

THE EQUITY

Pontiacs wind up season at Dodge Cup | page 8

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OUTAOUAIS

Dodge Cup a roaring success

Shawville takes best site award

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • As the 2006 Dodge Cup drew to a close, a group of exhausted workers gathered in a small, stark-white office of the Shawville Arena for a round of pops to celebrate a job well done.

A common thread among the eight or so people left an hour after the Junior 'AA' championship final was history was the glossy wine-coloured jackets with the Dodge Cup insignia emblazoned upon them. Each one of the dedicated volunteers wore it with pride, for it was they who made the world go 'round for three days of high-speed, high-impact hockey.

Though all of them were volunteers, their

hard work didn't go unrewarded.

A painting of a snowy winter landscape which hung in the now decidedly cramped confines of the arena's trophy case was proof of their efforts.

This painting was presented to the organizers of the Shawville site of the 2006 Dodge Cup, led by Kathy Young, for being the best host site of 14 in the Outaouais region.

"I was surprised," said Rolly Bernier, a Dodge Cup volunteer.

"I never thought there'd be that kind of recognition."

Young and her husband Chris, the tournament organizers, were equally surprised.

"I was blown away because 10 years ago, we were in court trying to get out of playing

in Quebec!" said Chris with a chuckle. "It just shows you how far things have come."

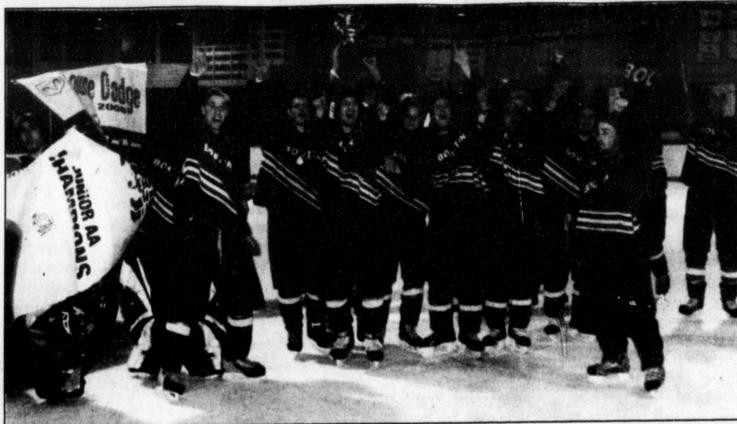
The teams competing came a long way too — 14 in all from all corners of the province for the chance of having their name engraved on the cup.

Each team played two games which set the seeding for the playoff games. They then moved on to the third game in which clubs advanced or went home in single-elimination style.

The semi-finals, held on Saturday, saw the final four teams compete for provincial Junior 'AA' honours.

Les Rebels de Trois-Pistoles from the Bas St-Laurent region, Plessville of the Estrie region, the Marquis de Jonquiere from the Saguenay Lac St-Jean region and Collège Français from the Richelieu region were the cream that rose to the top.

Please see CUP on page 2



Dale Brown, THE EQUITY

Members of the Dodge Cup-winning Plessville Boutin Junior 'AA' team celebrate their victory at the Shawville Arena Sunday. Plessville won for the second year in succession while live video of the game was broadcast back home via the internet.

Making the Choice



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

The main cast of *The Choice*, an Easter musical presented by the parish of St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church surround Jesus Christ. The musical, which ran Friday night in Otter Lake, was the first ever musical presented by the church. The church asked only a free-will offering from the audience, which will be put towards the maintenance of the church.

St. Charles' parish presents first musical

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
OTTER LAKE • A group within St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church brought to life *The Choice*, the church's first Easter musical theatre performance.

Parish volunteers sang their hearts out to a crowded church Friday night, raising money through a free-will offering for the upkeep of the church.

"We will focus on these crucial acts in the history of humanity," said Father Réal Ouellette.

The musical told the story of Dinah, Abigail, Sekhti and Hotep making the choice to believe in Jesus Christ during his crucifixion and resurrection.

The cast of 25 and a handful of other volunteers had been preparing for the performance since January, which was adapted from a play written by David S. Lampel.

The main actors included Gail Bérubé, Nancy Dagenais, Joan Dubeau, Gilles Guenneville and John Johnston.

The musical was directed by

Robert Wilson of Otter Lake, who retired from working in television as an executive producer at CJOH.

"This will be my third musical in my lifetime," said Wilson, who thoroughly enjoyed his time working on the musical.

"It is the same as working in television, you just have to eliminate the camera."

As practise time increased from January to March, Fr. Ouellette took Lampel's original musical soundtrack, learned the music and then selected songs for the choir to learn.

"He was the musical director who planted the seed," said Wilson. "He tore it (the soundtrack) down to fit the church and the choir."

At first, Wilson said, the group was reluctant to hold the musical inside the church.

"We took a look at the script and said, 'we can't do it in a church,'" said Wilson.

"But Fr. Ouellette said he wanted people to get used to the idea that you can go to church and not feel somber."

Please see PLAY on page 2

Local youths suspected in starting Shawville grass fire

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • Shawville area youths are suspected of starting a grass fire in a field off Shaw Street in Shawville April 12.

The Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department responded to a call in the early afternoon that saw a scorched strip of land about 100 metres by 20 metres still expanding as winds drove the fire on.

"We're lucky the wind was blowing away from the near-by buildings," said local fire chief Lee Laframboise as he pointed to houses and industrial buildings just metres away upwind.

The fire department got the blaze under control within a short time and saved any major damage from occurring.

It is believed the fire was started by burning rubber cement.

A witness on the scene told Laframboise they saw a small group of local youths open a bottle of rubber cement, remove the small brush used to spread the glue-like substance, light it on fire and throw the flaming projectile into the dry grass.

Laframboise said the youths in question are believed to attend Pontiac High School.

"This is an unfortunate event," said Don Stevens, vice-principal at PHS who arrived on the scene shortly after the blaze was extinguished. "It is not a school day because of parent-teacher interviews

today. There really wasn't anything we could do to prevent this."

The matter, according to Laframboise, will now be referred to the police.

"Normally, I wouldn't do anything — you get grass fires all the time in spring," he said. "In this case, we have a witness who stepped forward with information. I've got to inform the police at this point."

Stevens alluded to the fact that prior incidences, in addition to the eye-witness report, lead him to believe he knows who is responsible for the fire.

Laframboise hopes police can make a case to prevent the endangerment of human life and potential property damage from occurring in the future.

"If the kid doesn't get stopped now, when will he be stopped?"



Dale Brown, THE EQUITY

This bottle of rubber cement is assumed to be the tool that started the fire.



Dale Brown, THE EQUITY

Members of the Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department work to extinguish a grass fire believed to be deliberately set April 12. Once under control, firefighters were able to discover the cause of the blaze — a bottle of rubber cement.

Mountainview Turf environmentally sound, owner argues

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • "Insulted", "frustrated", and "upset", Mountainview Turf owner Bill Hamilton has lashed out at recent accusations that he has been environmentally negligent in his business practices.

A tip by Gatineau environmentalist, Ian Huggett, produced an article that headlined the City section of the *Ottawa Citizen* on Tuesday, April 11.

In it, Huggett accuses Hamilton of a number of environmental law vio-

lations, including trees being cut too close to the edge of a creek and cut logs being used as a temporary road overtop of a stream at the site east of Quyon on 5th Concession.

He said violations of both the Environment Quality Act and Fisheries Act have taken place and has subsequently forwarded his informal report to the Quebec Ministry of Environment.

Article 22 of the Environment Quality Act outlines the requirement of obtaining a license before the alteration of a body of water.

"We're not saying don't cut down trees and don't develop your property, all we're saying is to follow due process," said Huggett.

Hamilton argued that Mountainview inserted a culvert and that the cut logs over the stream were temporary, and the area would be restored.

He also said that the land was a dilapidated agricultural area, and he was simply returning it to its original state.

"To be labelled like that, it's not very nice," said Hamilton.

"(Huggett's) never stopped at the office, he's never e-mailed me, he's never called me, he's made no effort to contact me whatsoever."

Hamilton said if it were not for the article in the *Citizen*, he would have no idea that a complaint had been lodged against his business.

He also said that, despite the claim in the *Citizen* of an investigation by the Quebec Ministry of Environment, he has not heard from the government, either.

"Nobody, there's been nothing."

Please see TURF on page 2

THE EQUITY nominated for Canadian newspaper award

PONTIAC • THE EQUITY, Pontiac's only weekly newspaper, was nominated Monday for a premier award in the 2006 Better Newspapers Competition of the national organization Canadian Community Newspaper Association.

The paper's news reporter, Wilbur McLean, was nominated for the best sports photography award in the circulation up to 3,999 category for his shot called "Got guts."

The photo was taken the week of Sept.

28, 2005, of a daring adventure racer shimmying across a zip line strung above the Coulange Chutes carrying a bicycle on his back.

The competition, which aims to encourage excellence in CCNA member newspapers, is open to all newspapers in Canada. Winners will be announced at the CCNA's 2006 National Convention in Québec City, during the BNC Awards Banquet on May 27.

Please see photo on page 2

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Cup: weekend of hockey a success



The Pontiac Junior 'B' hockey club was named the Outaouais' top Dodge Cup host Sunday, out of 14 host sites as chosen by Hockey Quebec. From the left: Pontiac Junior 'B' president Chris Young, Hockey Quebec director-general Sylvain Lalonde, assistant co-ordinator Ashley Hodgins, Michel Richer of Hockey Outaouais, tournament co-ordinator Kathy Young, Hockey Quebec vice-president Robert Fournier, Hockey Quebec vice-president Real Langlais and team registrar Jane-Ann Findlay. To view more photos of this event click on THIS WEEK'S PHOTOS at www.theequity.ca.

Continued from page 1
Plessville squared off against Les Rebels and had no trouble getting past them, routing the Bas St-Laurent representatives 9-0 to earn their place in the final.

seeing the Marquis de Jonquiere edge Collège Français — who had defeated the Shawville Pontiacs the night before — 5-3 setting the stage for a competitive final on Sunday evening.

Jonquiere would have been a blowout of epic proportions were it not for the goaltending heroics of Marquis keeper Kevin Gauthier.

Plessville attackers came at Gauthier and time and time again, the Marquis goalie turned them neatly aside. If there was an MVP trophy to be awarded, Gauthier would no doubt have his name engraved upon it.

Despite being out-shot 41-21 after regulation, the score remained tied at 2-2. To overtime they went.

In the end, the Plessville attack was too much for the Richelieu team and a shot tipped in front of Gauthier by Plessville forward Maxime Labarre finally broke the dam so carefully crafted by the Marquis goaltender.

vice-president Réal Drolet. "Some people didn't get a chance to come down and watch the game in person."

The team from the Estrie region took Dodge Cup honours for the second year in succession — only four team members had not been part of the club last season.

Though they repeated as provincial Junior 'AA' champions, the sweetness of victory was not soured in the least.

"This is like the Stanley Cup for us," said Drolet. "It's our 10th time in the Dodge Cup and you can bet we'll be back next year."

Turf: Business environmentally sound, Quyon owner argues

Continued from page 1
"I have not heard from a soul," he said.

Huggett investigated the property as a member of the non-governmental environmental watchdog group, Eco-Watch.

"We respond to public complaints," said the former Pontiac resident. "A resident in that area complained, so we investigated."

Huggett visited the property, recorded the areas he saw as violations, and submitted his report to the ministry.

"We check the site and inform the authorities," said Huggett.

Ministry spokesperson, Serge Provencher, told THE EQUITY that, indeed, there was an ongoing investigation regarding the property.

Provencher said he would contact the inspector of the file regarding a timeline for the investigation, but he was unable to get that information to THE EQUITY before press time.

According to Huggett, possible penalties against Mountainview Turf if the ministry determined there were violations could include a fine or a requirement to return the land to its state before it was cleared.

Huggett said the company that cleared that land, JMJ Sylviculture & Exploitation Forestière Inc., based in Papineauville, could also be held liable for any illegal damage.

"My concern is more (regarding) the logging company, they should have known better," said Huggett.

Hamilton does not believe anything will come of the ministry's investigation.

"To my knowledge, I have not broken any laws nor will I ever willfully break any laws," said Hamilton.

Hamilton finds it important to point out that the land is zoned for agriculture and will be used in that manner.

"We're not commercial. We're not building a Wal-Mart. This is an agricultural enterprise."

The rules governing a commercial venture are different from those specific to agricultural efforts.

"The (Municipality of Pontiac) is quite clear in reclaiming agricultural land."

Municipality of Pontiac Mayor Eddie McCann reiterated that point.

"There's been no violation against a municipal bylaw. (If they were) Clear-cutting for commercial purposes, there would need to be permission given, but he's not developing the property," said McCann. "He's returning the land to its original state, good for him."

Accusations of trespassing
Huggett acknowledges that he did not seek permission to investigate Mountainview Turf's property, though he believes he was justified nonetheless.

there is usually a sign posted. There was no sign posted in this case."

Hamilton holds that to be a fallacious argument.

"Would it be fair for me to go to your house in Shawville, park outside, then start looking around your backyard and when you come out to ask what I'm doing there say, 'Well there was no sign saying I couldn't be here?'" posed Hamilton.

Now, Hamilton awaits contact from the Ministry of Environment, if any ever comes. The expansion, which was deemed necessary by the success of Mountainview Turf over recent years, is set to continue.

"We were already finished (clearing the area) long before any of this," said Hamilton.

Hamilton does not think his business' reputation as a good member of the community will be tarnished.

To him, Mountainview Turf's 30-year history serves as reference.

"We're proud of our record, I'll continue to be proud of our record," said Hamilton. "I hope I represent the community and the agricultural community."

Huggett, meanwhile, wants only to help the Pontiac region.

"We are here to help people and landowners to act as an intermediary between the authorities and the landowners," he said.

"We want to see the Pontiac thrive."

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Play: The choice made by St. Charles' parish

Continued from page 1
The crucifixion was portrayed by a video clip of classic art works of The Passion produced by Fr. Ouellette.

Gravelle, who played a Jew. "It was very nice for us to get together — it was the first time we have done a musical."

Yeatman had also helped the church out last summer by painting a mural above the altar. Money raised by the musical will buy more improvements for the church.

The large crowd did not seem to intimidate cast members.

In the program and after the play, Fr. Ouellette thanked the many volunteers who helped put the play on, who weren't necessarily actors or singers.

"It's expensive to keep up such a big, beautiful building," said Fr. Ouellette.

"We had practised so many times that it became natural," said Quenneville, who played Hotep, Sekhti's business associate from Egypt and the musical's comic relief.

"When you heard the music, saw the singing and the enthusiasm, you can't help but to be inspired," said David Yeatman, who designed the musical's set.

"We are open to doing it again here or at another parish," said Fr. Ouellette.

"For me, I wasn't nervous. I was used to it because I sang before," said Claudette

"It turned out well and it was a lot of fun."



Sekhti (Nancy Dagenais) and Dinah (Gail Bérubé) declare their love for each other and Jesus in *The Choice*, a musical theatre for Easter presented by St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church. To view more photos of this event click on THIS WEEK'S PHOTOS at www.theequity.ca.

Bryson mill rate remains constant

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
BRYSON • The mill rate, for the third year in a row, has remained at \$1.33 in the Municipality of Bryson.

water project," said Davis. "We're waiting for renewed contracts for the well drilling."

In 2005, a \$1,018 decrease due mainly to drops in general administration (down \$8,563), transportation (down \$2,851) and other financial activities (down \$3,500).

Commenting on the municipality's 2006 budget, Mayor Al Davis said the mill rate has not jumped since 2004 when it leapt from \$1.03 per \$100 of property evaluation.

"The year went very good," said Davis. "The new council is doing very well."

New expenses this year will include the implementation of a neighbourhood watch program and the purchase of a new garbage truck.

"We still have our ongoing



This photo, published in the Sept. 28, 2005 issue of THE EQUITY, depicted an adventure racer rappelling across the Coulonge Chutes as part of the Raid The North Canadian Championships. The shot has been nominated to win a Canadian Better Newspaper award this May. Story on page 1.



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY
Municipality of Pontiac council voted six to two in favour of a pay raise for themselves after much discussion on Tuesday, April 11.

Municipality of Pontiac council finalizes pay raise

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

idea as his own and called it, "fair, reasonable and justified".

PONTIAC • Thwarting the protests of some local taxpayers, the Municipality of Pontiac council voted six to two in favour of giving themselves a salary increase as part of a new by law introduced to regulate council's salaries.

Some residents disagreed. "Democracy is established by having the taxpayers voting," said Pierre Rheaume of Luskville, one of the residents who spoke out against the increase at the meeting.

Beginning May 1, councillors will receive an annual salary of \$9,000, up from \$5,700. The mayor, meanwhile, will collect a base salary of \$27,000 per annum, increased from the present amount of \$16,920 annually.

"I'm not saying they're not worth it, but let the public decide."

The mayor also receives a salary for sitting on the MRC des Collines, in the amount of \$13,473 per year.

Meanwhile, there was a smattering of support for the increase.

As part of the by law, future pay increases are also regulated and will be 75 per cent of the Consumer Price Index, up to a maximum of two per cent per year.

"I know how hard they work and they deserve it," said Norma Birt of Quyon, who stated she couldn't understand those who were opposed to the increase.

Councillors Garry Dagenais and Brian Middlemiss voted against the proposal.

"Out of 5,000 residents in this municipality, look who's complaining. It's not many."

A lengthy back-and-forth debate between members of the gallery and Pontiac Mayor Eddie McCann preceded the vote during the open floor portion of the meeting that took place on Tuesday, April 10 at the Luskville Community Centre.

Other taxpayers who spoke during the meeting suggested it may be better to keep salaries as they are for now, and raise them for the incoming council in four years.

