

THE EQUITY

THE VOICE OF THE PONTIAC SINCE 1883

Mural brightens Coulonge library ... page 6

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NEWS BRIEFS

Smurfit-Stone, Tembec bid on PFC mill

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

PONTIAC — THE EQUITY has learned that Tembec and Smurfit-Stone have submitted bids to purchase the bankrupt PFC saw mill in Litchfield.

The mill, which went into receivership last year, has been closed since May 2003 after the International Woodworkers' Union workers voted to go out on strike after contract negotiations with former owner Gustave Brunet reached a stalemate.

The mill, being sold by major creditor the Business Development Bank of Canada, has entertained several offers in the past two years for the seven-year-old mill.

Sources say Tembec and Smurfit-Stone both see the mill as a link to acquiring much needed wood fibre. A Smurfit-Stone official told THE EQUITY that if they succeed in purchasing the mill, it would be used primarily to chip logs to use at its Portage du Fort pulp mill.

"Tembec is interested, Smurfit-Stone is interested," said Jean Yves Arseneault, a wood procurement manager with Smurfit-Stone.

Arseneault said Smurfit-Stone and Tembec met in early February to find a solution to a problem affecting both companies Pontiac mills.

"We want to find a solution," he said. "We want to have supplies close to home."

Arseneault said that Smurfit-Stone would use the mill to chip hardwood for its Portage operation. "How can we get an agreement that would be the overall best solution?" he said. "We need to get this problem solved."

As well, the new mill owner would have access to the CAAF allotted previously to the mill, thereby adding to their existing CAAF to help alleviate the shortage.

Truck load restrictions in effect

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC — Monday was the first official day of the spring thaw period, which prevents over-weight vehicles from bearing down on Québec's major roads and highways.

In order to protect Pontiac roadbeds, trucks must abide by Transports Québec's load rules between March 21 and May 21.

Transports Québec says the amount of weight allowed on the truck is determined by how many axles a truck has.

During the thaw period, a triple axle or an equivalent group of axles has a load limit of 22,000 kilograms. This limit is reduced by 1,000 kilograms in the case of an axle equivalent to a triple axle. A single axle in front of a triple axle has a load limit of 30,000 kilograms.

Respecting load and size limits ensures the safety of drivers and protects bridges and road infrastructure. In the spring, the layers the road is made out of are weakened by the water accumulated over the winter. This makes the structure of the road 40 per cent more fragile.

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Laws, mill closures, thaw reduce Smurfit's wood supplies

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

PONTIAC — A wood fibre shortage has Smurfit-Stone's Pontiac pulp mill scrambling to find enough stock to keep the mill up and running until its May shutdown, but it's a problem Smurfit-Stone officials believe is here

to stay.

René Kerouac, general manager of the Smurfit-Stone pulp mill in Portage du Fort, says ensuring an adequate supply of wood is increasingly difficult, especially since the Coulombe Commission's recommendations for sustainable forest development

included decreasing the allowable cuts on Crown land, a source for much of the industry's fibre.

"We're trying to build an inventory of chips but it is very difficult," Kerouac said.

In addition to the constraints placed on the supply by the government's

cutting regulations, Kerouac said that springtime normally sees a reduction in round wood supplies.

"Right now we are going through the thaw period," he said.

Supplies are reduced in the spring because many truckers take time off during the thaw due to the reduced

loads regulations placed on trucks. At the high price of fuel, hauling a half-load is not much more than a break-even venture. Also, the inventory at Smurfit-Stone has been challenged since the PFC mill in Litchfield closed its doors in May 2003.

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Quyon man's snowmobile still in the Ottawa River

Moral of story: don't drive alone at night in the fog

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

QUYON — After more than 40 days in the drink, Claude Trudeau's snowmobile may have to soak a while longer.

Trudeau, of Quyon, has been trying to rescue his machine from the Ottawa River ever since it plunged into the open water on a foggy night in early February.

Trudeau's nightmarish experience began after he got lost on his snowmobile in fog so thick visibility was reduced to almost zero.

Foggy, foggy night

Trudeau was returning to his Quyon home via the Ottawa River on Feb. 5 when he got lost in the thick fog and ended up on the Ontario side of the river shortly after 2 a.m.

"I left Quyon and ended up going across the river," Trudeau said. "I followed another trail going into the open water."

Trudeau, decked out in full snowmobiling gear, had to act quickly to avoid drowning in the icy waters after his machine plunged forward into the open water and started sinking.

"I took my helmet off, my jacket off and stood on the machine," he said of the first moments after he wound up in the water.

Struggling to stay afloat, Trudeau took his boots off to make the swim easier. He never considered himself a strong swimmer before that night, but "I can bail myself out of problems."

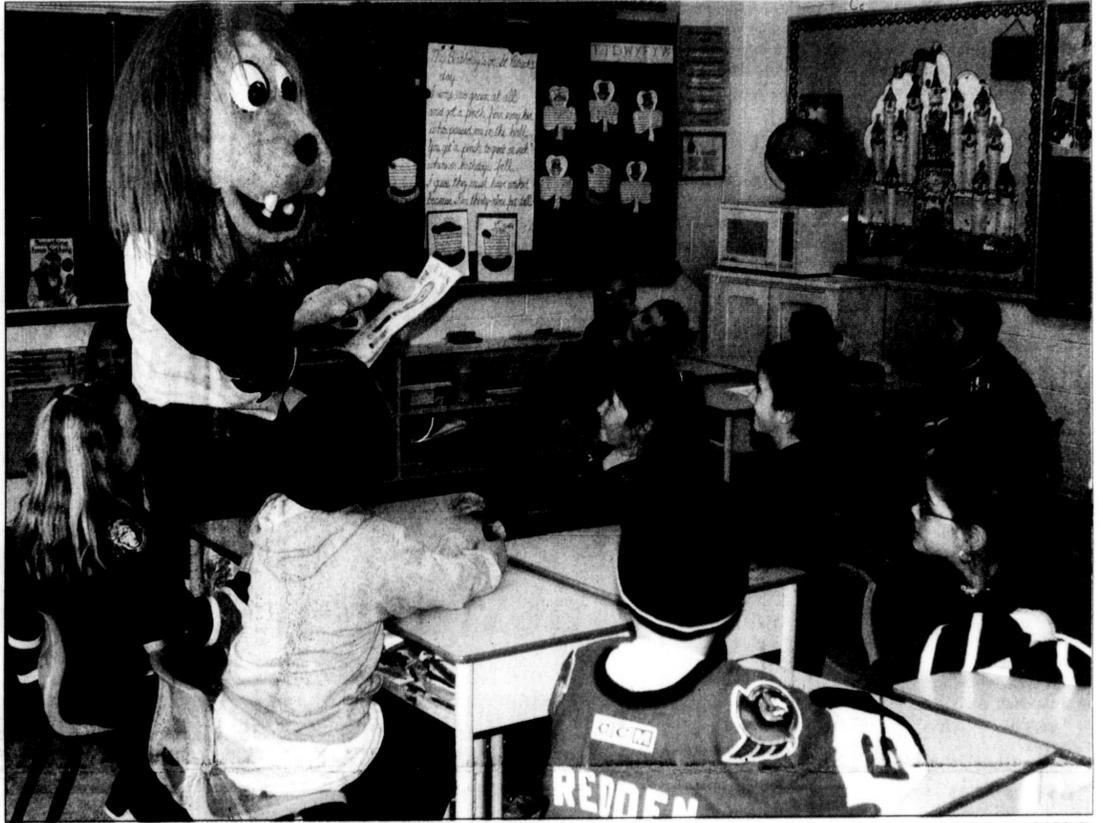
Though he was close to shore — about 15 feet — Trudeau couldn't pull himself up on to the thin ice, which kept breaking as he tried to gain hold.

"I tried to climb on the ice, but it was too thin," he said. "The ice was breaking and I was going underneath."

Trudeau decided he might have better odds if he swam towards the Quebec shore, about 600 feet away.

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SMART CAT



Enthusiastic Grade 3 students pay close attention to Spartacat during a visit to the Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School class on Friday. Students qualified for the visit by achieving reading and spelling goals.

Spartacat visits Grade 3 class at McDowell

By HEATHER DICKSON
Equity Publisher

SHAWVILLE — There may not be any NHL hockey, but there still is Spartacat and he's as big a hero as any NHL hockey player.

Mary Hamilton's grade three class at Dr. S. E. McDowell Elementary School won a visit from the famous Senators' mascot Spartacat by meeting reading and spelling goals.

When a class meets the goals for spelling and reading, set by the "Spelling with Sparta and Read and Succeed" programs, their teacher enters the class into a draw for a visit with Spartacat.

The programs are designed to encourage children to read and spell and all schools in the Ottawa area and regions are eligible to participate.

"Students must have perfect

spelling or have really improved" to be entered into the draw," said Hamilton. "For the Read and Succeed draw children must read 20 minutes a day."

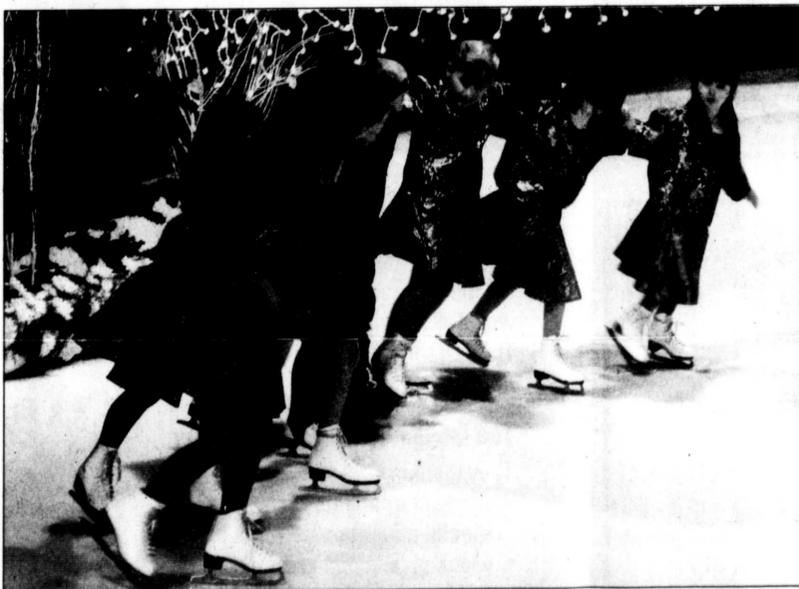
So far Mary Hamilton's class has won the draw for the spelling competition four times and the reading challenge once. So Spartacat was booked to visit the Grade 3 class on Friday, March 18. He arrived at noon with boxes of Pizza from

Billy T's and a case of fruit drinks for the kids.

Spartacat signed autographs for all the kids and entertained them during a reading session.

"He's awesome. He's a bit big but he's funny," said Haily Russett. "He's a bit scary. He looked like he could eat me," laughed Lindsay Howard.

"He's really cool," continued Cassandra Young.



Showing off their skills, young skaters from the Shawville Figure Skating Club make their way down the ice during the annual Ice Revue at the Shawville Arena Friday evening.

Shawville Figure Skating Club skaters shine at Revue

56 club members skate to Shrek-themed performances, crowd enjoys young 'stars on ice' at arena

By HEATHER DICKSON
Equity Publisher

SHAWVILLE — It was their night to shine — to be a "star on ice" at the annual Ice Revue held on Friday evening in the arena.

Fifty members of the Shawville Figure Skating Club along with their coaches presented the big green monster "Shrek" to keen parents, grandparents, friends and ice skating fans.

Many of the fans came to the Revue with flowers in hand to present to their favorite skater.

"All of our skaters have worked very hard to bring you this exhibition of their talents," said club president Joanne Longpré in her message.

With 31 feature presentations skaters aged from three to 16 as well as coaches performed throughout the evening.

The music was mainly derived from the

hit movie *Shrek* and the arena was decorated to represent the forest scenes from the movie.

Other music was also played to match the technical skills and theatrical abilities of the individual skaters.

