to understand the request made in French by Office de la langue française inspector Lucie Couvrette.

"It's our view that this prosecution should never have been undertaken," Tyler said on the steps of the court house shortly after Justice Benoit delivered his verdict.

"We have a message for Mr. Charest: Call off your dogs and leave small businesses alone."

Wilson, who said she was "very happy" with the judgement, also said she could have lived with a judgement in favour of the OLF. She said she would have refused to pay the $250 fine if that had been the case.

"The rebellious part of me was hoping for a loss so the bailiff would come and take my Lazy-Boy chair away," Wilson said, adding such an event would bring more exposure to the harassment by the OLF.

The charge stemmed from an incident on June 17, 1999 when Wilson, then owner/operator of an H&R Block income tax franchise on Hwy. 148 in Shawville, was approached by Couvrette who made a request in French for documents pertaining to the business. Wilson, a unilingual anglophone, testified she didn't understand what the language cop, unilingual francophone Couvrette, was saying.

After Couvrette left her office, Wilson, accompanied by her brother, Mayor Albert Armstrong, and the local media caught up to Couvrette's van at Veterans' Park, where the language cop objected to having her picture taken. Tyler said that it was this incident that prompted the action against Wilson by the OLF.

"Lucie Couvrette obviously likes to play the bully," Tyler said, "but she didn't like the idea that people, including the mayor and the local media, we're following her around.

"The subsequent action was harassment meant to discourage Wilson and the people of Shawville."

Rev. Darryl Gray, the recently elected president of Alliance Québec, said in a statement that the fact the case went to court is "disturbing."

"I find it disturbing that the government would prosecute a citizen when the evidence clearly shows that they they did not understand what the language inspector was asking for," Gray said. "No-one should be treated like a criminal just because they don't speak French."

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Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

ACQUITTED: Lawyer Brent Tyler and Lynn Wilson leave the Campbell's Bay court-house Wednesday, Feb. 18 after Justice Georges Benoit acquitted Wilson of a charge of failing to provide requested documents to a language cop. The charge stemmed from the infamous June 1999 incident involving language cop Lucie Couvrette.



BILL BLACK MEMORIAL: Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department firefighter Paul Heins won the Bill Black Memorial Plaque for being named by his colleagues as firefighter of the year. From the left: Captain Peter Draper; Chief Lee Laframboise; Heins; Deputy Chief Robert Trudeau; and Lieutenant Bob Tracey.

Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department picks Paul Heins as winner of the 2003 Bill Black Memorial Plaque

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE — Veteran Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department firefighter Paul Heins was selected by his colleagues as winner of the Bill Black Memorial Plaque for firefighter of the year 2003.

The plaque, presented in honour of former chief Bill Black who died at the scene of a fire April 28, 1998, was donated to the department by Tom Murdoch.

Heins, a veteran of the squad, was presented with the plaque at the department's annual dinner Saturday, Feb 14 at the Village Inn.

Deserving

Heins, who serves as the department's secretary-treasurer, also collects extensive data on fires and accidents for the department.

"He's also an excellent fireman on the job and he's a well-deserved plaque winner," says veteran firefighter Neil Sharpe.

"He's a good fireman all around and provides a good example for the younger firemen.

"He's also a good husband, father and good in the community."

FROM THE FRONT

'Call off your dogs': lawyer Brent Tyler

continued from page 1

However, Tyler said that as long as Bill 101 remains in its present form, cases like Wilson's will continue to be prosecuted.

"This is the ridiculous aspect of the language law," Tyler said. "A Canadian citizen can be prosecuted for having one of the two official languages on a sign. The right to freedom of expression includes the right to express yourself in the language of your choice."

Tyler said Premier Jean Charest made it clear last year that Bill 101 would not be changed.

"They don't have to enforce it," Wilson said.

"If they don't have the b...s to change the law, don't enforce it."

The other fine Wilson received from the 1999 incident — improper signage — is being contested by Tyler along with about 60 or so similar cases from across the province. They are expected to be heard in March 2005.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

PONTIAC DRIFTERS: The band from left to right: Roy Bertrand on bass, Larry Kenney on rhythm guitar, Steve Romain on drums, and Tim Hermitte on lead guitar and vocals. The Pontiac Drifters played at the Mickey Creek Golf Club Carnival Feb. 21.

Hot country at Mickey Creek Golf Club winter carnival

continued from page 1

"All four of us think alike," said Romain. "We're a good bunch of guys."

The Drifters make volunteer venus a big part of their gig schedule, including shows for the Cancer Society.

Bertrand quit playing bass 20 years ago before picking up with the Drifters.

"It was just like riding a bike," said Bertrand. "You never forget."

Bertrand, who plays a Fender Precision bass loves playing the Beach Boys and plays golf at Mickey Creek in his spare time.

The band is all based out of Fort Coulonge except for Hermitte who lives in Pembroke.

George Dubeau, a long-time friend of Bertrand also sang a few songs for the band.

A poker run ran from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. where snowmobilers raced to find the best hand on the trail for a cash prize of $160.

The winner of the race was Bob Marion and it took a total of four hours to complete the race.

"It was an extremely difficult race," said Marion. "It was raining and there was 12 inches of snow with no trail, so I had to slug through it."

Marion plans on spending the winnings with his friends, "as usual," he added.

Move afoot to have Public Works reopen Allumettes' Culbute Locks after 100 years

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

ALLUMETTES ISLAND — An Allumettes Island resident wants Public Works Canada to pick up where it left off 100 years ago and reopen the Culbute Locks at Allumettes Island.

Gil Dupuis argues that when the locks were abandoned in 1904 the government effectively denied the rights of navigators to use the Ottawa River as a means of transportation.

"My grandfather had the right to use it and I have the right to use it," Dupuis said. "Public Works have to maintain Culbute Locks. They do not have the right to abandon them."

The Culbute Locks — two 200-foot by 45-foot locks and three continuous dams — were built in 1873 to facilitate navigation on a channel of the Ottawa River running northwest from Chapeau.

Closed

In 1889, the government of Canada passed an Order in Council to allow the river to return to its natural level. From that year on, no work was done on the locks and dams and the Culbute Locks were officially abandoned on March 12, 1904.

"My position is that what the government did was wrong and they must correct that wrong," he said.

Dupuis said pressure from all Pontiacers and administrative bodies such as the MRC and the CLD is needed to spur Public Works to action.

"They owe us our rights to use the Culbute Locks," he said. "We have to build momentum. If we can get 100 per cent of the population to support us (it's possible)."

Dupuis said just as the Culbute Locks were instrumental to the local economy back then, they can contribute to the current economy.

Bountiful

"The building of the locks was bountiful to Chapeau, Chichester, Waltham (and area)," he said.

Now, the Culbute Locks would be an historical landmark, drawing tourists from near and far to visit what he said are the only wooden locks in North America.

"I want to rebuild the locks for Pontiac," he said. "I'm so convinced that they are a great asset to the community."

Dupuis said legal action may be necessary to get Public Works to reopen the Culbute Locks after 100 years.

"We're not going to take anything less (than reopening the locks), even if we have to take a class action suit," he said.

Algonquin accepts nurses

PEMBROKE — The Pembroke Campus of Algonquin College continues to accept applications to the Bachelor of Science in nursing program. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2004; applications can be submitted through the Ontario University Application Centre at www.ouac.on.ca.

Algonquin College will be holding a free information session regarding the nursing program on Wednesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. Info can be obtained at www.algonquincollege.com /pembroke or by contacting the admissions office at (613) 735-4700, ext. 2708.

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Cockburn - Leclaire

Lesley Anne, daughter of Carle and Shirley Leclaire, of Arnprior and Adam Blair, son of Paul and Betty Cockburn, of Kanata, were united in marriage August 2, 2003 at Robert Simpson Park, Arnprior, Ontario. Thank you to our wonderful friends and family and especially our parents who helped make this day so special. Lesley Anne is the granddaughter of the late Keith Bean of Shawville.

Upcoming marriage



Joe and Judy Morris are delighted to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Nancy to Stephen Shaw, son of Marilyn and Richard Shaw. Marriage to take place July 2004.

Coalition for successful schools eager to help students

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC — Funding for special needs students in the Pontiac school system may soon increase thanks to the help of the Coalition for Successful Schools.

"There are lots of special needs students in the Pontiac school system," said Carl Hager, Québec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT) representative from the Western Québec School Board. "We believe the lack of funding is a serious matter and we need help."

The latest movement put forward by the coalition was a joint statement declaring their beliefs, condemnations, and demands for special needs students to the new government.

"It is the first step of a long process to make the government understand that we have youngsters who need services," said coalition president Ardele Warr. "Right now without those services it is unfair to the students in need, other students, and their teachers."

Based out of Montréal, members of the coalition come from QPAT, the Fédération des professionnelles et professionnels de l'éducation du Québec (CSQ), the Fédération du personnel de soutien scolaire, and the Fédération des syndicats de l'enseignement.

"We haven't really yet recovered from the cutbacks that took place in the 90s," said Warr. "They keep saying they are investing $1 billion into special education, but really, they aren't being specific as to which students the money goes to."

The statement was released in mid-November as a result of a coalition meeting.

"The statement highlights the serious need of funding for students with special needs," said Hager. "It basically says we need more money for the resources in schools."

According to Warr, whether the government took the statement seriously or not is another issue.

"Nothing seems to make an impact on the government right away, these days," said Warr. "At least nothing seems to be happening very quickly."

Among the many demands was a statement regarding the study of the Québec allocation of funding, quality, and adequacy of services provided to students with handicaps or learning difficulties.

"We want to see what specifically extra is being spent to give services to special education students and the teachers who work with them," said Warr. "For example, lunch-time monitors should not be (paid out of) that account, but it is happening."

The study had been interrupted by the adoption of the Special Education Policy in 2000, and the coalition demanded the study be resumed.

"Now that the study has started again, we are waiting to see what arises out of that," said Warr.

There are seven francophone school boards whose allocation of funding is being studied.

The school boards are Montréal, Laval, la Capitale, Hauts-Cantons, Région-de-Sherbrooke, Pays-des-Bleuets, and Kamouraska-Riviére-du-Loup.

"What they might find is they are spending a lot of money," said Warr. "But whether or not they are getting the best bang for their buck is always the issue."

According to Warr, press releases from December mentioned the study has found that in order to keep the school system afloat, schools have been diverting some of the special education money to other costs.

"Money is pretty tight in schools," said Warr. "So I wasn't surprised to read that."

There is no access to the study's data until it has been completed and made public in June.

"School boards are scrambling right now to get enough money to provide all the services they need," said Warr. "But what they do isn't good enough."

The main goal of the coalition's statement is to receive more funding from the government.

"We're not accusing the school boards," said coalition employee Pierre Weber. "We are trying to work with them."

But with the new study, the government might just find out for themselves.

"The boards currently get money and use it however they see fit," said Hager. "But it is going to be obvious the money is not used where it should be."

The coalition wants to get the word out that there is a problem with the education of special needs students.

"One of the biggest problems for students with special needs or learning difficulties is there are a growing number of students in a classroom," said Warr. "These students need a certain kind of support that is intensive, and they just aren't receiving that."

CP Rail trail proposal still in hot debate

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC — Now that Génivar Consulting Group has completed their study of the best ways to connect the Trans Canada Trail, the top three options are heading to council to be decided upon.

On Feb. 16 of this year, Génivar presented their analysis.

"There were some people fighting the trail who were upset about the results," said Bruce Campbell, Mayor of the Municipality of Pontiac (MoP).

There were three options they came up with of where to put a recreational trail.

"In this case common sense prevailed," said Campbell. "I'm not too surprised with the outcome."

The first was on the old CP Rail bed for $3.7 million, the second on municipal roads on a separate corridor for $3.9 million, and the last was on a designated municipal road for $5.5 million.

"We are now going to take all the information and review everything," said MoP councillor Roger Larose. "We are going to meet with all the associates who were involved in the trail."

Larose proposed it may take at least a month for this to happen.

But the proposed options affect more than just farmland.

"Actually, I'd be very upset if the trail cut through our plantation and regenerating woodland, former rough pasture, as shown in Génivar's option one," said Mo Laidlaw via e-mail. "I've spent countless hours for nine years planting and weeding 9,300 spruce and pine trees, etc."

Laidlaw feels there are many optional routes that the trail could be placed, like in the Breckenridge area where there is a separate path along Hwy. 148. Even though one kilometre of this path would cut across her front yard, she would rather entertain that option than to pass through the Breckenridge Creek Nature Preserve.

"The goal is conservation, not public access," said Laidlaw. "Very rare frogs, turtles, etc. need somewhere quiet to live."

Other ideas were reducing the speed limit on the 148 to become a quiet local road for pedestrians, cyclists and slow-moving vehicles.

"I have the feeling that no one is looking at the overall picture when it comes to 'costs', whether money or social," said Laidlaw. "We need a vision and we got some engineering drawings and a balance sheet of construction costs."

On the other side of the tracks there are those who believe that those who turned down the first offer to connect with the Trans Canada Trail took away their heritage and local history.

"I think council should go ahead," said Wisha Mach. "Everyone sees we need a link to the PPJ cycle paths and Aylmer to make it a world class recreational trail."

She agreed with Campbell in that Génivar stated the obvious.

"The farmers are very much against it," said Mach. "But if it was explained to them in a positive way, then maybe they could be smoothed over."

Mach used to cycle along the old corridor until Breckenridge and Terry Fox Roads were blocked off in 1998.

"I felt devastated when they barricaded it," admitted Mach. "I felt like, 'how could they let this go?' "

Mach sympathizes with the farmers whose land will be cut diagonally if they build a recreational trail along the CP Rail corridor. But she believes it is the right thing to do.

"The council should do the courageous thing," said Mach. "The trail is the most beautiful way to do it."

Mach is very satisfied with Génivar's objectivity.

"It's a step in the right direction," she said.

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

The needed connection to get Pontiac County on the map was between Aylmer and Bristol.

On Sept. 11, 1995, the Municipality of Pontiac resolved that a negotiating committee would collaborate with the Outaouais Regional Development Council (CRDO) to negotiate with CP Rail, under conditions that CRDO would contribute 60 to 80 per cent of the final purchase price. That left the municipality paying 20 to 40 per cent (a maximum of $95,000) of the purchase price.

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

Former mayor of MoP Marcel Lavigne, convinced council to oppose the expropriations, as he was interested in purchasing part of the rail line to block the corridor.

And so the offer was turned down.

In September 1997, a unanimous vote by the MoP, (Lavigne stepped out for the vote due to his conflicting interests), voted to expropriate land from farmers who owned pieces of the former CP Rail corridor. The purchase price for the Pontiac moved up to $130,000 for 80 per cent of the land.

In November 1997, the MRC des Collines was asked to establish a forum for the community in deciding on planning for the trail.

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

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

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

On Apr. 28, the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec (CPTAQ), sent a letter to the municipality indicating that unless challenged by May 21, it would take away the acquired rights of the railway line and give the farmers permission to divide up the corridor. The letter paused all surveying.

On May 5, an emergency meeting took place and resolved that the council would oppose the CPTAQ's request and consult with the surrounding municipalities and the MRC to get their views and opinions.

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

Over the years, several different solutions to the trail have been proposed and looked into.

But Génivar was hired for $30,000 to study the trail and to find cost-effective and logical routes for a trail to be built.

"Rather than have us fighting," said Campbell, "we did this study."

Until the MoP decides in the coming months what to do with the missing link of the Trans Canada Trail, the public will be waiting for the final verdict.