A larger than normal audience of about 75 residents in attendance were likely prompted to appear by the distribution of a flyer throughout the municipality that implored residents to "Speak up or pay up" against the pay raise.

McCann countered that councillors had gone approximately a decade without an increase.

McCann, who was the only member of council to directly address the residents during the meeting, continually defended the

The vote itself took place with little fanfare. The by law was read aloud in both French and English, before a quick show of hands by councillors indicated which way they voted.

Shawville singer releases debut album

SHAWVILLE • Up and coming country performer Joey Vaillancourt of Shawville will be hosting his debut CD release party Saturday at the Shawville Lions Hall.

Bonnie and Jim, and Pat Hammel.

The show starts at 8 p.m. and will also feature the talents of Andy Mayenburg,

Vaillancourt's CD, entitled Right Now, features five original country-rock tracks.

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JPII supporters prepare school's final stand

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
CAMPBELL'S BAY • The John Paul II School governing board are preparing their final stand in hopes of saving their school from closure.

On May 1, officials from the Western Quebec School Board will return to Campbell's Bay, this time to the R.A. Centre, for the final scheduled public consultation.

There, input will be given and questions answered from the community and the JPII governing board has planned an extensive presentation in hopes of convincing the school board to keep JPII's doors open.

The governing board will recommend grandfathering in school boundaries as the solution to the school's under-enrollment problem.

Under their proposal, Grade 6 students moving on

to high school who lived within a certain distance from JPII would be forced to attend the Campbell's Bay school.

The planned presentation was discussed at a governing board meeting held at the R.A. Centre last Wednesday night, April 12.

Over 60 people were present, including JPII students, parents and municipal politicians.

"We're not going down without a fight," said Patti Dunlop Normandeau, chairperson of the JPII governing board.

The governing board plans to argue the school's small size as an advantage, and a good alternative to the larger Pontiac High School.

Normandeau said she is anticipating up to 300 people to be at the consultation meeting, and she's hopeful of support from the community.

"We're going to have to be more pushy," she said. "We've been too complacent."

JPII has been under fire in recent weeks after the WQSB revealed it as one of three institutions to be reviewed and possibly closed as part of its five-year strategic plan.

With a total of 208 students ranging from Grades 1 through 11, JPII has long struggled with under-enrollment.

The high school especially suffers, as it has only 80 students in Grades 7 through 11.

With the number of students being directly correlated with the amount of funding received, services at the school have been cut over recent years.

Student Council President Janice Black noted at the meeting that she and many of her classmates struggled with applying to colleges and CEGEP because the school no longer has a guidance counsellor.

"They're taking away everything and then telling us we're not a good school," said the Grade 11 student.

Black still staunchly defended JPII.

"We're like a family here, teachers are more like our friends and we all know each other," she said.

Among the possible changes to the school, options include closing it and replacing it with adult education, establishing boundaries or leaving the institution as it currently stands.

Making the school service only Grades 1 through 6 or Grades 1 through 8 are also considerations.

In the weeks following the consultation meeting, WQSB officials will meet and its 21 commissioners will vote on the school's fate.

The date for that final vote has not been set, but June 27 is the deadline for a decision to be rendered in time for the 2006-2007 school year.

Fire Fighting



An especially dry week produced three separate fires for the Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department last week. On Tuesday, April 11 firefighters attended to a grass fire in north Clarendon at a home on Hwy. 303. Firefighters quickly put out the blaze that had spread to burn a garden shed.

THE EQUITY's columnist presents virtual tour of Gatineau Park

QUYON • Katharine Fletcher, THE EQUITY's Environmental Forum writer, will be presenting a slide show and public lecture on the natural and human history of Gatineau park.

Fletcher, a Quyon-based award-winning freelance writer of walking tour books *Capital Walks: Walking Tours of Ottawa*; *Capital Rambles: Exploring the National Capital Region*; *Historical*

Walks: The Gatineau Park Story; and *Quebec Off the Beaten Track*, will be making the presentation at the Arbour Environmental Shoppe in the Glebe, Ottawa.

The presentation on the National Capital's 363-square kilometre park takes place Sunday, April 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information call 613-567-3168 or visit www.arboursop.com

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Be on the lookout for windows this spring

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • Acting as the "eyes to the world" according to window specialist, Tom Murdock, the windows of one's home are both important functionally as well as stylistically.

His Quyon-based business, Murdock Glass, Windows and Doors experiences its busiest time in the spring when cottagers are opening up their summer home for the first time and discover windows and screens that need replacing or repairs.

"With the arrival of spring, everything is new," said Murdock.

"That's the time people decide to get things done around the home."

However, selecting appropriate windows aren't as simple as picking what looks nice.

There's a laundry list of questions that must be asked and decisions that have to be made to make an intelligent purchase.

"It's like anything, you get what you pay for," said Murdock, who has been in business for 22 years now.

Frame Construction
Older windows' frames were predominantly made of wood, with a select few made of Poly Vinyl Carbon (PVC), which is often referred to as vinyl windows.

Now, the demand for wooden-framed windows is less and PVC is the standard.

"PVC requires no maintenance," said Murdock, who still warns against assuming all PVC is created equally.

Lower-end vinyl windows will have a large amount of recycled materials in their composition rather than pure, virgin PVC and do not contain the main ingredient, titanium dioxide, which increases the quality, but also the price, significantly.

Titanium dioxide limits the UV rays and without its presence, windows tend to become brittle and discoloured.

While there is no easy way to tell visually the amount of PVC in a frame, salespeople should know that information.

"I've had plenty of people who buy their windows from big box stores and then call me in two or three years to replace them," said Murdock.

Screen
Aluminum was the standard-bearer for window screens for a number of years, but the difficulty in cleaning them and their penchant for showing any marks has found them replaced by black fiberglass in recent years.

The mass production of fiberglass screens has made them less expensive than aluminum, despite being significantly more durable.

"It's very forgiving compared to aluminum," said Murdock.

Black fiberglass also does not show cat and dog's claw marks or other scratches.

"It's what people want now," said Murdock.

Style
There are three primary styles of windows that are most common in the home.

Casement windows use a single or double-arm operator that allow the window to open outwards. Quite commonly, casement windows use a crank to open and close.

They are the best windows for sealing against air and water infiltration.

Hung windows slide vertically to open and close.

The most common types of windows in North America are single-hung, whereby the thermal pane rises and a second thermal pane above it remains fixed.

Double-hung windows are very popular where both top and bottom sashes slide up-and-down and can be tilted inwards for easy cleaning, eliminating the need for ladders.

Side-sliding or single or double horizontal windows work in a fashion similar to traditional hung windows except the window opens right-to-left or left-to-right and can be removed, again for easy cleaning.

Styles of windows chosen in a house are usually dictated by the decor of the home.

Insulation
One thing Murdock is adamant about is the use of proper insulation for the window.

Windows tend to be the biggest loss of heat from the home, so insulation is vital.

"Never, ever use foam insulation," said Murdock, "the foam expands too much, putting pressure on the windows and doors and they will not operate properly."

Instead, use fiberglass insulation and if installing the windows yourself, don't forget to leave half-an-inch between the frame and the structure on all sides for insulation.

Afterwards, seal the window with a good quality, acrylic-based caulk. The acrylic base is necessary if painting the sealant is desired.

Acrylic caulking can also be cleaned easily with soap and water.

Questions to ask
Information is the best friend of any buyer of home supplies and Murdock believes there are specific questions that should be asked before investing in a new windows or doors.

• How long is the warranty? "The warranty says a lot about the manufacturer," said Murdock.

• What's the reputation of the manufacturer and how long have they been in business? "You don't want to buy a window then find out a few years down the road the manufacturer is out of business," said Murdock.

• If the thermal pane is broken, how hard is it to change?

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OPINION

The Voice of the
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Digital Darkroom
Dave Moore

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OUR OPINION

A trail to follow

Finally, after literally years of studying, consulting, debating, planning and reasoning, the future of the PPJ Cycloparc bike trail connecting Pontiac to the city of Gatineau is closer to a reality. To say this is simply a step in the right direction would be an understatement.

Deemed by some as the most realistic move to draw tourism to the Pontiac — no one in their right mind would haul a bike on their vehicle to Wyman, bike for a few hours and then bike back the same way to return to their parked car, or have someone pick them up at a pre-designated destination — and by others as a devious threat to agricultural productivity while endangering the habitat of wildlife in the area, which would undoubtedly be disturbed if construction and traffic were allowed through certain areas of the Municipality of Pontiac, the link will nevertheless fill a major gap between the Municipality of Bristol and Aylmer.

The railway ties from the Pontiac Pacific Junction railroad were removed in 1984 (and between Wyman and Aylmer in 1987), much like other abandoned railway lines in Canada. In 1997, as a millennium project, it was decided that the track would be transformed into a recreational trail to be used for cyclists in the summer and snowmobilers in the winter. The trail would run from east to west through the county's picturesque towns and untouched wilderness. By 2001, travellers could head east beginning on Allumettes Island for more than 90 kilometres until they reached Wyman in Bristol Municipality. To this day, the trail ends there, leaving at least 40 kilometres undeveloped before reaching Aylmer's paved and painted bike trail.

These last few clicks are the most integral to the success

of this project. With the possibility of a great number of people gaining access to the trail, and the inspiration of an endless and uncharted route ahead of them, use of the trail will only increase. With this increased usage naturally comes the awareness of our county and what we have to offer.

It's true that it could have been dealt with and done with a long time ago, but political ideas clashed slowing this project almost to a halt. Acting on what we can do with it now is a positive approach.

What we have made of our historic railroad has already proven to be beneficial, as every year at the Tour de l'Isle bike tour on Allumettes Island in May attracts many participants from the city of Pembroke.

What's commendable is that the new council of the Municipality of Pontiac is going ahead with finally completing this project one step at a time — they've only gone ahead with plans of constructing the west-end leg of their trail from Wyman to Quyon this summer. Later, pending public approval and realization of funds, the remaining sections can be completed.

Council also altered the course of the trail to go through the village of Quyon instead of following the rail line for the entire route, in order to bring more visitors through to make use of offered amenities. It shows council is flexible on how the route will be developed, ensuring that most people will be satisfied with the outcome.

The first step is always the hardest. It's been an uphill battle and a long time waiting, now let's get this project done.

LM

Returning friends

Leah Miller, THE EQUITY



ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Clearcut clash: Mountainview Turf and Ian Huggett

On April 11, journalist Dave Roger's story "Clearcutting pits farmers, ecologists" was published in the *Ottawa Citizen*. The article reported the clearcutting of some 40 hectares of bush north of Quyon. This property, zoned agricultural, is owned by Bill Hamilton of Mountainview Turf.

Clearcutting usually raises the ire of environmentalists, and this is no exception. According to Ian Huggett, director of EcoWatch, an Aylmer (Gatineau)-based environmental association; a local resident telephoned him to complain that Mountainview Turf was clearing another tract of land. (The company last cleared several acres near Hwy. 148 two years ago.) Huggett, well-known for his environmental activism, responded quickly.

He telephoned me to ask if I knew about the clearcutting. However, as I was not in, my husband Eric told him we were not aware of it. Moreover, when the activist asked if we were going to do anything about it, Eric suggested Huggett should first contact the turf farm's owner, Bill Hamilton, to find out what was really going on.

Huggett chose not to take Eric's advice. Instead, he trespassed on the Hamilton's land, wrote a report he sent to the press, got his photo and claims in the *Citizen* — and challenged the reputation of a Quyon property owner, employer and business man.

Nonetheless, Huggett's characteristic "in your face" environmental activism raises useful questions that we all ought to ask ourselves — as well as our community leaders. Always, we do need to consider what we do with our land, and we do need to take an environmental stew-

ardship approach to habitats.

Trespassing and disrespect

First and foremost, I believe Huggett should have spoken with Hamilton. Not only is this courteous, it also shows respect for the land.

The business is the crop

Mountainview Turf farm produces turf not only for lawns, but also for golf courses, playing fields and parks. On-site research and development at the Quyon farm helps develop sod which is far more environmentally acceptable, because varieties of grasses require less water, fertilizer and chemicals. (To find out more about the company's innovative research, products and more, check www.mountainviewturf.com.)

Agricultural land

This clearcut property is zoned agricultural. The crop is turf. Clearcutting is necessary if sod is going to be grown. This is not old-growth forest we're talking about. This was land which was farmed most recently by the Lindsay family about 30 years ago. Since then, it has not been worked and nature has taken over.

So, as much as I feel dismayed when I look at any clearcutting, I acknowledge the Hamilton family has a right to restore this land for their crop — particularly as their business is expanding. And let's not forget their business is booming because the commercial and the general public's demand for turf is growing. Moreover, as much as someone like me hates to see land clearcut, I fully understand that my neighbours who are farmers hate just as much to see productive farmland regress to bush. It's all a matter of perspective — plus respect.

As much as some of us

hate to think of it, trees are crops, too. But it's society's need for everything from bathroom tissue through to lumber which necessitates the felling and processing of timber. Last weekend, while driving to the Week River, I passed a plantation of pines whose lower branches are being pruned. Soon, the plantation will be clearcut. I'll hate that — but I need to realize this forest is a crop — and that as part of society, my own personal needs contribute to it needing to be cut.

So, as far as I can see, Mountainview Turf seems to be within its rights to cut bush and prepare agricultural land for their type of crop, too.

Hamilton no environmental criminal

In his report, Huggett claims Hamilton is a criminal of the environment.

I spoke to Hamilton on Easter Monday, and he said he's totally opposed to commercial clearcutting. The distinction he makes is this: "I think it's would be crime to clearcut if we were building a building — if we were to put up a Wal-Mart or something around here. I believe legislation should be strong against that sort of thing. I also take issue with people who clearcut and leave it. We're not doing either of those things. We are restoring former farmland to crop."

Riparian protection

What, I asked Hamilton, has he done to avoid damaging watercourses? "I told the contractor not to cut close to the creek. I did put down a log road — this is made from wood chips — as an access road. And I made him insert a culvert. The log road will be removed when we've finished tidying up."

No stop-order

Has Huggett been successful in initiating a stop order? Is the Ministry of

Environment looking into this case?

Hamilton told me, "I've not heard from the ministry, the minister or anyone other than Mayor Eddie McCann who gave me his support. There's no stop order. The clearcutting was finished two weeks ago. All Huggett has done is to postpone the cleanup process. He [Huggett] apparently wants me to stop everything and have the land return to its natural state."

What's natural?

Hamilton says Huggett wants the property to be allowed to return to its natural state. But what's "natural" supposed to mean, when we're talking about logged, previously farmed land?

Certainly, Huggett is absolutely correct about the damage clearcutting does. It brings immediate, devastating habitat loss — after all, it's not only the on-site beaver pond that will be affected, songbird nesting territory is wiped out. This is fact, and on one level I deplore it.

However, as a society we also need to recognize nature's progressions. Species are opportunistic, and we human beings don't always understand the ebb and flow to their cycles. For instance, I regret the diminishing habitat for grassland species such as bobolinks and meadowlarks around Quyon. But because they are grassland birds, they would not have been native — read "natural" — to Pontiac, when our area forested with white pine. When settlers cleared the land and planted grazing crops, these birds expanded their territories. Nowadays, with heavy machinery and cattle density, plus other crops and chemicals, these species are on the wane. This is habitat loss and species decline.

So what, now, is truly "natural"? Frankly, not much. Does it mean we ought to clearcut indiscriminately? No. But is that what's being done here? No.

Environmentalists damaged

Hamilton raised another issue.

"Another thing Huggett has done, is give anyone who is an environmentalist a black eye. People around here are wary of tree huggers, and by trespassing and not even having the decency to call me, Huggett has not helped give environmentalists a good name. And that's a real shame."

I couldn't agree more. So can we learn from this? When we object to something, we should have the courtesy to talk to the person with whom we are having an issue. We don't need to go behind their backs; we certainly don't need to write reports and e-mail them to the press. We should have the courage of our convictions, and have the decency to treat others as we want to be treated.

Here in the Pontiac, we call that respect.

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

Addendum

In the story, "Quyon sisters win regional effective speaking competition at PHS", other event winners included Breanna Gibson Corrigan from D'Arcy McGee High School in Gatineau, who won the Intermediate English category, Claudia Beaudry of Beatrice Desloges School in Orleans, who won the Senior French category and Genevieve Pilon of Beatrice Desloges, who won the Junior French category.

YOUR OPINION

Shawville is Hockeyville

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Dan Duggan and Dave Murray and all the volunteers who worked so hard to recreate the spirit of hockey in our community. During the winter months, hockey has always been a way of life in Shawville and district.

The efforts brought forward by Dan, Dave and the many volunteers to demonstrate the spirit of hockey at the arena and on the particular Saturday proved to be a great success. More than 1,000 spirited hockey enthusiasts came into the arena to watch several games of hockey and to look at memorabilia demonstrating the long history of hockey in Shawville.

This was a successful event in every way and I would like to thank all of the communities for the support given; this community is Hockeyville.

Albert Armstrong
Mayor of Shawville

Impressed with Pontiac

Dear Editor,

I took a peak around your website... the portion on the Pontiac is great! I didn't know there was so much to do just a short distance from home... on OUR side of the river!

Teresa Nadon
Gatineau, QC

Open letter to Prime Minister Harper

Dear Editor,

Recently the National Farmers Union became aware that an agricultural industry lobby group called the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) was asking its members to contact the Prime Minister regarding World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. CAFTA members include the Western Canadian Wheat Growers, Cargill, Canadian Canola Growers Association, Canadian Cattlemen's Association and others.

In its communique to its members dated April 5, CAFTA is concerned that there was "a great deal of space given in the recent Throne Speech to Quebec's interests (including international interests)." The communique goes on to say that "The PMO appears to be leaning towards also making strong accommodation for Quebec's interest at the WTO." These comments are made in such a way as to put the legitimate interests of Quebec's farmers in a negative light.

