

THE EQUITY

PHS girl basketball teams heat up the court | page 7

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Bypass clears last impasse, set to go at Chat's Dam

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
QUYON • After 16 years of studies, testing and opposition, a boat bypass near Fitzroy Harbour has received the final go-ahead from the City of Ottawa.

The bypass finally got its green light when the city carried the resolution to hand over \$350,000 in funding to pay for the bypass that will bring boats over the Fitzroy Harbour dam, connecting Ottawa from Britannia Bay to 500 kilometres of waterway stretching past Rapides des Joachims.

The long-awaited \$2.2 million dollar bypass was first approved by Ottawa's Corporate Services Committee Feb. 7 with a 6-2 vote.

Warden Mike McCrank, Thorne Mayor Ross Vowles and Chichester Mayor Donald Gagnon spoke to the committee on why they wanted the bypass. Council carried the recommendation the following day.

The bypass will be built at the Chat's Dam near Fitzroy Harbour and be funded by municipal, provincial and federal levels of government.

"Everything is in place," said Donald Gagnon, who is on the MRC's waterway committee and is president of the Ottawa River Waterway. "We were ready last year, but the city (of Ottawa) asked for more studies."

Now that studies are complete and approval and funding has been granted, the Ottawa

River Project Inc., headed by Gary Wiseman, is in charge of developing the Chat's Dam Marine Bypass.

"I was glad to hear the news," said Wiseman, who had a hand in developing many of Pontiac's own lifts.

Construction will begin immediately to beat the spawning season which starts March 15.

"Then we'll do the ordering of the trucks, we'll finish the above-water construction and we should be open in June," said Wiseman.

Wiseman said he hadn't anticipated so much opposition when he took on the project initially, but he took one step at a time, proving the project's viability through science.

Opponents to the project are still question-

ing the amount of money spent on the project and the location that was chosen.

"It's a waste of taxpayers' money," said Mike Campbell, president of the Willola Beach Property Owner's Association. "I'm not happy with where they're putting it. I think the money could be spent on other options."

The association has been fighting the development of a bypass for years, and only last year successfully stopped a ramp from being constructed in a conservation area near Willola Beach. The stop was due to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' indication that based on the aquatic habitat, the developer "would have a very difficult time getting the Willola Beach site approved."

"We moved it, but we couldn't stop it," said Campbell. "We're still not happy where it is. But we have to live with it."

Having its mandate met, the association stood down but declared it would continue to observe the rest of the process.

"There is a great deal of money being spent when the city is currently in a deficit," he said. "It could have been spent on roads or health."

Campbell would have opted for continued use of a truck and trailer operation that runs on the Quebec side, or the completion of a canal.

"It was 80 per cent built and then abandoned," he said.

Please see BYPASS page 3

Island in violation of municipal code

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
ALLUMETTES ISLAND • A written complaint filed to the Municipality of Allumettes Island recently made council aware of a possible conflict of interest it may have in holding a snow plow contract with the chief of the fire department.

A complaint was made to council before the municipal election in November that it was in violation of the municipal code to hire Kevin Vickers to work as fire chief and as a municipal snow plow contractor.

As the island saw a new council, including mayor, replace all but one councillor, new Mayor Brian Adam took the issue to MRC for advice from fellow mayors.

"The code says we shouldn't have given him the contract in the first place," said Adam.

The council of MRC mayors resolved to ask for support from the Quebec Federation of Municipalities (FQM).

"We can inform the FQM of the problem and seek a review to that law," said Thorne Mayor Ross Vowles. "To support the plight of the Allumettes Island municipal government, they need to review the policy and make it more palatable."

Meanwhile, Allumettes Island council has referred to the Quebec Ministry of Municipal and Regional Affairs for legal advice.

"Last week we had to tell our chief he was in fact in violation of the municipal code," Adam told mayors last month. "It indicates that any employee shall not take contracts from the municipality, and this includes every volunteer firefighter, including chief — by definition any part-time employee."

A part-time employee is when an employer pays any amount of CSST worker's compensation for work done.

Adam said council held a public meeting and "the chief showed up and was upset to say the least."

"He came with 15 or 20 associates from the fire department and everyone basically said that if the chief has to quit, they would quit, too," said Adam.

Council has written again to their lawyer as to their legal options and liabilities.

"From a rural municipality's perspective, it's terrible," said Adam. "We have a hard enough time getting volunteer firefighters and paying for training expenses. Now we are faced with a mass resignation."

Although firefighters cannot be contractors to the municipality, they can run for council.

Vickers has been on the fire department for 16 years, and had no comment at the moment on the issue.

Currently, the municipality has a three-year snow plow contract remaining with Vickers' company, Vickers' Utility Services.

The contract has been operating for four years. Vickers is still holding both positions, but Adam doesn't know how long that will last.

"I'm concerned about his brothers in the fire service," he said.

"If they decide to support him in walking out there would be serious implications for the municipality."



The winners of the grand prize at the Davidson Rocher Fendu Archery Club fishing derby pose with their award-winning catch, a seven-pound, four-ounce pike. From the left, Shanelle L'Écuyer, Paul L'Écuyer and André Vaillancourt.

Derby draws 300 hopeful ice fishers

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter
DAVIDSON • It takes a special kind of person to compete in an ice fishing derby.

The time spent waiting for a bite can be tedious, and even the most hardened anglers can be tested by the cold weather and long days.

So, while they wait, many drink.

Such is the reality for many of the 309 people entered in the Rocher Fendu Archery Club Fishing Derby in Davidson on Saturday.

With the day winding down, one angler is

asked if he caught anything.

"Only a buzz," he retorts, beer in hand.

Groups of anglers huddle together in huts, sit around chatting in both French and English and, occasionally, checking one of the five holes to which they are entitled as part of their \$10 entry fee. Mostly, though, they wait.

Indeed, there are certain tactics used to draw fish. Some anglers prefer specific baits or lures and the importance of cleaning out the hole regularly and keeping the bait fresh is well-known.

Some fishers will also swear by certain

spots as lucky ones but when it comes down to it, fishing is mostly luck.

"Some people stayed here all night long just to get a good spot," said Louise Longchamps, one of the event's organizers.

Ultimately, though, nobody can dictate exactly when a fish will decide to bite.

"All you can do is stand beside the hole and wait," said Paul L'Écuyer, who, in tandem with André Vaillancourt pulled in the first place award of an ice drill for their seven-pound, four-ounce pike.

Please see DERBY page 3

Man dies after river plunge

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter
QUYON • A Fitzroy Harbour man is presumed dead after being pulled beneath the Ottawa River near Quyon on Saturday night.

Brandon Nash had been at Gavan's Hotel that evening when he and a friend attempted to drive across the Ottawa River to pick up two other friends on a snowmobile and ATV, respectively.

Police said both vehicles submerged into the water and while the friend, a 19-year-old Dunrobin resident, pulled himself out, Nash, 20, was taken under by the current at approximately midnight on Saturday night.

The 19-year-old, whose name is not being released by police, tried to retrieve Nash, but was unable to pull him out.

"He couldn't hold his buddy because of the current," said Nick Matechuk, owner of Gavan's, who called an ambulance for the 19-year-old when he returned to Gavan's after the incident. Nash is presumed dead, though no body has been recovered.

"They're going to try to retrieve the vehicles, but if the conditions are too dangerous, sometimes you can't retrieve the body," said Staff Sgt. Monique Perras, of Ottawa police, who are handling the case.

The 19-year-old was transported to Pontiac Community Hospital in Shawville. He has since been released.

"He was close to death to tell you the truth," said Matechuk.

Ottawa police searched the river throughout the night on Saturday, into the next day and Monday.

Community opposed to Danford landfill

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
DANFORD LAKE • Lately at Bethany Hall in Danford Lake, it hasn't been uncommon for the place to be standing room only. That's because the small community has a large opposition to the municipality's proposed engineered landfill site.

Such was the case Sunday at a public information meeting held there by the Danford Lake Coalition Against the Danford Mega Dump.

The coalition, which formed early December, says it is opposed to the Municipality of Alton and Cawood's Regional Landfill Project because a small rural community of a few hundred citizens and many recreational property owners is being asked to sacrifice its unspoiled and peaceful environment to solve

the waste problem of the City of Gatineau and the entire Outaouais region.

The coalition, made up of close to 300 people, spent the meeting explaining why they are opposed to the project.

"We have growing concerns from citizens who have found out what the project was about," Michele Borchers, chairman of the coalition, told THE EQUITY.

Borchers, along with fellow coalition executive member Andre Carriere, spoke to the full house and poked holes through facts provided by the promoter, LCD, and the municipality.

"Profit is the main driver of this project," said Carriere. "And facts keep changing."

Cantley dump neighbour Bob McLelland warned residents by way of his story, and Low Councillor Mike Connolly passed

the news on that his council is in the process of sending Alton and Cawood a recommendation to not go ahead with the project until looking at other options.

After the session, residents were encouraged to sign a petition asking the municipality to withdraw its support for the project.

Coalition member Linda Milford said the group has been getting great response from the petition.

"We're getting a lot of response," said Milford, "from up and down Hwy. 105 and some from Campbell's Bay, Shawville and Otter Lake."

Squitti says council is waiting to see the study.

Project

The proposed landfill site would cover 545 acres at a location eight kilometres west of Danford Lake on Hwy 301. The landfill would service the entire Outaouais including four MRCs and the City of Gatineau.

The municipality could receive \$2 per ton. The landfill would accept household, industrial, commercial, agricultural, construction, disinfected biomedical, incinerator, paper mill, oil refinery, and slaughter house wastes (about 250,000 tons per year).

Squitti explained the study includes 22 different criteria that have to meet or exceed government rules and regulations.

"If any of the criteria don't pass, the project can't happen."

Squitti expects government response to the study to be in about three or four months, while the studies will be completed by the end of February.

"There are 22 areas that have to be studied," said Squitti.

Please see LANDFILL page 3

SQ busts smoke sales

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
PONTIAC • A fraction of a large underground industry was cracked last week by the Sûreté du Québec.

The SQ crime unit, with the help of the Pontiac MRC detachment, arrested 12 people suspected in selling contraband cigarettes. Twenty boxes of white and brown filtered cigarettes were seized (200,000 cigarettes), as well as \$3,000 cash during raids Feb. 7.

"We're very happy with it," said Lieu. Jacques Piché. "But we've only touched the tip of the iceberg."

A team of 25 officers searched eight locations in Fort Coulonge, Mansfield, Campbell's Bay, Clarendon and Luskville, finding 12 people involved in illegally selling cigarettes. Police worked on tips called in by community members and businesses.

"We've had plenty of information from the general public and businesses for three weeks now," said Const. Mélanie Larouche, Outaouais SQ spokesperson.

The operation, dubbed Baldachin, was launched last month after police received tips from residents and business owners.

"I would probably say, yeah, it's gone down a few," said a local business owner in Shawville. "Sales have been on a downward slide ever since about a year ago."

The 12 people face fines of a minimum \$2,000 for possession and distribution of contraband cigarettes under the Quebec penal code.

Tipsters can call the confidential Infocrime Line at 1-800-711-1800.

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CHIP'S board



Wibur McLean, THE EQUITY

Members of the CHIP FM Board of Directors gathered for their unveling at their first meeting on Jan. 31. From the left: Betty Harkins, Annette Lépine, Gaétan Viau, Monique Fuoco, Frank Doyle, Lloyd Perry, Michel Bélangier and Nancy Dagenais. Missing from photo: Monique Delber and Agnès Morin.

Bypass: clears last impasse, set to go

Continued from page 1

He said the bypass will only benefit people travelling by power boats.

"It will only be utilized by people who can afford it," he said.

He said the bypass will increase highway traffic on a road that is already quite busy.

"The project was launched before (city) amalgamation," said Campbell. "The money was already allocated and the city had no way to stop it. The money was there, they had to proceed."

The project, with all its inspections done, first went

to Ottawa for approval in 2001. In July 2002, city council approved partnership funding for a SuperBuild project to develop the marine bypass around the Chat's Dam.

Even now, Campbell is still unsure of the bypass's necessity.

"They are saying the bypass will move five to 10 boats a week," he said. "But I'd be surprised if they moved five to 10 a month."

He said that Deep River's backing out of the waterway proved the bypasses aren't used enough to warrant continued funding.

"You've got to have boats

to use it," said Campbell, who said he's tired of the fight. "My wife is tired, my children are tired of it, I had meetings all the time — our group is exhausted."

The system is managed by the Ottawa River Waterway, whose board members represent municipalities along the river that wish to participate in the system. Five bypasses were established along the river that link up areas such as Arnprior, Portage du Fort, Pembroke, Deep River, Rapides des Joachims, Deux Rivières, Mattawa, Temiscaming, Ville-Marie to Notre-Dame Du-Nord. The

bypass around the Dam at the Chat's Falls Power Generation Station is the sixth bypass on the river and extends the route by 50 kilometres, linking up the Ottawa boating community, (approximately 1,600 boats) to the waterway.