Many of the skaters performed solos, before a crowd, for the first time from the young CanSkate to the Junior levels.

"They get over their nervousness and have a lot of fun," said Lyse Lacourse.

"The coaches did a great job choreographing their routines to the specific skills of the kids. It was magic on ice," continued Lacourse.

Coaches for the Shawville Figure Skating Club are: Jill Landriault, Nathalie Cousineau, Katie Skerkowski, Fernando Luna and Daniel Leclaire.

The Ice Revue signified the end of the official skating season, however, many of the skaters still have tests to complete.

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Christie Mailey, THE EQUITY

Nineteen students from Dr. S.E. McDowell school, along with spiritual animator Shelley Bretzlaff, prepare to board a bus on its way to an Ottawa food bank. The students were in charge of collecting and delivering the food. They also prepared important questions to ask the food bank director and staff members.

McDowell elementary students collect food for Ottawa Food Bank

By CHRISTIE MAILEY
Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE

Nineteen specially selected students from Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School worked on a food drive called "Follow the Food Bank" with spiritual animator, Shelley Bretzlaff.

The program is made up of four groups: food distribution, receiving, spiritual reflection, and other affiliates and other needs.

The students were either nominated, selected, or had to apply for the available spots.

"I came up with "Follow the Food Bank" to go beyond just a box at the end of the hall," said Bretzlaff.

"I wanted to create empathy, I wanted them to have passion. They are working toward the common good."

Student groups

In their respective groups students came up with questions to ask the director of the Food Bank and the staff members at the Food Bank on Michael Street in Ottawa where they visited yesterday.

Questions included: How can I encourage others to do the work you do? Do you think people appreciate the work you do? Would you still do this work if you didn't get paid? Do you deliver food and you do have pick up spots for the homeless?

"The students worked really hard on the questions," Bretzlaff said. "Just thoughtful, inspired questions."

Jessica Proulx was part of

the spiritual reflection group.

"I think it (the program) is important because it helps other people," she said. "It makes me feel honoured and proud to be helping other people."

Students collected several large boxes of food to bring with them to the Food Bank and were given a guided tour of the facilities where they had the opportunity to ask their questions and see how the Food Bank operates.

FROM THE FRONT

Truck load restrictions in effect on Québec's major highways

continued from page 1
All commercial trucks must stop at open weigh scales during half-load time. Particularly in the Pontiac at the station near Bryson on

Hwy. 148. If a truck is found to be overloaded, the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec won't let the truck back onto the highway until the excess cargo is removed.

There are about 200 road inspectors making sure loads are the right weight.

Gilles Poirier, spokesperson for Contrôle Routier Québec, says that many

trucking companies will shut down during this time of year in order to save money.

"A lot of carriers manage their businesses in concordance with the half-load

time," he said.

If trucks do run, it helps prevent wear on the truck by carrying lighter than normal loads.

"It's a good idea for the

road and a good idea for the truck," he said.

Signs are posted along highways to remind drivers, but for more information go to www.mtg.gouv.qc.ca.

Laws, mill closures, thaw reduce Smurfit-Stone wood fibre supplies

continued from page 1
The majority of International Woodworkers Union workers voted to go out on strike after contract negotiations with former owner Gustave Brunet collapsed.

The PFC mill was shipping 18 tractor trailer loads of chips to the Smurfit-Stone mill daily before it closed. The mill can only produce 50 per cent of its chip supplies at the mill itself and relies on outside sources for the other 50 per cent.

"When PFC was open we had no problem keeping up our woodpiles," Kerouac said.

"Now we have to buy the chips in other areas."

However, trucking chips in from other areas — as far as Gaspésie — is not cost effective.

"Wood costs are increasing, we're going so far from Pontiac," Kerouac said.

Saying the industry is facing "very serious" times, Kerouac calls on the government to ease up on limiting the supply of round wood without jeopardizing the future of the forestry industry.

"The government is going to have to free up some wood," he said.

Jean-Yves Arseneault, wood procurement manager for Smurfit-Stone, said the problem faced by the Portage mill is industry-wide.

"Other mills are facing the same problem," Arseneault said.

"Some saw mills had a hard time making it through the year.

"It is well known that the industry has a problem."

In order to combat the supply-demand problem, Arseneault said companies have had to reconfigure operating costs structure.

"Costs are going up, but we're facing the same prices," he said.

Advances in digital photography have impacted the Portage mill, which has its niche market in photo paper quality pulp.

He says many home printers use lower quality photo paper than in the traditional market.

"We're facing a lot of competition in our market due in part to the less use of high quality photo paper," he said.

As well, competition, particularly from Brazil, is eating away at what once was a North American dominated market.

Combined with the new cutting restrictions, Arseneault said his business just got tougher. He said that some private woodlot owners may be staying away from cutting their bush lots for fear of government regulations and fines.

"We are facing a lot of restrictions on cutting, more than ever," he said. "They may influence the decision (by private woodlot owners) not to cut."

Still, Arseneault said the Portage mill, which uses 800,000 cubic metres of fibre each year, is not under the axe.

"I would not say that the mill is in jeopardy," he said.

"We have a great team in Pontiac and we're working hard to reduce costs. We

have a lot of faith in the future and we are trying to address the problems we are

facing."

Arseneault cautiously stated what the outcome for

Pontiac would be if the mill did close in the future.

"If the mill closed, it

would definitely have a negative impact on Pontiac," he said.

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Admission: \$5.00 (advance tickets Onslow Elementary School)

Quyon man's snowmobile still in the Ottawa River

continued from page 1
"After I tried twice to reach the Ontario side, I came back up and grabbed a piece of ice," he said, adding there was a strong current.

"This time I decided to swim across to the other side."

Though he was successful, he managed to make it across to the Quyon side, but with the fog so thick, he lost his way again and began walking towards Fitzroy Harbour — in his sock feet.

"My socks balled up with snow and kept my feet fairly warm," he said.

Trudeau finally made it to the Fitzroy Harbour area and knocked on the door of the first house he came to. However, the occupants didn't want to help the freezing man, so he knocked on another door and finally got some help and made it back to the warmth of his home.

Trudeau, who narrowly escaped a freezing death, has a moral for his story: "To never go snowmobiling by myself; to never go on the river at night, especially in the fog."

"It's too dangerous,"

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Main Street, Shawville, P.Q.

A different pace

YOUR OPINION

Many thanks

Dear Editor,
 I, Ashley Harris from Otter Lake would like to tell M.P. David Smith and his secretary Dominique Cyr, how much I appreciate everything they have done. I would also like to thank them for all the time and work that they have contributed.

It was in late May of 2004 when I first sent for my birth certificate and weeks later I got a reply back saying that I was not registered. My grandmother then phoned Mr. Smith's office and spoke with him and Dominique by addressing the issue and they agreed to help us. Dominique has helped us greatly by writing letters to the people in Thunder Bay and phoning from place to place.

There was a great need for me to get my birth certificate because without it I couldn't have gotten my SIN card. I have worked for the Alliance in a "Placement Carrière Été" in 2004 and at the time we were under the impression that I was going to have my social insurance in time - how wrong were we. I continued to work hoping that my birth certificate would come in any day but there continued to be complications. It has been almost nine months since and I still haven't gotten paid for the work that I have done. I started to lose hope with the deadline drawing near but now I can finally say it's over! None of this would have been possible without the help of Mr. David Smith, Dominique and the patience of Sylvie Touchette who kept extending the deadline. How could I have forgotten the one person who has contributed so much? My granny. Thank you Granny!

Ashley Harris
 Otter Lake

Art school

Dear Editor,
 The first annual Pontiac School of the Arts (PSOTA), a non-profit organization will open its doors on July 23 and will continue until July 31, 2005 at the Dr. S. E. McDowell Elementary School in Shawville.

Currently the Pontiac School of the Arts has 14 potential artists/instructors. They will exercise their talents and expertise for those who wish to learn different forms of art or further their interest in artistic techniques in our creative art school right here in the Pontiac.

Courses range from two-days to five-days for children and adults. Some of the proposed courses include: Using computers as a musical tool, fly tying, printmaking, portraiture, silk painting, decorative painting, keyboard technique, introduction to photography, introduction handbuilding with clay, desktop publishing, introduction to handmade paper and introduction to painting. See the website at www.pontiac-schoolofthearts.com for course descriptions, artists' profiles and other important information or call 1-819-647-2447 and leave a message.

The PSOTA brochure will be available at the end of March. Copies will be distributed throughout the community. Look for your brochure and plan to take a course!

As registrants plan their summer in the Pontiac, they will require accommodation while taking a course at the PSOTA School. If you have available accommodation please call 1-819-647-2247.

Connie Renaud
 Registrar PSOTA
 organizing committee

EDITORIAL

Tread carefully

Most reasonable people acknowledge that the untrammeled run on our natural resources is coming to an end as efforts are ramped up to save our resources, notably the forests, from complete depletion. Hence, the Coulombe Commission and its recommendations to reduce the allocated cuts on Crown land.

At the same time, the industry is trying to preserve its markets in the face of growing competition from Third World producers. With both the supply and demand facing critical pressure points, the industry is staring at one of its most challenging pictures.

The issue is even more crucial to Pontiacers, because despite the efforts of the tourism sector to draw more tourists to the area, the forestry industry is the leading sector in the Pontiac economy, followed by farming. Without those two economic generators, all else in Pontiac would be rendered useless.

Which is why our provincial government should look closely at the broad Coulombe Commission and hold its recommendations close to the realities of the Outaouais and in particular the Pontiac region.

The Coulombe Commission, borne out of a video showing how clear-cutting ravaged forests in other areas of the province, should not only look to save our forests, but also factor in how its recommendations will affect the region to which they are to be applied, thus saving jobs.

In an area with high unemployment and a non-diverse economy, and with vast stretches of forest, Pontiac should be cut some slack when it comes to the Coulombe Commission. Hinterland areas of the province (all areas outside the Québec City, Montreal and Gatineau urban centres) face futures not so rosy as their forest resources fall under tighter controls. If urban areas faced similar uncertainties about their collective futures, you can bet that the province would commission more than one study in search of solutions.

In these politically correct times, it's deemed heretical in some circles to speak the truth about forests and trees: in geologic time, which is much, much longer than human time (a truism the tree huggers always fail to mention), trees grow back. In human time, lives can be ruined by umbrella laws that don't account for conditions particular to an area. Such is the case in Pontiac. Unless the government is willing to help set up other industry, it should tread carefully when tinkering with what we have.

Paul McGee

122 YEARS OF NEWS

The Way We Were Compiled by Heather Alberti Dickson, Publisher

25 Years Ago

March 26, 1980

Floods of spring came early: Too much rain on frozen land ran off at too great a speed or natural absorption resulted in flooding and power breaks at closed roads through the Quyon area. The power break at Shawville and Wyman only lasted 15 minutes but then thousands other electricity users were without power for a much as 10 hours. The bridge at Balharrie's Mill became the repository for numerous ice floes which came in from the swollen waters of the Quyon River. S Wyman MacKechnie measured the ice floe at ten feet and that wasn't the biggest.

Covered bridge on the mend: Mayor Vezine Herault of Mansfield has informed THE EQUITY that the old red covered bridge which spans the Coulonge River is indeed entirely the property and responsibility of the Municipality of Mansfield and Pontefract. Also this bridge is now back on its pinnings, and has been raised considerably to protect it from future catastrophe from below. This work was done fast during those few days when ice conditions and weather permitted. Now all the remains to do is protect the bridge from the other elements which assail it from above. Paint and a few repairs would help.

Lariviere speaks on referendum: Jean Guy Lariviere, speaking in the National Assembly on the debate about the wording of the Referendum

Question, said he found the government's presentation of the sovereignty association project too general and confused.

50 Years Ago

March 24, 1955

Shawville trounces Cardinal to even series at one each: After two days on the road including a forced stop-over at Armprior due to the worst road conditions of the winter, the Cardinal Pats dropped the second game of a two out of three series to Shawville Tuesday night. Ron Thomas kept all but five Cardinal goals out of the nets in a remarkable show of fine goal tending while Shawville scored 11. Red Young took 3, Cecil McTiernan 2, Frank Finnigan Jr, Red Dale, Bob McCredie, Bill Pirie, Don Trudeau and Gilbert Fraser each had one. The game witnessed by the largest crowd seen at the arena this year was also the roughest game of the season with penalties too numerous to mention.

