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THE EQUITY

Bantams all the way to Hawkesbury ... page 7

Photo illustration by Dave Moore, THE EQUITY

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NEWS BRIEFS

EQUITY still tops

SHAWVILLE — Revised statistics recently released by ComBase have reinforced THE EQUITY's excellent readership numbers.

"THE EQUITY's readership numbers beat out all the competition," said publisher Heather Dickson.

The ComBase study, commissioned by the Canadian Community Newspaper Association (CCNA) measures readership of community newspapers and compares these results to the readership of daily newspapers, other media as well as radio and TV.

"The ComBase study was needed to prove to national advertisers that weekly newspapers are a better advertising alternative to urban dailies. The study has proven that more Canadians get their news from a community weekly newspaper than any other source," said Dickson.

ComBase found that 71.5 per cent of English-speaking Canadians read community newspapers compared to 55.5 per cent who read dailies.

Locally, ComBase again confirmed that THE EQUITY is more widely read than any other paper — weekly, daily or bi-weekly. The latest statistics places THE EQUITY, Pontiac's only weekly newspaper's readership at 72 per cent for all adults.

"We instinctively knew we were well read, but having the numbers from an national audit verify our readership is great," Dickson said.

"Our goal is to publish a well-written, factual newspaper, every week, that reports on our unique Pontiac community and with these excellent readership numbers we know that our paper is well received and respected."

SQ Const. Hugo Petit, left, and Sgt. Patrick Rocheleau check trucks at Davidson.

Truck check

PONTIAC — A police operation to check heavy trucks across the county concluded last week, with truckers scoring good grades.

"We verified 55 trucks for load, speed, tires ... and gave 11 warnings for a few things," said Const. Melanie Larouche of the Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec.

"We gave two tickets, one for not respecting a traffic sign and the other for not putting a flag at the end of a log."

Four officers from the Pontiac MRC SQ were joined by four from the Gatineau SQ at check-points at Davidson, Portage du Fort and Otter Lake.

The operation was sparked by an incident on the Picanoc Road Jan. 23 when a log truck flew by a driveway, nearly hitting a five-year-old girl waiting for her school bus and clipping the snowbanks and the family dog, which was not injured.

Police had received complaints from Pontiacers about speeding trucks. As well, as many as 30 logs were found by the side of Picanoc Road, indicating improper loading. Earlier last month, three logs were found a few metres apart on the shoulders of Hwy. 301 south.

What happens when the chips are down?

Rumours that mill may close causing 'anxiety amongst staff'

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

PORTAGE DU FORT — If rumours were wood chips, the Smurfit-Stone pulp mill would be running at full capacity.

Instead, a soft market coupled with problems getting chips since the PFC strike began last May has left Smurfit-Stone's Portage du Fort operation running below capacity, a situation feeding the rumour mills across Pontiac.

The rumours were addressed by the Pontiac MRC council of mayors at their Jan. 26 meeting who heard that there was "anxiety amongst staff" about the mill's future. The mayors passed a motion to have MP Robert Bertrand and MNA Charlotte L'Écuyer work towards solving the problem as soon as possible.

"We have to ask our MNA and the federal government to fast-track a solution," Warden Michael McCrank said.

The mayors also heard that in the past the private sector, through the Pontiac Forest Products Producers' Board, tried to sell wood to the mill, but the mill wouldn't reach the asking price.

"The company has to wake up and understand that the board are partners," he said.

René Kirouac, general manager of the Portage mill, told THE EQUITY the mill is currently experiencing the same problems as other pulp mills. He said he didn't know about the price problems with the PFPPB.

"Every pulp mill, including ours, is having a problem with world market competition," Kirouac said.

"We're still one of the major suppliers of photographic pulp."

...bour reportedly as low as $2/day in ... production centres in Brazil and Asia, North America's union shops, where workers get $20/hr. and up, are being challenged on the open market and experiencing difficulty competing with pulp produced at a lower cost.

"The world market is changing," Kirouac said. "In the global economy, we're competing with China like they were our next-door neighbour."

As for the chip supply, the Portage operation took a hit since the PFC saw mill strike began last May.

"We're trying to get some chips," he said. "With the PFC closing — they were one of our biggest suppliers of chips — now we have to turn elsewhere for chips."

As proof the Portage mill is trying to remain competitive, Kirouac said that it now produces environmentally friendly pulp known as EFC, or elemental chlorine free, in demand in Europe.

"We converted last year," he said.

As well, Kirouac said cost-cutting measures enacted at the mill during the last three years may help contribute to the rumours about the mill's future.

"We have an objective to cut costs," he said. "People are so used to, for many years, enjoying profitable times. People get nervous (when cutbacks are made.)"

If and when a decision is made about the mill's future, Kirouac said he won't be calling the shots.

"These strategic decisions are made by senior management," he said.

Last year, Smurfit-Stone shut down several operations, including mills in Thunder Bay and South America.

Coast Guard hung up over rough waters

Says channel near Chichester not navigable

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

PONTIAC — It was mostly clear sailing up the Ottawa River for the four-member Canadian Coast Guard crew and their passengers on a two-hour cruise of the Pontiac section of the Temiskawa Waterway. Until they hit some snags near Chichester.

In the dead of winter the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) was not out on the water but at the MRC building Wednesday, Jan. 28 to consult with the public on proposed changes to its markers in the Ottawa River. Changes include removing some buoys and day and night beacons the CCG considers no longer necessary to safely navigate this section of the river, and moving others.

On board were several local mariners, including John Brusenbauch, Sonny Germain and Gil Dupuis, who have been instrumental in marking safe channels by placing buoys and gate passes on the Pontiac section. The Pontiac section of the river was first marked for navigation in 1994-95 after the ICO stopped using the river to transport logs.

Also on hand were a couple of mayors, including Chichester's Donald Gagnon, who is president of the MRC's Temiskawa Waterway committee.

The session, not surprisingly, hit a major snag when the Chapeau to Culbute Locks section came up on the overhead screen.

At issue for the CCG is the rough, shallow waters near Chichester, on the way up to the Culbute Locks, built in 1873 to provide a passage on the north channel from Chapeau to the main channel.

"The route, as far as we're concerned, ends at Chapeau," said Ted Cater, revisions officer with the CCG. Boats bound for Pembroke and beyond are pulled out at Chapeau and put in at Desjardinvilles.

"Mariners may go there for the historical end and it's a pretty place, but it's not part of the navigable route."

As well, Cater said any boater venturing into the locks is responsible for the safety of his own craft.

"The mariner is responsible for his own weight," Cater said.

Marked

Currently, the rough channel is marked with buoys placed by the Pontiac volunteers and monitored by the CCG. The chart is dotted with marker indicators to help the navigator to a safe passage.

"There are 16 buoys in about 200 yards of water," Germain said.

"It's quite an obstacle course to get up there, but it's possible."

"It's a very, very narrow channel," Cater said.

Gagnon pointed out that the channel is well marked with buoys, but Cater said the channel is not adequately charted. He said that it has to be charted at a larger scale — 1:25,000 — by Canadian Hydrographics.

"You cannot depict aids to navigation on that chart," Cater said.

Gagnon stated a case for the importance of the channel for local tourism, pointing out that several businesses rely on boat traffic between Chapeau and the Culbute Locks.

"We're trying to promote tourism," Gagnon said. "Without markers (boaters) won't go up there."

Cater stood firm: "It's not navigable by Coast Guard definitions."

A compromise was reached, with Cater promising that the CCG will leave its buoys in the water and revisit the channel later this year.

"What we can do is make sure the buoys stay there," Cater offered.

Cater said the Locks could be managed privately, but the coast guard would not be involved.

"The coast guard does not provide service for a private user," Cater said.

Germain said the fight to keep the locks open is out of the CCG's hands.

"I think if we have to go further, we have to advance it politically," Germain said.

MP Robert Bertrand said he is in favour of opening the Lock's channel.

"I don't think we need to get that part charted," Bertrand said. "What needs to be done is get the buoys in and make sure they are in the right spot."

Bertrand also suggested that the task of marking the river with beacons and buoys should belong to the Temiskawa Waterway.

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Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

CHANNEL CHAT: Chichester Mayor Donald Gagnon, from the left, Ted Cater of the Canadian Coast Guard and mariner Gil Dupuis check the chart markers near Chichester, a section the Coast Guard says is not, by their definition, navigable. Local mariners disagree and want to promote the channel between Chapeau and the Culbute Locks.

Heather Alberti-Dickson, THE EQUITY

BONSPIEL OPENS: Community Bonspiel committee members kicked off the opening of the bonspiel on Thursday by demonstrating sweeping techniques along with showing off their new stones. From the left: Mary Allen, Rick Younge, Eason Russell, Doris Hanna, Laird Murray, Gerry Desabrais and Phyllis Wilson.

Community Bonspiel rockin'

Believed to be biggest one-rink 'spiel in the world with 288 curlers throwing new stones for 11 days

By HEATHER DICKSON
Equity Publisher

SHAWVILLE — Two hundred and eighty-eight curlers took to the ice last Thursday to begin what may be the world's largest single-rink curling bonspiel.

"We're certainly the biggest in Canada," said Community Bonspiel chairman Laird Murray.

Twelve divisions with six teams each will compete to win the coveted "Toilet Seat Trophy."

The three sheets of ice at the club provides the playing field for the 72 teams signed up for this year's event.

The competition started Thursday, Jan. 29 and will continue until Sunday, Feb. 8.

On the weekends, games start at 9 a.m. with the final draw taking place at 9 p.m. Seven games are played each Saturday and Sunday and on week nights, two games are played.

A lot of rocks

In total each team plays three games and the points from each match, as well as the wins, losses and ends won are tallied up to find a winner for each division.

The team with the most combined points wins the much coveted Toilet Seat Trophy which has "Shawville Community Bonspiel 1976" inscribed on it.

Every curler wins a prize as each team entered is asked to contribute four prizes.

The closing ceremony on Sunday evening is usually a busy event with designated team members picking up prizes.

The bonspiel has been played each year for 29 years since 1976 when club members conceived the idea of a community bonspiel to help raise money for the club.

"It's our major fundraiser. The money raised is used for general maintenance and upkeep of the club," said Murray.

"And a lot of curlers have a good time during the 11-day 'spiel."