"We're hoping that we'll see some more traffic," said Gagnon on effects the bypass will have on the Pontiac. "It gives us access to the national capital."

Gagnon said the project is a good step forward.

"With all the problems Pontiac is having right now, we needed some light down the tunnel," said Gagnon.

Derby: draws 300 hopeful ice fishers

Continued from page 1

L'Écuyer's group had arrived at 4:30 a.m. to get their usual spot for the derby.

"It's the first year I caught anything here," says L'Écuyer.

So, why then, would he arrive so early in the morning for a spot that hadn't garnered any fish for the past three years?

He shrugs. "I like the view."

In all, only 35 fish — and,

oddly enough, one lizard — were caught during the 10-hour long derby, meaning most anglers went home empty-handed.

"You want a picture of me with my fish?" asks Eric Bossé of Fort Coulonge. "Then come back next year."

While over \$7,000 in cash and prizes is a strong incentive to draw anglers to the derby, most in attendance just love the sport.

L'Écuyer himself points out why he prefers ice fish-

ing over its more traditional, summer counterpart.

"Think about it," prompts L'Écuyer. "It's the only time you can walk on water."

At Saturday's derby, Daniel Larocque won second prize for his four-pound, seven-ounce pike. He received \$200 for his efforts.

Adam Turner's one-pound pickerel gave him a \$100 prize.

L'association chasse et pêche mon chez-nous revealed the winner of their

queen pageant at the event.

The group, a hunting and gaming club, stocks 36 local lakes with fish and also runs its own fishing derby.

Stephanie Dumoulin St. Jean was dubbed the association's queen based on her selling the greatest number of membership cards amongst the three dutchesses who were vying for the crown.

She will represent the club at all of their events for the next year.

Landfill: Danford community opposed

Continued from page 1

"When that's done it is given to the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health and each ministry goes over it."

He said testing may need to be redone to government specifications.

The results of the environmental studies were set to be released to the public last November, but are now not going to be ready until April. In the meantime, the coalition hopes to sign up the majority of the municipality's residents as members. Borchers says the 350 memberships is attainable.

A BAPE committee will be created by the provincial government to listen to every citizen's opinion of the project.

"Every resident will have an opportunity to present at a BAPE hearing," said Squitti.

Coalition's concerns

The coalition has focused in on a few concerns they have with the landfill.

The main problem the coalition has with the municipality is the process it used to inform the public.

"On Oct. 4 a letter was sent that was supposed to inform citizen of the project," said Borchers, who has summer property on the Alleyne and Cawood-Kazabazua border. "The only mention was that the current municipal had to be changes and replaced with a more modern or engineered dump. There was no word of the regional scope of it. People were clearly misled."

Borchers added that the lack of information didn't cause concern with residents, therefore no one opposed the idea put forth by council, and in turn council agreed to let the promoter study the idea in Danford.

"We've been fully transparent right from the beginning," said Squitti.

Other concerns involve the content of the project. The coalition is seeking answers regarding liners and if they will prevent leakage into the ground and groundwater, pollution of the Picanoc and Kazabazua

rivers, the protection of the underground water, the import of waste from outside the province, hours of operation and the enforcement of municipal bylaws, seagulls and rats the landfill will ultimately attract, smell, road traffic, air and water pollution and litter from travelling trucks.

The site will create eight to 10 jobs for youth in the community, he said.

"We will get an opportunity to at least get \$200,000 to \$300,000 brought into the municipality," said Squitti.

Other perks will be included such as two \$3,000 scholarships, sidewalk work and digging up the old dump to stop contamination in the water table.

"There are pros for the community, sure" said Squitti. "But let's look at the study."

After sending a letter outlining concerns to Premier Jean Charest, the coalition made a request in January for the municipality to drop its support for the project. The request has been handed over to the municipality's lawyer and a response is expected to be given Mar. 15.

"We've come under a lot of pressure, but we have a lot of support, too," he said. "If it happens, it will be the best thing to happen to the community. If not, we may not be able to support ourselves."

He says the municipality's goal is to make the landfill ISO certified, which only two or three landfills in the country are.

"Council is there to support people, look at that, but future of community," he said. "We're for it because there are a lot of good things there, but we want to see the study."

Squitti is disappointed that the municipality has become divided over the issue.

"It breaks my heart to see the community split up like that," he said. "We never expected to have that (opposition), but that's life. We want to let them voice their opinions — they have a

right to do that."

He said the community has confidence in council, as the entire council was re-elected without opposition in November.

"I've been told I'll never be mayor again," he said. "And my daughter has been confronted."

Despite the opposition, Squitti said it hasn't stopped him from trying to do the best thing for the community.

"It doesn't best me from doing the best job for the community. It's not armageddon," he said. "We want to look at the options and study it while keeping

us alive and viable. We want to maintain the community, we don't want to ruin life for cottagers."

After the coalition's attempts to get the municipality to rescind its decision on holding the project and to study a referendum were turned down, the coalition will now be working with the public to educate them on what is happening.

"We hope public opinion will force them to do something," said Borchers. "We don't see why we need to go to that (BAPE hearing) stage when we can demonstrate it was not right from the beginning."

Advertisement for CALVING NEEDS and M & R FEEDS, listing various animal feed products and contact information for GUYON 458-2023, PEMBROKE 732-2843, and MICKSBURG 735-3689.

Advertisement for Mr. Paul Lacoursière, Executive Director of Business Customer Service Department at Télébec, featuring a portrait of him.

Advertisement for Mr. Alain Danault, Manager of Communications and Public Affairs at Télébec, featuring a portrait of him.

Advertisement for Atkinsons Bar, listing February events: Tequila Mockingbird, Karaoke with John Henry, and Joe Lance Band, along with contact information.

Advertisement for a dinner and murder mystery event titled "Memorial for a Murder" at Pontiac High School, including ticket prices and contact info.

Advertisement for Literacy liberates! promoting a volunteer tutor with the W.Q. Literacy Council and a Tutor Training Workshop.

Advertisement for Alpha Course, an introductory evening on Thursday, February 16, 2006, at Bethel Pentecostal Church.

Large advertisement for Ashley Furniture Industries Inc. featuring a Spring Preview Sale with 25% off new prints and 15% off giftware, plus financing options.

Advertisement for Télébec announcing the appointment of Mr. Paul Lacoursière as Executive Director and Mr. Alain Danault as Manager of Communications and Public Affairs.

Opinion

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OUR OPINION

Don't turn on thy neighbour

'Stop Danford Lake Mega Dump' signs litter Danford Lake's streets and front porches. Simply driving through town you can feel the nervousness in the air of a community unsure of its future.

The proposed engineered landfill site for Danford Lake is a huge issue that will be delicately looked at due to the implications it will have on the municipality and surrounding areas. This is the biggest and most important project the municipality has seen in its history.

Along with the expected opposition to the landfill, political opinions have been formed and a coalition against the proposal has been formed. Somewhere along the way between unanswered questions and delayed environmental study results, the community has become divided. The current scenario rifting through Danford is worse than any pollution that could intoxicate a small village such as this.

While tempers flare and emotions over the thought of people's homes being destroyed by a pile of rotting garbage are visible at public meetings, it shows how important the small community in Alwyn and Cawood really is to its residents. Unfortunately, some are taking the threat too far and are turning their frustration into personal attacks.

Alwyn and Cawood council are in a tough position, one that no municipal councillor or mayor envies. A member of the Coalition Against the Proposed Mega Dump admitted that when so many members of the coalition attended a recent municipal council meeting, two councillors were noticeably uncomfortable and felt pressured to vote for a resolution regarding the issue. At Sunday's coalition meeting, some residents were heard saying they would fire the council if they didn't all show up at the next council meeting to hear the coalition explain why they want to stop the dump from coming to Danford. Another man made sure their threat of voting council out next time around was

kept on the coalition's video camera.

In a recent interview with Squitti, he said that he himself had been told he would never be mayor again for bringing the prospect to the village. Businesses are being avoided by anti-dump customers who believe store owners to be pro-dump. Even Squitti's daughter had been threatened, he said — someone who has nothing to do with the project.

A divided community with a population of less than 200 can't afford the animosity. More public outbursts and tears of disappointment are surely still to come, as the prospect of such a massive dump will affect the entire region — not just those who live downstream from it. Such involvement is healthy in a small community, but we need to keep our emotions in check and let the formal proceedings make the final calls. Even if the environmental studies do pass government approval, the project can be stopped if government hearings find there is too much opposition.

Your neighbour will still be your neighbour whether there's a dump up the road or not. Everyone has the right to their own opinion, even if it's not the same as yours.

We need to get over the harsh emotions this dump has brought to Danford Lake (which isn't being helped by the still bitter taste of the improperly handled Cantley dump) and not let friendships slip away over the matter. In the end we'll either have a state-of-the-art engineered landfill site bringing in money to the municipality and a handful of new jobs or we will be able to keep our pristine natural habitat to hand down to future generations. If the latter works out, the coalition was right in saying the best thing that can happen will be the increased tourism Danford will get from being in the media so often.

LM

Ice fishing brigade



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Forêt de l'Aigle: forestry and ecotourism initiative

Last week, I severely challenged my fear of heights by hiking along an "aerial trail" suspended through the canopy of the Forêt de l'Aigle (Eagle Forest), northwest of the villages of Kazabazua and Cayamont.

I cannot believe I managed to conquer my vertigo, because the walkway is suspended a minimum of six metres to a maximum of 20 metres as it snakes through the woods. At its maximum height, it crosses the darkly rushing Rivière au Hibou (Owl River) where, believe it or not, I was able to stop, look down at the rapids, and not collapse from fright!

Quebec's unique aerial trek

"This aerial trek is unique in Quebec," explained my knowledgeable guide François Côté, a trained horticulturalist from Ste. Hyacinthe. "So it gives us a unique opportunity to interpret the forest ecology in the canopy. People are surprised that we have tree frogs here, for instance. Last summer I discovered two, sitting on the aerial track."

Frankly, my ability to conquer my fear was primarily due to the sensitivity of this guide. Not only does Côté know the forest ecology. He is also a gifted guide who understands fear — even though vertigo is something with which he has no affinity. "Me," he confides, "I've never felt this fear. I guess the closest I've come to what I think it's like is when I'm scuba diving, and I see a large fish. I saw a sturgeon once, and it really surprised me. Perhaps your fear is a bit like that?"

He and I have plenty of time to discuss origins of personal fears. That's because the aerial trek is a kilometre and he stays in front of me the entire time. Moreover, he walks backwards; that's because he wants to encourage me every step of the way, by facing me, so he can coach me to look at him, not at my feet.

Safety first

This exercise was really, really challenging for me personally. My husband Eric found it less frightening — he doesn't share my fear of heights — but it still made his heart beat a time or two. Notwithstanding my apprehension, I must say that during the entire hour and a half hike



Katharine Fletcher

through the canopy, I felt completely safe.

This is because of the safety equipment we were wearing, coupled with the 20,000 pound cables that suspend the aerial walkway through the forest. Côté and others maintain these: he monitors them daily and adjusts them as needed.

Practice first

Before we left the cozy Pavillon Black Roller, home to the offices and restaurant associated with the Forêt de l'Aigle, Côté instructed us on the use of the harness we had to wear. Resembling a rock climber's gear, we stepped into the harness' leg straps, adjusting them as well as the straps encircling our waists. Then Côté taught us how to use the two clamps attached to our harnesses by sturdy lengths of cord.

Stringing a line through the office, Côté demonstrated how we would clamp ourselves to the cables once we were on the aerial trek. Frankly, it was easy. He also asked us to try swinging from the line, "just in case" one of us might slip (oh, would that be me, I wondered, unasily?).

Off we go!

I then found myself crunching through the snow, heading through a forest path to the start of the aerial trek. As I approached the steps leading up to the suspended walkway, I was mentally chanting my very own personal mantra from my late mother, who always coached, "Never say can't, Katharine."

The ascent to the aerial trek was not the ladder that I feared. Instead, a very sturdy set of stairs took me to the first, broad platform. Standing in front of me, Côté told Eric and me to step on our safety clamps, then he simply asked me if I was ready, and off I stepped, following him onto the 23 centimetre-wide, rough-hewn plank suspended some 18 metres or so above the ground. There I was, literally walking through the canopy.

Forest ecology

This unique aerial walkway is a great teaching platform. From it, Côté explained the difference between fir and spruce, and showed us white and yellow birch, white pine and cedars. Also interesting was how the aerial walkway was constructed: no nails or

screws were used to affix the cables and platforms, whose supports encircle mature white pine and cedar trees.

Mature white pine are perhaps less rare for those of us who live in rural Pontiac. However, the fact is that mature pine, cedar and hardwood forests are extremely rare: most have been logged. Therefore, this opportunity to see a relatively untouched forest habitat is extremely precious — and we should all sit up, take note, and actively visit and cherish this Eagle Forest.