Helen Murphy named Queen: Shawville's Carnival at the Shawville Arena last Saturday night turned out to be a great night for every member of the family. Children in costume were judged by mystery judges and Helen Murphy was named Queen of the Carnival. Leona Bell, Betty Murphy and Bobby Kingdon also won prizes in the costume judging and Wally Bretzlaff turned out in the funniest get-up of the evening.

75 Years Ago

March 20, 1930

Local news: Mr George Landon, Mayor of the township of Chichester, was elected Warden of the county at last Wednesday's regular meeting of the County Council.

Farmers and farmers' wives who are particularly interested in poultry, will note with dismay the sudden drop that has taken place recently in the price of eggs, thus so early in the season, and some of them, no doubt wonder why, well, the reason for the slump is that heavy consignments of eggs from the United States are flooding the Canadian market at present, and if you ask why this is the case, we tell you that the Canadian customs tariff is not high enough to keep these eggs out and the Government declines to remedy a situation that is seriously crippling both the home industries of egg production and dairying.

The proposal to construct the power dam at Chats Falls in such manner as to answer the purpose also of a traffic bridge, is meeting with warm approval in the cities of Ottawa and Hull, and has enlisted the support of the Board of Trade, the Motor League and other influential organizations, along with the advocacy of the newspapers and prominent citizens. The scheme should meet with the hearty approval and cooperation of the municipalities on both sides of the Ottawa, abutting the site, namely Fitzroy, South Onslow and Quyon village, as each would benefit in

one way or another, if another link were forged to join the two provinces together at this point. And the opportunity, viewed solely from the point of cost saving, seems too good to miss.

Deaths: The death of Mr Joseph W Brownlee occurred at his home on the 6th Line of Clarendon at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at the age of 77 years and six days.

A large number of friends and neighbours attended the funeral of the late Mr James Dods, a highly respected resident of Bristol who died at his home on Thursday morning, March 6, after an illness of several months duration. The deceased was born in Bristol Township 76 years ago and had resided there all his life.

Teacher wanted: A Protestant teacher holding elementary diploma for the Portage du Fort Public School. Salary \$60.00 a month. Average attendance 20. Duties commence Sept. 2, 1930. Apply stating qualifications etc to C Brinkworth, Sec., Treas., Portage du Fort.

Applications will be received by the Bristol; School Board until April 1 for three Teachers holding Elementary Diplomas. Salary offered \$600 per year. Applicants please state experience and Church of Choice. Apply to H I Smith, Sec., Treas., Maryland, Que.

100 Years Ago

March 23, 1905

Issues missing from our files until June 15, 1905.

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM by Katharine Fletcher

First breath of spring: musings on bird intelligence

Snow still blankets Pontiac's fields and woods. However, the sun's heat feels stronger day by day. As the angle of its rays becomes more direct, snow and ice shrink from its energy, and we witness March's promise of spring.

Dark patches of gravel and the detritus of last year's growth are emerging alongside Pontiac's highways and byways. Beneath our bird feeding stations, black patches comprised of sunflower and nyger seed husks become heat sinks: snow has melted and green grass is bursting out of the ground with vigour. Here, in these oases of green, Starlings, Blue Jays, and Black-capped Chickadees flit about, foraging for seeds and insect life.

Species leaving, arriving

Snowbirds - more properly called Snow Buntings - are leaving us now. The large flocks we see sweeping over the meadows will soon take flight for their Arctic summer territory. Similarly, the Great Grey Owls will be leaving us. In fact, I've not seen any of these owls for several weeks, but Pontiac residents say they are still around. Watch for them as they pass through, and let's all keep watch for their return next year.

Before long, we'll see robins and hear the chee-ko-ree call of the red-winged blackbird. That sound reminds me to stop filling my feeders with bird seed. I don't want to encourage any of the blackbird family to linger around our home, as they are aggressive birds that discourage other songbirds from nesting.

Starlings arriving

Although some starlings overwinter here, most migrate to more southerly climes. Soon we'll be seeing the large flocks of well over 100 individuals return to the Pontiac and, if you're like me, you'll be wishing they'd fly right on by. This introduced European species is far too successful. Starlings crowd out other species from nest holes; they patrol pastures and lawns en masse for food, and intim-

idate songbirds in a host of other ways. Even at night-time they roost in such large flocks that other birds cannot compete.

In *A Guide to Bird Behaviour*, author Donald W. Stokes notes, "Throughout the year, many starlings gather into huge communal roosts each night. There are very typical behaviour patterns associated with these roosts. Usually a few hours before sunset the birds start to gather in the tops of certain trees or buildings and call noisily. From these pre-roosting spots, groups of birds fly off toward the primary roost, often gathering with other groups and forming huge flocks that are conspicuous in the afternoon sky. These flocks swarm above the roost site, and members continue to make sharp dives into the roost trees. The roost may contain anywhere from a few hundred to a quarter of a million birds."

Bird brains

It is fascinating that birds are able to maintain a network of communication and behaviour that can function in such a large community of several hundred thousand birds.

While observing flocks of starlings or snow buntings swoop about as if they were one organism, it makes me think we human beings should re-assess the intelligence of birds. (After all, how often have you used the expression "bird brain" to be a compliment?)

Bird intelligence

Flocks of birds manage to swoop about as if they are one unit because of their acute sight and sharp reaction times. In *The Sibley Guide to Bird Behaviour*, Rick Cech, John B. Dunning Jr., Chris Elphick, and Margaret Rubega comment on bird intelligence and how birds can manage to fly in flocks without bumping into one another.

"Researchers using computer models have been able to simulate this type of flocking behaviour by assigning each simulated flock member a simple set of decision rules (for example, if the bird to my left turns right,

then I turn right, and so on); such rules allow the computer flock to behave in a highly synchronized manner without following the directions of a single leader. This is analogous to fans in a stadium rising in a 'wave,' each taking cues from the person in the next seat. Thus dramatic behaviours such as coordinated flock movements are a sign of rapid response to complex stimuli, but not necessarily a mark of intelligence."

Assessing intelligence

What is intelligence? How do we measure it? These are tricky questions as applied to human beings, let alone birds! The writers note, "Birds have larger brains relative to their body size than all other vertebrates except mammals."

But, does size mean anything at all when we measure intelligence?

They continue the discussion. "So, are birds intelligent or do they simply follow their instincts? ... In traditional experimental psychology, intelligence is the ability to 'learn how to learn' - that is, to solve problems of a given class correctly when first confronted, then to solve problems of a similar nature with increasing speed when they are encountered again."

Crows and ravens are among the bird species who do exhibit learned problem solving. Does that mean all birds are capable of this type of learned behaviour, or intelligence? Is a mourning dove as bright as a blue jay - or is this even a fair question? The writers note, "We cannot expect all birds to demonstrate an equivalent degree of intelligent behaviour, however, any more than we would expect the same quality of mental performance from a shrew and a chimpanzee. Underscoring the principle that intelligence is one adaptive trait among many, we can see that it has evolved selectively among different bird families."

Okay, just as in human beings, comparison isn't necessarily apt. But, given some bird



Photo courtesy of Eric Fletcher

The EQUITY's environmental columnist Katharine Fletcher has won the Ottawa Tourism Media Award for the second year in a row. This year she won for her three-volume set of guidebooks: "Capital Rambles Exploring the National Capital Region", "Capital Walks Walking Tours of Ottawa" and "Historical Walks the Gatineau Park Story". Last month she also won the Award of Excellence in Travel Journalism from Choice Hotels Canada in the best international travel writing category for her story "The Spirit of Morocco". The story was published in Ottawa Life Magazine May 2004.

species' capabilities, what can some of the "more intelligent" bird species learn to do? "Crows and parrots often perform as well as dogs in tests that involve reasoning or learn-

ing, whereas chickens, doves, cats, and rabbits are less successful. Blue jays are able to master food-locating tasks that cats and squirrel monkeys cannot perform well." The authors continue, noting that some birds can distinguish between sounds in order to get a reward ... something that many mammals find too challenging.

If a species can save time while performing basic tasks such as food gathering, their energy is well spent, and their survival rate potentially increased. The authors cite how black-capped chickadees and red-breasted nuthatches are able to detect whether a sunflower seed is empty or full by picking it up in their beak and assessing its weight.

Imitation

Another intelligence test is whether a species can learn by imitation. Authors cite several examples of learned behaviours among different species, one of which is the common house sparrow. This species "has learned to open automatic doors to grocery stores, cafés, and other sources of food by hovering in front of the electric eye sensors." - No wonder house sparrows nest in and fly into about inside Home Depot stores! (Note to self: Now I can stop worrying about them being trapped.)

Observe and learn

Although most of us cannot perform scientific tests, we can all learn a great deal simply by watching species like starlings interact. While we do, it's useful to reflect upon our use of the term bird brain. Next time we are tempted to use it, perhaps we should reconsider or redirect its application...

Sources: *A Guide to Bird Behaviour Volume 1* is published by Little, Brown and Company, Boston-Toronto, ISBN 0-316-81725-2. *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behaviour* is published by Alfred A. Knopf Inc., NY. ISBN: 0-679-45123-4.

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance writer based north of Quyon, Quebec.

Las-Beau Meat Cutting benefits from kindness

CALUMET ISLAND — On February 5, 2005 a benefit party was held at the Calumet Island Municipal Hall for Las-Beau Meat Cutting. The money raised will help the LaSalle family rebuild their meat shop which was destroyed by a fire on January 9.

A committee comprised of Paul-Emile Maleau, Jude LaSalle, Marie-Christine LaSalle, Francine Lépine, Nancy Newberry, Silver Dumouchel, Patrice Dumouchel, Paul Bertand, Elwyn Lang, Bob Young and Rick Roy presented Pauline and Henri LaSalle with a cheque for \$16,000. This money was raised by selling tickets to the benefit party and also from donations received from people from all over the Pontiac and the Ontario side. As of today, a total of \$20,000 has been raised.

Henri and Pauline LaSalle were overwhelmed with the help they received from the people since the fire. They also thanked the Calumet Island and Bryson fire departments with their quick response and everyone that helped in any way with the construction of the new building.

As of February 14, Las-Beau meat cutting is reopened and can be contacted at 819-648-5719 or 819-648-2680. They welcome all past and new customers.

The committee would like to thank everyone who helped with this fundraiser. It was a great success.



Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

It was 15-year-old Allyson Belanger's singing debut at Mickey Creek Golf Club in Vinton Saturday, Feb. 26 but the young singer, who has a repertoire of more than 50 songs, let her sister Casey, 13, join in a duet. The two musically-talented young girls are the daughters of Barry and Melody Belanger of Vinton.

SHEENBORO

Dr. Keon honoured



By MYRTLE SULLIVAN
Correspondent
689-2236

Well, Sheen certainly celebrated St. Patrick's this week in grand style. On St. Patrick's day a bus load of people went to Ottawa to honour Dr. Willbert Keon at the Irish Society's Day celebrations. The bus left George's Regal Beagle after George had coffee ready and Sandra Brennan made muffins for all. The bus driver was Peter Lebine and his mother was a Giroux from Chapeau. The Pontiac M.R.C. paid for the bus. The Pontiac County Fiddlers along with Jim Beattie and Mike Fox accompanied Dr. Keon from the Council Chambers to the hall. Gail Gavan was also one of the entertainers and sang a few Irish songs. Dr. Keon got up and joined the Sheen group in singing, "The Sheenboro Way". Kyle Kelly played "Walker Street" in memory of Remi Walker, some of the Walker family were in attendance.

Happy birthday to Kyle Middlestead son of Trudy and Garth Middlestead. I

heard Kyle had a party on the weekend.