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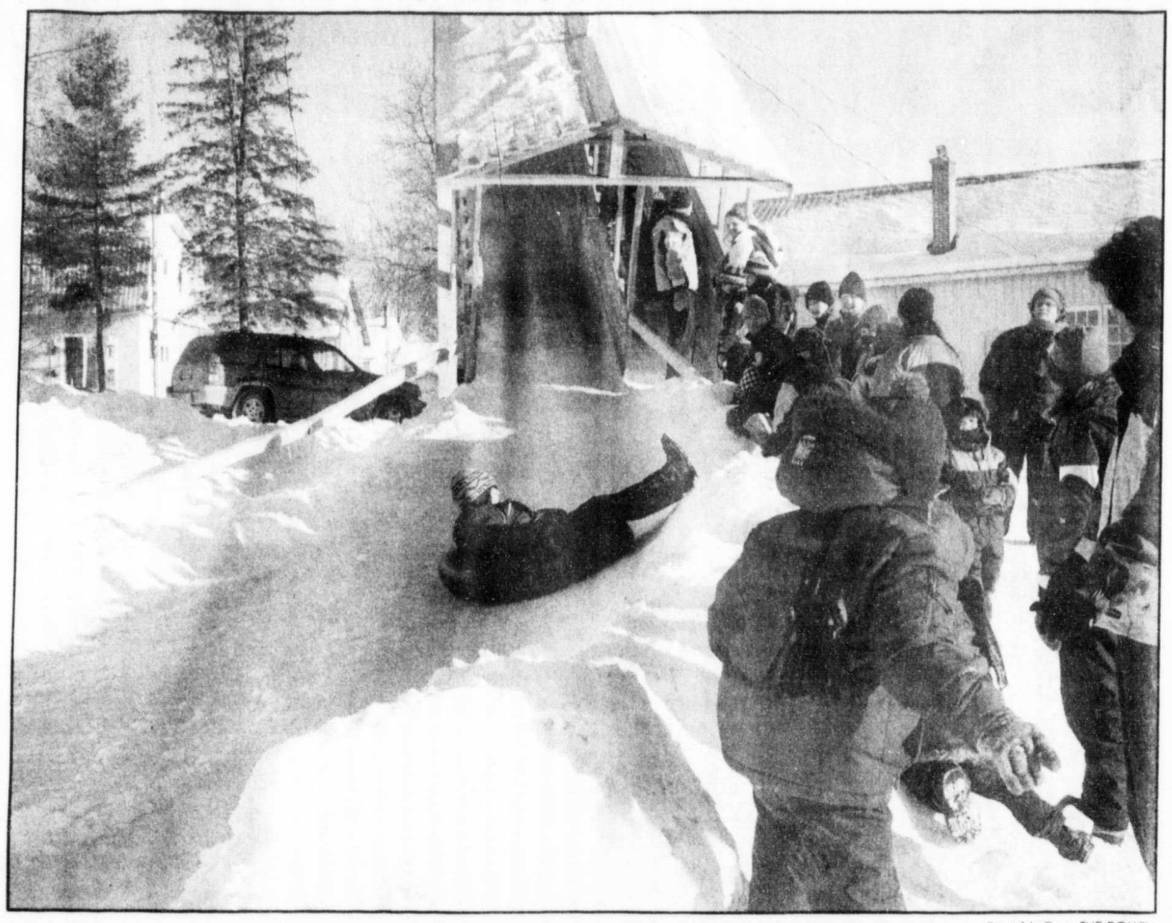

Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

SUPER SLIDING FUN: The new 30-foot-long, 30-degree tube slide at the Patro's canal (at the former ICO) was a popular attraction at the annual Defi en Patin which attracted more than 300 visitors Sunday, Jan 25."We were happy with the participation considering the weather," said Stephane Durocher, of Patro. Daniel Soucie and Dany Marion each won a pair of Ottawa Senators' tickets at the event.

Tembec mill going soft?

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

PONTIAC — To ensure the long-term viability of the forest products industry and related jobs, the MRC is taking an active role in helping one company increase its local production.

Warden Michael McCrank met with Tembec officials recently to work on a plan that would see Tembec's Davidson saw mill eliminate hardwood sawing in favour of softwood. Tembec's Mattawa mill would drop its softwood sawing and deal with hardwood only. The five-year plan would increase production capacity and jobs at both mills, officials say.

"You'd see a sizable increase in jobs," Warden Michael McCrank said.

McCrank added that the plan "would create 37 jobs" at the Davidson mill, which now employs 214.

"With this deal, Davidson would have three shifts," he said.

The Davidson mill would operate at 100 per cent capacity, while the Mattawa mill would increase to 70 per cent capacity and add 16 jobs. According to McCrank, Pontiac would export 52,000 cu. m of hardwood while importing 80,000 cu. m of softwood.

As well, McCrank said, "the Ministry (of Natural Resources) looks favourably on the deal."

However, not all the mayors at the monthly meeting Jan. 26 at the RA hall in Campbell's Bay looked favourably at the plan.

"If we send the hardwood out, would that effect the PFC mill?" said Mansfield Mayor Richard Romain. The PFC mill in Litchfield, which is currently shut down due to a lingering labour strike and impending change in ownership, is primarily a hardwood saw mill.

As well, there were concerns that operating as a softwood-only mill may make the operation more susceptible to market fluctuations and trade disputes such as the current softwood lumber impasse with the U.S.

Allumettes Island Mayor Denzil Spence questioned the ability of Pontiac's highways to handle the extra trucking.

"I don't know how our highways can handle it," Spence said.

Campbell's Bay Mayor Cletus Ferrigan was not convinced that the number of jobs cited by Tembec officials would come into being.

"Big management will not create 37 jobs," Ferrigan said. "It's a good selling point."

Ken O'Leary, sitting in the Litchfield chair for Mayor McCrank, said he needed more information before making a decision.

"(A public meeting) would certainly allow me to make a decision," O'Leary said.

"I'm not comfortable sitting here making a decision on something I don't know about."

The mayors voted to have the plan presented at a public meeting, to be set up by the CLD.

Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

NEW CHIEF: Lieu. Jacques Piché, who was a constable on the Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec detachment from January 1989 to July 1996, gained his three lieutenant's stripes recently and is now chief of the Pontiac squad. Lieu. Piché came back to the Pontiac as interim chief last June after then-chief Lieu. Yves Geoffrion moved on as director-general of the Outaouais Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

FROM THE FRONT

Coast Guard hung up over rough waters

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Bertrand said the channel is an important part of the tourist package the Pontiac MRC and Temiskawa Waterway are trying to sell.

"The Ottawa River is one of the fastest growing for recreational use anywhere," he said.

"We have to make sure that when tourists come here, they have the best service."

Long section

Before identifying the proposed changes to any markers on the Pontiac section, Cater emphasized that the proposed discontinuance of some buoys and day and night beacons take into account the safety of river navigators.

"We certainly don't want to endanger anyone's lives," Cater said.

The CCG team and the Pontiac representatives were in agreement about most of the changes, which included moving some buoys to increase visibility.

The CCG does a cyclical review every five years, but this was the first one ever for the Pontiac section.

"The whole purpose tonight is to ensure that we have a safe channel, whether for one or for a thousand" Cater said.

Fort Coulonge man, 74, missing

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

FORT COULONGE — Roland Amyotte, 74, has been reported missing since early Saturday morning.

His car was found parked near the Terry Fox Bridge on Bois-Franc Road by a passer-by.

Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec were then called to check out the abandoned vehicle, and found tracks leading down to the Coulonge River.

Amyotte was last seen at a party on Saturday night in Fort Coulonge, where he claimed to have not been feeling well.

Ice blocks

Divers were sent in from Montreal to look for his body in the river, but there was too much ice for anything to be found.

Monday morning, a helicopter tried to find visual signs of Amyotte along the river, but found nothing.

"We are still investigating," said Const. Marc Ippersiel.

As of Tuesday it was still too dangerous for divers to go back to search the river.

Bertrand in House

PONTIAC — MP Robert Bertrand of the new Pontiac riding has begun a new session in the House of Commons.

The 37th Parliament began its activities on Monday at 3 p.m. with the new Liberal government.

Bertrand has been a supporter of Paul Martin even before he became prime minister, and says he is ready to face the challenges of the upcoming election, expected in May.

At the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Quebec, Bertrand asserted the needs of his rural constituency.

Bertrand raised issues of needing a health care system that addresses the needs of a rural population, needing greater support for an agricultural sector, reducing the departure of young people from rural areas, and to renew infrastructures of small municipalities.

"The results so far have been good, but there is still a lot to be done," said Bertrand in a recent press release.

"The approach advocated by the new team will provide the necessary tools to develop the new constituency's vast potential."

February 2004 is Heart Health Month

The Municipality of Shawville wants to show it has heart by declaring February Heart Health Month. With this gesture, it demonstrates its concern for the cardiovascular health of all citizens. Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death and kills someone in Quebec on average every 27 minutes.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Québec, with the support and commitment of its volunteers, its employees and its donors, is dedicated to promoting heart health through fundraising, in support of research and prevention in the field of cerebrovascular and cardiovascular disease in Québec.

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

Moved by Sylvia Hodgins, seconded by Blake Pirie, that as Mayor and with the support of the Municipal Council of Shawville, I hereby proclaim **February Heart Month** and I encourage our councillors and the entire population to **help change the facts!**

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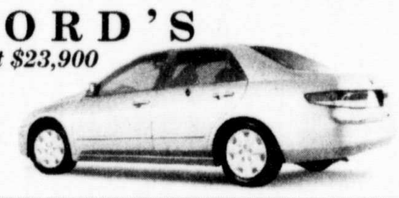

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National 4-H conference proves priceless for Shawville member

PONTIAC PRESENCE: Shawville 4-H Club member Tyler McCann, back row, centre, attended the 2003 National 4-H Conference in Toronto last November. Here, Tyler poses with other 4-H members. Front row, from the left: Amanda Doiron, P.E.I.; Hayley Migvar, B.C.; Leanne Heck, Alta.; Melissa Tattrie, N.S.; Erin McClure, Man.. Back row, from the left: Erika Kubik, N.B.; Jocelyn Hollman, Sask.; McCann; Raylene Williams, Nfld.; Kaitlin Taylor, Ont.

By TYLER MCCANN
Shawville 4-H Club

On the airplane home I could see this being a MasterCard commercial: plane ticket from Montreal to Toronto, $150; five nights accommodation, $250; tour of Toronto's attractions, $75; a chance to be a delegate at the 2003 National 4-H conference, priceless.

Fun, educational, inspiring, and amazing. Can one event be all of these things? Yes it can and the 2003 National 4-H Conference held in Toronto Nov. 4-9 was just that event.

How can a five-day conference be all of those things and so many more? Well, next year you'll just have to go. If for some reason you can't go, and the only valid reason is you are outside the age of 16-21, then I hope to give you a basic idea of how one week can be fun, educational, inspiring, and amazing.

First, everyone should know that I was not this excited before I left for Toronto. At the time it was a great excuse to not attend school. It was something that I thought I could learn something at, and maybe meet some new people.

I didn't know anyone that had gone in recent years but I figured why not. Three hundred and twenty three dollars seemed like a good deal. The price of the trip included pretty much everything. For three hundred dollars I got, a return ticket from Montreal to Toronto, five nights accommodation in a hotel, meals every day, and tours of some of Toronto's tourist highlights including the Hockey Hall of Fame, the Royal Ontario Museum and the CN tower. Though I was originally disappointed that I would only be at the ROM for one afternoon, for three hundred and twenty-three dollars I would not complain.