And yes, bald eagles live here in the Forêt de l'Aigle. I missed it, but Côté and Eric spied one, soaring above the tree-tops. Says Côté, "We see them fairly often. Golden (eagles) are here too, but very, very rare."

Rare community managed forest

Côté told us that the Forêt de l'Aigle is only one of three such forests left in Quebec. "In 1995, the Ministry of Natural Resources started a forestry project. Fifteen forests were selected to be co-managed by corporations. Here, the Corporation de gestion de la Forêt de l'Aigle is composed of several very different players. We have the Kitigan Zibi First Nation, l'Institut Québécois d'Aménagement de la Forêt Feuillue, and la Société Sylvicole de la Haute-Gatineau."

The website explains, "The 'Forêt Habitée' project of the Forêt de l'Aigle was proposed to the MNR, who then approved on April 3, 1996. It was then that the 'Forêt Habitée' of the Forêt de l'Aigle project officially began. Afterwards, other members joined the CGFA to form the organisation that we now know as l'Association de Chasse et Pêche du Pontiac (ZEC Pontiac), l'Association de chasse et pêche de la Désert (ZEC Bras-Coupé-Désert), the Cayamant municipality and the Association des Motoneigistes 'Les Ours Blancs'."

One of three

Although there were five similarly managed forests in 1995, only three remain. One of them, the La Blanche Forest (east of the Gatineau, near Mayo) is in the Outaouais, the other is in Charlevoix (east of Quebec City).

Those of us who live in the Pontiac need to sit up and take notice of this precious forest. Not only is the forest an outstanding ecotourism site, it is an all-too-rare example of how forestry, local people, special interest

groups (such as the snowmobile club and the ZEC Pontiac) can work together, cooperatively, to preserve a forest habitat through careful management.

Future goals

Naturally, the first goal is for the Forêt de l'Aigle to prosper. Claudia Meloche is the administrator of the ecotourism aspect of the forest. She says, "This is an important project, which aims to conserve this precious 140 square kilometre forest ecology for the future."

Meloche's team of naturalist guides not only offer the aerial trek. There are three chalets on nearby Mary Lake which can be rented, plus a more rustic lodging. Other activities include a half-day dog-sledding excursion, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding on wilderness trails. Also, snowmobiling is available — when we were enjoying our hot lunch at the Pavillon Black Roller's restaurant (open 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.), five men were tucking into their meal. They were snowmobilers from Pennsylvania. All were thrilled with the beauty of the Forêt de l'Aigle. "We're so sorry our holiday is over," one gentleman told me. "You've got a great place here!"

Danford Lake dump

This column reminds us all that we have incredible natural beauty here. If we can manage such projects as this together, with logging, ecotourism, first nations' and other interests cooperatively overseeing the initiative, there is great learning potential, and great sustainable tourism potential.

This is close to: Danford Lake Dump project. I ask you: is a large landfill compatible to what we want for the Pontiac and surrounding regions? I say no.

Contact

You can visit the Forêt de l'Aigle year-round. Note that you must reserve in advance. Telephone Claudia Meloche at (819) 449-7111, www.cgfa.ca. In summer, hiking trails, canoeing, kayaking and camping are also available. Keep the forest going: explore and enjoy it. Katharine Fletcher is happiest when challenging herself in the great outdoors. Contact this freelance writer who is based in Guyon, Quebec at chesley@allstream.net

YOUR OPINION

Shawville Winter Invitational 2006

Dear Editor,

The Shawville Winter Invitational 2006 Organizing Committee is pleased to announce that Shawville will be hosting its sixth figure skating event on Feb. 25 to 26 at the Shawville Arena. An inter-regional competition will be held with figure skating clubs from the Outaouais and Eastern Ontario participating. This is the perfect occasion to showcase our figure skaters on home ice and to welcome participants and spectators to our community. This will represent a wonderful opportunity for the Municipality of Shawville to feature the community's winter tourist activities. The visitors will be exposed to the many businesses and services offered in our area.

Without generous support from our community this event would not take place. We are writing today to solicit you as a volunteer or in sponsoring this event.

Should you require further information, please contact me at (613) 990-8148 or (819) 647-5932. We look forward to your support in volunteering or sponsoring this worthy and community oriented event.

Lyse Lacourse
 Chair of Shawville Winter Invitational 2006

Abandoned animals cause problems

Dear Editor,

Why do people assume that unwanted animals dropped off near farms will survive with no consequences to people living on these farms?

I am 38 years old and as a child, remember hearing people saying that they would bring their unwanted dogs and/or cats "to the chute" to be dropped off. The assumption was that they would be able to live by scavenging on the farms at the chute, not hurting or disturbing anyone.

My Auntie Annie Smith lived on a farm on her own for her 95-plus years until a few months ago when a stray cat turned up at her house. A dog appeared prior to that. Numerous animals showed up over the years.

On Sunday, Nov. 20, 2005 Auntie Annie heard a ruckus in her summer kitchen. She had a cat, Girlie, for a pet. Auntie Annie heard Girlie fighting with another animal. After going to the summer kitchen to investigate, she saw that there was another stray cat out there fighting with Girlie. Auntie Annie thought that she could lure the stray cat away from the summer kitchen by bringing it a saucer of milk and bread. Her intention was to put the treat in the shed and close the door so that Girlie wouldn't be hurt.

The stray ended up jumping on Auntie

Annie, causing her to lose her balance and fall. The result was emergency surgery on Nov. 22, 2005 to insert four pins in her left leg. The femur broke near the hip and she was stranded on the floor for about 45 minutes in the unheated summer kitchen; it was November! Fortunately, Auntie Annie had an alarm on her wrist. She pressed the button and help soon came. It was cold outside, however, and with Auntie Annie being as small as she is (about 95 pounds, though extremely healthy) it wasn't long before the cold set in. Jimmy and Cécile Soucie were on the list of people to be contacted when Aunt Annie pressed her button. Though they were there in a short time, they didn't want to move her, not knowing what her injuries were and wanting to ensure they didn't worsen her condition. They did cover her with a blanket until the ambulance came.

Auntie Annie stayed in the hospital in Hull for four days. She was then transferred to Shawville and was there from Nov. 23 to Jan. 17, 2006. She received therapy the whole time she was in Shawville. Auntie Annie went to the Pontiac Respite Centre in Campbell's Bay on Jan. 23. She is now completely dependent on the health care system.

The point of this story... think about the consequences of dropping an unwanted pet off at some farm. There are definitely consequences. In this case, the life of an independent woman changed forever. No matter the age, it could have happened to anyone.

Wendy Thrasher
 Bancroft



25 Years Ago

February 18, 1981

CN TRAIN DERAILMENT IN BRISTOL: A westbound freight train carrying mainly apples and automobiles left the tracks Tuesday evening last week on the CN line near the town of Bristol. In all 21 cars were derailed. According to the crew cleaning up afterwards the accident was caused by a hot journal seizing. Clean up operations began early Wednesday morning. A railway crane was moved in to lift cars back onto the tracks. During the blockage trains were re-routed on the CPR tracks in Pontiac.

TOURIST ASSOCIATION: The Pontiac Tourist Association is in the process of compiling information relevant to the tourist industry in order to produce a four-season colour cartoon map of the County of Pontiac.

50 Years Ago

February 16, 1956

WOUNDED IN BUSH BLEEDS TO DEATH: Sixteen year old William Murphy Armstrong, died from loss of blood after receiving a large gash which opened an artery in his leg, in the bush, near his home on the Ridge beyond Davidson, Tuesday, Feb. 14. Armstrong, the son of Mr Thos E Armstrong and the late Mrs Armstrong, was cutting wood in the company with his brother and one other man when the accident occurred. He was brought out of the woods on a horse and then by truck to the office of Dr. Laycock. According to the doctor, no first aid had been administered at the scene of the accident nor during the hour's trip and young Armstrong was near death upon arrival at Fort Coulonge.

QUEBEC SPAN ALLUMETTE BRIDGE TO BE COMPLETE BY JUNE: Work is so well advanced on the \$2,000,000 Allumette Bridges project connecting Ontario and Quebec near Pembroke that there is every possibility that the four bridges and approaches will be completed by the end of October, Raymond

Johnston, MPP for Pontiac said yesterday.

CONNOLLY HEADS CALF CLUB: The Shawville Calf Club held their annual meeting on Feb. 1 at Stark's Corners hall. There were 26 members present. The election of officers are: President, Hillis Connolly; vice president, Dalton Hodgins and secretary-treasurer Joyce Kilgour. Arthur Kilgour has been chosen the new club leader. Ken Kilgour won the prize for having the highest attendance record last year.

75 Years Ago

February 12, 1931

LOCAL NEWS: Several cases of scarlatina have developed in town during the past couple of weeks, chiefly among children, but happily the malady is not of a very severe type, so the medical authorities report.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT: A serious and painful accident occurred at J M Argue's saw mill on Tuesday evening of last week. The mill had stopped sawing for the day, but the engine was still running, and Arnold Angus, the sawyer - who has been thus engaged at the Argue mill for several years - went beneath the mill to do something with a belt, when in some manner he got caught, and was hurled against a post with such force that one leg and one arm were each fractured in two places, as also some of his ribs and one ear was almost severed from his head. The mill hands acted promptly in summoning Dr McPherson, and improvising a stretcher on which the injured man was taken to the doctor's home, and there given such relief as was possible. Next morning Mr Argue (who was not at home when the accident occurred) took the patient to the General Hospital, Ottawa, where he is progressing as favorably as can be expected.

FIRST GAME GOES SCORELESS: Shawville and Coulonge battled to a scoreless tie in the first of the home and home play-off series at Coulonge on Monday night, and as a result of this, the next game at Shawville on Friday night of this week promises to be the hockey event of the season. Coulonge will run a special train for the event and

one of the largest crowds to ever enter the local arena is expected.

100 Years Ago

February 15, 1906

LOCAL NEWS: A few of our citizens left their cozy couches for a few minutes on Thursday night to get a view of the eclipse, or rather of Old Mother Earth's shadow as it obscured fair Luna's face for a time; and although the hour was late (2 o'clock) and the mercury uncomfortably low for standing around the yard in bedroom attire, it is alleged the "game was worth the candle," the conditions being exceptionally good for observation.

On Monday the 5th inst., one car load of registered Shorthorn bulls and Clyde fillies arrived from London Ont., for Mr Wm Hodgins, of Elmhurst Farm, Portage du Fort, and although the weather was extremely severe the animals came through in good condition. They are a choice lot, picked from some of the best herds in Ontario, and many of them are from imported sires and dams.

Sad indeed are the circumstances connected with the death of Mr Robert J Craig, who passed away at the home of his sister, Mrs Edward Gibson, Campbell's Bay on Tuesday night of last week. The late Mr Craig, who was an engineer on the CPR came to his old home near Greermount about Christmas time accompanied by his eldest boy, to spend a few weeks holidays with his father and relatives, Mr Luke Craig and family of Thorne west. A few days after his arrival, he became ill, and Dr Klock of this village was summoned to attend him. The doctor pronounced his ailment typhoid fever, and advised his removal to Campbell's Bay, where he would be convenient to medical attendance, and the services of a nurse obtainable. Mr Craig passed through the fever stage all right and was on the way to recovery, when he contracted diphtheria. This disease also was rapidly checked, and all danger thought to have been passed in his complicated illness, when finally he was attacked by pneumonia, which proved too much for his exhausted condition, and he succumbed to the disease.

Group hopes to keep the country music alive



Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec Constable Frederic Gagnon meets with Jason Yereck of Renaissance Variety in Shawville on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Gagnon and other officers are visiting every business throughout the MRC Pontiac to promote security and safety.

Police promote business security

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Thanks to the Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec, Pontiac's businesses should be a little bit safer now.

Officers from the SQ are undertaking the daunting task of visiting each business across the Pontiac MRC from Bristol to Rapides des Joachims to promote safety and security.

itself isn't new, the website accompanying it is, and Const. Frederic Gagnon said using it will help businesses protect themselves.

"The website has six different sections and they include shoplifting, robbery, fake money and fraud," said Const. Gagnon.

The visits are part of a province-wide program to crack-down on crime by helping businesses help themselves.

"We take part of the

responsibility (of crime prevention) but the manager (of the business) has to take part too," said Const. Gagnon.

Officers from the SQ will be spending the month of February attempting to visit every business in the region.

Business owners are encouraged to visit the bilingual website, www.prevention-commerce.com, to learn more about protecting their enterprise.

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

QUYON • There's a new organization hoping to promote and preserve traditional country music in the Ottawa Valley.

The Heritage Old Time Country Music Association already boasts over 100 members despite only just entering its second year.

On Sunday, the organization held a Valentine's Day dance at the Lions' Hall in Quyon.

"We're still in diapers," said Stan Callaghan, president and one of the founding members of the club.

Sunday's dance featured Valley Traditions, an Ottawa Valley band featuring vocalist Dorothy Porteous of Bristol Mines.

