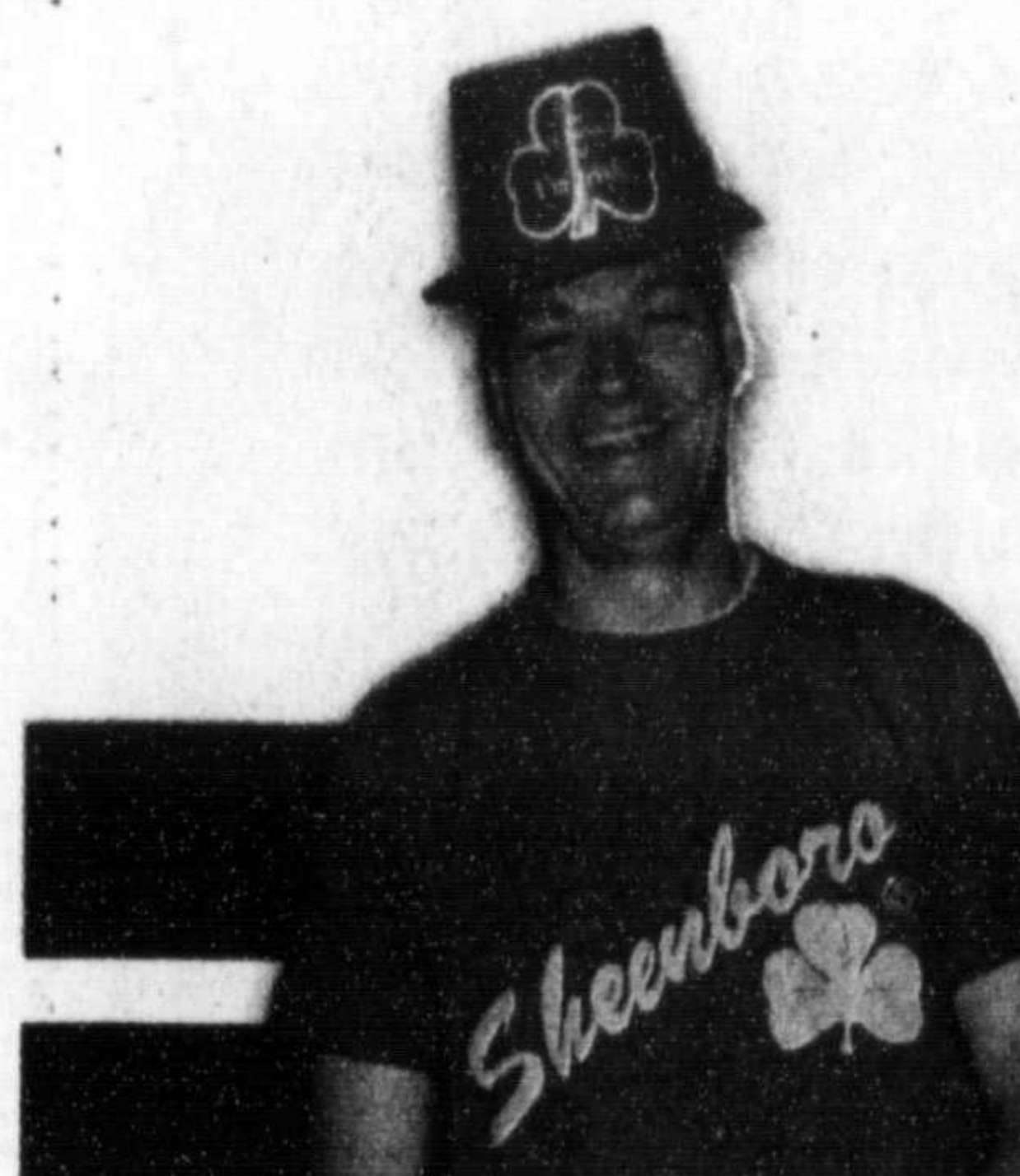


# THE EQUITY



123rd Year, Issue No. 11

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87 cents

## HOCKEYVILLE IS OURS



Residents of Shawville and the surrounding area gather for a community photo to be submitted as part of the town's Hockeyville application. Organizer Dan Duggan estimated 800 people filled centre ice at Shawville arena for the group shot while they chanted "We are Hockeyville!"

## Community backs town's bid for Hockeyville

### Shawville draws great support in applying for hockey contest

DALE BROWN

**Equity Reporter**  
**SHAWVILLE** • "Hello out there we're on the air, it's hockey night tonight!" Stompin' Tom's unofficial Canadian anthem rang true Saturday as Shawville began its metamorphosis to 'Hockeyville, Canada'.

An estimated 800 people took part in the festivities ranging from the opening of the minor hockey playoffs earlier in the day to game four of the Junior 'B' Valley Division final in the evening. It was all part of a contest put on by Kraft Canada Inc. and the CBC to find Canada's 'Hockeyville' — the small community that best exemplifies community spirit and love of the game.

The top 50 towns will be featured on a series to be aired on the CBC beginning April 5.

The field of contending communities will be whittled down each week until one town remains. That town will be declared 'Hockeyville' and win \$10,000 toward minor hockey in the area, \$25,000 in arena upgrades and an NHL exhibition

game to be played in the winning community's arena.

"We're very confident of our chances," said local Hockeyville committee member Dave Murray. "We have a lot of community spirit as you can tell by the turnout here today."

Murray said the wheels were set in motion quickly to get the project off the ground as there was not much time to organize the event.

"Almost immediately we had support from the community," he said. "In a week and a half we got everything organized thanks to our tremendous volunteer staff."

The idea to apply for the contest, according to event organizer Dan Duggan, originated with Shawville minor hockey executive member Kathy Young.

"Someone asked her, 'Are you guys in Hockeyville yet?'" he said. "We're all so busy volunteering we don't get a chance to watch television much, so it kind of snowballed from there."

"We formed some committees and our volunteers worked extremely hard to get

things done in the time we had." Duggan is quick to point out the importance of the people who volunteered their time and why it's such a good cause to commit to.

"Some people say, 'What's Hockeyville, why are you doing this?'" he said. "I would say to those people, 'It's hockey! People live and breathe it in this community and we have such a rich hockey history — we are Hockeyville.'"

"We have no funding — it's all volunteers from the community. It's not about economics, it's about our passion for hockey."

The highlight of the day came shortly after a free public skate when the teeming mass of Shawville residents present for the day's events took to the ice for the community photo — a requirement of the contest designed to demonstrate community spirit.

Standing shoulder to shoulder, the group filled the ice between the bluelines while children in the front row held up yellow signs with letters making up the word 'Shawville' upon them, chanting, "We are Hockeyville, we are Hockeyville."

"See," said Duggan with a smile, "I know we're going to win because it's already brought everyone in the community closer together."

Events of the day were recorded by a

camera crew for the purpose of a video to be submitted to the CBC to showcase community involvement at the event.

"They want a two-minute, high-impact video," said Pontiac Junior 'B' president and general manager Chris Young. "What went on here today will part of it and they've also been around town filming various things."

The video will be submitted before the April 14 deadline and aired on the CBC should Shawville make the final round of 50 towns.

In addition to the day's activities, the archives committee formed by event organizers, set up numerous displays of the village's hockey history, including Shawville native Frank Finnigan's original Stanley Cup ring from the 1927 Ottawa Senators on loan from Frank Finnigan Jr.

By the end of the day, organizers were elated with the turnout and excited about Shawville's chances of advancing to the round of 50.

"Outstanding," was all a beaming Duggan could say. "It was a great turnout — the community came out in droves."

Shawville mayor Albert Armstrong was pleased the area residents supported the town's bid so actively.

"I thought it was very successful," he said.

Please see **HOCKEY** on page 2

## Federal election poll results released

PONTIAC • The Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, Jean-Pierre Kingsley, announced Monday that Elections Canada has posted temporary poll-by-poll results for the 39th general election on Elections Canada's website at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca).

Elections Canada did not release poll-by-poll results on election night in order to protect the privacy of individual voters.

The data reflect the validation carried out by returning officers and the judicial recounts conducted in two ridings. They do not include the number of electors on the lists, since this has yet to be finalized.

Elections Canada publishes a number of reports and documents following every general election, including the Chief Electoral Officer's report on the administration of the election, the official voting results and the final lists of electors.

Elections Canada will post the final official voting results, including statistical tables and poll-by-poll results by candidate and by electoral district, when they are finalized.

	B	C	L	Green	Liberal	Marxist	NDP
Alley & Cawood	6	50	4	38	0	2	
Rapides des Joachims	23	33	1	29	0	12	
Sheenboro	6	35	1	23	0	4	
Waltham	7	94	1	82	0	24	
Chichester	2	91	3	52	0	16	
Allumettes Island	14	202	12	272	2	34	
Mansfield & Pontefract	97	320	4	258	2	72	
Fort Coulonge	157	408	10	325	2	74	
Otter Lake	23	240	5	110	3	30	
Thorne	7	120	5	34	0	19	
Clarendon-Shawville	63	1,173	25	353	2	123	
Campbell's Bay	32	246	6	117	4	51	
Vinton	11	84	2	32	0	12	
Calumet Island	68	178	7	89	1	19	
Bryson	11	205	2	101	1	28	
Portage du Fort	3	57	3	44	0	14	
Bristol	10	343	18	124	0	34	
Quyon	73	411	21	244	2	88	
Luskville	306	573	60	322	4	186	
Riding totals	979	4,970	187	2,849	23	842	

## Burst pipes dry Quyon

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

QUYON • Parts of Quyon were without water for large portions of the March 4 weekend because of two separate pipes bursting in the village.

According to Municipality of Pontiac Mayor Eddie McCann, age caused a pipe running along Clarendon Street in front of Onslow Elementary School and a pipe near Hwy. 148 and Egan Road at the northern entrance of the village to burst.

"Some of those pipes were over 50 years old," said McCann. The incidents left many in Quyon without water from Friday at about 8:30 p.m. until Monday at about 8 p.m.

Some residents experienced sporadic water service depending on when pipes were turned off for work to be conducted while others went the whole weekend without water.

Municipal employees worked throughout the weekend to correct the problem, but McCann said many residents were still upset at the inconvenience.

"We were pissed," said Jill McBane, Quyon resident, about the situation. McBane had no water all weekend.

"You're bound to get complaints when something like this happens," said McCann, "we just have to explain how long it is going to be."

McCann, a Quyon resident who was not in the area affected by the water outages, said the village's safety was of the utmost priority.

"My concern is fire safety. Any time there's no water you have to be concerned about that."

## Pontiac's karate schools gather to compete

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

QUYON • Sensei Denis Renaud of the Quyon Martial Arts School takes pride in seeing his students improve under his tutelage.

"Sometimes when they first come in, they can only do 10 jumping jacks, but then after a while they can do 50."

How many can Renaud, a third-degree black belt do?

"I had to do 1,000 to get my first degree black belt in 1999," said the 56-year-old Renaud.

That's quite a feat.

So is the fact that, rather quietly, the martial arts in the Pontiac seem to buck the trend of a region bereft of social services, especially those available for youths.

With schools in Quyon, Chapeau, Otter Lake and Campbell's Bay numbering over 100 students between them, the martial arts are thriving.

"We had one a long time ago (in Otter Lake), but they stopped so I keep it going now," said George Lafleur, Otter Lake Sensei.

Especially notable is Renaud's school, which he operates for free.

Renaud devotes hours per week to his academy and does not make a single dime from it.

"I just want to give something to the community," said Renaud, who doesn't see the fact that he offers his teachings for free as a big deal.

"As soon as he puts his gi on, he comes alive," said Renaud's wife, Gwen Peppard-Renaud.

"He lives and breathes karate."

With the hours and the expertise required of the task, what exactly does Renaud get out of his free karate offerings?

"It's good to see somebody do it, because I know that I taught them how," said Renaud, a soft-spoken, good-humoured man.

"Success is seeing people change."

In five years, Renaud estimates he's taught over 100 students, and he's also graduated 13 black belts. He envisions continuing his free karate lessons for as long as he's able.

"I have no plans on quitting," said Renaud.

Renaud's Quyon Martial Arts Academy held their first ever inter-school competition on Saturday, welcoming students from Aylmer, Campbell's Bay and Otter Lake to St. Mary's School in Quyon.

Martial artists of all ages and abilities contested one another in kata (forms), individual and team competitions.

"Some of the fighters think they're good. If they fight other schools it brings them down. Then there are other fighters that think they're not very good and fighting other schools helps bring them up," said Renaud.

Please see **KARATE** on page 2



Two students from Quyon's Martial Arts Academy compete in the team point-fighting competition at St. Mary's School in Quyon. Four area martial arts academies took part in the event, the first of its kind. For five years, Denis Renaud of Quyon (in red) has been operating the Quyon Martial Arts Academy free of charge to participants.

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Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Sylvaine Drapeau of Eskimo Escapades based in Otter Lake takes a John Paul II School student for a lap around the school yard on a sled pulled by a team of five Siberian huskies March 8. Secondary one and two students are participating in a cross-curricular studying the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race taking place now in Alaska.

## JPII brings Iditarod to Pontiac

**LEAH MILLER**  
Equity Editor  
CAMPBELL'S BAY • The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race takes teams of dogs and men 1,150 miles across mountain ranges, frozen rivers, forests, tundra and coastline.

In the spirit of the 33-year-old race, John Paul II secondary one and two students are participating in a cross-curricular project studying the Iditarod race. Three teachers have combined their geography, science and technology, English and physical education classes to learn various aspects of the race.

The race comes to a close this week, but students were able to learn about the race while keeping tabs on it as it happened.

To help get a feel for what teams experience during the race, a team of mushers and handlers from Otter Lake visited students Wednesday, March 8.

Mushers Sylvaine Drapeau and Caroline Desrosiers visited JPII, along with handlers Paul-Émile Drapeau and Chantal St. Aubin and a team of 10 Siberian huskies.

Mushers Drapeau and Desrosiers run Eskimo Escapades out of Otter Lake, and visit different places in the Pontiac demonstrating traditional dog sledding.

St. Aubin and Paul-Émile spoke to students about dog sled teams.

"Husky teams were first created to move serum from place to place, preventing death," said St. Aubin.

In 1925, part of the Iditarod Trail became a life saving highway for epidemic-stricken Nome, where the race now ends. Diphtheria threatened Nome and serum had to be brought in by intrepid dog mushers and their faithful dog teams.

"The serum needed to go 1,000 miles away and you can only get there by dog," St. Aubin also described the dogs.

"Siberian huskies are more commonly used because they have more stamina and endurance," she said.

Other types of huskies used are Alaskan malamutes, Greenland dogs and Alaskan huskies.

"Their appearances are different and they each have different uses," said St. Aubin.

On average, sled dogs are medium-sized dogs, weighing anywhere from 35 to 60 pounds.

"They are friendly and gentle, and are not good guard dogs because they won't bark or howl," said St. Aubin of the Siberian huskies. "They are used to moving heavy loads over long distances."

She described Greenland dogs as being the roughest sled dogs.

"They are true eskimo dogs," she said. "They are the roughest and the most

hard working. They are made for the roughest weather conditions."

Alaskans are huskies mixed with hunting hounds, usually, or with greyhounds.

"They are made for speed and racing," said St. Aubin. Drapeau has a team of 13 dogs, and St. Aubin has 11 of her own. Neither teams are used for racing.

"We just use them for sledding," she said.

The dogs pull a large toboggan that can hold two people in the seat and a musher on the back holding the reins.

"A racing sled is lighter and carries quicker," said St. Aubin.

She went over different ways to harness dogs, such as a fan hitch, single-line team or in one line. The team at the school was hitched in pairs of two using a gang line.

"The lead dogs are in the front and the strongest dogs are in the back," said St. Aubin.

Training for the dogs begins when they are six months old and will take an entire winter.

"They just love it," said St. Aubin, who added the dogs can pick up to speeds of about 30 kilometres an hour.

And evidently the students did too, as they began to take turns doing laps behind the school in the sled, each one came off the sled with a smile.

## Karate: Pontiac schools compete

**Continued from page 1**  
"It's going to be an annual thing."

With 35 competitors, the event was smaller than many other martial arts competitions, but that added to the charm of the day.

"These are nice because it's a lot calmer," said Kyle Meelker, a first degree black belt from Aylmer who has competed in large regional competitions as far away as Hamilton.

In the kata portion of the

day, participants performed a series of karate poses, punches and kicks and were rated on their technique, timing and balance.

The more action-packed individual and team events consisted of one-on-one matchups with one point being scored for a successful punch and two points for a successful kick.

Paired up with opponents according to skill level, the first competitor to five points won the match-up.

One of the primary bene-

fits of karate is the discipline learned from it and that becomes clear when Renaud is asked whether he's ever had to use his karate abilities in a real-life situation.

"No, never," said Renaud. "Karate teaches you to avoid being in those situations in the first place."

So, in the end, despite the hours spent developing punches, kicks and physical training, it's the mind that matters the most.

That's also quite a feat.

## Lauzon looking into agreement with Smurfit

**LEAH MILLER**  
Equity Editor  
PORTAGE DU FORT • Lauzon, a hardwood flooring manufacturer, may be working on an agreement with Smurfit-Stone pulp and paper mill in Portage du Fort.