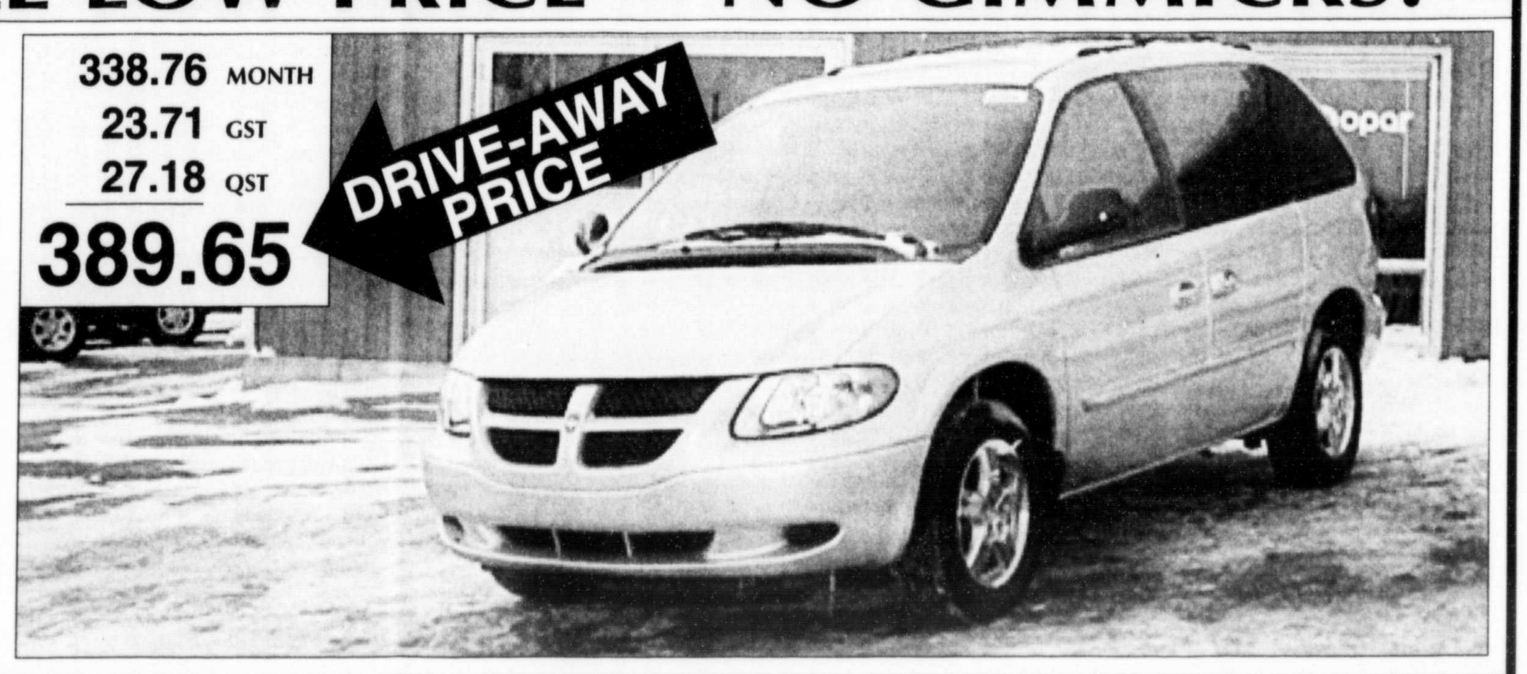
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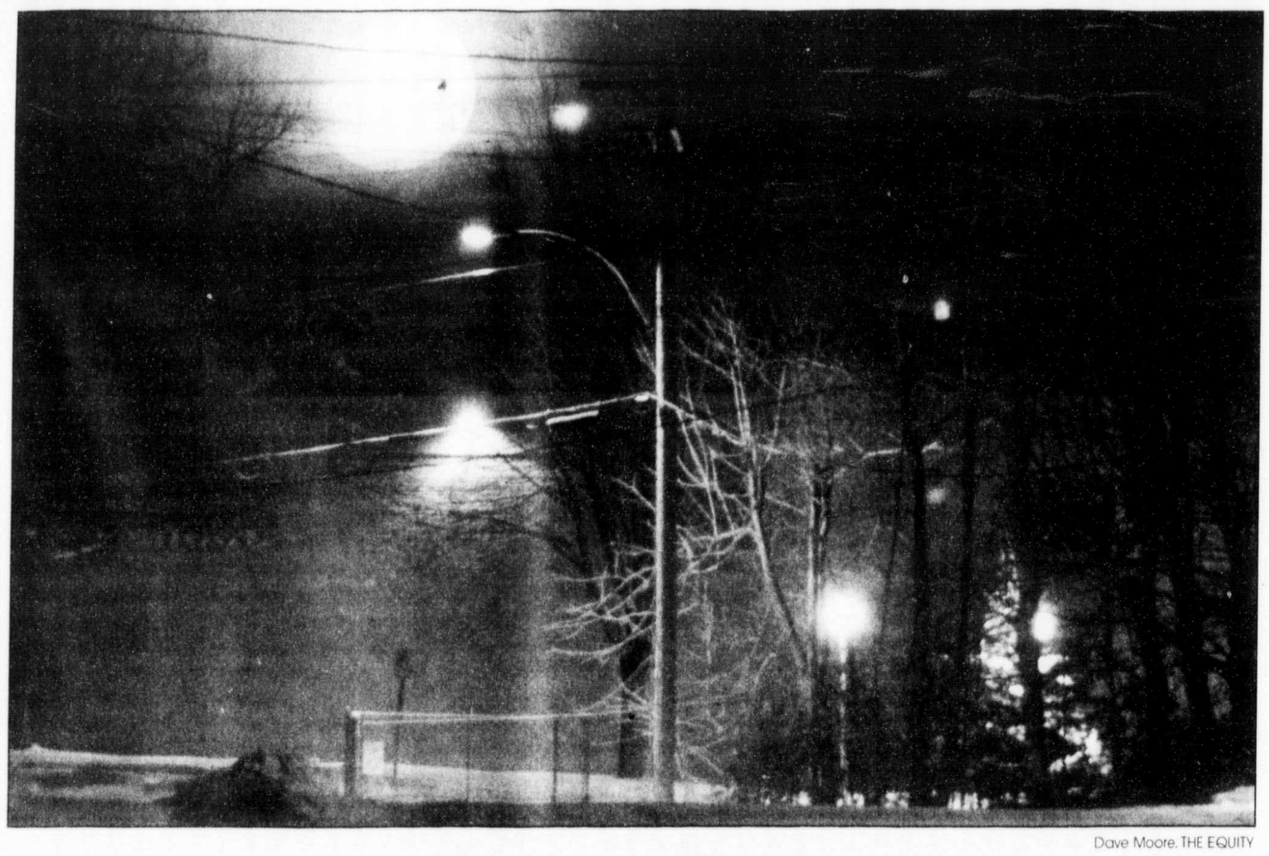
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Dave Moore, THE EQUITY

Moon over Pontiac

EDITORIAL

Deep-rooted problem

The recent scandal outbreak plaguing the governing Liberal Party has the opposition, pundits and the like pointing fingers and laying blame with an attitude so righteous even the late Mother Teresa would blush with shame.

Though the latest in a series of boondoggles has occured on the watch of the Liberal Party, who govern with an arrogance rarely seen, except in dictatorships, the mis-spent billions (sponsorship, gun registry, HRDC, etc.) of our money reveals something more than corruption or ineptitude among the bureaucrats and Liberal Party ministers and members. The problem with our system reaches further than corruption or incompetence.

Lost in the I-told-you-so's and the finger-pointing are two very important realities: our current form of government (and not only in Canada, but in the rest of the industrialized world) has lost touch with the people it purports to represent and it reaps more tax dollars than it actually needs to run the country.

Any talk about not enough money to repair our ailing health care system is hogwash. Or to repair our infrastructure. Or for any *essential* services, such as education.

The problems facing our country in 2004 began 40 years ago when Canada grew up and reached a new level of statehood, complete with its own flag and everything. With statehood, of course, came a growing bureaucracy, with departments and agencies and commissions and committees and sub-committees and organizations and studies to make sure, they tell us, that we have the best standard of life available to us.

Though the intent of the entrenched bureaucracy and the mandarins who so skillfully run it and advise our elected members is to ensure peace, order and good government, the result is an intrusive, Big Brother behemoth that is trying to create heaven on earth while emptying our pocketbooks with high taxes.

Our government has crossed the fine line between providing the services we, the people, need and creating services they tell us we need. Heritage Canada is one of the latter. Under the guise of promoting Canada in Québec, Heritage Canada, among other useless projects, teaches history, a history that should be taught in school, not on after-midnight infomercials. What about Health Canada, which should be about healing, not about churning out glossy posters and flyers warning us about tobacco, alcohol, trans fats, cycling safety and the like. It's a freakin' *health* ministry, not a propaganda machine to help create the master race, the super-man. Or, is it?

Peering over a list of government departments, one wonders how we got to where we are in such a short period of time. To think that 100 years ago, there were a dozen ministries, compared to the more than 30 we have now. For what purpose? To study the mating habits of crickets and their relationship to wetlands preservation?

The scandals sweeping across Parliament Hill should be a call for true government reform, not just the axing of a few Crown corporation heads. It's time our government was honest with us and told us the truth as they see it: *You, dear citizen, are here to serve the state, and by giving us your money, we can tell you how best to live, for you are obviously too ignorant and unfit to live life the way we feel it was meant to be lived. So, keep working hard, and pay your taxes. We'll do the rest. Trust us.*

Paul McGee

YOUR OPINION

Shawville Winter Invitational 2004

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Shawville Winter Invitational organizing committee, we are pleased to announce that the Shawville Figure Skating Club will be hosting its fourth inter-provincial competition on Saturday, Feb. 28 and Sunday, Feb. 29, 2004 at the Shawville Arena. The competition will be held with figure skating clubs participating from the Outaouais, Eastern Ontario and the Laurentians. This is the perfect occasion to showcase our figure skaters on home ice and to welcome participants and spectators to our community. This figure skating event has become a two-day event and it attracts people to our wonderful region. This will represent a wonderful opportunity for the Pontiac region and the Municipality of Shawville to feature the community's winter tourist activities.

The competition would not succeed if we did not have all the outstanding volunteers from our community.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Lyse Lacourse
Committee Chair

• • •

Mayor responds to garbage issue

Dear Editor,

To the Residents of the Municipality of Pontiac:

For the last couple of months now, most of our residents have read or been approached by a very dynamic group of people which opposes our proposed landfill project. The core of this group is from the region of our landfill site which we can understand and appreciate.

This group has gone out and collected a petition I believe with 300 names on it. It is to this group of people that this letter is meant for.

When you signed this petition, no doubt you were told that this was going to be a "mega" dump site and the end result was going to be total pollution of the area of the dump, as all these engineered landfill sites leak. This statement, I believe, was based on a report which this committee got off the Internet.

Are we going to change our dump into a mega landfill site? No. All we are doing is taking the original site and putting in a group of cells which has leachate collection and which will entomb our garbage and stop it from polluting the surrounding area. If the project goes ahead, the only real inconvenience will be anywhere from 15 to 25 extra trucks going back to the dump, some from the highway, some from the Wolf Lake area.

The benefits of this project is that the contract with LDC calls for the collection of all the existing garbage which is sitting in our open trenches, and placing this garbage into these cells, eliminating the source of any pollution which we may now have. We will get to keep our dump open for our local residents, and perhaps have a eco-centre on the site where people can come and deposit their recyclables.

The fiscal advantages of this project for this municipality is as such. One third of the overall fiscal benefits come back to the municipality plus LDC is obligated to do the clean-up of our existing site. It's something like when you get your bush cut out. Usually one-third goes to the producer and two-thirds go to the contractor which supplies the machinery and labor and does all the work. Of course this varies with bush lots.

There are many more projects which this municipality will need some private investments for. I will name a few that I have been working on.

The marina and camping project for Quyon Ensemble. This project calls for the creation of a campground in Quyon. Is the government going to sponsor this or will we need some private investment? The marina, if it goes ahead. Will the government pay for this or will we need some private investment? The proposed new community centre on the Ensemble project with the swimming pool. Possibly some of the money from the garbage could make this feasible. Dare I even mention the possibility of a toll bridge near Quyon? This will require private investment.

All these projects are in the future, but we do have to start somewhere. The new law on garbage has made us put the priority on our dump project. Do we want to raise our taxes a couple of hundred dollars or more per residence to pay for this new law, or do we use the revenue from getting our dump cleaned up to offset these costs for now and in the future?

The municipality can do a lot with these extra funds and services. To be fair, the council has decided that on an issue like this, a referendum will be held before anything is done on this project, so you, the people, can have the final say.

So far, apart from our kiosk at the libraries, the municipality has not been able to really get the information out to the people.

What I'm asking of these people who have signed this petition is this: Rather than listen to a group of people who live around our dump or perhaps some people from neighbouring municipalities which maybe would not like to close their dumps and be obligated to bring their garbage to our municipality, please use your own judgement and think of the future of our municipality.

The reason this law came into effect is that Québec has discovered that most of its ground water is polluted. This situation is very serious. Québec has made it mandatory to dig deep wells on new construction rather than shallow wells, because of this pollution.

Environment Québec has made it very rough on our farmers, as far as having livestock near watercourses and this goes on and on in the ways people must adopt to save our groundwater. Septic tanks, livestock manure, etc. etc.

All this municipality is trying to do, is make the best of a bad situation. I'm sure our project will do just that. Again, this is not a mega-dump. Its capacity will be around 900,000 tons of garbage; this is very small as far as engineered sites go. This garbage will come from MRC des Collines and MRC Pontiac. The fact that these engineered landfills are the approved methods of garbage disposal throughout North America, and let's face it people, we can no longer have these open trench landfills, we can only guess at what's been put in them. Right now I'm looking at around 400,000 sq. ft. of open trench landfill, that is 400,000 sq. ft. of leakage.

We have no intention of expanding our dump and expropriating anybody else's property. This is not a mega-dump site, it is our municipal dump with a given capacity of 900,000 tons.

Right now we are looking at cleaning up a toxic site, perhaps creating more jobs and more revenue with composting and sewage waste which could also come to the municipality. Also, the gas collection in these landfill sites release energy which can be used for heat or electricity or perhaps a greenhouse project. I am a strong environmentalist and I wouldn't dare propose a project that would hurt our environment. This is just the opposite.

LDC will be responsible for the project for its duration. After that, it will be the government which will be responsible because its the government's approved method of gargabe treatment

R. Bruce Campbell
Mayor, Pontiac Municipality

• • •

Take a postion

Dear Editor,

Dear citizens of the Pontiac,

Our MRC is in full reorganization and this change requires from us a greater preparation for the reality of the 21st century. Knowing our forces and weakness in the elaboration of regional vision by a healthy debate, is for the well being of all

For already several years and certainly since January 2004, many mayors and industrialists, supported by organizations, have been confronted to take position in regards to the forest sector on our territory. Today, the fundamental question rests on the necessity of allowing wood exchange between Quebec and Ontario industries, while taking into account the viability of the concerned factories. The debate emphasizes opinions rather diluted towards the regional concept. We must have consideration for the difficulties of the Council, the poorest county of the province. Our population is in free fall, the future is dubious for our youth and our economic development lacks substance. We are confronted to discuss any small gain, at all levels, for the betterment of the Pontiac.

The reality to manage the changes is not easy. The decisions for our future should be revised and, especially, elaborated to know the positive impact which will demonstrate our full regional potential. Today, the Pontiac is dependent on the forested resource. However, we have some difficulty diversifying the profitability of all potentials and, this, since the first forest baron came in our county.

Yes, it is necessary to take positions. But, it is also imperative to have a vision of the future of our communities in order to be able to provide a greater place for our county. By the development of precise policies, we will ensure this place to all who wish to intervene in our development. Is our future threatened by the fact of allowing an exchange of wood between two provinces? Personally, I don't believe it, because, this resource has already been leaving us for years, for other sectors of the Outaouais.

Today, some assert that, by a decision favourable to this exchange, we endanger the industry. It is important to stress that if we wish to protect our assets, we must act in a decisive manner; it's better too late, than never!

I'm not an expert in the matter of the forestry field, but I know the negative impact which is reflected on the local and regional economy by the closing-down of a factory. The solution, with all the problems of this hard touched sector, is far from being resolved. I have to take a position in a logical debate, and this, with the aim of guaranteeing

employment on our territory and pursuing realistic goals which touch all Pontiac factories. A vision for some... a lack of judgement for others... and an answer which is extremely simple: yes, with a regional vision and, no, in an individualistic progress. I didn't personally create the dilemmas of this sector: imposition of taxes of the saw log, control of the rights of cutting, high cost of the production and, even less, to cause the closing-down of a saw mill. To protect our resources, I agree! But, it is necessary to have an open mind, by collaborating for the greater comfort of all.

My standpoint to allow an exchange between two provinces is to protect our assets, i.e. to preserve our current employments, while considering that the provincial governments sanction this avenue. Personally, I believe that any development of an area passes initially and above all by a strong and transparent economy. And, my position does not stop there. It is essential to ensure the force and the viability of the companies on our territory.

Within this context, the collaboration of the various speakers: the Ministry, the trade union and the union members, is of primary importance for the reopening of the Litchfield sawmill. It is necessary to ensure a resource for this mill. The solution should also consider the sector of paper mills. This industry also has concerns which they must face.

My logic to allow such an exchange is extremely simple: instead of drowning ourselves by a unilateral preamble and a debate which carry us in the ruin, why don't we consolidate our efforts for this sector in difficulty, by a regional step, while bringing about the necessary changes in a great operation of reorganization. Currently, the private producers support this avenue, as well as several mayors and advisers in economic development. We didn't all take a decision without reasoning. More than ever, it's time to act together for the well being of the entire county!

I remain sincerely yours,
Raymond Durocher
Councillor of the
Pontiac MRC County
and Mayor of Fort-Coulonge

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM By KATHARINE FLETCHER

Recreational corridor: Balancing dreams and costs

Last week I endorsed the recreational trail concept. For those of you who regularly read my column, this was no surprise. But this week, I introduce a different slant to my support, involving the thorny issues of who gets to use the trail, infrastructure development, and timing.

How much will a trail cost us? Last week I listed the three options and their estimated related costs as presented by Genivar's feasibility report. These were:

1. the railway bed ($3.7 million);
2. municipal roads on separate corridor ($3.9 million); and
3. designated municipal roads ($5.5 million).

Incompatible partners

Many people have talked to me about the feasibility study. I share their dismay that it included ATV machines on the proposed recreational corridor. Is "sharing a trail" between bicyclists, hikers, walkers, and ATVs possible? Is it safe?

Cyclists make little noise. Hikers make little noise. Bird watchers are quiet by definition.

ATVs are completely different and by definition make a great deal of noise. This is particularly true when they travel in groups. I'm sure it's fun for them, but it decidedly isn't fun for residents who live near the ATVer's routes – and I'm speaking from experience.