There was music and a large group of people at Fred's for the great day and also a great gang at George's Regal Beagle where Wayne Venne and Arnold Gardner were playing. Louis Schryer joined them later in the evening. Wayne did a great job with the Irish songs. George and Erla served Irish stew which was delicious.

Welcome back to Jean Gleason who was on a working trip in England. I hope you enjoyed your trip. Happy birthday to Andrew McDonald who celebrates this week.

My son Jerry and his wife Colleen were up to visit Colleen's mother Mary Spence and myself this past week. We enjoyed a lovely supper and visit with Mary on Thursday.

Welcome back to Doris and Donat Ranger who were away on a holiday down south.

Happy birthday to my sister Sharon out in Radville Saskatchewan on March 27.

Get well wishes to Donna Lampkin who fell and broke her foot.

QUYON

Performing for the Irish Ambassador



By JILL McBANE
Correspondent
458-2366

On Saturday, March 19 Roy and Edith Nugent celebrated their 50th anniversary. To help Roy and Edith celebrate the family gathered at Cathy and Jimmy's for dinner.

Birthday wishes are sent to Michelle, Jimmy, Lee, Anthony, Chantal and Brett Nugent.

In last week's notes I missed one of MacKenzie Barr's great-grandmothers, Eleanor McBane, a great-grandniece.

Friday, March 18 a few friends gathered at the home of Gail Gavan in Aylmer to celebrate a special birthday for Pat Lusk. I wonder how old she is? Hope you had a great birthday Pat.

On March 17, St. Patrick's Day, the Irish Society of Ottawa held a special luncheon for Dr. Wilbur Keon. Gail Gavan was asked to compose a song for this special tribute. Later that evening Gail was also asked to perform for the Irish Ambassador's cocktail party at his home

and concluded the evening with an Irish sing-a-long. Visitors came from the Emerald Isle itself.

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Joyce Richardson who recently passed away and also deepest sympathy to the family of John Telford of Beechgrove who passed away last Friday. John and his late wife Beulah ran the store in Beechgrove for quite a few years.

The CWL will be celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. Details to follow.

Hey Ron congratulations I hear your bulls did well at the sale last week.

Joan Bell hosted an open house to help family and friends honour Alice Bell on her 85th birthday. She was assisted by Grace Reid. Many members of the family came to wish Alice happy birthday and to bring good wishes. Alice received many nice gifts. But what she valued most were the greetings from so many nieces and nephews. A lovely lunch was served. Alice enjoys good health. She dances two or three nights each week. I guess that is what keeps her young.

WALTHAM

Celebrated at Fred's



By HELEN PERRY
Correspondent
689-2652

Last Sunday night I had a great chat with my friend Margaret Pilon, who has been spending the last two months in Lakeland, Florida. We talked for almost an hour getting caught up on the news. She told me that Andre and herself are starting to pack up and will be closing up the trailer for another year. They will be home for Easter. We are anxious to see them!

On Tuesday evening, March 15 the Waltham Youth Committee held their elections. They are as follows: President Jane Leroy, 1st Vice-President Joanne McFadden, Secretary, Leanne Romain, treasurer Lynn Amyotte and correspondence Gayle Rivet. The Youth Club is as follows: President Mary Grace Masseau, 1st. Vice-President Brittany Harkins.

Well Isabella has mastered using a walker this past week. She was only in it for about two minutes, and she had figured out how to move forwards and backwards. One day Rhonda heard their cat Tigger meowing and there was Isabella hanging on to poor Tigger's tail and he was pulling her in the walker across the kitchen floor! She really is our little "Izee Bee".

Elmer and Evelyn Burnie, of Stouffville visited Elizabeth Ethier (Elmer's sister) and family during the past week.

I was talking to my brother Brian from Cornwall on Tuesday night and he was telling me that Matthew and Sarah are really enjoying their March break. Matt went swimming with his friend at the Wave Pool in Kanata on Monday.

On Wednesday they took in some activities at the library. On Thursday they were having some friends

over. They were going to be doing crafts and making mini pizzas for lunch with their mom's help.

Get well wishes are extended to George Campbell who had the misfortune of falling and breaking his hip. He is presently in the Pontiac Community Hospital in Shawville.

Elizabeth (aunt Libby) Ethier and Evelyn and Elmer Burnie celebrated St. Patrick's Day at Fred's in Chapeau. They had a great time.

Natasha Beaubien from Yellowknife is home visiting her parents Shirley and Serge Beaubien, her grandmother Georgette Beaubien and family and friends. Natasha will be here until April 4.

On Friday evening, March 18 the Waltham Choir went up to Chapeau and joined the Chapeau Choir and practiced some Easter hymns. It was so beautiful to hear all the voices in unison.

This is Sunday, March 20. It is the first day of spring, and the Waltham Station was packed to the rafters after Sunday mass. Everyone was out enjoying a tasty breakfast.

Shirley and Serge Beaubien and daughter Natasha, and Betty and Gerald Chassie spent the weekend skiing at Mont St. Marie. It must have been great spring skiing, as the weather has been beautiful!

A very happy birthday is wished to Corey Campbell of Pembroke who is celebrating his birthday on Easter Sunday. We hope that you have a great day Corey.

Well this is Holy Week and the Catholic Church is celebrating its Easter Triduum which consists of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil on Saturday night and Easter Sunday. Easter is considered the main focus of the Catholic faith. I sure hope that everyone has a blessed and safe Easter weekend with their family and friends!

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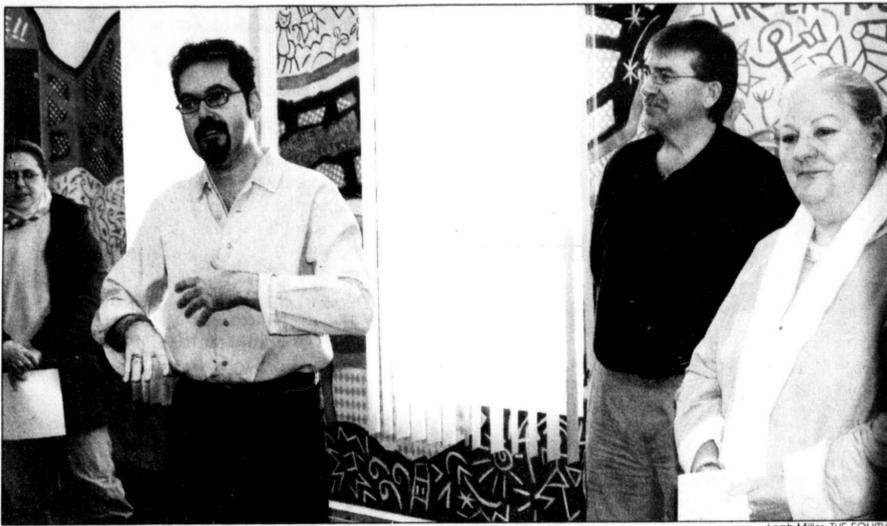
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The Fort Coulonge Library has been revamped with a mural painted by seven volunteers. Presenting the mural March 5 from the left: Marcio Melo, Coun. Benoit Pare and MNA Charlotte L'Ecuyer.

Mural brightens Fort Coulonge library

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter
FORT COULONGE — The library in Fort Coulonge has just received a new face lift thanks to the brush strokes of a few volunteers.

The project to decorate the library is inspired by the theme of "The Four Seasons". Seven locals, (Pierrette Lafreniere, Claudine Trudel, Elaine Francoeur, Carole Amyotte, François Roline, Sylvain Nadeau and Benoit Paré), helped paint the mural over three days with local

artist Marcio Melo. "I really liked the experience," said Lafreniere who helped work on the mural and is the librarian. The project, which ran Feb. 21 to 23, was funded by the Ministry of Culture and Communications, the Québec National Assembly, the Municipality of Fort Coulonge and the Outaouais Library with the Fort Coulonge Recreation Association. "It was a new challenge for Marcio because he does a lot

with children," said Paré, who is a Fort Coulonge councillor. "But working with adults — we are getting old and have our own ideas. So it was a good challenge for him." The first day, Marcio had the group work on four paintings collectively. "Marcio wanted to inspire us," said Paré. By the second day, painting began at the bottom of each wall and after every half-hour, Marcio would switch the painters to work on a dif-

Pontiac native turns 107 in spotlight

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC — Living to be over 100 years old is quite a feat, but Vera Thomas, now 107, makes it seem so easy.

Thomas, originally from Clarendon and Campbell's Bay, turned 107 at the Château Laurier Feb. 22 with CJOH's Max Keeping. A broadcast aired while the two had tea to celebrate.

"It was very nice," said her niece Marjorie Stevenson who attended the event with a small group of family members. "Her son was there with his wife and some of her grandchildren." Now living at a retirement home in Ottawa, Thomas is healthy, happy and proud of her past.

"She's a bit hard of hearing — but that's about the only problem she has," said Stevenson. "She is subject to bronchitis, but otherwise she is in relatively good health."

Stevenson's father, Percy Smith, was Thomas' second oldest brother. Stevenson's first memory of her aunt Vera was when she would take care of Stevenson when her mother was expecting.

Strong roots
Thomas was born Vera Smith in Starks Corners Feb. 22, 1898. She was the middle daughter in a family of seven. She had four brothers



VERA (SMITH) THOMAS

and two sisters. The family settled in Campbell's Bay.

Her father, Matthew Smith, was part owner of the Smith Brothers Lumber Mill which burned down in the 1950s.

"She spent all her childhood there," said Stevenson. Thomas moved to Ottawa in 1919 and taught school for a year before training to become a registered nurse.

She married Fred Thomas in 1929. He died in 1941 leaving her with two boys, aged eight and five.

"So she kept a boarding house on Flora Street where she kept 12 boarders," said Stevenson. "She gave them breakfast and dinner to keep afloat during the war — she had to do something."

When her boys were old enough she went back to nursing, working as an industrial nurse at Connor

Washing Machines. She then worked as a nurse at the Ottawa Hospital's Civic Campus for many years. Thomas then specialized at home care for another five years before retiring at the age of 75. Amazingly, Thomas drove until she was 90.

"The doctor told her to stop driving because of her eyesight," said Stevenson. "But there was nothing wrong with her eyesight — he just thought it would be safer for her off the road."

After retiring she sold her home to live on the seventh floor of a high-rise apartment on Prince of Wales Drive. She lived there until she was 96 before moving to the Glebe Centre retirement home.

"Whenever we visit, she gets up and makes us a cup of tea in the kitchen," said Stevenson. "We just visit and talk about her family and what we used to do together."

Stevenson said that Thomas uses a walker, but until last fall, she was still going for walks outside. "Just until recently she walked to the bank which is four or five blocks away," said Stevenson. "She even took a lady who is 100 downtown on the bus for a doctor's appointment."

Still very chatty, Stevenson says Thomas talks more on the phone to her than the other way around. "She still has her marbles," said Stevenson. Preferring tea to wine, a good breakfast and Swiss Chalet, Thomas is known for making beautiful teddy bears.

"She's gone way beyond what she thought she would," said Stevenson.

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Promutuel Valley Mutual declares another successful year at AGM

By CHRISTIE MAILEY
Equity Reporter
PONTIAC — Promutuel Valley Mutual held its 60th annual meeting on Thursday, March 10 at the Oddfellows Hall.

President Eric Smith reported on a good year for Valley Mutual to the nearly 50 people in attendance.

"I want to thank everyone for their excellent work," Smith said. "When people come here, they get service." In their annual report for

2004 Valley Mutual noted that they insure more than 8,500 people. These members paid a total of \$8.7 million in premiums, an increase of 12.8 per cent over 2003. Insurance claims amounted to \$4.9 million in the last fiscal year compared to the \$2.9 million in the 2003 fiscal year.

Denis Larivière, general manager, said that eight or nine total residential losses contributed to this high number.

Despite the small deficit of \$56,000 that Valley Mutual reported, they also said there would be a decrease in premiums for the coming year.

Included in the meeting was an election for a director for seat number five. Norm Pilon and the incumbent Hugh Hammond addressed the crowd in their efforts to be elected.