"We are always considering alternatives to enhance our current situation," said Lauzon representative Francine Houle.

She said the company is in discussions looking at different sources to obtain raw materials and evaluating possibilities of where

excess chips would go.

"We may create more chips that would interest Stone," she said.

Currently Lauzon is sending chips to Smurfit, but any new deal would involve a greater quantity.

"It's a win-win situation, but it's only in talks now," said Houle. "Nothing is a done deal."

She said most saw mills in Quebec are looking for additional volumes, as current harvesting rights are insufficient to run a profit.

"Lauzon is always inter-

ested with deals to add to our existing volume," she said. "The same as any saw mill."

Houle said that they are interested in establishing relationships with nearby mills, as Lauzon is based out of Papineauville.

"We are exploring with Stone to use our end products as it could help them establish part of their business," she said.

Lauzon is presently speaking with representatives of the Smurfit-Stone mill through a group of separate promoters.

## Pontiac students make Heritage College fall 2005 honour roll

**PONTIAC** • Heritage College is proud to announce that 229 students have qualified for the fall 2005 semester honour roll and extends hearty congratulations to all of them for their outstanding achievements.

Honour roll students at Heritage College are recognized by means of three distinct categories. An honour student is a full-time student who, in a given semester, has attained an average of 80 to 89 per cent, has completed the full-time load of courses as

specified in the profile for that student's particular program, and has neither failed, nor failed to complete a course. A dean's honour student has met all of the same criteria, while achieving an average of 90 per cent or more. A student achieving academic merit status must also be a full-time student and attain an average of 90 per cent or more without failures or incomplete courses in a given semester, but does not have to follow a full-time load of courses as

specified in the profile for that student's program.

Lea Bennett of Campbell's Bay and Tammy Cheslock of Quyon are Pontiac students from the career and pre-university diploma (DEC) programs offered by the college who received dean's honours.

Heritage College is an English cégep committed to success through a diverse and innovative, community driven learning experience. For more information about Heritage College, visit [www.cegep-heritage.qc.ca](http://www.cegep-heritage.qc.ca).

## Thorne mill rate drops one cent

**LEAH MILLER**  
Equity Editor  
THORNE • Property tax payers in the Municipality of Thorne will enjoy a one-cent mill rate decrease this year.

"We did have a bridge planned for 2005, but that expense isn't there this year," said Thorne Mayor Ross Vowles on the municipality's 2006 budget adopted Dec. 14.

The mill rate dropped one cent to 68 cents per \$100 of property evaluation from 69 cents in

2005. In 2006, a property evaluated at \$100,000 will be taxed \$680 compared to \$690 in 2005, a 1.45 per cent, or \$10, decrease.

Expenses this year will be directed towards the fire department.

"We need a new fire truck," said Vowles of a pumper that the department needs to upgrade.

The 2006 budget expenditures rose to \$635,462 from \$542,291 in 2005, a \$93,171 increase due mainly to hikes in expenditures in adminis-

tration (up to \$12,214), public security (up to \$9,673), environmental health (up to \$1,782), urban planning (up to \$4,004), recreational and cultural activities (up to \$6,854) and other financial activities (up to \$80,463).

The municipality appropriated \$63,000 from its surplus to balance this year's budget.

Overall, Vowles said the year went well and no major expenses are planned for 2006.

## Snowmobile overturns in Quyon

### Driver sustains head injuries

**DALE BROWN**  
Equity Reporter

**QUYON** • A snowmobile overturned on an ungroomed trail near the banks of the Ottawa River in Quyon March 3, resulting in serious injury to the driver.

"I didn't see it happen," said Russell Taber, who's property backs on to the trail. "I saw a bunch of ski-doos come up so I knew something was wrong."

According to Taber, a pile of rocks is hidden below the snow at that point of the trail and likely caused the incident.

"You can see brake lights come on from people who know the trail when they come to those rocks," said Taber. "They slow down and pick the smooth path around them but some people don't know about them."

"The chap was badly hurt, but he was walking."

The driver could not be identified since it was not a fatal accident, according to MRC des Collines Police spokesperson Const. Martin Fournel.

"(They were) serious injuries to the man," he said. "He was taken to Shawville hospital with head injuries. He didn't lose consciousness, however,

and was able to speak to hospital staff."

Police and Fire rescue teams responded to the scene, even borrowing snowmobiles from Gavan's Hotel in Quyon to deliver aid as quickly as possible.

"The police came and borrowed two ski-doos and went down to him," said Lorena Matechuck of Gavan's Hotel. "He wasn't a local man — that's really all we know."

Taber thinks this will not be the last such incident caused by the buried obstruction and believes the rocks should be marked.

"I've been expecting something like this to happen for a while now, to be honest," he said. "Something should be done."

The Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations' website has a few safety tips for those planning to hit the trails:

Don't drink and drive — this is one of the leading causes of snowmobile injuries and fatalities.

Know your abilities and don't go beyond them — stay in your comfort zone for maximum control.

Be careful crossing roads — you'll see the car before the driver of the car sees you.

Beware of water — stay off unknown ice.



Dale Brown, THE EQUITY

From the left: Pontiac Mayor Eddie McCann, Clarendon Mayor Jack Lang, Jerry Ryan, linesman Joey Derouin, member of Parliament Lawrence Cannon, Thorne Mayor Ross Vowles, Lou Stafford and Shawville Mayor Albert Armstrong gather after Cannon took part in the ceremonial puck-drop Saturday as part of Shawville's Hockeyville celebrations.

## Hockey: community backs Shawville in Hockeyville contest

**Continued from page 1**

"It was well attended throughout the day — I'd say there were at least 250 people in the stands for every minor hockey game."

"Hats off to everyone in Shawville and all the surrounding communities. It was a total community effort."

Spectator and long-time fan of Shawville hockey Milburn Hobbs agreed with

the mayor's assessment.

"This was just wonderful," he said as the evening wound down. "I don't know where you could go to get better. It's great to see the community come out like this because Shawville has a lot of hockey history to its credit and it's something we should be proud of."

And so the tantalizing prospect of becoming the nation's 'Hockeyville' is one

step closer to fruition and should it happen, residents will have further reason to be excited.

"Can you imagine Bryan Murray behind the bench here coaching the Sens against the Leafs or Canadiens?" wonders Duggan. "People will come to Shawville and find out what this town's all about. It would be a thrill for everyone in the community."

## SAVE OUR SCHOOL MEETING

March 22, 2006 at 7 pm  
at John Paul II school  
This meeting is open to any concerned citizens, students and parents.  
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Entertainer Jim Beattie provided the musical accompaniment of traditional Irish dance and song at the Sheenboro St. Patrick's Day celebration, which took place the Parish Hall in Sheenboro on Saturday night.

### 'Everybody likes to celebrate St. Patrick's Day'

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter SHEENBORO • At the St. Patrick's Day dance in Sheenboro on Saturday night, Myrtle Sullivan makes her intentions for the evening clear.

"I won't stay too late," she claims, green 'I'm Irish' hat perched atop her head, "I'll probably leave at 1:00 (a.m.)."

Sullivan is 86 years old. Leaving anytime earlier is downright ludicrous for a St. Patrick's Day event, especially in the staunchly Irish settlement of Sheenboro.

The community of 100 permanent residents comes alive for the annual event and toast their heritage in an authentic manner few other St. Patrick's Day events in Canada can compare to.

They were hardly alone in their celebrations as guests from locales as far away as Ottawa, Kingston and Burlington were on hand for the annual St. Patrick's Day dance at the Sheen Parish Hall.

"Everybody likes to celebrate St. Patrick's Day," says Betty Morris, Sheenboro resident and dance organizer.

With shades of green decorating their bodies and littering the surroundings, attendees set danced, step danced, and also perfected their Haymakers' Jig.

The event is always held the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day so as not to be forced to compete with the all-day events put on by every other pub and bar.

"By the time it got to our dance everybody was exhausted," says Morris.

The last thing this dance needs is tired people, as Jim Beattie's fiddling and guitar-playing require energy, if nothing else.

While the atmosphere at the dance is obvious, what makes Sheenboro an Irish community on a day-to-day basis?

"When I was a child, we used to sing Irish songs all the time, that's what we did," said Morris.

Proudly sporting a green 'Support Leprachaun Rights'

T-shirt, Billy Brennan believes, "It's the people, the church, the Parish Hall, it's a community."

The good cheer is also a big reason.

"All the Irish love to sing and dance. One year we celebrated for a month."

Sheenboro mayor, Roy Perrault, agrees.

"It's an Irish community, the parties roll here," he says.

Another Sheenboro resident says the oral tradition is what makes the area so staunchly Irish.

"We know everybody, we know all the stories and all our grandparents are from Ireland. We teach our kids everything."

Looking around the room, the drinks flowing freely, feet moving quickly, laughter emitted readily, Bob Meehan of Pembroke holds one thing to be true about the area's Irish roots.

"It's a good excuse for a celebration," he laughs.

Looking around the room at the happy faces, it's difficult to argue with that.

## Picnic bench fire department all grown up

### Waltham's fire department celebrates at its annual appreciation dinner

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter WALTHAM • The Waltham fire department has come a long way in 33 years.

In 1973, the department consisted of a makeshift list of citizens who would follow sirens whenever they were heard in the village.

Meetings were held on a picnic bench near a lake in the town. There was no equipment.

Today, Waltham boasts one of the proudest fire departments in all the Pontiac, with organizational and rescue capabilities of departments 10 times its size.

"It makes me proud to talk about the Waltham fire department wherever I go," declared Waltham Mayor Paul Ryan.

Fire Chief Larry Perry was an original firefighter.

He describes the department's original truck as a machine hardly worthy of the team's life-saving activities.

"Power steering? We'd never heard of power steering," joked Perry.

"We came from such humble beginnings."

Even now, Perry's 23 vol-

unteers still use a fire extinguisher and axe from when the department first began.

"They still serve us well," said Perry.

Despite that, the resemblances between then and now are few.

Waltham now has two fire trucks and a rescue van.

The department's training is extensive and their ability to react to an emergency is extremely fast.

The Fire Hall is one of the largest buildings in Waltham and suitably satisfies the department's needs.

Perry recalls the municipality not initially acknowledging the makeshift firefighters in the 1970s, but the group continued to assist in emergencies, even without the acknowledgment of council.

"We forced ourselves on the community," said Perry.

That in itself is a major difference between then and now.

The fire department's annual appreciation dinner at the town hall on Saturday night — paid for by council — could have easily been mistaken for a love-in between Waltham's mayor and the fire crew.

The relationship between the two groups is strong, and each only has positive things to say about the other.

"We have good communication," said Perry, who has held the post of fire chief for 30 years. "We don't always get what we want but they try to give us as much help as they can."

In return, Ryan, a former firefighter himself, confidently declares Waltham "the best fire department in the Pontiac" and holds Perry to be "the best fire chief in the Pontiac."

Last year, Waltham's fire department received 10 calls, a slower than average year for them.

Calls ranged from a chimney fire, building fire, animal rescue and responding to a man who had a heart attack in the woods.

In the near future, the department is hoping to purchase a used pumper to replace their current one.

The expense, at about \$130,000, requires the municipality to pass a bylaw to approve the loan required for the purchase.

If a portion of residents oppose the bylaw, a referen-

dum may have to be held amongst the municipality's residents to decide whether the purchase will be made.

In the short-term, however, Perry is hoping to encourage more young people to join the department and

notes that with new provincial requirements, newly trained firefighters would be qualified to work in any department in Quebec.

Interested residents can inquire about joining by contacting the fire hall or Perry.

**HOLLA HAHNS!**

Well we're going to miss you! Hope you have a great time, we love you lots and will miss you more! XOXO Love: the girls XOXO P.S. Don't forget the trailer full!

**\*\* Going away party for BRANDI at ATKINSONS Bar on March 17th \*\***

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Fire Chief Larry Perry (left) awards firefighter Earl McKnight the firefighter of the year award in Waltham on Saturday night at the annual firefighters' appreciation dinner. The winner is selected based on a system that rewards points for hours contributed in different areas of a firefighter's duties.

## Death of a Murder

DALE BROWN

Equity Reporter SHAWVILLE • Joan Conrod's Memorial for a Murder suffered an untimely demise when low ticket sales led to the cancellation of the murder mystery play scheduled for March 10.

Conrod said the production was shelved by host venue Pontiac High School in Shawville after falling

short of their sales target of 100 tickets.

"Of course I'm disappointed," said Conrod. "My cast and I put a lot of effort into it."

"They only sold 75 tickets and had to give notice to the caterer."

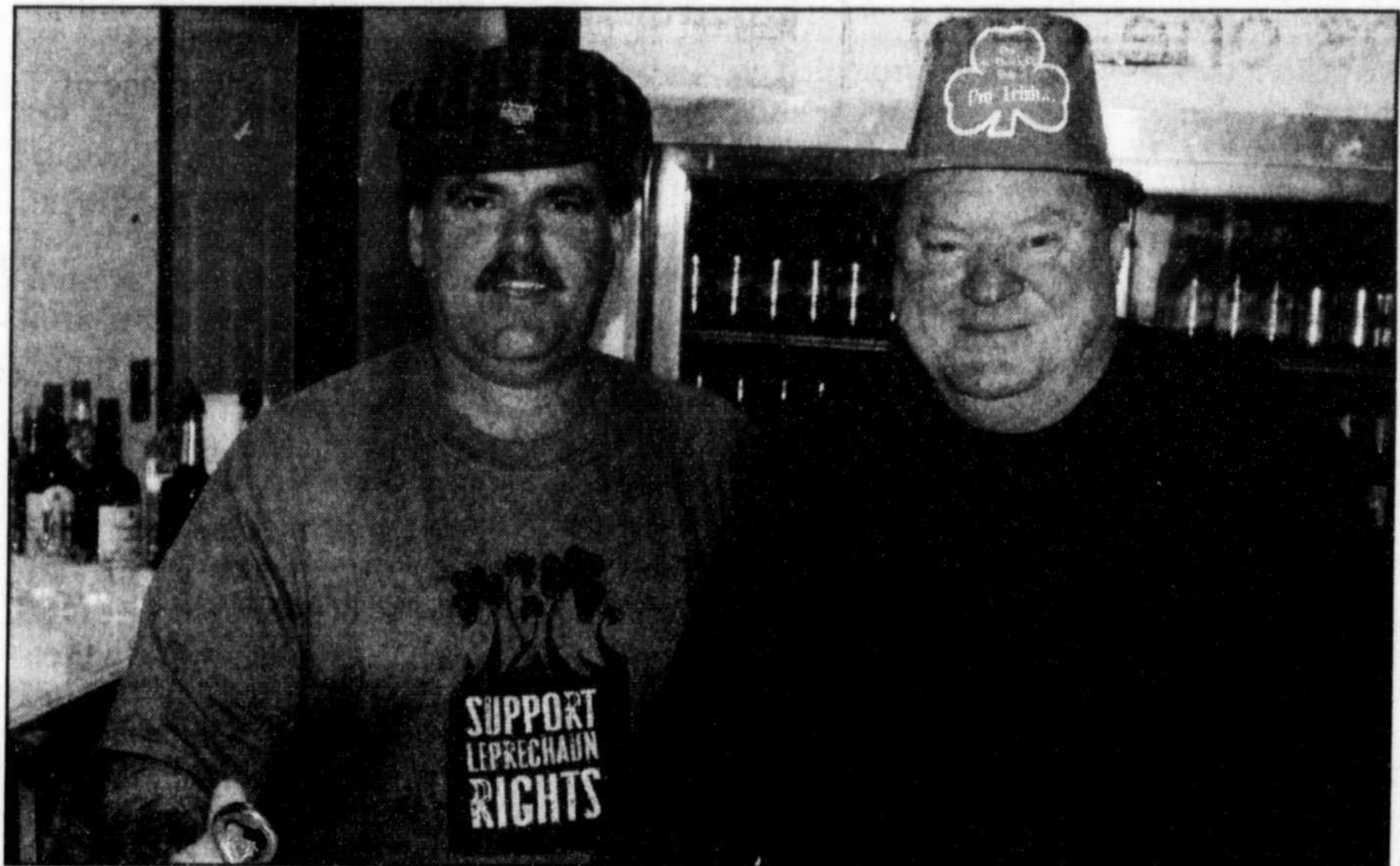
Conrod explained how the mystery played evolved over time.

"We used to use murder

mystery packs and extrapolate from there," she said.

"They're getting harder to find so I've taken to writing them — they're very formulaic."

Conrod's next mystery production is scheduled for May 26 at PHS to be followed by a show in Stittsville on June 3, benefitting the local hospice in the Eastern Ontario town.



Billy Brennan (left) and Ray Walker are decked out in full St. Patrick's Day garb at the Irish day celebration in Sheenboro on Saturday night.

## Funding renewed for Pontiac's culture

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor PONTIAC • Minister of Culture and Communications Line Beauchamp recently announced her renewed \$72,000 contribution that will go towards the Pontiac MRC and its cultural development.

The funding is allotted for Pontiac to participate in the Villes et villages d'art et de patrimoine program, which has been running since 1998.

Beauchamp said in a press release that the program has already proved itself successful in the Pontiac, and the renewed participation of the MRC in the program confirms the relevance of the MRC's intention of cultural development.