Guest performers also made appearances, including Tony Gilchrist of Ottawa, a step dancer.

Gilchrist learned his ways from his father, Donnie Gilchrist, the famous step dancer from Campbell's Bay.

"There aren't a lot of people in this country who do what we do and sometimes we forget that," declared

Gilchrist to the audience at the hall before displaying his dancing skills.

Callaghan, who originates from Vinton but now resides in Pembroke, holds three values with the name of HOTCMA.

"We want to preserve, perform and perpetuate country music."

For a young group, HOTCMA is exceptionally organized.

A complete website answers any questions a visitor may have, an official newsletter is released occasionally and upcoming events are regularly advertised on CHIP FM radio.

Some members the club boasted in 2005 were from as far away as Nova Scotia and Alabama.

"We're sort of reaching out to all quarters," said Porteous.

The dance on Sunday was the first event held by HOTCMA on the Québec side of the Ottawa Valley, and Callaghan hopes to hold more in the future.

"It takes a while to get people to know you," said Callaghan.



Dorothy Porteous of Bristol Mines and her band, Vallee Traditions, perform at the Heritage Old Time Country Music Association dance on Sunday at the Quyon Lions Hall. HOTCMA is a new organization hoping to preserve and promote traditional country music in the Ottawa Valley.

"We're doing what we can to keep the music alive."

Those interested in membership with HOTCMA for \$10 per year, are

encouraged to visit the group's website at www.hotcma.com

Cottage Road accident



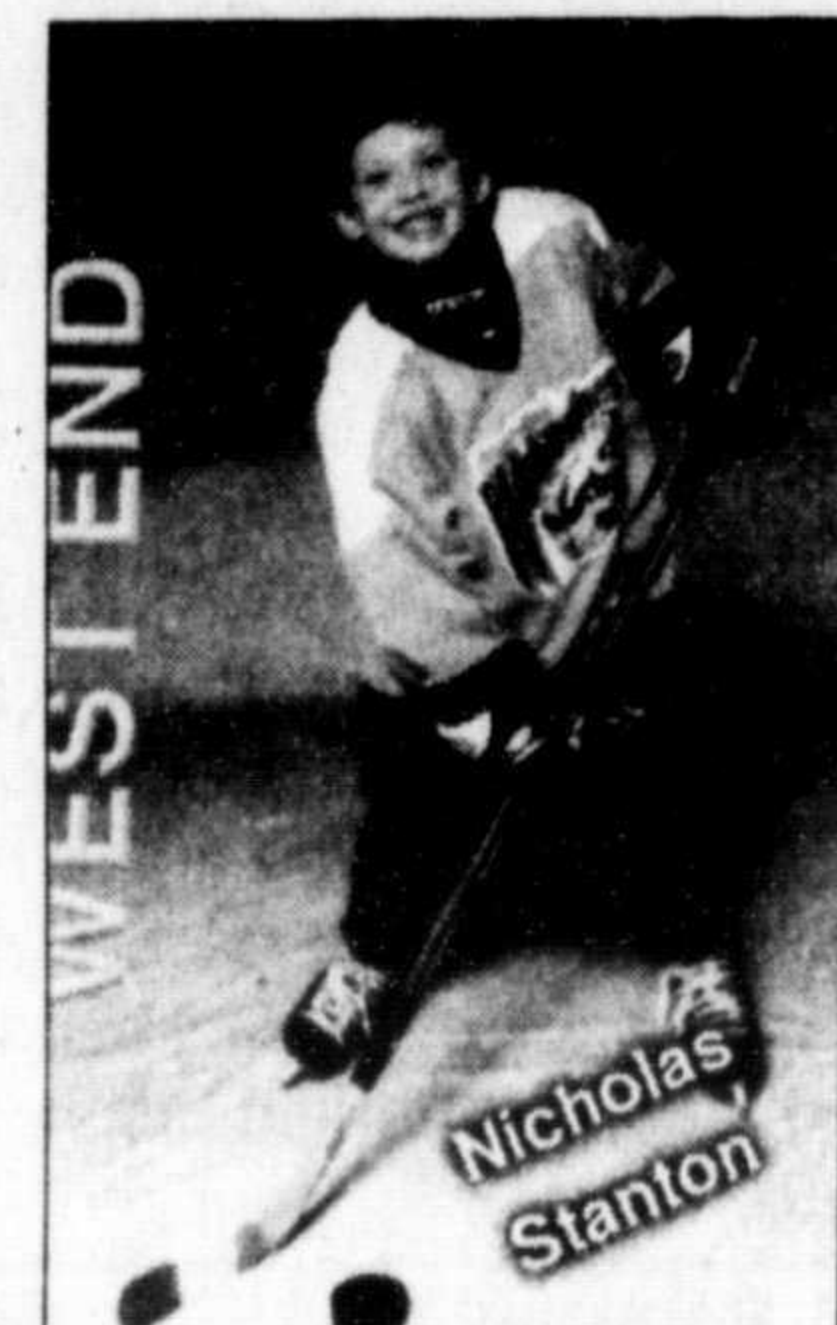
A woman driving a green Suzuki SUV lost control on Cottage Road on Allumettes Island near Hwy. 148. Police say icy conditions caused the accident, which sent the east-bound driver to hospital via ambulance with minor injuries.

Poker run



Participants of the Pontiac Snowmobile Drivers' Association hop on the backs of their machines after checking in at Gavan's Hotel as part of the group's poker run. Drivers visited businesses throughout the Pontiac and received stamps before returning to Gavan's and rolling dice to determine prize winners.

Big cheers to Nicholas Stanton (#7 Forward)



and his team the West End Wolverines' Kangaroos who were featured in an exciting exhibition game at the new Scotiabank Place prior to a Senators vs Penguins game on February 6, 2006. (Goal scored by Brandon #14, assisted by Jacob Clark-McRae #6.) "Nan Stanton found the exhibition game more exciting."

Congratulations from Nanna Nugent, Nan Stanton, cousin Adam Stanton, sister Elizabeth Stanton, Mama Maureen Stanton and Dad Carey Stanton (assistant coach).

Tales spun at archives

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • A small group of seven interested in learning about life in Pontiac County gathered Feb. 3 at the Pontiac Archives.

The first official meeting of Pontiac Tale Spinners, a monthly public meeting where guests share historical stories about Pontiac towns and the people who lived there, focused on stories about "School Days".

"Everybody was enthusiastic, but I would have wished there were more people there," said organizer Venetia Crawford. "I want people not just to come listen, but to share."

The program was created when the Pontiac Archives met and decided that in order to encourage more people to use the local historical information stored there, they would invite anyone who is interested in telling tales of the past to form a club.

There, history lovers have the chance to participate and share memories in a friendly atmosphere.

At Friday's meeting, stories were told of how Father Joseph Gravelle of an Otter Lake school used to map out family trees and keep cereal boxes full of historical scrapbooks. Also, Pontiac schools were discussed.

Each month features a different topic, set for Mar. 3, will feature St. Patrick's Day as the topic.

Crawford encourages new members to come to the archives in advance to look through newspaper clippings to find background for stories.

The archives are open Tuesday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tale Spinners meetings will take place the first Friday of each month (excluding summer months) at 2 p.m. at the Pontiac Archives in Shawville.

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WQ

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO STAKEHOLDERS OF THE WESTERN QUEBEC SCHOOL BOARD

The Western Quebec School Board seeks to consult with all interested parties about its Strategic Plan. Part of this plan entails potential reorganization of schools and/or boundaries in the following areas:

1. Upper Gatineau
2. Pontiac
3. Aylmer sector of Gatineau

All interested individuals are invited to public meetings as follows:

Monday, February 20, 2006 at St. Michael's High School
26 Principale Street, Low, Quebec at 7:00 p.m.
(regarding St. Michael's High School, Queen Elizabeth Elementary School and Wakefield Elementary School)

Wednesday, February 22, 2006 at St. John's/John Paul II School
10 Leslie Street, Campbell's Bay, Quebec at 7:00 p.m.
(regarding St. John's/John Paul II School, Dr. W. Keon, Pontiac High School, Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary and Onslow Elementary School)

Thursday, February 23, 2006 at Eardley Elementary School
180 North Street, Gatineau (Aylmer sector), Quebec at 7:00 p.m.
(regarding Eardley Elementary School, Lord Aylmer Elementary School, South Hull Elementary School, Symmes Junior High School and D'Arcy McGee High School)

More information is available at your local school.
Given at Gatineau, Québec this 8th day of February 2006.
Mike Dawson, Director General

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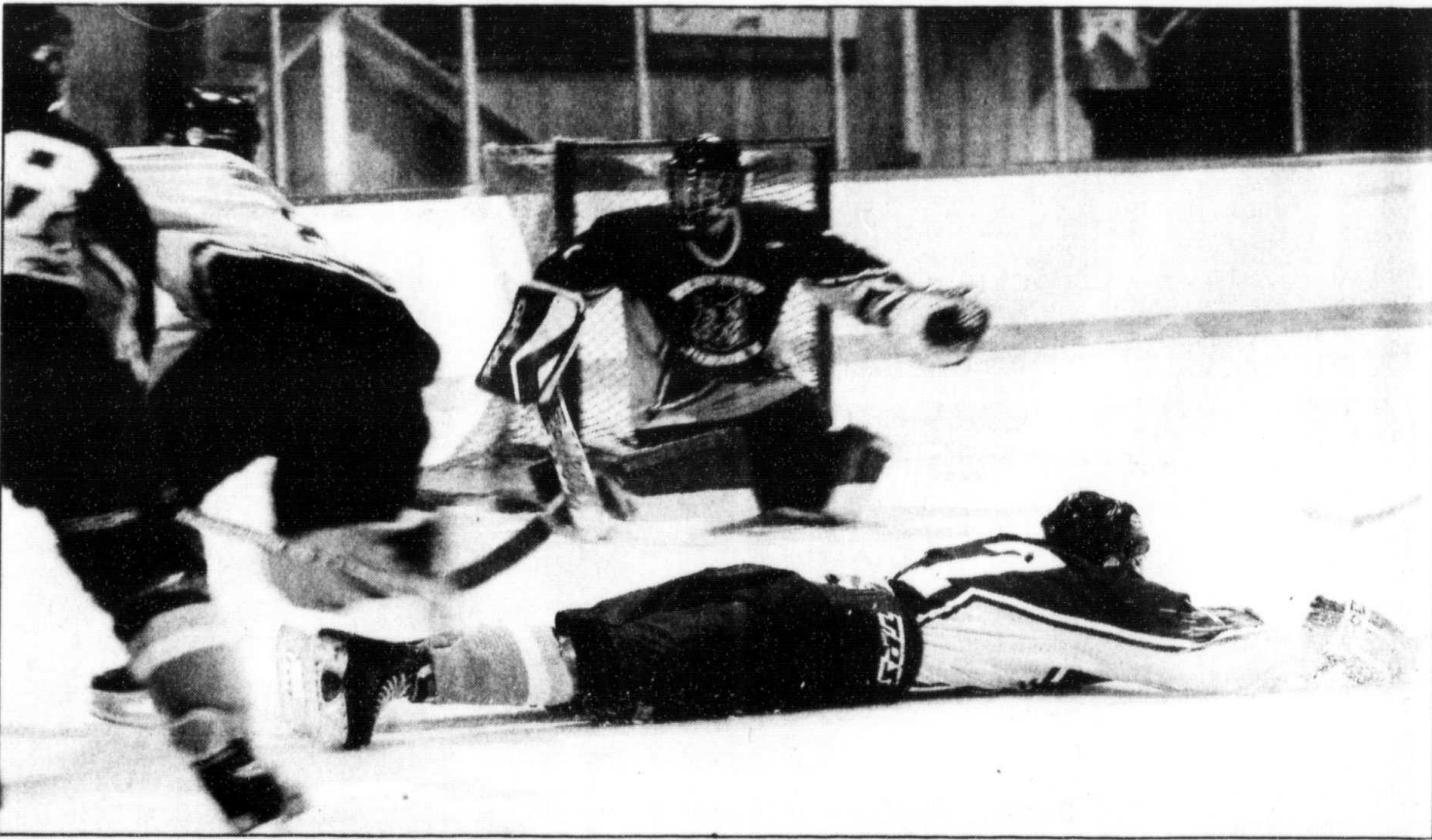
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SPORTS



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Pontiacs captain Jordan MacDougall dekes around a sprawling Renfrew Timberwolves defenseman in an attempt to put a goal in the Renfrew net. The Timberwolves currently lead the Pontiacs 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

Junior 'B' Pontiacs trail Renfrew 2-1 in playoff series

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • After three games, the Junior 'B' Pontiacs club trail the Renfrew Timberwolves two games to one in their best-of-seven series.

Falling 2-0 in the first two games, the Pontiacs won a desperately-needed third game in Renfrew on Sunday night, besting the Timberwolves 5-1.

In game one, the team fell 6-1 and then lost a tight 3-2 contest at home in the second match of the series.