Hugh Hammond was the successful candidate and was elected for a term of

three years. Seat four and six were also assigned by acclamation to Eric Smith and Chris Judd respectively.

Following the elections, employees were presented with certificates of service and there was a question period.

George Pirie from Bristol held the floor for several minutes with a complaint about Valley Mutual's service. "I am an unhappy cus-

tommer," he said. "Especially over the last two weeks."

Pirie had some concerns about the conduct of an insurance inspector that recently visited his home.

Smith and Larivière promised to look into Pirie's concerns personally.

"You are a member of this organization and you have a right to ask questions," Larivière said. Valley Mutual has a number of new services to offer in their sixtieth year. An

example is the Promutuel Beacon Assistance Service, a hotline that is available with every policy.

This service deals with everything from legal advice to health care concerns. In an effort to recognize Valley Mutual's 60 years of service they have developed a book that documents the history of the company including the minutes from the first annual meeting and a copy of the first policy ever written.



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"At 51, I didn't know how to read, write or count. Now I can read to my children. I'm independent and confident about the future." (Ameyo, immigrant from Togo)

"Upgrading my job skills has motivated me at work. Now I can bring new knowledge and tools to the work team. It feels really good to hone your skills!" (Julie, daycare educator)

"In 5 months, I learned how to count. I can give change, write cheques and calculate taxes. It feels great to finally be in control of my everyday life." (Nathalie, 30 years old)

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SPORTS



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Pontiac High School's Katie Dolan (#33) attempts to knock the ball away from a D'Arcy McGee High School player. PHS won their last game of the season March 10 with a score of 52-29.

PHS winds up basketball season

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE — Ending a season filled with athletic determination and devotion to team work, Pontiac High School's basketball teams wrapped up their final games last week.

After the juvenile AA boys lost 85-29 to Collège St. Alexandre March 15, the Panthers were able to pick up the speed and win their last game of the season 48-44 against Mont-Bleu High School. Thursday night's home game was a close one, but just wasn't enough to pull the team higher in the ranks.

The juvenile boys placed sixth out of six teams in their division. Out of 11 games played the team won two.

The cadet A boys also played their last game of the season March 15 at home. They beat Le Carrefour

High School 40-37 bringing them up to fourth place in their division of five teams. Out of 11 games played the boys won four.

Both girls' teams finished their seasons off last week.

The cadet AA girls placed fourth in their division out of seven teams. Out of 12 games played the girls won seven. The team was only one total point away from tying with third place Nicolas Gatineau High School.

The Benjamin A girls placed eighth out of nine teams.

Out of 16 games played this season, the girls won three.

The cadet teams will be participating in a tournament Wednesday at Ecole Secondaire Sieur de Colouge (ESSC) against John Paul II, Dr. Wilbert Keon and ESSC high schools.

Atom A Draveurs league champions

By CHRISTIE MAILEY
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC — The Atom A Pontiac Draveurs came out on top at the league championship tournament from March 17-20.

Their 4-0 win against the Maniwaki Forestiers propelled them into the semi-finals. Draveurs' goals were scored by Tyler Alexander (2), Nicholas Francoeur and Stephen Newberry. Assists were by David Hobbs, Jordan Rémillard (3), Matthew Hobbs and Stephen Newberry.

The semi-final game against the Gatineau Voyageurs was an easy 4-2 win for the Draveurs. Pontiac goals scorers were Andrew McLachlin, David

Hobbs (2), and Jeremy Campbell with Stephen Newberry, David Hobbs and Jeremy Campbell picking up assists. The Draveurs advanced to face-off against the Masson Sharks in the finals. The Draveurs shut out the Sharks 2-0 to win the league championship.

Both Draveurs goals were scored by Jordan Rémillard with Nicholas Francoeur, Andrew McLachlin and Stéphane Chatillon picking up assists.

Bantam A

The Bantam A Pontiac Draveurs lost 5-2 in the semi-final playoffs against the Hull Olympiques.

The Draveurs goal scorers were Brady Pirie and Derrick Dagenais.

Draveurs lose finals to Gatineau in overtime

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC — The Midget B Pontiac Draveurs lost 3-2 in the finals to the Gatineau Cougars in over-time on the weekend.

The Draveurs lost the game in the first period of over-time, breaking their weekend winning streak.

Jeff Drisner and Dylan Wisotski each assisted and scored a goal.

In order to get to the finals, the Draveurs beat the Hull Cityoys Friday 3-1. Draveurs' goals were scored by Drisner, Matt Hobbs and

Nic Marx Thiverge. Assists went to Cody Hodgins, Travis Corrigan and Jean Marc Thibeault.

This was the second game the Draveurs played against the Cityoys Friday, as the first game was protested by Hull due to a technicality.

Saturday brought the Draveurs to the semi-finals, where they beat the Gatineau Draveurs 2-1. The game went into five periods and then a best out of three shoot-out.

Gatineau missed on the first and second shots. Wisotski and Thibeault both scored in the shoot-out.

Draveurs split weekend games

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

PONTIAC — The bantam B Draveurs split a couple of games on the weekend, beating the Hull Festivals and losing to Fort Coulonge.

Jacob Bergeron scored a hat trick in the 4-0 shutout of the Festivals. Colton Keon scored the other Draveurs goal. Assist went to Travis Moreau (2), Anthony Nugent, and Adam Orr. Against Fort Coulonge, the Draveurs fell behind and despite a great effort in the third period, ended up losing the game 2-1.



Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

Andrew Simms rink won the 2005 Farmers' bonspiel held at the Shawville Curling Rink in January. From the left: bonspiel organizer Ian MacKechnie; Simms; Gwendolyn Simms; Keri Beck; and Emily Simms.

Wolves, A's tied

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

PONTIAC — The peewee BB La Pêche Wolves split their first two playoff games against the Gatineau A's in Maniwaki on the weekend.

In Saturday's game, Travis Stewart led the Wolves to a 5-4 win with two goals — one unassisted, the other with help from Todd Gauthier — and an assist. Miguel Branchaud (assisted by Marc-Antoine Gendron), François Gauthier (Stewart), and Kurt Fraser (Matthew Alexander) rounded out the scoring for the Wolves.

In Sunday's game, the A's shut out the Wolves 2-0 to knot the best-of-five series at one each.

Novice B Pontiacs beat Kanata, win three skills challenges

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

PONTIAC — The novice B Shawville Pontiacs took part in the Esso Minor Hockey Festival at the Corel Centre on Sunday. The Pontiacs beat Kanata 4-3 on goals by Zach Sauve, Cody Laurent, Alexis Gauthier and Jonathan Hickey. The team also participated in the skills challenges, winning three of the events — the relay race, the break-away relay and the power-play challenge. The players enjoyed both the on-ice and post-game activities.

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Présence de substances allergènes non déclarées dans des aliments

QUÉBEC — Le ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ), en collaboration avec la Division de l'inspection des aliments de la Ville de Montréal et l'entreprise Provigo inc., avise les personnes souffrant d'une allergie aux noix, aux sulfites ou aux protéines de lait ou d'œufs de ne pas con-

sommer les chaussons aux framboises (premium raspberry turnovers) vendus en paquets de quatre de 360 grammes, car ils peuvent contenir de ces substances allergènes sans qu'il en soit fait mention sur l'étiquette. Les produits faisant l'objet de la présente mise en garde peuvent avoir été préparés et emballés dans tous les magasins portant l'en-

seigne Provigo de la province. Ils comportent des dates d'emballage qui s'étendent jusqu'au 21 mars 2005 inclusivement. L'entreprise Provigo inc. procède volontairement au rappel de ce produit. Elle a convenu avec la Division de l'inspection des aliments de la Ville de Montréal et le MAPAQ de diffuser le présent avis par mesure de

précaution pour les personnes allergiques. Les consommatrices et les consommateurs allergiques aux noix, aux sulfites ou aux protéines de lait ou d'œufs qui ont ces produits en leur possession sont avisés de ne pas les consommer et de les retourner à l'endroit où ils ont été achetés. **Information additionnelle** Le Ministère met à la dis-

position de la population divers documents d'information concernant la sécurité alimentaire. Vous pou-

vez communiquer avec le Centre québécois d'inspection des aliments et de santé animale, en composant sans

frais le 1-800-463-5023, visiter le site Web du Ministère pour obtenir ces documents ou tout renseignement additionnel. Vous pouvez aussi http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/.

Lancement de cinq projets en vue d'accroître l'accès des personnes d'expression anglaise aux services de santé en Outaouais

GATINEAU — L'Agence de développement de réseaux locaux de santé et de services sociaux de l'Outaouais a annoncé aujourd'hui le lancement de cinq projets qui seront financés dans le cadre d'un nouveau programme visant le développement et l'amélioration des services de santé et des services sociaux en anglais au Québec.

Il s'agit des projets suivants :
• Réseau anglophone d'accessibilité aux services jeunesse du Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Gatineau (CSSS de Gatineau). Projet pour implanter un réseau visant à améliorer l'accessibilité des jeunes anglophones de la région aux services de santé et aux services sociaux.

• Programme de formation pour le personnel psychosocial présenté par le Centre de santé et de services sociaux des Collines (CSSS des Collines). Ce projet vise à améliorer le niveau de compétence linguistique de certains de ses intervenants psychosociaux auprès de la clientèle anglophone qu'il

représentent un montant total de 365 148 \$ et qui provient du Réseau communautaire de services de santé et de services sociaux (RCSSSS). Le RCSSSS, aussi connu sous son sigle anglais CHSSN, est un organisme communautaire qui, en lien avec le ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, gère un programme de financement dans le cadre du Fonds pour l'adaptation des soins de santé de première ligne de Santé Canada.

Il met à la disposition des établissements publics du Québec un montant de 10 millions de dollars pour aider à financer des projets visant à améliorer l'accès de la population d'expression anglaise à :

- des services de santé de première ligne, dont Info-Santé;
 - des services généraux et médicaux, des services sociaux de première ligne et des soins de longue durée.
- Le programme couvre les coûts de transition pour la mise sur pied ou l'amélioration des services, pendant

une période pouvant aller jusqu'à 15 mois. Ces coûts de transition peuvent comprendre les frais de consultation, de communication, de formation, de planification et d'utilisation de technologies.

« Tous ces projets vont permettre d'améliorer l'accessibilité et la qualité des services de santé et des services sociaux offerts aux personnes d'expression anglaise qui vivent dans la région de l'Outaouais. Cela rejoint notre objectif de rapprocher le plus possible les services des utilisateurs, peu importe leur langue d'origine. » de souligner Mme Gail Hawley-McDonald de l'Agence de santé et de services sociaux de l'Outaouais.

Le RCSSSS est un réseau formé de 59 organismes communautaires et établissements publics qui, à la grandeur du Québec, se consacrent à la promotion de projets et de partenariats visant à assurer à la communauté anglophone la prestation de services de santé et de services sociaux adaptés à leur culture.

Pierre Corbeil visite le Salon Expert Chasse, Pêche et Camping de Québec

QUÉBEC — Le ministre des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, M. Pierre Corbeil, a visité hier soir les exposants du Salon Expert Chasse, Pêche et Camping de Québec afin de rencontrer les professionnels et les amateurs de camping, de pêche, de chasse et de piégeage. Pour l'occasion, il était accompagné du sous-ministre associé de Faune Québec, M. George Arseneault.

En plus de visiter le stand du ministère des

Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, M. Corbeil a rencontré les représentants des partenaires fauniques présents, soit la Fédération des trappeurs gestionnaires du Québec, la Fédération québécoise pour le saumon atlantique, la Fédération des pourvoyeurs du Québec, la Société des établissements de plein air du Québec et la Fédération québécoise de la faune.

« Je suis heureux de constater, cette année

encore, que les activités liées à la faune et à la nature demeurent importantes pour les Québécois.

C'est donc en toute connaissance de cause que le gouvernement du Québec poursuivra ses efforts pour développer cette industrie et encourager la relève, que ce soit par l'entremise de programmes d'initiation ou par la Fête de la pêche, qui se tiendra cette année les 10, 11 et 12 juin », a souligné le ministre.