The NFU is concerned about the position that CAFTA is taking for the following reasons.

CAFTA has singled out Quebec farmers as the problem and not the solution for Canadian interests domestically and at the WTO. By specifically mentioning Quebec, CAFTA seems to be making this an issue of national unity, as if it is Quebec versus the rest of the country. The advantages of orderly marketing accrue to farmers all across Canada, and CAFTA is wrong-headed in framing the debate in this manner.

At least one person that has been a CAFTA representative, and attended the Hong Kong WTO meetings as a CAFTA representative, is now working in the office of David Anderson, Parliamentary Secretary, to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

As a result of the previous point, the NFU is worried that the narrow and extreme views of CAFTA, vis-a-vis the interests of Quebec's and other Canadian farmers, have the constant attention of Mr. Anderson and even more importantly, the Minister of Agri-Food.

The policies promoted by CAFTA are intended to undermine and destroy the marketing advantages of orderly marketing in Canada. Any erosion of orderly marketing in Canada would reduce the amount of money that farmers currently attain from the marketplace and make farmers even more reliant on government (taxpayer-funded) programs.

In conclusion, the NFU urges Prime Minister Stephen Harper to reject the narrow and extreme views of CAFTA.

Stewart Wells
President, National Farmers Union

Media watch ... gun control's unlikely new enemy

Dear Editor,

Thank you to the *National Post* newspaper and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters for your efforts to impart some sanity in regards to the issue of private firearms ownership.

It is gratifying to read an intelligent appreciation of the facts that is devoid of propaganda and half-truths. Perhaps the *Toronto Star's* editors should re-examine their position and not accept at face value the anti-sport ownership of firearms lobby led by the Coalition For Gun Control. It is sad to say that integrity in journalism is often lacking on this issue.

Most of what I read is no more than a rabid attack by a press that has lost their vision. Perhaps now real discussion will take place. It would be nice to see Mr. Dalton McGuinty make a substantive contribution by supporting police efforts to control the urban hoodlums that seem to operate with impunity in the large cities of Ontario. The province also must contribute to programs designed to prevent crime by

alleviating social problems that are the breeding ground for these gangs.

As a taxpayer, I resent politicians who opt for a popular, low cost option that makes them appear to 'have taken decisive action to solve the problem'. In the case of street gangs and gun crime, this seems to be the situation.

Do the politicians not know what the problems are in the cities or have they just chosen the easiest and cheapest option?

The politicians at Queens Park need to get off their collective backsides and show by deeds that they understand the gun ownership issues fully and then direct their efforts and funding to the underlying social causes. Give the local police the resources needed to end the street violence. And finally, I challenge Canadian journalists to do some real investigative research rather than producing articles that are little more than a summation of the anti-firearms ownership pap served on the coalition's website.

Ronald M. Wilson
Westmeath, ON

Find a solution

Dear Editor,

U.S. Ambassador Wilkins is optimistic the soft wood lumber dispute will be resolved this year, in that people of good faith can work out their differences.

NAFTA panels' decisions have time and again gone in Canada's favour. Supposedly binding, they have been ignored every time by the Ambassador's government. There is one last opportunity to show "good faith" in that "The only NAFTA appeal left for the U.S. is an extraordinary challenge, which it must do by April 27, 2006."

Should the U.S. not launch an appeal, the softwood lumber dispute would be resolved, aside from a return of the \$5 billion wrongly collected from Canadian lumber companies according to the NAFTA panels' decisions.

Should the American government launch an appeal, then only through Canada agreeing to changes in its way of doing things (which have been found to be fair practices) can the Ambassador's resolution occur. Any such agreement that includes a system of quotas and an export tax during a temporary settlement while the provincial governments change their timber management systems to more resemble a U.S.-style auction system will be through capitulating to the Americans. Ambassador Wilkins is optimistic. By April 27 it will be seen whether what he's anticipating is resolving the dispute through his government's action or ours.

Joe Hueglin
Niagara Falls, ON

Liberty aside

Dear Editor,

Recently, citizens of Canada put personal convenience and liberty aside to carry on a protest against Stephen Harper's appointment of David Emerson to cabinet.

Individual Canadians came together representing the Conservative, Liberal, New Democratic parties and carried on an ostensibly Canadian protest: peaceful, polite, and respectful — a "sit-in." We occupied David Emerson's constituency office for eight hours and had only one demand: agree to meet with us, your constituents, David Emerson.

We were prepared to occupy Emerson's office day and night in order to obtain our objective, and were prepared to risk arrest to underscore our grim determination in fighting for the rights of voters in our country.

Despite the best efforts of wonderfully patient and helpful police who tried to broker a compromise with Emerson, the disrespectful Cabinet minister-in-hiding would have none of it. He wouldn't agree to meet us, his constituents that he has sworn to serve. He wouldn't agree to meet with us — not then, not at any time.

Undeterred, and in defense of the rights of all Canadians, the protest continued and four brave citizens were indeed arrested.

Emerson has lost the moral authority to represent us, and was never given the moral authority to govern. And Stephen Harper made it possible. Both should pay a price.

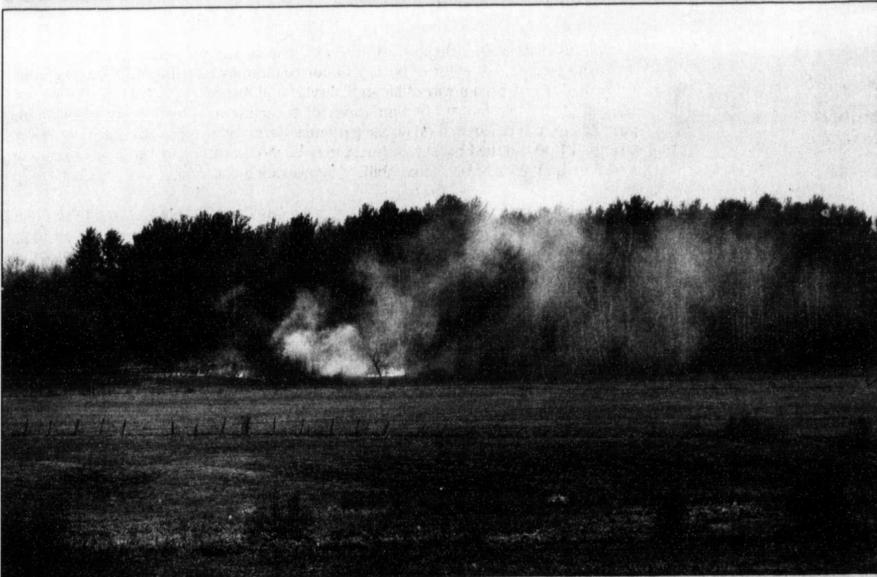
The only just solution is for Emerson to resign, immediately, and for Harper to issue a statement of apology to the people of Vancouver-Kingsway, to his caucus, to party members, and to all Canadians.

Michael Watkins
Vancouver, BC

Letters to the Editor

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

Fire season



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

A grass fire off Pepin Road in Vinton last Wednesday, April 12, brought out the Campbell's Bay-Litchfield Fire Department to put out the blaze just before rain fell in the afternoon. The department had also extinguished a grass fire the day before near the Smurfit-Stone pulp and paper mill near Portage du Fort.

Citizens express compost concerns

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Local residents packed the Shawville Curling Club April 12 to hear plans for Tom Orr's proposed human-waste composting project and have their concerns on the issue heard.

Orr proposes to collect solid human waste from septic tanks in the Pontiac and use it to produce composted soil.

The main concerns of the approximately 100-strong and boisterous crowd centred on leachate and odour control.

"I'm very concerned about the smell," said Pontiac resident Barrie Murray after Orr's presentation.

"I'll put it this way," said Orr in response. "I was involved with a company that did this in Tilsonburg (Ontario). The Player's tobacco factory next door smelled worse."

The planned site on the Seventh Line in Clarendon would feature an open-air facility divided in two sections. The flooring would consist of 10 inches of concrete which would, according to Orr, prevent leachate from seeping into the earth. Solid human waste would compose five to 20 per cent of the compost mixture, depending on the grade of compost required, with carbon-based material, such as wood chips or sawdust composing the majority of the mix. The mixture would be aerated through holes in the floor to provide oxygen necessary to the process.

Mixtures containing five per cent human waste would be the most desirable as this blend fits the needs of nurseries — the most lucrative market for this type of compost.

Noting the concerns expressed by some in attendance, Orr told the assembled citizens he would do whatever it takes to minimize any environmental or odour concerns, though he admits he himself is not an expert on the subject.

"I'm not a scientist," he said. "I have to rely on the people I hire. If I have to line the cement floor, I'll line it — I'll do anything the (environment) ministry says I have to do."

In addition, he said if odour became an issue, he would build a structure around the compost pile in an attempt to contain the smell.

"I can assure you we'll do everything we can to make sure there's no smell," said Orr. "(The ministry) knows there should be no smell if managed properly. If it does, they'll shut it down — it's as simple as that."

Some residents were not so sure.

"I just don't see how you can stop (the odour)," said Murray.

While questions came in torrents from concerned citizens, answers beyond reassurances of safety were few and far between. There were no environmental scientists or engineers present at the meeting to definitively answer some citizen's concerns. Hired experts were in attendance at the meeting held March 15 at the Shawville Lions Hall.

In lieu of having experts present at the meeting April 12, Orr took contact information from people with questions he couldn't answer in order to provide them at a later time with the information they requested.

One man in favour of the project, so long as environmental requirements are met, is Clarendon Mayor Jack Lang.

"As long as everything is done as it's supposed to be done, I think it's a good solution to our problem," he said, referring to the recent enforcement of provincial legislation requiring the region's 3,000 septic tanks to be pumped every two years.

Lang also said he understood Orr would not mix human waste into the compost pile while the wind blew toward Shawville. It is during the mixing process,



Dale Brown, THE EQUITY

Tom Orr explains his compost plan to residents assembled at the Shawville Curling Club April 12.

scheduled to be done once every two days, that the smell is most pungent.

The Pontiac MRC council of mayors decided to support Orr's proposal in principle at a meeting March 28.

Though the site, according to Orr, will be continuously monitored by the environment ministry for contaminants through test holes dug at various intervals around the property, some residents expressed concern at the chance of bacteria, like e-coli — a common bacterial presence in human waste — leaching into the ground and water supply.

Orr points out a similar process is currently taking place at Compost Outaouais in Gatineau and there have been no reported problems so far.

"We're not going to allow anything to seep into the ground," said Orr.

"We'll have the run-off directed by sloped concrete into a pool. The water will then be caught in a sump and pumped over the compost pile."

The water aids in accelerating the compost process as well as managing the temperature of the pile.

It will be at least a year before the project is fully under way and Orr plans to use that time to further educate the public.

It is imperative to the process that no household contaminants, medications,

chemicals or septic systems be introduced to septic systems.

"I don't even want to touch anybody's septage until everyone knows not to dump chemicals and things like that in their tanks," he said. "I have a buyer in Cambridge (Ontario) ready to pay \$40 per cubic metre, but he doesn't want a single cubic metre before the pile is there, tested and ready to go."

Orr said area residents would not likely see a cost savings on septic tank pumpings even though additional profit would be realized through sales of compost. Start-up costs of the facility were cited as the primary factor.

Concerned citizens now await answers from experts promised by Orr at the meeting before forming their final opinions on the matter.

Orr told THE EQUITY he greatly encourages anyone who has not yet raised their voice and has any reservations whatsoever about the project to contact him at their earliest convenience.

In the meantime, Orr believes the compost solution is the best one currently available and is a better option than simply burying the waste in a landfill site.

"I'm not the guy saying, 'This is the best solution,' I'm the guy saying, 'This is the best solution we have right now.'"

123 years of news from the Pontiac
THE WAY WE WERE
Compiled by Heather Alberti-Dickson Publisher

25 Years Ago

April 22, 1981

POLICE REPORT: Last Thursday night at about ten o'clock, Gaston Gagné of Repentigny, near Montreal, was instantly killed in a head on collision on Hwy. 148 near Vinton. Gagné, 36, was a welder employed by Canadian Erectors working at the Consolidated Bathurst Mill. He was staying at the Oasis Motel in Bryson and on his way to Fort Coulonge, alone in a pick-up truck, when the accident occurred. The other car was driven by Robert Filion, 35, whose passengers were his wife Carole, 27, and children Melanie, 5, and Martin, 3. All four are in the Pontiac Community Hospital, the children with minor injuries. Carole and Robert in more serious conditions, the latter having suffered a skull fracture, rib cage damage and several broken limbs. Investigation is Constable Boutin and the Coroner Donald Lavallée.

On Friday afternoon in Fort Coulonge, a man who has been separated from his wife stabbed her present common-law husband six times in the chest and was apprehended within 12 hours in Bramalea, Ontario, by the Ontario Police on an arrest warrant from Quebec. He is now being held in Hull and has been remanded to plea on Wednesday before the Provincial Court in Campbell's Bay. He is charged with attempted

murder.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO JOIN REGIONAL BOARD: "We intend to get \$1.20 value for each tax dollar collected," stated Hugh MacDonald, the new director general of the Protestant Regional School Board of Western Quebec. He was speaking to about 50 parents, teachers and local school board members about the restructuring of the administration of the elementary schools which will take place July 1, this year.

50 Years Ago

April 19, 1956

HOSPITAL NOW TO HAVE TEN MAN BOARD: The annual meeting of Pontiac Community Hospital was held Wednesday afternoon in the Anglican Hall, Shawville. About 40 members attended the meeting. Lawrence Moore presided, in the absence of Leonard Horner, whose mother passed away just before the meeting. Members present at the meeting approved a motion enlarging membership of the board of Directors from seven to ten persons.

REBEKAH LODGE MARKS 35TH JUBILEE: Adina Rebekah Lodge No. 40 celebrated its 35th anniversary at a banquet held in St Paul's Parish Hall on April 11 with members present from Renfrew and Ottawa lodges.

PUBLIC SPEAKING FINALS AT SHAWVILLE: The Shawville Lions Club

Friday evening in the auditorium of the high school held the annual public speaking contest for Pontiac County schools. Winners were Margaret McGahern and Robert Bolam of Campbell's Bay.

last week with beneficial results.

Mr H H Elliott is the first we have heard of in this section who has done any seeding.

HOW ABOUT THIS? Some weeks ago we received a private letter from a subscriber in reference to a matter which seems to concern particularly those people who live along the front of the township of Clarendon facing the Ottawa River. The writer declares that last summer he had occasion to go to what is known as Big Sand Bay - once one of the most beautiful bathing places on the river - to water his horse. On reaching there he found to his utter disgust that the bay and shore line were literally jammed full of sawlogs belonging to the McLachlan and Gillies firms; so full indeed that he could get a drink for his animal, and that for five miles along the river front up to Bureh's creek, the same obstructions barred all approach to the water's edge, even the roads leading to the river, which have been constructed at the people's expense, are blocked at the river end so that if you wish to cross the river at any of these terminals it would be impossible for you to get a board away from shore, so complete is the blockade.

75 Years Ago

April 16, 1931

LOCAL NEWS: The extremely low prices obtainable for Canadian grown grains has brought the question of their use in poultry rations to the fore. Under average conditions where low prices prevail for these grains they may be marketed to much greater advantage through the medium of poultry products.

Born at Rooney, Que. on Sunday, April 11, 1931, to Mr and Mrs R F Black, (nee Stella Quaile) a son.

For Sale: Chrysler Sedan, 1927 model, in excellent condition; 4 new tires. Prices \$450. Will take cheaper car in part payment. Owner expects to leave Shawville. Rev. V G Manchester.

100 Years Ago

April 19, 1906

LOCAL NEWS: Good Friday was the most delightful spring day we have had.

The work of removing the past winter's accumulation of filth from our macadam roadway, was undertaken

EARLY CLOSING: Commencing May 1st Merchants of Campbell's Bay, with the exception of one or two, have decided to close their places of business at six o'clock on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week, till October 1st.

chemicals or septic systems be introduced to septic systems.

"I don't even want to touch anybody's septage until everyone knows not to dump chemicals and things like that in their tanks," he said. "I have a buyer in Cambridge (Ontario) ready to pay \$40 per cubic metre, but he doesn't want a single cubic metre before the pile is there, tested and ready to go."

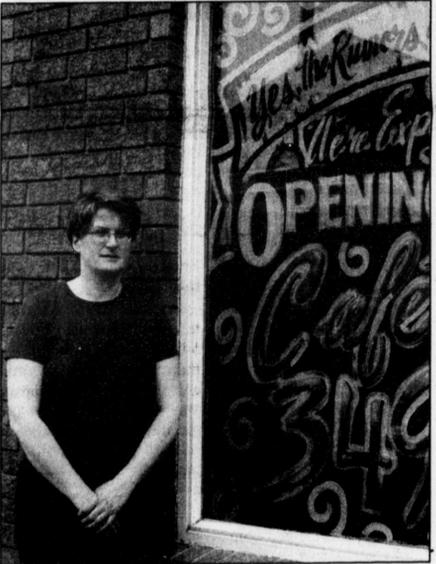
Orr said area residents would not likely see a cost savings on septic tank pumpings even though additional profit would be realized through sales of compost. Start-up costs of the facility were cited as the primary factor.

Concerned citizens now await answers from experts promised by Orr at the meeting before forming their final opinions on the matter.

Orr told THE EQUITY he greatly encourages anyone who has not yet raised their voice and has any reservations whatsoever about the project to contact him at their earliest convenience.

In the meantime, Orr believes the compost solution is the best one currently available and is a better option than simply burying the waste in a landfill site.

"I'm not the guy saying, 'This is the best solution,' I'm the guy saying, 'This is the best solution we have right now.'"