A main part of the funding will go towards paying the organizer specialized in the fields of the cultural development and tourism.

Pontiac's current co-ordinating organizer, Benedikt Kuhn, has been working out of the CLD since September 2004.

"We've been working a lot on the new Pontiac Artists' Association, supporting the studio tour, the Pontiac School of the Arts and different initiatives," said Kuhn.

"We're moving forward, it's a lot of work getting the policy in place but now we are starting to get into the nitty gritty."

The policy serves as a tool for planning activities, establishing cultural centres, creating a cultural website, providing equipment such as art supplies, books or musical instruments and creating a public calendar of cultural events.

"We are trying to get movie projections running in Portage du Fort," said Kuhn of organizing outdoor movies during the summer. "It's something different."

So far, he has implemented an action plan from the adopted cultural policy. The action plan is the basis for setting up a budget and obtaining resources. Other happenings he is hoping to run is a second season of Intra Talks sessions, organizing a virtual tour and open house for Pontiac's churches, preserving Oiseau Rock and developing walking trails nearby it, as well as forming a heritage committee that will recommend cultural priorities to the MRC.

The funding also covers Kuhn's cultural training at Laval University. There are about 100 other cultural co-ordinators in the program across Quebec.



The Pontiac Artists' Association will benefit greatly from the cultural development funding given to the Pontiac by the Ministry of Culture and Communications recently. From the left: Denise Morrissette representing MNA Charlotte L'Écuyer, Linda Baril of the Pontiac Artists' Association, Minister Line Beauchamp, André Baril of PAA and Benedikt Kuhn of the Pontiac CLD.

In Outaouais, the program includes the Pontiac, Gatineau Valley, Papineau, and City of Gatineau.

Under the terms of this three-year agreement of cultural development between the ministry and the MRC, Pontiac will continue its efforts to develop cultural attractions.

The minister gave the MRC a subsidy of \$10,000 for the second part of this agreement, which covers the period of 2004 to 2007.

Subsidies for the visual

arts sector total \$4,000, and was given to the Pontiac Artists' Association. Part of this subsidy will pay for the publication of the association's annual Pontiac Artists' Studio tour map and brochure. The tour takes place in June. The remainder will support Art in the Park, an event held in the summer where the public can enjoy trying out various art forms and painting a mural with the guidance of artists outdoors. Last summer, the event took place at

the Lusville Falls. Lastly, the Centre d'exposition L'imagerie in Aylmer was allotted the \$22,000 in addition to the annual subsidy, equalling \$80,200 for the year.

Other areas that participate in the program include Bas-Saint-Laurent, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, La Mauricie, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Côte-Nord, Nord-du-Québec, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, MRC Antoine Labelle and MRC La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau.

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# OPINION

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## OUR OPINION

### Fire safety at a price

Fire safety cover plans, training modules, minimum practice hours... seems like a lot to give up of a volunteer's time and out of a taxpayer's pocket.

The fire safety cover plan evaluates the region's ability to prevent and fight fires and makes recommendations for urgently-needed improvements. Every MRC has to have one summarizing each of its municipality's fire departments and what it can offer. This is a great thing to have in writing that a department is capable of responding to an emergency. But is it necessary?

The plans are part of the Fire Safety Act which was adopted in June 2000. The province has mandated each MRC to establish a fire safety cover plan in accordance with the Fire Safety Policies of the Minister of Public Security. The plan sets fire protection objectives and lists the actions required to achieve them. The website of the ministry says the plan is a risk management and decision-making tool for elected municipal representatives. Overall, it is an emergency response planning tool for the people responsible for fire safety services operations — and an expensive one at that.

When the plan was released to the public and brought to consultation last year, some municipalities stated in the plan their estimate on how much it would cost to implement between 2005 and 2009. Clarendon guessed at \$88,316, Allumettes Island \$171,455 and one new tanker, Shawville \$95,703, Thorne \$363,700 and in Sheenboro a 300 to 400 per cent increase on what they pay now for fire services. Seems a bit out of reach considering most municipalities have had to increase their mill rates simply due to inflation rates and the cost of living.

So far, only 11 plans have been accepted by the minister.

There are 107 due.

Municipalities can opt out of the certification, but they may face problems with insurance coverage if they do. Municipalities that feel they can't deal with the monetary burden of the plan are being encouraged to join in with another closer fire department, combining resources and equipment. Although this would ease the costs faced by municipalities, it may put residents at risk when farther commutes and response times are a direct result.

Each time the Pontiac MRC council of mayors meets and the plan is brought up, it is evident that there are some frustrations with this burden.

Reluctantly, government downloading needs to be looked at as simply a part of the present and future. As time progresses, small rural communities will have to pay the price to live, almost the same price as in the city.

Other than the government taking back the responsibility handed down to municipalities, there is no real solution. The ministry may need to reassess its demands on municipalities and make the requirements a bit more palatable.

Fire departments in Pontiac have been running for decades and functioning fine without a list of high-risk buildings and shiny new pumpers. Sure, everyone wants new equipment, but in the old days it would be fundraised for during boot drives, not paid for by never-ending loans. Twenty-five years ago Pontiac's population was greater than it is now, and there was no strategic plan in place to fight fires. They have water nearby, the knowledge of their areas and the will power of a few local volunteers. Has anything changed since that time?

LM

## Spring foal

Provided by Katharine Fletcher



## ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

### Vernal Equinox approaching: spring's coming fast

The hills are alive, with the sound of... music? Well, they're alive with the squawks and trills of starlings, the cherreec of red-wing blackbirds — and the gurgling sound of rivulets of water. In the wetland behind my horses' paddock, gleaming tufts of pussy willows are visible. In barnyards all over the Pontiac, foals are testing their shaky legs, calves and lambs are being born. Meanwhile, our two cats are making their proud daily presentations to Eric and me of their evidently tasty catches of meadow voles and deer mice — spring's nice light snacks.

Receding ice, melting from laneways and roadside shoulders, reveals swathes of gravel and patches of green grass as well as those less welcome harbingers of spring, the Pontiac pot-holes... Now I wonder about them, don't you? Can our new Conservative federal minister of transport assist with their permanent removal? None of us would miss our annual spring dance of dodging potholes, would we?

#### March 20:

##### First day of spring

The first day of spring is next Monday, March 20. This is the vernal (spring) equinox, a word according to www.education-world.com, derived from Latin meaning "equal nights." Supposedly, we experience 12 hours of sunlight and daylight during the Equinox, but although it appears as if day and night are equal, there is a bit more daylight.

Why? The website explains that during sunrise, earth's atmosphere refracts or bends the rays of the sun so we see the top of the sun before it has actually risen over the



Katharine Fletcher

horizon. Similarly, if we include the light lingering after sunset, we can appreciate that daylight lasts several minutes longer than night. Wikipedia, the online free encyclopedia tells us, "The vernal equinox marks the beginning of astronomical spring. It occurs during the month of March in the northern hemisphere, and during September in the southern hemisphere... the same moment that the vernal equinox occurs in one hemisphere, it is the time of the autumnal equinox in the other hemisphere."

Go to Wikipedia to see a diagram of the celestial equator and the ecliptic ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vernal\\_equinox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vernal_equinox)). The site explains: "The Celestial Equator and the Ecliptic are two great circles... they intersect at two points, the Equinoxes. When the sun, which moves along the Ecliptic, occupies the point that crosses the equator while heading north, it is the time of the Vernal Equinox." Thinking about astronomy gives us an altogether different perspective on time. Predictably, a mathematician has figured out how long it takes for the equinoxes to go "full circle," as it were. Wikipedia reveals, "Due to the precession of the Equinoxes, the point of intersection moves completely around the sky in a 25,800-year cycle. This century it is in the southwest portion of Pisces moving slowly toward Aquarius."

#### Winter's last hurrah?

This past weekend certainly made us all feel that we're nearing winter's last stand. With temperatures in the two-digits above freezing zone, and with sunshine and

blue sky beckoning, Eric and I headed out on horseback to explore our woodland trails. Our horses lurched through the woods, as sometimes the snow supported their weight, while the next step proved unstable. Being in no rush, we let them have their heads, so they stopped frequently — giving the four of us ample time to look about and take deep breaths of air drenched with that deliciously earthy scent of spring.

#### Birds on the wing

Not only are we seeing the first spring migrants return to our fields and woods, we are also getting the last glimpses of northern birds that spent the winter here. On Monday, I saw what will be one of the last large flocks of Arctic bunting — the colourful buff, white and black "snowbirds." They'll be departing soon for their summer home in the Arctic tundra.

Watch, too, for the great grey owl which has been on the Ontario side of the river; perhaps it will venture into the Pontiac as it flies north. Although we saw an "explosion" of great grey owls last winter (2004/05), this season I've not seen any. Also, I've only occasionally seen a rough-legged hawk. Normally I observe them on a more-or-less daily basis here on the Steele Line and Wolf Lake roads north of Quyon.

It is time to start watching for horned larks — another harbinger of spring. As soon as the gravel becomes exposed on the shoulders of roads, it is time to take out your binoculars and watch for the larks. Long feathers extend behind their heads resemble horns. Watch for these birds in last year's cornfields on the flats near Luskville or along the Wolf Lake Road.

#### Mammals stirring

Mammals are feeling the urge to get outside, too. Can't you just imagine racoon mothers wanting to kick their fractious teenagers out of the home den? Young racoons were out exploring on the roads last weekend and, unfortunately, a host of road kill sightings will be yet another all-too-predictable sign of spring.

On Saturday, while riding, the less-popular odour of skunk was in the air, too. We spotted the culprit zigzagging its confused-looking way along the crust of the snowy fields, looking rather dazed in the brilliant sunshine. It probably was disoriented, after being in a dark den all winter, only to emerge into a sparkingly white and blue world.

The aforementioned voles and mice are stirring, too. As the snow melts, their networks of sub-snow tunnels become increasingly exposed to the delight not only of our cats but also of other wild predators. No wonder we saw a lean-looking coyote out hunting this morning. This time of the year provides welcome respite to predators that need to replenish their body fat with easier pickings.

#### Temperature plunging

Although tonight's forecast is for 12C at midnight, winter has by no means disappeared yet. Freezing temperatures are predicted for the end of

the week and, unless this is a remarkable year indeed, we'll see more snow, sleet, ice and cold before we can count on green grass, daffodils, and wild plum blossoms.

Nonetheless, it is mid-March, time to get outside and enjoy the last days of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Soon we'll be hearing about how the sap is running, yet another celebration of spring here in our Pontiac region.

Reminder to birders: get an early start and clean out your bird boxes before the next wave of migrants arrive.

**A notable life: the passing of Amelia Bretzloff**

I want to take a moment to honour Amelia (Smart) Bretzloff, who passed away on Monday, March 6. For years, readers of THE EQUITY enjoyed her column on Canadian Literature, a worthwhile contribution to our community. Amelia began her teaching career in a one-room schoolhouse in Schwartz, which in itself symbolizes a notable piece of our Pontiac history. Amelia was always an unwavering rock of support and love to her two daughters and son, as well as to her grandchildren. I know you will join me in wishing the family comfort and peace at this very difficult time.

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance writer and outdoors enthusiast. Contact her at [chesley@allstream.net](mailto:chesley@allstream.net).

#### Letters to the Editor

THE EQUITY welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. Short letters are more likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit letters to meet space requirements, clarity, or to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. E-mail letters are accepted at [news@theequity.ca](mailto: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.

## Show our support

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Shawville and District Chamber of Commerce I would like to publicly show our support for the Hockeyville bid. At our regular meeting March 8, Dan Duggan and Dave Murray gave a wonderful presentation about the benefits of Hockeyville. The one that was stressed the most was community spirit. We would like to encourage all businesses in the area to help the Hockeyville committee by showing how proud we are of our hockey heritage. This could be done by window displays or in some other creative way. Let's show Canada that Shawville and district is Hockeyville.

Ruth Smiley Hahn, President  
Shawville and District Chamber of Commerce

## We don't want this "mega dump!"

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to the letter that Bruce Campbell wrote March 1. He stated that we, the residents of Danford Lake, sensed a lot of "not in my back yard" syndrome. I believe this is the only thing that made any real sense in the whole letter. We do not want this "mega dump!"

As THE EQUITY reported Dec. 3, 2003, some residents of Quyon hold the same concerns just as we have now. They were concerned about the extra traffic on the road that the new landfill would generate, or the smell, or the risk to their well water. "All landfills leak. All liners leak," said Wolf Lake resident Vladimir Tolstoy after the Nov. 25 meeting held in the Quyon Lions Hall. These liners are only the thickness of two dimes put together! There is no doubt they will leak. The residents of Quyon were right not to want this site and I applaud them for all their hard work in stopping this disastrous "mega dump idea."

1. As was said last week "Will these cells leak?" Mr. Campbell said: "No! They're only about 20 feet deep with hardly any pressure." If only that were the case. The Danford Lake proposed "mega dump?" is projected at closure (25 to 30 years from now, should it happen) to be 22 stories high. All these years, heavy equipment will be driving on the growing mountain of garbage and compacting as they bulldoze.

2. "I really don't think the transportation problem will last long as infrastructure does create roads." Hwy. 105 is already too unsafe to be adding a large number of large, heavy garbage trucks.

3. "Managed by a family-oriented, professional, well-respected businessmen who know what they are doing." LDC nor Denis Rouleau have ever managed an engineered landfill site before. Cohen and Cohen have never been involved in an engineered landfill site. Cohen and Cohen are investors.

As for the "not in my backyard" comment, the Coalition Against the Danford Lake Mega Dump is a group of concerned residents, rate payers and citizens from here and neighboring affected municipalities that opposes this project based, for one, on the total unsuitability of this area. Instead we believe this area should be promoted as an eco-tourism destination with its pristine environment, beautiful mountains and lakes. We believe that this outdated technology (over 25 years old and proven to fail shouldn't be forced on any municipality and instead we should, as a region, investigate newer, state of the art technologies like plasma gasification, which is being given a years trial at the Trail Road Dump in the City of Ottawa.

What is the Plasma Gasification Process? The Plasco Gasification Process (PGP) is a patented thermal process developed by the Plasco Energy Group. PGP involves the application of intense heat to waste materials in a completely closed, controlled and oxygen-starved environment. This process converts waste materials into a clean syn-

thetic gas and heat that can be used to generate electricity. This process is the best alternative out there and everyone could benefit from it.

As many people have stated, "all liners leak." How can you argue otherwise? Can you be sure that a nail won't be thrown in to the garbage? A tack, a paper clip? Cans will surely puncture the liner. As I stated a couple of weeks ago in my column, who will pay when the lakes and fish become contaminated? Who will pay for the wild animals when they get sick? But most of all, who will pay when the humans get sick? We will! When we see our loved ones sick or heaven forbid, dying?

No, the world does not have to revolve around the almighty dollar. Dollars from this new mega dump could only bring upset and heartache.

All these above mentioned topics were true in 2003! The residents then were concerned as we are now.

Stephanie Milford  
Danford Lake

## Wish to clarify

Dear Editor,

In order to avoid possible misinterpretation of your article regarding school reorganization (THE EQUITY - March 1), I wish to clarify a few points.

Adult education or more correctly, the Pontiac Continuing Education Centre did not initiate the West Quebec School Board's school reorganization plan; nor did we formulate any of the options. We have been successfully cohabiting with Pontiac High School for over 20 years and have an agreement with them to use several classrooms within the school. The only recent change is that during the past few years adult education has outgrown its space allotment at Pontiac High, and we have had to move some of our classes to another school building. Of course we are very happy about this because it indicates that adult education is an increasingly successful operation, that our programs are attracting a greater clientele, and that we are fulfilling an essential service to the community with both our high school diploma/academic upgrading program, and our increasing number of career course options for graduates.

So yes, we do need more space, since all indications prove that this upward trend will continue into the future. And yes, we would really like a "home". We are the only adult education centre in Quebec without our own building, and we are serving a clientele of 200 students at the present time. There is no question that these students are equally deserving of access to the best quality of educational service and job skill upgrading that our community is able to provide.

Whenever there is talk of school reorganization, the priority is to provide the highest standard of academic service to the greatest number of people - adults and children alike. This is the main concern of the staff of Pontiac Continuing Education Centre.

Gretchen Schwarz  
Greermount

## A tale of two cities

PONTIAC • Standing in front of THE EQUITY office the other day voraciously inhaling a not-so-mild cigarette, as some of us journalist-types are known to do from time to time, three vehicles passed by on Centre Street. That they passed by, as Tom Jones reminds us incessantly on adult-contemporary radio, was not unusual. What was, at least to a city boy like me, were the waves I received from the drivers of the first two vehicles.



Intern Dale Brown

In Ottawa, where I go to school at Algonquin College, or my home town of Kitchener, Ontario, my fight or flight instincts would be kicking in, oh, right about now. I mean, what reason could a complete stranger possibly have to wave at me? Is he trying to get my attention? Am I about to be the hapless victim of an Acme piano moving accident? Must I fend off a distasteful come-on from the old man in the pick-up? Sorry man, I don't swing that way!

But no, dear readers, it was nothing so drastic as that. After I looked around and noticed no one else on the street and a complete lack of malice on the face of the driver, I realized it was simply a man who recognized a fellow human being and offered a friendly greeting as he passed by. As my urban-trained brain got over the initial shock of this unsolicited human contact, my arm raised itself almost of its own volition — a knee-jerk reaction, so to speak, in response to the presented stimuli as if it were perfectly natural to greet members of one's own species in this manner. Imagine.

