



First Original 6 Carnival Queen declared | page 3

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87 cents

Gatineau teen killed on Pontiac highway

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

CAMPBELL'S BAY • A 14-year-old boy died after the car he was riding in crashed into an oncoming vehicle Sunday night.

A man driving a Honda Civic with his son, 14-year-old Frederick Aube Lecombe, was heading home to Gatineau from Fort Coulonge Sunday evening.

Passing through Campbell's Bay on Hwy. 148 at about 6 p.m. during heavy snowfall, the father lost control of his Civic and crossed the line of traffic near Moorhead Road, south of Campbell's Bay.

"The driver lost control because of the snow," said Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Mélanie Larouche. "It is possible he was driving too fast for the poor road conditions."

A north-bound Chevrolet Tahoe carrying a man, woman and their two infant children in the back seat, collided into the Civic.

Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec and paramedics were called to the scene, blocking both lanes of traffic.

The 14-year-old boy was taken to the hospital in Shawville and was later pronounced dead. His father was taken to the same hospital and treated for shock.

"He (the boy) was in very bad condition when we arrived," said Larouche.

The four passengers of the Tahoe were also taken to the hospital in Shawville and were treated for minor injuries.

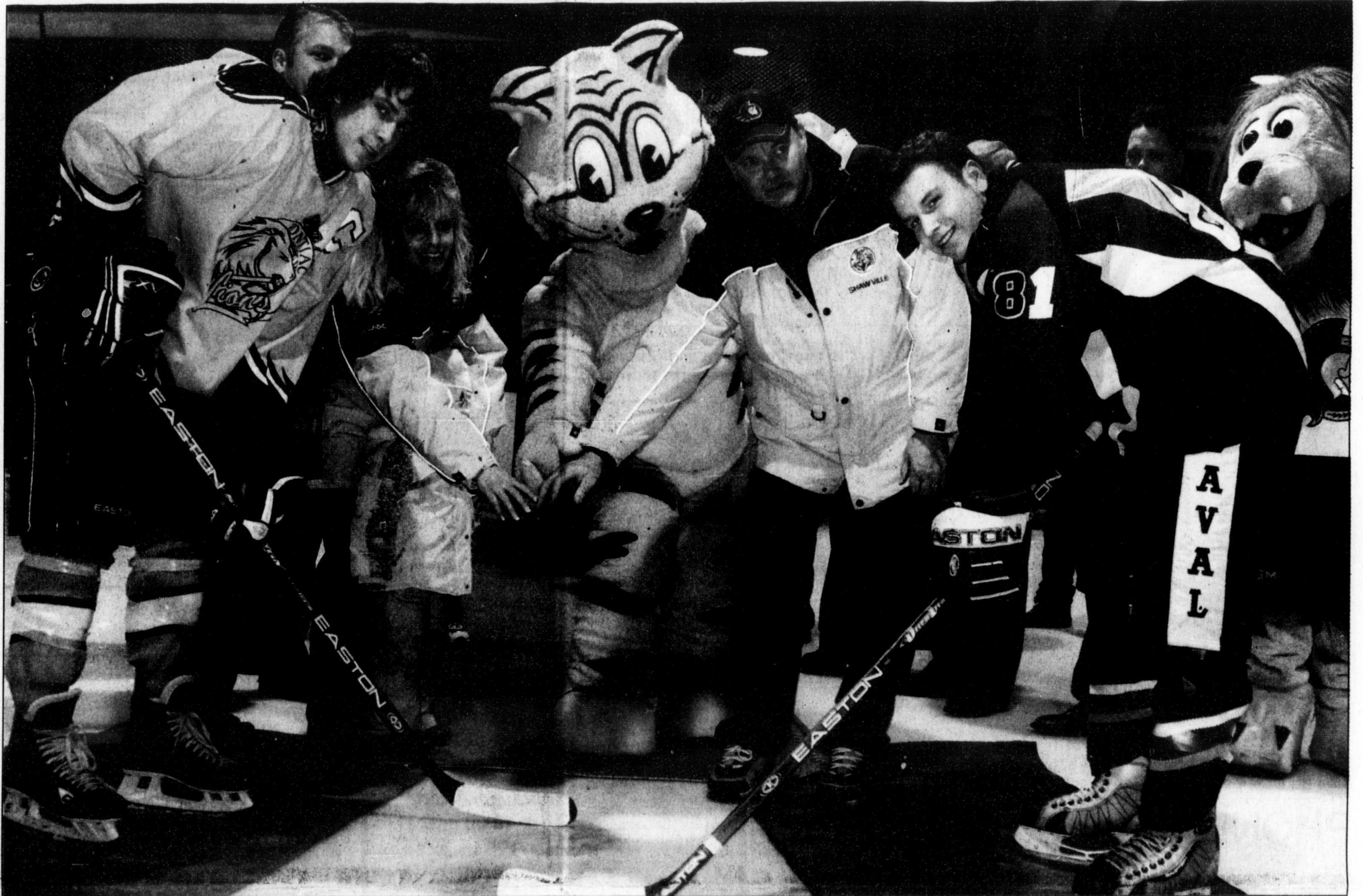
The highway was later reopened to one lane while investigators analyzed the scene.

"The investigation is still open because the officer in charge has to check all the details of witnesses and the driver of the other car," said Larouche.

Larouche took the opportunity to remind drivers to slow down when driving in bad weather.

"It's important to understand that during winter weather it is best to slow down — you can never know what may happen and can never be too safe."

MIDGETS ON ICE



Carol and Ken Pack join the Giant Tiger in dropping the ceremonial first puck of the Shawville Midget Hockey Tournament during the opening ceremonies on Friday night. The hometown Pontiacs lost all three of their tournament games, leaving 1985 as the only year when the team representing Shawville won the 31-year-old tournament.

31st Midget Hockey Tournament a success

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • For five days last week, 250 15-and-16 year olds took over Shawville.

A total of 20 midget-aged hockey teams were in town with their families, friends, and supporters for the 31st iteration of the Shawville Midget Hockey Tournament, which took place from Wednesday, Jan. 25 to Sunday, Jan. 29.

Teams representing Ontario, Quebec and Florida participated.

The format of the tournament changed this year, dividing teams up according to their class, producing

three champions rather than one.

Previously, the winner of the lower-rated 'CC' division was forced to play the champions of the stronger 'BB' and 'AA' divisions to name a single tournament winner.

"We're better because of the new format," said Tim Powell, tournament chair.

"Going to the three championships meant better hockey for the fans and the kids."

Indeed, the final matchups on Sunday were competitive affairs and the 'CC' championship was a classic hockey game, despite the hometown Pontiac Lions not being a part of it.

The Lions had a disappointing tournament, losing all three of their games by scores of 2-1 to the Arnprior Packers on Wednesday night, 2-1 to Les Étoiles de Monteuil on Friday night and 2-0 to Ottawa West on Sunday.

The home Pontiac team has only won the tournament once, in 1985. Instead, the Ottawa West Golden Knights and St. Jerome Predateurs took each other head-on for the 'CC' crown.

Tied at one goal after regulation, the two sides headed into overtime where each team had a counter-move to their opponent's attack and, despite a number of close calls and almost-goals, the teams

still found themselves tied after two 10-minute overtime periods, sending them into a shootout, a new edition to the tournament.

"Before, the teams would just play and play until somebody scored," said Powell, who noted the new format meant the tournament schedule could be more easily kept by the addition of a shootout.

However, even the three shooters per side-shootout took a while to solve things as neither team could muster a goal, but on the fifth attempt by a St. Jerome player, Pier-Luc Verrette got the puck past the Ottawa West goalie, sending his side into a glorious triumph.

Please see MIDGET on page 2

Otter Lake residents to receive phone service after 20 years

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
OTTER LAKE • The privilege of a telephone line installed in a person's home is something many take for granted. It's something that is always there, always working and always ready whenever you need it.

For Victor Bisson and his wife of Otter Lake, this service is not something they take for granted.

Since the couple first made plans to build their retirement home in the municipality on Picanoc Road 24 years ago, they have been without a phone line.

Bisson first put in a request for a phone line while he was in the process of building in 1985.

"I initiated trying to get a telephone back in '85 and '86," said Bisson. "In '99 and '00 they said there would be no problem to put it in."

Télébec told Bisson that at the latest his line would be installed by the end of

2001.

By the time the cottage was completed and ready for full-time living in 2001, Télébec still seemed ready to install a line.

"When I retired in '01, we were promised it would be in by '02 and no later," said Bisson. "But it didn't come in and we kept calling."

As each deadline passed, a new one was made of when the 'definite' time of phone installation would take place.

"I got a letter from Télébec, from the head of Télébec, saying that because the CRTC (Canada's regulator for telecoms, radio and television services) had given Télébec an insurmountable amount of work to do throughout the district and that Hydro Québec had to make sure they could use their lines and poles," said Bisson.

Jerry Chevalier, who also lives on Picanoc Road, has been waiting for his phone line service for five years.

"There are no phones on Picanoc Road," said Chevalier, calling THE EQUITY from a

pay phone. "I applied two years ago in the fall and they told me I'd have it by the spring of 2005."

"Then they told me in June 2005, then in December 2005," Chevalier said. "Now they don't seem to know, but there has been no change on the file."

Chevalier completed the building of his home in Otter Lake last winter. In the meantime residents on the road make do with what they have.

Bisson lives four kilometres from his neighbour's house who takes messages for him on his home phone and later radios them to him.

Chevalier uses a phone three kilometres from his home and communicates through voice mail.

"It's 2006 — it's unacceptable," said Chevalier, who is writing the director-general of Télébec customer service Marc Bertrand a letter holding the company responsible if there is an emergency in his home.

Please see PHONE on page 2

Risky rescue



A woman heading south on Hwy. 303 from Otter Lake Wednesday afternoon lost control of her vehicle on an icy turn. To avoid hitting an oncoming vehicle, the car landed in the ditch. The woman, who was trapped inside the car, was safely removed by the Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department using their jaws of life. The woman was taken to the hospital in Shawville to be treated for minor injuries.

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MIDGET: Teams from across Quebec, Ontario, U.S. compete



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

The 'AA' championship-winning Cumberland Barons pose with their new hardware and Shawville Giant Tiger, sponsors of the tournament. The Barons defeated the Eastern Ontario Cobras 2-0 in the finals to take the tournament crown.

Continued from page 1

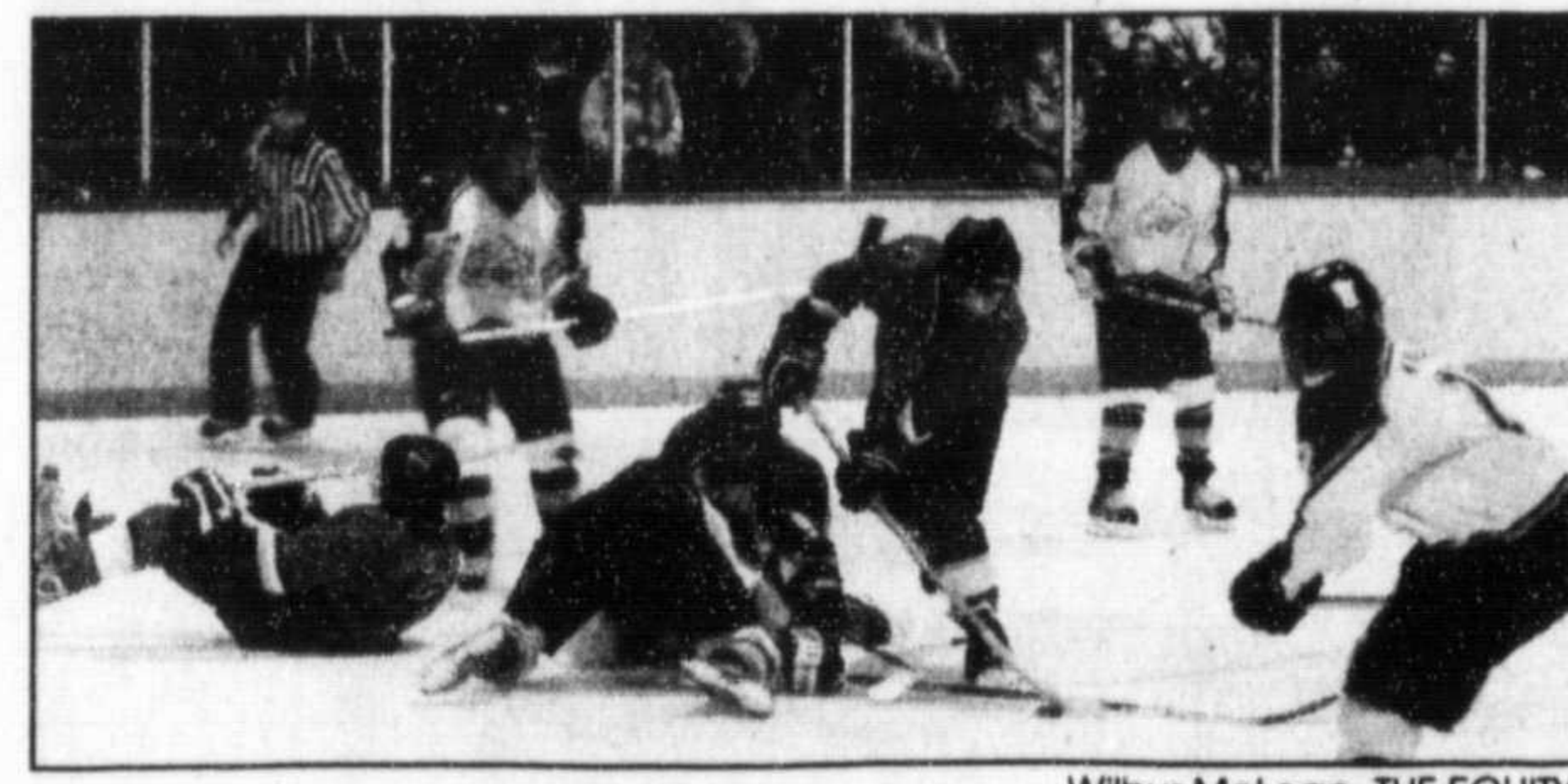
The marquee 'AA' final, featuring the top teams with players most likely to find themselves in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League in the future, was won by the Cumberland Barons, who defeated the Eastern Ontario Cobras 2-0.

The Cobras thought they had put themselves up in the first period after having a goal called in their favour following a scramble in front of the net.

After deliberation between the referees, however, the goal was called off and it was announced that "the puck never crossed the line", much to the chagrin of the Cobras.

A goal in the second period put the team from Cumberland up and another late in the third clinched the championship win for the Barons.

The 'BB' final produced a clear-cut 4-2 victory for the Capital Crusaders over the



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

DDO Vipers and Eastern Ontario Cobras scramble for the puck during Friday action.

Aylmer Mariners.

Throughout the course of the game, the Ottawa-based Crusaders proved themselves too strong for Aylmer.

In all, 35 games of hockey were played over the five days at the arena in Shawville and, according to Powell, the tournament was a success.

"It was great, it was wonderful, the kids seemed to have a lot of fun," said Powell, in his second year as tournament chair.

The tournament did have to overcome some adversity as one team, the 'BB'

Lakeshore Panthers, cancelled their appearance the day before the games were to begin.

That left organizers scrambling to find a way to fairly distribute points to the other teams in the 'BB' division.

"Lucky for us, we were able to figure it out," said Powell. "Otherwise, it would have been chaos."

While no figures were available on attendance for the tournament, Powell "guesstimated" 2,500 people found their way into the arena over the five days.

A Special Thank You

The family of Doris Hodgins wishes to express our sincere gratitude for all the support we received during her long battle with cancer. To family, friends and loyal customers, we thank you for your generosity, concern, and messages of condolences. Thank you to the palliative care team for your endless dedication. A special thank you to all the staff of the Shawville Hospital for the excellent care and compassion. Your professionalism exceeded our expectations. Many thanks to the Shawville United Church, to all those who participated in her beautiful funeral service and to Unit 6 who served the delicious lunch. We truly live in a wonderful community and are so thankful to each and everyone of you.

Mick, Anne, Ronnie, Donna, Jane, Ruth and families



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Telephone poles, like these near Bristol, are a rare commodity to some who have built their homes outside of village centres.

PHONE: Service after 20 years

Continued from page 1

Both men fear the lack of phone service puts their families at risk.