Snowmobiles also make a lot of noise. Unfortunately, if snowmobiles are permitted on the recreational corridor, by Quebec law it cannot be used by quiet recreationalists such as cross-country skiers, snowshoe enthusiasts, winter walkers and bird watchers. (It is illegal in the province of Quebec to use snowmobile trails for cross-country skiing.)

Of course, horseback riders are completely out of luck year-round. Pity.

So what do we mean by "recreation"? Our answer, as a community, will define how our recreational corridor is used.

Re-creation

The Gage Canadian Dictionary defines recreation as "a refreshing of the body and spirit after working, through play or amusement." Re-creation describes how we balance ourselves, how we re-create our sense of personal well being.

Of course, this definition includes ATV and snowmobile enthusiasts. They are frustrated: where can they go to "recreate"? They look at Gatineau Park and rightly point out that the hikers and other soft recreational users can go there to recreate, because their machines are banned in the Park.

In an era where Canadians are being told that obesity is a national disgrace, when we're encouraged to conserve our fossil burning fuels, do we actually want our corridor to become a haven for machines? Personally, I don't think so: we need more places where people can get out and exercise, not less.

So I ask you: Exactly how do we want this recreational corridor to be used?

Incompatibility factor

Let's look at this scenario. You and your friends are on your ATVs and I am walking on the trail with a group of birdwatchers. Let's think about what will happen.

My walking group will hear your approach from a considerable distance because ATVs are noisy machines. You however, are wearing a helmet and are used to the noise you make. You will see me and my group in the distance. As you approach, I will need to stop looking for the bird, and make sure I am not in any danger, or anywhere near the centre of the trail. I will have to shield myself from dust, and from the breeze created as your machine(s) roll past. (This is true if I am on a bicycle, too.)

Of course, because you are a diligent ATV driver, you and all your friends will have slowed almost to a crawl as you pass by me and my group, as well as the quiet string of bicyclists behind me, and the long-distance hikers who are also using our shared recreational trail. After a short distance, you rev up to speed. I continue walking. You are annoyed at all the people you have to slow down for; I am annoyed because appreciating tranquil nature – and birds – is interrupted. Both of us are on guard now, watching for other trail users.

Do you think machines, bikes and hikers are incompatible? Think about it. And, think about what you would want, as a resident living alongside a popular trail.

Costs

If the trail costs "only" $3.5 million, say, do we want to spend that kind of money, right now, on building a recreational corridor?

I regret that I have to say no, and for these main reasons:

1. Garbage. Right now, Mayor Campbell and engineer/developer Denis Rouleau are intent on transforming the North Onslow dump in to a dump that will not only take MRC des Collines' regional garbage, but also "other" garbage from unspecified sources. Mayor Campbell claims "there is no option." Both men also claim that it will cost $1.5 million, "minimum," solely to clean up the current in-trench dump.

I believe that garbage is a crucial issue for us here in MoP and MRC des Collines, right now. Do we want MoP to be known as a mega dump? I say no. Let's ask our councillors to allocate the $3.5 million they would spend on the trail to cleaning up the in-trench dump. In an era of limited budgets, let's spend money wisely.

2. Build infrastructure first. Many readers tell me the cost of the recreational trail won't give MoP residents a good return on investment. Why? They see cyclists and hikers (and, okay, ATV and snowmobile enthusiasts) using the corridor to pass through our municipality and villages. What, they ask me, can people spend their money on, here, in MoP? Is developing a trail a wise public use of our own hard earned tax dollars right now? I don't think so.

As a travel writer, I see what vacationers need and want. They want a choice of accommodations such as gracious country inns to stay in. They want to purchase regional food – usually organic – and to have a choice of superb restaurants in which to dine and drink a fine wine. They want to shop at galleries selling local artists' and artisans' creations. They want to linger in an area, absorb its charms, spend some money in the communities.

Today's Quyon resembles many Pontiac villages: it is largely undeveloped for tourism. It has loads of potential, with pretty homes, quiet streets, tranquil views of the Ottawa River. But there are no country style inns, no cute cafes, no bistros, no marina. How much money can bikers and bird watchers spend in Quyon? Beyond an ice cream cone, not much, frankly.

Many of you argue that tourism is not our ticket to prosperity. I agree. No single industry can be a saviour. But such initiatives as creative agri-tourism (consider Charlevoix's Route de Saveurs), Quyon's marina, and small business initiatives to encourage specialty shops, lodgings etc, Pontiac would become a bigger touristic draw.

Together, with long-range vision and planning, our community has great potential. Is this the time to spend money on a trail?

I say no… not right away. We need to think about these issues that you readers have been struggling with.

• • •

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance writer based in Quyon, Quebec. Contact her at chesley@allstream.net

REFLECTIONS: 121 YEARS OF NEWS

The Way We Were

COMPILED BY HEATHER ALBERTI DICKSON, PUBLISHER

25 Years Ago

February 21, 1979

4-H award winners: Saturday evening the 4-H club held their awards banquet in the Community Centre. Donald Duff, presentation chairman presented awards to 4-H club members. The following were trophy recipients: Roger Younge, Les Orr, Mary Lynn Pirie, Steven Hamilton, Jeff Dean, Wendy Younge, Wanda Younge, Judy Coles, Charles Pirie, Connie Stanley, Sheila Stewart, Brent Corrigan, Rick Younge, Debbie Pirie, Jane Nyveld, Howie Stanley, Nancy Wilson

PCH Director of Nursing: Miss Joan Gavan, a daughter of Mr and Mrs Lennox Gavan of Quyon, has been named Director of Nursing at Pontiac Community Hospital.

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50 Years Ago

February 25, 1954

104 years old: Shawville's grand old lady Mrs James H Riley, celebrates her 104th birthday next Tuesday, Mar. 2. In full possession of her faculties, Mrs Riley is as bright and interested in life as most people half her age. When asked to what she attributes her long life, she announced triumphantly, "I never touched liquor or tobacco. I haven't drunk tea for 50 years, never had false teeth, never been in jail or in hospital and have very seldom drunk doctors' medicine".

Gorman, Broda, McDonald: At the regular weekly meeting of the Shawville Rotary Club, held last Monday night, the Club was honored by the presence of three prominent Ottawa sportsmen, T P (Tommy) Gorman, Walter (Turk) Broda and George McDonald. TP is best known in the Ottawa Valley as the president and general manager of the auditorium in Ottawa. Turk Broda was of course the famous goalie of the Toronto Maple Leafs and is now coaching the Ottawa Senators. and George McDonald this year has been sent from Philadelphia to Ottawa by the Philly A's to act as general manager of the Ottawa A's triple A ball club.

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75 Years Ago

February 21, 1929

Local news: Mr Clarence Brownlee while engaged tying up a bull on Tuesday of last week, was rather seriously injured by the animal jumping on his back.

At a meeting of the Clarendon Council we learn the Board decided to accept the offer of the Minister of Roads to improve the Portage du Fort road on the 50/50 basis, the Department to do the work, and assume the maintenance thereafter.

Resident along both sides of the Calumet Chenail and at Fort Coulonge are ill at ease in consequence of the report that the Ottawa River Power Company proposed to raise the dam at Calumet Falls, with a view to further increase the capacity of the plant there which was originally designed to generate 75,000 horse power, when all the units were installed. The activities of a staff of engineers along the river between Bryson and Coulonge, during several months, have evidently given rise to the above rumor. Mr Gordon Gale, general manager of the Company, in a recent statement declares that there is no foundation for the rumors. All that is being done at present is the installation of the second unit, which will increase the development at the plant from 25,000 hp to 50,000 hp.

The Angel of Death visited the vicinity of Lower Litchfield on Thursday morning, Feb. 7 and claimed for its own the little person of Spurgeon Moore, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Geo Moore. Deceased was aged nine years and seven months.

The death of james Cuthbertson occurred on Tuesday morning Feb. 13. The late Mr Cuthbertson was born in Bristol township in 1837 and in Clarendon township He farmed for the greater part of his life. Mr Cuthbertson took a very active part in establishing Norway Bay as an ideal summer resort and at the time of his death still owned a cottage there where he spent the great part of every summer.

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100 Years Ago

February 25, 1904

Local news: Our hockeyists took their Quyon antagonists into camp in the most approved fashion in the contest held here on Wednesday evening last. In fact the locals put up a quality of the game which had they approached in the earlier stages of the series, would have undoubtedly altered the complexion of the schedule as it stands today. The boys got it into their heads that they were expected to do something, that they were quite qualified to do it if they only put forth a vigorous and determined effort and they did. The result was that they played their antagonists to a standstill in the first half, the score standing at the stage of the match: 5 - 2. The visitors convinced that they had no chance of turning the tables, declined to continue the game, hence the match was decided on the above score. After the match the visitors and officials and a few other hockey enthusiasts were entertained by the victors at the Russell House, where a most inviting spread was prepared for the occasion, and which was heartily enjoyed by all.

Another severe storm on Sunday and Monday, resulted in the blocking of the Pontiac line on Monday, and consequent cancellation of the train service for that day. It seems that Pontiac and Gatineau roads have now only one snow plow at their service since the destruction of the plow a few weeks ago near Breckenridge.

Mr George McCagg of Clarendon Front sustained the loss of his second youngest child on Sunday last, under rather sad and peculiar circumstances. It seems the child, which was too young to conceive of the danger, got possession of some matches, and bit the ends of several before the act was noticed.

No evil effects were immediately noticeable, and it was only after the child had partaken of some soup for dinner, that alarming symptoms set up. Then however, the fatal doze acted so quickly that before the parents fully realized the child's condition, or could procure medical aid the little one expired, death being apparently due to suffocation.

Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents, under the sad circumstances.

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THE AG BEAT

Poor, poor farmer what am I going to do?

By RON HODGINS

There have been several meetings last week, both in Ontario and Quebec where farmers have vented their frustration over the current situation. There seems to be a lot of talk and yes, perhaps, some solutions but how soon will they come? As many as 500 people met last Friday night in Ontario during the storm. That should tell you something about their concerns. There is talk about forming one group or union instead of several, and having one larger voice represent them. There is also talk of a federal program offering $150 per head of compensation. That certainly is not enough to make up the difference in today's prices.

In Quebec there is also talk of interest free loans up to $300 per cow to help farmers pay bills or get their cropping done this Spring. But what happens when you have to pay this back and cattle are still worth nothing? Sounds like the hole that we are in just got deeper.

Why is it, that when we turn on the news we don't hear about our members of parliament working on a solution for this? Did they not eat today? Do they not care that the farming communities are in a crisis? Instead we hear about lost money and huge far away trips that cost millions of dollars. Having talked to many of the local farmers the following is perhaps a solution that many will have to face.

For Sale

Used ATQ tags, pen and pliers; Used baler twine, both plastic and sisal; used silage plastic; assortment of seed and machinery dealer caps; hides suitable for tanning, but need to be removed; Quebec cowboy boot liners (warmer now); For information call any of your local beef producers. No reasonable offer refused.

Poor, Poor Farmer What Am I Going to Do?

It's lunchtime and Mother Hubbard's cupboard is bare. Where is the nearest food bank?

I can't add more water to the soup because it is already past the broth stage.

Yes, I have to lick the empty ice cream container one more time if I want dessert.

Yes, I will lick the snow instead of buying that good bottled water.

Let's dip the tea bag one more time.

Easy bossy I need some milk for my rolled oat porridge too.

Yes bossy you have to eat that stem of hay you lay on yesterday.

I can't afford to put air in that flat tire.

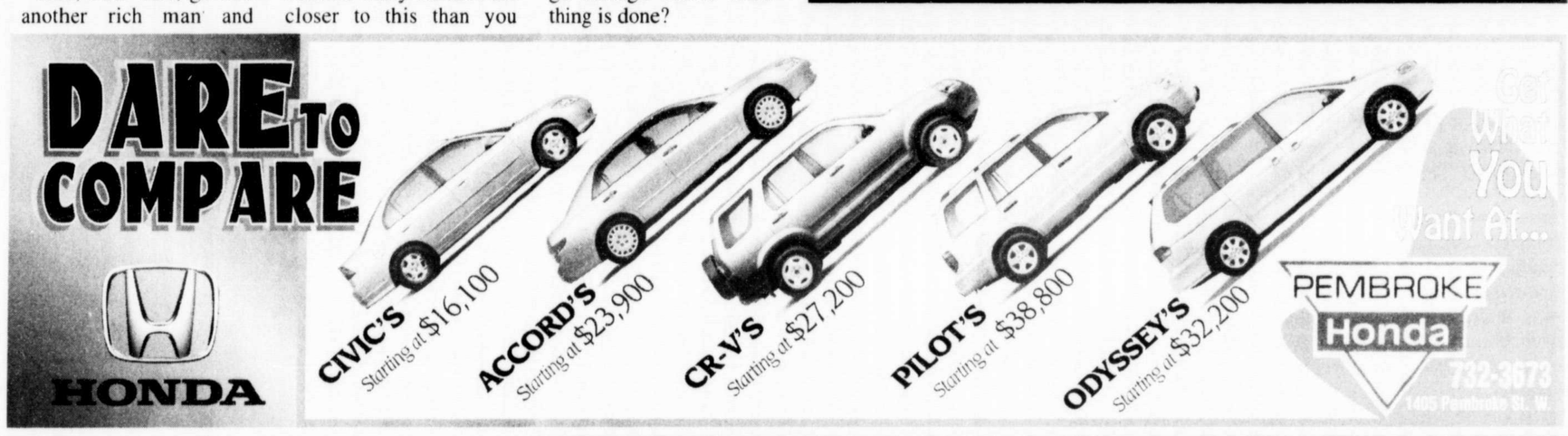
The gas station is at the end of the road but I can't afford to get there.

The tomcat was asked to leave the barn unless he could show proof of child support.

I have to sell the liners out of my winter boots.

And, Dear wife, go find another rich man and please send money home.

If you are laughing don't, because many farmers are closer to this than you think. How much more uncertainly will we have to go through before something is done?



OBITUARIES

James Norris Brough

On Sunday, Dec. 14, 2003 James Norris Brough, aged 92 years, died suddenly at Riverpark Place, Ottawa, ON. He was the son of Alex Brough and his wife May (Shaw).

He will be dearly missed by all whose lives he touched, particularly his wife Mary (Pullen) of 60 years, his children Don (Susan Reeve) and Laurie (Marilynne), his grandchildren Christy and Todd, his sisters Margaret Simons, Charlottetown, and Lucille (Robert) Lane, Ottawa and his sister-in-law Amy Beament (John), Toronto.

He was predeceased by his sister Florian and his brother John.

A memorial service was held in the chapel of All Saints Anglican Church, Richmond Road on Thursday, Dec. 18 with Canon Allan Bon officiating.

George Allan Poole

George Allan Poole passed away in Pontiac Community Hospital on Dec. 26, 2003 at the age of 97. Born at Beechgrove, Quebec on Jan. 16, 1906, Allan was the middle child of George Poole and Sarah Agnes Whelen. He was predeceased by his wife, Violet McMullen, in 1992. A brother Harry, and his sister Marion, also predeceased him. A farmer, Allan lived on the family farm at BeechGrove (Quyon) until 1999, when due to failing health, he entered the Long Term Care Unit of the Pontiac Hospital. He was a lifelong member of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Eardley. The funeral service was held in St. John's Anglican Church, Quyon on Dec. 29, 2003. Interment will be in St. Luke's Cemetery, Eardley. He is sadly missed by his children Marion Armitage (Ron), Una Poole (Michael Perry), Greta Poole and George Poole (Sharon). He was the cherished grandfather of six grandchildren, Lisa and Leslie Young, Geoffrey, Robin and Gavin Poole, Patricia Armitage Paschall and three great-grandchildren, Dominic, Courtney and Ali. He is survived also by one sister-in-law, Lois Poole of St. Catherine's, ON.

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Generating Station Electrical Maintenance Operator

About Hydro Pontiac

Hydro Pontiac owns and operates two generating stations in Waltham and Ft. Coulonge, Quebec (Near Pembroke Ontario) with an installed capacity of 27 MW. Hydro Pontiac is part of the Great Lakes Power group, which has interests in 37 generating stations in Quebec and Ontario with an installed capacity of over 1600 MW.

Hydro Pontiac is owned by Brascan Power Corporation, a member of Brascan Corporation, the parent company of the Brascan family of companies. Brascan Corporation is a publicly traded operating company with three core businesses – office and residential properties, financial services and power generation. In addition, Brascan Corporation holds investments in the resource sector. See www.brascancorp.com for more details.

Brascan Power comprises the power generating, distribution and marketing operations of Brascan Corporation. With approximately $3.3 billion in total assets and nearly 100 years experience in the electricity industry, Brascan Power is the largest private sector producer of electricity in Ontario and Quebec and one of the lowest cost producers of hydroelectric power in North America. Some of these assets are held by the Great Lakes Hydro Income Fund (GLHIF). See www.brascanpower.com or www.greatlakeshydro.com for more details.

Description of Position

As part of the maintenance operator team, you will have an electrical background and assist in all aspects of operation maintenance, and troubleshooting and repairs of Hydro Pontiac's generating stations and dams.

Reporting directly to the Assistant Manager, the incumbent will assist in all aspects of operation maintenance and troubleshooting and repairs of Hydro Pontiac's generating stations and dams. More specifically, the Operator will be responsible for the inspection maintenance and the repair of plant turbine and generators, switchyard, penstock, and intake and control gates. Furthermore, the position is subject to a standby and emergency call out on a rotating basis.