Cigarette momentarily forgotten, I pondered the significance of the friendly gesture. After all, in Ottawa, an event of this nature occurs with the same frequency as logical thought in Parliament. While

thinking on it, another car passed by and sure enough, the woman driving gave me a wave. Startling. One more and we have a trend on our hands.

It was then I realized the real difference between a small village like Shawville and larger cities like Ottawa, Toronto and Kitchener (other than a decided excess of breathable air) is the fact people take the time to know their neighbours. They take time to stop and ask how the kids or grandkids are, to talk about work or hobbies and hey, weren't those Pontiacs great last night!

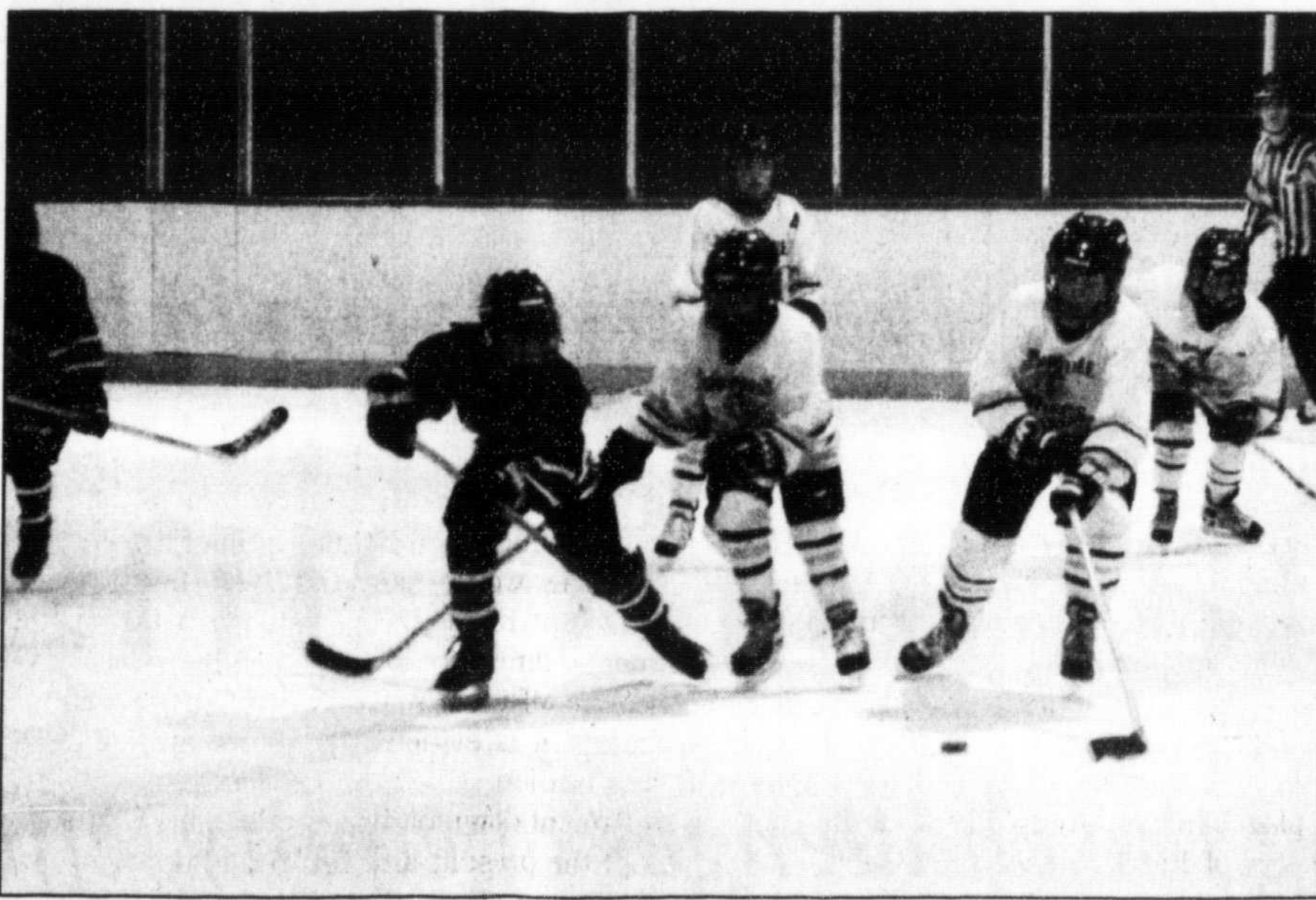
Yes, I thought smiling to myself, this is a new but entirely pleasant experience and one I could get used to. It occurred to me the apartment building I lived in on Dunes Rd. in Ottawa probably housed around 1,000 people. I didn't know a single one of them by name. What a sad state of affairs when those who live in the same building cannot take the time to acknowledge each other's presence beyond a nod and muffled grunt.

I couldn't imagine that ever being a problem in the Pontiac and thank heaven for that. Though I've been here less than a week, I can tell you it will be my pleasure to report to you on happenings around the region and the people at the heart of them.

But Dale, some of you keen-minded readers are reminding me, you said three vehicles passed by. Indeed, a third truck did pass and promptly soaked me to the bone as the over-size tires plowed their way through Lake Shawville on the side of the road. Oh well, into everyone's life a little rain must fall. Nothing was going to spoil the good mood brought on by the anonymous goodwill of my fellow villagers. Besides, my cigarette was still lit.



# Packed house greets minor hockey playoffs



Dale Brown, THE EQUITY

The various levels of minor hockey in the area began their playoffs Saturday at the Shawville arena to help kick-off Shawville's Hockeysville celebrations. An estimated 250 people were on hand for each game to cheer the home side on.

## WILBUR MCLEAN

**Equity Reporter**  
PONTIAC • The Hockeysville celebration in Shawville on Saturday produced season-record crowds for Pontiac's minor hockey teams at the Shawville arena.

Normally attended by a smattering of friends and family, hundreds of fans from the region supported the hometown teams' playoff efforts.

The Novice 'B' Shawville Pontiacs were one of the squads who received overwhelming community support in their playoff drive and the team benefited, beating Elms de Hull 4-1 in their first playoff game.

Danny Pasch scored the team's first and third goals while Zachary Elliott picked up the second and fourth markers for the Pontiacs.

**Midget 'A'**  
The Fort Coulonge Draveurs Midget 'A' contest at the Shawville Arena on Saturday imploded after an incident involving their opponents, the Gatineau Draveurs, and the referees.

With the Draveurs up 2-1, a linesman tried to break up an impending scuffle between a Fort Coulonge and Gatineau player.

In response, the linesman was pushed by the Gatineau player causing a mêlée to break out.

"I was trying to take them off the ice, that's my job, and I got hit by two different guys," said Linesman Tyler Cluff.

After numerous players from Gatineau were ejected, the game was suspended because of Gatineau's inability to field a full line of players.

The Fort Coulonge team, which is made up of players throughout the Pontiac, was likely to be suspended by the league.

**Bantam 'BB'**  
The Bantam 'BB' Manitwaki Forestiers clinched their place in the final three after finishing the playoff series with a 3-0-2

record. It's been an exciting playoff run so far for the Forestiers, who have yet to lose a playoff game despite trailing in every single match of the post-season.

On Saturday, the team tied the Aylmer Mariners 4-4. Down 3-1, the Forestiers stormed back with three third period goals to ensure the tie.

Dominic Crytes scored the team's final two goals. Nicolas Francoeur and Dylan Wisotzki also scored for the Forestiers.

Jason Bédard had three assists in the win. Travis Stewart, Tyler Alexander, Wisotzki and Francoeur picked up an assist each.

Sunday's game was also exciting, and the Forestiers were victorious, 5-4 over the Papineau Volains.

In this playoff match, the Forestiers were down 4-2 late in the second period before answering with three straight goals to pick up the win.

Louis-Philippe Larivière scored the game-winning goal for the Manitwaki-based team, which has players from throughout the Pontiac.

Francoeur scored twice, while Wisotzki and Bédard added a goal apiece.

**Atom 'B'**  
The Shawville Pontiacs won both of their opening playoff games on the weekend.

Saturday's home game produced a 5-0 win over the Gatineau Cougars.

Goaltender Jaret Peck performed excellently in goal, earning his first shutout of the season under the pressure of the playoffs.

Cris Hearty scored twice and Jonathan Hickey had one, as did Dillon Harrison and Adam Bretzlaff.

Assists were posted by Harrison (2), Riley Young, Ben Horner, Hearty and Nathan Graham.

Sunday's game was also a success as the Pontiacs topped the Fort Coulonge Draveurs 9-4.

Harrison had the figure-

## 25 Years Ago

March 18, 1981

**NEW POLITICAL PARTY HAS PONTIAC CHAPTER:** To organize a Freedom of Choice Party in Pontiac County, 55 people gathered Monday night at the Community Centre in Shawville. Stephen Hodgins was elected first president of the Freedom of Choice Party. Directors will be chosen at meetings in each part of the County. A vice president, secretary and treasurer were also elected Monday night. Bob Smith, Frank Sofalvi and Brian Allan will fill these positions.

**QUYON FERRY MAKES EARLIEST CROSSING EVER:** The Quayon Ferry began the 1981 season's operations on Saturday, March 14 making this the earliest start ever in the long history of ferry crossing here.

## 50 Years Ago

March 15, 1956

**SUNDAY BEER BRINGS FINES TO 3 HOTELKEEPERS:** Three hotelkeepers, Mrs Rose Bemister and J A Essiembre, co-owners of the Lakeside Inn, Portage du Fort, as well as Arthur Germain, owner of the Forest Inn a Bryson, appeared before district Magistrate Jacques Boucher on a charge of having sold beer on Sunday without a meal, and having pleaded guilty, were fined \$100 and order to pay the court costs or to spend one month in jail.

**TONIC FOR BRYSON:** The tonic needed in Bryson just now was the announcement that work is commencing next month in the development of the Bristol Mines. This should waken Bryson to the housing shortage now existing here, and, to this village, great opportunity to double its population during the initial development of Bristol Iron Mines.

**BILLY HODGINS' CONDITION MUCH IMPROVED:** Friends and schoolmates will be pleased to hear of the recovery of Master Billy Hodgins. Billy, son of Mr and Mrs Ted Hodgins was rushed to the Civic Hospital two weeks ago, suffering from an internal ailment and his condition is so improved that he is now convalescing at home.

## 75 Years Ago

March 12, 1931

**LOCAL NEWS:** Quite a number of cases of that old enemy of mankind, "Lagrippe" have developed in this district during the past two or three weeks and some cases are reported to have been rather serious. Commencing at nine o'clock Sunday morning, the heaviest snow fall of the year in this district (from 12 to 14 inches) accompanied by real March weather, demonstrated that old King Winter has still a fairly solid grip on this corner of the Globe.

Gravelling the Puckanock Road in winter is not just to the liking of the Thorne farmers who have occasion to haul wood, etc, out to Shawville. By travelling the fields of course, much of the fresh gravelling is avoided at present, but once the break comes our northern neighbors fear that the going will be very bad. Testing out this section of roadway after the snow goes, should prove whether or not winter gravelling is a success. With a good many others, we have our doubts.

Although 82 years of age, John Proudfoot, resident Fort Coulonge, has no fear of the air and on the 23rd ult. he made his first trip in an aeroplane. Mr Proudfoot thoroughly enjoyed the novel experience and expressed himself to his friends as being delighted with the trip. Mr Proudfoot's youngest son, John Proudfoot, Jr., was killed in action behind the French lines, serving with the Royal Air Force in 1918, the anniversary of his death being coincident with his father's first venture in the air.

## 100 Years Ago

March 15, 1906

**LOCAL NEWS:** Although the roads have been practically bare for some days, and wheels have largely taken the place of runners, sleigh loads of wood and sawlogs have been coming into town in considerable quantities.

Mr John Wainman, one of our old residents, who we regret to say has been in poor health all winter, had the misfortune to hurt his back severely by a fall on Thursday morning, while carrying a pail of water. It being rather slippery under foot at the time, the aged gentleman fell with considerable force, and his back

came in contact with a plank.

George Lang, youngest son of Mr H Lang, who has been employed with the Dominion Express Co at North Bay since last fall, came home on Thursday last seriously ill with typhoid fever, of which there have been many cases at North Bay of late. A trained nurse is now in attendance on the young man, whose condition is rather better.

**SAD BROWNING ACCIDENT:** A newly-formed mound in the Shawville cemetery marks the resting place of the earthly remains of little Ethel Armstrong, aged 8 years, youngest daughter of Mr Henry B Armstrong, of Clarendon Front, who met a sad and untimely death on Friday evening last, while journeying homeward on the ice with her father from a trip to Braeside, whither early in the day they had gone on business. They were driving in a cutter in which a team of young horses were attached. It was towards evening as they approached the Quebec side of the river, and owing to a light snow that was drifting over the surface of the ice, Mr Armstrong somehow got on to a track different to that which he had taken whilst going down river. When he saw his mistake he decided to follow alongside a huge crack in the ice till he came to a point where he considered it would be safe to cross it and then make for land. When about opposite John Armstrong's wharf he attempted to carry out this idea, and immediately the team stepped over the crack, they broke through a thin skimming of ice, dragging the cutter and its occupants in after them. The ice was so thin that in a few moments the horses by their struggles broke quite a large hole. The horses unfortunately turned parallel with the crack and thus keeping in deep water were eventually exhausted and drowned. With the sudden-plunge into the hold the cutter dipped forward and its occupants were at once submerged. Mr Armstrong struggled to the surface and began battling with the thin ice in a vain effort to get out; but his child was soon overcome, and met her death in the conveyance in which she was sitting.

Her father was unable to render her any assistance, and finally when he succeeded in reaching ice sufficiently strong to support his elbows, he could discern the form of his child, of whom the icy waters had piteously bereft him only a short distance below the surface.

# Rural recreation activities high priority in Outaouais plan

Five year plan being revisited; recreational infrastructure needs assistance

LEAH MILLER  
Equity Editor

**BRYSON •** The Unité régionale de loisir et de sport de l'Outaouais is revisiting its five-year plan using suggestions from Pontiac community members.

A consultation to collect comments and observations took place Feb. 21 in Bryson where about 15 people attended.

The plan was laid out by professionals working with the non-profit organization, updating its first regional plan which was completed in 2004.

The new plan will guide sports and recreation in the Outaouais region until 2010.

Main goals of the plan are to get youth active, help provide financial support to recreation associations that organize sports activities, develop nature and hiking trail corridors so they can be left for future generations and developing sporting and leisure infrastructures.

"We will work on the trails and pathways in the MRC to enhance and promote for future generations," said Jean-Marc Purenne, development agent.

"We also hope to create activities to take place on the trail to make it more known and more used."

He said that in all regions of the Outaouais, communities said their sporting infrastructures needed to be improved.

In addition, the five next years will be devoted to rural sports and recreation.

"Leisure and sport in rural areas need special support from us and other associations," said Purenne.

"The population is lowering and the youth are leaving to work outside the region. So we want to work with the MRCs and municipalities to find solutions to the problem through recreation."

The plan is part of the regional strategic planning of the Outaouais region

conference of elected officials (CRÉO).

The organization says the plan can be used as a significant development tool for the area.

"Sports and recreation is important because of the social aspect in each municipality," said Purenne. "If you don't have community activities, it is difficult to have a community and people won't be able to get together and do things together."

He said without access to community recreation, health can be negatively affected.

"If you want to have commerce and industry, but you have nothing for the citizens, how can you attract people?" asked Purenne.

The organization's main activity in the Pontiac is the annual Défi en patins skating community event held in January.

The finalized document will be presented on March 21.

# Murray's Sens acquire Arnason, Morrison

DALE BROWN

**Equity Reporter**  
ATLANTA • Shawville native and Ottawa Senators head coach Bryan Murray had his wish for a second-line centre granted Thursday as the team welcomed centre Tyler Arnason and goaltender Mike Morrison after the NHL's trade deadline frenzy expired for another year.

The Chicago Blackhawks traded the much-maligned Arnason, 26, to Ottawa moments before the 3 p.m. trade deadline March 9, in exchange for young forward Brandon Bochenski and a second-round draft choice.

"We think Arnason's a good fit," said Senators' head coach and Shawville native Bryan Murray. "He's a left-handed shot — our other centres are right-handed — and we add another first player to our

team."

Murray is not concerned by criticisms of Arnason's work ethic.

"He doesn't always seem interested but on a good team, we think he'll be well motivated."

Arnason should fill the role of second-line centre the Senators have been looking for for some time.

"That's the plan — to play him on the second line," said Murray. "I'll probably try him with Alfredsson to start."

Morrison was claimed off waivers March 8, after being waived by the Edmonton Oilers.

"Morrison is a guy who'll give us depth in goal with Hasek hurt," said Murray. "Mike's played a number of games with Edmonton and we didn't really have a third goalie with NHL experience."