Dale Brown, THE EQUITY

Ruth Hahn stands beside a window of Café 349 announcing the grand opening of the new dining room. The expansion was finished in time for brunch Easter Sunday. The café will now seat up to 60 people in an artfully-done setting.

Local Shawville Café 349 expands seating, menu

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Café 349 opened the doors of its expanded facilities Sunday as brunch was served in the new artistically-themed dining room in Shawville's Main Street.

Paintings and photographs by local artists, softly lit by organically sculptured track-lighting, hung on the walls for the enjoyment and appreciation of guests while they partook of waffles, ham, bacon and eggs and mountains of fresh fruit Easter morning.

"We've only done three brunches before," said proprietor Ruth Hahn. "We'll be doing it on a regular basis now that we've expanded." The expansion effectively triples the floor space of the café and allows for seating of an additional 40 patrons, bringing the total seats available to 60.

The renovations started about a month ago and

Hahn is not finished yet. Plans are in the works to build an addition on the back of the building to house a new kitchen for the purpose of serving dinner.

"Very soon, we'll be expanding our kitchen and along with it, our menu," she said. "We'll be serving dinner — things like steak, seafood and lamb — Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights."

Chef Nick Gervais will stay on and take charge of the café's dinner fare.

"It will definitely be fine dining," said Hahn of the planned menu.

In addition to the expanded service to the community at large, the expansion means new full-time jobs in Shawville.

"We've hired three new full-time people," said Hahn, "and we'll need more when the new kitchen opens."

For a complete menu and more information, visit www.cafe349.ca

Generous donation



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

The Hall family received an honorary plaque from the Bristol Fire Department in thanks for the family's generous donation made last year that will go towards new equipment. The donation was made in memory of 29-year-old Scott Hall, who died in a motorcycle accident last summer. The plaque will be displayed in the Bristol Town Hall. From the left: Fire Chief Wayne Wiggins presents the plaque to Chris, Leonard, Barbara and Susan Hall with Tim Last, Darlene Wiggins, Eugene Hamelin and Bill McLachlan of the fire department.

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Otter Lake residents promised phone line in November

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
OTTER LAKE • Residents promised a telephone connection this year by Télébec have been promised a connection by the end of November.

A handful of Otter Lake residents have been waiting for telephone service on Hwy. 301 and Yates, Picanoc, Blaskie, Beaudion and McCredie roads.

Residents, some who first made a request for a phone line as early as in 1985, are upset that Télébec's promise of a line installed this year has been delayed to close to the end of the year.

"I just want a phone," said Jerry Chevalier, who lives on McCredie Road and has been waiting for his phone line service for five years.

Chevalier applied two years ago and was told he would have a line by the spring of 2005. The date was moved to June 2005 and then to December 2005.

Télébec spokesperson Alain Danault said that the lines will be installed in November once the cell phone tower near Polish Hills Road is completed.

"At the end of October we will have the tower on," said

Danault. "After the tower is installed it will take less than a month to go through everybody who has made a request."

He said that instead of a land line, residents will have an antenna installed in their home giving them cellular phone service instead.

"These antennas are 50 per cent stronger than regular cell phones," said Télébec planning technician Mourad Djadel.

This antenna will still work with regular phone jacks. There will be 28 homes equipped with these antennas.

Currently, Télébec serves about 300 customers with this type of phone service. This is the first area to use cellular home phone service in Pontiac.

"It will provide the same quality," said Danault.

Danault said that according to a Télébec rule, there are not enough people wanting a phone line in that area to warrant a land line being installed.

"Our mission is to ensure that everybody in our territory has communication," said Danault of Télébec's 750,000-kilometre provincial coverage area.

Despite the promised conclusion, Chevalier is determined to make his frustration known.

"I'm going to start and organize meetings with people who don't have phones," said Chevalier.

"I may have to fill up a couple of cars and go see (Marc) Bertrand," said Chevalier of Télébec's executive general manager of customer care services.

Chevalier has expressed his concerns to MNA Charlotte L'Écuyer, the CRTC, as well as to MP Lawrence Cannon's office.

"They should give me a temporary satellite phone," said Chevalier.

"Or supply us with something until they give us a phone."

He said a few weeks back his mother died and he didn't find out until much later as a result of not having a phone. He also worries about neighbours with health problems and the risk they take by not having access to a phone to call for help.

Chevalier encourages anyone interested in joining his movement to leave a message on his line at (819) 453-2170.



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Thorne resident Anna Anderson is embarking on a year-long journey to Malawi, a country in southeast Africa, to aid the struggling country in the implementation of their palliative care program.

Greermount woman to aid HIV patients in Malawi, Africa

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
THORNE • Always one to confront the world's problems, Anna Anderson of Greermount will soon head to Africa and come face-to-face with the HIV pandemic.

On April 22, Anderson will embark to Malawi in Southeastern Africa to aid the HIV-stricken nation with their palliative care program.

Anderson, a now-retired palliative care nurse — once charged with improving the quality of life and pain management for long-term care patients — will spend a year in one of the world's poorest nations, where an estimated 14 per cent of citizens live with HIV.

"The large problem of HIV and AIDS in Africa combined with poverty, hunger and the other issues they're facing has resulted in a huge amount of pain and suffering," said Anderson from her Greermount home, where she and her husband, Peter, live.

"I'm going to work with them to develop the capacity and expertise in delivering palliative care."

The exact role of Anderson's work is still unknown to her, and she won't discover many more specifics of what assistance she will provide until stepping into Malawi in a few days' time.

Anderson, who spent parts of her childhood in Congo and Ivory Coast because of her father's job with UNICEF, is looking forward to her trip, despite knowing the sombre situa-

tion she will be facing. "It's going to be overwhelming," said Anderson, obviously struggling with the obstacles she will be helping to overcome.

"How can I make a difference that will last? How can I contribute something that will sustain itself and contribute, even as a drop in the ocean?"

Anderson and Peter, who will be joining her in Malawi, are volunteers and will not profit whatsoever from the excursion.

Their only compensation is having the costs of their flight, room, and living expenses paid for.

Uniterra, an organization devoted to reducing poverty and improving the development of third world countries, will be funding her excursion.

A combined effort between the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) and World University Service of Canada (WUSC), Uniterra has affiliates in Malawi for whom Anderson will volunteer for.

An appreciation of life Palliative care efforts in the Pontiac have been greatly boosted with Anderson's help.

She has lent her time as a consultant for the Pontiac Hospital Centre's continuing palliative care project, which is in its physical construction stage.

"(She) helped us review our policies and procedures on pain control and palliative care," said Assistant Director General Gail Ryan

of the Pontiac Health and Social Services Centre.

"Her experience was quite helpful. We will miss her help."

Throughout her career, Anderson spent time as a palliative care nurse in England, the United States and Ottawa.

She is passionate about her trade and thrives on aiding pain sufferers in living their lives as fully as possible.

"I wish for anyone who has the need for good pain management, good symptom control, emotional support and practical help to get it," said Anderson, who extends her love for life to all beings as proven by the three dogs she and Peter currently own, all of which they found as strays.

"I want to ease pain," said Anderson.

Aiding in palliative care in Malawi will be a far cry from the work Anderson's done up until now.

Malawi, a country populated by 13 million people, has 700,000 orphans, most of whom lost their parents to HIV.

The economy is one of the world's worst — one Canadian dollar is worth 118 Malawian kwachas — and the health care system is dangerously low on resources.

Many health care professionals have died or left the country, leaving the nation with only one-tenth the necessary number of doctors.

Anderson will be staying in the capital city of Lilongwe, where hospital

beds routinely hold two patients at a time, and a third patient housed beneath the bed is not unheard of.

While unsure of how much help she can provide, a human being with a seemingly innate ability to care like Anderson will certainly be able to provide some aid.

"People ask me why I'm going to Africa, why not work in (my) community? Well I see the world as my community," said Anderson.

"Of all the places in the world I've been to, Africa is the place that has touched me the most."

And now, confronted with one of the planet's most devastating problems, Anderson is hoping to touch Africa.

Easter Egg Hunt



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

The Chutes Coulonge held an Easter egg hunt Saturday afternoon for over 125 participants. Families were invited to participate in Easter-themed crafts and games. Above: Fuzzy bunnies were on hand at the Chutes for kids to convince their parents to bring home as pets. From the left: Mirandalee Couture, Jeffrey Cloutier and Dana Sallafrank of Pembroke. Right: Kids lined up attempting an egg toss. The Chutes are open this coming Saturday and Sunday.



Healthy outlook for Armstrong Heritage Farm

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • Planes, trains and automobiles were on the agenda as the Armstrong Heritage Farm held its annual general meeting at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School April 10.

Grant Rogers, president of the foundation, announced plans were proceeding smoothly on the projects scheduled for 2006 and the group's economic outlook was healthy for the coming year.

The foundation finished 2005 about \$1,000 in the red on revenues of approximately \$28,000. Expenses for the year totalled just over \$29,000.

The farm was aided, however, by an \$8,000 surplus left over from 2004, leaving an extra \$7,000 in the foundation's coffers.

"I was happy with the way the year went," said Rogers. "Considering some of our expenses, we've done quite well."

Treasurer Gordon Palmer agreed.

"(This year) should be pretty good," he said. "As long as we keep on top of our expenses, we'll be alright."

The foundation's largest

expense was a study of the economic landscape of the Pontiac region totalling \$25,000.

Economic Development Canada contributed \$19,700 toward the cost of the study.

As a result of the study, the federal government offered a \$2 million grant toward the construction of an outdoor theatre on the farm grounds.

A public meeting is scheduled for today at the Lions Hall in the Shawville Arena to debate the merits of such a project, though Rogers doesn't consider it a likely eventuality.

"Our concern is if they're going to give us \$2 million, it'll probably cost \$3 million to build and maintain," he said.

"To be honest, we'd be pretty happy if we had the \$40,000 we spent on studies."

Meanwhile, Rogers reports the progress being made on the mini-train project and expects it to be completed this summer. The train will run on 30-pound rail (a typical full-size train-rail is rated at 120-pound rail) and will run in a loop on the farm grounds.

The train is powered by a

converted gas automobile engine and will tow seven cars capable of carrying six people in each. The cars are converted mining cars from the approximate era of the Armstrong House.

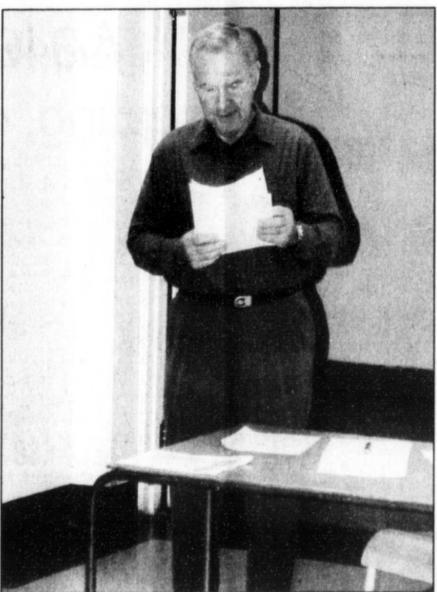
"When we're finished, we'll have about 1,700 feet of track," said Rogers. "It will run along the lower end of the property toward the highway."

The foundation is also readying plans for their annual Autofest car show, tentatively scheduled for June 11, and the Music Jamboree scheduled for July 14, 15 and 16.

Promutuel Valley Insurance donated \$3,700 for a stage to be built on the grounds for the jamboree with local performers scheduled to perform over the weekend.

Before adjourning the meeting, two elections were held for vacated director postings with Gordon Bruce keeping his seat unopposed while the foundation welcomed Leonard Belsler to the table in the absence of long-time member Bonnie Zimmerling.

Overall, Rogers is very happy with the work the board has done and looks



Dale Brown, THE EQUITY

The Armstrong Heritage Farm held its annual general meeting at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School April 10, announcing the near-completion of the mini-train project and plans for the season's events. President Grant Rogers addresses the membership with the group's annual report.

forward to working with everyone in the future. "It's just great when you ask someone to do a job and it's done well and in good spirits."

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Man publishes Quyon's history in paperback

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
QUYON • James Robinson, who hails from Quyon, recently published a book on the village's history entitled "The Quio" How Quyon Came To Be.

"I wanted to get it down for younger folks," said Robinson.

The 84-page book documents Quyon's growth from the first white explorer to John Egan founding Quyon to the landmarks of industries long gone. The book also includes a useful list of householders from 1841 to 1901, a list of shantymen at the Mohr lumber camp, a list of shantymen at the Egret lumber camp and a list of land grants and sales from 1805 to 1890.

Robinson, who now lives in Ottawa, grew up on a farm in Beechgrove. His family still resides in the Pontiac. Robinson, 68, retired 12 years ago from a career in engineering.

"Then I became an amateur historian," said Robinson. "In school, history was my favourite subject — I went back to my first love and I'm still at it."

Through research of his stories, Robinson discovered his love for the Ottawa Valley, which led him to researching and writing this first book after 12 years which tells the story of Quyon and Onslow: an Ottawa Valley history.

And this isn't the last book in the works for Robinson.

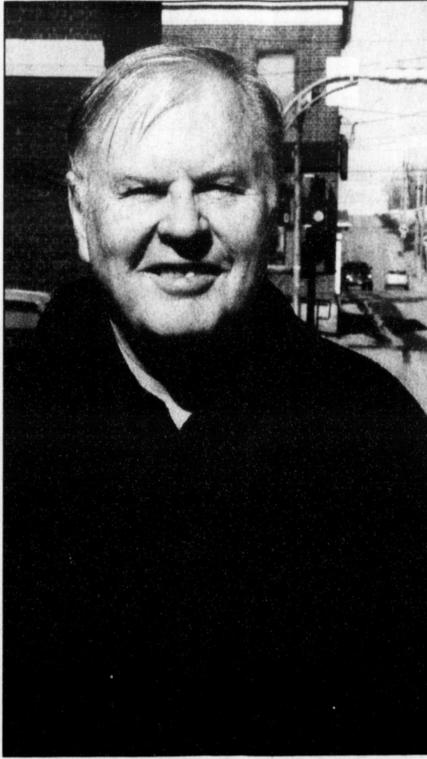
"I have five or six books almost written," said Robinson.

One of those books includes a story about a curse of the Lebreton Flats while another is about the North American native history of the area.

Robinson's story-telling talents has led him to be a member of Toastmaster's, a club that aims at enhancing communication skills, where he won a championship for most humorous speech. He has also played gigs at Yuk Yuks and Absolute Comedy in Ottawa and Montreal.

The book is available at the Pontiac Printshop, Gavan's Hotel and other Pontiac locations.

More information can be found at www.quyon.ca



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY
James Robinson, originally of Quyon, has recently published a book called "The Quio" How Quyon Came To Be. The book is available at the Pontiac Printshop and Gavan's Hotel.

Area in Sheenboro to be declared exceptional forest ecosystem

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
SHEENBORO • An area in the Municipality of Sheenboro is about to be declared an exceptional forest ecosystem.

The 17-hectare bush area called Lac à la Tortue, located about 70 kilometres north-west of Fort Coulonge along the Ottawa River near La Grande Presqu'île, is in the process of being classified by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife as being an exceptional forest ecosystem, which is meant to protect three distinct categories of forests: rare forests, old-growth forests and shelter forests for threatened or vulnerable species.

Lac à la Tortue is categorized as a shelter forest for threatened or vulnerable species.

"A recommendation was made by a specialist after an inventory was done on certain species," said Catherine Rooney of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife in Gatineau.

The classification, once finalized, will help preserve the plant and animal life found in that territory.

"The ecosystem on the river will protect plants and trees," said Martin Ladouceur, the MRC's forestry engineer.

The classification will only allow development in the area to construct hiking

trails or other projects that will preserve the natural surroundings of that area.

Any development will require ministry permission beforehand.

"Our objective is to maintain biodiversity," said Rooney.

The plant species found in the area that triggered the classification include the Holboell's rockcress (arabis holboellii variety secunda), which is a very rare calcicole species, found in less than 10 locations in Quebec.

Also included is the blue satin sedge (Carex platyphylla), where more than half of 43 findings have been in Quebec.

The prairie aster (Solidago ptarmicoides), which is commonly found near limestone, has been found in about two-thirds of the 34 Quebec sightings in the Outaouais.

The 12 other sightings were in Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Northern Quebec. The lavender bladderwort (Utricularia resupinata) is a small, delicate plant found in mud at the edge of water sources. Of 24 sightings in Quebec, nine are found in the Outaouais.

These species are currently on the list of threatened or vulnerable plants in Quebec. Three of the species can be found on limestone while the fourth is found on sandy banks of the river.

This forest is also dominated by red oak and Ostrya

virginiana.

In addition to these four rare species, Lac à la Tortue contains Tilia americana, Fraxinus americana, Acer spicatum, Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Rhus radicans, Rhus typhina, Rubus odoratus, Rubus idaeus, Aster ciliolatus, Aster macrophyllus, Amphicarpa bracteata, Aquilegia canadensis, Chenopodium, Orizopsis and Smilacina racemosa.

Rooney said that once the recommendation was made, all harvesting in the area was stopped. Currently the ministry is making a forest inventory map of the area, and will continually return to study certain plants.

"We know so little of these endangered plants and animals," said Rooney. "We'll be studying them on a long-term basis."

Other areas in Pontiac that have been declared an exceptional forest ecosystem are in Pousière River near Rapides des Joachims, Schyan River near Fort William, Mont Martin near Fort Coulonge, Rocher à l'Oiseau north-west of Fort Coulonge, and Mont de Davidson near Davidson. There are only 20 in the Outaouais on public land.

The area was proposed in 2003 and the declaration is expected to be finalized in the coming year after the MRC and municipality are consulted.

CLD welcomes new president

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
CAMPBELL'S BAY • The Pontiac local development centre (the CLD) elected Pontiac Health and Social Services director-general Richard Grimard as its new president.