"I have heart problems, and I can't call an ambulance," said Bisson. "When I had back surgery I had to sleep at the hospital for nothing because they had no way of contacting me to come back."

He said he and his wife are unable to contact their children.

"If you had a fire there is no way to call the fire department," said Bisson. "If someone is injured you can't contact the police or ambulance."

Chevalier, who is also retired and living with his wife, lives next door to a cardiac patient.

"I'm concerned for my safety," said Chevalier. "If there was a fire or I had a heart attack ... we're all alone up here in the winter."

Chevalier said he wouldn't have chosen to retire in Otter Lake if he had known he'd have to wait so long for phone service.

"It's dangerous," he said. Both residents' homes are equipped with water and electricity.

Télébec issued waiting customers Otter Lake telephone numbers that are listed in directories. But because there are no outlets attached to the number for phones to plug into, the number rings endlessly when dialed.

"We are charged for 911 services," laughed Bisson.

Eventually both Bisson and Chevalier got a response that the lines would be installed no later than December 2006.

Télébec spokesperson Paul Lacoursière said the CRTC allows Télébec five years to

install the phone lines.

"Most of the demands must be done by the end of this year," said Lacoursière. "But they will probably be done before that."

In 2002 Lacoursière said rules of where phone lines can be installed changed, including the distances people can live from a network to be eligible to get connected.

Lacoursière said the five-year limit gives Télébec time for engineers to set plans, draw networks, install poles and attach wires onto poles.

"Sometimes the hydro work is not done, so we have to wait for them to put their poles up, do electrical work and make sure it is all clear before we jump on the pole," he said. "Sometimes the land is frozen and we can't install poles."

He said another set back is experienced when the phone company gets busy during the summer months installing and disconnecting phone lines during the busy moving season.

Waiting patiently, Bisson was contacted in the fall of 2004 — at the same time as other residents in the area awaiting phone service — of a required \$1,000 deposit.

The \$1,000 deposit is a small price to pay, said Bisson. Télébec representatives say that the \$1,000 deposit is a small fraction of what it actually costs to install a line.

"People who want lines outside the network are charged \$1,000," said Lacoursière. "If they are qualified for a certain distance from the network it's \$2,500."

The full \$1,000 was not required immediately, only a nominal \$100 deposit.

"If there are four people

who want a line in the same area, it is \$100 each — almost for free," said Lacoursière.

Bisson said the cheques from residents were cashed in the spring of 2005.

"The new rules state that people must pay \$1,000 and have to qualify," said Lacoursière.

The CRTC requires Télébec to spend a minimum of \$250,000 on constructing a new network of phone lines.

"Twenty-five thousand dollars is the subsidy that Télébec gives to every resident," said Lacoursière.

He explained that as long as there are a minimum of 10 people in an area where a phone line is needed, Télébec will pay each residence, whether they want the line or not, the subsidy of \$25,000, equalling the total \$250,000 minimum CRTC construction limit. In the case of Otter Lake, there are enough people on Picanoc Road to get a line extended, and Télébec has put them on the list of 2006 construction.

"The only thing people have to do is deposit \$1,000," said Lacoursière. Télébec is working to complete a list of connections by the end of this year. A few places in the Pontiac, including Otter Lake, are on the list: In the Otter Lake area, Scout Road, Beaudoin Road, Crawford Road, Picanoc Road, Hwy. 301, Blaskie Road, Mountview Road Eighth Line, Wood Road, Adele Road and Yates Road will be connected. In the Shawville area, Wall-a-bet Road and Bridge Road will be connected.

For Bisson, the lines can't come any sooner.

"We are isolated," he said.

**Thank you ~ Merci
Sandra Murray**

J'apprécie sincèrement le soutien que vous m'avez démontré et je m'engage à vous servir le plus possible.
I appreciate the support you have given me and I am committed to serving you; the residents of Shawville.

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Original 6 Carnival crowns first queen

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter
FORT COULONGE • Let it be known that the first Carnival Queen for the Original 6 Winter Carnival loves country music and the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Erin St. Jean Davis, 17, beat out five other contestants to be crowned the Carnival Queen for the festival being held in Fort Coulonge this Friday through Sunday.

An elaborate competition featuring talent, fashion and speech competitions at École Secondaire Sieur de Coulonge culminated in the crowning of St. Jean Davis as the girl who will act as the official representative for the carnival.

St. Jean Davis belted out a country tune for the talent portion of the show, and sported a chic country look for the fashion part of the show.

Each contestant represented one of the original six NHL teams — the Toronto Maple Leafs, Boston Bruins, Montreal Canadiens, Chicago Blackhawks, Detroit Red Wings or New York Rangers — and gave a short speech telling of that team's history.

Adding flare to the formal delivery of her speech, St. Jean Davis declared her favourite team for the Leafs and punctuated the conclusion with a cry of "Go Leafs Go".

"I've always wanted to do something like this," said St. Jean Davis, a John Paul II student.

"She's going to be awesome," said Skip Brown, organizer of the carnival and co-host of the Queen Gala show, along with his wife, Louise Bastien.

St. Jean Davis said she's looking forward to the carnival.

"I think that's going to be the best part," said St.

Jean Davis. Ashley Huppy was named first runner-up to St. Jean Davis.

Adele Charest, Tanya Fortin, Stephanie Lachance and Sonia Veilleux also vied for the crown.

On top of being named the Carnival Queen, St. Jean Davis was also selected as Miss Friendship by the other contestants and given the talent portion of the show.

If the Queen Gala competition was indeed indicative of what can be expected of the second annual Original 6 Winter Carnival, attendees should be in for quite a treat.

The auditorium at the school was filled with supporters and the crowd was abuzz when Brown announced that Gary Doak, who played for the Boston Bruins between 1965 and 1970 and again between 1970 and 1981, would be attending the carnival as a representative of the Bruins.

Brown is currently in the midst of negotiations with other Original 6 NHL teams to have them send representatives to the carnival.

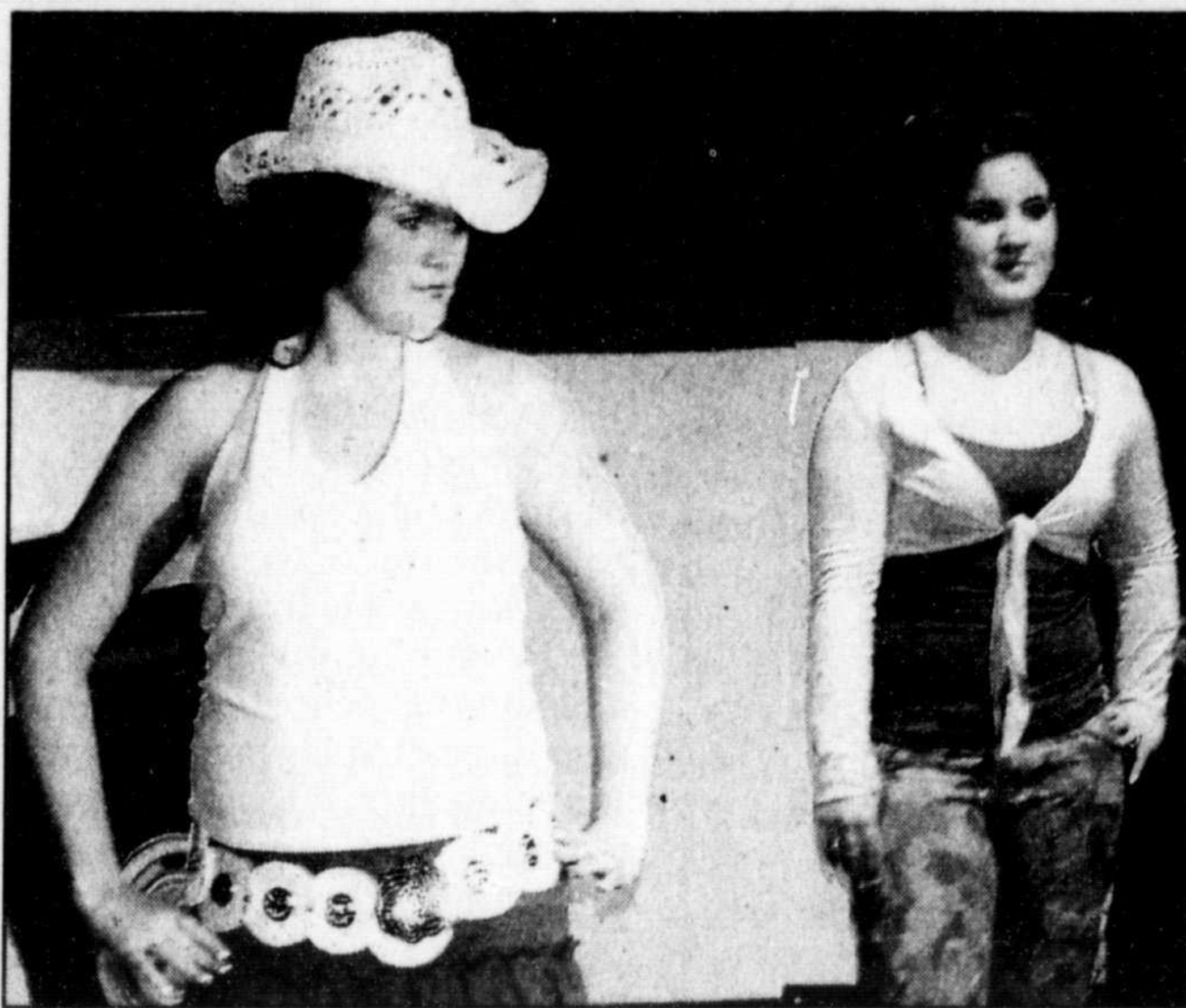
"Come out as a family and you will have a fun time," promised Brown.

The Original 6 Carnival, as with the Original 6 hockey league, has as its goal to raise money for minor hockey in the Pontiac.

"Kids (in the Pontiac) should have all the things they have in the big city in terms of recreation," said Brown.



Erin St. Jean Davis is crowned the Carnival Queen for next week's Original 6 Winter Carnival. St. Jean Davis will represent the carnival at the various events taking place in Fort Coulonge and Mansfield this weekend.



Erin St. Jean Davis and Adele Charest for the Queen Gala in Fort Coulonge on Saturday night. St. Jean Davis and five other contestants were required to participate in the fashion show, talent competition and give a speech as part of the gala.

Ice is nice for Florida hockey team



Members of the Florida Hurricanes Midget-aged hockey team pose in front of the "igloo" they made outside the Shawville Village Inn. Many of the team's players had never seen snow before and were in town participating in the Shawville Midget Hockey Tournament.

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • On Saturday, Derek Kosakowski was cold.

The temperature was 4C that day but situated outside the Shawville Village Inn, the 16-year-old Floridian was bundled up tightly, throwing snowballs at the other 12 members of his Space Coast-based hockey team, who were in Shawville for the annual Midget Hockey Tournament.

He had never seen snow before.

"It's nice up here, it's beautiful, all the farm land you've got," said Kosakowski.

But what about the temperature?

"Yeah, it's crazy. It's really cold," said Kosakowski. Never mind that 4C is downright balmy for a January in Quebec.

Straight-faced and obviously serious, Kosakowski added, "I can't imagine it getting much colder."

Most of the members of the Florida Hurricanes had

never been to Canada before, though some had made the trip with the team last year to Shawville for the same tournament.

Despite being 15- and 16-years-old, the group's frolicking in the snow was more akin to children half their age, as they wrestled each other to the ground before pummeling the fallen teammate by kicking snow on top of him.

Perhaps most curious was when one of them described their coach as "the one over there with the beanie."

Half-expecting to see a man wearing a brimless hat with a propeller on top, instead their coach was wearing a toque.

To them, a toque was a "beanie".

Their coach, Peter Nyman, also has a hard time understanding his players sometimes.

The Swede moved to Florida two years ago, and began coaching the group.

"You're struggling sometimes to get guys to try out,"

said Nyman. "And sometimes they don't show up to practice and you ask them why and it was because they were surfing. But what can you do?"

A contact Nyman had in Quebec hockey led to the team's trip to Shawville for the tournament for the second consecutive year.

"With these kids, it's like a roller coaster. Sometimes in hockey, you fight, sometimes you are friends," said the former professional Swedish midget hockey player, whose Midget team currently sits in third place in their four-team league in Florida.

The team did not fare well in the Midget tournament, losing their first two games 2-1 and 7-2 before tying their third, 2-2 against the Muskrat Voyageurs, marking the Florida team's first point in two years in Shawville.

But hockey hardly seemed the emphasis of their journey to Canada. Their thoughts were on

other things.

"Hey, you want to see what I made?" asked Kosakowski.

"I built an igloo." Accompanied by his teammates, Kosakowski had spent the previous night and that morning digging a tunnel out of a snow-bank.

While hardly an igloo — by definition igloos require blocks of ice or packed snow — Kosakowski was convinced his contraption was authentic Canadian.

"I'm going to sleep in it tonight. I want to do this all the way," said Kosakowski.

Because, you know, sleeping in igloos is the Canadian way.

Their enthusiasm and adoration for all things snow and cold were refreshing.

So, as they posed for photographs with their "igloo", it became obvious that, if nothing else, these young Floridians deserved a tip of a "beanie" for their snowy enthusiasm.

Happy Sweet 16th
Chelsea Smith
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Pontiac High
 455 Maple Street, Shawville
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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Parents of students **NEW** to the elementary school system may register their child(ren) at their catchment area school listed above. High School registrants at Dr. Wilbert Keon, John Paul II & Pontiac High School will register at the school of their choice.

Please bring:

- > Child's long form (full size) birth certificate,
- > Proof of Canadian Citizenship of one parent,
- > Proof of Quebec residency,
- > List of one parent's or sibling's English elementary education in Canada **OR** certificate of eligibility of a parent, sibling or the child himself,
- > Your child's report card from the previous two years if relevant.

Parents will be asked to fill out forms which will allow the school to apply for the certificate of eligibility for English schooling.

If you are unable to register on these dates you must call the school for an appointment.

For further information regarding registration, please contact the school. To determine which school to register in call 819.684.1313 ext. 304 or toll free at 1.800.363.9111

Opinion

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OUR OPINION

All votes equal

We should consider proportional representation, a reform that many Canadians don't see why we're without.

After the recent federal election, and resulting in the smallest minority governments we have seen in a long time, reasons for Canada to look at a new voting system have become apparent.

The percentage of seats held by the governing party, 40.3 per cent, is the smallest since Confederation. The Conservative Party of Canada only won 36.3 per cent of votes.

Proportional representation treats all voters equally by making election results proportional. When a party receives a percentage of the popular vote, that party would receive approximately the same percentage of the seats in parliament.

Many worldwide democracies (exactly 75) are currently using the proportional representation system, such as Germany, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and the Ukraine. Some countries, such as France, the Czech Republic, Greece, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom, are using a different form of proportional representation by electing officials according to the percentage of popular vote.

By using a proportional representation system, voter turnout across the country could be increased as electors would see a direct result of their vote.

Various regions would have a stronger voice. For us, in an area where the Bloc Québécois could easily have taken our riding, federalists in the Outaouais would still have a voice.

As well, voters in the western regions of the country would be more inclined to vote. As election day unwinds,

they wouldn't be discouraged by the massive numbers of Ontario and Quebec results. All votes would count for something.

Canada, the United States and Jamaica are three remaining industrialized countries that utilize the first-past-the-post system. This means that the candidate elected in the one who receives the most votes in a constituency.

Although it is most common for the candidate with the majority of votes to win an election, when the figures between two main parties are so small, this system could easily come into play.

Critics claim the only people interested in proportional representation are those who aren't likely to be elected by a majority. But as Canada stands as a democracy, and is proud of its diverse minorities, it should also back its elected minorities, no matter how small they are.

Quebec is ahead of the game, for once. Tomorrow a public hearing is scheduled in Gatineau for individuals or organizations to express their opinions on the electoral system. The hearing will be led by a select committee created by the National Assembly. This is the closest hearing for the Pontiac.

Public hearings run across the province until March 8 to consult the public about issues related to Quebec's electoral system, including revising the electoral system, the representation of women and ethnocultural minorities and election procedures.

The hearings are a result of the government drafting a bill to replace the Election Act in December of 2004. So have your say to make your say count in the future.