The Pontiacs returned home to host the Timberwolves on Tuesday evening, in a crucial game for the team.

Losing another home game and falling behind three games to one would likely be a kiss-of-death to the much-improved squad.

Pontiacs	5
Renfrew	1

In Sunday's game three, the Pontiacs fell behind midway through the first period, but stormed back with five consecutive goals.

Jason Campbell, Marc Maurice, David Fenn, Keegan McCormick and Jordan MacDougall all scored for the Pontiacs in the much-needed win.

"It had everything to do with keeping away from the penalty box and just playing hockey," said Head Coach Pierre Lagacé, as to the change between being beaten 6-1 in game one and winning 5-1 in game three.

Friday's second game was the Pontiacs' first home match of the series, and the team started off strongly, taking the lead in the first period on a MacDougall goal and holding that lead until late in the second period.

Renfrew	3
Pontiacs	2

Renfrew scored two goals in 1:30, including notching their second with only one second remaining in the middle period.

Committing penalties, the demon the Pontiacs had seemingly exorcised late in the regular season, arose again as a problem for Shawville.

The team accrued 32 minutes in minor penalties, making it difficult for the

team to come back once they had fallen behind.

One big positive was Kevin Cuddihy's spectacular goal in the third period.

Immediately after the faceoff following the Timberwolves' third goal, Cuddihy received the puck from the draw, embarrassingly deked around a pair of Renfrew defenders before flipping the puck backhanded past the stunned Renfrew goalie.

Renfrew	6
Pontiacs	1

The Pontiacs were unable to build on that amazing individual goal, however, and no last-minute heroics were in the cards on that particular night.

One big addition for the Pontiacs is a familiar face. Jansen Simpson has rejoined the team after being traded earlier in the season.

A big, strong defenseman, Simpson apparently called team GM, Chris Young, and asked to return.

Young and Lagacé sat down with Simpson, who suffered from poor work ethic and discipline at times.

"When he's on his game and wants to come and play hockey, he's an impact player," said Lagacé.

"Everybody deserves a second chance."

The series will be decided within the next week. The two teams reconvene in Renfrew on Wednesday night for game five, then, if necessary, play again in Shawville on Friday at 8 p.m.

If the series comes to a decisive game seven, Renfrew will host Sunday.

Playoff notes
Renfrew's fans outnumbered and out-yelled Shawville's at the Pontiacs' home game on Friday night, making it seem more like a Renfrew home contest...

Defenceman Peter Stevens, #44 for the Timberwolves, is one of the dirtiest players in the league. Watch as he takes every opportunity to cheapshot opponents behind the play... Arnprior was 0-6 during the regular season against Perth, scoring only nine goals in the season series, yet have defeated the first place Bluewings twice so far in their playoff series. Perth are the favourites to win the Valley division.

Valley division playoffs

First round

- (1) Perth and (6) Arnprior are tied 2-2
- (2) Renfrew leads (5) Shawville 2-1
- (3) Carleton Place leads (4) Stittsville 3-1

Second round

The highest-remaining seed of the three winning teams receives a bye to the Valley division finals while the remaining two winners play each other.

Metro division playoffs

First round

- (2) Ottawa West leads (3) Metcalfe 2-0
- (4) South Ottawa leads (5) Gatineau 3-1
- (1) Clarence Creek currently has a bye

Second round

The winner of the (4) vs. (5) series plays (1) Clarence Creek. The winner of the (2) vs. (3) series plays the winner of that series.

Allen rink places sixth in division

Team involved in seven-way tie for final playoff position

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor

SEPT-ÎLES • The Allen rink finished sixth in their A-side division at the Quebec provincial curling championships held in Sept-Îles.

The rink from Shawville, made up of skip Steve Allen, third Gary Harris, second Ricky Lee Allen and lead Dave Draper, represented the Outaouais at the provincials.

The championship began Feb. 5 and wound up Sunday. The Jean-Michel Ménard rink from Victoria won the championship for the second year in a row. They beat the Pierre Charette rink from Thurso 10-5 in the finals Sunday.

Although the Allen rink didn't finish as well as they would have liked, they played well and enjoyed the experience.

"We just got going to a rough start," said Steve after returning from the trip Monday. "We wish we could have played better at the start."

Last Tuesday the Allen

rink took on the Martin Crête rink from Jacques Cartier and the Serge Reid rink from Kénogami. They lost 6-2 and won 9-6 respectively.

Wednesday, the rink beat Jeff Cheal 8-5 from Lennoxville/North Hatley and the home team Denis Laflamme 6-5 later that night.

"We weren't nervous, just when we were playing the home team," said Steve. "We knew they weren't cheering for us."

The Allen rink lost both games Thursday against the Mike Kennedy rink from Baie d'Urfé (7-5) and the René Bouffard rink from Trois-Rivières (5-4).

"We've got to be on when we're playing down there," said Steve on their slow start. "But other than that, it was good."

After the first round of division games were completed, the Allen rink, along with six other rinks, were tied for third place — the last spot to move onto the playoff round.

With an unprecedented number of ties, Friday evening was set aside for tie-breaking games.

The last two games the rink played was against Laflamme for the second time, who they beat 9-7. Moving onto the last four teams vying for the third place playoff position, they couldn't pull a win from Kennedy who beat Allen 10-6.

Overall the rink came out with five wins and six losses, leaving them in sixth place on the A-side out of 10

teams. Steve said there were quite a few people out watching the championships, an audience close to 1,000 people.

At the rink's last trip to the provincials one year ago, they placed third overall.

"It was a little disappointing when we got off to a bad start," said Steve. "We are sad we lost, we weren't mad, but we understand why we lost."

The Allen rink will renew their attempts at a provincial championship next year.

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Bantam BB Forestiers capture Gatineau tournament title

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • The Bantam 'BB' Maniwaki Forestiers won five games in capturing the 16-team Gatineau hockey tournament championship this past weekend.

The team comprises of players from Maniwaki, Shawville and Fort Coulonge.

The Forestiers capped their weekend with a high-scoring championship victory over the Gatineau Ambassadeurs, 7-5.

David Hobbs scored two goals, including the game winner, and Jason Bédard also added two to pace the team to the win.

Goals were also scored by Maxime-James Morin and Travis Stewart, while Nicolas Francoeur guaranteed the win with an empty-net goal late in the match.

Tournament MVP Dylon Wisotzki had two assists in the final. Bédard and Matthew Alexander each had an assist as well.

The Forestiers' trip to the final was only made possible by a spectacular comeback in the semi-final against the Gatineau Avalanches.

Down by two goals after two periods, the team

stormed back with a pair of third-period markers, one each by Louis-Philippe Larivière and Francoeur to force overtime.

In the extra frame, Larivière scored on a goal assisted by Dominic Crytes to clinch the game.

Up to that point in the tournament, the Forestiers had been convincing.

In pool play, the team finished with two wins and a tie. Those games included a decisive 6-2 victory over Requins de Deux Rives, a 2-0 win over Cougars de St-Hilaire with Justin Bois picking up the shutout and a 2-2 tie with the Aylmer Mariners.

The quarter-final was an easy victory for the team, who throttled Le Collège Français Longueuil 6-1.

Atom B
The Shawville Pontiacs Atom 'B' team won their weekend game on Saturday, a 4-1 home victory over the Loups LaPeche.

Jonathan Hickey scored two goals, Nathan Graham added one and Itai Kaseke scored the first goal of his career.

Dillon Harrison had two assists and Nathan Graham had one.

The team also won their game at the end of January, defeating the Hull Eperviers, 3-1.

Cris Hearty scored twice, Harrison once and Riley Young assisted on a goal.

The team now has 10 wins, four losses and three ties and sit in first place.

Novice A

It was a tough trip to Hull for the Novice 'A' Shawville Pontiacs who came away with one victory and two tough losses in the Festi-Magh tournament.

In their first game, the team fell to Ouragans de Joliette-Crabtree 3-1. Carter Pirie had the team's lone goal, unassisted.

The second match was a victory for the Pontiacs, who defeated the Patriotes de Chateauguay 3-2.

Simon-Richard Corriveau scored two goals for the Pontiacs, including the game winner. Pirie also had a goal. Clancey Keon and Ayden Hodgins each had an assist in the game.

In their final game of the tournament, the Pontiacs dropped a 2-1 decision to the Hull Cityzens.

Pirie had another strong game, scoring the team's only goal.



Guard Morgan Welburn of the Pontiac High School Panthers drives to the basket ahead of a Mont Bleu defender. PHS defeated Mont Bleu 49-27.

PHS basketball girls rout Mont Bleu

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • Riding the hot hand of guard Katie Dolan's 26 points, the Pontiac High School Juvenile girls' basketball team handily defeated Mont Bleu 49-27 last Thursday evening at the PHS gym.

Utilizing an 8-0 run to start the game, the PHS Panthers never trailed and outskilled the overmatched side from Mont Bleu.

The win improves the team's record to 2-5-1 on the year, and the team is unbeaten in three games.

"We haven't played well at the beginning of the season, but we've picked it up," said Head Coach Matt Greer.

Guard Morgan Welburn added 13 points and, combined, she and Dolan provided all but 10 of PHS's scoring.

"We've been getting more production out of our top

players recently," said Greer.

After leading 23-6 at the half, the Panthers nearly allowed the Mont Bleu girls back into the game in the third quarter, as they pulled within eight at one point.

A combination of poor shot selection and being out-rebounded clearly frustrated Greer, who hounded the team between the third and fourth quarters.

His undermanned seven-player squad responded with a strong fourth quarter and the blowout.

"They're still not playing the way they should be," said Greer.

"We've made the finals the last two years to make it to play better to make it there again."

The Panthers now have an extended break as they don't play their next game until March 21.

Boys win by default
The first-place PHS Cadet

boys' team won their scheduled game against Le Carrefour by default.

The day of the scheduled game, Le Carrefour's coach informed PHS coach, Dave Holmes, that his winless squad would not be appearing for that match in the PHS gym.

The last time the two sides played in December, the Panthers assaulted Le Carrefour, winning by 54 points.

The default victory extends the boys' record to 8-1 for the season, with three games remaining.



The Bantam 'BB' Maniwaki Forestiers, which is comprised of players from Fort Coulonge, Shawville and Maniwaki, won a tournament in Gatineau on the weekend.

Thank you

The Bryson Fire Department would like to thank all who came out and supported us for our first Annual Valentine's Dance. It was a great success. A special thanks goes out to people who donated time, prizes and the hall: Brian Stanton, Boite à lunch, Moe and Tracy Cameron, Guy Racine and all the firemen and their wives.

The winner of the 27" TV went out to Sheila Racine, our 50/50 was won by her husband Guy Racine who donated the money back to the fire department.

Once again, thank you all for your support and we hope to see you next year.

Marcel Newberry, Fire Chief

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COMING EVENTS

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Thur., Feb. 16 - Pancake Supper Orange Hall, Shawville 4:30 to 7 p.m. Adults \$8, under 12 years \$4. Everyone welcome. 2xF15

Sat., Feb. 18 - Spaghetti supper at the TCRA Ladysmith 5:30 - 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children \$3. bf15

Feb. 18 & 25, 2006 - 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Church of Faith, Praise and Prayer, 1289, Hwy. 148 Campbell's Bay, Quebec will be holding a special seminar on abiding in God's financial abundance with Paul Gopal managing editor of The Word Barn Inc., publisher of Christian literature and books. All are welcome for more information 613-744-7425. 2bf22

Feb. 19 - Bristol annual winter Carnival events from 1 - 4 p.m. at Norway Bay rink. Euchre tournament 2 - 4 p.m. at Bristol Community Town Hall. Dinner 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the hall. Come join the fun. Everyone welcome. 2bf15

Feb. 25, 26 - Norway Bay 10th Annual Car Races on Ice. Front and rear drive, Pro and stock spiked tire division (year 2). Entry fee \$40 per car. Rain date March 4 and 5. For details call Michael 647-6512. 2xF15

Feb. 25, 26 - Shawville Figure Skating Club hosting the Shawville Winter Invitational at the Shawville arena. Admission is \$5 per day or \$8 for the weekend pass. bf22

Sun., Feb. 26 - From 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. A delicious pre-Lent brunch at the TCRA in Ladysmith. Cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for children aged 3 - 12. An all-you-can-eat meal with ham, sausages, beans, pancakes, local maple syrup, various salads, dessert and tea and coffee - a quality and quantity meal! Sponsored by St. George's Thorne Centre (Anglican Parish of Northern Pontiac). Come join us for this feast! For information call 648-2949 or see www.pontiacanglican.org. 3bf22

Tues., Feb. 28 - Pancake Supper St. Paul's Anglican Church, 5 - 7 p.m. Shawville. 2bf22

Feb. 28 - Pancake Supper, St. John's Anglican Church, Quyon, 4:30 - 7 p.m. Adults \$8, children \$4. Everyone welcome. 2bf22

Tues., Feb. 28 - 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. CWL Shrove Tuesday Supper St. John The Evangelist Parish Centre, Campbell's Bay. Adults \$6, children 12 and under \$4. Menu: sausages, home fries, baked beans, pancakes, coléslaw, rolls and dessert. 2bf22

Fri., March 3 - World Day of Prayer St. Edward's Church, Bristol, Quebec 2:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. 2bf22

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

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DEATH

Sicard, Yves - in Pontiac Hospital on Friday, February 10, 2006 at the age of 70. Beloved son of the late Charles Sicard and the late Yvonne Lemaire. Dear father of Larry, Whitby, Corrine, Ottawa; Wendy, Newmarket; Terry and Kevin both of Haliburton. Dad we love you. Yves is survived by sisters Imelda Crepin, Cabiola Legault and Corono Sicard. Predeceased by brothers Leonard, Real, Yvon, John and Hervé and by sisters Berthe, Francois and Carmen. At Yves request there will be no visitation. Funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Anne's Church, Calumet Island, Quebec on Friday, February 24 at 2 p.m. Arrangements in the care of Ringrose Brothers Funeral Home 1-819-648-2181.