Some people may find it hard to believe that a conference could be fun. When you think of conference you think of boring meetings with boring people. Well the National conference was definitely not that.

To start off, there is a logo that should automatically be associated with fun — 4-H. If that doesn't mean much to you just think, 61 youth, ages 16-21, all coming from different backgrounds, all coming with lots to offer.

One thing I learned early on at the conference was that 4-H is not just livestock, project books, or rules. 4-H is people.

The people that were at this conference are what made it fun. I may have just been lucky but to be exposed to ranchers, city dwellers, and girls that lived in the mountains cut off from everything that we hold dear, but it was the variety that made it interesting.

These people were just cool. The delegates at the conference were not embarrassed to join together to help get a guy in a duct tape bikini. They were not too ashamed to get hit on by a middle age cheesy Inspector Clousseau and most of all the delegates were not afraid to make friends. I may have a hard time remembering names, but I will never forget the experiences I had with these people. By the end of the five days there was a lifetime of unforgettable moments.

Education, well most people expect to be educated at a conference, but this was a different kind of education. It gave the delegates at the National 4-H Conference a chance to view agriculture not just as farming but as an industry that involves people from high-tech research facilities all the way to low-key farmers' markets in downtown Toronto.

After touring research stations, processing plants, retail markets, and the place that gives the money to make it possible, you appreciate the industry that supports agriculture a whole lot more.

How can you not appreciate the place that takes a carcass of beef and makes it into a wonderful McDonaid's patty in less than 15 minutes?

The education at the conference was not just about agriculture and the industry it involves. It is an education about yourself. At the conference we were told how to become who we wanted to be, how we can be designers and how we should all be P.U.P.P.I's.

It is only after you learn how to change yourself that you can learn how to change people, agriculture, or the world. And you can change all of the above. The possibilities are endless, if you put everything into a project you can achieve anything. I cannot imagine how someone left any of the speakers without being changed. It may have been only a little change but it was a change. Every speaker had something different to say, but in the end it was all the same: you can do anything.

Amazing! Well, I'm sure by now everyone reading this knows I am biased. Of course I think this was an amazing conference. I have never had a more amazing time. I cannot think of anything that better suits the word. The conference was just simply amazing.

The experience that I gained at the National 4-H Conference were ones that I hope someone else from Québec will soon get to experience.

By the time this conference was over I had been given the chance to meet Rex Murphy, Agriculture Minister Lyle Vanclief and many leaders and innovators in agriculture and the agri-food industry.

I was also honoured with the opportunity to address a panel of experts and a crowd of spectators at the Royal Winter Fair. I hope that who ever attends the conference next year will be to gain the experience and knowledge I did.

Ladies Auxiliary

The Shawville Ladies Hospital Auxiliary met at the home of Margaret Willis on Jan. 13. It was a bitterly cold, windy winter's day but this didn't stop the ladies from attending their meeting. It was cold outside but how warm inside with the wood burning stove and how nice it was to look out the window and see the squirrels and birds feeding at the feeders.

The meeting opened with the reciting of the Lord's Prayer. President, Helen Towell thanked Margaret for having them in her home and welcomed all the members for attending on such a cold day.

Margaret Lang had two readings, one entitled, "Grief for the Unlived Year" and the other "People in the Nursing Homes Need Company" followed by a reading by Marjorie Smith entitled, "Friends Leave Footprints."

Margaret Willis gave the secretary's report from a previous meeting and Marjorie Smith gave the treasury report.

The meeting was adjourned by Margaret Lang and the closing prayer was by Margaret Willis followed by delicious finger foods and appetizers served by Margaret Willis and enjoyed by everyone.

New EI compassionate care benefits

By HEATHER DICKSON
Equity Publisher

PONTIAC — For those with gravely ill family members, new legislation allows them to provide personalized and support care.

The federal government has just introduced a new employment insurance benefit that allows employees with very sick relatives to time off to look after them. Beginning Jan. 4 employees with seriously ill family members can take up to six weeks off to provide basic care.

The new Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefit is designed to provide care-givers with up to six weeks of employment insurance benefits when they provide care of support to a gravely ill family member.

Qualify

Regularly employed workers will qualify for compassionate care benefits if they have accumulated at least 600 hours of work in the last 52 weeks. A medical certificate from a doctor is required for the gravely ill family member.

During the compassionate leave, EI will provide the employee with 55 per cent of their average insured earnings and the maximum EI benefit is $413 per week. (Remember that EI benefits are considered taxable income).

Debbie Smith, of Smith's Accounting Office in Shawville, who deal mainly with self-employed small businesses, municipalities and individuals, regards the new benefit plan as another chunk out of the employer's pocket.

"For the self-employed it's just another expense. The employer has to do all this work and gets nothing for it. They pay the EI benefits for their employees," said Debbie.

"The federal government should automatically be giving the same benefits to the self-employed, but instead the employer pays the benefits but can't use them."

"There needs to be a payment structure for self-employed entrepreneurs — if they pay for employee benefits they should automatically receive them too."

Another local employer contacted, but wishing to remain anonymous, considers the program to be good for employees.

"It's great for the employee with a sick family member, but in a small business it's very hard to cope without that essential person for the six-week period," said the employer.

STOLEN and RECOVERED

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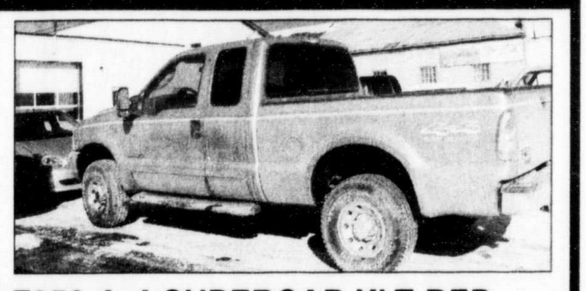

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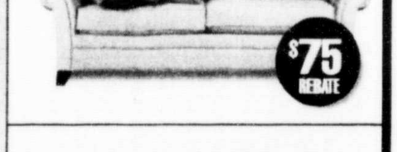

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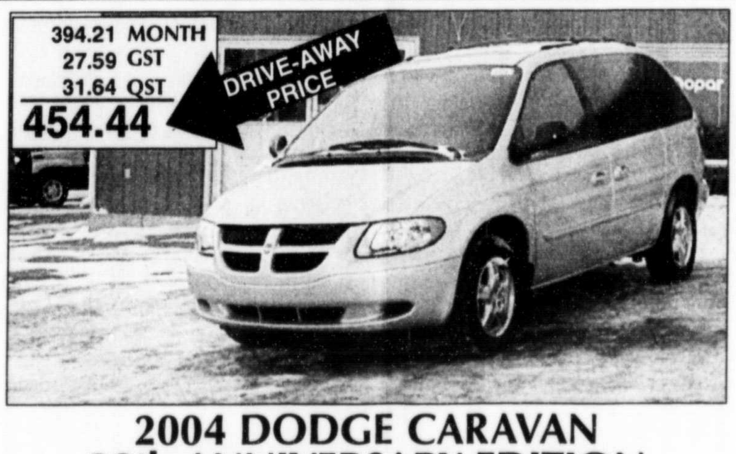

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THE EQUITY

The Voice of the Pontiac since 1883

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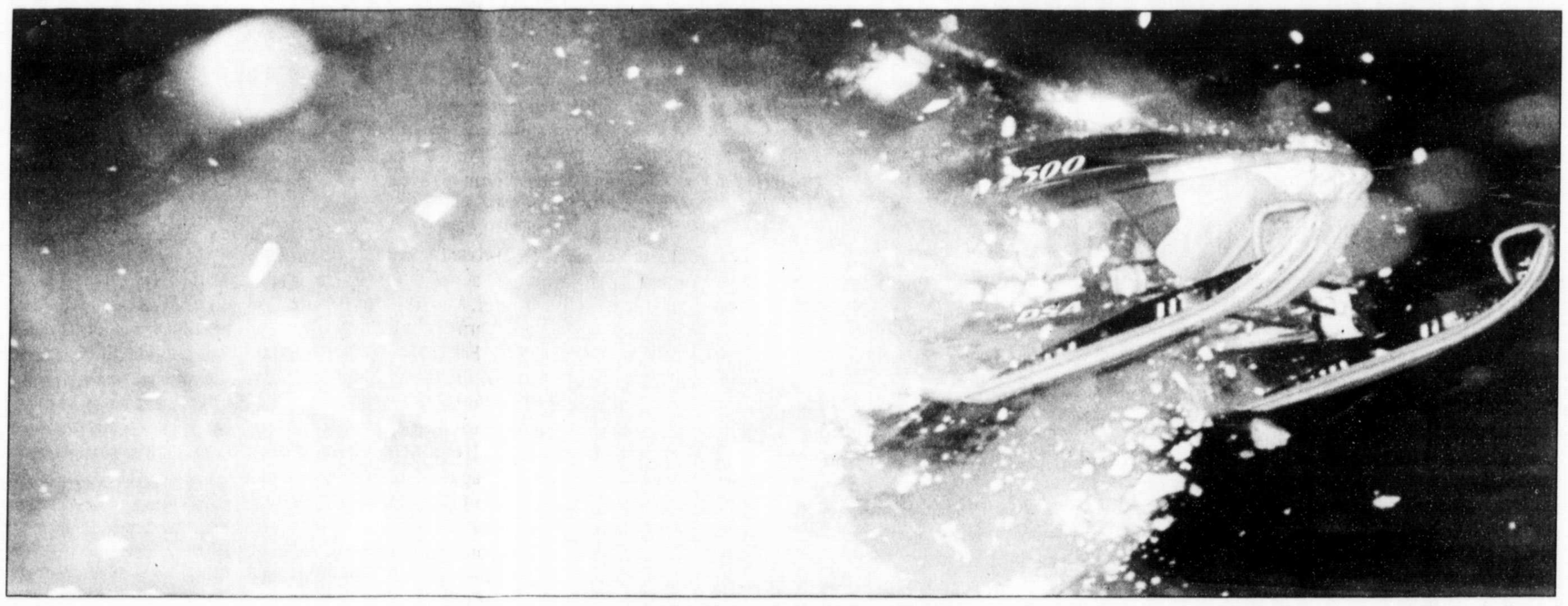

Dave Moore, THE EQUITY

Busting through

EDITORIAL

Cut the garbage

Because every MRC in the province has been mandated by the provincial government to close trench landfills — by 2008 — and to replace them with a central dumping/recycling facility, the Municipality of Pontiac began researching the possibility of converting the current municipal dump into a regional dump and make some money from other people's garbage while disposing of their own.