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- improved organization of services, with the creation of 95 health and social-services centres tailored to conditions in each territory;
- a tightened-up Tobacco Act and a ban on smoking in public places;
- accreditation of 108 family medicine groups (FMGs) serving over 730,000 people, compared with 19 FMGs in 2003;
- higher medical school admissions, with the Québec contingent rising from 406 in 1998-1999 to 748 in 2005-2006;
- compulsory certification for private residential facilities;
- 45,000 more seniors obtaining their medication free of charge since July 2005;
- quality assessment visits of CHSLDs and youth centres;
- more regional medical training, with the Trois-Rivières and Saguenay satellite campuses and the deployment of family medicine units;
- a government campaign to promote healthy lifestyles.



## Now we need to go further

The government of Québec is asking the population to consider various avenues for solutions that will enable us, collectively, to meet the challenges of access, quality, efficiency and financing that face us. These proposals will be debated before the National Assembly's Commission des affaires sociales starting on April 4, 2006.

The government of Québec also wishes to discuss all these questions with the greatest possible number of Quebecers. Accordingly, it invites members of the public to express their opinions by taking part in an online consultation.

Please visit [www.msss.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca) and click *Guaranteeing access*, online consultation.

# Late goal draws Junior 'B's even

DALE BROWN  
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • The near-capacity crowd at Shawville Arena erupted in celebration as Marc Maurice's one-timer from the slot broke a 3-3 tie late in the third period to even the Eastern Ontario Valley Division Junior 'B' finals between the Shawville Pontiacs and Perth Blue Wings at two games each Saturday evening.

"They played three periods tonight," said Pontiac head coach Pierre Lagacé thinking back to the 9-3 drubbing the team took the night before. "We asked them to play more physical tonight and they did. It was a great effort."

The Pontiacs took the initiative early, spending the opening minutes applying pressure in the Blue Wing zone. Their determination paid off when Blue Wing Cory Gillespie was sent off for slashing at 2:59. A minute and a half later, teammate Dan Hopewell joined him in the box for boarding putting the Wings two men down.

The Pontiacs kept the pressure on while enjoying the two-man advantage, but it wasn't until seconds after Gillespie stepped back on the ice, reducing the advantage to one man, that Pontiac defenceman Bryan Kealey took a pass from captain Jordan MacDougall, walked in from the blueline and put one past Perth goalie Rob Dier to open the scoring.

Despite enjoying a 15-8 shot advantage in the first period, the Pontiacs found themselves down 2-1 on goals from Wings forwards Nevan Sullivan and Brent Quinn.

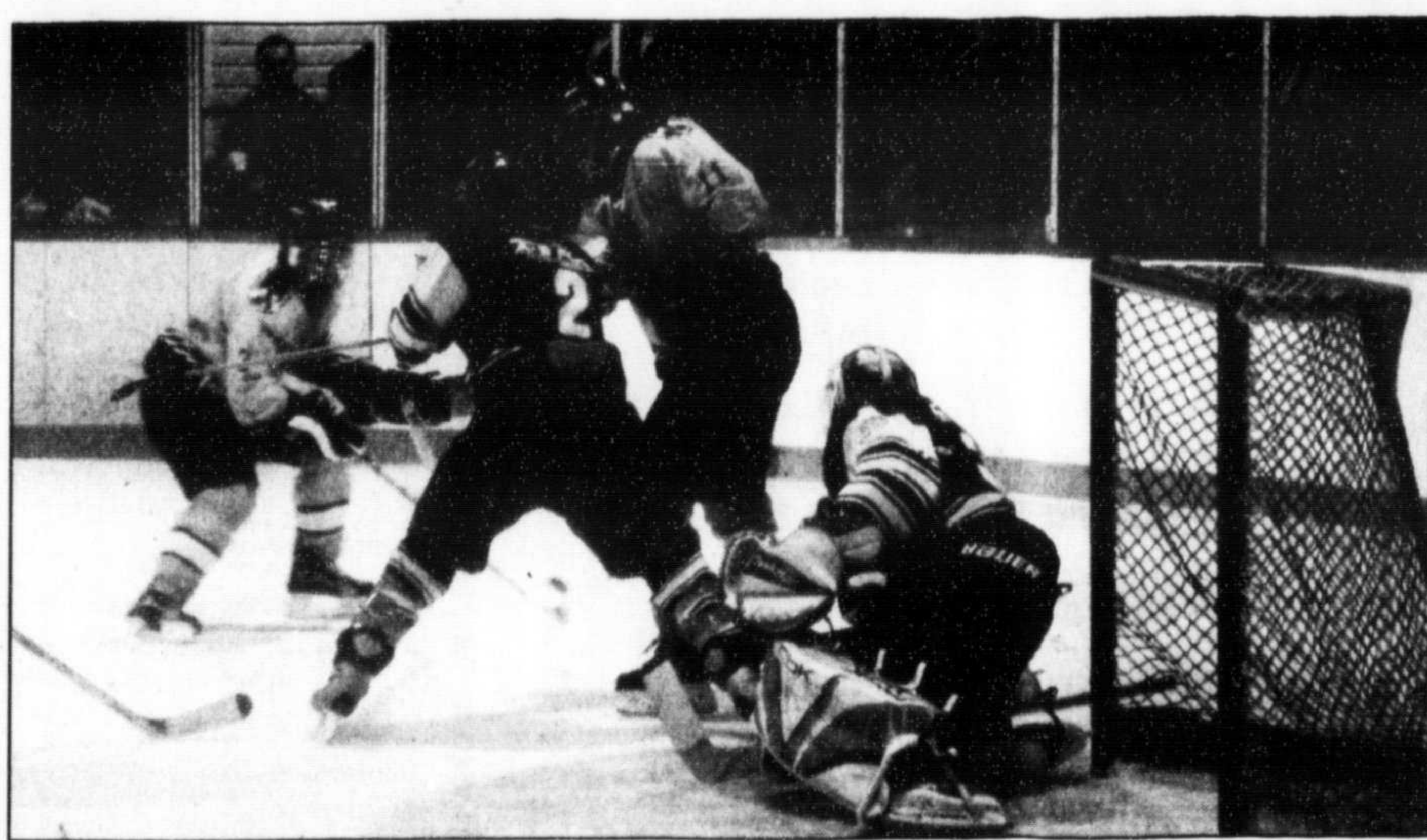
Undaunted, Shawville pressed the attack again in the second until Dier mis-played a Keegan McCormick shot from the face-off dot at 6:44, evening the score 2-2.

The tie would not last long as a mad scramble in front of the Perth net three minutes later resulted in a juicy rebound for Shawville's Jansen Stimpson, who calmly slid the puck past Dier to the delight of the crowd, putting the Pontiacs up 3-2. Pontiacs goalie Adam Loback did his part, holding the fort for the home side going into the final frame.

As the third period progressed, the Pontiacs fell back to defend the lead rather than add to it, mustering only six shots in the final frame. The strategy cost them when the Wings converted a Matt Collins holding penalty with less than seven minutes remaining to tie the game 3-3.

Two minutes later, however, Maurice took a drop pass from Kealey on a play started by MacDougall and promptly one-timed the winning goal in the top corner.

"Kealey passed the puck, like a trailer, you know?" said Maurice of the set-up. "I one-timed it, top corner. It was a pretty good play. I'm very happy for the



Pontiac forward Keegan McCormick occupies Perth defenceman Tom Adam in front of the Wings goal while Shawville's Alex Taschereau tries to score.

team — we had to win this game."

Lagacé noted team play has steadily improved throughout the season and stressed the trend must continue.

"It's not about one or two players on this team," he said. "They've got to play well together. (The Blue Wings) are a good transition team and dangerous on the power play. If we keep out of the penalty box and keep up our defensive coverage up, the rest should take care of itself. We have a very positive group."

If there is an overwhelming positive feeling in the Pontiac dressing room these days, Lagacé credits team president and general manager Chris Young for bringing in some veteran talent to help the youngsters along in their development.

"Chris signed a couple of 20- and 21-year-olds this year," he said. "The leaders in our room are very good with the younger guys."

MacDougall agrees and adds winning hockey games doesn't hurt either.

"When I walked in the dressing room in January it was a completely different feel," he said. "It was a much tighter-knit group than the beginning of the season. I hate to blame winning, but it's a big factor."

What made Saturday's win sweeter than usual was the rebound from a deflating 9-3 loss the Friday night in Perth.

"They never lost their cool Friday and they'll be back tonight, don't worry," Young said before Saturday's game. Assistant coach Gerry Brisson agreed.

"It's over — forgotten about," he said. "We have to focus on tonight."

Matt Collins, Alex Taschereau and Doug Woodridge, injured ribs and all, tallied singles for the Pontiacs while Brent Quinn notched a game-high two goals and two assists for Perth.

Game two Wednesday saw Shawville even the series at one game each after a 5-3 victory at home. Maurice scored a hat trick while MacDougall twice tickled the net. Brisson said goaltender Loback played a solid game and helped them back into the series.

"(Loback) had a great

game," said Brisson. "He communicated well with the boys in front of him. Any good hockey team starts with a good goalie. Adam's a team player and well-liked in the dressing room. It makes a big difference out there."

Loback, however, credits his teammates and coaches for his success this year. "Things like communication with my defencemen, that's instilled by the coaches," he said. "The big thing is everyone's relaxed and focused here. Everyone has a role and up to this point, everyone has fulfilled it."

Brisson, who took over the head coaching duties for game two as Lagacé had a previous commitment, also singled out MacDougall and Maurice for their efforts. "Jordan and Marc played hard, drove to the net and were rewarded with goals," he said.

Game five is slated for tonight in Perth with the Pontiacs two games away from winning their division. "This is where we wanted to be," said MacDougall.

"But if a few months ago you asked the fans who supported us all year if we'd be here now — I don't think so. It's been a major turnaround and we're happy we're here."

# Luke Richardson makes return to Toronto

Shawville-rooted pro player traded to original NHL team; family pleased he'll be closer to home

DALE BROWN  
Equity Reporter

TORONTO • Luke Richardson, like the rest of his Shawville-rooted family, was never one to shy away from a challenge. Just as well, because there's a big one looming in front of him as he once again dons the fabled blue and white of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Richardson, who was Toronto's first-round draft choice (seventh overall) in the 1987 entry draft, was traded from the Columbus Blue Jackets to the Leafs for a conditional draft pick Wednesday as the Leafs gear up for a run at the playoffs in NHL's ultra-competitive Eastern Conference.

Richardson and the Leafs have their work cut out for them as they currently sit six points adrift of the eighth and final post-season berth. "It's come full circle," said Richardson as he rushed to catch a flight to New York for a game against the Islanders Friday night.

"It was a weird feeling being back, but it's a great feeling."

Richardson expects his physical brand of hockey to be a much needed addition to the Toronto defence corps.

"I'm pretty good at (being physical)," he said. "I grew up with old school coaches and players."

He was happy to see his son dealt to Toronto but

admitted it was a pretty hectic the night before deadline day.

"I had so many people call me, I let the phone go after 10 p.m."

Royce, who still lives in Shawville, was glad to see Richardson come back to Canada.

"I'm glad he's a lot closer to home," he said. "He may have preferred Ottawa, but with Redden and Chara and such, they're pretty good on defence."

Speaking of Ottawa, now resides in the nation's capital, like to see his son finish his career with the Sens?

"Depending on who's there. If Bryan's there, that would be good," he said of good friend and Senators head coach Bryan Murray, himself a Shawville native.

"I don't have to promote Luke to Bryan, he's always thought very highly of him."

Regardless of Richardson's plans after this season, the task at hand still remains. His job is to help Toronto to the playoffs and tutor the young Maple Leafs defence corps along the way.

"It's exciting," he said of his new/old digs. "There (are) a lot of expectations and the pressures are much more vocalized here."

"But if you're going to play hockey, this is the place to be."

## Pontiac Station

Hope Cadieux  
647-5452

What a lovely week this has been. The signs of spring are all around. You can feel the warm sun on your cheeks. You can feel the cold water seeping into your boots as you walk out to the car. You can see the snow turning into big, wet crystals and the dirt appearing in the snowbanks. You can smell the earthy smell of wet vegetation and deer manure. You can feel the mud sucking at your tires from the ruts on the road. Spring is a messy, sloppy season in this country.

Here in Bristol we are fortunate to have so much of the natural world around us. Indeed that's why most of us live here. But people in general are starting to appreciate the natural world more these days, mainly because of the fact that it is rapidly disappearing.

Take, for example, old growth or mature forests. Now there are plenty of cutover bush lots in Bristol as elsewhere in the Pontiac, but there are very few

stands of mature forests. Bristol municipality is the owner of one such stand of mature forest. In 1994, Bristol purchased Lot 28 Range 1, a property that is mainly swamp, rocky outcroppings and a forest that has grown for the most part undisturbed for over 100 years.

This forest is home to various species of animals, birds and amphibians, including one species of rare turtle, the Blanding's. Some of you may have seen it — the Blanding's turtle is the one with yellow on its throat. Because of the presence of the Blanding's turtle, the Nature Conservancy of Canada is interested in acquiring the lot from the municipality with a view to protecting it. But even without the Blanding's, the land is still worth protecting, because a mature forest is rare and a special thing these days.

And yet, at its regular meeting on March 6, Bristol council passed a resolution to commission a forestry engineering company to make a plan for a "selective cut" of the property. This is bad news.

A selective cut will not just result in the loss of the

largest trees that make up the mature forest. It will destroy many of the smaller trees as a result of opening access roads and felling the big ones.

It will make ruts and scars on the ground from the heavy machinery. It will cause new growth spring up thick and unruly around the stumps. Instead of a rare and beautiful mature forest, we will be left with a mess — just one more cutover bush lot.

There is no good reason why this should happen. Bristol now has a golden opportunity to recoup its investment and ensure the preservation of the forest in its natural state by selling it to the Conservancy. But, if Bristol chooses to do a selective cut, it will undoubtedly reduce the amount of money that the Conservancy — or anybody else for that matter — will be willing to pay for the property. And what purpose will the cut have served then? As the years go by and old-growth forests become even rarer, people will come to appreciate a mature forest even more than they do now, and scratch their heads in wonder at Bristol's decision.

## Campbell's Bay

Iris Smith  
648-5821

St. John's The Evangelist Church held a delicious pancake supper at the Parish Centre on Shrove Tuesday. It was well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy this outing.

Deepest sympathy to the Cartman Family on this past week. His funeral was on Sunday at the Shawville Pentecostal Church. The interment was at Stark's Corner Cemetery.

The Golden Age Club held its euchre party on Tuesday at the Club room with a good crowd in attendance. Ladies high was a three-way tie between Rita McGuire, Gwen Black and Dorcas Sparling. They split

the prize. Second was won by Maxine Fenton. Men's High was a three-way tie between Tom Hearty, Jean Guy Mainville and Ed Gutoskie. They split the prize. Second was a three-way tie as well between Roger Lacroix, Mervin Smith and Keryn Burman. They split the prize. The door prize was won by Boyd Ebert, the 50-50 was won by Rita McGuire. Refreshments were by June and Keryn Burman.

Visiting with Gladys Walsh were, Suzie and Ron Barnes and their daughters Elizabeth and Laura of Elora.

They travelled to Alymer on Sunday to visit with other family members while in the area. They are on the March break.

Gladys Belanger celebrated her 86th birthday on March 10. Her family host-

Do you have any of the following issues of THE EQUITY?

February 8, 1940	April 17, 1941
March 28, 1940	May 15, 1941
September 12, 1940	July 7, 1941
November 14, 1940	July 14, 1941
February 27, 1941	July 24, 1941

The Pontiac Archives are missing these issues. If you are willing to donate them, call 647-7013.

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**Vinton**

Diane Boisvert 648-5296  
Guess who is going to be two on March 18. Tao, will be starting his terrible twos. I do believe he already started them.  
Last week Shelley told me that he climbed onto the five gallon water jug, then onto the stove, over to the counter and reached the bananas on top of the fridge and chewed his way through the whole

bunch of bananas. Food is not safe around that child. Shelley never has a problem feeding him. Needless to say Shelley had to move the water jug and hide the bananas.  
My son, Alex, had an appendix attack and had to have surgery on the weekend. He was visiting his father in Ericsdale, M.B when the pains got really bad.  
They brought him into the hospital there and they checked him out and sent him to Winnipeg. The hospi-

tal he went to was a training hospital so he had a lot of attention. He phoned me last night and told me that he will be staying in Winnipeg for a few days before he heads back to Thompson.  
Happy birthday wishes go out to Fred Gratton of Hanmer, Raymond Duguet and Travis Coriveau on March 17, Tracey Frost, Tianne Bertrand and Ricky Crawford on March 19, Thomas O'Brien, Jody Crawford and Phyllis Sloan on March 21.

**Ladysmith**

Debbie Thrun 647-3927  
Well, St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner now on March 17. I would like to wish everyone a happy one. I hope you remembered to dig out your green outfits. If you're planning to go out to celebrate this special occasion have a safe and enjoyable time and drive with caution.

and Gerald Mielkie of Cawood.  
My niece, Crystal Thrun of Ottawa, spent the weekend with her parents Debbie (Holmes) and Denver Thrun in Ladysmith.  
My, the snow has certainly been melting lately with all the lovely sunny days we have been getting. As I write this it's Saturday afternoon and the sun is bright and warm, shining through the windows. It sure helps warm up your home. Today just felt like a spring day. The warm temperatures and sunshine made you feel so cheerful.