The successful candidate will undergo on the job training for power plant operation and trouble shooting. While the primary skill set required relates to an electrical background, the position is multi-disciplinary. An interest and aptitude for mechanical and labour work is required.

Ideal Candidate (experience and qualifications)

- 5 years experience in industrial control and control panel trouble shooting;
- 3 year Electrical or Electronic Diploma;
- Electrical license (considered to be an asset);
- Experience with P.L.C., computer or S.C.A.D.A. control;
- Bilingual (French and English);
- The applicant is required to have a medical examination;
- Technical evaluation will be performed;
- Good knowledge of Microsoft Office.

The successful candidate will live near or be willing to relocate to the Waltham area.

Hydro Pontiac offers a competitive total compensation package as well as benefit and retirement plans.

We are looking for dynamic individuals with the required experience and qualifications. All interested candidates should apply in confidence no later than **March 5th, 2004** to:

Hydro Pontiac Inc.
2 Montreal Road West
Gatineau, Quebec J8M 2E1
Attention: Josée Lamarche, Human Ressources Officer
Facsimile: (819) 281-7967
E-mail: josee.lamarche@brascanpower.com

Hydro Pontiac would like to thank all applicants but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Facsimile and e-mail applications are acceptable. If you send your résumé by e-mail, please clearly indicate the position title, **Maintenance Operator**, in the message subject window.

Auxiliaries make grand gestures with donation of hospital equipment



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

GENEROSITY COMES IN GREAT NUMBERS: The Shawville Hospital Auxiliary donated a $2,781 specialized wheel chair (pictured in centre) to the general care unit at the Pontiac Health Centre on Friday. Front row from the left: Doreen McNab, Amy Paul, Edith Vladimer, Kathleen Hodgins. Second row from the left: Elaine Beck, Helen Towell, Kay Smith, Mildred Horner, Elsie Sparrow. Back row from the left: Eileen Smith, Marjorie Smith, Doris Orr, Evelyn Laframboise, Maisie Kimber, Margaret Lang, Emily Burrit, Danielle Rancourt (Nursing Coordinator), Ina Kilgour, Pauline Grant, Lorna Dagg, and Lucy Hamilton.

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE — The Shawville Hospital Auxiliary donated a $2,781 specialized hospital chair as their 70th anniversary gift.

There to send good wishes were 20 of the auxiliary's 28 members at the Pontiac Health Centre on Friday, Feb. 20.

"The chair will be useful because it reclines and the patient won't have to move from resting to sitting up and eating," said Danielle Rancourt, nursing coordinator. "It's all compact for general care — it's fully loaded."

The chair has countless accessories like special padding for head support, an oxygen tank holder, as well as an I.V. pole.

"With this chair there is no danger of injury," said Rancourt.

The auxiliary, in existence since 1937, is the oldest of the Pontiac auxiliaries.

The Shawville Auxiliary was instrumental in starting some of the other hospital auxiliaries, like Radford, Zion, Central, Ladysmith, Campbell's Bay, and Quyon.

One of the first donations made by the Shawville Auxiliary were sewing machines for the Auxiliary to use to mend and do repairs for the hospital.

Others were electronic surveillance equipment, children's beds, ice crushers, and money towards the CT scan.

They also contribute to the boutique in the Pontiac Health Centre where all money raised goes directly to the hospital.

Some more memorable donations were chairs for the rooms and bricks to build the hospital in memory of friends.

"Most of the Shawville members are over 70 years old," said Shawville Auxiliary president Helen Towell. "But we are still as enthusiastic and as tireless as ever in working for the hospital."

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE — Pontiac Health Centre received over $30,000 in hospital equipment donated by the hospital auxiliary groups of Pontiac County.

Joyce Hodgins, president of the Central Hospital Auxiliary and coordinator of all auxiliaries, led the groups into the donation on Feb. 6.

"We buy quality equipment that will last a long time," said Hodgins. "It's in constant use 24 hours-a-day."

The hospital auxiliaries involved were Radford, Thorne, Zion, Campbell's Bay, and Central.

"It is very important, what they do," said Brenda Kluke, director of ambulatory care services.

"If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have the equipment."

Equipment that was purchased with the money raised were I.V. rolls, wheelchairs with I.V. and oxygen tank holders, commode chairs, walkers with skis, therapeutic mattresses, a vital signs (SP02) monitor and stand, and an oximeter.

The equipment has already been put to use in the hospital's emergency room, long-term care, general care, and intensive care unit.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION: The Pontiac Health Centre was graced with yet another gracious donation from the hospital auxiliary groups. Showing off the new equipment are from left to right: Director of ambulatory care services Brenda Kluke, president of Zion Auxiliary Marshallene Campbell, president of Campbell's Bay Auxiliary Lois Bertrand, president of Thorne Auxiliary Dorothy Wilson, nursing coordinator Danielle Rancourt, Alma Zimmerling of the Radford Auxiliary, and auxiliary coordinator Joyce Hodgins.

The exact amount raised was $31,171 that had been collected since April 1, 2003.

The money was raised through bake sales, the operation of the boutique in the hospital, collections, and vending machines.

"It's encouraging when we get stuff like this," said Danielle Rancourt, nursing coordinator. "We appreciate not having to wait for equipment."

There are approximately 80 women involved in Pontiac auxiliary groups that have been donating continuously for over 50 years.

"This equipment can enhance quality of life and nurses can therefore enhance the quality of care," said Hodgins.

For next year's donation, the hospital will be sending Hodgins a list of more equipment that is needed and out of budget for the hospital.

Shawville Ladies Hospital Auxiliary

The Shawville Ladies Hospital Auxiliary met at the home of Mrs. Edith Latimer in Shawville.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Margaret Willis. Helen Towell chaired the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Ina Kilgour had a reading about success and a poem about February. The secretary's report was given by Margaret Willis and the treasury report by Marjorie Smith. Birthday and get well cards were signed and sent out to the sick and shut-in members.

A successful bring and buy sale was held.

The meeting was adjourned by Emily Burret and the closing prayer by Mildred Horner was followed by delicious refreshments served by Mary Lewis and Lucy Hamilton. The March meeting is to be held at the home of Doris Orr.

Pontiac Artists' Association recognized for 15 years of success in county



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

ARTISTIC APPRECIATION: MNA Charlotte L'Ecuyer (left) presented $2,000 to the Pontiac Artists Association (formerly PASTA) on Friday on behalf of Line Beauchamp of the Ministry of Culture and Communications to founding member Dale Shutt (centre) and chairperson Valerie Bridgeman in recognition of 15 years of success.

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE — The Pontiac Artists Association, formerly PASTA, received a first-time $2,000 grant last week from the Ministry of Culture and Communications in recognition of 15 years of success.

"Now we can show that the Pontiac Artists Association is more than just a studio tour," said Dale Shutt, a founding member of the association. "Now we can start promoting it."

The money will be going towards other ways of promoting Pontiac's artists, like the possibility of more art shows, an artist-shadowing day for students, and to generate more members.

"We are supporting cultural life in the Pontiac," said MNA Charlotte L'Ecuyer, who presented the cheque.

"Our mandate is not exclusive to just visual arts," said Ariann Bouchard, secretary of the Pontiac Artists Association.

Currently, there are 21 members who open up 16 home studios during the association's studio tour in June. The tour brought in more than 500 visitors last summer.

"The majority of all arts need support from the government and individuals," said Shutt.

"It's not just 'what are you getting out of this (money)', it's about supporting our culture."

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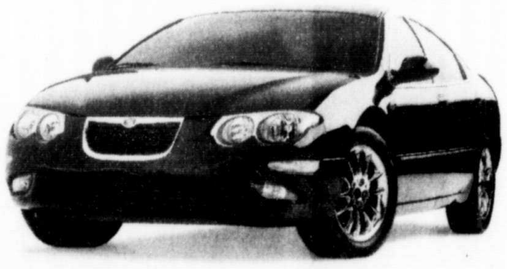
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PORTAGE FISH DERBY: The Portage du Fort Volunteer Fire Department held its second annual ice fishing derby Saturday, Feb. 7, with 93 entries and spectators raising more than $1,000 for the department. Eric Guindon, right, of Portage, won a gas-powered ice auger for his first place catch, a 6 lb., 9 oz. pike. Guindon received his prize from Willard Smith, left, and Martin Lesk, of Martin's Bait who donated the auger. Second place and $200 went to Robert Walsh, of Pembroke, while third place and $100 was won by Stephan McCallum, of Chenaux.

Metro and "CC" dive into second season

SHAWVILLE — The Novice "A" Pontiacs clipped Petit Nation in their largest win of the year, 7-2. Justin McGuire scores three, Quinn O'Brien (2) and Brady Trudeau (2).

• The Novice "B" Draveurs finished sixth with a 9-3-4 record.

• The Atom "B" Pontiacs finished the season with a 4-1 win against Aylmer. There were no results from the game that pushed them in 13th spot out of 25 teams across the Outaouais Their record is 7-8-3. The Atom "A" Pontiacs were idle and finished in fourth over all with 14-2-2 record.

• The Atom "B" Draveurs finished in sixth place with a 10-5-3 record and wrapped up the regular season with 5-4 win over the Hull Elans. Maxim Robert (2), Stephane Paré, Ashley Armour and Tommy Soucie scored in the game.

• Peewee "B" Pontiacs beat the Gatineau Harfangs 2-1 with Chelsea Carson and Derek Hickey scoring. The Peewees finished in second place amongst 24 teams with a 16-0-4 record. The Fort Coulonge Draveurs are just behind them in third with a 16-2-2 record.

• The Bantam "B" Pontiacs finished seventh with a 12-6-2 record while their Fort Coulonge counterparts finished on the top of the heap with a 19-0-1 record. The Draveurs are one of five teams without a loss in the Metro League, there are 175 teams, from Novice on up.

• The Midget Draveurs tied the Gatineau Cougars 3-3 with Bob Tierney scoring twice and Nick Beauchamp netting the single. The Draveurs finished second last with a 1-14-5 record.

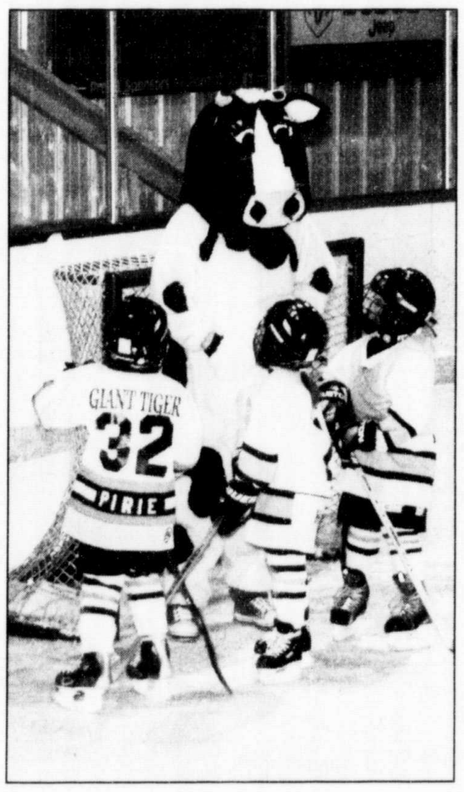
• The Shawville Midgets dropped a 6-2 decision to Gatineau. Kenny Fleck and Jordan Kearns got the scores. The loss places Shawville dead last with a 3-14-3 record.

• It's play off time for all and only the "CC" teams know where they're going because it's like a whole new season again for them, literally. Both teams play round robin series and for the Bantams, it works out to eight games and six for the Peewees. The Bantams play in Shawville Feb. 26 against Gatineau, Feb. 29 against Papineau in Fort Coulonge and once more in Coulonge against Maniwaki Mar. 7. before getting in one more game at Shawville, Mar.13, to play Hull. They're are on the road between those dates.

The Peewees are already into the action with a 3-2 win over Maniwaki Sunday in Shawville. Dylon Wisotzki, Matt Alexander and Tyler Alexander scored. Other local games include Fort Coulonge Feb. 29 for Hull, and Shawville Mar. 11 for Aylmer.

The top teams will collide at a later time and place yet to be announced

The Pontiac Metro teams will start their playoff battles this weekend as coaches will get the info. soon. Most teams will start on the road, but times and places will change as needed in the following rounds.



BUTTER CUP AND THE BOYS: Local mascot and members of the Shawville MAGH team played shinny during the past Pontiac National Midget Hockey Tournament. Butter Cup didn't make too many saves.

Dave Moore, THE EQUITY

PHS hockey team loses their first game 5-3

By NICK VAN DEN BERG
Equity Correspondent

SHAWVILLE —The Pontiac High School hockey team played their first game of the season last Friday, facing off against Alexander Galt High School of Sherbrooke.

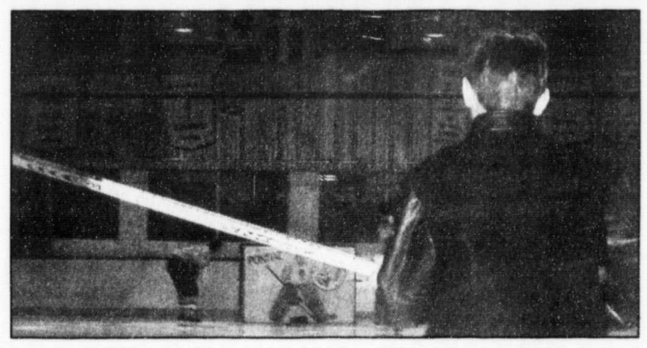
The game was played at the Frank Robinson Arena in Aylmer. At the end of the game the final score was 5-3 for Sherbrooke.

Pontiac High's scores were evenly dispersed, with one each by Jordan Kearns, Darcy Findlay and Dennis Mcleary.

Shawville played a hard game against the experienced opposition. Alexander Galt has already played several games this season, whereas this was Pontiac High's first of the year.

"We just didn't have as much game experience as the other team," recalls PHS player Matthew Sicard.

Considering PHS's lack of in-game experience they played well and proved their worthiness in the game. Hopefully Pontiac has gained some respect and will have a chance at more games next year. This year their schedule is unfortunately limited, as they are newcomers to the school hockey league, but they hope to play more next year.



ALMOST: Colton Keon was the closest to winning a four wheeler at a recent Junior B hockey game. It was all part of the club's season long contest that concluded with one shot at the big prize.

Dave Moore, THE EQUITY

Jrs one up on Renfrew

SHAWVILLE — With a convincing 4-1 win the Pontiac Junior B's have taken a one game lead in the Valley Division Semi-final.

The Pontiacs are firing on all cylinders, the defense, the forwards and goalie J.P. Perron are all clicking along and have the visitors looking like they believe it as well.

The Pontiacs' Dan Pilon opened the scoring with the first period's only goal and even after Renfrew tied the game in the second, the Pontiacs rolled along. Gaining back the one-goal lead in the second off Matt Collins' stick and then sealing the deal in the third with Travis Dorzek scoring twice.

Days earlier, the Pontiacs had dispatched the Arnprior Packers in game five in much the same way they took care of Renfrew last Sunday, with the defense on top of their opponent right out to the forwards killing them with speed and chances. 3-1 was the final with Wayne Rumleski, Chris Bryne and Rocky White doing the damage.

The Pontiacs have a chance to go up two-games on the Timberwolves. As this issue hits the press, game two will be underway. Game three and four will be in Renfrew, Feb. 29 at p.m. and Mar. 2 with 8 p.m. starts. The Series will return to Shawville ice Mar 3. for game five and Mar 7. for game seven, if needed.