Whether the dump is on X Road or Y Road, in A Municipality or B Municipality, the provincial government cares not. Armed with its environmental studies, no doubt, the provincial government has deemed fewer, but larger, dumps are better than a dump around every corner. And they may be right.

The environmentalists and the like are against such a large dump for various reasons, including the dangers presented by such sites, if not now, then surely in the future when safeguards, such as a liner, begin to deteriorate, leaching toxins into the ground and eventually the water supply. And, trucking garbage hundreds, thousands of miles for "safe" storage doesn't exactly contribute to cleaner air.

While both sides have legitimate concerns, left by the side of the dialogue is the garbage itself. Some important questions remain unanswered, such as:

What should we do with the garbage we produce — and everyone produces garbage, no matter how hard we try not to — weekly? Is it fair to send your garbage to another community but stand in opposition when the prospect of another community's garbage may find refuge in your municipality?

Should we, and is it safe, bury our garbage in inhabited areas, like Antarctica? How about the moon?

Should the government abandon its plan of eliminating small municipal dumps in favour of larger, regional sites? Because the municipalities currently manage their own dumps and pay for that management with the taxpayers' dollars, shouldn't the municipalities have the final say in what happens on their turf? Why do these changes always come down from the provincial or federal governments with such urgency that you think there's a catastrophe at hand? And, why do the municipalities — taxpayers — have to foot the bill?

Should government, that applys its standards to every other aspect of our lives, apply a standard of packaging on manufacturers, thereby forcing manufacturers to package their products using the least possible amount of material? Does a football, or basketball, really need to come packaged in a "box." We've all seen many examples of excessive packaging in the stores. (Excessive packaging for excessive consumption, I guess.)

So, the consumer pays for the packaging as part of the cost of the product, and through his taxes, pays for the disposal of the garbage generated by the packaging. Just who's getting the bargain here?

Does government have the courage to confront big business, to hit big business with a disposal tax on any item contravening its standards of packaging? Of course, knowing big business, any disposal tax or fine for breaking the law will be passed back to the consumer.

Our government should be taking the lead in researching and developing safer disposal methods while at the same time encouraging/enforcing the reduction of packaging at the source. Dumping the problem of garbage and the subsequent costs onto the taxpayers is not the answer.

Paul McGee

YOUR OPINION

Geologist's view

Dear Editor,

Open letter to Mayor Campbell and councilors of Municipality of Pontiac.

Recently the proposed landfill project has been the subject of many discussions, most of which focus on a variety of details associated with the dump. In the following, I would like to present concerns of a more general nature.

I am a professional geologist residing in the Municipality of Pontiac. Although I am not particularly knowledgeable about waste management specifically, I have spent the last 30 years working on contamination resulting from marine oil spills. T

I also feel that geologists can and should contribute more often to social issues, not only because of our appreciation of nature, but also because of our special perspectives on time. As human beings, we always think in terms of weeks, months or years; even a decade is hard to visualize. Geologists never work with such short time periods; we are used and trained to think about processes occurring over time spans much longer than those of human lives.

Coming back to the proposed landfill project, I want to compliment the mayor, members of his council, and Mr. Rouleau for their proposal. I can easily imagine the time, work and effort that must have been required to adapt the present state-of-the-art in landfill technology to our particular circumstances.

Having said this, I will now explain why I cannot offer you my support.

If you look at the history of waste management, you will see that, like everything else, it evolves with time; and what is the state-of-the-art at one time soon becomes inadequate later. This was exactly the point of Marcel Lavigne's discussion of the Cook Road landfill site during last November's meeting at the Lion's Hall in Quyon.

I can relate to this personally. In the late 60s, while working on drill rigs in Ungava and the eastern Arctic, all we were required to do in order to dispose of used oil was to find a suitable depression in the ground. Bulky discarded items were bulldozed and piled on lake ice, spring thaw took care of the rest. Elsewhere, landfill sites were selected for convenience only, with no consideration to the type of substrate present. Marshes were not used for waste disposal – not because of their highly sensitive nature - but because the ground was unsuitable for heavy machinery. These activities, which would now be considered as criminal, were acceptable at the time. In the 70s, it became mandatory to cover refuse and waste disposal sites that did not comply with this rule became illegal. In the 80s, the role of leachates in subsurface and groundwater pollution became the focus of attention, and the concept of preventing their generation and migration using liners in "engineered landfill sites" became the latest answer.

It should be understood, however, that isolating wastes in cells does nothing to reduce the amount or the toxicity of persistent components such as resistant organic chemicals and heavy metals. All it does is prevent their migration in surrounding soils. From the perspective of a geologist, these lined cells or "present state-of-the-art solutions" can only be thought of as temporary storage sites, and there is no doubt in my mind that in 25, 50 or 75 years, this approach will be regarded as primitive and illegal. Eventually, toxic components will have to be extracted from these cells using some yet undeveloped technologies, if liners remain intact long enough. This is similar to the case of nuclear wastes for which no long-term solution exists despite decades of intensive research.

Household products that we rely on, and casually throw away in our everyday lives, can generate a surprisingly wide range of very toxic chemicals. The problem becomes much worst if the landfill site accepts industrial wastes. The US Superfund Program, like many such large programs, turned out to be vastly underestimated. To date, only a few hundred sites have been decontaminated and the revised cost estimate for the completion of the project is approximately $1.5 trillion.

If you think that problems arising from the above cannot be very serious or long lasting, think again. During the peak of the last glaciation 20 000 years ago, a large part of North America was under a massive, kilometers thick, ice cap that extended as far south as New York. It is difficult to imagine how, even in an ideal world, humans could live without creating pollution. It is possible to imagine, however, that in a better world, humans would strive to minimize, as much as possible, the wastes they generate. Nothing prevents us from trying to recycle all our wastes.

Many government programs presently offer support for research and development in waste management. These range from research grants to subsidies covering startup costs of small enterprises. Why not turn our present problem into an opportunity for developing innovative, long-term solutions in waste management and create local employment at the same time?

In closing, I would like to ask two simple questions:

1. Would the promoters of the proposed landfill project be as eager to continue if they were required to sign documents holding them and their descendents personally liable for all future environmental costs incurred not only during life of the project, but over the entire existence of the toxic stockpiles created? Does this sound like a ridiculous request? Well, if you think about it, this is exactly what the developer, Mayor Campbell and Municipality of Pontiac councillors are asking the residents of our municipality to do.

2. How are we going to be remembered by our children? Are we going to be judged as those who choose to burden them once again by selling off our exceptionally unpolluted environment for the sake of quick money, spent and forgotten long ago? Or, will we be remembered as those who choose to work towards providing them with a better future by developing long-term solutions?

Jean-Marie Sempels, Ph D Geology,
Municipality of Pontiac

• • •

No wood?

Dear Editor,

Wood-burning stoves are going out in many parts of the Outaouais. A firewood shortage — a result of a decade of unsustainable forestry practices in western Quebec — has left many low income residents scrounging for fuel wood to heat their homes. Cord wood prices have sky-rocketed from $70 to $100 a cord. Fuel-wood producers report depleted stocks in most of the Pontiac. Outaouais' exponential population increase and housing boom is drawing vast amounts of energy to heat over-sized homes sheltering small families. Like society's recent predilection for fuel-inefficient SUVs per capital heating efficiency has also dropped with the expansion of square footage per person per household. Rather than storing cordwood for emergencies such as power outages- homeowners are burning wood for unnecessary esthetics in modern homes with existing alternative heating sources. This leaves many low-income rural households out in the cold.

During the past eight years private woodlots were over- harvested followed the announcement of proposed government cutting restrictions in 1996 by the MRCs. Private woodlot producers panicked and commenced clear-cutting and high-grading timber in fear that imposed regulations — once implemented – would reduce the economic value of their woodlots. Large diameter sawlogs and veneer were removed first in a succession of cutting which saw St-Cecile de Masham, East Aldfield, Wolf Lake and Thorne the first municipalities to be depleted starting a decade ago.

Less valuable wood such as pulp and finally firewood was the last resource to be cut. The surplus firewood was loaded on transport trucks destined for outside the region to markets such as Toronto. The regional government realized the Pontiac — a land base primarily make up of private woodlots — could no longer sustain the regional economy and mills if unsustainable cutting on private land continued. An anticipated "fall-down effect" with massive unemployment — inevitable in a region dependent on a single industry — would be a fiscal and social burden on the regional and provincial governments. Prolonged cold since the beginning of January, and an increasingly wasteful suburban population have tipped the scales and has left many older rural households without sufficient firewood for heating.

Ian Huggett
Aylmer Quebec

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Reunion

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Harrow High 100 Year Reunion Committee, I am writing about our 100 Year Reunion. Not only will our beloved school be celebrating 100 years, but the school board has been threatening to close its doors. Help us spread the word to our far-flung former classmates.

Registration will begin around Feb. 15, so keep an eye on our website, http://www.harrowhighreunion.com, for updated information.

Until then, we need to know where you are! Please let us know your current name, name when you attended Harrow High, the years you attended, address, phone number, fax number and e-mail address for a list currently being compiled. Please add contact information for any other former students or staff you may have.

The information can be mailed to: HDHS 100, Box 928, Harrow, ON, N0R 1G0; faxed to 519-738-3326 or e-mailed to hdhs100@mnsi.net. If you would like us to mail or fax you program and registration information, let us know. Also let us know if you have any memorabilia you would be willing to loan for display.

Cecil McKenzie
Publisher/Editor, Harrow News
Harrow, ON

• • •

Trail view

Dear Editor,

There are some disturbing questions and observations to be made concerning "Trails for residents as well as tourists?" (Pontiac Journal Dec. 1, 2003 and West Quebec Post, Jan. 9, 2004).

Did Génivar Consulting have a public meeting concerning the preliminary trail routes, or was this information given during a special meeting with a specific group of people?

Although no official trail has been made yet, the path between Lattion and Terry Fox Roads has been kept open for the last 10 years or so, the brush is cleared and an increasing number of people are using it. They go for walks, cycle on it, people take their dogs for a stroll. In winter it is being used for cross-country skiing and signs have been placed against use of motorized vehicles.

"Mammoth task for councillor Bill Twolan" (Pontiac Journal, Dec. 17, 2003)? If a councillor owns several sections of the former rail line and would be affected by the bike route here, wouldn't this be a direct conflict of interest?

The Nature Conservancy's Breckenridge Creek Preserve does include a part of the previous rail bed. Did anybody ask, if a bike and foot path would be allowed? In the Nature Preserve of Mer Blue across the river, people are allowed to follow paths and boardwalks across this area. So we see, that public access (pedestrians, cyclists, no motorized vehicles obviously) and nature preserves go had in hand.

Agricultural zone? If land is all of a sudden wanted, for example, for residences, zoning can be changed very conveniently, as can be seen at the corner of Terry Fox and Hwy. 148, where over the past four years or so many houses have been built on land, that was agricultural at one time.