Here is an Irish blessing. May the wind blow at your back always. May the road rise to meet you and may you be in Heaven an hour before the devil knows you're dead.  
Get well wishes to Mabel Erle who is a patient in Shawville Hospital. Hope you will soon be feeling better. All your friends are thinking of you.  
Deepest sympathy to the Bretzlaff family and friends on the recent passing of Amelia Bretzlaff of Ayimer. The burial was on Saturday at Zion Lutheran Church.

We have quite a few birds at our feeders, but mostly chickadees.  
Last year the first robins returned on March 16. I'm just wondering, if they will come back around that time this year. Has anyone seen one yet? Feel free to give me a call when you do. I like to keep a record from year to year the dates that the spring birds arrive. Or if you see any unusual birds give me a call. I'm a real bird lover. I love to hear them chirping away in the summer, especially first thing in the morning. It seems to give you a boost for the day ahead.  
Dropping over on Saturday was neighbour, Laynard Pasch.

The freezing rain on Thursday was not welcomed as it put more of a crust on the snow. But as it turned to just rain it took down some of the snow. There is a lot of snow to go this year so hopefully it will melt gradually and not create flooding.  
We are finding more deer killed in the fields. In most cases very little is eaten leaving it to ravens, crows and eagles to clean up the carcass.  
Karl Kappas has been on a winter vacation to Florida and should be returning this week.  
Birthday congratulations to Lars Bretzlaff who celebrates March 19.  
On Friday afternoon, March 10 I received a lovely call from Donna White, of Clark Lake. She told me that when she came home from shopping that morning she spotted a red-winged blackbird sitting on her deck. She tells me she has never seen one this early in the year. She also says that with all the spring birds coming so early this year Spring must be just around the corner. We both agreed the sooner the better.  
Visiting us last Sunday were Winnifred

This past week when I was talking to Evelyn Campbell I said "I guess you will soon be starting to tap." She told me not for a while yet. She tells me you need cold nights and warm days and that the snow has to be completely gone off their lawn and the frost out of the ground. This is their way of knowing that the trees will run and they can start to tap. This is the procedure the way it is done down at the Holy Land. Other people have told me you need the snow in order for the trees to run. But I guess there are different ways of doing it in various areas. There is a lot of work involved if you still do it the old-fashioned way. To all the people that make tapping season I wish you the best of luck and success.  
Extra, extra the first robin has been spotted. Johnny Schwartz called us on Sunday morning to say he saw it in a poplar tree. This is early so surely spring can't be far behind.  
Happy St Patrick's Day!

**GALETTA LIVESTOCK SALES**  
**HERD DISPERSAL — P & T FARMS**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29th, 2:00 p.m.**  
50 Crossbred Cows / bred Charolais or Limo  
Cows pregnancy checked

**VACCINATED SALES — 12 p.m. start**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22nd**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th**  
Cattle must be castrated, dehorned and vaccinated.  
**\*\*Regular Sale to Follow\*\***

**Horses sell the first Wednesday of each month**

**HORSE TACK & EQUIPMENT**  
**CONSIGNMENT SALE**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 15th, 2006**  
Consign early — call Ben at 613-623-9455  
**It's worth the journey to talk to Ernie!**  
Tel./Fax: 613-623-3439 Res. 613-623-9840 Barn (Wed.)

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Le titulaire du poste se rapporte au Comptable et au Contrôleur, il a la responsabilité d'aider à produire et analyser des rapports des coûts de divers matériels reliés aux finances, budget et statistiques. Les exigences minimums sont :

- Diplôme universitaire en comptabilité
- 3 à 5 ans d'expérience en comptabilité
- Expérience avec la suite MS Office
- Bilingue (français et anglais)
- Doit avoir de l'initiative, de bonnes capacités interpersonnelles et travailler efficacement en équipe.

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Reporting to the Cost accountant and Controller, he is responsible to help build up and analyze various material cost related reports in the areas of Finance, Budget and Statistical data. The minimal requirements are:

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- Bilingual (French and English)
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It is the policy of Smurfit-Stone Container Canada to give equal opportunity to all qualified persons.  
We invite you to apply directly at [www.smurfit.com](http://www.smurfit.com) under career opportunities.

**La députée de Pontiac annonce une aide de 130 111\$**

**CAMPBELL'S BAY** • La députée de Pontiac, Mme Charlotte L'Écuyer, annonce, au nom du ministre du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation, monsieur Claude Béchar, une aide financière de 130 111 \$ à la MRC de Pontiac.  
Le soutien accordé à cette MRC servira au démarrage et à l'expansion d'entreprises d'économie sociale pour répondre à la baisse de l'activité forestière qui touche la région de l'Outaouais. Ces projets permettront de favoriser la création d'emplois durables, a indiqué la députée.  
L'aide financière est allouée dans le cadre de la nouvelle Mesure de soutien

au développement d'entreprises d'économie sociale pour les communautés forestières, mesure annoncée dans le Discours sur le budget 2005-2006 et administrée par le ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation.  
Compte tenu de l'expertise en économie sociale détenue par les CLD, la gestion des fonds gouvernementaux leur sera confiée. Ainsi, les entreprises d'économie sociale en démarrage ou en expansion devront présenter des projets créateurs d'emplois durables qui auront un effet positif pour les travailleurs des régions où l'on note une baisse de l'activité forestière.  
Ces projets d'économie

**Municipalité de Thorne**  
**Municipality of Thorne**  
775 Route 366, Ladysmith, QC JOX 2A0  
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**OFFRE D'EMPLOI**  
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**ADJOINTE SECRÉTAIRE TRÉSORIÈRE(E)**

Bilingue  
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Expérience en procédures de bureau et avec le secteur public  
Cautionnement 100%  
Aptitude et composition de lettre.  
Résumé en citant votre expérience et qualifications sera accepté au bureau municipal, 775, Route 366, Ladysmith, QC JOX 2A0 jusqu'à 16:00 h vendredi le 31 mars 2006.  
Seulement les candidats qualifiés seront invités aux entrevues.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**  
**POSITION : PART-TIME**  
**ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TREASURER**

Must be bilingual  
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Experience in office procedures and in dealing with the public  
Bondable 100%  
Aptitude and composition in letter writing  
Résumé stating experience and qualifications will be accepted at the Municipal Office, 775 Route 366 Ladysmith, QC. JOX 2A0 until 4 P.M. on Friday, March 31, 2006.  
Only qualified candidates will be contacted for an interview.  
Ross Vowles  
Maire/Mayor

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**Iditarod chiens**



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY  
Sylvaine Drapeau de l'entreprise Eskimo Escapades d'Otter Lake a pris un étudiant de l'école John Paul II pour un traverse avec les chiens esquimau. Les étudiants de l'école ont participé dans un étude de la concours Iditarod Trail Sled des chiens esquimau à Alaska.

**DANGER**

**Il est dangereux de s'adonner à des activités récréatives près d'installations hydroélectriques.**

Restez éloignés des centrales hydroélectriques, rivages, barrages et cours d'eau environnants.  
Les centrales hydroélectriques fonctionnent toute l'année et affectent le débit d'eau et l'état des glaces. Le débit d'eau peut changer soudainement et sans préavis. La glace qui se forme près d'un barrage ou d'une centrale ou même à plusieurs kilomètres de là peut présenter de grands dangers.  
Aussi, respectez tous les avertissements, panneaux, balises et bouées. Si vous voyez que le niveau d'eau change, éloignez-vous sans plus attendre à une distance sûre.

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**OF MOTOMASTER**  
**HOTWASH WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID HEATER**

Canadian Tire is conducting a voluntary safety recall of the Motomaster HotWash Windshield Washer Fluid Heater (Canadian Tire product number 21-0020-2) due to a manufacturing defect. It has been determined that a small number of units contain a defective relay that may result in the relay sticking, causing the product to overheat and smoke.

While there have been no reported incidents causing injury, Canadian Tire is asking customers to discontinue the use of this product immediately and to call 1-866-670-9962 to find out if their unit is included in this recall, and to receive a free replacement unit. Customers may also return the product to their local Canadian Tire store for an exchange or full refund.

**How the unit can be identified:**  
This recall affects a small number of units that can be identified by looking at the outer casing of the product for an identifying mark. If the product contains the words 'patent pending' they are not defective and are not included in this recall. If the wording **does not** appear on the back of the product, then these products may be defective and customers should call 1-866-670-9962 to determine if they are included in the recall.

**Call 1-866-670-9962 for more information** OEG6-0059



# the momentum



2006 DODGE CHARGER R/T

*"The Charger R/T is the quintessential iron fist in a silk glove."*

— Rob Rothwell, Canadian Autopress.

# continues

## 2006 Dodge Caravan



- 3.3-L 180-hp V6 engine
- Air conditioning
- Power windows, locks and mirrors
- 7-passenger seating
- Cruise control
- AM/FM/CD stereo

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NHTSA FIVE STAR CRASH RATING  
for front impact.\*

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OR GET 0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR UP TO 36 MONTHS.<sup>Δ</sup>

## 2006 Jeep® Liberty 4X4



- 3.7-L PowerTech V6 engine, 210 hp
- 6-speed manual transmission
- Air conditioning
- 16-inch wheels
- Anti-lock 4-wheel disc brakes
- Traction control
- Electronic Stability Program (ESP™)
- Power locks, windows and mirrors
- Command-Trac™ part-time 4WD system
- Remote keyless entry
- Sentry Key™ engine immobilizer
- Deep tint sunscreen glass

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NHTSA FIVE STAR CRASH RATING  
for side impact.\*

Lease for  
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\$2,999 DOWN PAYMENT.  
OR GET 0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR UP TO 36 MONTHS.<sup>Δ</sup>

## 2006 Chrysler 300



- 3.5-L V6 engine, 250 hp
- Automatic transmission
- Air conditioning
- Traction control and antilock braking system
- 17-inch wheels
- Power locks, windows and mirrors
- Remote keyless entry
- Electronic Stability Program (ESP™)
- AM/FM radio with CD player

★★★★★  
NHTSA FIVE STAR CRASH RATING  
for front impact.\*

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2006 DODGE RAM MEGA CAB



*"Dodge Mega Cab is megastar."*

—Howard J. Elmer, Toronto Star Wheels, December 31, 2005

2007 DODGE CALIBER



*"At a base price of less than \$16,000, the new Caliber has both barrels blazing."*

—Jim Kenzie, Toronto Star Wheels, February 4, 2006

2006 JEEP COMMANDER



*"The King-of-the-hill Jeep Commander..."*

—Malcolm Gunn, Wheelbase Communications

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\* Based on a 36-month lease with \$2,999 cash down plus taxes on the 2006 Jeep Liberty with 26H package. Δ 0% purchase financing up to 36 months on 2006 Dodge Caravan models with short wheelbase and on the 2006 Jeep Liberty 4X4. † Based on a 39-month lease with \$4,030 cash down plus taxes on the 2006 Chrysler 300 with 26H package. Security deposit is \$0 for a limited time only, and may change without notice. First monthly payment required upon delivery. Leasing must be for personal purposes. Buy-back not required. Lessee responsible for mileage exceeding 61,200 km for 36 months or 45,900 km for 27 months at a rate of 15¢ per kilometer. Δ † Subject to approval by Chrysler Financial. Chrysler Financial is a member of the DaimlerChrysler Services Canada Group. RRP/MR registration charge of \$60, including register fee, is extra. † † Freight (\$1,200 for 2006 Dodge Caravan, and \$1,050 for 2006 Jeep Liberty), taxes on air conditioning (when applicable), licence, insurance, duties on new tires, dealer administration charges and taxes extra. These limited-time offers are exclusive, and cannot be combined with any other offer except the physically challenged assistance program, and apply to retail deliveries for personal purposes only. † Based on U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) scoring systems for front crash tests on the Chrysler 300 and the Dodge Caravan and for side crash tests on the Chrysler 300 and the Dodge Caravan. See your participating retailer for complete details and conditions. © Jeep is a registered trademark of DaimlerChrysler Corporation used under licence by DaimlerChrysler Corporation.

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March '06

April '06

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26	27	28	29	30	31		30							

## COMING EVENTS

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

**Fri., March 17** - at 7:00 p.m. the Shawville Figure Skating Club presents The Canadian 2006 Revue at the Shawville Arena. 2bm15

**Sat., March 18** - Ham and Bean Supper and Euchre Party, Masonic Hall, 244 Main Shawville. Supper 5:30 p.m., cards at 7 p.m. Shawville Chapter # 50, O.E.S. bm15

**Sun., March 19** - 1 p.m. Danford Lake, General Meeting Coalition against Mega Dump, Bethany Hall, Harrison Road, Danford Lake. Help us save all our communities from this environmental disaster. bm15

**Jedi mars 23, 2006** - Assemblée générale annuelle. La population est invitée à l'A.G.A. des Services de Repit du Pontiac, jeudi mars 23 à 19h00 au 24 rue Reid, Campbell's Bay, Québec. bm15

**Thur., March 23** - General Annual Meeting. Everyone is welcome to the annual meeting of the Pontiac Respite Services at 7 p.m. at 24 Rue Reid, Campbell's Bay, Québec. bm15

**April 1** - Grand Opening, Déjà Vue. Your budget friendly clothing store. Come and check us out. We are located at 180 Center St., Shawville at Lang. 3xm29

**April 4** - My FM presents the return of the Irish Rovers at the RCAF Wing in Renfrew. Doors open at 7 p.m. Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$48 and can be purchased at Renfrew Highland Travel, the Pembroke Mall and the Amprior Mall. 3xm29

**Sat., April 8** - 9 to 1:30 a.m. Shawville/Clairendon Firemen's Ball. Music by Foundation Band at Shawville Lions Hall, door prizes. Tickets \$5 each. Can be obtained from any fireman, Doug Hodgins or at the door. Lunch served. 4bm29

**Bus tours** - The Elvis Story - May 5 at the Casino de Lac Leamy Daniel O'Donnell, Lowe Family, Pam Tillis in Lake George May 28-30. Don't delay. Book now! Call Thomas Cook/Highland Travel Renfrew 432-5815 or 1-800-865-8738. 2xm22

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

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

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Wood for sale, soft and hard wood. Call 648-2639. 2bm22

Pool table. Solid maple, 1" slate, with accessories. Never used. Cost \$4,800. Sell \$2,300. The Furniture Guy 514-745-6536. qm15

Brand New PC! Everyone's approved! Get a fully loaded MDG Computer with an Intel P4 3ghz from 99 cents/day. Includes everything you need: 512MB RAM, 17" LCD flat panel, Windows XP & much more. Plus free 256MB MP3 player & free photo printer for first 500 callers (\*call for details / conditions). 1-800-236-2504. qm15

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Sawmills from only \$3,495.00 - Convert your logs to valuable lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.norwoodindustries.com - Free Information: 1-800-566-6899 Ext. 400 TO. qm15

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

Pool tables starting at \$1,395. All made in Quebec! - 40 models. Soccer, Shuffleboards, Games tables, Poker chips, etc. The biggest manufacturer in Canada: www.canadabiliard.com. 450-963-5060. qm15

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## MISCELLANEOUS

Hot tub/ spa 2005 fully loaded w/5' cover. Never used. Cost \$9,100. Sell \$5,500. The Furniture Guy: 514-989-7488. qm15

Washer and dryer, gas lawn mower, air conditioner, chrome kitchen table with 6 chairs, drop leaf table, odd chairs with rollers, microwave, wooden rocking chair, 2 venetian blinds 5' x 5', kitchen articles. Call at 648-5296. xtc

Steel buildings: Factory direct - blowout sale! While supplies last. 20' x 24' \$3,264., 30' x 30' \$4,546., 40' x 60' \$8,046., 50' x 120' \$18,016. Call now! Toll free 1-877-728-4807. qm15

## FOUND

Adult female Dalmatian with red collar with white paw prints, around Stark's Corners 647-2118.

## FARM PRODUCE

Hay for sale round and big square bales. Delivery available 613-623-6351. 2xm22

## LIVESTOCK

Lehmann Red Angus 18-month old bulls at affordable prices with 32 years of selection pressure for profitability for no frills cow herds that are expected to earn their keep. 613-628-5466. 4xm29

Beef cows due to freshen April on. Several straight bred Herefords and crossbred cows, some bred Hereford and some Charolais. Royce Hodgins 647-3529. 2xm22

2 Gelbvieh bulls, 1 with blue papers 432-6523. 2bm22

## FARM EQUIPMENT

Case 75 HP tractor 2000 hours \$8,300; Case and John Deere 4 x 4 backhoes, Tractor 2003 loaded 38 K \$9,700; Bonneville 1994 Excellent \$2,295. Other cars, trucks, equipment 613-432-2424. xm15

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## FOR RENT

Bryson - 2 bedroom, apartment 648-2222. otc.

Calumet Island - 3 bedroom house, with attached double garage. References and credit cheque required. Available May 1, 648-2407. 2bm22

Calumet Island - 3 bedroom apartment available April 1st 648-5784. bm15

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

Norway Bay - 2 bedroom house, non-smoker 647-3488 \$400 monthly. 1xm15

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

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

Shawville - Spacious one bedroom apartment (living room, kitchen). Dishwasher included, washer and dryer hook ups. Close to hospital, very quiet area, 2 references and recent written credit check required. Call 647-3714. 2xm22

Shawville - 3 bedroom house, Lang St., Shawville with references. No pets 647-5414. 2xm22

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Charteris - 2 bedroom bungalow, lots of renovations \$68,500. Call 647-2440. Cell 613-797-6676. 4xm29

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Campbell's Bay - Newly renovated home 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious kitchen, dining room, large family room. Garage 24' x 36', 2 adjacent lots included. \$69,999. Call 648-2886. otc.