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PONTIAC JR. B vs RENFREW TIMBERWOLVES

DIVISION SEMI-FINALS

DATE	VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Sun., Feb. 29	Shawville	Renfrew	7:00 pm
Tue., Mar. 2	Shawville	Renfrew	8:00 pm
Wed., Mar. 3*	Renfrew	Shawville	8:00 pm
Fri., Mar. 5*	Shawville	Renfrew	8:00 pm
Sun., Mar. 7*	Renfrew	Shawville	7:00 pm

*if necessary

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Sat., Mar. 6th

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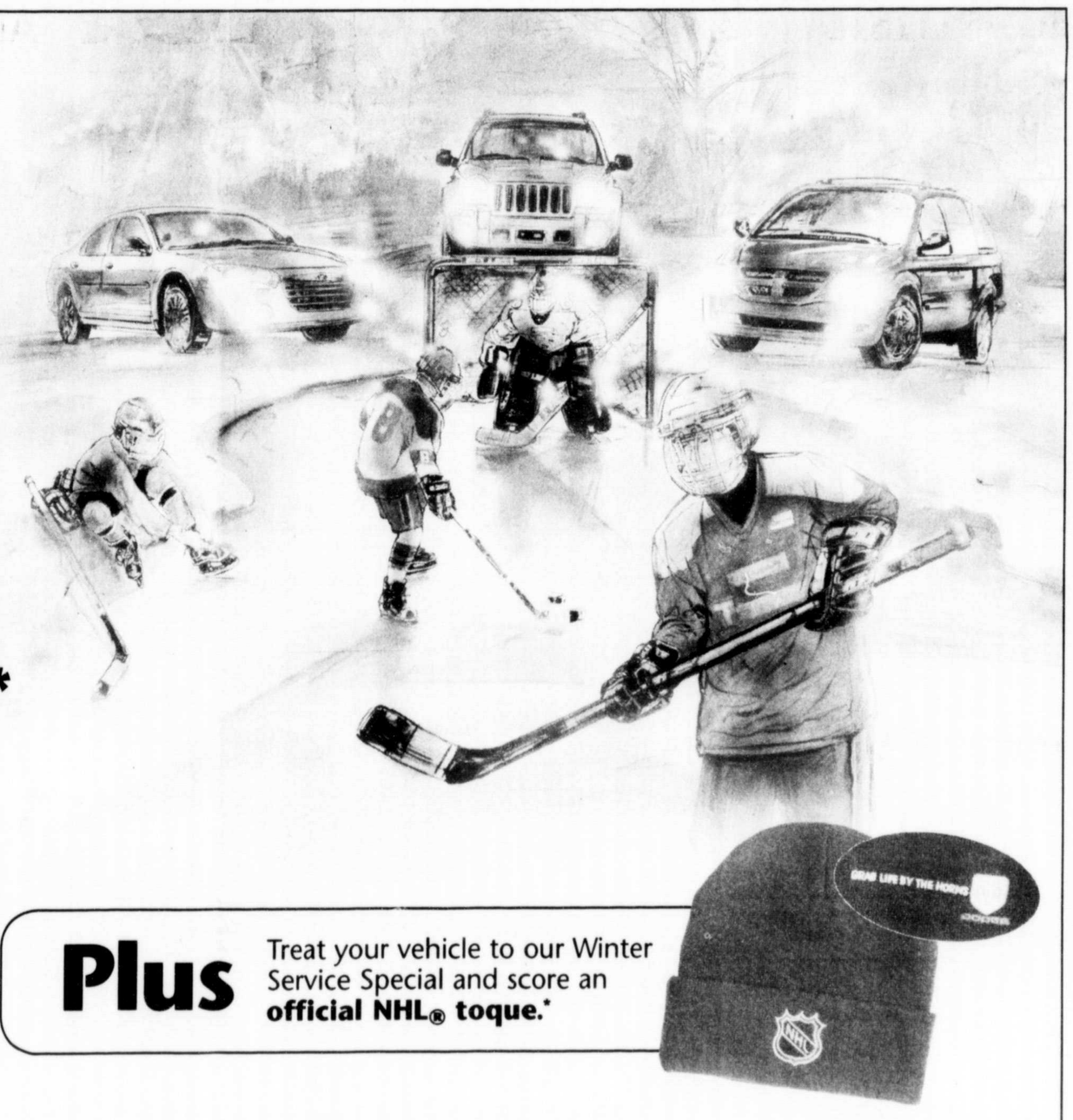
Music by Tequila Mockingbird at 7 pm
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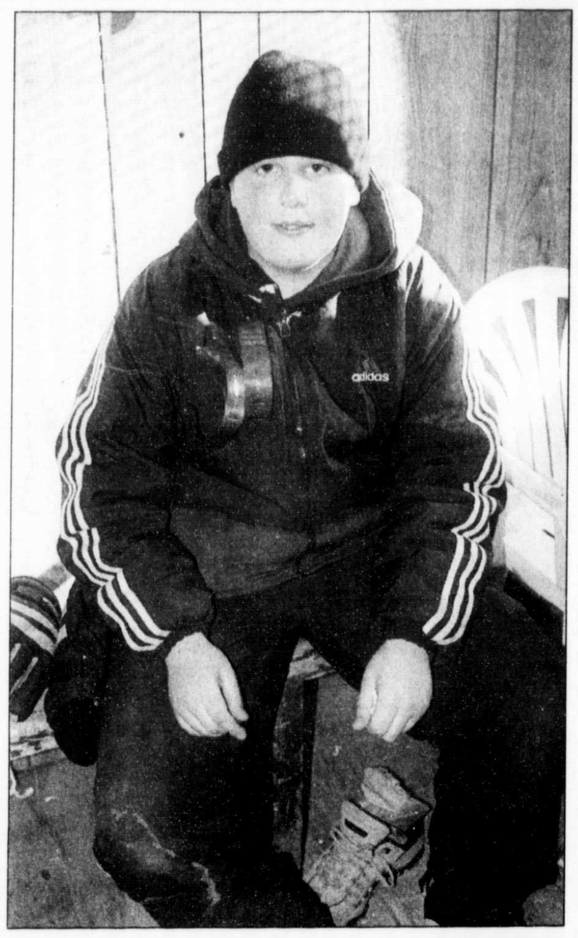
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COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

QUEBEC CONTINGENT: Pontiac was well represented at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto last November, with three local farmers part of the eight-member Quebec 4-H Club contingent competing in the National Junior Beef Heifer Show. From the left: John Donaldson, Donna Donaldson, Foster; Kalie Dufault, Calumet Island, 6th place with Second Generation Nelly, Simmental/Commercial; Amanda Allnut, Brome, 6th with Millbrook Candy 8m, Shorthorn; Scott Stephens, Clarendon, 4th place with BristolView Mary, Shorthorn/Limousin; Kayla McCann, Clarendon, 7th place with Northernlights Magentia, Simmental; Ryan Currie, Bolton, 4th place, JD Queen 4m, Angus; and Emily Grey, Hartley, 4th place with Greylodge Tootsie, Simmental. The Donaldson's, of JD Farms, footed a big part of the bill for the other 4-H members, including cattle shipping and hotel rooms.



Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

MULTI WINNER: Keith Tubman won the youth division of the waiter races and the hockey skills challenge at the Bristol Winter Carnival at the Norway Bay rink Feb. 15.



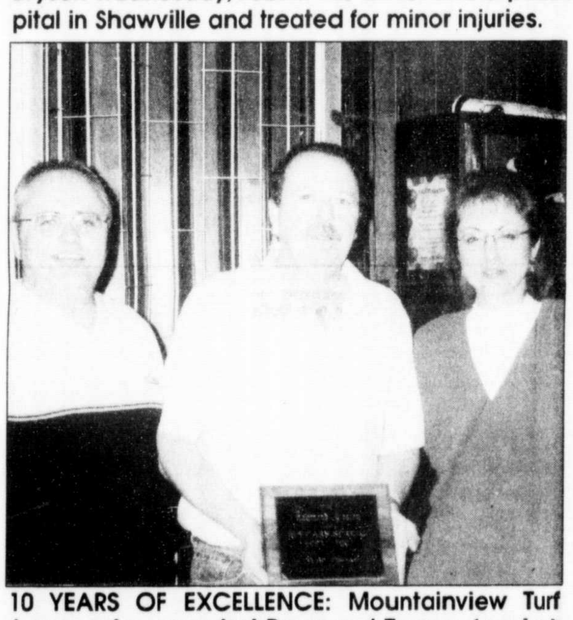
Heather Alberti-Dickson, THE EQUITY

NEW BUSINESS ON MAIN STREET: Ardel Mulligan has opened up a knitting store at 308 Main Street in Shawville. Her store has a large selection of handmade sweaters, mitts, socks and other knitted goods. She is also available for custom knitting.



Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

IN THE DITCH: This bus hit the ditch on the snow-covered Hwy. 148 between Campbell's Bay and Bryson Wednesday, Feb. 4. The driver and a passenger were taken to the Pontiac Health Centre hospital in Shawville and treated for minor injuries.



10 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE: Mountainview Turf Agronomics awarded Raymond Tracey (centre) with a 10-year plaque recognizing his loyalty and dedication to the company at their 2002 Christmas celebrations. Presenting the plaque are Bill Hamilton (left) and Sue Hamilton.



MOUNTAINVIEW DEDICATION: From the left: Sue Hamilton, Chris Dowe, Garry Trudeau, and Bill Hamilton. December's 10-year recognition plaques went to Dowe and Trudeau recognizing the loyalty and dedication they put into their jobs.

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PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

To the ratepayers of the aforesaid municipality

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The Municipality of Pontiac is looking for residents of the municipality who are interested in becoming a member of the Urban Renewal Committee (U.R.C.).

The urban renewal committee's objective is to help council in the development of policies in town planning. Members of the committee study and analyze questions relating to zoning, development and planning and give their recommendations to council.

If the development and planning of your municipality interest you, we invite you to send in your application and explain why you wish to become a member of the urban renewal committee of the Municipality of Pontiac.

You must send us your application and a short summary of your abilities by 4:30 p.m. on March 12, 2004 at the following address :

Uban renewal committee
Municipality of Pontiac
Attn : Thérèse Trépanier
Town planning office
2024 Route 148, Pontiac (Quebec) J0X 2G0

GIVEN IN PONTIAC this 13th day of February two thousand four.

Sylvain Bertrand
Secretary-Treasurer

Business directory

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819-647-6300
Hull
819-771-3231



Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

ROYAUTÉ: La reine Josée Villeneuve, 14 ans et le roi Jesse Kluke, 17 ans, sont choisi vendredi le 13 février à la ouverture de la carnivale d'Otter Lake. Absent pour le photo son la première princesse Michelle Barker, 13 ans, et la deuxième princesse Ashley Kluke, 17 ans, le premier prince Jeremy Dubeau, 16 ans et le deuxième prince Matthew Lamarche, 15 ans.

Témiskawa se prépare à naviguer les eaux de 2004

PONTIAC - La corporation de la voie navigable Témiskawa représente plus de dix municipalités aux abords de la rivière des Outaouais – de Fitzroy Harbour jusqu'au lac Témiskaming. Elles sont conjointement responsables de l'opération du réseau des services de remorquage hydraulique qui permet aux plaisanciers de contourner les barrages et les rapides et de naviguer plus de 500 km de la rivière des Outaouais, décrite comme « une aventure nautique canadienne des plus extraordinaires ».

La semaine dernière, les membres de la voie navigable Témiskawa se sont réunis à North Bay pour élaborer la vision de l'organisme. Les participants ont réalisé leurs objectifs à l'aide des ressources professionnelles et technologiques du centre de décision de l'université Queens' (Queens' Business Executive Decision Centre). Les SADC de Pontiac et du comté de Renfrew ont contribué au financement de cette initiative. Ces deux sociétés d'aide reconnaissent l'énorme potentiel touristique de la voie navigable. Le président de la corporation Témiskawa, M. Donald Gagnon, qui est aussi le maire de Chichester au Québec, affirme que « Le but de la corporation de la voie navigable Témiskawa est de bâtir et de renforcir les partenariats existants et de développer un modèle solide d'entreprise pour assurer que la rivière des Outaouais – lac Témiskaming devienne la destination privilégiée des plaisanciers."

"Nous avons chez-nous", continue Gagnon, "l'une des plus grandes rivières en Amérique du Nord naviguée par Samuel de Champlain pour explorer le Nouveau monde. Ce cours d'eau est riche en patrimoine et a gardé son caractère virginal. C'est une expérience à ne pas manquer que de voyager le long de la rivière qui conserve toujours son cachet grande nature tout comme dans le temps des Voyageurs."

Parmi les membres de la corporation de la voie navigable Témiskawa sont représentées les municipalités de New Liskeard, Haileybury, Témiskaming, Notre Dame du Nord, Mattawa, Deep River, Pembroke, Petawawa, Arnprior, le comté de Renfrew et la MRC de Pontiac. Lorsque le site de contournement au lac des Chats sera finalisé, les plaisanciers de la ville d'Ottawa seront branchés à la section nord de la rivière des Outaouais en utilisant le canal Rideau – un objectif prioritaire de la corporation et ce, d'ici un an.

La corporation Témiskawa a embauché une coordonnatrice, Mme Linda Sarazin, pour élaborer une stratégie de commercialisation et pour augmenter la visibilité de la voie navigable comme destination touristique. Mme Sarazin est une ressource précieuse bien connue au Canada dans le domaine de la commercialisation touristique particulièrement à cause de son importante contribution à la réussite internationale de l'Expérience Anishinabe. Dit Mme Sarazin, « Il y a un énorme potentiel à exploiter ici en écotourisme et en tourisme d'aventure nature. Nous souhaitons informer les partenaires et le public des attraits du Témiskawa et d'en faire une destination à ne pas manquer. »

Pour en connaître plus sur la voie navigable Témiskawa, rendez-vous sur le site Internet au www.temiskawa.com.

PROVINCE DE QUÉBEC
MUNICIPALITÉ DE PONTIAC

Aux contribuables de la susdite municipalité

AVIS PUBLIC

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

La Municipalité de Pontiac est à la recherche de résidents de la municipalité intéressés à devenir membre du Comité consultatif en Urbanisme (C.C.U.).

Le comité consultatif d'urbanisme a pour but d'aider le conseil dans l'élaboration de ses politiques en matière d'urbanisme. Les membres du comité étudient et analysent toutes les questions relatives au zonage, à l'aménagement et à la construction et font part au conseil de leurs recommandations.

Si l'aménagement et le développement de votre municipalité vous intéressent, nous vous invitons à poser votre candidature et expliquer les raisons pour lesquelles vous désirez devenir membre du comité consultatif d'urbanisme de la Municipalité de Pontiac.

Vous avez jusqu'à 16h30 le 12 mars 2004 pour nous faire parvenir votre demande et un court résumé de vos compétences à l'adresse suivante :

Comité consultatif d'urbanisme
Municipalité de Pontiac
Att : Thérèse Trépanier
Service d'urbanisme
2024, Route 148, Pontiac (Québec) J0X 2G0

DONNÉ À PONTIAC ce 13e jour de février deux mille quatre.

Sylvain Bertrand
Secrétaire-trésorier

CPE TEBIZINÂN

Directeur(trice) adjointe

15 heures/semaines

Remplacement pendant un an - immédiatement

Description du poste :

Sous l'autorité de la direction générale du CPE Tebizinân, le (la) Directeur(trice) adjointe à la responsabilité de coordonner et de superviser l'ensemble des activités des services de garde en milieu familial dans le secteur ouest.

Exigences du poste :

Démontrer des habiletés à communiquer avec d'autres adultes et à établir avec eux une relation d'aide.

Avoir trois années d'expérience à temps complet ou l'équivalent :

- Mise en application d'un programme d'activités auprès de groupe d'enfant de 12 ans ou moins ; OU
- Dans des fonctions de supervision ou d'animation de personnes chargées de la mise en application de ce programme.

Aptitudes recherchées :

Capacité de communiquer facilement en anglais et en français oralement et par écrit;

Excellente connaissance de la Loi et du Règlement sur les CPE;

Excellentes connaissances en lien au développement des enfants de 0 à 5 ans et du Programme Éducatif du Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance.

Salaire annuel : Selon l'échelle salariale des CPE plus certains avantages sociaux.

Les candidat(e)s intéressé(e)s devront faire parvenir leur curriculum vitae le ou avant le vendredi, 5 mars 2004, 12H00, au :

Comité de sélection—CPE Tebizinân
316 Argue Crescent, Shawville, Québec J0X 2Y0
Télécopieur : (819) 647-6408
Courriel : jlepine@cpetebizinan.fcpeq.qc.ca

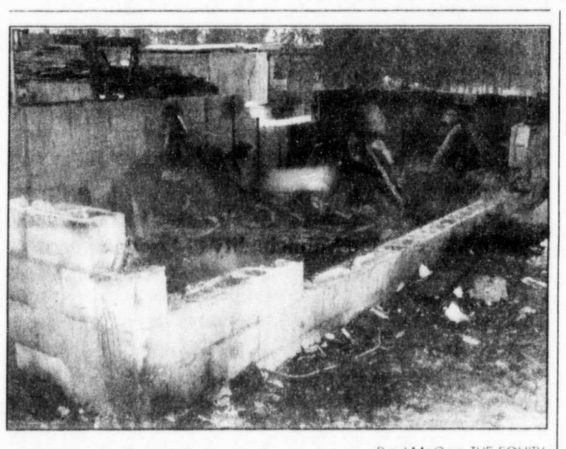
Québec publie un projet de règlement pour la formation des pompiers

QUEBEC –Le ministre de la Sécurité publique, M. Jacques Chagnon, est heureux d'annoncer que le Conseil des ministres a autorisé la publication à la Gazette officielle du Québec du Projet de règlement sur les conditions pour exercer au sein d'un service de sécurité incendie municipal. Après une période de consultation de 45 jours, le projet de règlement sera de nouveau présenté au Conseil des ministres.

Les pompiers engagés depuis le 17 septembre 1998, peu importe leur statut, devront répondre aux nouvelles exigences. Jusqu'à maintenant, seuls les pompiers à temps plein étaient régis par un règlement sur la formation. Des délais sont également prévus pour que les pompiers puissent suivre la formation exigée. "Ces mesures permettront de maintenir le fonctionnement des services de sécurité incendie tout en augmentant graduellement la qualification professionnelle de leur personnel", a expliqué le ministre Chagnon.

Les exigences de formation pour les pompiers et les officiers varient selon la strate de population desservie par le service de sécurité incendie. En plus de la formation de base, des exigences de formation supplémentaire sont prévues pour les pompiers qui sont affectés à une fonction dite "spécialisée", soit celle d'opérateur d'autopompe, d'opérateur de véhicule d'élévation, de désincarcération et de recherche des causes et des circonstances d'un incendie.