Grimard, who replaces outgoing president Guy Lesage, has been working at the health centre for over two years and was elected at the CLD's annual general meeting held in Campbell's Bay March 29.

"The year was excellent but it was a very dramatic year for forestry," said CLD director-general Jean-Pierre Ledoux.

"That area is a source for concern." Ledoux said there has been a lot of interest in the industry because of the crisis.

The CLD is currently working to revive the Produits Forestiers Coulonge (PFC) and Tembec-Davidson mills.

Over the year, there were 41 business start-up inquiries, the majority of which were in the service sector.

The CLD did not keep a record of people seeking information on starting a new business in the MRC before 2005.

"Agriculture was very strong last year," said Ledoux. "It was booming in terms of diversification."

The CLD helped the slaughterhouse co-operative organizers obtain a feasibility study and business plan, as well as hire a project manager.

Ledoux also said that tourism needs the most work in terms of investment. T

he CLD plans on promoting business opportunities created by the waterway, PPJ cyclopark and the Coulonge Chutes, finish the Pontiac's ATV trail network and to improve and increase the availability of tourism services such as accommodation.

In the 2006 action plan, some of the plans the CLD is working on include providing adult education and training for forest exploitation and transformation, combatting the disintegration of villages and promoting diversification opportunities in agriculture.

As well, the CLD plans on continuing work on a wireless broadband network, completing construction of a cell phone tower in Otter Lake and working on the Outaouais Valley Fine Meats Co-op.

Ledoux told THE EQUITY that the CLD is work-

ing on two new development projects in the service sector, one being that forestry consultant company CLC-Camint, based out of Gatineau, will be opening a new branch in Shawville this spring.

"We should be running by May," said André Belec of CLC-Camint.

The company, owned by Jacques Roberge, has purchased the house between the Shawville town hall and the Shawville-Clarendon Library.

Belec said the expansion was due to new projects the company is working on in the area.

"For the moment we will be bringing six people, but in the summer we could grow to 15," said Belec.

The CLD finished the year in the black, with a \$286,370 surplus on revenues of \$1,730,161 and expenses of \$1,443,791.

New directors Jean-Louis Auger, François Norbert, Ricky Romain and Ross Vowles have replaced Cletus Ferrigan, Jack Graham, Bruno Nicholas and Denzil Spence.

As well, two new employees Luke Murphy and Annie Vaillancourt are replacing Amy Taylor and Isabelle de Bruyn who have left to work on family projects.

Teletech opens new facility in Renfrew

Firm seeks to fill full-time positions immediately

RENFREW • TeleTech Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ: TTEC), a global provider of customer management and business process outsourcing (BPO) services, today announced it is opening a facility in the town of Renfrew to support expanded service to one of its clients a major U.S. and Canadian retailer.

In support of the facility opening, TeleTech is actively recruiting and plans to fill over 100 full-time positions by May 1.

The jobs are career-track positions as call center agents, or "customer care representatives," who provide over-the-phone help to customers calling for service to the retail industry. New hires will be given paid training to become professional call center agents.

"TeleTech is once again being engaged to deliver skilled, talented career-track customer care agents for one of the world's largest brand names," said Tim Hinds, TeleTech's Senior Manager of Human Capital leading the recruiting efforts.

"These full-time positions provide those in Renfrew and the surrounding area with long-term career opportunities, year-round employment and advancement opportunities. We are pleased to become a part of this community and to tap into the talent in this market to deliver the care, consistent customer care that's so necessary to companies in today's competitive marketplace."

According to Mayor Sandi Heins, "Renfrew welcomes the addition of employers such as TeleTech who are committed to becoming an integral part of the local economy. The introduction of TeleTech to our local economy speaks to the strength of our employment base and is an important indicator of this area's ability to prosper."

The new 20,000-square-foot facility will be located inside the Renfrew Mall at 740 Stewart Street. Candidates interested in applying for a position are invited to visit the company's online application center,

Hirepoint at www.hirepoint.com. Applicants will be guided through the online process and directed to additional details.

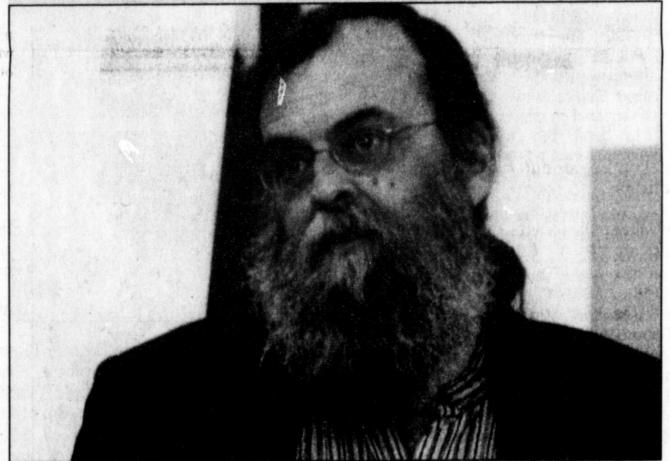
"Since TeleTech began operations over 20 years ago, we have dedicated ourselves to partnering with the communities where our call centers are located. Our growth and stability are a testament to the company's ability to integrate well with communities and attract and retain quality staff members for our facilities," said Hinds. "We look forward to partnering with this community and to creating many opportunities for people to advance their careers in a pleasant, professional environment."

About TeleTech
 TeleTech is a leading global business process outsourcing (BPO) company that provides a full range of front-to-back office outsourced solutions including customer management, transaction-based processing, and database marketing services. TeleTech's comprehensive solutions include

fully managed, OnDemand services including infrastructure, software, and business intelligence. TeleTech's ability to deliver innovative solutions globally over a centralized and standardized delivery platform ensures a high quality, consistent customer experience enabling clients to increase revenue, improve profitability, and develop stronger cus-

tom relationships around the world. TeleTech is a valued partner for clients that include Global 1000 businesses and governments. Nearly 60 per cent of TeleTech's revenue is generated internationally with services offered in 150 languages from nearly every continent on the globe. For additional information, visit www.TeleTech.com.

1837 Rebellion



Wibur McLean, THE EQUITY
Teacher Roger Blanchette was at the Fort Coulonge library on Wednesday, April 12, speaking on the impact of the Rebellion of 1837 on Quebec's economic, political, social and cultural evolution. The event was the first in a series of speakers scheduled to expound on various aspects of Quebec's history. The next speaker is to appear on May 27 at 1:30 p.m.

Award offered for local environmental 'heroes'

TORONTO • If you know someone who has made a significant contribution to the health of the environment in your hometown, Earth Day Canada wants to hear from you.

The Toronto-based environmental charity has announced its Hometown Heroes Award Program to celebrate the good environmental deeds of people across the country.

Last year's finalists were involved in projects relating

to the community gardens movement, sustainable transportation and fresh water conservation.

Some had fought to protect wilderness space and old growth forests, while others had concentrated their efforts on encouraging local industry to adopt more sustainable practices.

People of all ages and occupations are eligible candidates, as are school and community groups, municipalities, non-profit and First

Nations organization.

Applications
 Applications must be received by Earth Day Canada on or before the deadline of Friday, April 21, 2006.

The 2006 Hometown Hero will be brought to Toronto to receive their award at this year's Earth Day Gala on June 8.

More information is available by phone at 416-599-1991, ext. 114, or on-line at www.earthday.ca.

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SPORTS

Pontiac penalties play part in Dodge Cup exit

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • The Shawville Jr. 'B' Pontiacs made an early exit from the Dodge Cup following a 5-3 loss to Richelieu representative Collège Français Saturday evening.

Back-to-back shut-outs in the opening games of the tournament by goaltender Matthieu Labelle were wasted as the club reverted to its old ways in game three, the first elimination game.

Lack of discipline was the key factor in the penalty-ridden affair as the Pontiacs found themselves two men down on three different occasions during the match.

"Too many penalties," said Pontiacs winger Marc Maurice. "In the other games, we were a little stronger than the other teams and could play physical against them. I think we got a little frustrated this time."

Collège Français took the early lead two minutes into the game when Christian

Martel's shot from the point eluded Labelle.

The Pontiacs got back on even terms seven minutes later as Kevin Cuddihy poked one by the Collège goaltender after a goal-mouth scramble.

Late in the period, Shawville found themselves down two men for the first time in the game with Jansen Simpson and David Fenn both serving minor penalties.

On the ensuing power-play, Sébastien Lachance deposited a cross-crease pass into the back of a gaping net with three seconds left in the period. It would prove a harbinger of things to come.

"I think we beat ourselves tonight," said Pontiacs captain Jordan MacDougall after the match. "You can't win games with two men in the box."

The early minutes of the second period saw no improvement as the local squad went two men down again less than three minutes in.

Shortly after Simpson stepped back on the ice to reduce the disadvantage to one man, Pierre-Olivier Cotton put the Richelieu team up 3-1 by a shot from the slot.

Less than two minutes later, however, another scramble in front of the Collège net gave Shawville a power-play goal of their own. A well-positioned Fenn popped the puck in to bring the Pontiacs within one.

Shawville tied the score with four minutes remaining in the period when Maurice came off the side boards and found the back of the net with a quick shot on goal.

Shortly after the tying goal, Collège defenceman Michael Masse was assessed a double-minor for roughing and unsportsmanlike conduct, handing the Pontiacs a four-minute man advantage.

Shawville failed to make the most of the chance presented.

"That was the turning point," said Chris Young, Pontiacs president and general manager. "It was 3-3

and we didn't convert on the four-minute minor."

Playing even-strength, the Pontiacs had the run of play, out-shooting and out-chancing Collège Français. The constant parade to the penalty box, however, put them in a poor position.

By the mid-way point of the third, goals from Cotton and Pascal Daoust put the visitors up 5-3.

The Pontiacs continued to put rubber on the Collège net but couldn't answer Richelieu's lead.

"It's been a while since we've been in penalty trouble like that," said Shawville head coach Pierre Lagacé. "They're pretty chippy out there — in our league, we don't play like that."

Lagacé went with Labelle in goal despite winning the Valley Division with this season's number one goalie Adam Loback. He promised Labelle the first two starts of the tournament and two shut-outs in a row were enough to convince him to stick with the hot hand.

"Matthieu's a good goal-



Shawville Junior 'B' Pontiacs alternate captain Bryan Kealey hammers the puck into the Trois Pistoles' end during game two of the Dodge Cup Friday evening. The Pontiacs shut-out the Rebels 5-0 before being eliminated by Collège Français Saturday night, suffering a 5-3 loss.

tender," said Lagacé. "He's certainly going to be the number one goalie next year."

Loback agreed with the coach's decision to go with Labelle.

"I don't think I should get the start — with two shut-outs, you have to go with Matthieu," he said before the game.

"I've already done what I wanted to do this year (winning the Valley Division Final)."

Labelle put in dazzling performances against Marquis de Jonquiere in game one and Les Rebels de Trois-Pistoles in game two, shutting out both teams.

"We're an Ontario team," said Young. "This is the

first two games," said Labelle. "I was pretty comfortable out there."

What made the performance even more remarkable was the fact he had not started a competitive game since game one of the Valley Division Final versus Perth.

"Not too bad, coming in cold like that," said Loback. Labelle will return to the team next season and is projected to be the club's starting goaltender.

Though disappointed they didn't make the Dodge Cup final, the Shawville club didn't put as much emphasis on the tournament as some of the Quebec teams.

"We're an Ontario team," said Young. "This is the

Quebec teams' Stanley Cup. Our Stanley Cup was winning the Valley Division."

Young also noted the difference between Junior 'B' hockey in the Eastern Ontario league and Junior 'AA', its equivalent in Quebec.

"In Quebec, Junior 'AA' is considered minor hockey — the Dodge Cup is a minor hockey tournament."

"We lost two guys — Bryan Kealey and Curtis Young — who took five-minute major (penalties) that wouldn't have meant anything in Junior 'B'. In Quebec, it's minor hockey so they were both automatically suspended (for incurring major penalties)."

Saturday's game marked the final time 21-year-olds like MacDougall and Loback will pull on the black and gold of the Shawville Pontiacs. Though they were major contributors to the Pontiacs' success, Young believes the team has enough maturing talent to fill the void.

MacDougall, team captain and league MVP, is thankful for the time he had with the Pontiacs and wishes the team all the best in the future.

"No regrets," he said. "Looking back, I played with a lot of great guys and I wish them every success."

"There's no doubt this was my best year in hockey."

Draveurs capture gold

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
FORT COULONGE • The Novice 'B' Draveurs of Fort Coulonge capped off their exceptional year with a gold medal victory in the Québec Inter-regional competition from April 7 to 9.

The team travelled to Laval for the tournament after defeating the Masson-Anger Sharks to take home the regional championships.

In Laval, the Draveurs recovered from a 5-0 loss to the Estrie team in their first game to rattle off three straight wins and an appearance in the championship.

There, the young squad topped the Blainville Bastions of Montreal 5-2, winning the gold medal.

In all, the trophy was the end to a remarkable season that found the Draveurs win 15 of their 16 regular season games, then winning their league's playoff 3-2 over the Sharks.



Fort Coulonge's Novice 'B' Draveurs hockey team returned from the inter-regional competition in Laval as champions. Front, seated: Jacob Dyelle. Front row, from the left: Brayden Romain, Yanik Fortin, Xavier Plouffe, Simon Héralt, Malcolm Bastien, Louis Fortin, Maxime Graveline. Back row, from the left: Coach Timmy Romain, Bailey Bérubé, Nicholas Graveline, Camille Dagenals, Yanick Morrissette, Bradley Pearson, Coach Bobby Héralt, Robert Jr. Ladouceur and Magalie Boisvert.

Forestiers reach finals

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • Five wins and a silver medal proved a successful weekend for the Bantam 'BB' Maniwaki Forestiers at the Dodge Cup provincial championships.

About half of the team is made up of Shawville minor hockey players, and the final tournament in St. André Avellan was a fitting end to the season for a team that won their league title and had tournament triumphs along the way as well.

Even the disappointment of dropping the gold medal match to the Sherbrooke West Minors 6-2 did not dampen the team's view of its success.

"We're very happy. When you're in the provincial championships, to make it to the finals is great," said Assistant Coach Trevor Fraser.

Heading into the tournament, the team was ranked fourth provincially amongst 78 teams, and the Forestiers' hopes were high.

"Our expectation was to do as well as we could in the tournament. We tried to play for Sunday (the semi-finals), but to win it all was the main goal."

The Forestiers downed the competition in a series of close contests through the first four days of the tournament.

They opened the event

with a 3-1 win over the Bourassa Blitz.

On day two, the team defeated their league-mates Papineau Voisins, 4-2.

In Friday's match, the Forestiers topped the Deux Montagnes Panthers 5-3 and the next day's quarter-finals were equally as successful as they defeated the Haut Richelieu Blizzard 4-2.

The semi-finals were tight again, but the Forestiers launched themselves into the gold medal match with another 4-2 win, this time over the C.L.L. Ambassadors.

There, the Sherbrooke West team who had given up only three goals in their first five games, proved too

much.

Fraser showed pride for his team, especially considering they were up against teams from far larger areas in the Dodge Cup.

"You have some big regions you're up against. Our team was put together with about 80 kids to pick from."

"Other teams were picked from 150 to 200 kids," he said.

Shawville and District Minor Hockey Association players on the Maniwaki team are Dave Hobbs, Dylan Wisotzki, Spencer Pirie, Kurt Fraser, Travis Stewart, Tyler Alexander, Matthew Alexander, Michael Baker and Nicholas Francoeur.

and would like to see his club face stiffer competition in the future. The Panthers often out-classed their opponents this year, and though Asselin believes they learned good sportsmanship from the experiences, he thinks the team would benefit from regularly playing at a higher level.

"I'd like to expand the schedule next year and enter some tournaments in Montreal," he said. "I'd like to see how we stand against stiffer competition."

"I'm really looking forward to next year."

SQ wants new hunting rules

Police deal with complaints of hunters on private land

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
CAMPBELL'S BAY • The Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec is currently working to provide public security during the hunting season without deterring hunters from the area.

The Campbell's Bay detachment, headed by Lieut. Jacques Piché, is working on setting up a project to conform Pontiac hunters while still keeping the economic benefits of the hunting season.

"Historically during the two weeks of hunting season in the fall, we get complaints of hunters driving on roads and hunting from roads, either in their vehicles or standing on the roads," said Lieut. Piché of some of the illegal acts that occur during the season.

As well, police commonly fine hunters for hunting on private land without permission.

Although hunting on private property is allowed with the property owner's permission, police were still receiving "lots and lots of complaints," Lieut. Piché said of previous years.

In an attempt to reduce the number of complaints, last year the SQ had four extra officers working specifically on hunting violations.

"The results were extremely good, we only had two complaints last year," said Lieut. Piché of the 2005 hunting season that ran Oct. 29 to Nov. 13.

"When the officers were on, we saw results," said Lieut. Piché. "We came to the conclusion that some residents from the Pontiac were hunting on the roads, but there were also lots of non-residents."

He said officers found hunters from as far as Val d'Or, Gatineau, Montreal and Saint Hyacinthe.

"My observation is if we keep this up, we are taking care of the problem, but we send them somewhere else to hunt, which is not good for tourism," said Lieut. Piché.

"I proposed to the public security committee that instead of pushing them away, we make land available for them."

He said by identifying landowners that are willing to lend or rent their land to hunters, police could better control hunting.

A project co-ordinator would organize the approved

properties and post signs indicating whether hunting is permitted there or not.

A green sign would allow hunting on the property and will list the lot number, the name of the owners and the names of those permitted to hunt there.

The signs would be posted along the road and would be easy to identify by police.

Hunters would also receive passes from the co-ordinator listing where they can hunt.

Police would easily be able to check for passes and names on each sign to find out if illegal hunting is taking place.