LM

Winner's circle

Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY



ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Wild turkey catch: 27 captured at Quyon farm

A call came through last Saturday night from Garfield Hobbs, who invited me to his farm to observe a wild turkey catch on his property on Sunday. The next morning found me and Eric at Hobbs' beef farm north of Quyon, observing the process.

Daniel St-Hilaire, wildlife technician, Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife (MNRW) was there, supervising the catch. Also present was Rodolphe LaSalle, President of the Quebec Federation of Wildlife (QFW). This organization has just formed the first Quebec chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation, based in the MRC des Collines.

In addition, MNRW has just granted this chapter the scientific licence to catch and release wild turkeys. Fourteen volunteers were present, as well as one other wildlife technician from the MNRW.

I asked Hobbs why this wild turkey catch was needed.

Overrun with turkeys

"Now we have about 75 wild turkeys here. That's way too many! They roost in the top of trees in the bush every night. You could set your clock to them: they all come down at the same time of the morning, gather and walk over to the yard, together. I thought the dog might look after them, but he doesn't. Just a few years ago I'd maybe see seven or so. Last year there were over 20. But 70 is way too many. It's best they (Quebec wildlife officers) come themselves and see what we're coping with."

No wonder the dog can't cope! One dog: 70 wild turkeys. The dog is smart to be wary of these big, rangy birds. Adult males can be almost a metre high and weigh 11 kilograms (25 pounds), although the average is around eight kg (17 lbs). Females weigh approximately four kg (nine to 10 lb). Adult

males also have long spurs on the back of their feet, which would give any self-respecting would-be predator cause for concern.

Officers quickly respond

I asked Hobbs how long it took for St-Hilaire to respond to his call. "I suppose it was only about a week and a half, all said and done. I called Mr. St-Hilaire, and he came out almost immediately. As soon as he saw what we've been dealing with - the number of birds, I mean - he agreed he had to do something immediately."

When interviewing St-Hilaire yesterday morning, he said, "If people have more than 50 or 60 wild turkeys, they should call Andrea Prevost at the Quebec Wildlife Federation, not the ministry. Her number is: 819-242-1700."

That's important to remember: now that the QFW has the licence to catch and release wild turkeys it is up to them to look after calls from the public.

Rocket propelled
Volunteers and officials captured 27 wild turkeys on Hobbs' farm using a large net shot from a 'cannon.' 'Rockets', which were attached to the net, launched it over a large flock of 60 or so individuals that had been baird with corn. One bird died of a presumed heart attack. Said St-Hilaire, "I'll have this bird stuffed, and it will go into the schools as part of our education program."

St-Hilaire and the team were delighted with the efficiency of



Katharine Fletcher

the catch. All 27 birds were banded and their sex and size recorded. The males, or toms, have what are called 'beards' located low on their necks; these were also measured, along with their spurs.

"We got four adult males, nine juvenile males, five adult females, and nine juvenile females," noted St-Hilaire.

Wild turkey capital of Quebec
Quyon is becoming well-known in birding circles for having the largest population of wild turkeys in the province. Therefore, Hobbs' turkeys will not be re-located in this region. "They were released later on Sunday in La Petit Nation region," said St-Hilaire.

Healthy population and farming practices

I asked him why wild turkeys are doing so well in the Pontiac. "It's different here in Quebec than in Ontario. Here we don't permit farmers to spray manure on their fields in fall. Wild turkeys really like that, because there are seeds in the manure they like to eat. Our wild turkeys are like the ruffed grouse: because the farmers don't spray, the turkeys have to rely upon shrub and tree buds.

"Here in the Outaouais, we have the best habitat for wild turkeys in Quebec, I'd say. Lots of woods with hemlock and oak: this is what they like."

Hunting

According to St-Hilaire, the season for hunting wild turkeys will be open in spring, 2008 - if and only if the population is deemed large enough.

Until that time, all of us need to remember that it is illegal to kill these wild birds.

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance writer who lives north of Quyon, Quebec. Contact her at chesley@allstream.net.

YOUR OPINION

What a coincidence

Dear Editor,

What a coincidence! The ambassador from the US picks the first days of a Stephen Harper victory to pick a fight with him. Critics had argued that Mr. Harper was going to become too close with Mr. George W. Bush. We can rest assured Mr. Harper, "Stood up for Canada!"

Mr. Harper couldn't have gotten a better way to define himself as "Captain Canada" nor a better issue to do it with. Boy, those Americans sure have a great sense of timing, eh? For Mr. Harper, this has got to be a piece of luck.

Do I sound cynical? Not at all. Cynical would be if I questioned why this piece of fluff made headlines rather than Mr. Harper campaigning on accountability, yelling at Mr. Paul Martin to "come clean" and yet now, refusing to meet the ethics commissioner in the Grewal investigation.

I am sure we can anticipate this loophole being closed through Prime Minister Harper's accountability legislation empowering the commissioner to require those involved to meet with him.

Chris Schnurr
Windsor, ON

Child care not synonymous with day care

Dear Editor,

Scott Reid's gaffe on CBC's political panel brought to the fore the widely held attitude that parents cannot be trusted with control of child-rearing decisions. His poorly worded point was basically that the state must intervene aggressively in the family sphere.

His comments reflect a patronizing, state-interventionist view that is shared by all four parties in parliament.

Liberals, Conservatives, NDP and the Bloc all clearly hold the belief that parents' choices do not deserve equity. Preferential funding for day care centres — the least preferred option of all care forms — is a pillar of each of their platforms. Rewards and punishments are openly used to coerce parents into using the state-sanctioned choice.

The government must insist that definitions of "child care" do not discriminate against any form of care.

Currently the essential child rearing and related work done by parents is classified as "leisure" and "non-activity". They must be included in definitions of work and productive activity.

The OECD and the World Bank are power sources behind day care agenda. One OECD conference was bluntly called "Putting More Women to Work". The agenda is called "post-maternalism" and seeks to create a more "flexible" work force by forcing more mothers into more time at jobs. This is to be accomplished by de-funding parental care (welfare, baby bonus, child benefits) and transferring funds to day care. Day care is intended to act as a subsidy to low wage McJobs for mums ("welfare in work") in the global corporate economy.

Significant data shows parents want control over child-rearing. They don't want government to play favourites when it comes to funding the diversity of choices families make <http://www.kidsfirstcanada.org/childcaredata.htm>. Something positive can come from Reid's remarks. Let the debate move from which form of day care to supporting all forms of child care.

Helen Ward, President
Kids First Parents Association of Canada

Letters to the Editor

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

Correction

Incorrect information was given in the story "Midget action in town this week" on page eight of the Jan. 25 issue. Until Sunday, Jan. 29, 20 teams from across Quebec, Ontario (and one team from Florida) will win the Giant Tiger Cup or Young's Appliances award.

Champion teams will receive sterling silver rings sponsored by Giant Tiger and Young's Appliances.

The home Pontiacs team won the tournament once in 1985.

HOME WORK | Tom McCann

Alternate uses

PONTIAC • A recurring theme in my columns has been the use or re-use of things for what may not have been the original intention.

With all of the wet weather that we have been having, icy yards can become a problem and a common push type rotary fertilizer spreader that is used during the summer can double as a sander for your laneway during the winter months.

Dry sand, fine gravel or anything granular will do a nice job eliminating the slippery spots. If you are stuck, kitty litter works fine and does not have the destructive side affects that salt products have.

Another thing that we currently have a lot of are leftover election signs. Now that the election has passed our road sides are littered with the plastic billboard signs that are likely going to stay there until someone has the initiative to take them down, more or less making them free for the taking.

Over the years I have used these signs for various projects including an outdoor movie screen, a splatter shield for painting and a seasonal duct system to help spread the cool air from an air conditioner.

If you have an alternate use for these signs, other than something derogatory like using them as a toilet seat lid for an outhouse, I am willing to pass this information along.

Practical tips like re-using the beaters of an older hand mixer in a drill to help speed up the stirring of paints or stains may be of benefit to others. Please forward any thoughts you have to hym@igs.net or to C.P. 397 Shawville QC, J0X 2Y0. I will give credit to anyone whose information I use in a column. Also all questions or suggestions for other columns are always welcome and I will to my best to work them into a column in a timely fashion.

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

Chicken pox vaccine to be offered free to infants

PONTIAC • A free chicken pox immunization program is being offered by the Government of Quebec to children the age of one or older.

The vaccine, which is 95 per cent effective, has been recommended by the Comité sur l'immunisation au Québec to be added to the immunization schedule of Quebec children.

Since Jan. 1, the vaccine has been offered free to infants at least 12 months old, which is the age other vaccines are offered.

MNA Charlotte L'Écuyer made the announcement recently on behalf of the minister of Health and Social Services, Philippe Couillard.

The program's objective is to protect children from age one to Grade 11 by 2010.

Chicken pox is a contagious disease that the majority of children are not protected from. An itchy rash is a common occurrence, but other complications can occur with a secondary bacterial infection. In Quebec, 400 to 500 people are hospitalized each year with chicken pox, especially children. One or two deaths have also occurred in the province this year from complications with the disease.

The vaccine will also be provided in Grade 4 to students, coinciding with hepatitis B vaccinations.

As consequences of the disease are generally more serious with adults than children, the vaccine is being offered to health care workers for free if required.



Eric Fletcher photo

A wild turkey is banded at Garfield Hobbs' farm Sunday morning.

Groundhog: Willie or won't he?

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Every year on Feb. 2, Warton, Ontario transforms itself. The quiet town of 2,300 welcomes thousands of people on Groundhog Day, many of whom will wear groundhog's noses, hats, or hold up signs asking "Willie or won't he?"

A man wearing a traditional town crier outfit will step up on a stage, making grand gestures in reference to "The greatest prognosticator in Canada," before quickly correcting himself, "Nay, the world".

Then, the man will lean towards a cage where an albino groundhog, looking more confused than wise, will do nothing. It will briefly sniff the man wondering if he's food, but then remain in its cage, almost motionless. Yet the man will return from the cage, proudly declare the

groundhog had spoken to him and make one of two declarations, either of a short or long winter.

The crowd of thousands will then cheer loudly, chanting "Willie, Willie, Willie". From there, they disperse, and the groundhog's "prediction" is actually acknowledged by few. Actually, some professionals have tracked Willie's rate of success in predictions as lower than 50 per cent, meaning flipping a coin would be more accurate.

Groundhog Day is now a long-standing tradition in both Canada and the United States. Traditionally, if a groundhog comes out of its burrow on Feb. 2 and sees its shadow because it's a bright, sunny day, it will run back into its hole bringing six more weeks of winter. If the

day is cloudy and the groundhog remains outside of its dwelling, winter will soon end.

Nowadays, however, prognosticative groundhogs generally remain in captivity year-round and their shadows have little to do with their predictions.

Warton Willie is famously the world's most famous season-predicting groundhog, though Punxsutawney Phil of Pennsylvania may have something to say about that honour.

The Groundhog Day celebration as we know it actually derived from Candlemas Day, a now little-known Christian celebration that marked the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of the Easter season. According to an old, English song: If Candlemas be fair and bright/ Come, Winter, have another flight/

If Candlemas brings clouds and rain/ Go Winter, and come not again.

It was believed that on Candlemas, bears would emerge from their caves and predict the weather similarly to groundhogs, but the abundance of groundhogs in North America led to these hibernating animals being named the forecaster of choice.

Now, Groundhog Day is commonly acknowledged, and Willie's annual prediction (which really just consists of a committee deciding beforehand) makes news across North America.

Have you spotted any groundhogs yet this year? Do you have any Groundhog Day stories?

If so, e-mail them to news@theequity.ca or mail them in to us and we will print them in next week's issue.

Steer raffled for Picabou Daycare Centre

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

CAMPBELL'S BAY • Picabou Daycare Centre in Campbell's Bay made sure one village man was well-stocked with meat for the winter.

Michel Dubeau, of Campbell's Bay, won a half-steer, cut and wrapped, in a fundraiser aiming to help out the day care.

The draw took place Jan. 16. Tickets for the raffle were sold at 99 cents each or

six for \$5.

"We started selling tickets in the beginning of November," said co-ordinator Lisa Corrigan.

The money raised, \$2,794.75 in total, will go towards buying new equip-

ment for the day care.

The steer was donated to Picabou by Wendy Stewart and Denis Dufault, while Henry and Pauline Lasalle of Las-Beau Meats on Calumet Island provided the cutting and wrapping.

We would like to welcome
Claire Gauthier
to the Groupe immobilier Philip LeMay inc.

Claire Gauthier
AGENT IMMOBILIER AFFILIÉ
819.684.2000
613.292.8267

Philip LeMay
GROUPE IMMOBILIER
152 rue Principale, Gatineau (Québec) J9H 3M8 info@philiplemay.com



Thank you
"For all the support,
encouragement and
wisdom gained,"
Yours truly,
Aileen Sheppard



ATTENTION ALL DAIRY AND BEEF PRODUCERS

ENGLISH INFORMATION MEETING ON CULL COWS

Mr. Michel Dessureault, President of Quebec's Beef Federation (FPBQ), and Mr. Maxime Legault, Director of Cull Cow, Dairy and Beef Calf Marketing, will meet with producers to explain changes to the marketing system for cull cows.

1:00 p.m. Monday, February 6, 2006
Lunch available at \$10.00
Pine Lodge, Bristol

CALVING NEEDS

- BROOD COW MINERAL
- BROOD COW SUP R BLOCK
- CALF STARTER • GATES
- MILK REPLACER • DIATOMACEOUS EARTH
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M & R FEEDS
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PEMBROKE 732-2843
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NOTICE OF MEETING

Annual general meeting

Promutuel La Vallée, société mutuelle d'assurance générale invites all its insured members to attend the annual general meeting which will be held on:

Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 8:00 p.m.
Anglican Parish Hall
516 Main Street
Shawville.


Seats to be filled:
Seat No. 7: Boyd Brownlee
Seat No. 8: Benson Moffatt
Seat No. 9: Ronald Strutt

Nomination
Interested candidates must forward their nomination form to the Secretary of the Mutual Association and must be received on the tenth (10) day before the general meeting, being February 27, 2006 by 4:00 p.m. The candidate nomination form may be obtained at the Promutuel La Vallée office, 51 Victoria Street, Shawville.

A lunch will be served. Dear please.

Dana Morin
Board of Directors Secretary

Issued February 7, 2006



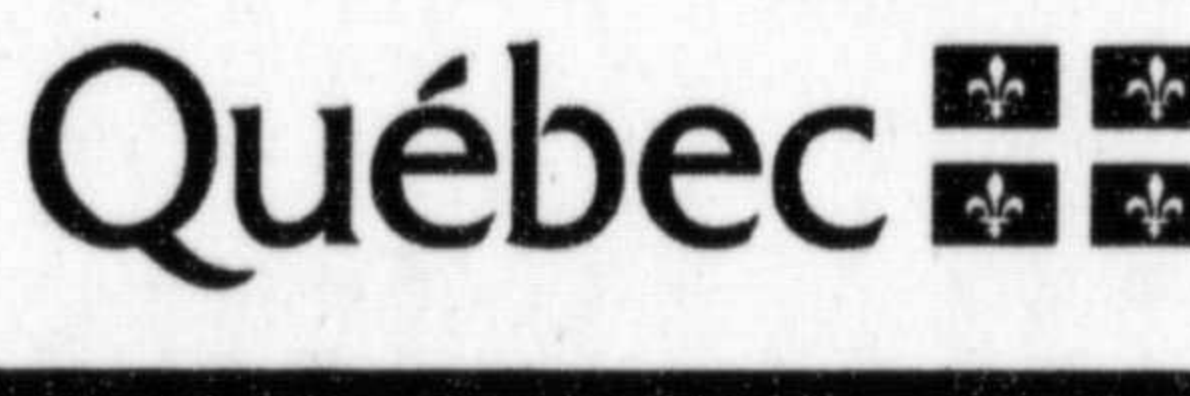
Avis public

Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec

The Régie will hear the report of the Office des producteurs de bois du Pontiac in regard to the periodical evaluation of the marketing board during a public hearing to be held at 9:30 am on February the 17th 2006 at the St-Paul Anglican Church, 756 John Dale Road, Shawville.

Other persons interested to make representations to the Régie on the administration of the marketing board during said hearing must give prior notice to Mr Jean-Claude Blanchette at 514 873-4024.