THANKS

Armstrong - I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all the doctors, nurses and all the staff who treated me so kindly during my stay at the Pontiac Community Hospital. Your comforting smiles and encouraging words helped make my time spent in the hospital more pleasant. A special thanks to all who visited me and to everyone who sent cards, flowers, treats and to everyone who called. It is comforting to live in a community with so many caring people.
Minerva Armstrong and family
Kelly, Dagenais, Odell - A big thank you to Dr. Potvin and Dr. O'Neill and all the wonderful caring staff at the Pontiac Community Hospital for my surgery. They are all a great team.

THANKS

Pepin (Hearty) - I would like to thank the Litchfield-Campbell's Bay Fire Department and ambulance drivers for their fast service to help me at 2 o'clock in the morning when I fell and couldn't get up. Imelda Pepin (Hearty)

Yach-Morrison - I would like to thank family, friends, and staff of P.C.H. for attending my retirement dinner, and for the beautiful gifts I received. Extra special thanks goes out to Sandra Bastien, Diane Vaillancourt and Donna Zimmerling for their hard work in planning this special event. Heartfelt thanks to my sister Donna and daughter Lori for the endless hours spent creating my "Precious Memories" Album. Last but certainly not least, the surprise visit from my daughter Tammy and grandson Zachary who arrived from Texas to be with me on this special evening. Thank you. P.C.H. Staff, you are a great group of people, thank you for your friendship and support over the last 35 years. You will never be forgotten. Sharon Yach-Morrison

Manwell - We wish to express our appreciation to family, friends and neighbours for the cards of sympathy, floral tributes, phone calls, food and donations received in memory of our beloved mother, grandmother, sister and friend, Rose. Many thanks to Hayes Funeral Home, the pallbearers and Rev. Roger Young for the service celebrating Rose's life. Also thanks to the ladies from St. George's Anglican Church and the other ladies from the community who prepared and served such a beautiful luncheon after the service. Your kindness will always be remembered. Dianne, Terry, Mary and Nelson

Dickson - Charles Dickson and Erica Phipps are pleased to announce the birth of Eric Rutherford Phipps Dickson on 2 January 2006 in Ottawa. A brother to Thomas Phipps Dickson, Alex, Arthur and Sophie Kuldjper Dickson, a sixth grandchild for George and Cynthia (née Wilmont) Phipps and a 17th for David (late) and Rosaleen (née Leslie) Dickson.

BIRTH

A million times we'll miss you, A million times we'll cry. If love could have saved you, You never would have died. In life we loved you dearly, In death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a special place. No one could ever fill. It broke our hearts to lose you, But you did not go alone, For part of us went with you, The day God took you home. We miss you tremendously, Thérèse and Family xxx

MEMORIAM

Carson, Linda - In loving memory of our dear daughter, sister and aunt who passed away Feb. 17, 2003.

A special smile
A special face
And in our hearts
A special place
No words we speak can ever say,
How much we miss you every day.
Mom, Brenda, Lindsay, Michelle and Brandon



Dagg, Martin - In loving memory of a beloved son, brother and grandson who entered Heaven on Feb. 18, 2001. Five years have passed, such a long time without you, but you are with us in our hearts now, and forever. We love you and miss you so very much.
Dad and Mum
Tami and Greg, Grandma

Gagnon, Nicholas - In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and father-in-law who passed away on February 14, 2003. God looked around His garden, And saw an empty space. Then He looked down here on earth, And saw your loving face. He put His arms around you, And lifted you to rest. His garden must be beautiful, Because He only picks the best. A million times we'll miss you, A million times we'll cry. If love could have saved you, You never would have died. In life we loved you dearly, In death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a special place. No one could ever fill. It broke our hearts to lose you, But you did not go alone, For part of us went with you, The day God took you home. We miss you tremendously, Thérèse and Family xxx

MEMORIAM

Gravelle (Brown) - In memory of Darlene. Love you forever.
Lorna

Gravelle - In loving memory of a dear aunt, Darlene Gravelle (nee Brown), who passed away February 21, 2002. Missing you is a heartache That never goes away. Loving you always,
Andrea

Lepine, Rita - In loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother who passed away on February 19, 1998. You gave us a lifetime of love and great memories, that will live in our hearts forever. Always remembered, Dee Dee, Donnie, Randy, Patsy, Tyler and Jake

Pitt - In loving memory of a dear husband, Dad, Grandpa, Delmer who passed away Feb. 17, 2002. If we could have one lifetime wish One dream that could come true, We would pray to God, With all our hearts, For yesterday and you. You were the wind beneath our wings. Lovingly remembered by Joyce and family

Palmer, Edith - In loving memory of a dear mother, Edith, who passed away February 16, 2005. A wonderful mother, woman and aid, One who was better, God never made, A wonderful worker, loyal and fair, Tenderly helpful, O mother you were, Just in your judgement, always right, Honest and liberal, ever upright, Loved by all, our pride they share, Pride in the wonderful one you were. Forever loved and sadly missed, Gordon and Myma

MEMORIAM

Palmer, Edith Beulah - In loving memory of a dear Mother, Mother-in-law and Granny and Great Granny who passed away on Feb. 16, 2005. In remembrance of our dear mother, So many memories to cherish. With love,
May and Bill Schwartz and families

Murray - In memory of a dear son, brother and uncle, Graham who passed away February 17, 2005. His weary hours and days of pain, His troubled nights are past And in our aching hearts we know, He has found sweet rest at last. Always remembered Dad, Iona, Lyle, Mona, Bernie and families

Murray - In loving memory of a dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away Feb. 19, 1998. Remembering you can cause a smile Bring laughter or a tear How precious are these memories, That kept you ever near. Always loved, Jeanette, Garry, Margaret, Tommy and families

Plascott - In memory of James, a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away on February 14, 2005. May the winds of love blow softly And whisper so you will hear We will always love and miss you And wish that you were here. From your wife Irene and family

Stewart - In loving memory of Daddy (Lennis) who died Feb. 15, 2005. No one knows how much I miss you, No one knows the bitter pain I have suffered, since I lost you Life has never been the same. In my heart your memory lingers, Sweetly tender fond and true, There is not a day, dear father, That I do not think of you. Joanne

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Service régional formation professionnelle Outaouais

Salon de l'emploi à Fort-Coulonge

MANIWAKI • Le Centre de formation professionnelle Pontiac organise un Salon de l'emploi le 21 février prochain, à compter de 18 h, à l'agora de l'école secondaire Sieur-de-Coulonge.

Il s'agira de la deuxième édition de ce type d'activité, la toute première ayant eu lieu en février 2005. Tout comme l'an dernier, il y aura des kiosques tenus par des employeurs, privés et publics, du Pontiac. Le Centre de santé et de services sociaux du Pontiac sera représenté, tout comme Emploi-Québec et plusieurs compagnies privées, dont Maibec, Smurfit-Stone, etc.

Nouveauté cette année, il y aura un volet 'entrepreneurship', avec des kiosques du Centre local de développement (CLD) et de la Société d'aide au développement des collectivités (SADC).

«Le but de l'activité est de permettre aux parents du Pontiac de s'informer sur les possibilités d'emploi qui existent dans notre région. En visitant les kiosques des compagnies et organismes représentés, il sera possible d'obtenir des informations sur les catégories d'emploi disponibles et sur les compétences exigées», de dire Diane Grenier, directrice du CFP Pontiac.

Le Salon de l'emploi se tient le 21 février pour profiter de la remise des bulletins de la deuxième étape aux parents d'élèves du secondaire. En effet, ces bulletins sont remis le même soir, à compter de 18 h 30, dans un autre local de l'école Sieur-de-Coulonge. Le Salon de l'emploi vise donc à profiter de la présence des parents pour diffuser des informations qui peuvent leur être utiles au niveau de l'avenir professionnel de leurs enfants.

Les membres du caucus de l'Outaouais se réjouissent de la mise en place d'un programme universel et gratuit de vaccination contre la varicelle

GATINEAU • La présidente du caucus de l'Outaouais, madame Charlotte L'Écuyer, est heureuse de confirmer, au nom du ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux, monsieur Philippe Couillard, qu'un programme universel et gratuit de vaccination contre la varicelle est offert depuis le 1er janvier dernier. «On vaccinera dorénavant les enfants qui atteignent l'âge d'un an. Quant aux enfants plus âgés, ils seront rejoints

dans le cadre des activités régulières de vaccination, avec l'objectif de protéger d'ici 2010 l'ensemble des jeunes Québécoises et Québécois, jusqu'à l'âge correspondant à la troisième secondaire», a précisé madame L'Écuyer. La varicelle est une maladie très contagieuse que la majorité des enfants non protégés attrapent un jour ou l'autre. Elle provoque surtout de la fièvre et des boutons, mais des complications surviennent parfois,

par exemple, des otites, des pneumonies ou des encéphalites. Au Québec, ces complications entraînent chaque année l'hospitalisation de 400 à 500 personnes, surtout des enfants, et même un ou deux décès. Depuis le 1er janvier, le vaccin est donc fourni gratuitement aux enfants qui atteignent les douze mois, un âge auquel d'autres vaccins sont déjà offerts. On vaccine aussi les enfants non protégés, au moment de la visite prévue avant

l'entrée à l'école. De plus, de 2006 à 2010, le vaccin sera fourni en quatrième année du primaire, ce qui coïncide avec la vaccination contre l'hépatite B. Les adultes peuvent aussi attraper cette maladie, avec des conséquences généralement plus graves que les enfants. Le vaccin est dorénavant offert gratuitement aux travailleurs de la santé, si un dépistage révèle qu'ils sont réceptifs à la maladie. Les autres adultes non protégés

peuvent aussi profiter de la vaccination gratuite, au moment de la vérification de leur statut vaccinal. «Nous nous sommes engagés à offrir aux Québécois des services de santé accessibles répondant aux besoins. Ce programme universel et gratuit de vaccination contre la varicelle constitue une autre réalisation démontrant la priorité qu'accorde le gouvernement aux services de santé», a conclu la présidente.

Un montant de 617 353 \$ est accordé aux Commissions scolaires des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais, Western Québec et Portages-de-l'Outaouais

CAMPBELL'S BAY • Dans le cadre des programmes Aide aux devoirs et Écoles en forme et en santé, la députée de la circonscription de Pontiac, Madame Charlotte L'Écuyer, a annoncé, au nom du ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, M. Jean-Marc Fournier, l'octroi d'un montant de 617 353 \$ aux Commissions scolaires des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais, Western Québec et Portages-de-l'Outaouais.

Ces sommes seront consacrées à des projets d'aide aux devoirs et à des projets favorisant le développement de saines habitudes de vie chez les jeunes. «Cette aide financière permettra aux Commissions scolaires de réaliser les initiatives qu'elle a conçues en collaboration avec des organismes locaux pour favoriser la réussite éducative des jeunes de la région», a déclaré Madame L'Écuyer. Les sommes octroyées s'ajoutent aux montants accordés l'année dernière.

2004-2005

- Commission scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais: 29 742\$ Aide aux devoirs et 16 137\$ Écoles en forme et en santé.
- Commission scolaire Western Québec: 84 126\$ Aide aux devoirs et 46 944\$ Écoles en forme et en santé.
- Commission scolaire des Portages-de-l'Outaouais: 126 778\$ Aide aux devoirs et 61 311\$ Écoles en forme et en santé.

2005-2006

- Commission scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais: 58 777\$ Aide aux devoirs et 15 813\$ Écoles en forme et en santé.
- Commission scolaire Western Québec: 171 045\$ Aide aux devoirs et 47 097\$ Écoles en forme et en santé.
- Commission scolaire

Portages-de-l'Outaouais: 262 598\$ Aide aux devoirs et 62 023\$ Écoles en forme et en santé.