Les activités liées à la

nature et à la faune engendrent des dépenses de 3 milliards de dollars en plus de permettre la création et le maintien de 32 000 emplois répartis sur tout le territoire québécois.

« La faune et la nature au Québec, c'est tout cela et plus encore! Leur effet stimulant sur l'économie contribue à donner une impulsion au secteur touristique et à distinguer le Québec sur les plans national et international », a conclu M. Corbeil.

Modifications à la Loi sur les forêts

QUÉBEC — Le ministre des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, monsieur Pierre Corbeil, a présenté aujourd'hui, à l'Assemblée nationale, une série de modifications à la Loi sur les forêts en vue de l'adoption du projet de loi no 71.

Ces amendements au projet de loi, déposé par le ministre en novembre 2004, sont un premier pas dans la foulée des recommandations du rapport de la Commission d'étude sur la gestion de la forêt publique québécoise, la Commission Coulombe.

« Tel que le recommandait la Commission Coulombe, ce projet de loi, s'il est adopté, reportera au 1er avril 2008 la date d'entrée en vigueur des prochains plans généraux

d'aménagement forestier.

De plus, il réduira de 20 % la possibilité forestière des essences du groupe sapin, épinettes, pin gris et mélèzes, cette diminution étant de 25 % sur le territoire où s'applique le régime forestier adapté de l'entente de la Paix des Braves, et de 5 % pour les autres essences, et ce, pour les années 2005 à 2008 », a précisé le ministre Corbeil.

Afin de minimiser l'impact de la diminution de la possibilité forestière sur l'emploi et l'économie des régions, la réduction sur les essences du groupe sapin, épinettes, pin gris et mélèzes (SEPM) pourra être modulée, sous réserve de l'approbation du ministre.

Cette modulation vise à permettre aux bénéficiaires

de contrats et de conventions d'aménagement forestier d'apporter certains ajustements à leurs volumes de récolte sur toute la période de trois ans, allant du 1er avril 2005 au 31 mars 2008, tout en assurant le respect de la réduction de 20 % sur cet horizon de trois ans.

Ainsi, un bénéficiaire pourra devancer ses coupes au cours de 2005-2006 ou 2006-2007 d'un maximum de 10 %, mais en ajustant à la baisse celles de 2006-2007 ou 2007-2008 d'une quantité équivalente de telle sorte que son attribution réduite soit respectée au total des trois années.

« L'industrie devra planifier adéquatement en fonction du cadre que nous lui fournissons. Nous avons

comme gouvernement une obligation de résultats, mais nous ne pouvons l'atteindre seul », a poursuivi M. Corbeil.

« C'est par mesure de prudence que nous appliquons cette baisse de la possibilité forestière, et ce, afin d'assurer la pérennité des ressources », a insisté le ministre.

« Par ailleurs, le gouvernement est conscient des impacts qui pourront découler de cette mesure. C'est pourquoi, nous évaluons différentes avenues qui permettront d'atténuer les impacts sur l'emploi et l'économie en régions ».

La mise en œuvre de ces mesures reposera sur une collaboration étroite des intervenants régionaux avec les ministères concernés.

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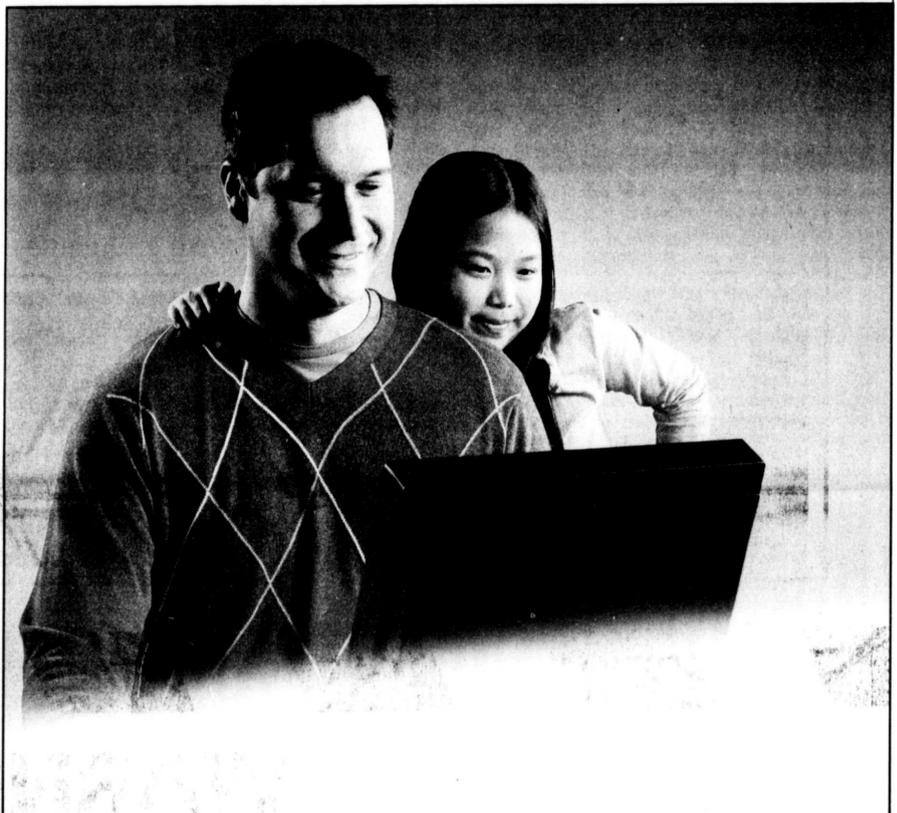
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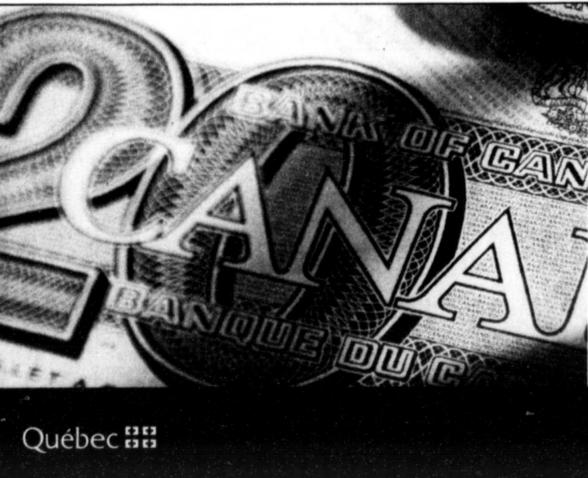
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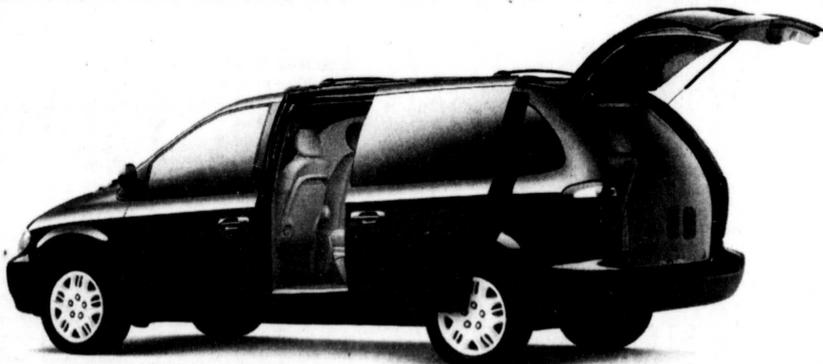
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	-	-

APRIL 2005						
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BIRTH THANKS

Bertrand - Mark and Shawne are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Michaela Lillie on March 11, weighing 5 lbs. 4 ozs. Michaela is a little sister to Anja, Joshua, Christopher and Brendan

MEMORIAM

Fulford - The family of Douglas Fulford would like to thank all our friends, family and neighbours for everything they had done for Dad, Mom and us during this sad time. We are very grateful for the devotion of friends visiting Dad at home and in the hospital, and wish a special thanks to Grant Rogers, Rolly MacDougall and Russell Elliott. Thank you to the staff of the Pontiac Community Hospital with a special note to the Long Term Unit and kitchen staff. To all the wonderful ladies of Starks' Corners, a heartfelt thank you for all the lovely meals, before and after the funeral, the maple leaves were a beautiful thought. Our great friends, Beryl and Art Smart, Audrey Sharpe, Beulah MacDougall, Bea Thompson and Iris and Keith Delorme helped us through the toughest days and we will always remember their thoughtfulness. Many thanks to Dad's pallbearers and Hayes Funeral Home. All your cards, wonderful treats and words of comfort have reminded us what a fantastic place we grew up in - there is no place like home! Jim, Jean and Stuart

MEMORIAM

Murphy-Hodgins - In loving memory of a dear daughter, Jean, who passed away suddenly March 24, 2002. We will always remember. We will always love you. And have precious memories of the time we had together. Love Mom Elsie and family

COMING EVENTS

Every Saturday night until May 7th, 2005 included. Bryson Lions Club Old Time Dance, Bryson Lions Hall. Music by The Brysonaires. 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Hot lunch at midnight. \$6 per person. etc.

COMING EVENTS

Sat., April 9 - 9 to 1:30 a.m. Shawville/Clarendon Firemen's Ball. Music by Hyrd Gunz Band at Shawville Lions Hall. Tickets \$5 each. Can be obtained from any fireman, Doug Hodgins or at the door. Lunch served. 5bm30

COMING EVENTS

Wed., March 23 - 7 p.m. Neighbourhood Watch meeting T.C.R.A., Ladysmith. bm23

COMING EVENTS

May 31 to June 2 - Bus tour Lake George, NY. Two concerts, Daniel O'Donnell (Mary Duff) and Jim Nabors. Phone Beulah 647-3628. 2bm30

COMING EVENTS

Tours - May 31 - June 2 Daniel O'Donnell in Lake George (limited seats); June 16 Charley Pride in Ottawa; Mediterranean Cruise May 4 - 16 (limited seats). Call Thomas Cook/Highland travel 432-5815 or 1-800-865-8738. 3xA6

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COMING EVENTS

Easter Eve Sat., March 26 - Zion Pancake Supper at Zion Lutheran Church, Schwartz from 4 to 7 p.m. Regular and potato pancakes, sausages, baked beans, local maple syrup, homemade rolls, dessert, tea, coffee. Adults \$7, children under 12 \$3. Everyone welcome. 2bm23

COMING EVENTS

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OBITUARY

Clavette, Douglas - It is with great sadness we announce the death of Douglas Joseph Clavette at the Stoney Plain, Alberta Hospital on Friday, March 18, 2005. Loving husband of Tanix and devoted father of Krista and Mikeal. Much loved son of Ed and Shirley and brother of Kenneth (Jennifer Roach), Laurie (John Fenik), Brenda (Luke Belland) and many cherished nieces and nephews. Douglas fought a courageous battle with cancer for the past five years. Memorial Service and interment in Calahoo, Alberta. Donations to the Calahoo Fire Department, Calahoo, Alberta T0G 0J0.

Greer, Robert

On Tuesday, March 15, 2005 in his 52nd year, Robert Greer. Predeceased by his parents Emery Greer and Jessie Campbell. Dear brother of Jason (Viola), Waverly (Maryanne), Donnie (Nadine), Cheslyn (Tom Trudeau), Annie (Jim Lepack). Predeceased by brothers Keith and David and by sister Connie. Father of Robert Jr. and Rachel-Anne (Foster daughter of Greg Wrinn and Lynn Spencer). A memorial service will be held on Thur., March 24, 2005 at 11 a.m. in Shawville Standard Church. Interment of ashes in St. Matthew's Cemetery, Charlevoix, Quebec.