Montréal, 27 janvier 2006 M^r Marc Nepveu, Secrétaire




SARAUULT Driving School

Motorcycle Course

in **ENGLISH**

Starting **February 5, 2006**



Location: 89 St. Raymond
Gatineau (Hull), QC

Information
819-777-8555

February 2006 is Heart Month

The Municipality of Shawville wants to show its heart.

With this gesture, it demonstrates its concern for the cardiovascular health of all citizens and supports the commitment to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Québec. Cardiovascular disease remains one of the leading causes of death and takes the lives of one third of the population, which means that someone in Québec dies every 27 minutes.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Québec, with the support and commitment of its donors, volunteers, and employees, is dedicated to the advancement of research and the promotion of heart health in order to reduce disabilities and the number of deaths attributed to cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Through its actions, the Heart and Stroke Foundation contributes to improving the quality of life and the chances of survival for all citizens in our community. Your support at each level of the Foundation's activities helps it to pursue its mission and strengthens its drive to prevent and cure.

Moved by Sylvia Hodgins, seconded by Royce Richardson, that as Mayor and with the support of the Municipal Council of Shawville, I hereby proclaim **February is Heart Month** and I encourage our councillors and the entire population to show its Heart!



25 Years Ago

February 4, 1981

COMMUNITY BONSPIEL COPENS: Once more the Shawville Curling Club is hosting the annual community Bonspiel at their three-sheet rink where hospitality and friendship seem to be boundless. The whole event will be over by Sunday, by which time 192 curlers will have each played three games, generally against teams of the same average abilities, as far as is possible.

PONTIAC FARMERS TO MEET THURSDAY AT VINTON: To come to grips with a serious problem facing every farmer in the County, a meeting has been called for this Thursday night, Feb. 5 at Vinton Parish Hall. The problem of the moment seems to be an effort on the part of the Union des Producteurs Agricoles to force payment of union fees by all farmers. THE EQUITY has been informed that the UPA has been taking farmers to court for non-payment of union fees.

50 Years Ago

February 2, 1956

TEN-YEAR-OLD HERO OF CHARTERIS FIRE SAVES GRANDFATHER AND TELEVISION SET: Ten-year-old Waverley Greer can be credited with saving the life of his grandfather, Joseph Greer, 80, when their house burned to the ground last night at Charteris. Sound asleep in the two-storey frame house where he lives alone with his grandfather, Waverley smelled smoke about 10:30 p.m. and spent many precious minutes trying to awaken the elderly Mr Greer who is very hard of hearing. Finally the two emerged from the searing flames, the elder Mr Greer carrying his shotgun and the young boy struggling under the weight of a new television set. A neighbour, Mrs T Murphy sent in the alarm but it was useless to send any equipment to fight the fire as the house was levelled in an hour.

PLANS IN PROGRESS FOR 100 FAIR: Plans for

the Shawville Fair Centenary are under way. Last year's Fair business was brought to a conclusion at a banquet and annual meeting of the Pontiac County Agricultural Society Division held at the St Paul's Anglican Church Hall, last Friday evening and discussion centered around this year's special event.

RIDER ON ACCIDENT VERDICT URGES SUNDAY LIQUOR LAW ENFORCEMENT: A verdict of accidental death due to the conditions of the road was returned Saturday night by a coroner's jury investigating the death of Ferron Gravelle, 28, of Campbell's Bay. Mr Gravelle died of injuries received in an automobile accident near Campbell's Bay. A rider was attached to the verdict requesting that the liquor laws be enforced on Sunday in the County of Pontiac.

ONE OF WALTHAM'S OLDEST MEN DIES: William Henry Heaney, one of the oldest residents of Waltham, the son of the late Mr and Mrs John Heaney and the husband of the late Margaret Gordon passed away in Waltham on Jan. 25. He was born on July 6, 1873 and was well known and respected by all.

75 Years Ago

January 29, 1931

LOCAL NEWS: THE EQUITY Standard thermometer registered 20 below zero at 7 o'clock Thursday morning last. This was the lowest mark recorded this year. Other instruments in town read from four to eight degrees lower.

SCHOOL HOCKEY: On Saturday afternoon, Jan. 17, the Shawville High School girls battled to an even score when they held the Campbell's Bay girls to a 1 all count. As it was their first hockey encounter of the season, both teams showed a surprising ability and a fair knowledge of the game.

AG SOCIETY DIRECTORS ELECTED: At a meeting of the Pontiac Ag Society, No. 1 held on Monday afternoon, Jan. 19 the following officers were elected for the year 1931: Herb Young, S W McKechnie, J P Graham, William Graham, H G Young, John Caldwell, Thomas Beatty, F W Thomas, J W Horner, W H Corrigan, Lorne Armstrong, J R McDowell, A H Horner, Arthur Dagg, R C Walsh, Harold Hodgins, N D Kilgour, W G Corrigan, A G Brough, G A Howard, A G Proudfoot, C T Wilson, J E Cowan, R J Hamilton, J M Argue, W E N Hodgins, O D Sullivan, J L Hodgins, Rev W E Wright, Dr Campbell VS, N A Drummound, James Peever, Dominic Sloan, James Carswell, John Newell, Felix Malette, J H Bruneau, and Charles Reuckwald.

DEATHS: The death occurred on Friday evening last, after a short illness, of Mr Archie D Greer, a life time resident of North Clarendon, aged 17 years. Mr Geo E Jewell, who managed the Jewell House at Fort Coulonge for several years died at his home after a lengthy illness on Sunday, Jan. 18. He was in his 68th year.

The death occurred on Tuesday last, of Mrs Mary Craig Amm, of Quyon who succumbed to an illness of

100 Years Ago

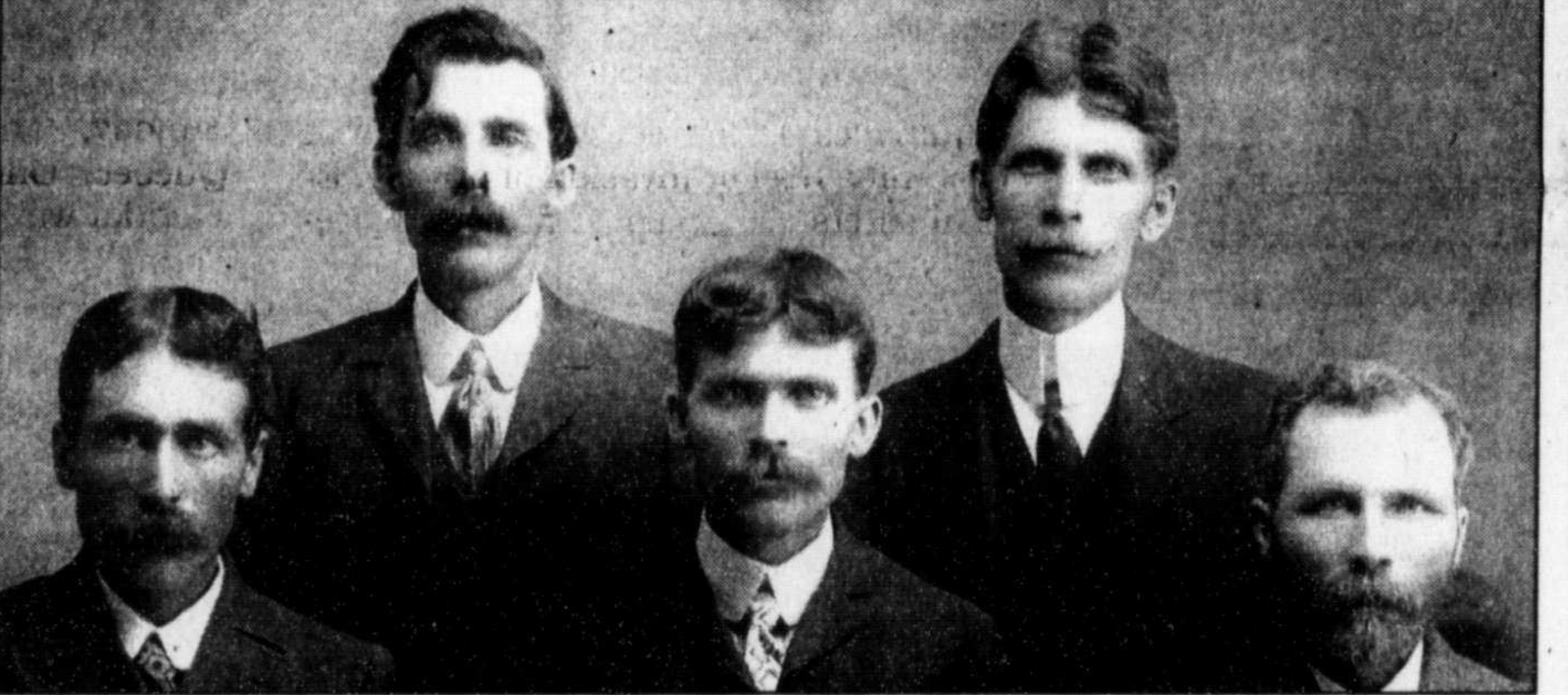
February 1, 1906

LOCAL NEWS: Mr George L Judd, of Greermount, who with his brothers is engaged in lumbering at North Clarendon, had the misfortune to have one of his legs broken below the knee on Friday last. The accident was due to a pole catching in his sleigh, and one end then springing backward with great force against his leg breaking both bones.

Section foreman John Gibson reports something which has never occurred before since the railway was built, and which may not occur again for years, namely the burning of the grass along the track in the month of January.

The giving out of sleighing has certainly had a depreciable effect on business, and the merchants have in consequence, lots of time on their hands for stock-taking. The recent thaw and subsequent cold weather provided nearly every youngster in town with a skating rink in their own back yard, whilst the large ponds formed by the flood have given everyone so inclined an opportunity to enjoy the health-giving exercise to their heart's content.

Last Saturday, Mr Isidore Demerse of the island, had on exhibition in town a wolf which he caught about seven miles from Chichester and which he suspects of killing three deer whose heads he found near there.



This photo, of the Russell family of Bristol, is thought to be taken in the late 1800s. From the left: William McGregor Russell, John D. Russell, Walter Russell, Robert Scott Russell and Andrew Russell.

Pontiac makes do without animal control

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • When contracts expired with Pontiac Animal Control New Year's Eve, municipalities were left to fend for themselves.

The Pontiac MRC and the local development centre (CLD) are working together to create a needs analysis on recruiting a dog catcher. The public security committee of the MRC will be discussing this issue at its next meeting Feb. 20.

In the meantime, municipalities who previously had animal control are waiting anxiously. "We are tired of dealing with dogs," said Shawville Mayor Albert Armstrong. "If it's going nowhere fast, I'm going to recommend to council that we look for an animal control person on our own."

He said that in the past month since the contract has ended, four or five stray dogs have been seen wandering about town.

"They don't have tags, and they don't seem to be going any place or have any ownership," said Armstrong. "Either people have dropped them off or they are stray."

He said Shawville has reverted to its animal control policies that were in force before a contract was signed with Pontiac Animal Control. Four kennels are housed in the municipal garage and when a complaint is called in about a stray, one of three town employees does their best to safely capture the animal and put it in the kennel.

"We give them food and water and they try to find

them a home," said Armstrong. "If the required time (a minimum of 72 hours) has passed, we take the animal to (veterinarian) Dr. (Alda) Jong."

Information about the animal is posted on the front doors of the town hall, and an owner missing a pet can call the municipality to retrieve it.

"(The strays) don't have tags, and they don't seem to be going any place or have any ownership. Either people have dropped them off or they are stray."

—Albert Armstrong
Mayor of Shawville

"If we have no idea who the owner is, in 72 hours — we always keep it longer than necessary — we try to find it a home by phoning different people if it's a nice dog," said Armstrong.

He added that if an animal is cross, the municipality has the ability to call the police.

"We used to call them before to pick up animals, but they are not equipped properly," said Armstrong.

Armstrong said for rural municipalities, animal control is not as needed as it is in Shawville.

"It's too bad we have to waste our time dealing with animals in that way," he said. "We worry if an animal is out of control, if it has rabies or if it bites a child. Older people and young children are hesitant to come

out of their houses if they see a loose dog."

By the end of 2005, 700 dog tags, 200 cat tags and tickets were ordered for four municipalities to use specifically for animal control.

Bryson Mayor Al Davis has taken it upon himself to enforce the bylaw and make use of the tags his municipality has sold.

"I took that job upon myself to enforce our \$10 tags," said Davis. "I've gone where the dogs are loose, tell them that's a bylaw, and I haven't had a problem."

He said in the past few weeks, he has seen 10 to 12 people renew their pet tags at the municipality.

Bryson will wait, he said, for the time being and enforce its current animal bylaws.

Campbell's Bay Mayor Jean-Louis Auger says the municipality will be waiting to see what comes out of the county file before taking any action.

"We have no bylaw to collect licensing," said Auger. "It's gone and that's it."

He says Campbell's Bay doesn't have too many problems with stray animals, so the municipality will wait to see what action the MRC will take.

"We would need a contractor to get animals and to store them," said Auger. "You can't take a .22 and shoot them — you have to keep them, feed them and put them up for adoption."

Ricky Romain, mayor of Mansfield, says the MRC needs the same bylaw across the board. "If everyone has the same rules it will be easier to hand

out the tickets," said Romain.

He said his municipality bought tags for dogs and cats, but with no animal control, no one is applying the rules.

"It's more or less an MRC problem now," he said.

Even other municipalities that weren't signed onto contracts have set aside funds in their 2006 budgets for possible animal control.

"I believe strongly that we need animal control," said Bristol Mayor Jack Graham, whose municipality allotted \$3,600 to the cause in the 2006 budget, which is \$2,595 more than last year. "We are having difficulty getting a permanent, long-term contract. The need is still there and it is getting greater."

But there does seem to be hope. Portage du Fort has touched base with an individual who may be able to run animal control in its municipality.

"We have put out invitations for someone to apply for the job," said Portage Mayor Gerald Manwell, whose contract ended last October.

"We got one application back and we still have to check all the requirements before hiring."

Last year, Pontiac Animal Control operators stated it would close its operations by the end of 2005 unless they got six municipalities in addition to Campbell's Bay, Mansfield, Portage du Fort, Shawville and Bryson to sign onto the service.

The deadline moved no municipalities to confirm a contract until late last year.

Premier conseil des commissaires à distance

MANIWAKI • Le mercredi 25 janvier dernier, le conseil des commissaires de la Commission scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais a tenu sa toute première assemblée à distance.

Cette première a été rendue possible grâce au réseau de fibres optiques du programme Villages branchés et à la mise en place d'équipements de vidéo-conférence.

La majorité des commissaires et des cadres de service se sont rassemblés au site officiel de l'assemblée, soit à Maniwaki (plus précisément, à la salle des Hautbois, au centre administratif).

Au même moment, les commissaires originaires du Pontiac, accompagnés du directeur du service des ressources éducatives et technologiques, Stéphane Rondeau, se sont réunis à Fort-Coulonge.

Les deux groupes communiquaient dans les deux sens par l'image, prise par des caméras et transmise à distance pour diffusion sur téléviseurs, et par le son, capté par des micros et également retransmis.

De cette façon, les commissaires du Pontiac pouvaient participer en temps réel à la réunion qui se déroulait à Maniwaki, malgré une distance de plus de 135 kilomètres.

Inaugurée en mai 2004, la salle des Hauts-Bois, de Maniwaki est pourvue d'équipements à la fine

pointe de la technologie. Depuis quelques semaines, elle a un pendant dans le Pontiac, à l'école Sieur-de-Coulonge (Fort-Coulonge). Cette salle porte elle aussi baptisée le nom de «salle des Hauts-Bois» et dispose, tout comme l'autre, d'équipements spécialisés leur permettant d'être en contact direct.

Cette rencontre à distance du conseil des commissaires soulignait les avantages des équipements de vidéo-conférence maintenant disponibles.

Grâce à ceux-ci, il sera maintenant possible, par exemple, de dispenser de la formation à distance à Maniwaki et à Fort-Coulonge.

Autre avantage : le système permettra à la commission scolaire de fonctionner plus efficacement, non seulement au niveau des réunions du conseil des commissaires mais aussi des réunions de comités, réduisant ainsi les temps de transport et les coûts de déplacement.