Landowners who are not interested in allowing hunting on property would post red signs.

"We are doing that project so that instead of kicking them out of the Pontiac, it will bring them in," said Lieut. Piché. "It will be good for the economy."

If the project is given the

conjunction with CEGEP.

A marketing class studied the project and its viability last week. The study will be presented to the MRC in the future.

The study was divided into three sections: east, west and centre Pontiac.

"If the demand is greater in the centre of Pontiac, we will work from there," said Lieut. Piché.

Another six students from a communications class will be creating a communications plan and will be making calls from the Campbell's Bay detachment to close to 500 Pontiac landowners, finding out if there is an interest in the project.

This is also the first time the Pontiac SQ has worked on a project together with CEGEP.

Once the results of the survey and the study is presented to the MRC, the council of mayors can decide whether or not to move forward with the project.

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Ontario Power Generation's Ottawa/St. Lawrence Plant Group would like to invite you to attend our annual community meetings to discuss how our operations affect water levels and flows during the year on the Ottawa River.

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The meetings will be held at the locations and times listed below. Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions. OPG representatives will be available to answer questions and discuss individual interests and concerns. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Deep River Arena
2 Clubhouse Drive
Deep River
7:00 – 9:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
Lower Ottawa River meeting
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7:00 – 9:30 pm

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1 million investi dans l'entretien des bâtiments des deux commissions scolaires de la circonscription de Pontiac

CAMPBELL'S BAY • La députée de Pontiac, Mme Charlotte L'Écuyer, a annoncé que les établissements de deux commissions scolaires bénéficieront bientôt d'une aide gouvernementale de 1 379 020 \$, afin de les appuyer dans leurs efforts pour maintenir leurs immeubles en bon état.

Mme L'Écuyer faisait cette annonce au nom de son collègue, le ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, M. Jean-Marc Fournier.

Voici comment se répartit l'aide gouvernementale pour l'année scolaire 2005-2006 dans la région :

Organismes Montant
Commission scolaire Western Québec École Dr S.E. McDowell, École St. Mark's - Secteur Aymer 505 195 \$ 85 950 \$

Commission scolaire des Portages-de-l'Outaouais École Secondaire de Grande-Rivière 787 875 \$

Les établissements du réseau d'enseignement, requièrent aujourd'hui de nombreux investissements et le gouvernement met tout en œuvre afin de préserver cet important patrimoine immobilier dans toutes les régions du Québec.

extérieurs ou encore à la mécanique des bâtiments concernés.

Cet appui financier est consenti dans le cadre de la nouvelle mesure budgétaire Maintien des bâtiments, en vertu de laquelle le ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport réinvestira 525 millions de dollars supplémentaires, d'ici trois ans, dans l'entretien des bâtiments des trois ordres d'enseignement.

D'autre part, le gouvernement vient de réserver 301 millions de dollars, dans le cadre du Plan triennal des immobilisations 2006-2009 du ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, pour la réalisation de nouveaux projets d'agrandissement ou de construction dans les réseaux des commissions scolaires, des collèges et des universités. Les projets qui seront retenus donneront lieu à des annonces au cours des prochains mois.

« Je suis heureuse d'annoncer aujourd'hui ce financement pour assurer le maintien de nos bâtiments. Ce qui est formidable, c'est que bien que nous avons contrôlé rigoureusement les dépenses de l'État, nous avons en même temps été capables de respecter nos promesses électorales, c'est-à-dire d'investir en santé pour redresser le système de santé, d'investir en éducation, de diminuer le fardeau fiscal des Québécois et finalement, de moderniser l'État et nos infrastructures. Les citoyens de notre région sont maintenant à même d'en constater les effets bénéfiques », a déclaré la députée.

Le choix



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Vendredi saint, la paroisse catholique, St-Charles Borromée d'Otter Lake a tenu sa première représentation musicale.

Un nouveau site internet pour CSHBO

MANIWAKI • Lors de sa rencontre régulière du 29 mars dernier, le conseil des commissaires de la Commission scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais a octroyé un contrat visant à peaufiner et raffiner le site internet de la CSHBO.

Le site actuel, une créa-

tion maison, avait été réalisé il y a deux ans. Pour le rendre plus attrayant et plus fonctionnel, la commission scolaire a fait appel à des firmes externes et un appel d'offres a été lancé il y a quelques semaines, auprès de cinq fournisseurs. La transformation de la firme

123xplore, Solutions web et multimédia, de Cantley, a été retenue.

La réalisation du nouveau site reformulé aura lieu au cours des prochains mois, avec la collaboration du service des ressources pédagogiques et technologiques. La transformation du site

Internet se fera dans la foulée de l'achèvement prochain du réseau de télécommunication à large bande et des perspectives d'application pédagogique qui s'ouvrent en conséquence. D'ailleurs, l'implantation du portail Édu-

tions pédagogiques, se fera en parallèle.

Toujours lors de la même séance, les commissaires ont accepté de prolonger d'un an la planification stratégique de la commission scolaire. Adoptée en juin 2003, cette planification devait s'étaler sur une période de trois ans, jusqu'en 2006. Le plan stratégique sera donc prolongé jusqu'en 2007, étant donné la conjoncture de l'automne dernier.

Par ailleurs, les commissaires ont pris connaissance d'une tournée des établissements qui aura lieu à la fin avril. L'équipe de direction de la commission scolaire rencontrera alors le personnel de chacun des établissements pour faire le point sur les priorités de la CSHBO et certaines activités spéciales qui auront lieu cet automne.

Aussi, le service des ressources pédagogiques et technologiques a dévoilé des données concernant les fluctuations de clientèle scolaire de 2001-2002 à 2010-2011. Il en ressort que les effectifs, de l'ordre de 3 612 élèves en 2001-2002 et de 3 449 élèves en 2005-2006, pourraient baisser à 3 049 élèves en 2010-2011. Cette diminution (-20,4 % sur

neuf ans) serait plus forte que ce qui se produirait dans l'ensemble des commissions scolaires francophones du Québec (-14,3 %).

Une analyse plus fine montre que la clientèle du primaire, de la présente année à 2010-2011, baisserait de 1 918 élèves à 1 621 élèves, alors que celle du secondaire diminuerait de 1 531 à 1 222 élèves. École secondaire par école secondaire, les prévisions montrent que, durant la même période, les effectifs de la Cité étudiante de la Haute-Gatineau passeraient de 795 à 570 élèves et ceux de Saceré-Cœur de Gracefield grimperaient de 250 à 298 élèves.

Il faut cependant mettre en bémol sur les estimations. En effet, les estimations ministérielles, dans le passé, ont parfois anticipé des baisses plus importantes que ce qui a été réellement observé.

Enfin, les commissaires ont décidé de renouveler le contrat de la concessionnaire de la cafétéria de la Cité étudiante, Mme Ginette Courchaine.

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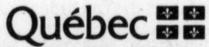
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PME INTER

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Notaires & conseillers juridiques
Notaries & legal counsels

Me Mireille Alary Me Guy Lesage
malary@gipi.qc.ca glesage@gipi.qc.ca
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Municipalité d'OTTER LAKE

IMPORTANT AVIS PUBLIC CHANGEMENTS PROPOSÉS À NOTRE DÉPÔTOIR

VOTRE PRÉSENCE EST IMPORTANTE

Il aura une consultation publique jeudi le 20 avril 2006 à la salle récréatif située au 394, rue Tessier, Otter Lake, QC, à 19h00 concernant les nouvelles réglementations que nous devons mettre en place à notre site de dépôt en tranchées.

C'est une excellente occasion de dire ce que vous pensez et de poser des questions. Nous considérons cette rencontre très importante.

La secrétaire-trésorière et Directrice générale
Anita Lafleur

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSED CHANGES TO OUR DUMP SITE

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT

There will be a public consultation meeting on Thursday, April 20th, 2006 at the R.A. situated at 394 Tossier Street, Otter Lake, QC at 7:00 p.m. in regards to the implementation of new measures concerning our current landfill site. This is an excellent opportunity to voice your opinion and to ask questions. We consider this meeting very important.

Anita Lafleur
Secretary-Treasurer and Director General

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			

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

Thur., April 20 - Pontiac Masonic Lodge Pancake Supper 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., 244 Main St., Shawville. Adults \$8, children \$4. Everyone welcome. xa19

April 21, 22 - Shawville Flea Market 193 Centre St. Family clothes \$1, videos \$1 - \$3, books, toys, golf, antiques, collectibles, etc. xa19

Sat., April 22 - 8 p.m. Centre Eardley United Church Dance with Mike Fahey and Band, Luskville Community Centre Hwy 148. Bar, light lunch all welcome. ba19

Sat., April 22 - Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Shawville Lions Hall, Joey Vaillancourt's CD Release Party. \$5 at the door. ba19

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

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

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

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

August 4, 5, 6 - Civic holiday weekend. Riverside Jam, Carleton Place, Ontario. Featuring Ricky Skaggs, Lisa Brokop, Amanda Wilkinson, Aaron Pritchett, Aaron Lines, George Fox, Ambush, Ronnie Prophet and many others. Early bird pricing www.riversidejam.com or call 613-226-9178. 3ba26

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

YARD SALE

Sat., April 22 - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Garage sale, 413 Main St., Shawville, QC. xa19

YARD SALE

Sat., April 22 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Garage Sale, 122 Lunam St., Campbell's Bay. Everything must go. xa19

MISCELLANEOUS

1999 Pontoon boat 22 feet, full canopy enclosure (new 2005); 1999 Mercury 90 HP 25 - new battery, full aluminum floor, no plywood, depth and fish finder, cassette and radio unit, barbecue, sleeps 6. With tandem trailer. Asking \$17,400, 819-648-5964. xa19

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Pool table. Solid maple, 1' slate, with accessories. Never used. Cost \$4,800. Sell \$2,300. The Furniture Guy 514-745-6536. qa19

Paddle boat with canopy, like new, \$600 firm 647-6563. ba19

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LOST

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

LIVESTOCK

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

FARM PRODUCE

Pure maple syrup, Don McCredie, 11 Wharf Road, Bristol 647-5211. 3ba19

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White 65 HP 4 x 4 tractor loader \$16,500, Case 75 HP 2000 hours \$7,300, John Deere 4 x 4 backhoe 1999 \$33,900, 1994 Bonneville \$2,100; 1996 Buick Limited \$3,300, dump truck \$3,500 613-432-2424. ba19

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International 56, 6 row, 30" plate planter, in good condition, stored inside; 75-100 round bales hay, 613-587-4486. ba19

CARS AND TRUCKS

Ford F150, pick up 2000 4 x 4, air, automatic, new tires. Very good condition. Reduced price. Wally Barber 647-5718. ba19

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FOR RENT

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

Bryson - 2 bedroom, apartment 648-2222. otc

Calumet Island - Small house in town for rent. Available May 1st. \$350 a month. Info call 648-2168. 2ba26

Campbell's Bay - 2 bedroom apartment 648-2362. otc

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

Chip stand for rent. Main St., Shawville 647-2420. ba19

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

Quyon - Apartment for rent, 2 bedroom heat and hydro not included 458-2169. ba19

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

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

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

FOR RENT

Thorne - 3 bedroom cottage on private lake. Boat supplied/no motors. Very quiet. 647-5251. 2ba19

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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

Green Lake Estate - two bedroom waterfront, furnished cottage on Green Lake, year round access. Close to Shawville, with 50 acres pine-tree plantation for immediate sale. Asking price \$175,000. For further information call. 236-6665 (6-9 p.m.). 2ba26

Farm for sale. Custom built bungalow 2001, Shawville, Quebec. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, finished basement, double garage, 100 acres of tile-drained land, good barn. 819-647-6528. qa19

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Pen riders wanted for large, well maintained feedlot. Cattle experience/handling and own horse required. Feedlot experience an asset. Benefits include horse feed, monthly horse pay, disability insurance and health coverage. Competitive pay with good working conditions. Contact Cor Van Raay Farms 403-738-4528 or fax resume to 403-738-4435. qa19

Cattle processor required. Cor Van Raay Farms requires an individual to process, treat and bed cattle 5-6 days per week. Cattle experience required. Excellent wage and benefit package. Please fax resume to 403-738-4435. Attention: Ken Van Raay or call 403-738-4528. qa19

Animal Health Tech required. Cor Van Raay Farms requires an animal health tech. to assist with denitition and paperwork of cattle for export. Excellent wage and benefit package. Please fax resume to 403-738-4435. Attention: Ken Van Raay or call 403-738-4528. qa19

Feed truck drivers wanted for large feedlot with well maintained equipment. Duties will include feeding cattle and feedmill and feed equipment maintenance. Benefits include disability insurance and health coverage. Competitive wages with long term employment. Contact Cor Van Raay Farms 403-738-4528 or fax resume to 403-738-4435. qa19

Cook wanted, Equinox Adventures Rafting. Experience preferred. Mid-May to Labour Day weekend. Call 1-800-785-8855 or 416-222-2223. ba19

Full-time or part-time staff needed for chipstand from now until November. Mature and experienced preferred. Call evenings 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. 647-5684 or see Dennis at Chipstand on Hwy. 148 at Cauton Lights, Shawville. 2ba19

Experienced versatile bass player needed for local shows and jamming. Variety of styles including jazz, standards and originals 647-3997. ba19

DEATH

Draper - Violet (née Proulx) - On Sunday, April 16, 2006 in hospital, Shawville, Quebec in her 82nd year. Wife of the late John Wesley Draper. Dear sister of Peter Proulx, Mary Green, and Lillian Bellevue. Predeceased by brother Richard and sister Margaret. Friends may call at W. J. Hayes & Sons Funeral Home, 1040 Clarendon Street, Quyon, Quebec on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 from 10 a.m. until noon at which time a service will be held in the Chapel. Interment Mohr's Cemetery, Beechgrove, Quebec.

DEATH



Young, Orla Armstrong - Former Mayor of Shawville, Pontiac County Warden. Peacefully on Thursday, April 6, 2006 in his 89th year. Beloved husband of the late Janet Stewart. Cherished father of Betty (late David Jones), Douglas (Ramona Hobbs) and Susan (Wayne Tubman). Predeceased by son Collins (Buddy). Fondly remembered grandfather of Chris Jones (Sarah), Curtis (Donna) Young, Shawn (Shelley), Bradley (Claudine) and Scott Tubman and great-grandfather of Cassandra, Stephen, Quentin, Garrett, Travis, Nicholas, Sheena, Sebastian and Shon. Also missed by many nieces and nephews. Loved brother of Margaret (late Donald) McPhail, Peterborough, Marshall (Faye) Amprior, and sister-in-law Myrtle Young. Predeceased by brothers Melvin, Linden, Lawrence, Allan and Earl. Orla served on Shawville Council for many years in which 16 of them were as mayor and he was also Pontiac County warden. He also served on the committee for the building of the Reception Centre. Orla and Janet worked for Canada Post and Rural Route Drivers for 54 years. To the best of Canada Post's knowledge they were the longest known drivers in Canada. Orla was also a Jersey cow breeder and had many show cattle which were shown in Quebec City, Toronto, Ottawa and many country fairs. He ran a canning factory, chicken hatchery and an egg grading station. He was one of the original owners of Pontiac Milk Transport and worked for Shawville Creamery and Young's Car Wash. Orla was a very dedicated man to this community, family and friends. Special thanks to all the wonderful staff at St. Joseph Manor, Campbell's Bay and the Long Term Care in Shawville and for all the visits by Rev. Paula Mullin and Rev. O. White. Thanks to all family and friends for floral tributes, donations, food, cards, phone calls and to Shirley and Roland Fairfield for their eulogy and Donna Young for the scripture reading. Funeral service was held at Shawville United Church on April 10, 2006. Interment Maple Grove Cemetery, Shawville, Quebec.

Murrell, Rose (née Lloyd) - Passed away peacefully surrounded by family on April 12, 2006. In keeping with Rose's wishes, a graveside service was held on April 14th at St. Thomas' Anglican Cemetery, Norway Bay, Quebec.

Villeneuve, Kevin - Suddenly at home Sunday, April 16, 2006, in his 38th year. Predeceased by his mother Hazel Emmerson. Survived by his father Gerald Villeneuve, sister, Karen (Greg) and brother Corey (Linda), will be missed by his nieces and nephews. Private family service. Donations to the charity of your choice.

THANKS

Boyd - The family of John (Jack) Boyd wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to family, friends and neighbors who offered their support and help following our sad loss. Thanks to those who sent food, cards and made donations to the Pontiac Hospital fund. Special thanks to Rev. White for his inspiring funeral service. To the pallbearers, to Mrs. Cameron for the music, to Hugh and Norma Homer for the beautiful hymns they sang. To Dr. Pinelo and the staff of Pontiac Community Hospital for their kind compassionate care, the Rebekahs for the delicious luncheon they served after the funeral, to W. J. Hayes and Sons, to Milly and Allen Paul, Vernon Beattie and Hennie Lucas. Your kindness will never be forgotten. Milly Boyd, Les, Jim, Bev and families

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Details of what items could be recycled was distributed and all of the typical recycling items were on the list, including newspapers, glass bottles, aluminum and plastics. Materials on the non-recyclable list included soiled or wet papers, diapers, mirrors and light bulbs.

"We have a lot of work to do (to meet the provincial requirements)," said Campbell's Bay Mayor Jean-Louis Auger.

Recycling bins were distributed to residents at a cost of \$9 each. After the meeting, that price rose to \$12.

The municipality purchased the recycling bins at approximately \$9 apiece, according to secretary/treasurer, Colleen Larivière.

"At \$9, we're not making any money from this," she said.

Recycling will be collected every second Tuesday. C-Fer Outaouais handles recycling for a number of Pontiac municipalities including Shawville, Clarendon and Bristol.