What about the author of the piece? It would have been interesting to have it clarified, how she was (is) part of the landowners group, who fought very hard at every chance against having a recreational trail across the old rail line.

If Génivar Consulting is still in the process of discussions with several groups of people, was it even justified to write publicly about some of the preliminary trail routes? Then the public in general should also get the opportunity to talk to the consulting firm now.

Above all, we don't need spin merchants trying to lead the public one way or the other. Just give us the facts with transparency and honesty. Our only defense against being told how and what to think, is to "remember" (editorial in the Aylmer Bulletin, Jan. 7, 2004). And we should remember the disgraceful and unfortunate event of the past 15 years concerning the old rail line. Who could ever have objected to being connected to the Trans-Canada Trail via this former rail bed, which is so very perfectly suited for a recreational trail?

Wisha Mach
Luskville

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM By KATHARINE FLETCHER

Fun things to do – plus waste management meeting

Fort Coulonge skate

It seemed downright balmy this past weekend. With temperatures in the -1C to -10C range, instead of the bone-chilling -40C with wind chill, people emerged from their homes to enjoy the sunshine and outdoors.

Three cheers for Fort Coulonge's excellent skating rink! Friends invited Eric and me to go skating on the snye, or side branch of the Ottawa River, and it was great fun. If you are a keen skater and do not know of this "rink," then head up there and try it out. It is an excellent homegrown initiative that is deserving of our support. Townspeople have also erected an immense wooden tower, which offers a truly "awesome" track descending to the frozen river. Kids had a ball zooming down it on inflated inner tubes while we skated.

Which brings me to the topic of safety. These kids all looked fine — but did you hear that this past weekend, in Ottawa, there were several tobogganing injuries? CBC Radio announced that while one woman is in critical condition with neck and back injuries, others had somewhat lesser serious injuries of broken/strained fingers, arms and ankles.

This is a timely reminder to take care of yourself while having fun, lest an afternoon with the family outdoors become sidelined by a hospital visit.

But let's not linger on cautionary tales. The weather was just too, too beautiful this past weekend to dwell upon problems. Fort Coulonge's skating course on the river is well-maintained. The ice was swept clear of snow, and our small skating party felt that the surface was in good condition. Kids in your group would probably have lots of fun tubing, too. It's well worth your support as a community place to go, and the fact that there is no admission price makes it a superb weekend fun destination. Why not check it out for yourself?

Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit
Canadian Museum of Civilization

Until April 12, we all have an opportunity to view some of the most ancient religious treasures in the world, at this museum in Gatineau (old Hull).

An exhibit called Ancient Treasures and the Dead Sea Scrolls contains 107 ancient texts as well as artefacts dating from 3,200 to 1,300 years ago. Included are segments of three of the first Dead Sea Scrolls that have ever been found: the Isaiah B Scroll (one of the oldest biblical manuscripts known), the Community Rule and the War Scroll. The Isaiah B Scroll has never been displayed in public prior to this exhibition at our Canadian museum. The scrolls and artefacts are treasures of two of the world's great religions: Judaism and Christianity, and allow us to glimpse what daily life was like, 1,000 years ago. The museum website tells us that the exhibit contains these items:

• The oldest known artefacts linked to King David and to the First Temple built by King Solomon, David's son.

• A seal impression connected to the prophet Jeremiah and the ossuary of Joseph Caiaphas, the high priest of Israel who handed Jesus over to Pontius Pilate.

• Other unique artefacts include a fifth-century menorah and two exceptional Canadian treasures on loan from the Library and Archives of Canada: a magnificent seventeenth-century Sepher Torah – a parchment scroll containing the five books of Moses - and a Latin Bible from 1479.

Whatever your spirituality or religion might be, these scrolls and other artefacts comprise an undeniably fascinating exhibit that's worthy of our attention. Particularly with the environment of religious strife we see in the world today, it is useful, I believe, to continue to try to understand and respect one another's points of view. I've not yet been to this exhibit, but intend to check it out, particularly as this is a real coup for the Canadian Museum of Civilization. That's because so far, this travelling exhibit is not going to be shown anywhere else in North America. Why not take advantage of this learning opportunity on a winter weekend?

Waste Management Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.

If you live in the Municipality of Pontiac plan to attend this meeting at the Luskville Community Centre (beside Luskville Town Hall), on Thursday.

Representatives from MRC de Collines de l'Outaouais will inform ratepayers about changes to Quebec's waste management laws. Rules and regulations affecting how our household garbage is going to be dealt with will be discussed. The province wants us all to reduce the amount of waste we generate, and to consider ways we can reuse, recover, recycle, and compost our garbage.

See you there. For more information, contact the MRC at 827-0516, extension 50.

I invite your comments

As you probably know, Municipality of Pontiac's council are deliberating over what to do with the in-trench dump north of Quyon. A handful of concerned citizens met with council last Thursday night, Jan. 29. I am delighted to report that a very thoughtful Council has decided not to approve the current proposal by LDC for a regional dump, without doing more research. (Kudos to council: good on you!) The citizens who were present are not keen on seeing their small in-trench dump expanded to a 900,000 tonne capacity site that will take the entire region's (if not other place's) garbage.

If you have ideas for Council to consider, now is the time to step forward. If you wish to send me some ideas, do so. If you wish to write to THE EQUITY, please do so.

If you are not a resident and tax-payer in the MoP, don't let this stop you from sending in your opinion. After all, your municipality will be struggling with exactly the same issues and a team approach is best.

• • •

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance writer based north of Quyon. Contact her at chesley@netcom.ca

REFLECTIONS: 121 YEARS OF NEWS

The Way We Were

COMPILED BY HEATHER ALBERTI DICKSON, PUBLISHER

25 Years Ago

January 31, 1979

First 1979 baby at PCH: Born Jan. 25 at 8:39 a.m. Karen Ann Brownlee became Pontiac Community Hospital's first baby of the new year.

Her happy parents are Betty Lou and Boyd and she joins her two brothers and twin sisters to make a lovely family of seven. Weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. she was delivered by Dr Tom O'Neill.

Heavy snow: Lyall Cameron's barn was one of the many casualties of the heavy snowfall last week.

Also Bud Elliott's new shed which contained valuable antiques was crushed by the extra weight on its roof and Ray Sheppard's building which contained vintage vehicles, and the well known dance hall in Campbell's Bay, the Top Hat, and Eric Smith's new building and Ronnie MacKechnie's barn as well as a number of cottages. Unfortunately the heavy snow is considered to be an act of God so it is not covered by insurance.

Police report: Constable Marcel Bergeron is investigating the accident which took the life of Gilbert Lemay, 34, son of Mr and Mrs Claude Lemay of Shawville on Friday afternoon. The snowmobile driven by Lemay came into collision with a car driven by Mrs Marlaine Palmer, on the west side of the Picanock Road, near the 7th line of Clarendon at about 5 p.m.

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50 Years Ago

February 4, 1954

Uranium prospectors converge on Calumet Island: Prospectors from different points in this province especially Val d'Or Noranda and Timmins have converged on Calumet Island, by plane, truck and train; during this week all stakeable property will be tied up to mining companies and private interest in this uranium discovery on this spot on the Ottawa River.

Collision on Rink (Hwy) 8: Miss Arline Kilgour was on her way home from Wakefield last week determined to put the car up for the rest of the winter because of impossible road conditions in the local area when her car was in a collision with a People's Gas Truck from Aylmer.

About two miles east of Shawville on the curve near the Norway Bay cut off, the car and truck met on the sheer ice.

MacKechnies honored: S. Wyman MacKechnie, Commander of the Order of Agricultural Merit and Mrs MacKechnie were honored last week at the Salon de l'Agriculture in Montreal.

Ice harvest at Bryson: Ice harvest at Bryson is in full swing with Ernest Dufault in charge of cutting and storage operations. Ernie has a power saw with loader and unloader attachment. He expects a better and larger harvest than last year with ice 24 inches thick.

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75 Years Ago

January 31, 1929

Local news: Local auto dealers A. D. McCredie and J. P. Wilson were in Montreal last week attending the Motor Show.

Death's harvest: Dr. John Young, eldest son of the late Mr and Mrs William Young, of Bristol Corners, died at his home in Hamilton, Illinois, on Sunday, Jan. 18 from pneumonia, following a period of ill health from other causes.

His remains, accompanied by his wife and son, arrived at McKee station on Thursday morning last, and thence taken to Norway Bay cemetery for interment.

Mrs Joseph W Brownlee, an aged and highly respected resident of this section, died at her home on Wednesday morning, Jan. 23 following an illness of almost a year.

Many friends and acquaintances will learn with regret of the death of G H (Harry) Blackwell, aged 52 years at an Ottawa Hospital, on Jan. 18 following an illness of several weeks which was born with patience and Christian fortitude.

After a lengthy and protracted illness, the death occurred on Friday night, Jan. 11 of John Argue, at the age of 76 years, one of Yarm's oldest and respected residents.

An old and respected resident of North Bristol, namely, Mrs. John Murray, formerly of Maria, Ireland, passed away on Friday, Jan. 4 at the home of her daughter, Mrs Thos W Hodgins, of Yarm.

Friends received the news of the death of the late John Workman on Dec. 22 with a great deal of regret.

Hockey: In a regular league fixture at Shawville on Friday night last, Quyon, for the third time this season, succeeded in trimming the local sextet by a margin of one goal, the score being 1 - 0.

Tommie Larmond's famous shot spelled disaster for Campbell's Bay at Coulonge on Thursday night last, in a very keenly contested game, the score at full time being 1 - 0.

Under Coulonge colors Tommie's shot seems to be more dangerous than ever, nevertheless, it was a nasty trick to pull off on his old home town.

Shawville's hope of getting into the play-offs was shattered on Monday night at Campbell's Bay, when they were defeated in overtime by 2 to 1.

• • •

100 Years Ago

February 4, 1904

Local news: A number of local horsemen were in Ottawa last week attending the annual meeting of the Central Canada trotting association

From the way things are going it looks as if the Coulonge Hockey Team will land that league trophy without much difficulty. Last Wednesday's match at Coulonge resulted in the prospective champions pulling out a score of 7 - 3 against their Quyon antagonists.

Business has not been of a very booming character for some weeks, owing to the absence of many men and teams in the woods.

Nothings seems to be known as to when the work of improving the Bryson Bridge will be taken up, and it is thought when spring comes the long neglected structure will be likely to topple into the river.

During one of the many cold snaps this winter, some children on their way from school found 12 full grown rats, lying on the road. The leader had just turned in at Mr John Dod's gate.

They had evidently started on a pilgrimage without consulting the thermometer, and were all overcome by the severe frost before they reached their destination.

Well the roads are getting broken out these last few days, mostly so on account of there being so many teams going up the "Coulonge Road" with supplies.