Par ailleurs, lors de cette rencontre du 25 janvier, les commissaires ont pris connaissance des résultats de la campagne Centraide 2005.

Cette campagne a permis de recueillir un montant de 3 572 \$, comparativement à 5 509 \$ en 2004.

La baisse est surtout attribuable à des retards dans la livraison de matériel en provenance du siège

social de Centraide Secteur public et de la conjonction des moyens de pression de l'automne dernier.

Aussi, les commissaires ont été informés des activités de la campagne annuelle de sécurité dans le transport scolaire, du 30 janvier au 10 février 2006, sous le thème «W6 minute ! Pense à ta sécurité !» Plusieurs activités seront mises sur pied par les transporteurs scolaires, en deux volets, soit dans la Vallée de la Gatineau (sous la responsabilité de Derek Ardis) et dans le Pontiac (sous la responsabilité de Guy Larivière).

Dans les secteurs de la Vallée de la Gatineau et du Pontiac, des messages seront diffusés dans les journaux locaux et sur les ondes des radios.

La mascotte Bubusse fera des visites à la demande. À signaler qu'il n'y aura pas de barrages routiers cette

année. Aussi, les chauffeurs d'autobus iront voir les élèves dans les classes du premier cycle (1ère et 2e années) dans les écoles primaires et ces élèves pourront aussi visiter les autobus.

La Sûreté du Québec sera présente et des informations seront données sur les règles de sécurité dans le transport scolaire. Un feuillet d'information sera aussi distribué.

Dans la Vallée de la Gatineau, deux affiches géantes seront érigées à Maniwaki, une près de l'hôpital et une près de la pharmacie Jean-Coutu.

Il y aura aussi une série de onze panneaux plus petits (deux pieds par deux pieds), réalisés par la Commission scolaire Western Québec.

Une nouveauté intéressante doit être soulignée cette année, soit la création

d'un concours de dessins. Ce concours est organisé par les transporteurs scolaires de la Haute-Gatineau et s'adresse aux enfants de 4 à 12 ans.

Centre de santé et de services sociaux du Pontiac

APPEL D'OFFRES

PROJET : 04-110
CSSS du Pontiac,
Pavillon du centre hospitalier
Soins palliatifs
 200, rue Argue
 Shawville, QC
 J0X 2Y0

Architectes :
Fortin, Corriveau, Salvail, architecture + design s.n.c.
 15, rue Connaught
 Gatineau, (Québec)
 J8Y 4C8
 Tél : (819) 776-3143

Pour commande de documents, 819-776-3143 poste 21

Le CSSS du Pontiac, propriétaire, de l'hôpital de Shawville situé au 200, rue Argue, Shawville, QC J0X 2Y0 demande des soumissions pour la réalisation des Travaux d'aménagement de son département de soins palliatifs.

Les documents contractuels pourront être obtenus le 30 janvier 2006 à compter de 13h30 :

Fortin, Corriveau, Salvail architecture + design
 15, rue Connaught
 Gatineau (Québec) J8Y 4C8
 téléphone (819-776-3143) poste 21

contre un chèque visé non remboursable de 50,00 \$ émis à l'ordre du propriétaire.

Les soumissions dans des enveloppes cachetées et adressées au centre de santé et de services sociaux du Pontiac et portant sur l'enveloppe le titre du projet, seront reçues au 15, rue Connaught à Gatineau (Québec) J8Y 4C8 jusqu'à 14h00 en vigueur localement, le 14 février 2006 pour être ouvertes publiquement au même endroit, le même jour et à la même heure.

Les soumissions devront être accompagnées d'un cautionnement de soumission délivré par une institution financière et établi au montant de 10 % du montant de la soumission valide pour une période de 45 jours de la date d'ouverture des soumissions, soit d'un chèque visé au montant de 10 % du montant de la soumission fait à l'ordre du propriétaire, soit d'obligations conventionnelles au porteur émises ou garanties par les gouvernements du Québec ou du Canada dont la valeur nominale est de 10 % du montant de la soumission.

Seules seront admis à soumissionner les entrepreneurs ayant leur place d'affaires au Québec ou, lorsqu'un accord intergouvernemental est applicable au Québec ou dans une province ou un territoire visé pour cet accord, et détenant la licence requise en vertu de la Loi sur le bâtiment.

Les entrepreneurs soumissionnaires sont responsables du choix des sous-traitants, tant pour leur solvabilité que pour le contenu de leur soumission et doivent les informer des conditions qu'ils entendent leur imposer et s'assurer qu'ils détiennent les permis et licences requis.

Le propriétaire ne s'engage pas à accepter la plus basse ou quelconque autre soumission reçue.

Une visite des travaux aura lieu le 6 février 2006 à 13h30 à l'hôpital de Shawville, rendez-vous à l'entrée principale de l'établissement situé au 200, rue Argue à Shawville.

Merci

La famille de Doris Hodgins tenons à remercier chaleureusement la direction et tout le personnel des soins palliatifs de la Centre Hospitalier du Pontiac pour leurs excellents soins durant sa longue maladie.

À notre famille, amis et loyal clients nous tenons remercier pour votre générosité et message de condoléance aussi à toutes qui ont participé au funéraire et à Unité 6 pour la réception après dans l'Église Unies.

Mick, Anne, Ronnie, Donna, Jane, Ruth et familles

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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 siéger au conseil d'administration du « Comité de loisirs, de culture et d'action communautaire ».

Le comité de loisirs a pour but de prendre en charge l'aide financière offerte aux organismes oeuvrant sur notre territoire dans les domaines du loisir, de la culture et de l'action communautaire.

Veuillez nous faire parvenir votre demande ainsi qu'un court résumé de vos compétences avant 14h00 le 28 février 2006 à l'adresse suivante :

Comité de loisirs, de la culture et d'action communautaire
Municipalité de Pontiac
 2024, Route 148
 Pontiac, QC J0X 2G0

DONNÉ à PONTIAC ce 30e jour de janvier deux-mille six.

Sylvain Bertrand
 Directeur général et secrétaire trésorier

Février 2006 est le mois du cœur

La municipalité de Shawville désire afficher son cœur!

Par ce geste elle démontre sa préoccupation pour la santé cardiovasculaire de ses concitoyens et supporte son engagement à La Fondation des maladies du cœur du Québec. Tous jours première cause de décès, les maladies du cœur prennent la vie d'un tiers de la population, ce qui veut dire qu'une personne décède à toutes les 27 minutes au Québec.

La Fondation des maladies du cœur du Québec, forte de l'engagement de ses donateurs, de ses bénévoles et de ses employés a pour mission de promouvoir la recherche et la santé du cœur afin de réduire les infirmités et le nombre de décès attribués aux maladies du cœur et aux accidents vasculaires cérébraux.

Par ses actions, la Fondation des maladies du cœur contribue à améliorer la qualité de vie et les chances de survie de tous nos concitoyens et concitoyennes dans notre municipalité. Le soutien que vous apportez à ses actions lui permet de poursuivre sa mission et d'unir ses forces pour mieux prévenir et guérir.

Proposé par Sylvia Hodgins, appuyé par Royce Richardson, qu'en ma qualité de Maire et appuyé par les membres du Conseil municipal de SHAWVILLE, je proclame février, mois du cœur et j'encourage les conseillers, conseillères et toute la population à Afficher son cœur!

Le gouvernement a conclu une première entente

GATINEAU • Une bonne nouvelle est survenue cette semaine dans le dossier de l'équité salariale, le gouvernement a conclu une première entente avec le Syndicat de professionnelles et professionnels du gouvernement du Québec (SPGQ) du secteur de la fonction publique, a déclaré la présidente du caucus de l'Outaouais, Charlotte L'Écuyer, à la suite de l'annonce faite le 16 janvier dernier par la présidente du Conseil du trésor et ministre responsable de l'Administration gouvernementale, Monique Jérôme-Forget.

Elle a ajouté qu'elle souhaite que cette première soit le prélude à un règlement du dossier de l'équité salariale pour l'ensemble des personnes visées par la Loi.

« En tant qu'employeur, le gouvernement a maintes fois réitéré son engagement et sa volonté à tout mettre en oeuvre afin d'en arriver le plus rapidement possible à un règlement sur l'équité salariale avec ses partenaires syndicaux.

Je souhaite vivement que d'autres ententes similaires puissent être conclues prochainement avec d'autres organisations syndicales », de déclarer la présidente.

Le programme distinct d'équité salariale vise près de 16 000 salariées et salariés représentés par le SPGQ dans le secteur fonction publique.

Plus de 2 300 personnes, dont les catégories d'emplois sont identifiées à prédominance féminine, obtiendront à terme un relèvement moyen de leur rémunération de 3,6 %.

Les sommes dues sont rétroactives au 21 novembre 2001 et produisent des intérêts. Les coûts récurrents d'équité, en rémunération globale, s'élèvent à environ 4,9 millions \$. Ce montant sera puisé à même le cadre de rémunération de 3,2 milliards de dollars annoncé en juin 2004 et à l'intérieur duquel le gouvernement avait réservé des sommes pour l'équité salariale », a ajouté madame L'Écuyer.

Ces employés de l'État seront les premiers parmi un groupe important estimé

à environ 235 000 salariés, pour la plupart des femmes à l'emploi du gouvernement, à bénéficier de correctifs salariaux issus des programmes d'équité salariale mis en place en vertu de la Loi sur l'équité salariale.

Comme gouvernement, nous ne ménagerons aucun effort pour que l'ensemble des employés susceptibles de bénéficier d'ajustements attendus depuis trop longtemps puissent y avoir droit le plus rapidement possible », de conclure la présidente.

Desjardins

L'INSTITUTION : La caisse populaire Desjardins de Fort-Coulonge

LA FONCTION : AGENT, AGENTE - SERVICE AUX MEMBRES -- (N-3)

LE STATUT : Poste régulier à temps plein à 35 heures semaine

LA CAISSE ET SON MILIEU :

La Caisse populaire Desjardins de Fort-Coulonge est située dans un marché rural. L'établissement d'une relation d'affaires durable et efficace auprès de ses 3287 membres est au coeur du projet de la Caisse. L'actif actuel est de 41,75 millions dont 29,58 millions en prêts aux particuliers et 5,9 \$ millions en prêts aux entreprises. Les épargnes quant à elles totalisent 39,45 millions (bilan, hors bilan). Le personnel de la caisse est composé de 8 employés non syndiqués dont un gestionnaire et un planificateur financier.

LE DÉFI :

Vous accueillerez les membres et les non membres se présentant à la caisse afin de les accompagner dans des transactions et des services de convenance. Vous conseillerez judicieusement les membres dans l'utilisation la plus efficace des automatés et des services automatisés et les accompagnerez au besoin dans leurs opérations. Vous procéderez à la préparation, la vérification et l'enregistrement de pièces justificatives correspondant aux transactions. Finalement, vous devrez être à l'écoute des attentes et des besoins des membres afin d'améliorer la qualité du service.

LES EXIGENCES :

- **Formation et Expérience :**
 Combinaison A : AEC du domaine de l'administration (dont AEC en conseils financiers) et 1 année d'expérience en services financiers ou service à la clientèle
- Combinaison B : DEP du domaine de l'administration ou DES et 18 mois à 2 années d'expérience en services financiers ou service à la clientèle
- **Compétences et Connaissances :**
 Les personnes retenues à l'étape de la présélection doivent s'attendre à être évaluées, notamment sur les compétences et connaissances suivantes :
 - Être d'un abord facile
 - Être orienté vers le client
 - Faire preuve de rigueur professionnelle et de minutie
 - Être orienté vers l'action
 - Avoir la maîtrise de soi
 - Démontrer une grande capacité à apprendre rapidement
 - Procédures opérationnelles relatives aux services et transactions de convenance
 - Intégration des données dans les systèmes
 - Normes de contrôle et mesures de sécurité
 - Produits et services Desjardins relatifs à la convenance

LES CONDITIONS DE TRAVAIL :

Le salaire et les conditions de travail sont ceux prévus dans le guide des conditions de travail. La semaine normale de travail est de trente-cinq (35) heures. Les personnes intéressées doivent faire parvenir leur curriculum vitae accompagné d'une copie du dernier relevé de notes obtenu ou du diplôme requis, au plus tard le 15 février 2006, à :

Anne Paquin, directrice générale
 La caisse populaire Desjardins de Fort-Coulonge
 175, rue Principale
 Fort-Coulonge (Québec) J0X 1V0

Nous remercions toutes les personnes qui manifesteront leur intérêt. Toutefois, seulement les candidates et candidats qui seront retenus à l'étape de présélection seront contactés.

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SPORTS



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

The first rock was thrown Thursday night at the Shawville Curling Rink during the 31st annual Community Bonspiel. Front row: Mary Allen. Back row, from the left: Doris Hanna, Eason Russell, Stu Stark, Laird Murray and Gerry Desabrais. Missing from photo: Bert Murphy, Phyllis Wilson and president Steve Allen.

Largest one-rink community bonspiel opens

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
SHAWVILLE • The first stone was thrown Thursday night for the 31st edition of the Shawville Community Bonspiel.

Held at the curling rink in Shawville, the bonspiel is widely considered the largest one-rink community bonspiel in the world.

Over the course of the 11-day event, 72 four-person rinks compete in 12 divisions. The bonspiel wraps up Sunday when the winning rink will be presented

the Toilet Seat Trophy. Hayes Funeral was the 2005 winning team.

To officially kick-off the event, the bonspiel executive threw the first rock. The executive is made up of president Steve Allen, treasurer Gerry Desabrais, chairperson Laird Murray, co-chairperson Stu Starks, scorer Doris Hanna, Prizes Mary Allen and Eason Russell and Phyllis Wilson.

The first division to play was the green, where Killarney's, Brandon

Crawford, Billy T's, Smitty's Restaurant, THE EQUITY and The River View Inn rinks faced off.

Participants also enjoyed the use of three new televisions over each sheet's house and a big screen television and couch in the club's lounge area.

Rinks play three games to accumulate the most points as they move up the scorecard. The team with the most wins and highest points wins.

Games will be played daily until Sunday.

Midget tourney may not be an economic boon

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • Although the Shawville community has boasted of the economic benefits of the annual Midget Hockey Tournament, businesses do not seem to be experiencing the success they'd hoped for.

With over 250 players in town, plus coaches and families, the normally quaint town of 1,500 seemingly swells for the event.

"It's of great importance to the community. It brings a lot of people into the community and helps the businesses," said Mayor Albert Armstrong, of Shawville.

Yet, a survey of local businesses doesn't seem to support the well-held notion of business booming during the tournament.

"We saw very little increase in business," said Billy Telford, owner of Bill's Pizza, located on Hwy. 148 in Clarendon.

"We brought in extra staff, but we've never done really well with the Midgets."

That sentiment seemed to be echoed by businesses across Shawville.

Kojack's, the local

Chinese food restaurant situated a five-minute walk from the arena in Shawville, is a logical choice for the town's visitors, but it experienced only a nominal increase.

"A little bit, maybe," said Jack Ko, owner.

"Sunday was better, yes, but other days, not really."

Local restaurant Hursty's, too, was hardly booming.

"It was busy Friday, but not on Saturday," said Julie Kuehl, co-owner.

"It's decreased over the last few years."

Linda Vowles, owner of Shawville Village Inn, housed the entire team from Florida throughout the tournament.

She, too, said the amount of people in her restaurant last week seemed unaffected by the local tournament.

"It was very, very few," said Vowles.

Armstrong specifically mentioned Murray's Sporting Goods store as an example of a beneficiary of the tournament, as players would inevitably head there for their hockey supplies.

However, when asked whether business had

increased during the tournament, owner Bill Murray said simply, "Not really."

There were notable exceptions, especially Smitty's Restaurant at 373 Hwy. 148, where employee Judy Stevens said "the restaurant was full, absolutely packed and people were waiting outside."

Stevens theorized that owner Bob Smith's daughter, Meegan, operated the canteen located upstairs in the Lions Hall at the arena and could have resulted in extra business for Smitty's.

"Maybe that made a difference," said Stevens.

Next door, John Atkinson, owner of Atkinson Bar, also benefitted from the tournament with many parents and coaches stopping in.

"I made some extra business," said Atkinson, who noted the increase was "about the same as last year."

The question produced by the anecdotal evidence of Shawville's businesses, then, is where are all the visitors going?