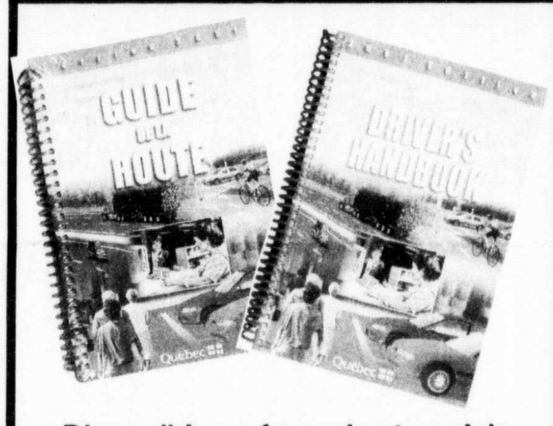
"Réclamé depuis longtemps par les associations représentant le milieu de la sécurité incendie et par Me Cyrille Delâge, coroner et commissaire- enquêteur aux incendies, ce projet de règlement améliorera l'efficacité et la sécurité du personnel des services de sécurité incendie", a conclu le ministre.



Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

FEU TRAGIQUE: Feu a détruiré un maison sur la route Chemin de l'Outaouais à Isle Grande Calumet la semaine passé. Les voisins ont vu le feu environ 4h le matin jeudi et ont téléphoné 911.

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Le Ministre Jean-Marc Fourneir announce la creation d'un programme de prevention contre l'usage des drogues au hockey

QUEBEC - Le ministre des Affaires municipales, du Sport et du Loisir, M. Jean-Marc Fournier annonce la création d'un programme destiné à sensibiliser et à prévenir les hockeyeurs québécois des effets néfastes de l'usage de substances dopantes.

Ce programme, né de l'initiative des principaux intervenants de la scène du hockey au Québec dont M. Claude Allain, président de Hockey Québec, M. Gilles Courteau, commissaire de la ligue de hockey junior majeur du Québec, M. Martin Roy, président de la ligue de développement midget AAA et M. Richard Morency, président de la ligue de hockey junior AAA du Québec, vise la clientèle du hockey de développement. Ce programme sera présenté lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle de Hockey Québec en juin prochain et pourra être mise en application dès la saison 2004-2005.

"Cette démarche, puisqu'elle implique les principaux intervenants, permettra une action concertée et cohérente, ce qui nous permettra de s'attaquer efficacement à la problématique soulevée.", a mentionné le ministre Fournier.

Le ministre Fournier ainsi que Hockey Québec croient également qu'une politique de contrôle des substances dopantes doit être mise sur pied et que cette politique ne doit pas se limiter au Québec mais s'étendre à l'ensemble des provinces canadiennes. Pour ce faire, M. Fournier rencontrera le ministre d'Etat au sport, M. Stan Kazmierczak Keyes, cette semaine, afin de discuter de ce dossier. De plus, il a été convenu que les intervenants du hockey québécois, dont la LHJMQ et Hockey Québec, contacteront leurs homologues canadiens pour discuter de cette problématique qui touche l'ensemble du hockey.

Monsieur Fournier a conclu en mentionnant que : "La collaboration de Hockey Québec, de ses membres et de ses partenaires, est essentielle à la mise en place et à la réussite d'un tel programme de promotion, de sensibilisation et de contrôle. Nous sommes tous préoccupés par la santé et le bien-être des jeunes hockeyeurs québécois."

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Ou visitez le site Web
www.amputesdeguerre.ca
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Faisant partie de l'équipe d'opération/entretien, le candidat effectue diverses tâches telles qu'exécuter des travaux d'entretien préventif et prédictif, de dépannage, d'analyse de panne, des travaux sur des groupes alternateurs, des appareillages de haute tension, des instruments de mesure, des relais de protection et équipements de communication. Il sera aussi responsable des travaux sur les barrages et des manœuvres d'opération. Le candidat fera partie de l'équipe de garde sur rotation, et de rappel en situation d'urgence. Ce poste est multidisciplinaire, c'est-à-dire que le candidat aura à effectuer les diverses tâches d'opération et d'entretien autres que sa spécialisation, mécanique, civil, tuyauterie requises pour l'entretien et l'opération des centrales et barrages.

Exigences

- Détenir un diplôme d'études collégial (D.E.C.) en électrodynamique ou instrumentation ou électronique.
- Posséder un minimum de 5 années d'expérience en entretien électrique industriel, préférablement en poste et centrale.
- Posséder une connaissance et une expérience des protections électriques et des automates programmables.
- Intérêt et aptitude pour le travail mécanique.
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Conditions d'embauche

- Posséder une bonne connaissance de la suite Microsoft Office.
- Détenir un certificat de qualification "C" en entretien industriel est un atout.
- Se soumettre à un examen médical.
- Subir avec succès une évaluation technique et psychométrique.
- Le candidat retenu devra habiter dans la région de Waltham.

Prière de faire parvenir votre demande le ou avant le 5 mars 2004 à:

Hydro Pontiac
2, chemin Montréal Ouest
Gatineau, QC J8M 2E1
À l'attention de Josée Lamarche, Agente, Ressources humaines
Courriel : josee.lamarche@brascanpower.com

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THE EQUITY Classified

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.. CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.. CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.. CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 2004

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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MARCH 2004

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COMING EVENTS

Every Saturday night; Bryson Lions Club Old Time Dance, round and square dancing. Music by the Brysonnaires. Bryson Lions Hall 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. $6 per person. Hot lunch served at midnight. 15m5

Aerobics – Now running classes twice a week in Ladysmith. Monday and Thursday. Come and join our fun! Call Julie 453-2096 for membership details. b2m3

Thurs., Feb. 26 – Pontiac High School Jr. Hockey Tournament from 8 a.m - 4 p.m. Shawville Arena. Shawville plays at 8 a.m. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. $1 per person. Contact Pontiac High School. Phone 647-2244. bf25

Feb. 27th – From 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Gently Used Clothing Sale St. George's Anglican Church, 66 Leslie Street, Campbell's Bay. Lots of Bargains available. Come out and see for yourself! bf25

Seek the Lord while he may be found! In the Anglican Parish of Northern Pontiac, our Lenten programmes include Bible Study each Monday night from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Bethany Hall. Danford Lake - bring a potluck supper item to share. Communion each Wednesday at 10 a.m. at St. George's Campbell's Bay - followed by a soup and bread lunch. For information call 648-2949 or see www.pontiacanglican.org. bf25

Sun., Feb. 29 – 7 p.m. A Gospel Music Concert with several local churches supplying special talent at Shawville Standard Church. Everyone welcome! bf25

March 6, 7 & 20 – Literacy Literates! Can you spare an hour or so per week to change someone's life? Become a volunteer tutor with the W.Q. Literacy Council. Attend the Tutor Training Workshop10:00 - 3:00 in Shawville. Cost $10. For more info: (819) 647-3112 (fax and phone) e-mail: wqlc@ncf.ca 2bm3

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DEATHS

Carruthers, Wayne – In hospital in Shawville, in his 67th year. Beloved husband of Edna (Hodgins), father of Jim, Kathy and Richard and grandfather of Robyn, Andrea, Sarah and Sam. He is also survived by his brother Douglas. There will be no visitation. A memorial service will take place on Saturday, February 28 at 11:00 a.m. at the Standard Church, Main Street, Shawville, with interment in the Spring at St. Stephen's Church in Kazabazua. In lieu of flowers, donations made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Pontiac Community Hospital would be appreciated. The family wishes to express their appreciation to the staff of the Pontiac Community Hospital for their caring in his last days.

Ethier, Rev. (Lawrence) Merlyn, Priest of the Diocese of Pembroke – Parish Priest of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Astorville, Ontario and Chairman of the Council of Priests for the Diocese of Pembroke. At North Bay General Hospital on Tuesday, February 17, 2003 at the age of 64 years following a brief illness. Father Ethier was born in Westmeath, Ontario on November 25, 1939, the son of the late Lawrence Ethier and Louise Chevrier. His life was greatly enriched as the son of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, LaPasse, Ontario and through the education he received at R. R. #1, Westmeath, LaPasse and St. Columba's High School, Pembroke. Loving brother of Alda (George Sniderhan), London, Ont., Dillon (late Doreen), Shelburne, Ont., Denzil (Mona), LaPasse, Carl (Marjorie), Toronto, Arlene (Victor Lacroix), Pembroke, Gwen Devine, Nepean, Philip (Dawna), Mississauga and Melvin (Debbie), Kanata. Uncle of many nephews and nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces as well as many cousins. Nephew of Mrs. Ida McGuire, Pembroke and Rose Chevrier, Ottawa. Following secondary school graduation, he entered St. Peter's Seminary, London, Ontario, in training for the diocesan priesthood. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 1965 by Most Reverend William J. Smith at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, LaPasse. Following ordination to the priesthood Father Ethier generously and selflessly served as assistant at Saint Alphonsus Parish, Chapeau, Paroisse St-Pierre, Fort-Coulonge and St. Theresa Parish, Temiscaming. Early in his priestly career he began studies in summer programs at Laurentian University, Sudbury and St. Paul University, Ottawa in the field of catechetics. Fr. Ethier also served as assistant at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Renfrew and eventually as assistant at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Renfrew. It was at this time that he began a long and distinguished career of service at St. Joseph's High School, Renfrew where he was a teacher, chaplain and friend to many over a span of 19 years. Father Ethier is remembered as a faithful and dedicated priest who supported and guided not only many hundreds of students but also the staff of the high school. His service and leadership was evident and appreciated during many challenging years when the high school had yet to receive full funding. Father Ethier also served as a dedicated spiritual leader to the Catholic Prayer group in Renfrew and to the Charismatic Prayer Group of the Diocese of Pembroke. Father Ethier was pastor of St. James' Parish, Portage-du-Fort and of St. Elizabeth Parish, Vinton. He undertook studies at St. Paul University and completed a Master's degree in Theology, St. Paul University, Ottawa. He served as parish priest of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Campbell's Bay, Quebec, Immaculate Conception Parish, Bryson and Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, Astorville where he has faithfully served up to the time of his illness last Fall. He was also chaplain to the Knights of Columbus Council #6664, Corbeil, Ontario. Well loved and respected by his brother priests, Father Ethier served them not only as Chairman of the Council of Priests, but also as Director of the Ministry to Priests' Program and a member of the Clergy Fund board of directors. He laid in state at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Astorville, on Thursday, February 19 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Friday, February 20 beginning at 9:30 a.m. until the Concelebrated Mass of the Resurrection with Most Reverend Richard W. Smith, Bishop of Pembroke at 10:30 a.m. with and for his parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Astorville. Solemn translation following the liturgy at St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke, where he was waked on Friday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, February 21 from 9 a.m. until the Concelebrated Mass of the Resurrection with Most Rev. Richard W. Smith, Bishop of Pembroke, at 10:30 a.m. Spring interment Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery, LaPasse. In memoriam donations to St. Thomas Aquinas Church Fund, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery Memorial Fund or The Canadian Cancer Society would be greatly appreciated. Funeral arrangements entrusted to McGuinty Funeral Home, North Bay and Murphy Funeral Home, Pembroke.

Ethier, Père Merlyn, Prêtre du Diocèse de Pembroke – Curé de la Paroisse Saint-Thomas d'Aquin, Astorville, Ontario, et président du Conseil presbytéral du Diocèse de Pembroke, décédé à l'Hôpital Général de North Bay le 17 février 2004 à l'âge de 64 ans, suite à une courte maladie. Le Père Ethier est né à Westmeath, Ontario, le 25 novembre 1939, fils de feu Lawrence Ethier et feu Louise Chevrier. Durant sa jeunesse, il a su profiter des bienfaits qui lui ont été accordés en tant que fils de la paroisse "Our Lady of Mount Carmel," LaPasse, Ontario, et comme élève des écoles de R. R. # 1 Westmeath, LaPasse et "St. Columba's High School" à Pembroke. Il était le frère bien-aimé de Alda (George Sniderhan), London, Dillon (feu Doreen), Shelburne, Denzil (Mona), LaPasse, Carl (Marjorie), Toronto, Arlene (Victor Lacroix), Pembroke, Gwen Devine, Nepean, Philip (Dawna), Mississauga, et Melvin (Debbie), Kanata, oncle de plusieurs neveux et nièces, petits neveux et petites nièces, ainsi que plusieurs cousins et cousines, neveu de Mme Ida McGuire, Pembroke, et Rose Chevrier, Ottawa.
Après ses études secondaires, il a entrepris ses études pour la prêtrise à "St. Peter's Seminary" à London, Ontario. Il fut ordonné prêtre le 29 mai 1965 par Monseigneur William Smith à la paroisse "Our Lady of Mount Carmel" de LaPasse. Suite à son ordination, il fut vicaire dévoué et généreux à la paroisse Saint-Alphonse de Chapeau, à la paroisse Saint-Pierre de Fort-Coulonge et à la paroisse Sainte-Thérèse de Témiscaming. Durant les congés d'été de ses premières années de ministère, il a poursuivi des études en catéchèse à l'Université Laurentienne de Sudbury et à l'Université Saint-Paul d'Ottawa.
La Père Ethier a aussi été vicaire à la paroisse "Our Lady of Fatima" et à la paroisse "St. Francis Xavier" de Renfrew. Durant ces années, il commença une carrière, longue et distinguée, au service de l'école secondaire "St. Joseph's" de Renfrew en tant qu'enseignant, aumônier et amis de centaines de personnes, et ce durant une période de 19 ans. On se souviendra du Père Ethier comme étant un prêtre fidèle et dévoué qui a supporté et guidé non seulement des centaines d'étudiants et d'étudiantes mais aussi de nombreux membres du personnel de cette école secondaire. On constata facilement et on apprécia les bienfaits de son service et de son leadership durant ces années de grands défis lorsque les écoles secondaires n'étaient pas subventionnées complètement par les instances gouvernementales. Il se dévoua aussi comme directeur spirituel de Mouvement charismatique tant au niveau local à Renfrew qu'au niveau diocésain.
Ensuite, La Père Ethier a été curé à la paroisse "St. James" de Portage-du-Fort, Québec, et à la paroisse "St. Elizabeth" de Vinton, Québec. C'est à ce moment qu'il a entrepris des études à l'Université Saint-Paul d'Ottawa le menant à une maîtrise en théologie. Il est ensuite devenu curé à la paroisse Saint-Jean-l'Évangéliste de Campbell's Bay, Québec, et à la paroisse de l'Immaculée Conception de Bryson, Québec, et plus tard, à la paroisse Saint-Thomas d'Aquin d'Astorville, Ontario. C'est à cette paroisse qu'il fut curé jusqu'à l'avènement de sa maladie à l'automne 2003. Il était aussi aumônier des Chevaliers de Colomb, Conseil 6664, Corbeil, Ontario. Bien aimé et respecté par ses confrères-prêtres, il fut à leur service non seulement en tant que président du Conseil presbytéral, mais aussi en tant que directeur du programme "Ministère aux prêtres" et membre-directeur du "Fonds pour le clergé."
Sa dépouille mortelle reposera en chapelle ardente à l'église Saint-Thomas d'Aquin, Astorville, Ontario, le jeudi 19 février de 14h à 16h et de 19h à 21h, et el vendredi 20 février à compter de 9h30 jusqu'à la concélébration de la messe des funérailles à 10h30 présidée par Monseigneur Richard Smith, évêque de Pembroke. La dépouille mortelle sera ensuite transférée à la cathédrale "St. Columkbille," Pembroke, Ontario, où il sera exposé en chapelle ardente le vendredi 20 février de 19h à 21h, et le samdei 21 février de 9h jusqu'à la concélébration eucharistique à 10h30 présidée par Monseigneur Richard Smith. L'inhumation aura lieu au printemps au cimetière "Our Lady of Mount Carmel", LaPasse. En mémoire du Père Ethier, vous pouvez faire des dons au "Fonds de la paroisse Saint-Thomas d'Aquin", ou au "Fonds commémoratif du cimetière "Our Lady of Mount Carmel" de LaPasse, ou à la Société canadienne du cancer. La direction des funérailles a été confiée à la Maison funéraire McGuinty de North Bay et à la Maison funéraire Murphy de Pembroke.

Lowrey, J. Paul (Peanuts) –In the Pontiac Community Hospital on Thursday, February 19, 2004 at the age of 71. Beloved husband of Dorothy, (nee Gelette). Dear father of John (Sylvie) and dearly loved by granddaughters Cassandra and Jessica. Dear son of the late Thomas and Eva Lowrey. Loving brother of Ruth (Charles Daley), Mary Dagenais and Ann (Thomas Ray). He was predeceased by an infant sister Elizabeth and June (David Keefler). Paul attended Corpus Christie School, St. Pats School and Glebe Collegiate. Following high school, he worked at the bank of Nova Scotia in Ottawa and Montreal. He later served in the payroll department of the CBC. He moved to Addison Industries of Toronto as paymaster. On his return to Ottawa he joined Carroll Boucher Enterprises as a food broker. Paul later became an insurance agent and director of the Ottawa Insurance Agents Association. He also served as a Sheriff's Officer and was a founding member of the Ottawa-Nepean Canadian Sports Club. Paul was a long standing member of the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club. He retired to Otter Lake, Quebec in 1982 and was very involved in the Municipality as a Councillor for four years. Relatives and friends were invited to attend a Memorial Mass on Monday, February 23, 2004 at 2 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Otter Lake and a Memorial Service on Wednesday, February 25, 2004 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of McEvoy-Shields Funeral Home, 1411 Hunt Club Road at Albion Rd. In memoriam donations to the CNIB, Glaucoma Research, 1101 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, K2C 3W7 would be appreciated.