## HELP WANTED

\$\$\$ Attention chocolate\$\$\$ Here's a great opportunity to make extra income by selling chocolate bars and new products. Managers wanted. Fundraising services available. Call now: 1-800-383-3589. qm8

Child care provider needed for a mentally challenged 4 year old. 12 hours per week (flexible), \$8.50 per hour. Please send resume by Friday, March 24th to Box E, THE EQUITY, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec, J0X 2Y0. xm22

Looking for a short order cook and a server for the month of April till September. Please send resume to P.O. Box 359, Campbell's Bay, Quebec J0X 1K0. 2bm22

Job at home on your computer. Up to \$493.51 weekly; Code A1. www.MyHomePCJob.com. qm15

Experienced cook, waitress and bartender. Apply with references to Box K, THE EQUITY, 133 Centre St., Shawville, QC J0X 2Y0. bm15

Olymel, Red Deer, Alberta's largest employer is now hiring Food Processing Workers. Starting salary \$10.55/hr plus premiums and earn as much as \$17.45/hr; extended health & dental after 3 months; free bus service within the city; no experience required. Please send your resume to: OLYMEL Human Resources 7550 - 40th Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6R7. Fax: 403-309-7547 apply@olytel.com, www.olytel.com. qm15

A career teaching English internationally begins with professional training. A 5-day certificate course will be held in Montreal at Dawson College April 19-23. (Open House March 28) & University of Ottawa March 22-26 (Open House March 16). To register for an open house call 1-888-2-4-6-6-5-1-2. www.INTLcollegeoflinguistics.com. qm15

## SERVICES

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

Boarding for horses available. Indoors or out, reasonable rates, quality care. Call 647-5373 for more info. xtc

Painting and Cleaning, etc. Quality workmanship. House Painter. Interior-exterior 1-819-648-5098. 2m15

Gardière/Home daycare-CPE Bambinos 75 jours temps plein disponible/full time available, Quyon 458-3218. xm15

## BIRTH

Drenth - Randy and Mavis (Judd) of Listowel, Ontario, are overjoyed to announce the safe arrival of their baby girl, Taylor Anne, February 25, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 11 oz. Proud grandparents are Brian and Dianne Judd, Dick and Joanne VanDyke, and great-grandmother Mona Judd.

## THANKS

Angus - A heartfelt thank you to all who helped make the Women's World Day of Prayer at St. Edward's Church in Bristol a success. Even the smallest contribution was appreciated. Joan Angus

Frost - After only five months our dear mother, Joan, has gone to join our father at their peaceful resting place, looking down upon us. God rest her soul who loved everyone around her. The thoughtfulness and generosity what she gave out will never be forgotten. Many thanks to family and friends for their support and in the donations of food and to charitable organizations. Special thanks to the staff at the Manoir Sacré Coeur in Fort Coulonge for making our mother's stay a pleasant one. Thanks to the C.W.L. for a wonderful meal after the service. Thanks to Father Tanguay for the service and many thanks to the pallbearers. Interment of ashes at parish cemetery in the Spring. The Frost family

## THANKS

Thank you to all who helped with our ham and bean supper on February 25th either by preparing food or attending the meal. Also thank you to those who made a donation. It is very much appreciated. The Beechgrove R. A. and the Wesley U.C.W.

Gagnon/Germain - We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to family, friends, colleagues and the community for the kindness and compassion displayed in the loss of our mother, daughter Lana, who passed away on March 1, 2006. Your overwhelming support will always be remembered. Julien, Michelle, Sonny and family

Workman/Smith - The family of the late Hilda Workman Smith would like to extend a sincere thank you to family, friends and neighbors for the kindness shown during the recent loss of our dear mother and grandmother. A special thank you to the doctors and nursing staff at Pontiac Community Hospital, Shawville, Pastor Martin Frecken for his kind words and service, to the ladies who prepared and served the meal after the service and those who sent cards, flowers and donations. Sue, Bob, Cindy and Ronnie

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## DEATH

Kelly, Joseph Patrick "Garry" - Suddenly, but peacefully at the Pembroke Regional Hospital on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 on his 68th birthday. Garry Kelly, son of the late John B. and Irene Kelly. Lovingly remembered by his wife Hilda (Daley), his children Shannon and Dean Campbell, Pembroke and Sean and Christine Kelly, Calgary and nicknamed Bumpa by his grandsons Scott, Liam and Quinn Campbell and Jesse Kelly. Dear brother of Eulalia Ryan, Kell and Eunice Kelly and Ethel and T. J. Godin. Predeceased by his nephews Barry Ryan, Curtis Kelly and brother-in-law Loyola Ryan. Brother-in-law of Joe and Lise Daley, Dorothy and Kent McConnell, Kevin and Pat Daley, Marion and Garland Hobbs and many nieces and nephews. This "Quebec Irishman" will be remembered for his own political views and staunch defence of Unions. One of Garry's greatest achievements was his 28 years of sobriety for which we are all proud. Relatives and friends called at the Murphy Funeral Home, 296 Isabella Street, Pembroke on Sunday 2 - 5 and 7 - 9 p.m. and Monday after 9 a.m. A funeral mass was celebrated Monday morning March 13 at 11 o'clock at St. Joseph's Church, Allumette Island, Quebec. Interment of Garry's Ashes in the Parish Cemetery in the Spring. As an expression of sympathy, donations may be made to the VON Renfrew County Residents' Activities Program or the Canadian Cancer Society. Condolences, tributes, donations www.murphyfuneralhome.ca.

## MEMORIAM

Carson, Lindsey - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather who passed away March 19, 1999. His weary hour and days of pain His troubled nights are past And in our aching hearts we know He had found sweet rest at last. Always loved and remembered by Maureen, Brenda, Lindsay, Michelle and Brandon

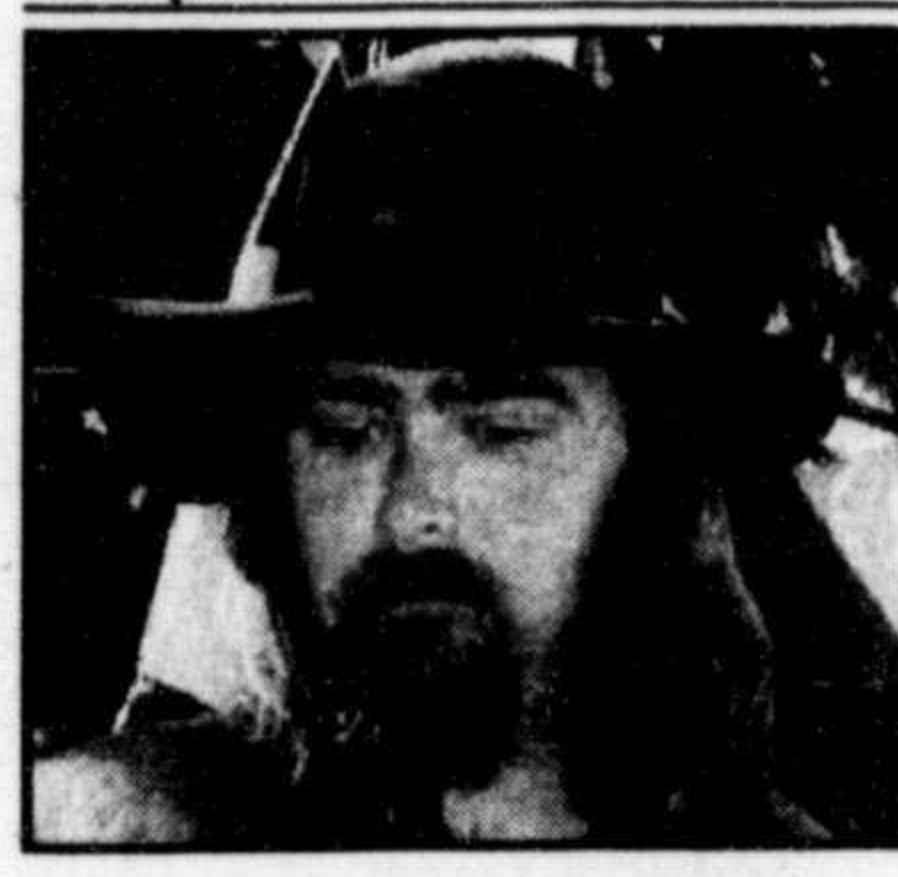
Huckabone - In loving memory of Mom (Genevieve, March 6, 2005) and Dad (Lindsay, April 16, 1982). In our hearts your memory lingers Sweetly tender, fond and true There is not a day, dear Mom and Dad That we do not think of you. John, Eleanor, Linda, Patricia, Charles and families

Devlin - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother Doris who passed away too fast on March 15, 2003. You left us precious memories Your love will be our guide You live on through your family You're always by our side. It broke our hearts to lose you, But you did not go alone, For part of us went with you; The day God called you home. Loved and remembered by Emile and family

Godin, John - 1923 - 1998, Husband, Father, Grandpa and Great-grandpa. Memories are like threads of gold They never tarnish and grow old Remembrance keeps you ever near. I know you walk beside me And when my life is through I pray that God will take my hand And lead me straight to you. Laura

## MEMORIAM

Cartman, H. Lloyd - On Thursday, March 9th, 2006 at the Pontiac Reception Centre, Shawville Quebec, H. Lloyd Cartman in his 93rd year. Beloved husband of Lois (Richardson), and the late Helen Leota Dagg. Dear father of Marie and husband Stuart Calberry, of Peterborough, Kivlie and his wife Lois of Cobden, Claire of Pickering, Rodney and his wife Roberta of Renfrew and Wesley and his wife Karen of Shawville. Also survived by 14 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren. Interment at Stark's Corners Cemetery in the Spring. Donations to the Gideon Memorial Bibles or the Pontiac Reception Centre would be appreciated. The family would like to thank Dr. Talko and the staff at the Pontiac Reception Centre for their caring support and exceptional care.



Stafford, Michael James - Michael James Stafford, 38, of Bergen, New York, a salesman at Pro-Lift in Rochester, died Sunday, February 26th, 2006 at his home. Mike was born September 02, 1967, in Rochester, son of Bethe and Donald Stafford of 1488 Davis Road, Churchville, N.Y. 14428. In addition to his parents, survivors include his only brother Edward and sister-in-law Tammy and their children Amanda and Jonathan also of Bergen. Mike leaves many uncles and aunts, which include Lou Stafford of Campbell's Bay and Susan Stafford of Bristol and many cousins and relatives in the Pontiac area. Michael was the grandson of the late Violet (Trudeau) and Edward Stafford of Wyman. A "Celebration of Life Mass" was held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 03, 2006 at St. Christopher's Roman Catholic Church in North Chili. Mike graduated from the Aquinas Institute in 1985; he was a member of the Bergen Rod and Gun Club and a Civil War re-enactor. Arrangements were completed by H.E. Turner and Co. Funeral Home, Bergen, N.Y.

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## MEMORIAM

Harris, Seymour, Austin - In loving memory of a dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away March 15, 1989 just a couple of weeks short of his 82nd birthday.

A man of varied interests whose lifetime spanned an era from the horse and buggy days to the electronic age. An inquisitive mind which drove him to open and examine many new fangled gadgets just to see what made them tick. And we mustn't forget the trout fishing. What he meant to us lives on in each of our hearts, minds and dreams.

The Harris family  
Lance, Charles J. - Cherished memories of my husband, father, father-in-law, Grandfather, Great-Grandpa, passed away March 20, 1981. No longer in my life to share But in our hearts you are always there. Your loving wife Goldaline and family

Peck - In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather who passed away March 10, 1977. Silent thoughts of times together, Hold memories that will last forever. Love Blair, Mavis and family

Richardson, Joyce - March 17, 2005 Today recalls my memory of a best friend gone to rest And the ones who think of you today Are the one who loved you best. I think of you often and miss you so much. Melba

## Waltham

Helen Perry 689-2652  
I cannot wait for spring! The streets here in town are very slippery and messy. It is making it very difficult for my chums and I to enjoy our nightly walks.

I just received this week's EQUITY and I was so pleased to see that Hermione is going to try and correspond, for a while longer. Hermione keep up the good work. You are a remarkable lady!

On Saturday, March 11, the Waltham Volunteer Firefighters held their annual appreciation dinner. It took place at the Waltham Town Hall. Fire Chief Larry Perry welcomed everyone. The Waltham Station catered a tasty hot and cold buffet. His Worship Mayor Paul Ryan shared a few words. He praised the Fire Department for all their hard work and commitment that the firefighters give to our community. Linda Venne (president) of the Waltham Firefighters Women's Auxiliary presented Chief Perry with an \$800 cheque on behalf of the auxiliary. This money was raised at the canteen during last year's annual Waltham Firefighters Bass Tournament. Linda shared that the members of the auxiliary are dwindling and they are seeking new members. Fire Chief shared a few words. He reviewed last year's events of the fire department and mentioned a few of the challenges and struggles that it is facing. He also stressed the need for new firefighters. Firefighter David Rochon, who has retired from the department, this past year, was the recipient of a plaque. Unfortunately, David was unable to attend and His Worship Mayor Paul Ryan accepted the plaque on his behalf. The Firefighter of the year 2005 was Earl McKnight. Fire Chief Larry Perry presented him with a plaque. The Fire Chief thanked his fellow firefighters for all their dedication

Spring was in the air on Saturday and also Sunday afternoon. I hope that everyone managed to get out and enjoy the lovely weather. We know now that spring is just around the corner! Birthday wishes and love are extended to Marie Campbell who celebrated her birthday on March 14. We hope that you had a lovely day Marie.

A very happy birthday is wished to Patrick Morin, who is celebrating his birthday on St. Patrick's Day March 17. We hope that you have the luck of the Irish on your special day Patrick! I sure hope that everyone will be wearing his or her green on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Have a great day everyone! An Irish Blessing May the Irish hills caress you. May her lakes and rivers bless you. May the luck of the Irish envelop you. May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you.

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Bryson

Heather Stewart 648-5413 Happy belated birthday going out to Louise Newberry of Campbell's Bay.

Happy birthday to Pat Torangeau who celebrates on March 15. Results for the Golden Age euchs held on March 6 are as follows: Door: Gordon Porter, 50/50: Annette Lepine, Men's first: Ed Gutoski and Jean-Guy Mainville, Men's second: Collette Porter, Roger Lacroix and Andre Dumouchel, Ladies first: Collette McTiernan, Janet Dumouchel and Isabelle Lacroix.

Celebrating birthdays on March 16 are Dexter Lamothe of Bryson and Beatrice Legarde of Calumet Island.

I got a message from a little black bird all the way from Alberta who would like to put this in my social notes. Fast trains, cars and airplanes are not the trouble for a Bryson lady, it's a vacuum cleaner.

Happy Birthday to Ivan Saunders who has a Birthday on March 20. I hope you have a terrific day!

Please take extra caution while driving through the subdivisions in town. There are sightings of many deer. I have seen them in numbers running along the roads in front of the truck while driving.

Happy Birthday to Neil Laboucheur of Cold Lake, Alberta, Josee Goldin of Bryson and my cousin, Alain Gill of Matagami.

I ask that you continue to pray for Baby Isaac, son of Cynthia Godin and Martin Lemay. Prayer can move mountains.

I have a little story to share with you which I was asked to put in. Apparently a false

miracle took place on Clarendon Street at the home of my parents Jim and Anna. One night my Dad went to bed. All of a sudden after a few minutes he started shouting to my Mom that he could hear so well. Everything was so clear and he was amazed that his hearing was suddenly coming back to him. What a miracle it was! Turns out, poor Dad forgot to take out his hearing aid. I love you Dad!

Happy birthday to Gina Gauthier and Amy Cameron who are celebrating on March 19. Get well wishes going out to Jeannette Romain who had the misfortune of falling and hurting her leg. Hope you are feeling better soon!

Happy Anniversaries to Arlene and Ivan Saunders who celebrate on March 19.

My brother, Jamie and my Dad went up to the Sugar Bush on Sunday to make roads and prepare for the maple syrup run. Jamie said that they tapped a tree but there was no sap in sight. I guess it won't be too long until the trees are tapped and the sap is gathered. Wishing all of you maple syrup makers a great run this year!

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Otter Lake

Elizabeth Hahn 453-7326 On Tuesday, March 7 the Otter Lake Golden Age Club held its weekly euche game. Lucky winner of the 50/50 draw was Rosette Fleury.

Ladies high score was won by Marlene McWilliam and second by Rachel St. Pierre. Ladies high score was won by Sam St. Pierre and second by Denis Lafleur. Delicious refreshments were provided by Rosette Fleury and Helene Gauthier. Happy Birthday wishes to Martin Blaskie.