Ruth Hahn, vice-president of the Shawville Chamber of Commerce, was surprised to

hear that businesses weren't reporting significant increases.

Yet Hahn, who owns Café 349 on Main Street in Shawville noted, "(the tournament) didn't affect me" and had a couple of ideas why businesses may not benefit as greatly as some expect.

"We need more accommodations in this town," said Hahn.

With the Village Inn being the only full-sized motel in Shawville and only a few bed-and-breakfasts scattered throughout the town, teams are forced to stay in other places, like Renfrew and Aylmer.

Ken Pack, owner of Giant Tiger in Shawville, and major sponsor of the Midget Hockey Tournament, concurred.

"There's no place for them to stay in this town. If they stayed here, they'd shop here," said Pack, matter-of-factly, though he, too, was surprised to learn that some restaurants did not report strong sales.

"I thought they would eat here after games," said Pack. Pack said his business

experienced no difference on Wednesday and Thursday, but had more shoppers on the weekend.

"The only days we see it are Friday and Saturday," said Pack.

Hahn believes a lack of accommodations are what caused the number of teams in the tournament to deflate.

"For a while, the tournament got too big and these teams were travelling here and had no place to stay," said Hahn, alluding to the tournament's growth to 50 teams in the 1990s.

This year, 20 teams participated.

With teams staying in other outlying areas, it could be reasonably deduced that they may be spending the money spent by visitors too thinly between the different regions, producing the minimal increase most businesses are reporting, rather than the boom that would occur if all of the teams resided in Shawville for the tournament.

Neither the Municipality of Shawville, nor any other organization, tracks the economic impact of the Midget Hockey Tournament.

Peewee 'A' Pontiacs split pair of weekend tournament games

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • With the Shawville Midget Hockey Tournament being played at the arena in Shawville all weekend, Shawville's minor hockey teams were on the road for their games.

Peewee 'A'

The Shawville Pontiacs returned home from a weekend tournament with a split in a pair of games. The Pontiacs' first match was an exciting one, which went to a shootout. Lee Bourque and Brett Nugent scored goals for the Pontiacs in regulation, with an assist by Taylor Orr.

The team's tied game went to a shootout, and the Pontiacs were victorious thanks to Nugent and the

game-winner by Brett Carson to win the game 3-2. The team didn't fare as well in their second game, dropping the contest 3-1.

Bourque scored the team's lone goal, while Nugent and Carson each had an assist.

Bantam 'BB'

The Maniwaki Forestiers, which is comprised of players from Shawville, won both of their weekend games. Two third-period goals clinched the victory over the Aylmer Marliners, 5-3.

Nicolas Francoeur had a pair of goals, while others were added by Travis Stewart, Dominic Crytes and Maxime-James Morin. Assists were notched by Matthew Draper, Kurt Fraser and Jason Bedard.

The team's second game was also defeated as the Forestiers defeated the Marliners again, 4-2. Francoeur again had two goals, including the game winner, while Bedard and Crytes each scored as well.

Crytes' two assists gave him a three-point night. Bedard and Morin also had an assist apiece. In goal, Mathieu Langevin stopped 14 shots to pick up the victory.

On the year, the Forestiers' record improves to 16-5-2.

Novice 'B'

The Shawville Pontiacs fell in defeat over the weekend, dropping their contest to the Aylmer Voliers. The lone goal by the Pontiacs was scored by Simon-Richard

Corriveau. The team's win-loss record is 3-4-2 for the year.

Novice 'B'

A weekend split was the fate of the Shawville Pontiacs on the weekend. On Saturday, the team lost to La Pêche Loups 4-2. The team scored early, courtesy of an unassisted goal by Zachary Elliott, and again in the second period by Briggs Richardson unassisted. The team could not manage enough offense to top the Loups, however.

Sunday's start was a better one for the Pontiacs, who shut out the Aylmer Gladiators 3-0.

The shutout that eluded Tristan Beattie last week was earned this week by the netminder.

Danny Pasch scored a pair of goals and Darren Bruce added one himself. Assists were notched by Elliott and Brett Sheppard.

The team is now 8-4-0 for the season.

Junior 'B' game postponed

SHAWVILLE • The Pontiacs Junior 'B' team had their scheduled game on Sunday in Perth postponed because of inclement weather.


A make-up date has not yet been announced.

Shawville hosts Arnprior on Friday at 8 p.m. before travelling to Arnprior to take on the Packers again on Sunday.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY


Joey Hannaberry of The River View Inn rink throws an eighth-end rock Thursday night.



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COMING EVENTS

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

Fri., Feb. 3 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rummage Sale Anglican Church Parish Hall, Shawville. 2bf1

Fri., Feb. 3 - From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Gently Used Clothing Sale at St. George's Anglican Church, 66 Leslie, Campbell's Bay. Tons of new items - all great quality, designer labels! Winter coats, jeans, blouses, pants, shirts, shoes and more in men's, women's and kids' sizes - all for 50 cents each! bf1

Wed., Feb 8 - Poor Man's Lunch at Oddfellows Hall, Shawville 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. \$6 each. bf1

Sat., Feb. 11 - Poker Run Pontiac Snowmobile Drivers Gavan's Hotel registration from 9 a.m. \$10 per person, at Gavan's, Hurstys (Shawville), Ladysmith Hotel, RVI (Norway Bay), Sonerco Gas Station (Luskville), Gauvreau Ski-doo (Masham) Francis Fuels-Brisebois (Masham), Junction Restaurant (Campbell's Bay) \$1000.00 plus in prizes. Band - dance 9 p.m. at Gavan's. 2bf8

Sat., Feb. 11 - Valentine's Dance, Campbell's Bay R.A. 9 p.m. Band Streamer, light lunch, \$10 each. Tickets 648-5175. 2bf1

Feb. 11 - Unit 7's Valentine Tea, Shawville United Church Hall from 2 - 4 p.m. Adults \$6, children \$3. 2bf8

Sun., Feb. 12 - The Heritage Old Time Country Music Association are holding a fund raiser, a dance with special guests. Quyon Lions Hall starts at 1 p.m. Bar and food available, general admission \$9, member \$7. Everyone welcome. 2bf8

May 28-30th - Lake George, New York 2 shows, Daniel O'Donnell and Lowe family from Branson with special guest Pam Tillis, plus sight-seeing. Phone Beulah 647-3628. 2BF1

Sun., Oct. 15, 2006 - Join the Mick Armitage Band with special guest Gail Gavan on an Irish Adventure to Dublin, Ireland. Fly Air Canada from Ottawa returning Sun., Oct. 22. For info, call 613-226-9178, or www.mickarmitage-band.com 9bF1

MISCELLANEOUS

Lose weight now. "Ask me how." Easy, safe, 100% natural. Nancy Barber-Kearnan, independent Herbalife distributor 1-819-647-5654. 4x1

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Genuine Intel Pentium computer, Microsoft windows 98, 17" Samtron monitor, Lexmark Z32 printer, scanner, keyboard, mouse. Paid \$2,900 for everything. Asking \$600. Call 647-2457. xf1

The History of the Shawville/Clarendon Fire Department is available at the Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville, QC, 819-647-2204. Stop in now for your copy. xtc

MISCELLANEOUS

Ladies size medium Formula Ski-doo suit, new never worn. Phone 647-3927. xF1

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Sawmills from \$3,495.00. Convert your logs to valuable lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.norwoodindustries.com - Free information: 1-800-566-6899 Ext. 400 OT. qf1

Pool table. Solid maple, 1" slate, with accessories. Never used. Cost \$4,800. Sell \$2,300. The Furniture Guy 514-745-6536. qf1

Year end special! Price packages available, many sizes! 25' x 32' \$7,750., 25' x 40' \$8,550, 30' x 40' \$10,500., 32' x 50' \$13,400., 40' x 60' \$19,000. Call 1-800-504-7749 www.pioneerbuildings.ca qf1

Brand new PC! Everyone's approved! Get a fully loaded MDG Computer with an Intel P4 3ghz from 99 cents/day. Includes everything you need: 512MB RAM, 17" LCD flat panel, Windows XP. Plus free 3.1 MP digital camera and free printer / scanner / copier for first 500 callers (*call for details / conditions). 1-800-791-1174. qf1

Portable firewood processor for sale - Business opportunity - turn key operation. Can process 8,12,16 ft logs, up to 15.5" diameter. Powered by a 16 horse engine with only 200 hrs. 647-5730, 613-223-4950, toll free 1-866-878-5730. otc.

2-2 Way radio plus 1 base by Motorola (good for radius of 100 Km) asking \$1,000. Contact: Gaetan (Dumouchel) 819-648-2555. 4bF15

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

Pool tables starting at \$1,395. All made in Quebec! - 40 models. Soccers, Shuffleboards, Games tables, Poker chips, etc. The biggest manufacturer in Canada: www.canadabiliard.com. 450-963-5060. qf1

Future Steel Buildings Durable, Dependable, Pre-engineered, All-Steel Structures. Custom-made to suit your needs and requirements. Factory-Direct affordable prices. Call 1-800-668-8653 ext. 536 for free brochure. qf1

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

Grand Calumet Island - 2 bedroom main floor apartment in village. River view \$300 per month. Available immediately. Phone 613-623-5783. xF1

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

Shawville - 2 bedroom apartment Shaw St., Elizabeth Court 648-2222. otc

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Timeshare resales - Sell-buy-rent-exchange. World's largest timeshare resale broker. Stroman Realty - since 1979. World wide selection of resort properties. Call today toll free 1-800-201-0864. qf1

MISCELLANEOUS

Hot Tub / Spa 2005 fully loaded w/5" cover. Never used. Cost \$9,100. Sell \$5,500. The Furniture Guy: 514-989-7488. qf1

Restless legs or leg cramps gone overnight! Sleep peacefully the first night! Guaranteed. Information, ordering, call All Calm 1-800-765-8660 or visit www.all-calm.com. qf1

Steel Buildings Direct! - 26 years. 20x26 now \$3600. 25x30 \$4900. 30x40 \$7900. 40x60 \$12,990. Extensive range of sizes and models. Ends / accessories optional. Pioneer. 1-800-668-5422. qf1

FOUND

Wedding band, 14 carat gold at Royal Bank, Shawville. Also several sets of car keys and remote car starters. xtc

LIVESTOCK

Holstein heifers fresh and springers 647-2348 or 647-6063. xF1

25 beef cows calving from March on. 819-456-2250. 2x1F8

FARM PRODUCE

Beef - side or box, cut, wrapped, quick frozen 647-5414. bF1

FARM EQUIPMENT

Case 75 h.p. tractor 2000 hours \$8,900; White 65 h.p. 4 x 4 loader \$16,900. Allis 85 h.p. 4 x 4, cab \$11,000. Several backhoes, dozer, plow and sander trucks. Robertson Farm Equipment, '57 Cadillac 613-432-2424. xF1

FRE

Australian Shepherd pups, free to good home. Call 648-5225. xF1

CARS AND TRUCKS

2002 Chev Impala 165,000 kms, excellent condition, fully loaded \$12,000. Phone 648-2782. 2bF1

1996 Chev 3/4 ton truck with Super cab, equipped with fifth wheel hitch and electrical brake control, excellent condition. Phone 647-3529. bF1

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819-647-3313

Canada Province of Québec District of Pontiac Cour du Québec No: 555-02-000023-050 Procureur Général demanderesse vs. Ronald Levesque défendeur

Exel Contracting Inc., an established Ottawa Commercial Landscape Construction, Grounds Maintenance and Snow Removal Company, requires for year round employment: Forepersons; Lead Hands; Labourers; Equipment Operators; Truck Drivers. Fax resume to 613-831-2794 or email exel@sympatico.ca 4x1F15

Cocker Spaniel puppies, 2 black males, one blonde male, 2 black females \$400 each. Phone (819) 647-2079 after 5:30 p.m. xF1

WANTED TO BUY

Wanting to buy Bob Whites or other types of quail. Phone 819-458-1497 evenings. 2x1F1

FOR RENT

Bryson - 2 bedroom, apartment 648-2222. otc

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

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

Grand Calumet Island - 2 bedroom main floor apartment in village. River view \$300 per month. Available immediately. Phone 613-623-5783. xF1

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

Shawville - 2 bedroom apartment Shaw St., Elizabeth Court 648-2222. otc

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Timeshare resales - Sell-buy-rent-exchange. World's largest timeshare resale broker. Stroman Realty - since 1979. World wide selection of resort properties. Call today toll free 1-800-201-0864. qf1

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Discovery Toys - expanding in this area. Urgently needs 10 consultants to represent our line of educational toys, books, software. Call for free information package 514-937-3889. qf1

HELP WANTED

Part-time child care provider - Seeking energetic and responsible child care provider for 2 pre-school children in the Shawville area. My home or yours. References required. Interested parties can reply to Box "B" at THE EQUITY, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0. 3bF15

OLymel, Red Deer, Alberta's largest employer is now hiring Food Processing Workers. Starting salary \$10.55/hr plus premiums and earn as much as \$17.45/hr; extended health & dental after 3 months; free bus service within the city; no experience required. Please send your resume to: OLYMEL Human Resources 7550 - 40th Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6R7. Fax: 403-309-7547 apply@olymel.com, www.olymel.com. qf1

Cheap telephone reconnection Ring in the New Year! Only \$49.95/month & low connection! Excellent service, everyone approved! Phone Factory Reconnect - Toll free 1-877-336-2274; www.phonefactory.ca. qf1

A career teaching English internationally begins with professional training. A 5-day certificate course will be held in Montreal at University Centre February 15-19. (Open House Feb. 14) & University of Ottawa March 15-19 (Open House Feb. 2nd). To register for an open house Call 1-888-224-6-6-5-1-2 www.INTLcollegeoflinguistics.com qf1

Full-time and part-time experienced hairstylists required for busy salon in Shawville. Call ahead for interview, CV and references required, to Studio Jenn 647-3168. bF1

2nd year, 3rd year, Journeyman Welders required for oilfield fabrication shop, Nisku, Alberta. Journeyman shop rate \$27/hour + bonus. Fax 780-955-2780. Phone 780-955-17433. Email: safety@masco.ab.ca. qf1

An experienced window, door and siding installer. To work in Pontiac, Gatineau, and Ottawa area. Cladding experience would be an asset. If interested please Call 613-223-4950. otc

1996 Monte Carlo # 2G1WW12M6T9209650 plated 224 MCK the whole to be sold for cash according to law. Chapeau this 26 January 2006. Gilbert Dupuis Huissier 151 St. Jacques, Chapeau, QC (tel: 819-689-2158) 0-1-F1

Province of Québec District of Pontiac Cour du Québec No: 555-02-000023-050 Procureur Général demanderesse vs. Ronald Levesque défendeur

On the 11th day of February 2006 at 10:00 Hr at 151 Fortin, Mansfield, QC, District of Pontiac, I will proceed to the sale of auction of the moveable effects and objects of the defendant by me seized in this cause; to wit:

1996 Ford P/U # 2FTE15Y1FCB30668 Lic 837 MPL. Le tout devant être vendu pour argent comptant suivant la loi. Chapeau ce 26 janvier 2006. Gilbert Dupuis Huissier 151 St. Jacques, Chapeau, QC (tel: 819-689-2158) 0-1-F1

Province of Québec District of Pontiac Cour du Québec No: 555-02-000023-050 Procureur Général demanderesse vs. Ronald Levesque défendeur

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1999 Arctic Cat VTT # HUF99AT57XT410080 LIC VC98326 85 Ford P/U # 2FT15Y1FCB30668 plated 837 MPL that whole to be sold for cash according to law. Chapeau this 26 January 2006. Gilbert Dupuis Huissier 151 St. Jacques, Chapeau, QC (tel: 819-689-2158) 0-1-F1

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Magician - Darell McCorrison Magic, Illusions and Fun for all ages. Private parties, stage shows, birthday, anniversary parties, senior, community events, Halloween and Christmas shows. 819-647-2024. 2x1F8

Installation and repairs, servicing of furnaces. 40 years experience. Joe Konrad 647-2391. otc

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Roof shoveler. Any jobs that require shoveling, walkways, roofs, cottages, stairs. Pierre 647-5128. 4x15

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Canada

Province of Québec District of Pontiac Cour du Québec No: 555-02-000030-022 Procureur Général demanderesse vs. Brent Berube défendeur

Le 11ième jour de février 2006 à 14:00 heure au 7 Roy à Otter Lake, QC, District de Pontiac, Je procéderai à la vente par ancan des biens meubles et effets mobiliers saisis par moi en cette cause consistant en: 1996 Monte Carlo # 2G1WW12M6T9209650 Lic # 224 MCK.