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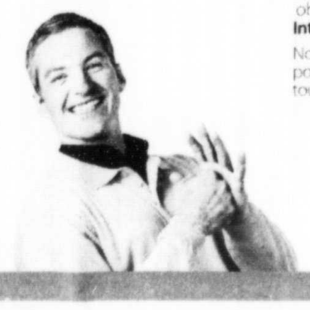
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THANKS

Thanks – On behalf of myself Steve Allen and my teammates Robert Lang, Rickey-Lee Allen and Charles Chartrand, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the businesses and people throughout the community that were so generous to help us out on our trip to the 2004 Quebec Provincial playdowns. Pontiac Ice; Valley Promutual; Shawville Ford; Hursty's Bar and Grill; Shawville Curling Club; Municipality of Shawville; Municipality of Clarendon; M.R.C. Pontiac; Seniors Curling Club; Smitty's Restaurant; Bill Young; Warren Klages; Bruce Hodgins; Philip and Jean Lacourse; Team James Howard (Elywn Lang, Eric Smith and Simon Ladouceur); Phyllis Wilson; and many more that made donations at the curling club. A special thanks goes out to Rick Younge, President of the Shawville Curling Club for all the work he did to insure that our trip to Provincials be the best it could be. It was very touching to see the whole community come together and support us in such a generous manner. With the support of the community it made our trip that much more enjoyable and without you it would not have been possible. I would also like to thank everyone in the community that supported us while we where in Amqui. It was nice to phone home and to hear that the whole community was behind us, even from people that didn't know much about the game itself. It makes it that much easier being away. And to everyone that sent us e-mails everyday thank you I know it must have been hard to write something after we lost but we appreciated every letter we received. Again I would like to thank everyone that supported us either while away or before we left. I hope that we represented Outaouais well and more importantly the community and the Pontiac well, while we were there. Thank you again without you it would not have been possible and an experience that we will never forget. Thanks again Steve Allen, Charles Chartrand, Rickey-Lee Allen and Robert Lang

The Beechgrove Recreation Association would like to thank all who participated in their Family Fun Weekend, that was held this past weekend. Special Thanks are extended to Barry and Tammy Williams, for putting smiles on the childrens' faces with their dog sled rides. Thanks also to Mountainview Turf Farm and to the Municipality of Pontiac for your generous contributions.

Prayer to Blessed Virgin (Never known to fail)
O most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O star of the sea help show me here you are my mother. O holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times).
Holy Mary I place this prayer in your hands (three times).
Say this prayer three consecutive days. Then must publish. Your request will be granted. D.H.G.

Prayer to Blessed Virgin (Never known to fail)
O most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O star of the sea help show me here you are my mother. O holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times).
Holy Mary I place this prayer in your hands (three times).
Say this prayer three consecutive days. Then must publish. Your request will be granted. A.M.D.

Daley, Basil – We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the pallbearers. Special thank you to Eddie McCann for the kind words of remembrance, Father Costello for the beautiful mass, the choir of St. Mary's church and the staff of Hayes Funeral Home. We would also like to thank the ladies and the Legion for the delicious meal. Your kindness will not be forgotten. Kay, Dennis and Tim

THANKS

Ebert – Many thanks to my close and dearest friends Roy and Céline for being there at the time of emergency. Céline has been there for me since day one and still today. I really appreciate Roy and Céline for taking care of my husband while I was in the hospital. I would like to thank the fire department of Litchfield and the ambulance for their quality service. I would sincerely thank my husband Harry, Shirley, close family, friends for their support and caring. Thanks to Reverend MacDonald for his visits and calls. From my heart I would like to thank Céline, Dr. MacLellan, Dr. Nault and Dr. Karen Chambers, Dr. S. Zaroukian and the staff at the Shawville Hospital or all their excellent care. To everyone I know I'm really grateful for the cards, the visits, the gifts and most of all your prayers. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. Isabel (Flood) Ebert

Johnson Lewis – I would like to extend a special thanks to the following staff who attended to me during my surgery at Pontiac Community Hospital. Surgeon Dr. Runi, Dr. Vander Stelt, anesthetist, OR nurses, the Inhalotherapist and Day surgery nurse and Jane Hayes.

Kelly – We would like to say thank you to the community for the lovely gift they sent us on the occasion of our 60th anniversary. Thanks again. Marion and Gerald Kelly

Pontiac Mallard Fish and Game Club, Quyon Quebec. Donations for ice-fishing derby Feb. 14 and 15, 2004. Ben Kingsbury, Roger Lance, Rick and Rita Larocque, Mark and Theresa Helmer, Ron and Aggie Findlay, Raymond and Florence Bertrand, Marie Vallillee, Maryon Courrier and Wilfred Trudeau, James and Diane Deschamps, Shawn Findlay, Tanya Trudeau, Betty Breads, McCartney's Foods, Ken Pack Shawville Giant Tiger, Debbie Roots and Del Bradford, Paul Desjardins, Claude Marcotte, James Trudeau, Jim Trudeau, Jr., Mike Fogarty, Millie Daley, John Atkinson, Quyon Legion, Linda Gagne and John Lapierre, Bob Kingdom, Shawville Canadian Tire, Lil Weber and Ron Trudeau.

Trudeau – I would like to thank friends and neighbours for the cards and phone calls and food that was brought to my house and special thank you to Father Costello and nurses in Shawville Hospital while I was in hospital. Juliette.

MEMORIAM

Cole – In memory of Cecil Waller who passed away the 29th of February, 1972.
Gone but not forgotten.
The Cole family

Gravelle, Darlene – Feb. 21, 2002
In time I saw you sinking
I watched you fade away
My heart was broken
You fought so hard to stay.
But when I saw you sleeping
So peacefully from pain
I could not wish you back again
To suffer that again.
Brothers and sisters

Orr - In loving memory of our dear Dad and Grandpa, Basil, who passed away February 25, 2003.
His memory is our keepsake
With which we'll never part.
God has him in His keeping,
We have him in our heart.
Sadly missed and forever remembered,
Barbara, Ralph, Beth and Chris

Orr - In loving memory of Basil, husband, father, and grandfather who departed this life one year ago, February 25, 2003.
There is no parting from those we love
No distance can divide,
For today in memory's garden
We still walk side by side.
In that bright Eternal City
Where no tears can dim the eye,
In the home of many mansions
We will meet you by and by.
Doris and family

Routliffe – In loving memory of Evelyne (Nanny) Routliffe
Who passed away February 25, 2003.
The day is remembered and fondly kept,
No words are needed, we won't forget.
For those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us everyday.
Unseen and unheard but always near,
So loved, so missed, and so very dear.
Jonathan, Marta, Jennifer, Steve, Laurie, Peter and Helen

MEMORIAM



Rebertz – In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Dalton who left us suddenly Feb. 27, 1996.
Gone are days we used to share,
But in our hearts you are always there,
The door of memories will never close,
We miss you more than anyone knows.
We laugh, we smile, we play the part
But beneath it all are broken hearts.
We hide our tears when we speak your name,
But the ache in our hearts will always remain.
So wherever we go, whatever we do,
We will always love and remember you.
God has you in His keeping,
We have you in our hearts.
Always remembered and loved.
Sadly missed and always loved your wife Mina and all of your family

Tubman – In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather Erwin who passed away Feb. 25, 1994.
Today recalls sad memories
Of a dear husband gone to rest
And the ones who think of him today
Are the ones who loved him best.
Love from Edith and family

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NDP candidate Gretchen Schwarz moves in quickly from Green Party

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC — Gretchen Schwarz was officially named the NDP candidate for the Pontiac riding on Feb. 21.

"I am passionate, in the big picture, to turn the government, and the way they are running things, around," said Schwarz. "Martin doesn't match what he believes — he's scared, and that's a bit screwed up."

Recently switching from the Green Party of Canada, Schwarz came to the NDP as a new and thriving member on Oct. 28 of last year.

"Privatization is wrong and bad and something has to be done about that," said Schwarz. "It's not good for the people or the planet, and that is the bottom line."

"Globalization and privatization of services is wrong," said Schwarz.

Schwarz lives in Clarendon and teaches an adult education course at Pontiac High School.

Schwarz hopes that everyone will participate in the upcoming election, and she plans to run a strong campaign as a member of the newly rejuvenated NDP.

"I want to know what the people in Pontiac County are thinking," said Schwarz. "I want to know what they want an MP to do, their grievances, what they don't like about the government, and what their thoughts are."

She is willing to speak at any function available to promote why she thinks it best to vote NDP, and is open to answering any questions any interested citizen may have.

"The NDP is a strong party that is represented in the house," said Schwarz. "For every problem there is a solution."



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

FACE OF THE NDP: Gretchen Schwarz, the new candidate for the NDP in the Pontiac-Gatineau-Labelle riding plans on getting in touch with the people in order to find out what they want out of an MP.

Along with the NDP's official platform, Schwarz believes there is far too much distance between members of parliament and their salary-payers. If elected, she wants to drastically change that situation by holding monthly town hall meetings in each population centre to hear people's concerns.

"The Liberals haven't done anything for this place," she said. "People are poor and people want to work but they can't afford to drive to Ottawa," she said. "They can't get a job at the mill, so they give up."

After each meeting, Schwarz wants to come back the next month with what she accomplished with the people's concerns in parliament, and give information on what can be done in the future.

"I am fed up with every election being a sovereignty election," said Schwarz. "You have to vote Liberal or else Québec will separate."

Working to ensure better living conditions for people in the region is her true passion.

"The NDP is the party of the people," she said.

Since the end of January, NDP executive have appointed Schwarz to co-chair their standing committee on the environment and work with MP Joe Comartin, NDP environment critic.

"We believe in the reallocation of wealth and more fair distribution," she said.

Schwarz wants to establish a farmer's cooperative in the Pontiac riding. This would include a regional slaughter house and packaging plant to help Outaouais farmers keep profits lost between the sale barn and the store.

Schwarz also believes that employment insurance has been restricted over the past few years. Only one-third of workers who contribute to the insurance qualify to receive it.

She believes that contributions are being used for income for the government, and that the money belongs to the workers who put it aside in case they need it.

She also believes it is too hard to qualify for maternity leave in the system.

Schwarz's next step will be to start campaigning for the upcoming election.

WALTHAM

Visiting in Montreal



By HELEN PERRY
Correspondent
689-2652

Get well wishes are sent to Muriel Leroy who is a patient in the Shawville Community Hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Muriel.

Georgette Beaubien and her nephew Rene Gagnon of Pembroke spent two days this past week visiting Georgette's brother Valmor and his wife Therese and family in Montreal.

Anniversary wishes are sent out to Shirley and Serge Beaubien, who celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary on Saturday, Feb. 21. May you enjoy many years of health and happiness.

It is Saturday morning and we are getting another snowstorm. Let us hope that we don't get as much as they did down in the Maritimes. They said that it was the biggest snowstorm in 100 years.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Fr. Merlyn Ethier. Our heartfelt sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with his family and his many friends at this time. Following Fr. Ethier's ordination in May 1965, he became assistant priest at St. Alphonsus's parish in Chapeau.

Ian and Brenda Rehel and Monique and Steven Perry have just returned from a seven night's stay in the Dominican Republic. I wonder how they feel coming home to all this snow!

On Saturday, Feb. 21, Morgan Valiere, of Aylmer celebrated her sixth birthday. Morgan, along with Jacob Gale, Lyam Girard, Maria and Gabrielle Rochon, Alyssa, Emma and Hayley Romain, Heidi Chaput and Evan Pilon enjoyed a two-hour swim at the Kinsmen Pool in Pembroke. Afterwards they went to Morgan's nanny and poppa (Lysanne andTed Bechamp's) house for hot dogs and hamburgers, cake and ice cream Morgan received some wonderful gifts and was very appreciative. Everyone had a great time.

Congratulations goes to Carley Campbell, daughter of Marlene and George Campbell of Pembroke. Carley was awarded second place with 86 per cent in the category of piano solo grade three, at the Kiwanis Music Festival. Carley played Hornpipe in B Flat Major. Carley is a granddaughter of Marie and George Campbell. We are proud of you Carley!

Kim and Eric McEown, of Ottawa and children Emilie and San were weekend visitors at Kim's parents Gail and Roger Perry's.

LADYSMITH

Large turn out for poker run



By DEBBIE LANCE THRUN
Correspondent
647-3927

Winter has arrived again. As I write this it's Friday evening and oh what a snowstorm. By looking outside it's snowing cats and dogs. Hopefully this will be the end of this white stuff. But we still have March to get through which can be a very surprising month with snowstorms and sometimes a little bit of everything. But, at least whatever we might get in March we know that it won't stay that long. By then the temperature has warmed up some and the sun is a lot stronger. Even now when the sun is shining it's actually quite hot. I've even noticed when it shines through your windows it sure helps to warm up your home.

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

Well the wild boar saga has ended. The animal on the loose was shot by its owner. He said it was running amuck and scaring some people.

Eric Campbell who lives in the Holy Land tells me he was feeling green one day. He thought he had the flu and then he realized St. Patrick's Day is coming up.

Welcome home to Rose and Larry Palmer of Charteris who recently returned from a trip to St. Catherines visiting their daughters and friends.

Birthday congratulations to Mabel Erfle of Shawville who celebrates Feb. 28.

Get well wishes to Clifford Fieroben of Ottawa who hasn't been feeling up to par lately. Hoping that you will soon be feeling like your old self again.

Visiting with us Friday evening were Angie and Steve Venture of Johnston's Lake.

This past week I had a lovely phone conversation with my good friend Evelyn Campbell. She is feeling much better since her flu.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25. There will be a communion service at Zion Lutheran Church, Schwartz.

Harold Mathlitz of Kitchner is again organizing a trip on the Wakefield Steam Train for July. For information you can call 647-3927.

The Sleigh Ride and Broomball Day held on Sat., Feb. 14 at the farm of Louis Hodgins was a huge success. The weather sure cooperated for this annual vent. Hot dogs and drinks were served afterwards. The day was a fun time for everyone.

Paul visited and we had a friendly chat.

While motoring to Otter Lake last week we noticed a poor partridge run over on the road. But on the up side this may be a sign of spring.

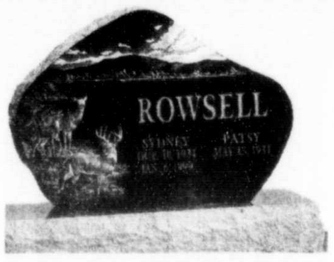
Last week I went to Shannon Lasalle's in Otter Lake and treated myself to a new hair style. Shannon gave me the works. I felt very refreshed afterwards. I also had a lovely visit at the same time.

Well, I'm sure the school children are getting excited. March break is coming up. With the new snow we just received I'm sure they will find lots of activities to do. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday kids.

The Ladysmith Sportsman's Club held its annual ice fishing derby on Feb. 21 at Steve Fireoben's Lake. Despite the bad weather a good crowd turned out with Clay Rebertz catching the largest fish. Thanks go out to Flo Cartier for supplying the drinks for the kids and Steve for use of his property and organizing the event.

The P.S.D.A. Annual Snowmobile Poker Run was held on Saturday, Feb. 21 with a very large turnout. The Ladysmith Hotel was one of the designated check points.

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CALDWELL

Bristol carnival winds up



By HERMONIE SHARPE
Correspondent
647-3459

The Bristol Carnival wound up on Sunday, Feb. 15 with a large attendance at the annual euchre hosted by the Wednesday night seniors. A delicious supper was enjoyed by one and all. The supper was well attended but there didn't seem to be as many children there as usual. Quite a few people were away on holiday but, in spite of all this it was a very good turn out. Congratulations to the new executive for a job well done.

A well-known lady throughout the Pontiac, Ruby Evelyn (Richardson) Hodgins passed away on Sunday, Feb. 15 in Hull. Ruby was born and raised in the Shawville area. She was a great lady, always ready with a joke of some kind and a wonderful cook. Her funeral was held from the United Church in Shawville on Feb. 19, burial in Yarm United Cemetery. To her family and friends we send our deepest sympathy.

Once again don't forget to read your coming events in THE EQUITY as there is an Eastern Star supper and card party on Saturday, Feb. 28. I have some tickets to sell. Where could you go for an evening out including supper and cards for $8? Give me a call if you are interested.

Returning home to Osgoode after a week's vacation in Phoenix, Arizona are Jim (Sunny) and Connie Sharpe Hunter. Hope you had an enjoyable holiday.

I had a call this past week and a lady asked if I could inquire in my column if anyone knew where we could give our greeting-cards to. Some of the cards are too beautiful to burn or throw out in the garbage. No doubt there are places where they could be made use of. If you know of some place or someone who can make use of these give me a ring and I will pass the information on.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to family and friends of Edith C. Marshall of Ottawa, long-time member of Granite Curling Club who passed away on Feb. 20 in her 94th year. She was the dear sister of Audrey Spence (Church) of Norway Bay.

Another one of our one-time Shawville boys has passed away in the person of Gordon Barber of Lively on Feb. 18 in Sudbury Hospital in his 91st year. To his family and friends we send our deepest sympathy.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Wayne Carruthers of Shawville who passed away over this past weekend. He was the loving husband of Edna Hodgins.

Mervin Angus, a young man born and raised in Bristol who attended the rural school with our children in the Caldwell area until going further to complete his education passed away at the age of 58 years on Saturday, Feb. 21 in Ottawa after a courageous battle with cancer. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at Woodroffe United Church. To his family and friends we send our deepest sympathy.