Les deux programmes viennent soutenir le réseau scolaire, qui consacre déjà beaucoup d'efforts pour assurer un vaste éventail de services aux élèves québécois. Selon le ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, «la mise en œuvre de ces programmes permettra notamment d'augmenter la motivation des élèves dans la réalisation de leurs travaux et d'offrir un appui tangible aux parents tout en contribuant à leur donner un environnement favorable au développement de saines habitudes de vie. Ces programmes aideront grandement à enrichir la formation des jeunes et à améliorer leur persévérance scolaire».

Cette année, le gouvernement investit 20 millions de dollars dans le programme Aide aux devoirs, destiné aux élèves des écoles primaires publiques, soit le double de l'an dernier. De plus, il consacre 5 millions de dollars pour une deuxième année au programme Écoles en forme et en santé, destiné aux établissements scolaires publics accueillant des élèves du 3e cycle du primaire et du 1er cycle du secondaire. Ce programme s'inscrit dans l'esprit de la campagne sur les saines habitudes de vie «Vas-y, fais-le pour toi!».

Les renseignements concernant les programmes Aide aux devoirs et Écoles en forme et en santé sont disponibles auprès des directions régionales, du centre de documentation du ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, ainsi que dans le site Internet du Ministère www.mels.gouv.qc.ca.



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AVIS PUBLIC MUNICIPALITÉ DE PONTIAC

Aux contribuables de la municipalité

AVIS PUBLIC EST PAR LES PRÉSENTES DONNÉ

par le soussigné, secrétaire-trésorier de la susdite municipalité, qu'il y aura séance régulière du Conseil Municipal le 14 mars 2006, à 20h00 au 2024, Route 148, Pontiac, Québec.

Au cours de cette séance, le conseil doit statuer sur la demande de dérogation mineure suivante :

Nature et effets :

Réduire la marge prescrite en vertu de l'article 3.8.3 du règlement de lotissement no. 178-01. Le frontage minimal de la partie d'un lot touchant à un cours d'eau est de 30 mètres. Le plan préparé par l'arpenteur-géomètre M. Michel Fortin sous ses minutes 14421 propose deux lots de 25 mètres et un de 36.35 mètres de frontage sur l'eau.

Identification du site concerné : Lot 3 386 709

Tout intéressé pourra se faire entendre par le conseil relativement à cette demande.

DONNÉ à PONTIAC ce 15ième jour de février de l'an deux milles six.

Sylvain Bertrand
Secrétaire-trésorier

AVIS DE NOMINATION

DES HOMMES CONNUS ET RECONNUS

Télébec est fière d'annoncer la nomination de M. Paul Lacoursière au poste de directeur général - Service à la clientèle Affaires. Après sept années passées au sein du groupe des communications et affaires publiques, il mettra désormais son expertise au service de notre clientèle d'affaires. Ainsi, M. Lacoursière laisse sa place à M. Alain Danault, entrepreneur d'expérience reconnu pour ses multiples implications dans le monde des communications à Victoriaville. Il a notamment été directeur aux communications et au marketing pour le club de hockey Les Tigres et pour l'un des plus importants événements de la région, le Grand Défi de Victoriaville.

SE CONNAÎTRE, SE RECONNAÎTRE

Solidement ancrée dans la région, Télébec connaît et reconnaît le talent de gens d'ici. L'apport de gestionnaires émérites issus de notre communauté permet de répondre encore mieux à vos besoins. C'est là notre priorité.

M. Paul Lacoursière
Directeur général
Service à la clientèle Affaires

M. Alain Danault
Directeur
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Caldwell

Hermonie Sharpe
647-3459

Jan. 31 has come and gone. As January has always been recorded as the coldest month of the year, this year was an exception and we had warm weather. The stories I have heard of this particular day as a new baby was expected and the expectant mother came to Shawville to be near the hospital. But the weather was so stormy and the laneway so full of snow that the main road to be taken to the hospital had to be closed. There were so many similar tales from the past. If we had some of our doctors here to relate their experiences and how they travelled with horses and spent the night in the farmer's house waiting for the arrival of that precious baby. "Those were the days my friend," as the song goes.

We have quite a few birthdays this month of February. Brenda Preston of New Jersey on the 10th, Janet Horner at St. Joseph's Manor celebrates her 97th on Feb. 17, Gladys Queale at Kirkham's Home in Shawville celebrates her 95th on Feb. 23, my cousin Hazel Joy at Hunt club Manor celebrates her 91st on Feb. 15, Ruth Sharpe on the 20th, Maynard Thompson, Ottawa the 25th, Lolita Doherty of Campbell River, BC on the 22nd and Nellie Jette on Feb. 23.

Anniversary congratulations go out to Frank and Yvette Lacourse who celebrate on Feb. 18 and John and Louise Latere of New Jersey who celebrate their 66th on Feb. 24.

I have a dear John letter to write to you this week which isn't easy because I have enjoyed giving you the news from your home town. But because of my failing eye sight and hearing I have to give up writing the notes. I would like to thank everyone near and far for your words of encouragement and also to the EQUITY staff who have helped me out of difficulties when my fingers would hit the wrong buttons on my computer and I couldn't see or understand to correct the wrong doing.

How long have I been writing for the paper? All I know is that I wrote some for the owners before the late David and Rosaleen of Ottawa took

over the paper and then wrote for them as well. As I had a family of 10 at home as well as having the post office in my home for 20 years and I even tried my hand at a small grocery store. My hands were busy and sometimes I would have to miss a week or so. So, I know it was a good many years and I'm going to miss it. Thanks everyone once again for your patience and endurance. Some of you young people should take over. This is a challenge for you.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Ivan Beattie who passed away so suddenly at his home in Shawville on Feb. 5. Funeral services were held on Feb. 9 from Bristol Ridge Pentecostal Church. Interment was in the Pentecostal Cemetery in Shawville.

Get well wishes are sent to Eileen Miller who has been on the sick list. So glad to hear she's able to be out of the hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Visiting with us on Saturday and taking her mother Ruth out for her 61st birthday at Portage du Fort at the Auberge Restaurant was Chrissy Parsons of Ottawa.

Don't forget the Bristol Carnival on Sunday, Feb. 19 at the Bristol Recreation Centre and euchre in the afternoon.

This past Thursday night the euchre club in Bristol held a potluck supper celebrating St. Valentine's Day and what a supper it was. Food of every description was served with salads and desserts. The food was so plentiful they thought they had served an army. Congratulations to our president, Eldon Zimmerling and his wife Alma for a job well done.

I had a visit from Peter Haughton, of Haughton's Bay this past week. He brought me a picture of the wild turkeys he had taken.

I heard about the deer being found dead in the bay and asked him what had happened. He told me they had wakened with - he turkeys making large noises. They roost in his trees every night and are usually quiet. In the morning when he looked out in the bay he saw the carcass of a deer and realized that the wolves must have killed it during the night which had startled the turkeys.

Bryson

Heather Stewart
648-5413

Happy birthday to Arthur Belair who celebrates on the 15. A very happy belated birthday to Denise Laroche of Calumet Island.

Correction for Robert Yerek's birthday, it was just a supper for family and close friends. Sorry about that.

A very happy birthday going out to Bill Wallace who is celebrating on the 20th.

Results for the Golden Age Euchre held on Feb. 6 are as follows: Door: Jean Guy Mainville, 50/50; Phyllis Smith, Men's first: Jean Guy Mainville and John Stewart, second: Louis Johnston, Ladies first: Isabelle Lacroix, second: Collette McTiernan, Anna Stewart and Marie Laure Godin.

Celebrating birthdays on the 16th are Gisele Lamothe, Joan Sicard and Garrett Dumoulin.

The Bryson Lionettes held their annual Rock-A-Thon

last Thursday evening. Some of the Lions members came out to rock with us. We had a very enjoyable evening rocking the night away. The money raised will be donated to the Bryson Lions to help with the funding for a new roof on the Lions Hall. A very big thank you to all who sponsored and helped to support this event.

Happy birthday to Melissa Piche who celebrated a birthday Feb. 13. Celebrating on the 17th is Richard Piché of Calumet Island and Gilles Lemaire of Bryson.

Get well wishes going out to my good friend and fellow correspondent of Danford Lake, Stephanie Milford who underwent surgery. Hope you are feeling better. Hope to get seeing you soon O' Girl.

Celebrating birthdays on the 18th are Bonnie Laderoute of Alberta and Jenna Dumoulin of Bryson.

moments of irony. It was interesting to see a representative of the athletes take the athlete's oath of honour and wonder when the first drug scandal will erupt. And to see a figure-skating judge take the judges' oath - as was only fitting come to think of it.

Apparently, the Canadian Olympic Committee has set a target of 25 medals in Turin and 30 in Vancouver. Now, I'm not naive enough to think that their motto should be "It's not whether you win or lose it's how you play the game that counts." But I'm sure nobody wants to win more than the athletes themselves. In addition to training, they have availed themselves of all sorts of facilities, advisors and computer programs to help them do so. So surely it's superfluous to put that extra pressure on them. But worse, what's the subtext here? While everyone supposedly deplores the use of drugs in sports, the message comes out sounding strangely like "Do what it takes to win - just don't get caught."

Nevertheless, it was lovely and moving to see skier Jennifer Heil with her gold medal on the podium as she whispered the words along to the music of the national anthem... whether she's the first of 25 or some other number of medalists.

Quyion

Jill McBane
458-2366

If you're not dodging the deer on the highway you're dodging the pot holes. A treat for our commuters.

Early last Saturday morning, as Linda Woernke and her sister Pauline Penney were coming home from Ottawa they came upon two deer on Hwy. 148 in Luskville. As Linda swerved to miss the deer she lost control and rolled into the ditch. Fortunately for these two sister William Armitage came along to not only get them out of the van but he used his cell phone to call the police and stayed with them. For Linda and Pauline, William will always be their hero.

On Sunday the famous McTaber Muffin Breakfast was held at Quyion United Church in the basement after church. It was a huge success.

Get well wishes are sent to José Dubois and Bella Desabrais, also to Maureen Curley who had the misfortune of breaking her arm.

Beechgrove Recreation will be holding their annual Ham and bean supper Feb. 25 in conjunction with their carnival. Hopefully the weather will co-operate.

A surprise retirement party was held for Byron Barr hosted by his wife Brenda and family. He sure was surprised as he had invited some of his restaurant buddies to come over and watch the Super Bowl. When

Campbell's Bay

Iris Smith
648-5821

Get well wishes to Basil Belland who is a patient in Hospital. We hope you get well soon.

Lou and Faye Stafford attended a hockey game in Arnprior on Feb. 8. The Flying Fathers were playing hockey against "The Home Town Boys." The proceeds of the game went to the Institute for the Blind. The antics were great and the game unbelievable. Faye was the lucky winner of a gift certificate for a bouquet of flowers.

The Golden Age Club had its monthly meeting at the clubroom on Tuesday afternoon.

Plans are under way for a trip to the sugar bush, the casino and trip to see a play in April.

The Golden Age Club held its euchre game on Tuesday evening. Ladies high was won by Isabelle Lacroix, and second was an eight-way tie between Georgette Robitaille, June Burman, Paulette Lamothe, Gwen Black, Annette Lepine, Maxine Fenton, Lucy Kelly and Iris Smith. They split the prize. Men's high was a three-way tie between Laurent Chevalier, Kervyn Burman and Lewis Johnson. They split the prize. Second was won by Roger Lacroix. The

door prize was won by Roger Lacroix and the 50-50 by Kervyn Burman. Refreshments were by Lewis Johnson, Paulette Lamothe and Lucien Dumouchel.

It's nice to see Lisette Morin home after a stay in hospital. Hurry and get well soon.

Friday, Feb. 10 was The Annual Lionettes Valentine euchre. Ladies High was a tie between Lorraine Gagne and Annette Ryan. They split the prize. Second was a three-way tie between Paulette Lamothe, Janet Dumouchel and Rita McGuire. They split the prize. Men's high was a tie between Jim Stewart and Boyd Ebert. They split the prize. Second was two-way tie between Tom Weary and Adrien Dumouchel. They split the prize. The 50/50 was won by Dorcas Stewart. The boxes of groceries were won by Roxanne Shea (large box) Eileen Morin (middle size box) and Rachel Simpson (small box). The door prize was won by Georgette Piche. Everyone present received a prize following which delicious refreshments were served.

Saturday evening A Valentine's Dance was held at the R. A. Hall. The music was by The Streamers. A good time was had by all attending.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service will be held Thursday, May 4 at 7

p.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church. This is a change hoping for better weather.

A Valentine Supper was held at the Vibert Pavilion on Tuesday, Feb. 14 for the residents. At this time several birthdays will be celebrated Jacques Beauchamp, Francine Casavant, Isabelle Kluge and Janet Brow, who have celebrated birthdays in the winter months.

The euchre will be held there on Thursday evening at 7.30 p.m. Many of the residents will be looking forward to these events.