Taylor, George Alexander

In hospital in Renfrew surrounded by his family on Saturday, March 19, 2005, George Taylor in his 82nd year. Beloved husband of Jean Jamieson of Renfrew. Dear father of Alex, Laura Culligan (Rick), Andy (Charlene) and Cathy St. Michael (Perry) all of Renfrew. Brother of Anne Wallace of Renfrew. Predeceased by sisters Isabelle Anderson and Mary Wallace, daughter-in-law Frances Pierunek-Taylor. Sadly missed by grandchildren Samantha, Taylor, Mitchell, Jamieson, Jordan, Braeden, Breanna and many nieces and nephews. Resting at the McPhail & Perkins Funeral Home, 85 Munro Ave., at Lorne, Renfrew, on Sunday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral Tuesday to Trinity St. Andrew's United Church for service at 11 a.m. Rev. Dan Hansen presiding. Spring interment Goshen Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to Groves Park Lodge would be appreciated.

Winn - The family of Bernadette

wish to thank the ladies and nurses at the P.R.C. Special thanks to Fr. Costello for all his kindness and special mass celebration. Thanks to the pallbearers, the organist and choir. W. J. Hayes and those who sent flowers and masses and cards and the ladies who prepared the lunch. Geraldine and Helen

Novena. Prayer of Thanks.

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SHAWVILLE

Great weather



By **RON HODGINS**
Correspondent
647-6001

What great weather we have had since last weekend. Now that spring has finally arrived I'm sure that many people will be out and about. With Easter being a little earlier this year it gives us all the relief that we have made it through yet another cold winter.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Joyce Richardson who passed away this past week. She was well known in the area and will be certainly

missed by everyone who knew her.

The Outaouais Test Station held its annual bull sale last Saturday and as in the past there was a huge crowd. The bus left Shawville at 8:30 a.m. and was driven by Tom Stewart. The top selling Angus bull sold for \$4,000, the top Charolais sold for \$4,900 and the top Simmental sold for \$3,550. In all breeds the average seemed to be up over the last few years. There were several bulls sold in the Pontiac and they were delivered the next day. Good luck to everyone

who purchased bulls at the sale or who have done so since.

Happy birthday to Jessie Cameron who will be turning 101 years old on March 29. I hope you will be surrounded by family and friends to help you celebrate this wonderful milestone. Perhaps you could tell the rest of us your secret to living to this great old age.

Hey Jill, sure hope that you are back kicking and dancing again. I can't wait for the both of us to saddle those mules and go for a ride. Perhaps we could go in the next parade. What do you think?

CLASSIFIED

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VINTON

Has to stay in Australia



By **DIANE BOISVERT**
Correspondent
648-5296

Congratulations to Lisa and Bruce Niblet on the birth of their first child, Allison Hillary Elizabeth who was born March 18 at the Queensway Carleton Hospital. She weighed an even 9 lbs and was 21 3/4 inches long with long black hair. Allison is a very special baby. She is the first grandchild for Hugette Niblett of Arnprior, also the first grandchild for Mary and Carl Nadeau of Fort Coulonge and the 18th great-grandchild for Irene Plascott and was born on the 18th and is the 14th great-grandchild for Margaret Nadeau. Allison was born on the same day as my grandson Tao who had just turned one. Lisa and Shelly have been best friends since grade school so when Lisa had Allison on Tao's birthday she had to call Shelly right away. They couldn't believe that their babies would share the same birthday.

Shelley drove to Ottawa the next day to see Lisa, Bruce and Allison at the hospital. On her way back home she hit and killed a deer. For those of you who

know Shelley this was a traumatic experience. I mean the girl can barely kill a fly let alone a deer. You have to keep in mind that, there wasn't a scratch on the car and Shelley didn't get hurt, but she still stood there and cried over the death of the deer. A woman taxi driver pulled over and consoled Shelley while another kind Samaritan stopped and asked her if she wanted to bring the deer home. That didn't go over too well. But, the guy dragged the carcass off the middle of the highway so no one else would get into an accident.

Happy birthday to Robert Bertrand and Cindy Corriveau who celebrate March 26 and to Barney Holland on the 29th.

On Friday, March 18 Theresa and I went to Calabogie to celebrate Tao's first birthday. Shelley and Carl had bought him a play center (unassembled). Of course the instructions on the box said 18 pieces and easy to put together. Well, two hours later with four of us working on it and 150 pieces instead of 18 we finally got it together. I had made the birthday cake. It was a big number one and chocolate so Tao really had fun eating that.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and

friends of Mrs. Michael John Wrinn who passed away this week.

We were sorry to hear about the sudden death of Bobby Greer. Our condolences to the family.

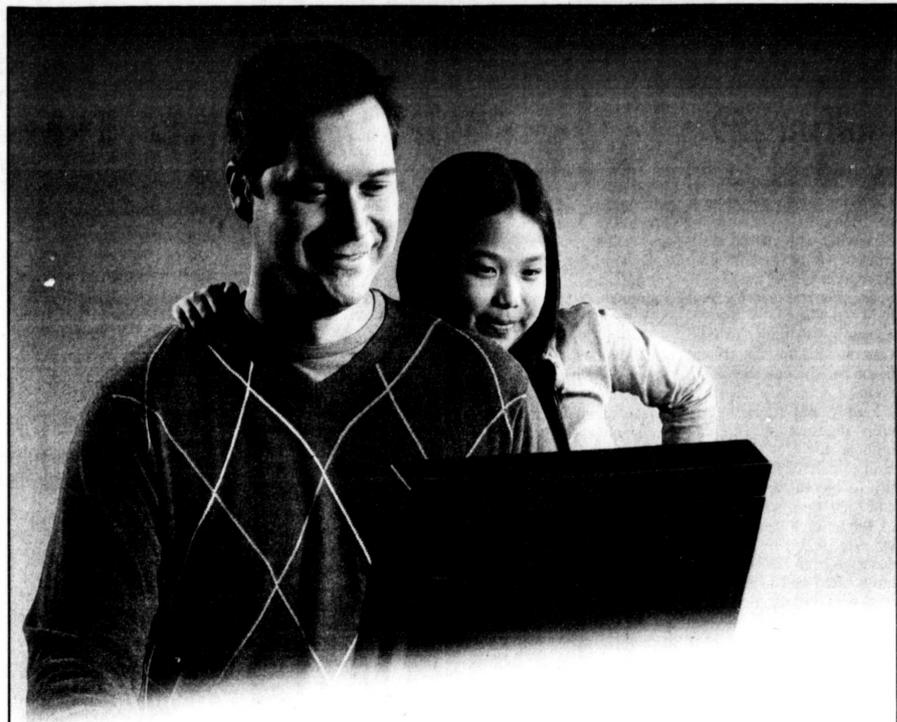
Gwen and Ken O'Leary and Cathy McCrank went to Australia for a six week vacation and to attend the wedding of Dina O'Leary to Andrew Gregson on March 5. They were scheduled to return home last Tuesday but Gwen fell in the shower that morning and broke her hip and shoulder. Cathy had to reschedule her flight and returned home on Friday. Unfortunately for Gwen she has to stay in Australia and have an operation on her hip on Monday. So she and Ken won't be able to come back until she is able to travel. Everyone in Vinton wishes you a speedy recovery and a safe trip home.

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CALDWELL

Family and friends gathered



By HERMONIE SHARPE Correspondent 647-3459

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Bernadette Wrinn of Shawville who passed away March 14 at the Pontiac Reception Center aged 101 years.

Family and friends gathered together on Monday night at the United Church Hall to extend their sympathy to Norval and Mildred and their family in the loss of their home and contents by fire recently.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Joyce Richardson

of Shawville who passed away on March 17 in her 69th year. She was the loving wife of Royce Richardson of Shawville.

Visiting with Neil and Margaret Sharpe in Shawville over the Ontario spring break were Murray and Kim Mako and children Stephen and Erin of Holland Landing and Tom and Sara Sharpe of Etobicoke.

Visiting with us this week are Donald and Joanne Sharpe of Marathon.

The weather this past week has been really enjoyable and gives us hope for warmer and more enjoyable weather ahead.

I was so sorry to hear about the death of Robert Greer who passed away so suddenly this past week. To his family and friends we send our deepest sympathy.

The latest news on Rev. Dougal Sharpe is that he is showing signs of improvement for which we are all thankful for.

This past Thursday night

our euchre club celebrated St. Patrick's Day with all its trimmings. Each one was met with a glass of punch made up of fruit juices.

Get well wishes are sent out to Neil Wilson who has been on the sick list.

Belated anniversary greetings go out to Bill and Joyce Shore and Keith and Jill Corrigan of Ottawa who celebrated on March 19.

Birthday congratulations go out to Lloyd Cone who celebrated March 20, Laura Moore of Campbell's Bay on March 22, Evelyn Sharpe of Pembroke and Thomas Sharpe of Etobicoke on March 23.

Belated anniversary greetings go out to Bernie and Mary Doherty of Starks Corners who celebrated this past weekend.

Happy Easter to one and all not forgetting our friends in St. Joseph's Manor as well as all the other homes. If anyone is travelling any distance for Easter do drive carefully.

CHARTERIS

Get well wishes



By MONA RUTLEDGE Correspondent 647-6250

I would like to send get well wishes to my neighbour, Grace Woods, who is in Shawville Hospital going on two months now.

Also get well wishes to Harvey Smith of Shawville who is under the weather.

Sympathy goes out to the Greer family on the passing away of Bobby (Robert) Greer on March 15.

I was talking to my

cousin, Emon, Monday night at Bingo and she showed me some pictures of her new granddaughter and she also told me that her son Matthew and his wife are going to have a little one soon.

Sympathy goes out to the Richardson family on the passing away of a wife and mother, Joyce Richardson on Thursday morning, March 17.

Get well wishes to my sister, Sandra Rutledge who may have broken her big toe when she slipped on some ice when she went out to

help clean out a neighbour's driveway after the plow went by last week.

Get well wishes to Clay and Kathy Rebertz who are both sick with the flu that is going around.

Today is Sunday, March 20 and I went to see my mother and sister today. My sister told me that her big toe wasn't broken but it was badly bruised. It was such a beautiful day today that my husband, Joseph, and I went driving. We drove to Grand-Calumet Island to visit our friend Clayton Pitt.

LADYSMITH

An inspiration to us all



By DEBBIE LANCE THRUN Correspondent 647-3927

Well, Easter is just around the corner now. It's another special occasion to get together with our families and friends. I would like to wish everyone a very happy Easter.

Birthday congratulations to Norma Charette who celebrates March 25.

Welcome back to Karl Kappas who returned safely from a winter vacation to Florida. He reports that while he was down there, the weather was quite cool.

St. Patrick's Day has come and gone. There certainly were a variety of events to celebrate. I hope everyone had a great time. On CHIP Radio on Thursday Irish music was played most of the day. It was great to listen to.

Good Friday is coming up this week. Usually they say that whatever the weather will be like on that day it will stay with us for 40 days. It usually turns out that way too. So, it would be great if we would have a beautiful day for a change.

Last year the robins returned on March 16. I'm just wondering if they will come back around that time this year. Has anyone seen one yet? I would be interested in knowing if anyone has. Don't hesitate to call me. I like to keep track from year to year when the spring birds arrive.

Birthday congratulations to Lars Bretzlaff who celebrated with family and friends on Saturday night, March 19.

Spring arrived on Sunday by the calendar and also in the weather. The day was just beautiful, sunny and warm. It seemed like everyone was out enjoying the day. Hopefully this will continue.

A surprise 60th birthday party was held in honour of Gerald Mielkie at Hotel Ladysmith last Sunday evening.

One day while driving to Shawville we saw three deer killed by cars in a short area. Please drive slower in areas where deer are known to cross.

My deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Bobbie Greer on his recent

passing. Bobbie and I went to school together. Calling us this past week was Harold Mahlitz of Kitchener. He reported that they had received a heavy snowstorm that day. He is looking forward to vacationing in this area in May and visiting all his relatives and friends.

Beware folks, be alert and keep your doors and windows locked. It used to be you could leave your doors open and never worry about theft. But, those days are gone. It certainly is a sad reflection of our times.

Special birthday congratulations to my cousin, Willard Lance of Otter Lake who celebrates March 25.

Has anyone spotted any spring animals yet? The other day we saw a meadow lark. They are becoming quite a rare sight, especially so early.