"It's going pretty good," said Shawville mayor Albert Armstrong of the contract with C-Fer Outaouais, which began in January. Armstrong noted that C-Fer has been willing to take cardboard items in the interim even though the

THANKS

Lunam - I would like to thank my son and daughter-in-law John and Margaret, grandchildren, James and Meghan, my sister Dorothy, St. Andrew's UCW for their help and all my friends and relatives who came to celebrate my 90th birthday. The lovely cards and gifts, making it a treasured memory. Etta

I would like to thank the Bryson Community, and surrounding area, Lions, Lionettes and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 162, as well as Aline Dufault and all of our family for the love and support which has helped us immensely through these difficult times. I thank you as well for all the generous donations. All extremely appreciated and to all who are praying for our Little Isaac. Our biggest thanks, God is listening and Isaac is proof of that. He is doing very well considering that he's been through more than I could bear myself. I am urging you to keep praying for him so that the upcoming obstacles in our lives can be gone through safely and with success. On behalf of Cynthia, Martin and Isaac again thank you.

The Radford Hospital Auxiliary Ladies wish to extend a sincere thank you to members of the audience and all the participants at their Night of Music for making the evening an enjoyable and successful event.

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NOTICE

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MEMORIAM

Cobb - In loving memory of our parents Amelia who passed away April 13, 1993 and Russell on April 20, 1985. April comes with deep regrets. It brings back days we will never forget. Deep in our hearts your memory is kept. To love, to cherish and never forget.

Always remembered by Elizabeth and Ivan Dagg and family, Alex and Brenda Cobb

Murrell, Melvin - In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away April 20, 1998.

A million times we'll miss you, A million times we'll cry. If love could have saved you, You never would have died.

In life we loved you dearly, In death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a special place, No one could ever fill.

It broke our hearts to lose you, But you did not go alone, For part of us went with you, The day God took you home. We miss you tremendously. Murrell family

Trudeau - In loving memory of a dear husband, dad, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away April 21, 2005.

We often sit and think of him When we are alone, For memory is the only friend That grief can call its own. Like ivy on the withered oak, When other things decay Our love for him will still be green

And never fade away. God took him home, it was His will, But in our hearts we love him still. His memory is as dear today, As in the hour he passed away.

We often sit and think of him When we are all alone, For memory is the only friend That grief can call its own. Always remembered, your family

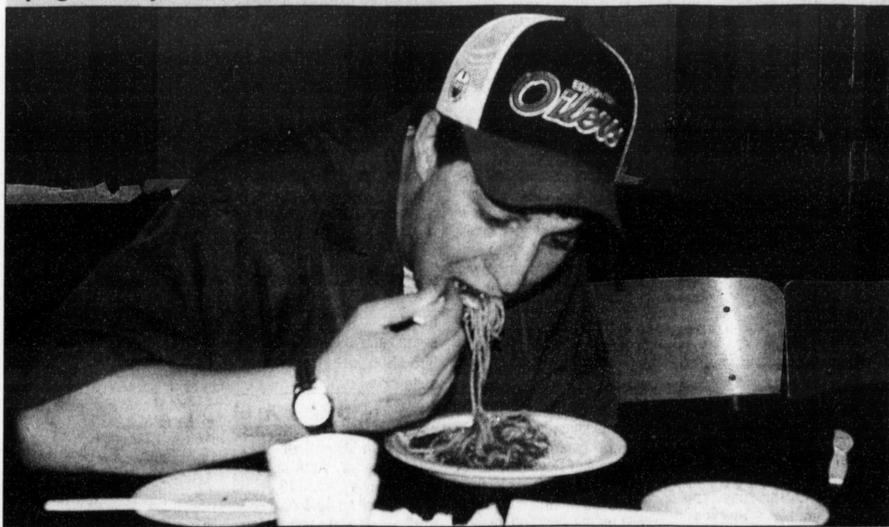
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MEMORIAM



Spaghetti Spectacular



Pontiac High School held their annual spaghetti dinner and auction April 5 in the PHS cafeteria. Funds raised went to the student government. Above: PHS student Barry Tubman enjoys his spaghetti dinner while helping out his student government. Below: From the left, vice-principal Don Stevens looks on while principal Mike Dubeau bids on a collection of golf paraphernalia in support of their students.



Vinton

Diane Boisvert
648-5296
Don't forget to attend the surprise 50th birthday party for Michael McCrank this Saturday, April 22 at the R.A. in Campbell's Bay. Everyone is welcome, best wishes only.

Last week Kiki, Barry Belanger's pink-collared cat, brought in a real special catch. He looked out the window and there was Kiki skidding a big, fat rabbit up the laneway backwards, because it was too heavy to carry. Barry went outside and she proudly gave her master the rabbit. Rat told me that he can now retire because Kiki is providing food for his family. He said that he can finally enjoy the hockey playoffs because Kiki also supplied him with a new set of "rabbit ears." Rat wanted me to remind you all that Kiki is not for sale.

Last Wednesday there was a fire in Vinton on Sloan Road. The fire department was called and were able to put out the grass fire before it reached the house. Reminder to all that everything is very dry at this time of year so butt out your cigarettes carefully.

Happy belated birthday wishes to Danny Miller, Mary King and Kerry Ann Legault who celebrated April 14.

My brother-in-law, Fred Gratton, passed away on April 15 in Sudbury Hospital. He was the son of the late Dan Gratton and Emily McCoshen. He was married to Betty Zimmerling and had

two sons, Danny and Steve. Fred was well known for his love of music and horses. He will be lovingly remembered by all who knew him.

We were all shocked to hear that Imelda Hearty, wife of the late Billy, passed away April 16. Imelda was the mother of Joyce, June, Rita, Joanne, Ella, Viola and Dennis. She is also survived by her brother Hector Pepin and sisters Mary Hildbrandt and Lena Nantel.

Visiting with Shirley, Hector, Jerry and Jessica Pectin were Barry Rose, Randy and Patrick, Brent and Wendy. They all celebrated Easter and Patrick's birthday on the 28th.

Happy birthday wishes to Mike McCrank, April 20, Susan Belanger and Danny Lepack on April 22, Stephanie Jolin April 23, Diane Pepin April 24. Also happy belated birthday to Sally Keindel April 17 and Angie Mayhew on April 18.

The annual Belanger fish fry was, as usual, a great success. It is certainly getting bigger every year. There must have been over 150 people attending the supper this year. Of course, Mike Dubeau and sons kept everyone entertained with music. Then we had Ron and James Resmer from Rankin doing a few tunes. The whole Belanger family played and sang "Knock, Knock, Knocking on Heaven's Door" with Eric as lead singer. And, of course Casey and Allyson Belanger sang their favorite tunes and had the audience captivated. We were also treated to a special dance from Turk.

Hope you all had a great Easter weekend.

Pontiac Station

Hope Cadieux
647-5452
Geoffrey Anderson of Pontiac Station set a record for the earliest swim of the season by going into the water on Saturday, April 15. The ice was scarcely out of the river. Congratulations, Geoff, you're a member of the Polar Bear Club in the making!

On Friday I went to meet the newest addition to the Collins-Gonzalez family. At two weeks Riley Brighton Xavier, son of Jenna and Jeff, is a handsome child, like his brother, but keeps a much lower profile. He was asleep when I arrived, woke up briefly to yell for dinner, then went back to sleep in the stroller. Zander was occupied watching his dad put up a basketball net and fetching the basketball when we rolled it to him. At 15 months he now runs around confidently and is scarcely aware of his little brother. It is the cat, Tigger, whose nose is out of joint. While I sat on the couch holding Riley on my shoulder, Tigger—who has never so much as acknowledged my existence—came and jumped on my lap.

I had a surprise visit from my cousin, Malcolm Collins on Easter Sunday. It was especially nice to see Mackie at this time of year since he was born on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1960. I can remember how excited we all were to get the news—the Easter Bunny had to take a back

seat that year. There have been a couple of interesting bird sightings in the neighborhood this week. Angie Ledoux spotted a snowy owl on the Huckabone line last Thursday and got a fairly good look at it as it moved from one tree to another. It's not often we see them around here. Once when I was a grade 9 student at Gloucester Park Convent, a snowy owl perched himself in a tree just outside our second-story classroom window. The bird stayed there all day, so we had ample time for a good look. That was in the heart of the city. In 25 years of living in the country, I have yet to catch more than a fleeting glimpse of a snowy owl.

John Laird of Bristol called earlier in the week to report a bird with black and white markings, a yellow body and a sturdy green beak. It was the green beak that had him stumped. There were no birds with green beaks answering to that description in the Peterson Guide. Finally, a call to Elizabeth Le Geyt who writes the birding column for *The Citizen* established that the bird was a male evening grosbeak. Apparently, the male often develops a green beak during mating season. Later on, it will turn back to its normal colour. Isn't nature amazing? Some get tattooed, some get pierced and some develop a green beak.

Happy birthday to Jacques Ledoux who celebrates on April 20.

Bryson

Heather Stewart
648-5413
Diane and Gerald would like to wish their sister-in-law, Stephanie Mayhew of Shawville a very happy birthday. Stephanie celebrates on April 19.

Also celebrating on April 19 is Fire Chief Marcel Newberry of Bryson.

The Catholic Woman's League members of the parishes of central Pontiac will be patronists our Lady of Good Council on April 26. A mass will be celebrated in St. Ann's Church on Calumet Island on April 26 at 5 p.m. by Father Basil Tanguay followed by a pot luck dinner at the municipal hall. Bring a main dish. We invite all CWL members to join in the wonderful event and to bring with them a friend, a neighbor or a relative.

Happy birthday to Steve Lalleur who celebrates on April 20.

Results for the Golden Age euchre held on Monday, April 10 are as follows: Door: Collette McTiernan, 50/50; Julie Maheral, Men's first: Fern Lepine, Men's second: Gordon Porter and Mervin Smith, Ladies first: Annette Lepine and Collette McTiernan, Ladies second: Jeannette Romain, Anna Porter, Anna Stewart, Phyllis Smith, Alphonse Torangeau and Anita Stafford.

Birthday wishes going out to Annette Lepine who is celebrating on April 21. Wishing you a great year ahead!

Cousin Ricky Stewart returned to Rouyn-Noranda last week after spending a week visiting us while visiting with his dad, uncle Melvin who is still in the hospital. The day Ricky left, his two sisters Julie and Nancy and Nancy's son Johnny arrived from

Matagami. They sure have been doing a wonderful job looking after their father. Uncle Melvin is doing much better and is coming around nicely. Lots of love to you Uncle Melvin!

Happy birthday to my cousin Mark Benoit of Renfrew who celebrates on April 24. Also celebrating on this day is Scott Dubeau of Gatineau.

Celebrating Easter at my parents place on Saturday night was Aunt Monique Stewart, Julie, Nancy and Johnny all of Matagami. Jamie and Sylvie, Jacob and Caley, Sherry, Chinker, Spencer and I. We had a lovely turkey dinner and a wonderful time visiting! The next day, on Easter Sunday we all went up to Jamie's for a brunch. We all had a wonderful time. It is nice to be able to spend holidays with family. The only thing missing was Shawn, Amber and Dakota. We sure missed you guys!

Happy anniversary to Louise Newberry and Jean Pierre Laundry of Campbell's Bay. Wishing you both many more happy years together!

Dropping in for a visit over the weekend was my good friend Natalie St-Pierre of Ottawa. It sure was great seeing you Ol Girl!

Is anybody else having a hard time with the loose dogs running around town or is it just me? It sure does get frustrating and very annoying when your yard and door step become a "bathroom" for the dogs! It's also very annoying to see your yard full of cats as well, using your yard as a kitty litter! How hard is it to keep your dog tied and your cats under control? I have one dog that I look after and that I keep tied at all times, if you can't look after your animals, I think it's best that you just don't have any! I think it's getting ridiculous and something has to be done about it!

Ladysmith

Debbie Thrun
647-3927
I have been noticing a lot of people out walking. It seems to take the nice weather to bring everyone out after the long, cold winter. I'm sure happy to see and feel that spring has finally sprung and I'm sure everyone else is happy for the nice change too.

Birthday congratulations to Grace early of Cawood on April 24.

Special anniversary congratulations to Sandy and Darwin Krose of Arnprior who celebrate April 26.

It looks like the sap run is over. It was a very short run this year. Dennis tells me years ago, when he and his dad tapped, they started about the first of March and finally took the cans off in May. But, I guess lot depends on the weather.

One thing we've noticed is there are quite a few partridge around lately. Last fall there were hardly any.

Birthday congratulations to Justin (Chummy) Stewart of Charteris who celebrates April 25.

A number of Ladysmith people attended the Passion Play presented by St. Charles Borromeo Church in Otter Lake on Good Friday eve. It was well presented and much enjoyed.

Get well wishes go out to Mabel Erfle who has been on the sick list. Our thoughts and prayers are with you from your friends.

Belated happy birthday wishes to Debbie from James.

The annual Zion Lutheran pancake supper was held Easter, Saturday April 15 with the usual great food complete with fresh maple syrup. There was a great attendance.

On Wednesday evening, Denver and Debbie Thrun visited with us. Debbie brought a beautifully decorated birthday cake for me. So, we had a little birthday party.

Well, Easter has come and gone once again. I hope everyone enjoyed this special day celebrating with family and friends. On Easter Sunday morning our white Easter bunny rabbit that comes every year came back for a visit. Quite unusual I'd say.

Good Friday was unusual because it was such a beautiful sunny day. Dennis says for as long as he can remember

it has always been dark, windy or raining.

New arrivals for the spring birds are phoebes and grackles, also we have a large hawk circling at our place.

Come join us for the Ranger Family Bluegrass Club at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ladysmith on Saturday, April 29. A light lunch will follow the concert.

Last Thursday, April 14 I celebrated my birthday. Dennis took me out for a shopping day and then for a lovely Chinese dinner. I certainly got quite a surprise later that day. My good friend, Evelyn Campbell's daughter, Vera-Lynn Brownlee, had a baby boy. This was quite a coincidence. What a lovely birthday gift for me for the baby to be born on the same day.

A Good Friday special service was held at St. John's with Rev. Ted Heinz presiding.

Visiting with us on Saturday were Jean Martineau, Lorna Perugorria, Joyce Dubé, Asia Dubé, Sally Lance and Claude Kingdon.

Birthday congratulations to Marilyn (Parent) Chevalier who celebrated April 16.

With all the snow and rain we received this year I was amazed that there wasn't any amount of flooding. But, I guess when the sun comes out it's so hot and strong that it dries everything up.

Calling us on the weekend was Harold Mahlitz of Kitchener to wish us a happy Easter.

Visiting us on Easter Sunday was Sheila Byrne and Grant Beauclair. It was their first trip up to their cottage at Johnson's Lake. We had a lovely little visit. They recently returned from vacationing in Florida.

Special congratulations to Vera-Lynn (Campbell) and Lee Brownlee on the arrival of their new baby boy, James Martin Brownlee, on April 13 weighing 9 1/2 lbs. and 22 inches long. He was born at Pontiac Community Hospital. A new little brother for Ryan.

We're happy to report the loons have returned to Grey's Lake on Saturday. We hope they have a large family this summer.

THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHAWVILLE TENDERS - GRASS CUTTING

The Village of Shawville invites tenders for cutting and trimming grass at the following parks in the Village for the 2006 season:

1. Mill Dam Park - Clarendon Street
2. Veterans' Park - Calumet Road
3. Centennial Park - Hwy. 148
4. West Pumping Station - West Street
5. Springs - Calumet Road
6. Water Tank - Marion Street and Allan Black Street

Sealed tenders, submitted on tender forms, on the basis of a seasonal rate per park will be received until 4:00 p.m. Monday, April 24, 2006 at the office of the Secretary-Treasurer at the Town Hall.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

AUCTION SALE SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006
at 10:30 a.m. (with **GERALD WATSON** from **Watview Farms**)
C363 5th Concession, R.R. #1, Shawville, Quebec

Between Portage and Shawville on Hwy. 303, turn onto 5th Concession, signs posted.

Ford 7700 tractor, cab, 2WD; Ford 4610 tractor with Frey loader, 4 WD; Ford 4000 tractor, Ford loader, 2 WD; N.H. 640 round baler; Gehl 2170 haybine; Case I.H. flail chopper; Hagedorn feed wagon; I.H. 5100 seed drill; Jamco 16' tag-a-long tandem cattle trailer; some show equipment; Case I.H. 8450 round baler; I.H. 275 disc; 2,500 gal. liquid manure tank; Houle manure adjectator and pump; haying and cropping equipment; miscellaneous farm items; riding lawn mower; oak roll-top desk and captain's chair; Lazy-boy reclining chesterfield and chair; some household items.

Household items to sell first. Farm is sold.
Mr. Watson is moving to town.

TERM: Cash or Cheque with ID Lunch Available
Auctioneer: Preston Cull, R.R. #1, Douglas, Ont. 613-649-2378
RM-RW-CW-45 80106

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Annual Meeting 2006
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Thursday, April 20, 2006
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ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

Waltham

Helen Perry
689-2652
I sure hope that everyone spent a wonderful Easter with his or her family and friends. Mike and baby Alex were up for the weekend, from Embrun. Unfortunately Jodi had to work all weekend. We had a turkey dinner here on Saturday night with all the trimmings.

Last week Warner, Winston, Doris Nadeau and her daughter Bonnie Nadeau of Sault Ste. Marie were visiting Glenda and Don Paquette. On Sunday, April 10 they all went down to the Manoir Sacre-Coeur in Fort Coulonge. They celebrated their sister Gail Spink's birthday. They also visited their mother Lillian Cole in the Bonnechere Manor in Renfrew.

Get well wishes are extended to Connie Andrews who underwent surgery this past week. We hope that you feel better soon Connie!

Get well wishes are also extended to Gail Perry who has been very sick with the flu. We hope that you are out and about soon Gail!

Weekend visitors at Lyne and Ray Bechamp's were Angie and Danny Bechamp, of Barhaven.