Feb. 20 is a day to celebrate birthdays as Bill Wallace, my sister-in-law Carol in New York state, and Wayne Robinson of South Mountain all share the same day. Enjoy your special day.

Anniversaries wishes go out Maurice and Laurette Dubeau, Dale and Wendy Crawford and Lorenzo and Barbara Belanger.

A group of ATVers met at the Junction on Saturday, Feb. 4 for brunch they traileed their machines to Fort Coulonge and explored the trails. Later returning to the Lions Hall for a bean supper. A poker run will be starting at the Junction on Feb. 26. All interested can take part.

Happy birthday to our councillor Bill Stewart, our neighbor G.C. Meilleur, our grandson Cory Hobbs, and Lindsay Frost.

My daughter Betty hosted a dinner party the other evening. Iona and Raymond Morris and Myra Sullivan attended. All four of these people are avid euchre players and some say "very competitive." However on this particular evening Betty and Raymond were on the receiving end of a beating that went on all evening. There was numerous "skunks" much to the joy of Myra and Iona. I would think they will be planning a rematch in the not distant future.

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My daughter, Ariene, in Ottawa tells me that my friend, Louise Tallon has moved from Ottawa to her new home in Rockland. She called recently to check on why I missed writing my column a few weeks back. She is looking forward to seeing everybody at the Sheen St. Patrick's Day dance. Remember this is the Saturday prior to St. Patrick's Day. A full house is expected so get your tickets early.

A reminder to all my friends that they can read THE EQUITY on the internet at www.theequity.ca <<http://www.theequity.ca>>. The paper has a marvelous web-site and there is even the Equity's Pontiac 2005 Travel Guide which has lots of information regarding the towns and villages in the valley, from Quyion to Fort William. I didn't notice a write up on Sheenboro so I will have to look into that for the 2006 Guide.

Byron arrived home from the farm his buddies were there to help celebrate retirement and not the Super Bowl. Byron worked at Consolidated Bathurst Mill or 38 1/2 years. Enjoy your retirement Byron.

Get well wishes to Edith Nugent who hasn't been feeling up to par lately.

Birthday wishes are sent to Marie-Eve Provost and Kelly O'Connell from the girls. Happy 50th birthday to Mona Rutledge on Feb. 20.

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Viola Stanhope, sister of Buster Draper, Shirley Young and Myrtle Overton. Congratulations to my nephew, Jordan MacDougall, who was voted M.V.P. of the Eastern Ontario Junior B Hockey League. Jordan received his trophy following the All Star game in Ottawa Saturday night at the awards banquet. He also received M.V.P. of the All Star game earlier that day. Jordan celebrated his birthday Feb. 11. Hope you had a good one. Also happy birthday to my nephew Matt MacDougall on Feb. 15.

The Heritage Old-Time Country Music Association held a get-together at the Quebec Lions Hall Sunday afternoon. A variety of musicians entertained the crowd along with some step dancers. The Lionettes served a delicious hot and cold buffet to conclude the day.

Mona and Laurie MacKechnie and Alice and Keith Curry have returned home after a week's vacation in Cuba.

Get well wishes are sent to Erna Davis who had the misfortune of falling and cracking some ribs and breaking her arm.

Refreshments were by Lewis Johnson, Paulette Lamothe and Lucien Dumouchel.

It's nice to see Lisette Morin home after a stay in hospital. Hurry and get well soon.

Friday, Feb. 10 was The Annual Lionettes Valentine euchre. Ladies High was a tie between Lorraine Gagne and Annette Ryan. They split the prize. Second was a three-way tie between Paulette Lamothe, Janet Dumouchel and Rita McGuire. They split the prize. Men's high was a tie between Jim Stewart and Boyd Ebert. They split the prize. Second was two-way tie between Tom Weary and Adrien Dumouchel. They split the prize. The 50/50 was won by Dorcas Stewart. The boxes of groceries were won by Roxanne Shea (large box) Eileen Morin (middle size box) and Rachel Simpson (small box). The door prize was won by Georgette Piche. Everyone present received a prize following which delicious refreshments were served.

Saturday evening A Valentine's Dance was held at the R. A. Hall. The music was by The Streamers. A good time was had by all attending.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service will be held Thursday, May 4 at 7

p.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church. This is a change hoping for better weather.

A Valentine Supper was held at the Vibert Pavilion on Tuesday, Feb. 14 for the residents. At this time several birthdays will be celebrated Jacques Beauchamp, Francine Casavant, Isabelle Kluge and Janet Brow, who have celebrated birthdays in the winter months.

The euchre will be held there on Thursday evening at 7.30 p.m. Many of the residents will be looking forward to these events.

Feb. 20 is a day to celebrate birthdays as Bill Wallace, my sister-in-law Carol in New York state, and Wayne Robinson of South Mountain all share the same day. Enjoy your special day.

Anniversaries wishes go out Maurice and Laurette Dubeau, Dale and Wendy Crawford and Lorenzo and Barbara Belanger.

A group of ATVers met at the Junction on Saturday, Feb. 4 for brunch they traileed their machines to Fort Coulonge and explored the trails. Later returning to the Lions Hall for a bean supper. A poker run will be starting at the Junction on Feb. 26. All interested can take part.

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Charteris

Mona Rutledge
647-6250

There was some bad news and good for Mike and Diane Foley two weeks ago. At 7:45 a.m., Jan. 29 they received word that Mike's brother-in-law, Claude Vilon, died at 4 a.m. in Hull Hospital. He had suffered a massive heart attack at home. He believed he had just pulled muscle from shoveling snow the previous day. He leaves behind his wife of 38 years Betty Foley, sons Daniel of Gatineau, Eric of Aymer and daughter Lisa of Vancouver as well as three grandchildren. We send our deepest sympathy to Mike, Dianne and family.

Then on Jan. 30 Mike and

Dianne received word that their daughter was ordered to hospital for an emergency Cesarean section. Her baby was due on Feb. 8 but her labor started early. A beautiful baby girl, Paris Lee, was delivered at 2:27 p.m. Mike and Dianne joined the nervous daddy-to-be, Tom Cochrane, Jr., along with the paternal grandmother Shannon Zuniga, at the hospital for the blessed event. Proud great-grandparents are Jenny Foley of North Brook and Art and Mary Whitton of Arnprior. Big sister Emily can't wait to play Barbies with her.

Happy birthday to Jewell Zimmerling and also a very happy Valentine's Day to you from your friends.

Arnold Manwell called me but I was at work, so when I got home I gave her a call

back. She is a friend of our family from when I was a little girl. My sister, Sandra and I used to go to birthday parties at her house in Portage du Fort.

I would like to say a big happy birthday to Arnott Horner, who will be 85 years young on Feb. 17, also to Wayne Bohart also on Feb. 17 and Donald Paul on Feb. 19.

Happy anniversary to Wesley and Karen Cartman on Feb. 17 and Frank and Yvette Lacourse on Feb. 18. Also to my cousins Idena and Dave Parent on Feb. 16.

I wish everyone a very happy Valentine's Day.

To the family of Ivan Beattie, Vernon, Wayne and families I send my sympathy to you all. Ivan was a real good friend to my husband and myself. We are going to miss him a lot.

Nelson's nephew, Baptise Nelson. A ribbon cutting ceremony by René Graveline and Terry Richard announced the R. A. Hall as the new home of the Otter Lake Golden Age Club. We wish to thank the municipality of Otter Lake. Renovations were carried out by members of the club, Ray Dubeau Michel St. Aubin, Barry Racine, Denis Lafleur, Meo Lajoie, Laurier Francoeur and Len Ahern.

For the year 2005 the Golden Age Club members donated their winnings of \$300 to the University of Ottawa Heart Institute. A 50/50 draw at the dance also netted an additional \$220 for a total of \$520.

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, the Otter Lake Golden Age Club held its weekly euchre game. Lucky winner of the 50/50 draw was Theresa Blaskie. Ladies high was won by Rita Beaudoin and second by Janet Lafleur. Mens high was won by Denis Lafleur and second by René Graveline. Delicious refreshments were provided by Laurette St. Aubin and Rosette Fleury. Happy birthday wishes during the month of February to Rita Beaudoin on the Feb. 3, Laurier Francoeur Feb. 5, Barry Racine Feb. 13, Rosette Fleury Feb. 15, Denise Dubois Feb. 23 and Rachel St. Pierre on Feb. 28.

Elizabeth Hahn spent Tuesday in Pembroke. She had a nice visit and lunch with her son Pat Hahn, Dolores and Blake. Get well wishes to his stepfather, Edgar Methew who had a light stroke on Monday, Feb. 6, he is recovering nicely.

activities. He particularly enjoyed the sliding.

Brenda, Neil, Heidi and Noah Chaput have just returned after a seven-day stay in Orlando, Florida. They stayed at the Music Resort at Disney World. Heidi and Noah had the time of their lives!

Belated birthday wishes are extended to Sally Romain, who celebrated on Feb. 9. We hope that you had a lovely day Sally!

Hello to Marlene and Earl Beattie. It was nice chatting with you and Edith and Floyd Robinson at the Waltham Station last Wednesday night.

This is Friday morning Feb. 10 and the temperature dipped to a -29 Celsius last night. They said that it was the coldest morning this year. It is good to have some real cold weather. It chases all the viruses and flu bugs.

Nancy Bechamp, Lyam Girard and Patrick Paulusse just returned from a two week vacation in Orlando. Lyam really enjoyed his time at Disney World.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Mary Catherine

"Elva" Bowers, (née Brennan), of Chapeau. Mary Catherine passed away this past week. She had taught Larry in high school and several other people from Waltham.

Birthday wishes are extended to Gail Perry, who is celebrating her birthday on Feb. 20. We hope that you have a nice day Gail!

Birthday wishes are extended to Betty Grieve, who is celebrating her birthday on Feb. 22. We hope that you have a wonderful day and Betty, your not getting older but better with age!

We spent the weekend at Mike and Jodi's in Embrun. Alex is now walking, the fun is just beginning for Mommy and Daddy. We had a great weekend playing and spoiling baby Alex.

I would like to wish Claire Lunam from THE EQUITY a happy retirement, after 40 years of service you deserve time for yourself! All the best in the years to come!

Happy birthday to Frankie Turner, hope you had a great day and we wish you many more!

Happy birthday to Heather Dickson who celebrated her birthday on Valentine's Day!

friends on the recent passing of Ivan Beattie of Shawville.

Essie Schwartz has reported that while on her mail route she saw and counted 64 deer near a logging operation and ahead up the road in a field there were 24 more. She tells me this was a very beautiful sight to watch and see them running around. She says it's very interesting what you are going to see each day.

She also told me she has three deer coming to her feeder and they are so tame that they are even looking in the window. It's very nice to watch them she says.

Calling us on the weekend was Harold Mahlitz of Kitchner. He reports they are getting much the same weather there. He is planning a vacation to this area in April or May along with his sister-in-law, Yvonne Mahlitz of Edmonton for a week to visit relatives and friends. He says he enjoys coming to this area for a change to get out of the city and to breathe in the lovely clean country air.

Winterlude started the first weekend of February. The weather conditions are better now for it since it has gotten colder. Hopefully this weather will continue for the balance of it. So much work goes into this annual event. My favorite part of winterlude is all the different designs of ice sculptures which are all so beautiful.

The annual P.S.D.A. Snowmobile Poker Run was held on Saturday, Feb. 11 with near perfect conditions. Hotel Ladysmith being one of the check points probably saw the most traffic of the season.

The community skating rink has been flooded and with the cold weather conditions should be very good.

Calling us on the weekend was our summer neighbor, Eva Grodek of Ottawa. She says she is looking forward for the time to roll around to come back up to this area and visit with all her friends again.

Otter Lake

Elizabeth Hahn
453-7326

On Saturday, Feb. 4 the Otter Lake Golden Age Club held its third annual St. Valentine's dinner and dance. A delicious roast beef dinner with all the trimmings was prepared and served by Maureen and Barry Racine with helpers Janet Lafleur and June Francoeur. A big thank you to Julie Graveline, Alain and Paula Graveline, George and Joanne Lafleur, Nicole Gauthier and Karen Lafleur for all their help in serving and cleaning up after the meal. Denis Lafleur and Laurier Francoeur greeted the patrons at the door. The hall was decorated by Pierrette Graveline, Olivette and Maudie Mason, Rosette Fleury, Len Ahern, Vern Schultz, Michel St. Aubin and Meo Lajoie. Olivette Mason collected from the members for a gift of two adorable bears "Fred and Ginger" which were presented to René and Pierrette Graveline for all their efforts in coordinating this event and others throughout the year.

The hall wouldn't have been a success without the musical talents and organization of Richard and Denise Dubois. They were joined by Mayor Terry Richard, Claudette Gravelle, Lise Dumouchel, Charlie Ethier, Brian Gauthier, Jim Hodgins and Bonnie Burgess. Ron Desabrais led the square dances. Special guest was Willie

activities. He particularly enjoyed the sliding.

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