DONATION: Quyon president of the Canadian Cancer Society Jean McCann (left) watched while Quyon Lionettes president Kathy Young (centre) presented a cheque of $5,000 to Jocelyne Vigeant, Regional coordinator of the Canadian Cancer Society at their December meeting. The money was raised at the fourth annual Jane Mohr Memorial Golf Tournament.

Models shown for illustration purposes only. * $350 security deposit, $3,895 down payment and first monthly payment required. Cost of $0.08 per kilometre after 80,000 kilometres and other conditions apply. Dealers may lease for less. ** 0% purchase financing applies to the purchase of new in-stock 2004 Escape and Explorer for a maximum of 48 months and to the purchase of new in-stock 2004 Expedition for a maximum of 36 months. These offers apply to retail customers on approved credit from Ford Credit and may not be combined with any other offer, with the exception of the Graduate Recognition Program to which some conditions apply. Registration, insurance, purchase freight (Escape: $895; Explorer: $945; Expedition: $1,085), taxes and costs of publication at the Register of personal and movable real rights extra. Limited-time offers applicable on in-stock vehicles. Offers may be cancelled at any time without prior notice. See your Ford specialist for additional details. *** No extra charge moonroof available on 2004 Explorer and Expedition with delivery date on or before March 31, 2004. ‡ Based on Motor Vehicles Manufacturer's Association shared sales data, December 2003. ‡‡ Based on New Vehicle Registrations from R.L. Polk & Co., 1997 - YTD.

Valley Arts Council competition in March

PONTIAC — Amateur and professional artists are invited to submit entries to the Valley Arts Council's 2004 Annual Juried Art Competition and Exhibition.

The competition will feature amateur and professional sections in hanging art using one medium, three dimensional art using one medium and mixed media using two or more media.

The competition is open to residents of Renfrew and Pontiac counties. The deadline for submissions is 4 p.m., March 8 at the Valley Arts Council office at Festival Hall, 401 Isabella St., Pembroke. For more information, contact the VAC office at 613-735-2613 or e-mail vac@nrtco.net.

Rural Pact: Mayors prioritize projects of regional dimensions for the Pontiac

CAMPBELL'S BAY — Signed on March 13th, 2003 between the Pontiac MRC and the Government of Québec, the Rural Pact is a special program from the National Policy on Rurality, adopted in December 2001. With a special focus on rural communities' development and well-being, this new policy allows Rural Québec MRCs to benefit from monies dedicated to founding projects of local nature. The total envelope for Pontiac MRC represents $1,027,131.00 over 5 years (2003-2008).

On November, 26th, the Council of Mayors took a close look at the recommendations made by the Rural Committee (CLD) regarding the prioritization of the proposed projects for the Rural Pact's 1st year (2003-2004). After the presentation of the various projects and the results of the analysis of each request by the Rural Agent from the Local Development Centre (CLD Pontiac), the Mayors adopted large-scale projects of regional dimensions. The entire council showed a political will towards real sustainable development and a vision for Pontiac's future generations:

• Youth Sector: New human resources to reinforce the action and ensure the operation of the Maisons des Jeunes du Pontiac in Rapides-des-Joachims, Fort-Coulonge, Campbell's Bay, Ile-du-Grand-Calumet, and Shawville (Youth Houses). $50,000 for the 1st year;

• Community Development: Transporaction Project, in order to maximize the use of the Pontiac's existing resources in terms of adapted and public transportation networks. $80, 000 for the 1st year;

• Recreation & Sports Sector: Coordination project (human resources) to maximize the use of the Pontiac's existing resources in terms of Recreation & Sports (facilities and activities). $30,000 for the 1st year;;

• Communications & New Technologies: Participation in the Broad Band Project (Fibre optics) to link the Pontiac in 2004. $50,000 (Year 1 & 2);

• Local Culture: The MRC's realisation of a feasibility study regarding a new administrative building project with specific spaces dedicated to culture was transferred to the Rural Pact budget.

The projects that were not prioritized this year have been transferred to other financing programs or to the Local Development Centre in order to revise the file.

The Local Development Centre (CLD Pontiac) was mandated by the MRC Council of Mayors to manage the Rural Pact Program (Analysis process, recommendations, budget management and projects' implementation).

SUNDAY SCHOOL: A United Church Sunday school class in the mid-1930s.

A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR: 1938 was a banner year for high school sports in the Pontiac, as the Shawville High School team set four provincial records at the junior track and field trials at McGill University. Don McDowell set a national record for the broad jump — 16 feet, nine inches — that was not broken until 1956. Front row, left to right: Alwyn Dale, U. Campbell, Rollie Rennich, George Barker. Back row, left to right: John Howard, Ray Hobin, Don McDowell.

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SHEENBORO

Enjoying fiddle music

By MYRTLE SULLIVAN
Correspondent
689-2236

Happy birthday to my great-granddaughter Selina Perreira who celebrates her birthday on Feb. 3.

Best wishes to Denise Venasse who is recovering from an operation.

Birthday wishes to Gail McDonald who celebrates next week. I would also like to send her get well wishes as she broke her foot and will be laid up for a while.

Studio d'exercise is in full swing now with many people wanting to get fit this year.

Congratulations to the daughter of Danny Donlan, Shelley who had a baby girl Monday. This is the first great-grandchild for Helen Donlan.

Vince Agnesi's parents were visiting Lorna and Vince for a week. They are from Gaspé. Vince's dad is 98 and was still out with his wife at George's Bar enjoying the fiddle music Wednesday night. Vince's brother and sister were also up visiting this weekend.

Jackie and Lawrence Tremblay were down from Chapleau visiting Roy and Penny Perrault.

Happy birthday to my grandson Ricky Sullivan. He is the son of Jerry and Colleen Sullivan.

Clinton Hynes was up visiting his mother Myra for the weekend.

Happy birthday to my granddaughter Chantal Ouelette who celebrates on the 7th.

Get well wishes go out to Verna Picard who is not feeling well. Verna and Bobby always make everyone feel so welcome when you visit them at their camp.

Kyle Gleason is off to Dominican Republic with a group of students from Bishop Smith. Kyle will be visiting the poor and the sick in the area. Kyle is bringing a lot of medical supplies with him. Roger Perry is one of the adults accompanying him. What a wonderful undertaking for these young people. Good Luck Kyle!

Happy birthday to my grandson Ian's wife Natasha Clyde.

Congratulations to the Billy and Sandra Brennan had their sleigh ride at the homestead on Sunday. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed themselves. There were five sleighs with horses and even one from Mount St. Patrick. The music was great and the food delicious. The Chalet was packed with people and the rest was outside enjoying the sleigh rides.

There is also cross-country skiing at Billy's next Saturday.

Belated happy birthday to Joel Poirer who turned three last Friday. He is the son of Klinda and Robert Poirer.

There was a baby shower for Cindy Gagnon at Donny and Donna Gagnon's on Friday evening.

My daughter Arlene and her husband Dave were up to visit me last Monday and thanks to Dave who fixed my computer again.

There was a hockey tournament in Shady Nook last weekend and my great grandson, Nelson Morris' team won the A Division.

Happy birthday to my great-granddaughter Selina Perreira who celebrates on Feb. 3.

I had a nice visit from an old neighbour of mine Gilbert Lappierre. They used to live across the road from us and he now resides in Ottawa. He is currently building a cottage here in Sheen.

Birthday wishes also to Gail McDonald who celebrates this week and get well wishes to her too as she is laid up with a broken foot.

Best wishes to Denise Vennasse who is recovering from an operation.

Four children from St. Paul the Hermit Parish and St. Joseph's Parish will be making their Confirmation Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 7 o'clock in St. Joseph's.

I would like to wish two of my grandnephews a happy birthday they are Ari Gazeran and Keagan Nephin.

The Chapeau Winter Carnival is this weekend. We hope they have good weather and a good attendance.

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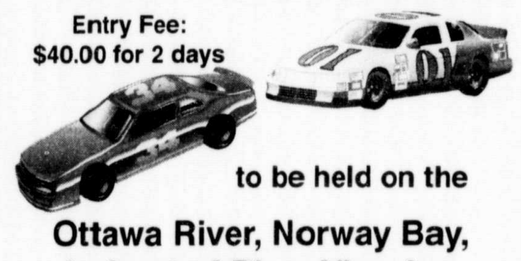

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Sunday, February 15

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February 7th - 29th

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Saturday: 9-5
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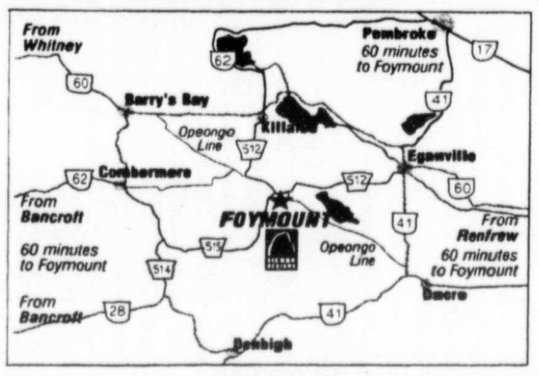

WINNING DUO: JoAnne Harrison and Streaker lead the field at the second largest rodeo at Ste. Tite, Quebec.

Rodeo girl and big horse

Do you barrel race? Well, if you do, you would know the following names, Yours n Mine (aka Cadeau) and KeeptheStreakGoing (Streaker). These two horses have been owned by JoAnne and John Harrison for the last eight years. Both riders and horses have proven to be successful over their time together. This past year was no different.

Cowboy hats off to JoAnne and Streaker for their accomplishments in 2003.

Streaker came back after a six-week injury stronger than ever at the Western Festival Ste. Tite. Located just six hours north of the Pontiac this is Canada's second largest rodeo, playing host to 250,000 people and horses in one week. JoAnne and Streaker, running last in the drag, tied the fastest time ever set in the Ste. Tite arena. Streaker just loves the crowd, lights, loud music and the pen of the Saturday night rodeo.

The success continued with a huge wrap-up at the Quebec Rodeo Finals in Ste. Agathe. Only the top ten women money earners in the Quebec Rodeo Series are invited. JoAnne and Streaker once again turned and burned some tight barrels to finish in first place (first go round), second (second go) and finally closing with a first place victory in the finals. These placings combined put JoAnne and Streaker first in the average and the 2003 Barrel Racing Winners of the Quebec Rodeo Finals.

The Harrisons are now anxiously awaiting a new "horse" arrival to the family. Cadeau, who has numerous accomplishments as well, is expecting. JoAnne and Cadeau have held the arena record since 1999 at Valleyfield.

Bantams trash No. 3 club twice in Hawkesbury Tourney

HAWKESBURY — An awesome round of games from the boys of the Pontiac Lions "CC" Bantams in Hawksbury, including beating up on a third ranked "CC" Quebec team, Lakeshore Panthers, not once, but twice, to claim top prize in Hawksbury.