Le tout devant être vendu pour argent comptant suivant la loi. Chapeau ce 26 janvier 2006. Gilbert Dupuis Huissier 151 St. Jacques, Chapeau, QC (tel: 819-689-2158) 0-1-F1

Canada Province of Québec District of Pontiac Cour du Québec No: 555-02-000030-022 Procureur Général demanderesse vs. Brent Berube défendeur

On the 11th day of February 2006 at 14:00 Hr at 7 Roy Otter Lake, QC, District of Pontiac, I will proceed to the sale of auction of the moveable effects and objects of the defendant by me seized in this cause; to wit:

1996 Monte Carlo # 2G1WW12M6T9209650 plated 224 MCK the whole to be sold for cash according to law. Chapeau this 26 January 2006. Gilbert Dupuis Huissier 151 St. Jacques, Chapeau, QC (tel: 819-689-2158) 0-1-F1

Province of Québec District of Pontiac Cour du Québec No: 555-02-000023-050 Procureur Général demanderesse vs. Ronald Levesque défendeur

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Province of Québec District of Pontiac Cour du Québec No: 555-02-000023-050 Procureur Général demanderesse vs. Ronald Levesque défendeur

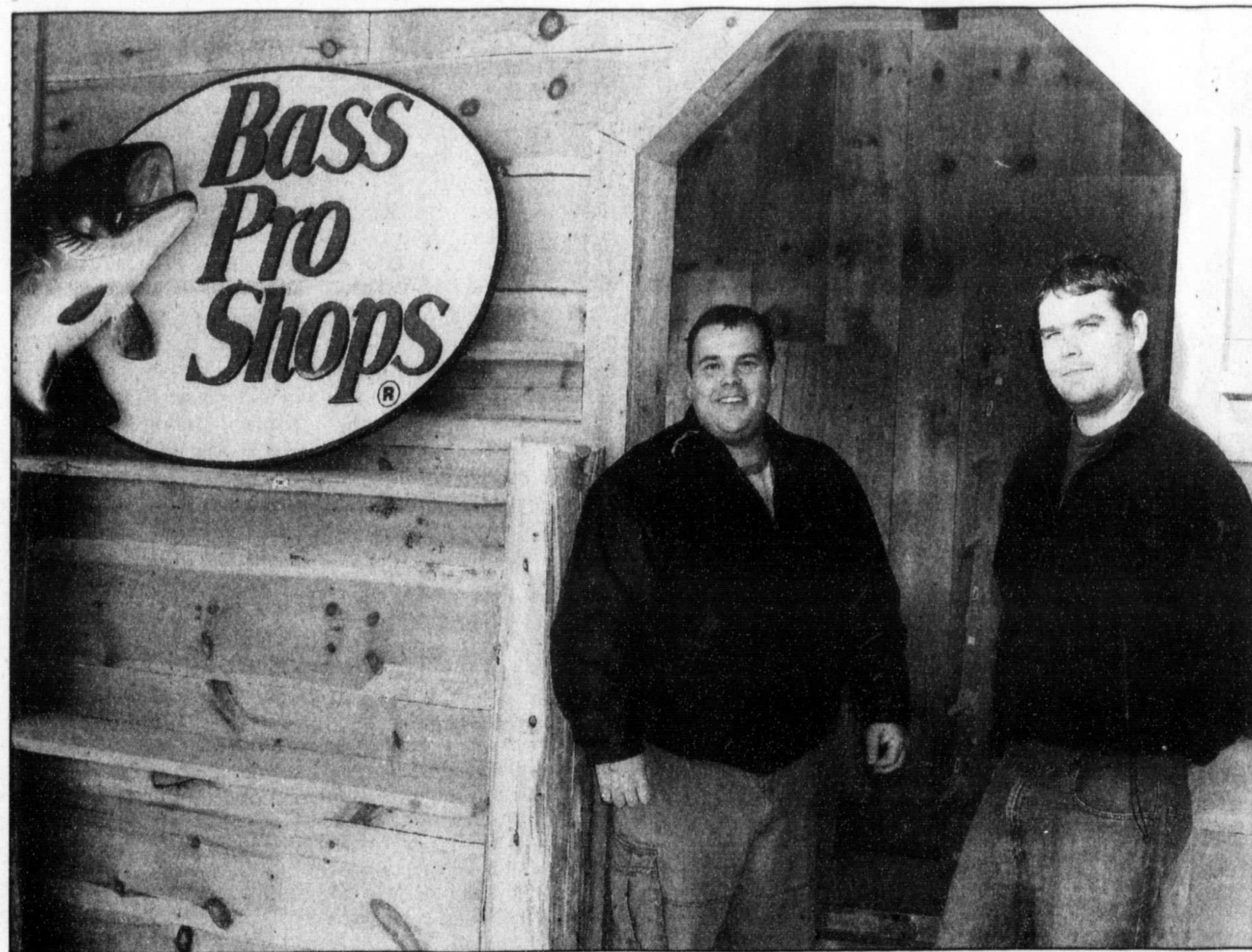
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Sales Manager Mike Raymond and Owner Jason Jones are preparing for the Feb. 10 opening of Jones Marine, an outdoorsman superstore being built in Luskville. The 7,500-square foot store will be the largest of its kind in the Pontiac once opened.

Outdoorsman super store set to open doors in Luskville

7500 square feet of fishing, hunting, boating

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
LUSKVILLE • For months now, a building has been in the midst of construction on the north side of Hwy. 148 in Luskville, producing questions of what will be housed inside once completed.

The longer work continued and the larger the project got, the more people were curious.

So, what is it?

"It's the place every guy wants to go to after work to spend his paycheck and where every wife is afraid her husband is going to go," joked Jason Jones, the owner.

Since May, Jones has been constructing an outdoorsman super shop, which will sell fishing and hunting equipment, boats, canoes, kayaks, four-wheelers and snowmobiles.

The store is an affiliate of Bass Pro Shops. There will also be an on-site boat repair shop. Located at 2920 Hwy. 148, Jones Marine's grand opening is planned for Friday, Feb. 10 at noon, and the store will be having a huge opening weekend sale. Sizing in at 7,500 square feet, it will easily be the biggest store of its kind in the Pontiac.

"It's my dream store," said

Jones. "It's somewhere I'd want to go."

Jones, a lifetime Luskville resident, is confident the shop will be a success because of his approach to business.

"It's the place every guy wants to go to after work to spend his paycheck and where every wife is afraid her husband is going to go."

—Jason Jones
Owner, Jones Marine

"The customer is first" is not a saying for me, it's the number one rule," said Jones, who intends to be fair and honest with his clientele.

"I don't intend to gouge

the customer like a lot of other places do."

Sales Manager Mike Raymond will lead the staff of eight people, though Jones is confident there will be more job openings once business starts booming as anticipated.

Of those eight staff members, three full-time mechanics will help ensure timely repairs for customers seeking services.

"There's nothing like it in this area," said Jones.

Putting in 60-hour weeks, Jones, his staff, and the contractors continue work on the building as opening day nears.

"It's been an experience already and it's not even open yet," said Jones.

"I decided if I'm going to do it, I'm going to do it full throttle."

Legion celebrates 60th anniversary

CAMPBELL'S BAY • We had a good turnout at our regular monthly meeting held on Jan. 26. One of our main topics was the celebration for the 60th year of the Legion's anniversary and we are inviting all citizens who are interested in becoming a member of our Campbell's Bay branch to join.

Also, anyone out there who may have old pictures of past Legion activities (Ladies auxiliary, etc.) to please bring them in to the local branch.

A Valentine evening and supper is planned for Feb. 10.

Since the holidays, we sent out three baskets of

goodies to some of our less fortunate members who were hospitalized, wishing them a speedy recovery.

A motion was made by Veteran Bowie and accepted unanimously to send \$1,000 to the Heart Institute.

So to all you good folks out there, don't forget Wednesday's dart nights and

afternoon card games as well as our March social event - would it not be St. Paddy's! The wee leprechauns will be reminding us. Keep smiling!

Royal Canadian Legion Pontiac Branch 162 news on Legion activities and upcoming events submitted by Comrade Laura Godin.

CLASSIFIED

MEMORIAM

Hearty - In memory of Emile who passed away Feb. 1, 1998.

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near

Still loved, still missed always remembered.

Mary

Stewart - Today we recall sad memories

Sad memories of a dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Gertrude, gone to rest Feb. 1, 1998.

Ones who think of her today Are the ones who loved her the best.

Love Jean, George, and Theresa and grandchildren

Young - In loving memory of a very dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great aunt Marjorie Jean R.N. (Hodgins) who left us so suddenly January 28th, 1993 and a very dear brother-in-law, uncle and great uncle Earl D., who passed away December 6th, 1983.

You are both always in our thoughts

And in our hearts

And we will love you both forever.

Until we meet again.

"As near and dear as yesterday."

Forever in our hearts, sadly missed and lovingly remembered by Les and Roberta, nieces and their families, Michelle, Rick, Michael and Jeremy, Carol, Glen and Emaleigh

MEMORIAM

Judd-Reid - In loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother, Lois, who left us on Feb. 3, 2003.

We miss you and think of you every day, you're always in our prayers.

Cedric, Darlene and family

Keheo, Leslie - In loving memory of a dear husband, dad and grandfather who passed away February 6, 2000.

Always in our hearts
Forever in our thoughts.

Always remembered, Rita, Donald, Terry and Sheila, grandchildren Jessica and Craig

McCagg - Teason, Nov. 30, 1902 - Oct. 1, 1952; Alma Feb. 23, 1907 - Feb. 6, 1981.

Just when your life was bright-est

Just when your years were best

You were called from this world To a home of eternal rest.

Their family

PERSONALS

Canada's Top psychics...Are You Ready to Believe in Psychics Again? Call Now, You Won't Be Disappointed! 1-900-451-7070. \$2.95/min. 18+.

Good lady, tall, slim, healthy, ambitious, affectionate, loyal, wishes to meet a Catholic man, kind, loyal, compassionate, healthy, is not diabetic or alcoholic, is ambitious who will take out his lady and spend some time with her. For long term relationship. Apply to Box "A", THE EQUITY, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0. xF1

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Our growing team has an opening for a HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

The successful candidate will:

- have experience operating a backhoe and bulldozer;
- have all necessary licenses or be able to obtain required licenses;
- be able to work well in a team environment.

Please mail your resume to us at: P.O. Box 646, Shawville, QC J0X 2Y0 (No telephone calls please).
Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

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 searching for residents of the municipality who are interested in sitting on the "Recreation, culture and community action" committee's board of trustees.

The recreation committee's objective is to administer grants offered to associations that are in the field of recreation, culture and activities for the community in general.

Please send your request as well as a brief resumé of your abilities before 2:00 p.m. on February 28, 2006, at the following address:

Recreation, Culture and community action Committee
Municipality of Pontiac
2024 Route 148
Pontiac, QC J0X 2G0

GIVEN IN PONTIAC this 30th day of January two thousand six.

Sylvain Bertrand
Director general and secretary treasurer

CNSC approves renewal of AECL's operating licenses for reactors

CHALK RIVER • Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) is pleased to report that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has approved its application to renew the operating licenses for its MAPLE 1 and 2 medical isotopes processing and the New Processing Facility (NPF) located at the Chalk River Laboratories.

The licenses are for a two-year period and are valid until Nov. 30, 2007.

In addition, the CNSC has also approved AECL's request to amend the operating licence for the National Research Universal (NRU) reactor to permit it to operate beyond Dec. 31, 2005.

"I am very pleased the commission has accepted the CNSC staff recommendations to allow the continuation of operation of NRU reactor and renew the operating licenses of the MAPLE reactors and the NPF," said AECL President and Chief Executive Officer, Robert Van Adel.

These facilities are vital to

publicly support AECL in our licensing efforts with their positive testimony at the hearings and in written interventions.

We are very appreciative of the support and interest from our community stakeholders.

In particular, AECL wishes to acknowledge the support received at the hearing by MDS Nordion, the National Research Council, the Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals, the Canadian Nuclear Worker's Council, the Corporation of the Town of Deep River, the Canadian Forces Base/Area Support Unit Petawawa, the Corporation of the Town of Laurentian Hills, the City of Pembroke, the Regional County MRC Pontiac, and the County of Renfrew.

As well, AECL is grateful for the support received from several individuals who intervened in support of the applications, including Cheryl Gallant, MP for Renfrew-Nipissing-

Pembroke, Don Lindsay, and Cliff Brown, Maurice D. Cole, Kenneth Merrett and Al Pyatt.

About AECL
AECL is an integrated nuclear technology company providing services to nuclear utilities worldwide.

With more than 4,000 employees, AECL is focused on delivering R and D support, nuclear services, design and engineering, construction management, specialist technology, and waste management and decommissioning in support of CANDU reactor products.

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Waltham

Helen Perry
689-2652
On Tuesday, Jan. 24 the Golden Peak held its monthly seniors dinner at the Waltham Town Hall. Everyone enjoyed a tasty shepherd's pie, tea, coffee and a white cake topped off with fruit cocktail and whipped cream for dessert. It is such a nice get-together for our seniors.

Birthday wishes are extended to Jo-Anne Harkins who celebrated on Jan. 27.

Hello to June Hodgins and husband Glen of Clarendon. I am happy that I was able to assist you in locating the address you were looking for. It was so nice chatting with you. Thank you to Karen Gleason of Chapeau

for your help. Wasn't that a gorgeous day on Saturday? It was like a spring day. It was so sunny and mild. I hope that everyone had a chance to get out and enjoy it. Then on Sunday we had a real snowstorm. Margaret Pilon called me that afternoon from Florida. All is well with her and Andre. She said that it was a bit cloudy but it was warm enough to go swimming. Wow that would be nice right about now.

Congratulations to Monique, Stephen and baby Mackenzie Perry who moved into their new home this past weekend on Cotnam's Island. Nana Ita helped out with baby-sitting Mackenzie, which she truly enjoys.

Jodi, Mike and baby Alex were up from Embrun on Saturday. We celebrated poppa Larry's birthday on Saturday night.

Lynne and Ray Bechamp enjoyed this past weekend up at Lorna and Vince Agnesis' cottage in Sheen.

My goodness there are a lot of deer around. There have been quite a few sightings here in Waltham. Last Sunday night while some people were out walking, they spotted three walking down the street in the middle of town. On Friday Rhonda was driving up the Mountain Road near Luskville and she said that they were coming out everywhere. She had to reduce her speed to 50 or 60 km/hr. and drove very slow, for fear of hitting one. It is so dangerous especially at night. So drivers please be on the alert at all times!

Birthday wishes are extended to Paul Romain, who is celebrating his birthday on Feb. 3. We hope that you have a great day Paul!

Activity Day



Wibur McLean, THE EQUITY

Kids do their best to avoid the perils of the dodge ball as part of the Activity Day at John Paul II High School in Campbell's Bay on Saturday. Thirteen students aged between four and 12 showed up for a day of fun and games put on in a joint venture by Maison des Jeunes and Quebec en Forme. The groups are hoping to hold more days like this one in the future.

Campbell's Bay

Iris Smith
648-5821
Congratulations to Lawrence Cannon, the new Conservative M.P. who was victorious in the Federal election held Jan. 23. We wish him all the best as he takes up his new duties.

If you happened to be following TV stations you would have seen a Campbell's Bay supporter Lou Stafford helping celebrate the victory.

A new business opened for customers on Jan. 23. It is called Café Mondial and is located at 1259 Highway 148, Campbell's Bay. We stopped in to have refreshments. It was quite enjoyable. They serve a variety of things for lunch and have baked goods. Colette Rivest is the new proprietor.

Correction. In last week's news Imelda (Berard, Normandeau) Crawford was at W. J. Hayes and Sons Funeral Home not Ringrose Bros Funeral Home. Sorry for any inconvenience it may have caused to the family or funeral home.

The Golden Age euchre was held on Tuesday evening at the clubroom. Ladies was won by Lucy Kelly, second was a three-way tie between Maxine Fenton, Rita McGuire and Iris Smith. They split the prize. Men's high was won by Boyd Ebert, second was won by Jean Guy Mainville.