On Saturday, March 4, 400 hockey fans crowded the Petawawa Civic Centre to watch three different local teams, one each period tackle a team of NHL veterans

that included in addition to Guy Lafleur, Stephane Richer, Gilbert Delorme, Gaston Therrien, Gaston Gingras, Andre Dupont, Marc Bureau, Normand Dupont, Stephane Matteau, Yvan Lambert and Richard Sevigny. My son, Pat Hahn, accountant for the Daily Observer did his team proud beating Legendary goaltender Richard Sevigny for one goal and assisting on two others.

Pat says it's neat to skate with the NHL players because it's something you don't normally get a chance to do. He enjoyed a chat with Guy Lafleur and Gaston Therrien during the second period intermission. The Legends of Hockey Charity hockey game raised \$12,000 for the Petawawa Centennial Family Health Centre.

Quyon

Jill McBane 458-2366 It sure is good to have the water back on as most of the residents of Quyon were out for a few days. I am sure we will get that back on our taxes. Ha ha!

Mayor Eddie McCann is going to have a phone number set up for emergencies or information when such a problem arises. There is going to be an outside water source set up at the fire hall for emergencies. We sure miss the flow that used to be at McKenny's. A public meeting will be held March 29 at the Lions Hall for questions. Coffee and donuts will be available.

Kennedy clan drove in the lane tooting their horns to find poor Ellard still working in the shop. Kathy and Dan and Billy were home from the west as well as the rest of the Kennedys. They all came to help Ellard celebrate his 60th which is really the 15th. So happy 60th Ellard.

On a sadder note we express sympathy to the Kennedy family on the passing of P. J. Kennedy who passed away last Monday, March 6. The funeral was on Thursday. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Get well wishes are sent to Helen MacTechnie who hasn't been feeling up to par lately. Congratulations to Hugh Hammond and Chris Judd who both received plaques at the Promutual annual meeting last Thursday evening. Hugh has been on the board

of directors for 20 years and Chris for 25. Also some of the staff were awarded with recognition of service to Promutual. Many nice prizes were given out throughout the evening.

Happy birthday to our granddaughter, MacKenzie Barr, who had her first birthday March 10. Family gathered at her house to help celebrate on Saturday with a delicious barbecue. The Quyon Legion held their annual curling bonspiel this past Saturday. The winning team was Provost Welding with lead Kurtis Flemming, second Leo Burnett, third Christopher Provost and skip Eric Provost. The weather certainly was beautiful this past weekend which was great for the Crazy Potato Chip stand, owned and operated by Nick and Norm

Beaudoin. They are open on weekends no matter the weather on the highway. Get well wishes are sent to Jacqueline Proulx who is a patient in the Pontiac Community Hospital.

Sunday should be busy in town with the St. Patrick's Day party starting at 1:30 at Gavan's through until 11. Gail Gavan will be the hostess for the day with lots of good Irish music. Something new, Nick is trying this year is having the Mick Armitage band play for one set. So get your green out and have a great St. Patrick's Day. Congratulations to Dan Duggan and his committee for a job well done with Kraft Hockeyville. Saturday the rink was full with people of all ages. Brought back lots of memories. Good luck with the competition.

Charteris

Mona Rutledge 647-6250 Get well wishes go out to Arnott Horner who is sick and in hospital. Ricky Roy will be 57 years old on March 18. Have a real good one Rick.

Also happy birthday to Barbara Trudeau Sharpe on March 15 with love from Clayton, mom and dad and family, also birthday wishes to her sister Linda Trudeau Hines from Garry, mom, dad and family.

Happy birthday to Patrick Burgess on March 17 and his sister Lynn Burgess on March 16 from dad and he says God bless you both. Patrick (Buck), Lynn may the sun always shine in your face and the road rise up to meet you and the wind be always at your back and may you both be an hour in Heaven before the devil knows you're dead.

Ashley Carson, Melissa, Liana, Krista, Jess, Brittany and Erin would like to wish Brandi Hahn the best of luck in Calgary. We will miss you. Love you lots good luck Brandi!

Velvet Scully flew to Texas to visit with her husband who is out there working. She told her brother that she was not happy with the plane ride out there. Clarence told me that he will be very happy to have his sister back home again.

Merle and Harold Smith sure got a big surprise last Saturday evening as their daughter, Bonnie and her husband Dennis and their children Chelsea and Derek came home for a week on the children's March break from school. Bonnie and family came for Miramichi, NB.

Leslie was telling me that they sure had a real busytime and they loved every minute of it. They had to leave Saturday to go back home. Grandma Merle and Grandpa Harold will miss the grandkids and are counting the days until they return.

I would like to say happy birthday to an old neighbour of ours Richard Marion on March 12, David Lalonde on March 16, Bill Hobbs on March 17, my little chum Ayden Hodgins on March 18, Richard Alexander, Steve Forbes and Erin Tracy on March 19.

I would like to say happy anniversary to Elwyn and Lynn Lang and Bernard and Mary Doherty on March 18.

Danford Lake

Stephanie Milford 467-1091 The deer are starving and therefore dying. We see they have died but there is no sign that there was any struggle. They are just so thin. The deer have eaten all the boughs off the trees that they can reach.

They absolutely love to follow Dad and eat the limbs he has cut off the trees he has felled. One day last week Dad was walking into the bush and saw a fawn lying in the middle of the trail. His first thought was that the fawn had died. But, as he went around the fawn, two scared little eyes looked up! Unfortunately, the fawn had a limp but soon ran away sensing no danger from Dad.

Danford is still very much up in arms over the proposed "mega dump" idea. Councillors Charles Scharfe and Rick Lafleur are very much against it. They, like so many other people of the municipality, as well as many non-residents, are very concerned about the water table and what it will do to future generations.

"Sure it would be nice to see our municipality grow, but at what cost to future generations?" Scharfe said as I spoke to her Saturday morning. We would all like to see our municipalities flourish and grow but what good will flourished community be when you are sick? Please plan to attend the next public meeting concerning the "mega dump."

Your support is greatly appreciated. At 8:50 a.m. Saturday morning, the temperature was 15 degrees Celsius here! We made it to a high of 17 beautiful degrees. Sunday however was rainy and only five degrees. The sun showed its face once. Let the warm weather come, I'm tired of winter!

Feeling better since her recent illness is my grandmother, Nina Milford. She walked over Saturday morning to visit. She said "I couldn't stay inside any more. I was getting cabin fever."

The sap is now running in some places. The temperatures are great for the sap but the rain will ruin the sap. We've made it here many years but it's so much work. We used to gather by hand and boil it in an open pan outside. A lot of work, but the taste and quality are unbeatable.

On May 13 there will be a Mother's Day dinner and dance featuring From the Country at a Delicieux Hall. Come have a delicious meal and show mom how much you care!

Next Sunday, March 19 I will be leaving once more for London. Thankfully it's only for a check up. My arm continues to get better all the time!

Have you got your green out yet? Or maybe your Lucky Charms? This Friday will be St. Patrick's Day and there will be lots of parties around. Friday night in Otter Lake at the Little Bar Hughie Desmond, Bob Madott and Ray Martin take to the stage at 9 p.m. Come on out I guarantee- you'll enjoy! May the luck of the Irish be with you this week!

On Saturday Mom and Dad took a drive to Renfrew. The temperature was 17 degrees Celsius. They reported beautiful sunshine and people walking around with just sweaters on. They also visited with Mr. and Mrs. Mirant Villeneuve of Otter Lake. They reported a lot of deer on Campbell's Bay Road.

Randy and Miranda Richard and their children were supper guests on Saturday night at the home of Miranda's grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Mirant Villeneuve.

The snow is heavy this year. I guess after all the rain we got. The roof of the Kaza Cabana at Kazabazua caved in on one side due to the heavy snow. The rain we got on Thursday and Friday really caused a hazard on the side roads. A lot of people reported taking the ditch. As soon as you put the sand on the road it was washed away with the rain. Well, I guess we need the rain to bring the grass out of the snow.

Belated birthday greetings to my Aunt Nan Beaudoin of my uncle John Beaudoin, both of Otter Lake. Also belated birthday greetings to Hubert Lance of Campbell's Bay.

On Tuesday afternoon a funeral mass was held in Otter Lake for Yvain Brasseau. A large number of people attended. It was Yvain's wish that everyone go to the Little Bar in Otter Lake after his funeral to have fun and a good meal. Rachelle, along with Yvain's two sons and daughter. They enjoyed a delicious meal catered to by Sherry-Lyne Presley of Otter Lake. Good bye Yvain we will miss you. But we will try to carry on just like you wanted us to. You are now gone from us but you will live in our hearts for a long time.

Well, next weekend everyone will be wearing their green and maybe drink green beer. I think Gavan's Hotel in Quyon is one of the best spots. I think Mr. Gavan left a tradition that will never die. But if you drink, please do not drive.

Sheenboro

Myrtle Sullivan 689-2236 Congratulations to my grandson, John Ouellete and wife Rachel on the birth of their third child Katia Amyotte. She weighed in at 9 lbs 14 ozs and is a sister to Elodie and Julianne. Katia is my 26th great-grandchild.

I visited with my brother Hubert who is now at the Country Haven Retirement Home in Beachburg. I was with my daughter, Arlene and husband. We stayed over for dinner and had a nice time.

My condolences to the family of Gary Kelly who passed away in Pembroke on March 8. There was a nice write up on this "Quebec Irishman" in the Ottawa Citizen.

Wilfred Jones from Chapeau is sharing a room with my son-in-law at the General Hospital in Ottawa. We wish Wilfred a quick recovery.

My daughter, Arlene and her daughter Allison are now sunning themselves in Cuba. Maybe when they get back all the snow will be gone as the forecast is calling for heavy rain tomorrow. I understand that the Resources Naturelles et Faune office at Campbell's Bay will be moving all its records and files to Quebec City. This means that anybody wanting to do a land title search in the Pontiac will not have easy access to these records. My son-in-law recently was there and acquired the records of land titles to his property dating back to the 1860s. All these records are originals and are hand-written so I don't believe they will be accessible on the internet for some time to come. Their web site is presently all in french so its difficult to find your way around and get the information required. In my view it would be much better to keep the office open in Campbell's Bay until all of the information is available in both official languages on the computer. Perhaps our MPP could help out in this regard or maybe our respective mayors can intervene and provide their constituents with additional information.

Myra Sullivan had family visiting and guests from the Toronto area, the McOustras, Jack, Kay and Ian. Ian is engaged to my granddaughter, Patty-Anne Sullivan. James Sullivan and family had friends visiting with them at the cottage. My currently favourite granddaughter, Robin Sullivan, paid me a visit this weekend and did my hair for me. It turned out beautifully and just in time

for our St. Patrick's Day dance where I had my picture taken a number of times. Lucky me. I even won some Irish cheer that evening so I will have to put that away for a special occasion. Maybe I will save a little taste for Robin as she did such a good job with my hair.

Visiting Betty Morris was Fran and Tom McSwiggan from Ottawa. They are both very active in the Irish community in the city and very much involved in supporting the Irish culture through dance and song. Tom sang a few tunes at the St. Pat's dance and we all got up for some Irish dancing. Sheenboro's favourite son, Wilbert Keon and his wife Anne attended. With Wilbert there I always feel a little more confident and have a dance or two extra knowing he will look-out for me.

All the Tallon girls were on hand for the dance and also to celebrate Trudy's birthday. The Gleason gang were also well represented and I don't think they missed a dance.

EQUITY reporter, Wibur McLean, was also in attendance and talked to a good many people and took quite a few pictures. Perhaps he will put a wee bit about our celebrations in THE EQUITY this week.

Here is wishing by granddaughter, Shannon McDonald from Chapeau, a very happy birthday. She shares the 17th with St. Patrick. A happy birthday also goes out to the daughter of Barry Nephin who lives in Calgary. The young lady was five years old on March 2. They read my EQUITY column every week.

In summary our St. Patrick's dance was a success, although we didn't get the crowd we got last year. I think that's because the 17th is still a week away and people won't get that Irish feeling until it is upon us. Many thanks to the dance organizers, contributors and cleaner uppers and also to Jim Beatty and our musicians who are so generous with their time.

In closing, I am sending my prayers to my son-in-law Jean Guy Ouellete who is fighting cancer at the Ottawa General.

An Irish blessing May there always be work for your hands to do. May your purse always hold a coin or two. May the sun always shine on your windowpane. May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain. May the hand of a friend always be near you. May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Business directory

NOTAIRES - NOTARIES

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# Make farm safety a priority

Fatigue, shortcuts, inexperience often lead to accidents on the farm

WILBUR MCLEAN  
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Everybody in the Pontiac knows somebody who's suffered a farming injury.

March 8 to 14 was Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, and the idea is to promote risk management in the industry, especially for farms, where accidents are often serious, and sometimes fatal.

Off the top of his head Dale Alexander, a Weirstead farmer, is able to quickly recall two incidents on his farm.

One involved a woman being struck in the face by a tree branch while on the back of a truck, breaking her jaw, and the other involved a child having his finger cut off by a machine.

In both instances, the injuries happened to people who did not come from farming families.

In Alexander's opinion, it's

outsiders who are the ones that need to be watched the most.

"(Accidents happen) especially when you get people who don't grow up on the farm, because they don't know everything," said Alexander.

"I'm always telling my kids, 'Don't do this, stay away from that', so they know better."

Farmers must not assume that just because their families are aware of safety precautions that other visitors are as well.

As Alexander suggests, be sure to fully warn and prepare any visitors on the farm as to the dangers they face.

According to the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program, 22 per cent of fatal farming accidents occur to an outsider, which includes relatives, hired workers and visitors.

However, that is not who

the majority of injuries happen to.

Sixty per cent of farm fatalities tend to occur to the owner or operator of the farm, according to information collected by the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance Program. With the average Canadian farmer being over 50 years of age, there are many additional precautions that should be taken.

Older farmers, especially, may slip into an unsafe, bad habit over the years but it's never too late to break it.

Some tips on practicing safe farming, and reminders to experienced farmers:

- Be S.A.F.E. See, Assess, Fix, and Evaluate risk.
- Get a check-up. Make sure every worker is checked-up on at least every two hours.
- Guard against accidents. make sure all machines have the appropriate guards installed.

• Plan to rest. Plan your work, work your plan, then call it a day. Fatigue leads to accidents.

• Think before you do. Think through all the steps of each task and make sure that you (or your worker) are able to physically do the work in a productive and safe manner. Do you need help?

• Shortcuts kill. Shortcuts in farming can cut-short your farming.

• Hire right. It is a lot safer and less expensive to hire the right person and pay them fairly than to hire an unqualified person for less money then pay for their liability and errors.

• Know the code. The Code of Practices for Farm Safety (PEI) have set the industry standards for agriculture.

• Train for safety. Training workers to do their job is not just good business, it is due diligence.

# NFU urges action on limiting dairy ingredient imports

RENFREW • The federal government should move immediately to close a legal loophole allowing increased imports of dairy protein ingredients, reports Kyle

Dickson, President, Renfrew County National Farmers Union.

In a letter to Chuck Strahl, newly-appointed Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the NFU says a recent ruling by the Federal Court of Canada has potentially serious implications for the stability of the Renfrew County dairy sector, and the supply-management system as a whole.

The court ruling stated that Canada does not have the right to limit imports of subsidized dairy ingredients. In its decision, the court backed the contention of the Canadian International tri-

bunal (CITT) that it was more precise to classify the milk protein product in question as "proteins substances" instead of "natural milk constituents." According to the Dairy Farmers of Canada (DF), the inability to limit such imports could mean hundreds of millions of dollars in losses to Renfrew County and Canadian dairy farmers as a result of the loss of that portion of their domestic market.

The NFU says it is particularly galling that an unelected trade negotiating body like CITT is working to eliminate Canada's legiti-

mate right to limit imports.

The NFU pointed out that the supply-managed sector is one of the few bright spots in agriculture, where farmers are able to earn sufficient returns from the marketplace.

"During the last Parliamentary session, a resolution in support of supply management was passed through on that commitment by blocking the loophole which threatens to compromise the foundation of the supply management system. To do otherwise is to condemn dairy farmers to the possibility of a lingering death 'by a thousand cuts.'"

# Farmers' union hopes for renewed emphasis on farm income crisis

RENFREW • The Renfrew County National Farmers Union (NFU) welcomes the appointment of Chuck Strahl, an MP from British Columbia to the post of Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, as well as Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

"We congratulated Strahl on his appointment, and look forward to working with him on issues of concern to Canada's family farmers," said Kyle Dickson of Beachburg. He said the farm income crisis, and implementing ways of restoring farmers' economic power in the marketplace should be at the top of the new government's agenda.

He added the corporate agribusiness profits in the food chain are at record or near-record levels, but farm-gate returns have fallen to levels not seen since the Great Depression. "The average net income per farm in Canada is negative \$10,000" he pointed out.

Colleen Ross, NFU Women's President, who farms outside Ottawa, agreed the new Agriculture Minister must make the farm income crisis a priority, and pointed out solutions are within reach. "Last year the former government commissioned a report entitled *Empowering Canadian Farmers in the Marketplace*, which was written after

extensive consultations with grassroots farmers across the country," she said. "The conclusions and recommendations all pointed to the fact that corporate concentration was a serious problem, and there is a strong need for increased economic power for farmers in the marketplace."

She said the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) and supply-management agencies are two methods which have been proven to increase farmers' returns. "We need to build on this foundation," she added.

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