Weekend visitors at Elizabeth Ethier's and family were Janice and Sid Bedford, of Mallory Town. Marcel Ethier has gone down to Mallory Town to spend a couple of days with them.

Easter weekend visitors at Nicole and Jean Pilon's were Melanie, Michel and Evan and Ryan Pilon of Dunrobin. Samuelle Pilon of Ottawa was also visiting.

Audrey, Pierre and Morgan Vallieres of Aylmer visited Lysanne and Ted Bechamp and Lisa Bechamp and children Curtis, Joel and Tara and Mike Derouin also visited Lysanne and Ted Bechamp.

The other night I heard a familiar sound that I just love. The frogs were croaking in the swamp across the highway. The other day, while out driving with Rhonda I felt something tickling on my hand. I looked down and there was this huge mosquito! I could hardly believe my eyes! They are out so soon! It would be nice if we didn't have any this summer like last year. We noticed that the water is also rising.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Joan Belland (née Bechamp); in the sudden passing of her dearly loved husband Darrel of Chapeau. He was the loving father of Naomi and Nathan. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their family and friends at this sad time.

Our snowbird friends Margaret and Andre Pilon are back home from Lakeland, Florida. They were in for coffee the other morning.

A special birthday wish is extended to Larry's Aunt Leona Pilon (née Ethier), of Gatineau who celebrated her 90th birthday on April 18. Her eight children and their spouses had a celebration, for her on that day. Bonne Fête Tante Leona!

Calumet Island mill rate drops

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
CALUMET ISLAND • In a rare but pleasant occurrence, ratepayers on Calumet Island will pay five cents less this year in municipal mill rate.

"The budget is calculated on taxable values," explained councillor Jasmin Lemaire of the municipality's 2006.

Because the year 2006 implemented a new property assessment role, it determined that property on the island increased in value.

"When there is an increase of value on property, you give a reduction on the mill rate," said Lemaire.

The rate dropped to \$1.05 per \$100 of property evaluation from \$1.10 in 2005. This year, a property evaluated at \$100,000 will be taxed \$1,050 compared to \$1,100 in 2005, a 4.5 per cent, or \$50, decrease.

He mentioned some reasons the value could have gone up as there being an influx of people wanting to move out of the city as well as the land being less expensive than in other river front areas.

"Basically, in my experience, the cottage proper-

ties on the river have the most value increases," said Lemaire.

Lemaire said property owners on the island are very diverse, ranging from farmers to city workers to mill workers.

"Some of it could be baby boomers moving to the country," said Lemaire. He said the assessment role changed usually every three years.

A tax rate is determined by dividing the municipal budget by the assessment role of a municipality. The assessed value of your property determines the tax owed.

"The budget was more or less the same as in 2005," said Lemaire, pointing out the assessment role was what changed the mill rate.

"It is good because it brings up values to what they should be, and rebalances it fairly for everybody," said Lemaire.

The 2006 total budget expenditures dropped to \$693,230 from \$786,051 in 2005, a \$92,821 decrease due mainly to less expenditures in transportation (down \$8,181), town planning (down to \$11,986) and expenses of financing (down to \$110,688).

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

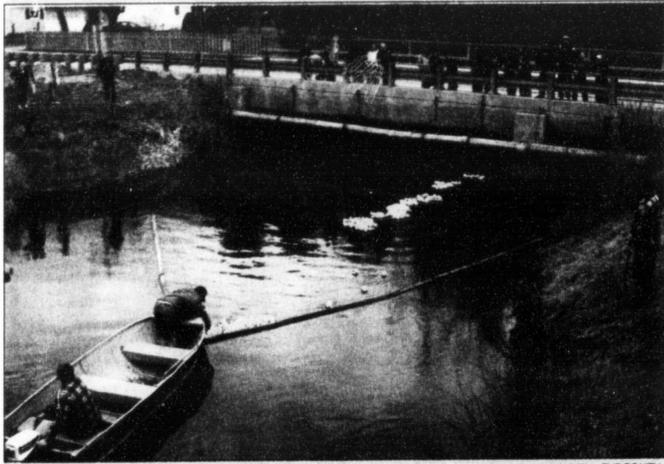
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Duck race



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

The Pontiac Lions Club held their annual duck race in Campbell's Bay Saturday afternoon. A batch of 500 rubber duckies were released raising money for the club. Donald Gagnon of Chichester won \$500, Carson Ryan of Shawville won \$200 and Nancy Peterson of Shawville won \$100.

Sheenboro

Myrtle Sullivan 689-2236

I was very sad to hear that Darrell Belland passed away suddenly this past week. My sympathy to his wife Poncho, his children Naomi and Nathan and to the Belland family.

There were lots of people returning home to celebrate Easter in Sheen with their families. My son Lornie, and his wife Evelyn were home for the weekend. I was very glad to see them. Andrew, Shawn, Mary Ellen and family visited Frank and Janet Retty. Anne Marie and Jim Thompson also spent time with them.

I would like to welcome Lorraine and Steve Carroll to Sheen. They have bought Lorraine's grandparent's homestead and will be making it their summer home. I hear they had a busy weekend cleaning and painting. In spite of all the work, they apparently had time to celebrate Lorraine's birthday.

Brent, Clinton, and Kristen Hynes were also home for a visit with their mom, Myra Sullivan.

Carol Anne Meehan and husband Greg Etve and family spent the weekend at their cottage.

Spending Easter weekend with Bob and Laura Meehan at their cottage were Terry and Colleen Steeves and family from Richmond Hill, Paul and Gaye Mills and family from Thorn Hill, and Robert and Grace Hickson and family from Stittsville. I am sure they had a lovely visit.

John Donlan and Laurie Lassenba and her boys were in Chapeau visiting Steven and Shannon McDonald and family.

Heather and Norm Lemke had her brother visiting them over the weekend.

The church in Sheen was packed on Sunday with all the visitors home. Doris and Donat Ranger would like to wish their grandson, Jesse a very happy birthday on April 18. Doris was telling me that her mom was one of the residents who was evacuated from the VON home last week because of the fire. She said that staff at Marianhill did an excellent job of responding to the crisis by accepting the residents, making them feel comfort-

able and providing them with a lovely supper. Later they were given accommodation at The Mother House in Pembroke.

I was fortunate this weekend to be able to share some lovely meals with my family members at their homes. On Good Friday Jim and Ellie and Robin cooked up a storm and had a fish fry of pickerel for us. During the evening Pat and Karen Keon and Donat and Doris stopped by for a visit. It was nice to see Pat and hear that he is recovering and getting stronger each day.

On Saturday evening the whole gang was invited to Myra's for supper. We played cards and had a lovely meal.

Sunday we went to my daughter Betty's home and again everyone enjoyed a delicious meal. The children had an Easter egg hunt and had lots of fun.

There was a little get-together after church in Chapeau at the Harrington Hall. The Chichester RA put on an Easter egg hunt for the children and had lunch for them.

I would like to wish a very happy birthday to Kerry Dunn who celebrates a birthday next week.

Caldwell



Hermonie Sharpe 647-3459

This monitor is a wonderful invention for people who have eyesight problems. I hope everyone had a happy Easter. We need to remember what it is all about. It is not just a time to show off new clothes but to remember what the cross symbolizes.

We have lost a neighbour and friend and someone who will be missed by everyone in the community. Jack Boyd passed away on March 30 at the Pontiac Community Hospital in his 74th year. He will be sadly missed by his wife Millie and three children Leslie (Debbie), Jim (Yvonne) and Beverly and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

So sorry to hear of the death of Orla Young. To his family and friends we send our deepest sympathy. Orla was the previously mayor of Shawville and also warden and a rural route mail carrier for many years. He also owned and ran a bakery in Shawville. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

Following is a poem sent to me by Donna Barbe of Norway Bay and I thought it was so fitting for this time of year.

Spring is tulips blooming all colours of a rainbow

Or the crocus peeking through the last winter snow.

Spring is dew glistening on a bright early morn

On the call of the loon, melancholy and forlorn

Spring is the rumble of thunder as it looms nigh

Or the brightness of lightening filling the sky.

Spring is the time of nature's rebirth

And a time to appreciate all it is worth.

Birthday congratulations to Mary calvert who celebrate April 10.

Maybe it's not good for the waistline but does that maple syrup ever taste good. There are so many different ways you can use it on pancakes, french toast and even in your baked beans.

By the way, be ready with your contributions when he ladies knock at your door as the Cancer Campaign in Bristol is being held on the last two weeks of April. This is badly needed and they deserve our help.

Visiting with us over Easter were Donald and Joanne Sharpe of Marathon, Stephanie and Jason Howe of Embrun, Jim and Connie Hunter of Osgoode and Neil and Margaret Sharpe. I also had calls from son Robert and his wife Linda of Courtenay, BC, Peter Sharpe of Barriere, BC and daughter Susan of Kingston. I recently had a call from my grandchildren, Tom and Sara who are teaching for a year in Australia. We sure miss

them. I sure miss writing the notes every week but after all the lovely letters, cards and phone call which I received I'm trying to give you the news once a month with help from a kind friend.

The CNIB is also helping out and a monitor is supplied to me, which is a help. I'm glad to see the new hearing aids are helping as well. Delores Sharpe Kellar of Florida is presently visiting with her sister Louise and husband John Lateer and daughter Brenda in Sussex, New Jersey. So glad to be able to tell you that her grandson is improving after a severe car accident but still has a long way to go.

I had a call from Florence Horner Hodgins of Timmons recently. She tells me she will celebrate her 99th birthday this coming October. Florence is the sister of the late Tommy Horner and Mrs. Clinton Palmer and Clarence and Ivan.

Over the weekend of April 8 a birthday party was held in Pembroke to celebrate the 90th birthday of Evelyn Sharpe. There were 100 people in attendance. This party was planned by her daughter Winona and husband Keith of Sudbury. Many people from Pontiac attended the celebration.

We had a phone call from Mildred Thomas in Oliver, BC. So sorry to hear she had been in hospital again with kidney stones. But, glad to hear she is on the road to recovery. Your many friends wish you a speedy recovery.

Sympathy to the family and friends of Loretta Dagg who passed away March 28 in her 100th year. She was the beloved wife of the late Austin Dagg and dear mother of Bill Dagg of Shawville.

Birthday congratulations for April to Mervin Conroy and David Hodgins on April 2, Ron Spears on April 3, my great-grandson Stephen Mako on April 3, Gail Sparling on April 5, Lloyd Spallin on April 7, Ronnie Thomas of Oliver, BC on April 12, Brenda Smith on April 12, Marion Stevens on April 13, my cousin Heidi Datson of Ottawa on April 14, my niece Joyce Thompson of Ottawa and Roger Cloutiere and son Raymond on April 14. On April 25, Ruby Brownlee celebrates her 94th year. Also my granddaughter, Natasha McDonald celebrates on April 20, and on April 30 Shirley Clouthiere and Marlene Beattie.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Betty Nicholson of Lancaster who died of cancer, April 4. She was the daughter of Dr. Campbell Thompson of Montreal and Bristol. Deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

On Monday, April 10 and a sure sign of spring was the frogs croaking. How we enjoy hearing that the noise knowing that the growth of the spring flowers will be following. It is a bit to early for the whippersnappers. But, how I love them when they start their song and then we know we are in to summer.

Campbell's Bay



Iris Smith 648-5821

Bob and Lois Smith spent the weekend in Oakville visiting Lyn and Doris Price.

Lorna Smith is recovering from surgery on her knee. Her daughter, Andrea is spending time with her as she recuperates. We hope she makes a speedy recovery.

Doreen McNabb is out of hospital. We wish her well as she recovers.

The Golden age euchre was held on Tuesday at the club-room. Ladies high was a tie between Isabelle Lacroix, and Veronica Perrier. They split the prize. Second was won by Iris Smith. Men's high was a three-way tie between Lewis Johnson, Boyd Ebert and Laurent Chevalier. They split the prize. Second was won by Fern Lepine. The door prize was won by Dorcas Sparling. The Easter door prize was won by Anna Porter.

The refreshments were by Lorraine and Merrill Hearty. Many families get together at this holiday time to celebrate Easter. We hope you all enjoyed the family time.

Gladys Walsh had her son Joe, Jessica, Audrey, Ashley, Lisa McGann and son Braedon and Luke of Barrie.

The Pontiac Lions Annual Duck Race was held on Saturday, April 15 on Main Street at the bridge. First prize was won by Donald Gagnon of Chapeau, second was won by Carson Ryan of Shawville, third was won by Nancy (Peterson) Bertrand of Campbell's Bay. Easter baskets were won by Helen Desjardins and Kayla Orr of Otter Lake. A great day for all and the support of the community was appreciated. We celebrated Easter on Good Friday. It was also our

granddaughter Andrea's 16th birthday celebration. Jo-Anne Smith of Spencerville Kimberly Carl and Brianna of Mountain, Trina Telford, Ryan Mace of Ottawa, Norma Stewart and about 10 teenagers helped Andrea with the birthday celebrations.

Our daughter, Jo-Anne came and spent the rest of the weekend with us, as well. Nice to have her.

Norma Stewart had her daughter Cheryl of Toronto and Donna Stewart of Carleton Place, granddaughters' Trina and Catheryn, grandson, Jamie, and Josh Massia visiting on the weekend.

Yard sales are starting to appear as everyone starts to spring clean. We were going to one on Saturday but it had already shut down. Maybe we will make the next one.

Charteris



Mona Rutledge 647-6250

Happy belated eighth birthday to Nick Schwartz with love with mommy, daddy, sister Katrina, Grandma May, Grandpa Bill, Joe and Mona.

Well, today is Easter Monday and the Dodge cup was over last night. There were a lot of teams at it. From my point of view (the goal judge) we had a lot of people at the arena from Thursday morning until

Sunday night. I hope that everyone had a very happy Easter with family and friends.

I would like to wish happy birthday to Mary Ellen Barber on April 17, Curtis Young and Matthew Palmer on April 18, Dan Desabrais and George Coles on April 22, Rick Scard, Nelson Angus and Waylon Bohart on April 24. I hope you all have very good birthdays.

I would like to wish Jim and Laurie Beer a very happy anniversary on April 24. Have a good one on your special day.

Otter Lake



Elizabeth Hahn 453-7326

Dinner guests at the home of Elizabeth Hahn on April 15 were Denise Saunders, Tammy Loesche and their dog Meriella of Aurora, Patricia and carson Russell of North Gower, Michael Russel of Ottawa, Pat Hahn, Dolores Bertrand, Kelly Hahn, Craig Proulx, Travis and Julia all of Pembroke, Pam and Randy Thoms, Kathryn and Graham of Kanata, Hilda and Edgar Mayhew. Mrs. Mayhew's 99th birthday was celebrated. She received many lovely gifts. Congratulations from the he Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, the Governor General Michelle Jean and M.P. Lawrence Cannon. She received phone calls from Thailand, British Columbia, and Manitoba, many from Ottawa, Kazubazua, Campbell's Bay, Shawville, Pembroke, Kanata, North Gower and Otter Lake. She received many lovely cards.

Other birthdays that were celebrated on Saturday were Pat Hahn, Patricia Russell, Pam Thoms and Kathryn Thoms. They all had a great time with plenty of delicious

food and two large birthday cakes. One was baked and decorated by Denise Saunders.

Recent visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Mayhew were Garnet Mayhew of Osgoode, Rolland and Millie Proulx, Willard and Roseale Mayhew of Cardinal, Denise Saunders, Tammy Loesche and their dog Meriella of Aurora, Mrs. Gilberte Bussiere and Josh.

On Tuesday, April 11 the Otter Lake Golden Age Club held its weekly euchre game. The 50/50 draw was won by Helene Denis - sister of Josée McCarthy who was visiting from Sudbury. Ladies high score was won by Pat Bisson and second was a five-way tie between Geneva Racine, Marguerite St. Aubine, Josée McCarthy, Gisèle Labelle and Jane Francoeur with Marguerite winning the draw. Men's high score was won by Denis Lefleur and second was a tie between Claude Girouard and Felix Kluk with Claude winning the draw. Delicious refreshments were prepared by Rita Blaskie and Denise Dubois.

Happy birthday t Paulette Lewis who celebrated on April 12.

Quyon

Jill McBane 458-2366

I hope everyone had a good Easter. The weather was a little cool but at least we saw some sun.

Get well wishes are sent to Chris MacKechnie who had the misfortune of having a fall and is presently in the Toronto Hospital.

Also get well wishes to Ken Hutchison and Marilyn Elliott who both suffered heart attacks.

The Quyon Dart League held their annual banquet Saturday evening at Gavan's Hotel. The winners of the season were Gaston Larocque, Cheryl Dolan and Jackie McBane. The winners of the final were Judy and Carl Cole.

Birthday wishes are sent to Josée Dubois from all her friends.

Caden Christopher Provost, son of Kara and Christopher Provost was baptized Sunday morning at Quyon United.

Congratulations to Beth and Marty Brownlee on the birth of their son, Cole Harper James Brownlee, a new playmate for brother Ethan. He was born April 13 at Pontiac Community Hospital.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Ottawa Fire fighter, Mark Johnston, who passed away last week due to cancer. Mark was the son of Ron and Gayle Johnston of Norway Bay.

Also sympathy to the family of Danny Fenton who passed away last Thursday. I grew up in Sand Bay with his two daughters Barb and Patsy next door to our cottage.

Congratulations to James Robinson who has sold over 100 copies of his book "How Quyon Came To Be." This book is available at Gavan's Hotel and Mohrs Restaurant in Quyon and also at the Pontiac Printshop in Shawville.

Congratulations to all the volunteers who worked had at the Dodge Cup Hockey Tournament. Hockey Quebec presented the volunteers with a beautiful picture for (M.V.S.) (most valuable site). This was quite an honor as it covered a huge area.

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