Visiting with us this past Sunday were my son Neil Sharpe of Shawville and my grandson Scott Sharpe and his fiancée Sheri of Cambridge. Their wedding date is set for September at Niagara on The Lake.

Birthday congratulations go out to Gladys Armstrong of Shawville who celebrated on Feb. 23.

VINTON

Artists exhibiting at Café



By BERTHA McGEE
Correspondent
648-2669

Kathleen Ranger from Campbell's Bay and Stephen Scrak of Vinton will be exhibiting their latest paintings at the Café 349 in Shawville til the end of March.

On Friday, Feb. 13 Leo and Bertha McGee motored to Orleans to the home of Pauline McGee to attend some hockey games and have a Valentine's Day visit.

On Saturday, Feb. 14 the Cumberland Rockets and the Cumberland Icebreakers played hockey at the Corel Centre at 5 p.m. Our grandson, Stephane McGee plays for the Cumberland Rockets and they won 5 - 2. Peter Sloan is their coach. Following that game we took in the Senators and Montreal Canadians game at 7 p.m. It was a surprise to me as I had been told that the Florida Panthers were going to be playing but it was Montreal. Of course they lost 5 - 2. It was a good game and we enjoyed being there with Pauline McGee, Maria and Stephane McGee and Cheryl McGee.

Sunday, Feb. 15 Bertha McGee attended the hockey game in Navan at 9 a.m. in which our grandson Stephane McGee was playing. The Metcalfe Jets played the Cumberland Rockets won 5 - 2. Stephane's mom Pauline was our driver. We enjoyed the game. We had a very good weekend.

While in Orleans I met Owen Sloan (Jr.) at the Orleans Mall. I was happy to meet him. We got caught up with some news.

We are sure getting our fill of winter this year and the lack of snow makes it that much colder.

We wish Lionel Morin a speedy recovery after being in the Pontiac Community Hospital or a week. He has returned home and doing fairly well.

The diocese of Pembroke lost one of their young priests Father Ethier. So sad.

CAMPBELL'S BAY

It was the thrill of a lifetime



By IRIS SMITH
Correspondent
648-5821

The last of our original neighbours when we moved to this street over 52 years ago, Grace (Hill) Smith passed away peacefully in the Ottawa Hospital General Campus on Feb. 9. Sincere sympathy to her friends and family. A graveside service will take place at Campbell's' Bay United Church Cemetery in the spring.

The Miss Campbell's Bay Beauty Contest will be held on March 20 at the R.A. Hall. This event is by the Pontiac Lions and is a great hit. So, if you are interested a few tickets are still available.

We were to Ottawa on Tuesday and Elwyn Smith took us on a tour of the ice and snow sculptures. It was great to see them and now they are fast disappearing with the stronger sun. The skaters lend a great deal to the canal as a tourist attraction.

Get well wishes to Melba Wallace. We hope she gets well soon.

Clifford and Marjorie Smith attended a birthday party for Vera (Smith) Thomas who is 106 years old. She is Marjorie's aunt. Last year for her birthday she wanted to go on the canal and she did.

Congratulations to Lise Lariviere and David Ranger who were married at St. John the Evangelist Church on Saturday. A dinner followed at Auberge Mont Blanc at Portage du Fort.

The Golden Age euchre party was held on Tuesday evening with a good crowd ina attendance. Ladies high was won by Isobel Lacroix. Second was a tie between Blanche Doucette and Gwen Black. Men's high was a three-way tie between Ed Gutozie, Mervin Smith and Louis Johnson. They split the prize. Second was a three-way tie as well between Laurier Dumouchel, Tom Hearty and Kervyn Burman. Blanche Doucet was the winner of the door prize. Maxine Fenton was the winner of the 50/50. Refreshments were by Veronica and Norman Perrier.

Visiting with Elmer Belanger were Chad and Angel Belanger of Ottawa.

Campbell's Bay Centennial celebrations kicked off at the R.A. Hall on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Some pictures were on display and plaques from various government officials. was served and delicious cake was enjoyed by all. It was beautifully decorated. The Pontiac Lionettes made the sandwiches and the cake was made by Rachel Nadeau of Fort Coulonge. Campbell's Bay officially became a village Feb. 23, 1904.

Greetings were from Mayor Cletus Ferrigan, Robert Bertrand, M.P., Elmer Belanger and John Landry.

The magic show for children was anxiously awaited by the children. A good crowd turned out to support this group and were able to pick up the schedule of events for the ten day Centennial celebrations Aug. 13 to 22. We hope to see you there.

Last week a Valentine's draw was held at the "Old General". For every purchase your name was entered. Crystal Meilleur, ten year old daughter of Cathy and G. C. Meilleur an avid Sens fan, was the lucky winner. Crystal and her father attended the game with the Atlanta Thrashers on Thursday evening. She had never been to the Corel Centre for a game so it was a the thrill of a lifetime for her.

Anniversary wishes to Lorenzo and Barbara Belanger who celebrated their anniversary on Saturday. May they enjoy many more.

Gladys Queale celebrated her 93rd birthday with a party at the Respite Centre on Monday, Feb. 23. We hope she enjoys many more.

Deepest sympathy to relatives and friends of Father Ethier. He was a well-known priest in our village recently.

Faye Hodgins and son Todd of Oshawa were visiting her mother, Gladys Belanger. They were also able to attend the kick-off of our centennial celebrations.

OTTER LAKE

Engaged on Valentine's Day



By ELIZABETH HAHN
Correspondent
453-7326

Happy birthday wishes to my daughter Pamela Hahn Thoms who has a birthday March 3. Best wishes from your family.

Natalie Hahn of Waterloo visited with her grandma Elizabeth Hahn and great-grandparents Hilda and Edgar Mayhew on Tuesday and Wednesday. She has now returned to Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo.

Recent visitors with Lola and Floyd Mayhew were Paula and Melanie Beaudoin and Brett, Linda Beaudoin, Eric Casavant and Kevin and Jean Lafleur.

Get well wishes to Dolores Dagenais who is in the Shawville Hospital.

Sincere sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of Paul J. Lowrey who passed away on Thursday, Feb. 19 at the age of 71.

Congratulations to Michell Beaudoin and Master Corporal Howard Kacks who were engaged on Valentine's Day.

Belated birthday wishes to twin sisters Monique and Michelle Beaudoin who had birthdays on Jan. 26.

Happy birthday wishes to twins, brother and sister Dan and Sarah Lavendure who will be 19 on Feb. 28.

Happy birthday wishes to Guy Beaudoin who was 24 on Feb. 21. Also belated birthday wishes to Melanie Casavant who had a birthday on Feb. 17.

SHEENBORO

Everyone had a great time



By MYRTLE SULLIVAN
Correspondent
689-2236

Congratulations to my granddaughter Suanne Clyde and Chris Holtzhauer on the birth of their twin sons born Friday, Feb. 20. Very proud grandparents Dave and Arlene Clyde and all of the family are very excited about their arrival. The boys names are Liam and Jake and both weighed over 5 lbs. I am so excited to see them and I am glad they are finally here.

I would like to wish my grandson Emmett Sullivan a very happy birthday on the Feb. 21. He is also my god child.

The Sheenboro R. A. had a sleigh ride at Billy Brennan's farm last Sunday. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a great time sliding and enjoying the outdoors.

Goodluck to my brother Bernard Nephin who is having an operation in Sudbury this week.

Belated birthday wishes to Earl Lepine who celebrated his birthday with friends up at his camp Feb. 14. Wayne Venne deep- fried a turkey and made his special turnip puff. Both were delicious. Mary and Bob came from Ottawa, Judy and Steve from Dunrobin, Evan and Krista from Braeside and others from the area. Sharon and Earl would like to thank everyone who came to celebrate Earl's 65th.

Get well wishes to my brother Hubert Nephin who is in the hospital. I hope he is feeling well soon.

Margaret Maloney and Eilleen Gribbon just returned from a trip to Florida. They were gone for three weeks. She was visiting her son David and Katherine. They went to Myrtle Beach, Daytona, and Orlando. They also visited with her sister Rose in Newport, Rickey.

Patrick Sweeney, son of Lloyd and Debbie Sweeney who plays hockey for Brampton will be in Ottawa playing against the 67's. Good Luck Patrick!

Happy Birthday to three of my great-granddaughters Molly Smith and Megan and Nathalie Ouelette. I hope they all have great days.

I hope my granddaughter Elodie Ouelette is feeling better as her Granny Carmelitta told me she wasn't feeling well last week.

Visiting in Sheen this past weekend was Dorothy Tallon, her husband Jerry Soltys and their children Jessica and Jonathon. They were here to celebrate Jack Tallon's birthday on Saturday. They came to see Jim and Louise Tallon as well and are now off to visit Trudy and Garth Middlestead in Carleton Place.

Happy birthday to Peter Gleason and Mark Jennings who both celebrated last week.

St. Joseph's had a very successful brunch last Sunday. Geraldine McGuire won the 50/50 draw.

Last week I announced there was a new driver for the seniors. It is Sharon Picard and her number is 689-2900.

Clinton Hynes was home visiting his mother Myra. I hear he was doing a lot of shoveling!

Get well wishes to Eva Lepine who fell and hurt herself. We hope she is up and feeling better soon.

Happy anniversary to Peter and Karen Gleason. They spent a nice weekend away with friends near Peterborough. Claudia, Anna, and Abram were in good hands with their Grandma Shea and Aunt Kathy to look after them.

The joy you give to others is the joy that comes back to you.

Happy birthday to Michelle Jennings, she is the twin sister of Mark Jennings.

Welcome back to Donald and Angie Retty who were away visiting family.

DANFORD LAKE

Hotel has reopened



By STEPHANIE MILFORD
Correspondent
467-1091

This is a new and wonderful experience for me. To come into your lives and homes each week will truly be a joy!

Congratulations go out this week to Michelle Beaudoin and Corporal Howard Kack who were engaged on Valentines Day. How romantic! Howard is originally from Toronto and is now stationed at CFB Petawawa. Michelle and Howard plan to be wed September 2005. Michelle is now the assistant secretary to the Minister of Public Works. She has been there a little over a month and is enjoying it very much.

Here in Danford, I'm pleased to say that our hotel has reopened after some months of being closed. This weekend there was a dart tournament at the hotel. Eight teams of four joined. The highest score for the men's division went to Bobby Wiggins of Kazabazua, with a score of 140! The highest score for the women's division went to Mary Petrin of Venosta, with a score of 121. Most finishes honors went to Spike Fladd of Danford Lake. The first place team went to Spike Fladd, Shelley Merrifield Fladd, Gail and Gibby Merrifield.

A dart league has also formed at W.T. Outfitting. This dart league started in December and meets each Friday night. Another few weeks and they will be into the playoffs. Hope you all shoot a ton!

To all those who are interested in taking a hunting course in English, there is one coming to Danford if we can get enough names on the list. We're almost there, so please sign up now. The cost of the course is $ 102 and includes your FAC card. For more information you can call Merlin Peck at (819)-467-4608.

Last Friday night my sister Robyn and I attended the crowning of the King and Queen at the Otter Lake carnival. Congratulations go out to Josee Villeneuve (queen) and Jessy Kluke (king). To all those who participated in the pageant, you are an inspiration to us all. Not everyone has the courage to get up in front of his or her peers and perform. We all owe a special thanks to Crystal Dubeau and all the volunteers who organized this year's carnival, you all did a great job, as usual.

We have a special birthday this week going out to Abigail Leach who will turn five years old on Feb. 23.

Special congratulations go out this week to Merlin Peck and Amanda Mainville. They are pleased to announce to everyone they are expecting the birth of their first child.

Visiting with the Milford family this weekend were Cory, Sandy and Douglas Peck of Danford Lake.

Has anyone seen any sign of spring yet? I have. There is a huge pine tree in the field behind my house. Underneath you can see a big ring of brownish grass surrounding the trunk. Looking at this reminds me that maple syrup time is just around the corner no matter what Weirton Willy or Pucks Toney Pete predicted.

Wedding bells will soon be ringing for Shane Chartrand and Kate Kersey. Mr. And Mrs. Michel Chartrand are eagerly awaiting this day. Wedding to take place in Windsor, Aug. 28. Shane is a well-recognized DJ here in this area. All the best in your future plans.

Get well wishes this week go out to Dolarese Dagenais who is a patient in Shawville Hospital. After speaking with her on the phone, I am happy to say she is doing well and sounding great. We wish you well and a lot of courage.

Last but not least for this week, I wish to thank the Low, Quebec Lions Club and all of the people from beginning to end for helping and donating this computer to me. Thank you very much.

BRYSON

Surprise farewell dinner



By ANNA STEWART
Correspondent
648-2351

A surprise farewell dinner was held for Linda Dumouchel and her husband, Samir on Feb. 7 at their cottage on Calumet Island. Linda and her husband, Samir are leaving to take up residence in Tewkesbury, England this coming year. She is being transferred by her company E.M.S. Tech Ottawa. They will be gone for two years. Attending the dinner were her two brothers Leo and Ivan and his wife Elaine, her two sisters Beatrice and Lorenzo Legarde and Janet and Adrien Dumouchel, Lise Legarde and a friend Helen. Good luck is wished to this couple from heir family and friends.

Birthday greetings to Reuben Stewart. Hope you had a great day.

Home for a few days visiting his parents was Spencer Lepine. He is away on training at a mill in St. Pamphil.

Spring is in the air, especially when I hear Jim say he is going to wash his sap cans.

Winners of the Golden Age euchre this past week were: 50/50 Nicole Lemay, door prize Fern Lepine, men's first Laurier Dumouchel, second Mervin Smith, ladies first Phyllis Smith, second Rita McGuire and Veronica Perrier.

Birthday greetings to Shirley Reibertz. Hope you have a nice day.

QUYON

Generosity was unbelievable



By JILL McBANE
Correspondent
458-2366

This Saturday evening Gavan's Hotel will be hosting a benefit party for Eric Provost who lost his welding shop in a fire.

Last Saturday the P.S.D.A. held their annual Poker Run. Gilles Charron from Masham placed winning $500. Congratulations.

Happy 75th birthday to Stanley Kearns who celebrated at the Lions Hall Saturday evening put on by the family. Stanley's 13 grandchildren lined up across the front of the hall and sang "Happy Birthday" to Grandpa. Katrina Crawford, the oldest grandchild, gave a speech to Grandpa with lots of love and many thanks for everything he has done for all of them.

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Mary Thomas who passed away Feb. 18 after battling cancer.

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service tonight at 7 p.m. Quyon United Church.

Saturday a benefit party was held for Joanne (Daley) and Steve Williams' children at the community center in Fitzroy Harbour. Rolly Bernier, Bob and Doug McKenna, Tom Connors and Brian Crook were the opening act for this party followed by Gail Gavan who snowmobiled across the river. Gail is on a tight schedule and we all know she doesn't like to be late (ha ha!) The huge hall was packed to capacity at all times. Many hands contributed to make this benefit a huge success. The generosity was unbelievable.

The annual Lions Community Curling Bonspiel will be held Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 28 and 29. So come on out and support your favourite team.

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Mariette Gervais from North Bay, mother of Giselle Coyle who passed away Feb. 16.

Happy 40th birthday to Sandy Emmerson. Her husband Dale surprised her with a party at Randy Labadie and Patty Davis' Saturday evening. A great time was had by all and no rabies shots required. Whoever has Doug Kennedy's keys please return them.

The Beechgrove Family Fun Weekend was held last Friday, Saturday and Sunday beginning Friday evening with adult ball hockey and kids on Saturday. Sunday, thanks to the weather the family day was a huge success.

Barry and Tammy Williams kindly provided dog sled rides to all the kids. Plenty off games on and off the ice. Everyone was a winner and was given a prize at the end of the day and treats from the canteen.

Hey Ron, It's been a long, cold winter and I can't wait for that boat cruise you've been talking about.

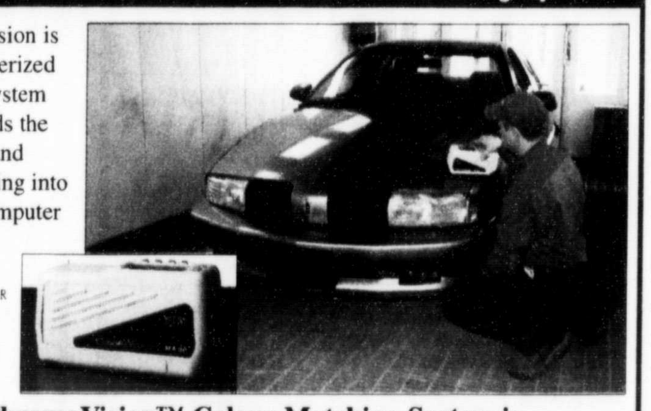
Zelma Renaud was the meat winner this week at the Legion. In her package was two t-bone steaks, a roast of pork, three chicken legs and a bunch of stew. Money raised out of these tickets has been used to pay the legal fees for the Cenotaph property which the Women's Institute of Quebec turned over to the Quyon Legion last fall. Legion members have been hard at work as they have made many renovations to the bar area and completely painted the whole legion. This legion generously offers the building for weddings, stags, birthday parties for children and adults as well as baby and bridal showers. In 2006 the legion will be celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Happy birthday to Chris Young and Eleanor Foran.

Glad to hear John Derraugh is out of the hospital and coming along.

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