With scores of 5-2, 6-1 and 3-1 against the Panthers in the round robin, the Lions took the Panthers in the second period of overtime in the final game when Sandy Dubeau's goal put the Lions over the top, 4-3.

Other goal scorers include six by Danny Hobbs and three more by Dubeau, on top of his big OT game winner.

Brodie Telford, Jeff Drisner, and Scott Danis all got two each while Lance Orr and Justin Murray got singles.

• In other "CC" news, the Peewee Lions dropped their first game of the season to Low by a 3-0 score. The Lions, short on numbers, came out flat despite call-ups. Sunday the Peewees skated a 4-all tie against Maniwaki. Jeremy Campbell, David Hobbs, Matt Hobbs, Nic Francoeur scored.

• The Bantam "B" Draveurs are 16-0-0 and show no signs of letting up. In weekend games the Draveurs burnt Low 4-0 and 8-0 with defense playing forward and forwards playing back.

It wasn't pretty for Low in either game. It was 3-0 after 40 seconds in Low Sunday and goalie Ryan Therens picked up shut outs seven and eight. In Low, Mathieu Tremblay (3), Travis Johnson (3) scored with Sam Vaillancourt and Andrew Jones netting singles.

• After putting up strong numbers at the Masson Atom "A" tourney, 4-0 and two back-to-back 5-1 games, the Pontiacs were duds against the hometown Sharks in a 2-0 loss in the final. But on a happy note, the Atom team is first in the western division after last week's win.

• The Novice "A" Pontiacs won their second game of the season, a 5-2 win at home over Hull. Brady Trudeau, Chase Meilleur, Justin McGuire and Joshua Bourgeau scored.

• The Novice "B" Draveurs hammered Aylmer 11-2 with Quinn O'Brien (6), Philippe Pearson (3) and Julie Malette (2) getting the goals.

• The Atom "B" Pontiacs stole a 4-3 win over Gatineau. Brady Trudeau, Cody Hobbs, Brett Nugent and Jack Kelly scored.

• The upwardly Bantam Pontiacs are sitting in third place after a 2-1 win over Low Saturday. Ryan Racine, Andrew McLachlin scored.

• The Peewee were relentless against Maniwaki for a 12-2 win in Shawville. Logan Greer (3), Chelsea Carson (3), Ryan Tracy (2), Matt Hickey (3), scored with Ross Coté and Derek Hickey netting singles.

Jrs eye second with two games to go

SHAWVILLE — A 6-1 win for the Pontiacs, as the Juniors blasted past the Perth Blue Wings with a four goal explosion in the last 20 minutes of Friday's night road game.

The win has the Pontiacs in a real dog fight for second place, tied with the Kings of Carleton Place at 41 points. The Pontiacs have two games left to the regular season while the Kings play one.

In the Perth game, the Pontiacs got goals from Jordan MacDougall and Erik Barber in the first two frames for a 2-1 match. Then it was Chris Byrnes, Barber again, Wayne Rumelski and MacDougall again in the third to close it out 6-1.

The Juniors need at least one win to remain in second place and secretly avoid facing Renfrew in the first round of the fast approaching playoffs. Renfrew has their number this season, the Pontiacs are 0-5-1 verses Renfrew this year and the Timberwolves sit fourth regardless of the outcome of their Perth game.

The task will not be simple. The Pontiacs are road warriors in their last two regular matches of the '03-'04 season, taking on South Ottawa and Carleton Place.

Now depending on the outcome of the last games, in one of the tightest finishes of regular season in years, the Pontiacs may be playing either Renfrew, Arnprior or Perth this Sunday night in Shawville for the start of round one. If the Pontiacs slip to third place, they will face Renfrew for sure. If the Pontiacs stay pat at second, the results of the remaining Arnprior and Perth games will come into play here.

Both those teams are locked in at last place with 24 points, but with the Arnprior Packers sporting a better record, but second last place is still up for grabs. Game time Sunday is 7 p.m. as usual.

Depending on the team, there may be a Tuesday night game in Shawville, as the Midget Tournament will be eating up the ice time next weekend.

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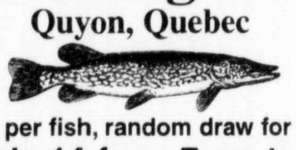

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Food served Saturday all day and Sunday to 3:00 p.m.
Supper and Awards: 5:30 Sunday at Quyon Legion
Hole drilling and minnows available
Info: Ron Trudeau 458-2439

ATV club expects lots of interest

By HEATHER DICKSON
Equity Publisher

SHAWVILLE — Bad weather last week kept ATVers away from the annual meeting of the Shawville and District Quad Club.

But Steve Gilpin, director, is not upset.

"When the spring comes and the trails officially open we will have lots of interest in this club," said Gilpin.

Trails have been established and will be marked from Shawville to Ladysmith. There is also a trail part-way to Wolf Lake and back to Shawville. Eventually the Shawville club will hook up with the Pontiac Quad Club which ties into trails in the rest of Quebec.

"Once we get hooked up with the Fort Coulonge club an ATVer will be able to go from Fort Coulonge to Maniwaki and on to Mont Laurier," said Gilpin.

"It will be just like the snowmobile trails."

Gilpin estimates that there are three times as many ATVs in the province of Quebec as snowmobiles.

"There is a lot of interest out there for ATV trails," said Gilpin.

Club directors are planning another meeting Feb. 9.

Call Steve or Kim Gilpin for more information at 647-5581. Other directors which can be contacted are Nick Matechuck 458--2354 at Gavan's or Brian Trudeau.

SOS Arena hockey tourney makes a save

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

PONTIAC — The SOS Arena committee teamed with the Fort Coulonge RA for a successful hockey tournament fundraiser at the arena Saturday, Jan. 24.

Eight local teams, organized by Randy St. Jean, competed in the tourney, with Chapeau beating the SOS Arena team to win the "A" Division and Robert Jolin's Fort Coulonge team beating Chauffage Boisvert for the "B" Division.

"This is the first year the SOS committee was involved," said Louise Longchamps, president of the SOS committee.

"Thanks to Randy St. Jean who was the organizer and the one who came to us with the idea."

In turn, St. Jean passed credit to the RA and Lionel Paré for helping make the even a success.

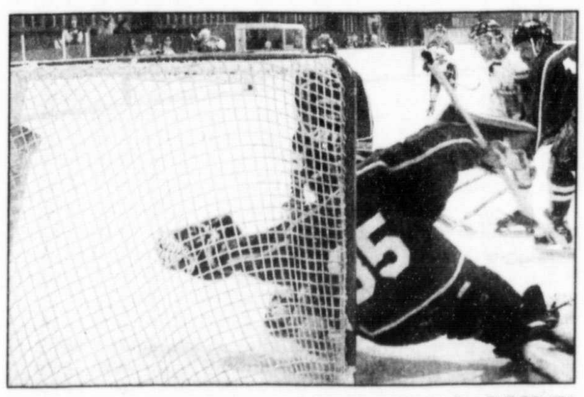
"If it wasn't for (the RA), it wouldn't take place," St. Jean said.

"(Lionel Paré) is a big part of this thing."

As well, St. Jean said the event was a success because of the support of the community.

"Thanks to the supporters," he said. "Because of them, the arena survives."

A disco dance was held upstairs after the tourney finished.



Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

SAVING THE ARENA: "Kicker" Ladouceur makes a great glove save during a game at the SOS Arena hockey tournament Saturday, Jan. 24. Kicker's team lost the game but the arena was the big winner at the fundraiser.

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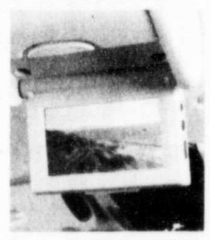

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COMING EVENTS

Thur., Feb. 5 – Aerobics Ladysmith TCRA, starting Feb. 5, Thurs. 7 - 8 p.m. Bring a friend! Call Julie for details 453-2096. 2xf4

Fri., Feb. 6 – Rummage Sale, St. Paul's Anglican Parish Hall, Shawville. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 2xf4

Every Saturday night; Bryson Lions Club Old Time Dance, round and square dancing. Music by the Brysonnaires. Bryson Lions Hall 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. $6 per person. Hot lunch served at midnight. 15m5

Feb., 7 – 5 p.m., "50+" Seniors Only, St. Valentine's Dinner and Dance, Otter Lake R. A. Hall, $12.50 per person. Sponsored by Otter Lake Golden Age Club. 2bF4

Feb. 11 – Poor Man's lunch at Odd Fellows Hall, Alfred St., Shawville. $5 each 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2xf11

Sun., Feb. 15 – Annual Bristol Winter Carnival. Events at Norway Bay rink include waiter racing, tug of war, sleigh rides and hockey skills competition. At Community Hall, euchre tournament and bean supper. Adults $6, children $3. See display ad for times. 2bF11

Wed., Feb. 18 – Annual Information Day sponsored by Pontiac County Women's Institute at Shawville United Church Hall. More information later. sxf4

Thur., Feb. 19 – Pancake Supper, Orange Hall, Centre St., Shawville 4:30 to 7 p.m. Adults $7, children $3.50. Everyone welcome. 3bf18

MISCELLANEOUS

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LOST

Female Border Collie mix (white with black spots) disappeared near Wesley Rd., Clarendon, on Jan. 24. Any info regarding her would be much appreciated. She is missed. 819-647-3574. xf4

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WANTED TO RENT

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Bristol 3 bedroom apartment., heat and hydro included. 2 references and recent written credit check required. Available Feb. 1st. Call 819-771-6117. otc

Bryson – 3 bedroom house, 648-2222. otc

FOR RENT

Campbell's Bay – 2 bedroom apartment, fridge, stove, heat 648-5158. otc

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Shawville Lions Hall. Air Conditioned/heated hall available. Contact Nelson Angus, 647-2732 anytime. otc

Shawville – Fully furnished apartment, utilities included. Will rent by week or monthly. Non-smoking male or couple. Call 819-647-3730. otc

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Bryson – 838 rue Covey. Mint condition three bedroom bungalow. Entire main level has hardwood flooring (refinished in 2003). Large kitchen renovated in 2001 with solid maple cupboards and ceramic flooring. Two full bathrooms, whirlpool tub. Basement fully finished with large recreation room and ample storage. Backyard has deck and above ground pool. New furnace and central air were installed in 2001. For appointment call 648-5624. 4xf11

Campbell's Bay – 4 bedroom house, recent renovations, close to school, 2 1/2 lots, serious calls only 648-2782. 2bf4

112 acres mixed bush with a small lake, good year round road, hydro. Nice place to build or to hunt. 10 minutes from Campbell's Bay, all for $50,000. Phone 647-5387. Lot 25A, Clarendon, Quebec, 13th Line. 2xF4