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

A number of Ladysmith people attended the Otter Lake St. Charles Church Murder Mystery on Saturday night. They report an excellent meal, great acting and an altogether most enjoyable evening. We hope Gille's complexion soon clears up.

We watched with great interest CJOH's Regional

Contact on Saturday evening. It featured Hulda "Oma" Erle, Ladysmith's grand old lady. She told of her life in Germany and Canada and also her knitting project for underprivileged people. Surely her wonderful values are an inspiration to us all.

Birthday congratulations to Lars Bretzlaff who celebrated with family and friends on Saturday night, March 19.

Spring arrived on Sunday by the calendar and also in the weather. The day was just beautiful, sunny and warm. It seemed like everyone was out enjoying the day. Hopefully this will continue.

A surprise 60th birthday party was held in honour of Gerald Mielkie at Hotel Ladysmith last Sunday evening. About 48 guests enjoyed a superb meal and joined in wishing Gerald all the best on his milestone event. A beautiful birthday cake made by Essie Schwartz was much enjoyed.

BRYSON

One good shopping trip



By HEATHER STEWART Correspondent 648-5413

Good luck to Stephanie Godin of Bryson who is leaving to join the Army. We wish you all the best in your new adventures. God Bless!

Happy birthday to uncle Lloyd Smith of Sudbury who is celebrating on March 24.

Get well wishes going out to Helen Smith of Sudbury from your Pontiac friends.

Mommy and daddy would like to wish little Shianne Lepine of Alberta a very happy birthday! Shianne would also like to say hello to nanny and papa and she misses you both very much!

Sherry Stewart, Emma and Olivia returned to Sudbury after spending a week visiting their relatives around the area. We had a great time visiting. Don't worry Olivia we will look after your pet groundhog in the sugar bush. Hope to see you all again soon.

Home for few days was my brother Shawn Stewart and Amber of Ottawa.

A very happy birthday to my good friends Jeff Lepine of Florida and his mom

Nora Lepine, of Newfoundland. I hope you both had a great day and we miss you lots.

One day last week my mom, Anna and Georgette Piche went shopping. When they returned home, mom dropped Georgette off at her place. They noticed that Georgette's car was missing.

They both began to think that her car was stolen. Both feeling unsettled by the situation, mom went ahead home. As she neared her house she noticed that Georgette's car was parked in front of her house. They had forgotten that Georgette had driven over before going shopping. It must have been one good shopping trip!

Sorry Georgette, mom wanted me to put this in!

Birthday greetings to my cousin Julie Stewart of Matagami who celebrates March 26.

Greetings to Dalton Twolen of Bristol. Dad wants to know if you were trying to see how deep those ditches are!

Gerald and Diane Stewart and Travis went to visit aunt Monique and uncle Melvin Stewart in Matagami over the weekend. I hope you all had a great visit!

Well, the sugar bush is open for another year. My dad, Jim, started to boil over the weekend. I hope that we have a great run this year.

The children and I celebrated St. Patrick's Day on Thursday along with Cindy Belland and her daycare. The children had a ball finding hidden coins that Leprechaun Shawn left behind. Magical colored coins that turned to chocolate once you touched them.

They are convinced my brother Shawn is a leprechaun! You sure would look cute in green striped tights Shawn. Don't you agree Amber? Children have such a great imagination. You could write a book just sitting there listening to them for the day! Now they are all excited for our Easter party.

Stephanie, I heard you tried to trick me with those pork sandwiches. A little blue bird told me it was really Head Cheese. Am I ever glad I didn't have any! Nice try though Ol' Girl!

Wishing everyone who celebrates this week a very happy birthday and for those of you celebrating anniversaries, Happy Anniversary.

Happy Easter to everyone and God bless!

OTTER LAKE

65th anniversary celebrated



By ELIZABETH HAHN Correspondent 453-7326

Congratulations to Keith and Jill Corrigan on their 65th wedding anniversary on March 19.

Happy birthday wishes to Jill Corrigan who will be 90 years young on March 28.

On Tuesday guests at the home of Pam and Randy Thoms, Kathryn and Graham were Elizabeth

Hahn, Roy and Shirley Thoms, Patricia and Carson Russell, Michael Russell and Cathy Thoms.

The occasion was celebrating Kathryn's 14th birthday. She received many lovely gifts, along with a lovely decorated birthday cake made by her mom Pam and a delicious supper. Kathryn spent a few days with her grandmother, Elizabeth Hahn also spending a few days with great-grandma Elizabeth. On Friday Kelly,

Travis, Craig and Julia were supper guests of Elizabeth and Kathryn.

Winners in the Otter Lake Golden Age Club last week were 50/50 Jean Racine, ladies first Gilberte Bussiere and second Rosette Fleury, men's first Paul Blaskie and second René Graveline. Delicious refreshments were provided by Mabel Kluge and Luise Schultz. Happy birthday wishes to Maurice (Sam) St. Pierre.

DANFORD LAKE

What a ride home



By STEPHANIE MILFORD Correspondent 467-1091

I hope everyone had great St-Patty's Day and had fun. Did you see any leprechauns? I know the children at Heather Stewart's did. His name was Shawn.

On Thursday Myles and Suzanne Milford went to the Ladysmith Hotel for wing night. As you know Kathy and Eric have the best wings in the county!

One day last week on her way home from physio in Gatineau she decided to take the Masham road home and come out in Ladysmith. Well what a ride home she said. If you have an alternate road for the time being, take it. The road is full of potholes, water puddles and bumps. The road is great once the frost is out of the ground but for right now it's very rough.

We have had beautiful week and are seeing more sun. A lot of the snow has melted.

This weather is great for the maple syrup makers. I know that Jim Stewart has started making it and it is delicious. I had a sample of it Saturday night and it is great. He makes it the old fashioned way by boiling it in the pan, not an evaporator and it makes all the difference in the world. Don't change your recipe Mr. Stewart, it is the best!

Another sign of nicer weather to come is the pussy willows. I keep some year round. If you want to keep some, don't put them in water. Just put them in a vase, or tie them together and put them where you like.

Daylight is now here at about 5:40 a.m. and we still have daylight at about 6:30

p.m. in the evening. It's great for any evening jobs you may have.

The roads were supposed to close last Monday for full loads. But they extended the deadline another week. I was told they were closing at 12 o'clock this Friday past.

I am so happy we have adapted transportation in our area. I have had to use it many times now and it is great. If you are "differently able" as I like to call it, then give them a call! They would be more than happy to help you too!

Visiting with us this week was Jacques Regimbal Jr., Stacy Molyneux and Michel Chartrand on Friday night. Get ready Michel, your going to act! Maybe you can get Trudy to act with us! Hope so!

Well Easter will soon be upon us. It's a time when family and friends get together and celebrate this wonderful day. I remember my grandfather David Beaudoin each Easter morning. He always went to Johnsons Creek before sun up and got water. He kept this water in a bottle from year to year. The water is so warm Easter morning that you can jump in the creek and bathe in it if you like. Some people drink it and it is said that it is good for you.

Have you ever watched the sun Easter morning? Try to watch it as it rises. It is so bright that it seems to dance in the sky! This, in my opinion, is to remind us of the resurrection that happened so long ago. No matter what your religion, you will not see another sunrise like the one you will see on Easter morning.

Deepest sympathy to the family of Robyn Wizowski who is a teacher at Pontiac

High on the passing of her mother. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Welcome home to Mrs. Alpine Richardson who has been a patient in Wakefield Memorial.

Happy birthday to twins Lynn and Linda Beaudoin on the 19th, Samantha Molyneux the 23rd, Kyle Lance the 25th, Willard Lance the 26th and Relics Leach on the 27th.

Visiting with the Milford family Sunday afternoon was Beth Larche of Kaz. We had a great chat.

Are you ready for the projects of the welding students of Pontiac High this week? I am, hope to see you there!

Welcome home to vacationers Joan and Bernie Martineau, June Dubeau, Lind and Michelle Lafleur and Lindsay Dale. They all vacationed in beautiful sunny Florida. Lucky Bernie though, on March 3, he got to spend his birthday with all the Disney characters at Walt Disney world! Joan said, "You just go back to your childhood when you visit there!" I can imagine. The fishing was also incredible. They dined on pompano, whiting, and sheephead fish.

Get well wishes go out to Mr. Derek Desebrais. Hope your feeling well soon!

This past Saturday night a Murder Mystery night was held in the basement of St-Charles Borromeo church in Otter Lake in benefit of the church. Approximately 125 people attended and had a delicious supper of sea pie. I'm told this one is the best one yet! The cast of characters included Laurier and June Francoeur, Mary Lafleur, Joan Dubeau Martineau, Olivette Mason and Gilles Quenville.

CAMPBELL'S BAY

Quite amazing



By IRIS SMITH Correspondent 648-5821

The Pontiac Handicapped enjoyed a bus trip to see Disney on Ice in Ottawa last week. This is a nice treat to have for all and they thoroughly enjoyed the performance. They wish there were more trips available.

Visiting with Marielle Kluge was her daughter Nancy and girls, Kelsey and Brittany of Chatham. They were on their March break and attended Disney on Ice as well a show for all to enjoy.

Birthday wishes to Laura Moore who celebrated her 93rd birthday on March 21. We wish her all the best in the year ahead and may she enjoy good health to celebrate many more.

The Golden Age Club held its St. Patrick's euchre on Tuesday at the club room. Many were wearing green. Ladies high was won by Georgette Robitaille second was a multiple tie between Dorcas Sparling Anna Porter, Paulette Lamothe, Lucy Kelly, Phyllis Smith and Isabelle Lacroix. They shared the prize. Men's high was won by Gordon Porter, second was a tie between Clifford Robitaille and Roger Lacroix. They shared the prize. The door prize was won by Veronica Perrier. The 50-50 was won by Lucy Kelly. Refreshments were by Jean Louis Auger and his wife Daphney.

It is nice to see the light on

the building working again as it has been out for some time. It is much safer for the seniors.

Deepest sympathy to Royce Richardson and his family with the death of his wife Joyce. His sister Claire Lunam is from Campbell's Bay and we express our sympathy to her as well.

Ron and Sue Barnes and daughters, Elizabeth and Laura returned to their home in Elora after spending several days with Gladys Walsh during the March break.

Arlie and John Rayson and children Laura, Brianna and Mark of Whitby spent several days visiting with Clifford and Marjorie Stevenson at Ladysmith during the March break.

If you happened to be watching Regional Contact on Saturday evening you had a chance to see 96 year-old Oma Erle who is busy knitting toques for the snow suit fund. In the last year she has knit over 280. Her life history is quite amazing as she was in desperate straits after World War II. Spending many years in refugee camps until she immigrated to Canada and her better life here. Her son Karl was interviewed and spoke well of his life here as well. A truly remarkable life and story of interest to all. May she enjoy many more years of healthy and happiness.

Joe, Jessica, Audrey and Ashley Walsh of Barry spent Sunday and Monday with Gladys Walsh.

really enjoyed her visit. She was able to take the two miniature collies we had been dog-sitting home to Stacey and Wayne in South Mountain as they had been in Florida during March break.

Anniversary wishes to Roger and Ella Arbour, Jimmy and Lisa Belanger and Carey and Pam Sparling. Hope you enjoyed your special day and many more to come.

Birthday wishes to Marjorie Stevenson, Jean Sparling, Jody Crawford, Rose-Marie Landry, Laura Crawford, Gisele Perron and Noel Kelly all celebrating birthdays during this past week. Always nice to be a year older and wiser.

The coverage of the men's curling at the Brier was much better than the coverage of the Scott Tournament of Hearts. I guess the complaints paid off and the explanations about the games was much improved to the delight of the curling fans.

Time seems to fly by but can you imagine having St. Patrick's Day celebrations, the first day of spring and Easter in a span of ten days.

Congratulations to Ivan and Arlene Saunders who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary this past week. May they enjoy many more happy healthy days ahead.

Lena McEllwain of Hull spent a few days visiting with her grandparents, Roy and Joan Stephens last week.

Chad Belanger of Alymer visited with his father Elmer Belanger last week end.

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