The door prize was won by Dorcas Sparling and the 50-50 was won by Isabelle Lacroix. Refreshments were by Anna Brown and Iris Smith.

The Midget Tournament in Shawville was this past weekend. Many hockey fans from

town attended and watched some good games. It makes Shawville a busy place.

Happy birthday to our great-granddaughter, Brianna Geerstma of Mountain. She is 11 years old on Feb. 2 which is Groundhog Day. May she have a great day and we will see what the groundhog has in store for her.

Visiting with Marion McTernan was her daughter, Margaret and husband Dino of Rockland.

Stacey Smith and Wayne Robinson of South Mountain have just returned from a holiday in Panama. They report temperatures of 100 degrees.

Timmy St. Jean was home for a holiday from China, where he is has been teaching for the last couple of years. Saturday evening his family and friends held a surprise birthday celebration at the Baie Inn to mark the occasion. It was also a time for him to see many that he would not have seen otherwise as holidays are always so short.

Happy birthday to Suzanne Pilon one of our new councillors and to Joan Frost, also to Merlyn Brown, Dianne Anglehart, and Emma Mae Ringrose.

Anniversary wishes to Leo and Joan Obrien.

The weather this weekend i as been like a yo yo. Saturday was a beautiful sunny Sunday was a stormy day and then overnight freezing rain. Many accidents occurred with one death a 14-year-old boy from Gatineau.

The Week Of Prayer Services were held in many areas this past week. In Campbell's Bay we used to have one service during the week. But this year we didn't have any. It seems they are waiting for better weather.

Vinton

Diane Boisvert
648-5296
It was almost the most perfect winter day on voting Monday. It felt like spring with the sun beaming and the birds singing so cheerfully. Every place I looked I saw people outside enjoying the spring like weather.

They were cleaning their vehicles, windows or driveways. It was one of those days you just wanted to sing out loud or share your happiness with your neighbor.

And again I must thank my neighbors. They are always making sure I can get out of the driveway. Congratulations to Stephen Harper and Lawrence Cannon on their victory. Everyone is counting on you to make a change.

Remember to put out your blue boxes tomorrow. The environment depends on you.

I wonder if Willie will see his shadow on Feb. 2?

Here is another episode of the "Galloping grannies." Theresa and I left at 6:30 a.m. Saturday morning to babysit the grandchildren

while Shelley and Carl had a weekend retreat. I was really proud of Shelley. She only called us six times over her overnight stay. But in her defense, this time she was worried about the grandmothers. She thought the boys would put us through the thrashing mill. As it turns out it was the other way around.

Shelley has a little toilet seat you put on top of the regular toilet made for their little butts to sit on. Shelley told me to keep it on the toilet seat so Corben would not have any accidents. Not a problem I told her. But, I forgot to put it back on when I was done. Now you have to realize that Corben is three and able to go to the bathroom by himself. Of course, he had no idea that Granny had removed his little seat (for her own convenience) and he sat down. All Theresa and I heard was his death defying screams coming out of the bathroom. We ran, mortified. But upon arriving, we saw Corben with his butt in the cold toilet, hanging on to the sides, with this terrified look on his face that he was being sucked down the toilet. And what did we do? We laughed. The poor child was in complete terror and we

just laughed. Great grandmothers we are. Anyway we got him back up and put him on his proper seat. We explained that no great harm would come to him. We played a game with him and he was able to regain his composure.

Later on that evening, Tao was running through the kitchen. All of a sudden he undid his diaper (which was full) and started running. So did I. I knew if he made it to the couch I'd really have a mess on my hands. I surprised Theresa at how fast I could run. I caught him in the nick of time and got everything cleaned up and under control.

At supper time we fried some steaks. We didn't realize how sensitive the smoke detector was. It went off and both boys just froze with fear holding onto their ears. So we flung open the doors and windows and fanned the detector to make it stop screaming. All I can say is that the boys will never forget their grandmothers babysitting. When Shelly and Carl came home the next day they asked us how everything went.

What could we say. The boys were complete angels. It's the grandmothers you have to worry about!

Pontiac Station

Hope Cadieux
647-5452
Congratulations to Kelly Schumacher, daughter of Janet and Alex Collins, whose team, Perfumerias Avenida in Salamanca, Spain, just won the Queen's Cup. The team is named after the chain of perfume stores that is their main sponsor. The Perfumerias are currently on a 15-game winning streak (the prior record was only seven).

The Queen's Cup was a big event in Spain. Kelly didn't realize how important it was until they won. Apparently, 11 busloads of fans traveled three hours to Leon from Salamanca to watch the final game. No other team could boast that kind of following. The team plays in the European league as well as the Spanish league. There are only eight teams left in the European competition, and no other Spanish teams.

Kelly, a graduate of Pontiac High School, John Abbott, and the University of Connecticut, has had a stellar career in basketball. Since graduating, Kelly has played for Korea, Turkey, Spain and Indiana. Apparently she has become quite proficient in Spanish, as well. Way to go, Kelly! We are so proud of you.

Stephanie, you were asking if any of us had any stories about weasels. I have one. When my sister and cousins and I were kids at the cottage, it happened that one year we read a few things about weasels that we found very unsettling. We read that a weasel can kill an animal many times its size by going for the jugular; that a weasel will suck the blood out of its victim leaving the carcass intact; that a weasel will kill more than it can eat - every last rabbit in the warren or chicken in the coop, for example; that a weasel can get in anywhere a mouse can; and most harrowing of all, that a weasel is the only animal that kills just for pleasure.

As if that weren't bad enough, in one of the Trixie Belden books we'd been reading a character was attacked by a rabid weasel and, if he hadn't been wearing heavy rubber boots, he would have been dead. If

there was one thing worse than a weasel, it was a weasel with rabies. It was enough to make our blood run cold.

It wasn't long before one of the younger kids began to complain of nightmares and to be afraid to go to bed at night. When our mothers found out he was scared of the weasel, they were surprised to say the least. Why, a weasel is a little, tiny animal! Nobody has actually seen a weasel around here! Nevertheless, we were forbidden so much as to mention the word.

What our mothers didn't realize however, was that we older ones were every bit as terrified as the younger ones but wouldn't admit it. Well, we reasoned, if a weasel could go anywhere a mouse could, what's to prevent one coming in through the empty knot-hole in the floor? Certainly we had seen mice in the cottage. If a weasel could kill an animal larger than itself by severing its jugular, why couldn't it do the same to us while we were asleep in our beds?

Ah, but we were full of courage during the day. We'd go around singing "Round and round the vinegar barrel, the monkey chased the SH.SH.SH..." and burst out laughing, just to provoke our elders. Then at night, we'd lie in bed in a cold sweat listening for the weasel until we finally fell asleep exhausted. I can't remember how long this went on, but a year or so later, we entered adolescence and never thought about the weasel again.

Some 20 or so years later while living on Keon Road with a young family, I saw my first weasel. The kitchen was overrun with mice and we had been trapping them. One day there was a rattling sound underneath the sink and when I opened the door to see what it was, I came face to face with a pretty little white creature making off with a mouse, trap and all. For the rest of the winter, the weasel was a regular visitor and kept the kitchen free of mice for us. We even got to see him turn from white to brown that spring. And I don't recall losing a moment's sleep over it.

Best wishes for a Happy Groundhog day to my cousin Alex and my mother, Flora Cadieux Macnab, two people who share my view that we don't give this occasion enough attention.

Bryson

Heather Stewart
648-5413
A very happy belated birthday going out to Jeannette Romain who celebrated on Jan. 22.

Results for the Golden Age Euchre held on Jan. 23 are as follows: Door: Annette Lepine, 50/50; Georgette Robitaille, Mens first: Roger Lacroix, Mens second: Lucien Dumouchel, Mervin Smith, Ladies first: Gisele Evans and Rita McGuire, Ladies second:

Carroll Mainville, Isabelle Lacroix and Veronique Perrier and Georgette Piche

Happy birthday to Micheline Soucfe of Fort Coulonge, Arnold Markus of Cardinal wishing you a wonderful day! More birthday greetings going out to Gerald Roach of California.

It was reported that the wolves are plentiful this winter. There have been many sightings and they seem to be out more than usual. My Dad, Jim, was out in the bush one day and he could hear the wolves. He decided to howl at them and it wasn't long until they were howling back. I guess they don't call him the "Wolf Man" of Bryson for nothing!

A very special happy birthday going out to my Uncle Melvin of Matagami celebrating on Feb. 4.

Happy birthday to Sandra Laderoute of Campbell's Bay and to Robert Kennedy of Montreal.

Thank you Mona Rutledge for your kind words in your column. I am very glad to hear that you enjoy my little stories! Keep up with the great work because I sure enjoy reading yours as well!

Caldwell

Hermonie Sharpe
647-3459
Our deepest sympathy goes out to family and friends of Delia Wall Smith of Shawville who passed away Jan. 20 at the age of 73 years in Pontiac Community Hospital. Burial was from St. George's Anglican Church on Jan. 25. Interment in the spring in the parish cemetery.

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family and friends of Viola Bourgeois who passed away this past week.

Do you realize there is a large percentage of people throughout the Pontiac who have visual problems. Until I had the misfortune of developing macular degeneration I never realized how serious a problem it and glaucoma are. The CNIB and visual people, along with the help of the government, are working hard to help. I know there are organizations trying to help as well. I also have the misfortune of having hearing problems as well. Am I going to let it get me down? Not if I can help it. I just think of all the ones who are in worse shape than I am. And with the help of really good friends try to be thankful for what I have. If I don't recognize you it's because I can't see you so please make yourself known to me or anyone else who has the same problem.

Did you ever stop to think how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful country?

Quyon

Jill McBane
458-2366
On Jan. 15 the Pontiac Volunteer Firefighters presented a cheque for \$1,000 to the Ottawa Cancer Center Telethon. Dave Scully, Scott Dagenais, Nick Armitage, Shawn Grant, Evan Prest, Denis Martineau, Stephanie Tremblay and Brian Middlemiss held several boot drives at various locations in the Luskville and Quyon area over the summer and raised a total of \$762. The firefighters put in the balance. A grand total of 2.2 million dollars was raised at the telethon.

Saturday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. it's the third annual Hockey Night in Shawville. This year our local Pontiacs are taking on a team full of retired minor leaguers and NHLers sponsored by Chevy West. Mark Stanton looks after this event. All money raised is donated to CHEO. Last year I was listening to Y101 when Mark Papasak wel-

comed Mark Stanton on the radio and accepted a donation of \$1,500. This year Mark is hoping to top \$2,000. There will be lots of great prizes to be given away including 100 level Sens tickets, 67s tickets, team autographed authentic Sens Jersey and a 50/50 draw. It's \$5 to get in and kids under 16 free. Now that's a bargain! Afterwards the party will continue at Atkinson's Bar.

Happy 31st anniversary to John and Debbie Gibeault on Feb. 1 with love from you family.

Congratulations to all the volunteers and committee who worked to make the Midget Tournament such a success.

Snowmobilers are out in full force trying to get in as much snowmobiling as they can with this short winter.

P.S.D.A. had their club trip to Maniwaki this past weekend, staying at Auberge Dreaveur. Good food and fun was experienced by all. Approximately 30 riders went on this trip. Get ready for P.S.D.A.'s

annual poker run Feb. 11. Good fun and great prizes. Hopefully the weather will be perfect.

The trails are starting to get in better shape. But, remember we've had freezing rain and mild weather to contend with so there are still wash outs, etc. just take your time and be careful.

A few snowmobilers went to Pointe à David near Grand Rimou on Friday to stay in their newly renovated suites. What a beautiful spot. We were amazed at all that has changed since last winter. God luck to the owners, the family "Lafrance" with their new undertaking. A pleasure to go there as always.

Everyone expressed deepest sympathy to Nick Matechuk from Gavan's Hotel and family with the death of his mother who has been ill for quite some time.

Well, for better snowmobiling we need more snow, not freezing rain. So we'll keep our fingers crossed. Enjoy your winter!

Otter Lake

Elizabeth Hahn
453-7326
Happy 65th birthday to

Robert Yereck on Feb. 4. Best wishes from Harry and Marion Stewart of Sudbury.

On Tuesday, Jan. 24 the Otter Lake Golden Age Club held its weekly euchre game. Lucky winner of the 50/50 draw was Barry Racine. Ladies high score was won by Rita Blaskie and second

by new member, Claudette Dagenais. Mens high score was won by Carl Kappes and second by Ray Dubeau. Delicious refreshments were provided by Dolly Lepack and Judy Hearty.

Sincere sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of Carolyn Hahn who passed away Jan. 24 at the age of 63. Beloved wife of the late Melvin Hahn, cherished daughter of Viola and the late Basil Pappin. Loving mother to Todd, sister to Earl and Wayne.

Ladysmith

Debbie Thrun
647-3927

Well, it's hard to believe but here we are beginning a new month once again. Into February already. So let's see what the groundhog predicts on the Feb. 2 weatherwise. Happy Groundhog Day to all.

Recently a friend of mine, Claudette Dufaut of Bryson was surprised by a birthday party to celebrate her big 60. Don't say you're getting older just wise. Congratulations Claudette.

Get well wishes to Aunt Violet Mielkie who had a mild heart attack. She is doing quite well though.

Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mrs. Gerald Smith who passed away recently. She was a former resident of Ladysmith and was known and liked by all.

Welcome to the community to the Bourassa's who recently bought the Steinke house in Ladysmith.

We received a call from our friend, Yvonne Mahlitz of Edmonton. She reports she is well and looking forward to visiting London and Ladysmith in April. She will be spending a few days with us. So, I've already started to plan activities.

I have an experience to share with you all. I was sitting in my Lazy Boy chair feeling quite relaxed. I happened to drop something. So, I bent down to pick it up. I must have bent over too far because, I ended up falling on the floor and the chair came right over the top of me. So there I was pinned under the chair. There wasn't any way I could get up from under it by myself. So, I started to shout for Dennis to come to my rescue. He was down in the rec room watching TV. So, I was hoping he would hear my call. Luckily he did. He couldn't believe what happened. He got me back up and asked if I was hurt. To make a long story short he wondered how I managed to upset the chair. He said to me "this would be a very dull house if you weren't living here with all your mishaps that I have to get you out of." It was a blessing he was at home to get me out of this one.

Get well wishes to cousin Bert Kelly of Perth who has been on the sick list.

Ernie Pasch of Hotel Ladysmith reports a good number of snowmobilers are coming to the hotel to eat and refresh themselves.

Sending out special birthday congratulations to Susan Tubman of Shawville on Feb. 2.

Get well wishes to Barbara Cruickshank who is a patient in Shawville Hospital. All your friends are thinking about you.

There are a few bald eagles around feeding on road killed deer.

Birthday congratulations to Donna Elliott of Shawville on Feb. 6.

Last Thursday, Jan. 26 when I was talking to a friend she told me it was one of the coldest days we've had so far this winter. I'm not sure what the temperature was but you could hear the house cracking. That's cold. But there's no need for us to complain. It hasn't been overly cold this year. We've had some very nice mild days.

Get well wishes to Sally Cartly who is a patient in Shawville Hospital.

The snowmobile trails are reported to be better since the last snow fall. They are being groomed regularly and there seems to be a lot of traffic.

Happy birthday to Chad Venture who will be six on Feb. 8. He is the son of Steve and Angie Venture.

Best wishes to our new M.P., Lawrence Cannon. Garry and Diane Reynolds of Ottawa spent the weekend at their cottage on Grey's Lake.

Birthday congratulations to John Stewart on Feb. 5.

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Pontiac Stars on ice for CHEO

SHAWVILLE • The third annual Fundraiser Hockey Game for the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario opens this Saturday at the Shawville arena.

You can catch the Pontiac Stars play against 2004 Canadian Adult Recreational Hockey Association World Cup finalists Chevy West at 7 p.m. This team features the retired National Hockey

League players. NHLers Larry Skinner, Micah Aivazoff and Mike Bullard will be in attendance.

Tickets are \$5 each or free for kids under 16 at the door. Door prizes of an autographed Ottawa Senators Jersey, Ottawa 67's tickets and Ottawa Senators tickets will be awarded.

There will be live entertainment after the game at Atkinson's Bar.

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