Shawville – 4 bedroom house, 2 baths, Finnigan subdivision. Priced at $2,000 below market value (819) 827-5774. xf4

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HELP WANTED

Man with skidder to cut out cedar bush. 648-2085. 2bf11

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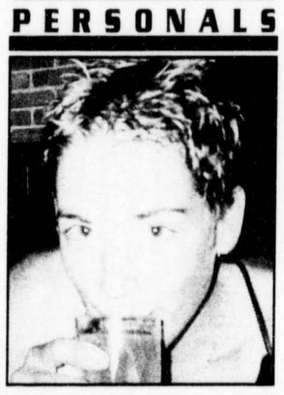

There once was a girl from Yarm,
Who knew her way around the barn
She could whale like the rest
And fight like the best
But never wanted to cause any harm.
From the age of 18 and on
She didn't go far
But around the corner to Killarney's Bar.
But now she is 25
And I can't believe she's still alive
So, I thought she should know
There is nowhere but downhill she'll go!
Happy 25th birthday Missa!
Love your best friend
P.S. Happy birthday to Wally Wallace. We didn't forget Groundhog Day Feb. 2nd

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BIRTHS

Armitage-MacNaughton
The prince has arrived!
On Jan. 30, 2004 at the Ottawa Civic Hospital, a boy, Blake Roland Armitage was born. Blake Roland Armitage weighed 6 lbs. 10 ozs. Extremely proud parents are Shaun Armitage and Shannon MacNaughton of Ottawa. Proud first-time grandparents are Mick Armitage and Mary Nelson of Ottawa and Patti Armitage and Randy Young of Richmond and Craig MacNaughton, Nicole Mondoux and Claudette and Dave Romanovitch of Cornwall. Proud great-grandparents are Dr. Roland and Karen Armitage of Dunrobin and Patricia MacNaughton and Germaine Berlinquette of Cornwall. Many excited uncles, aunts and cousins await to see little Blake Roland Armitage!

Harris-Tracey – Scott and Mary-Ellen are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Madison Patricia, born January 28, 2004, weighing 6 lbs, 15 oz. Proud grandparent are Lawrence and Grace Tracey, Lynette Harris and Denis Boucher and great-grandmother is Patricia Harris.

Judd – Big sisters Emma and April and daddy and mommy, Scott and Jennifer, happily announce the arrival of their delightful baby boy. Isaac Keith was born Saturday, January 17 in Shawville weighing 9 lbs. 15 oz. A first grandson for Charles and Elizabeth Dale and Chris and Jeannie Judd. A very special thank you to all the OBS nurses who offered quality care throughout our stay, as well as the entire O.R. staff, too numerous to mention and Dr. MacLellan for ensuring Isaac's safe arrival.

Lynn-Leach – Jennifer and Nat proudly announce the safe arrival of their beautiful dark-haired daughter Payton Nathania who conveniently arrived on her expected date Jan. 9, 2004 and weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. Another grandchild for Lilias Hewitt and the first for Pat and Lorna Leach.

DEATHS

Brousseau – Parmelio Brousseau est décédé à sa demeure à l'Ile-du-Grand-Calumet le vendredi 30 janvier 2004 à l'âge de 84 ans. Il était l'époux de Viola Dumouchel et le fils de feu Louis Brousseau et de feu Clémentine Hamelin. Il laisse dans le deuil ses enfants: Léo-Paul (Françoise Perron), Lucienne (Alfred Racine), Lucien, Réjéanne (Michel Caya), Angenette (James Patrick), Bernadette (Marcel Forest), Jean-Guy (Marilyn Kluke), Jean-Claude et Lorenzo; ses petits-enfants: Nathalie, Chantal, Bénoit, Julie, Pierre-Olivier, Sylvie, Marie-Josée et Jean-Denis; arrières petits-enfants: Jean-Michel, Jean-Daniel et Jéremie. Il laisse également une soeur Parmelia Ryan de Windsor, Ont. Un service religieux a eu lieu mercredi le 4 février 2004 à l'église Ste-Anne, Ile-du-Grand-Calumet, QC. Pour ceux qui le désire des dons à l'hôpital Communautaire du Pontiac Shawville, QC.

Rondeau, Lois Jean – Peacefully on Monday, January 26, 2004 at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington at the age of 76. Beloved wife of Randy Rondeau. Loving mother of Bruce and Keith (wife Karen). Proud grandmother of Kassidy and Tyse. Survived by brother Wilmer Hodgins. Predeceased by brother Robinson and sister Lorna. Lois will be sadly missed by her extended family and friends. The family received friends at the Oakview Funeral Home, 56 Lakeshore Road W. (one block east of Kerr St.) Oakville on Tuesday, January 27th and Wednesday, January 28th from 6 - 7 p.m. followed by a funeral service in the Oakview Chapel; at 7 p.m. (officiated by Rev. Jim Gill). In lieu of flowers, donations to the Parkinson's Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Inventors - new product ideas needed. Davison is looking for new or improved product ideas or inventions to prepare/present to corporations for licensing. Free information package. 1-800-544-3327. qf4

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THANKS

White – I would like to thank the Bryson Lionettes for the Christmas gifts they have given me the past few years. It really warms my heart to know they think of me. Thanks from Angie, Nathan and the White family

Prayer to Blessed Virgin (Never known to fail)
O most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O star of the sea help show me here you are my mother. O holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times).
Holy Mary I place this prayer in your hands (three times).
Say this prayer three consecutive days. Then must publish. Your request will be granted. MJC

MEMORIAM

Bean, Keith – In loving memory of my dad, and grandpa who passed away February 7, 2001.
Though his smile is gone forever
And his hand we cannot touch,
Still we have so many memories,
Of the one we loved so much.
These memories are our keepsakes,
With which we'll never part,
God has him in His keeping,
We have him in our hearts.
Lovingly remembered,
Shirley and Carle, Sean and Audrey, Lesley and Adam

MEMORIAM

Beaudoin – In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather, Raymond.
God took you home so suddenly
Twelve years ago today,
To us it seems like yesterday
And yet so far away.
Just when our lives were brightest,
Just when our years were best,
You were called from our world of happiness,
To God's home of eternal rest.
We miss you and will always love you,
To us you were the best,
Our grandchildren often ask about you,
We always mention your name,
They say how much they miss and love you
And wish so much you were here again.
Your memories will live with us
forever,
Until we meet again.
Love you always, Rita and family

Hearty – In memory of my husband, Ernie who passed away in hospital, Feb. 1st, 1998.
Life goes on as years pass
But precious memories will always last
No longer in our lives to share
But in our hearts you will always be there.
Lovingly remembered and sadly missed. Mary

MEMORIAM

Kehoe, Leslie – In loving memory of a dear husband, Dad and grandfather, who passed away February 6, 2000.
Nothing can ever take away,
The love a heart holds dear,
Fond memories linger every day,
Remembrance keeps him near.
Always remembered, Rita, Donald, Terry and Sheila, grandchildren Jessica and Craig

Rainville – In memory of our dear husband and father, Renaud, who died Jan. 31, 1993.
Loving and kind in all his ways,
Upright and just to the end of his days,
Sincere and kind in heart and mind,
What a beautiful memory he left behind.
Rita, Pat, Joyce, Claudette and Sue

Richardson – Claude Jhon
In loving memory of a dear father and grandpa.
Our hearts are full of memories
We cherish them with care
The way you had to leave us
Will always seem unfair.
One thing we have to tell you
Of which there is no doubt
You will always be loved and remembered
But so hard to live without.
Missing you.
Maureen, Corey, Krystal, Courtney

CAMPBELL'S BAY

Week of prayer

By IRIS SMITH
Correspondent
648-5821

The euchre was held at the Golden Age Club with a good crowd in attendance. Ladies high was a tie between June Burman and Lorraine Gagné. They split the prize, second was a multiple tie between Isabelle Lacroix, Ella Romain, Georgette Robitaille, Gwen Black, Dora Hearty and Iris Smith. They split the prize. Men's high was won by Mervin Smith, second was son by Boyd Ebert. The door prize was won by Veronica Perrier. The 50/50 was won by Lorraine Gagne. Refreshments were by Anna Brown and Dorcas Sparling.

The week of prayer was celebrated in Campbell's' Bay by having a Bible study at St. John The Evangelist Church on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. with members of all churches attending. On Thursday evening the service was at the church of Faith, Praise and Prayer at 7 p.m. with a good crowd attending. The guest speaker was from the United Church, Angus MacDonald. Following the service refreshments were served and everyone enjoyed the fellowship.

Diane Wilson of Ottawa visited with her mother May Wilson.

Get well wishes to Isobel Ebert who is in hospital. she now has a pacemaker and we wish her well as she adjusts to a new way of life.

Tuesday evening was the euchre at the Golden Age Club. It was well attended. Ladies high was won by Lorraine Gagné, second was won by June Burman. Men's high was a tie between Richard Hearty and Laurent Chevalier, second was son by Gordon Porter. The door prize waswon by Gordon Porter and the 50/50 by Lorraine Gagné. Refreshments were by Gwen Black and Maxine Fenton. The free game of the month was won by Lucy Kelly.

Our great-granddaughter Brianne Geerstma of Mountain celebrated her 9th birthday on Feb. 2 Groundhog Day.

Stacey and Wayne Robinson, Brittany and Jonathan of South Mountain visited with us on Sunday. They had just returned from Cancun. The weather was very warm. We were babysitting her two Shelties. So we only have one dog as of this evening.

Birthday wishes to Suzanne Pilon, Donna Dagenais, Tyler Morin, Doreen Payette Sullivan, Alice Ryan and Brenda Derouin all celebrating this week.

Anniversary wishes to Charles and Maureen Moore who celebrated their anniversary this past week.

BRYSON

Church was filled

By ANNA STEWART
Correspondent
648-2351

Winners of the Jan. 19 euchre were 50/50 Perry Kluke, door prize Phyllis Smith, men's first Gordon Porter and Jim Stewart, men's second Napoleon Bleau, Ivan Saunders, Perry Kluke and Clifford Robitaille, ladies first Veronica Perrier, Joan Sicard, Paulette Dumouchel, Georgette Robitaille and Phyllis Smith, ladies second Arlene Saunders, Bella Lasalles and Sylvia Storey. Euchre every Monday evening in the Golden Age Building at 8 p.m. Light lunch served after games.

What a beautiful day. One can sense Spring in the air, even if Willie saw his shadow today. With the price of oil I'm sure everyone will be happy to see winter coming to an end.

On Saturday afternoon Phyllis and Elwyn Kealey of Calumet Island hosted the Benoit family meal, which we have a couple of times a year. This time it was a potluck. Helen and Pat Wallace and Mary and Bert Forest of Ottawa, Jim and myself, Ryan and Gisele Benoit, Keith and Rita Benoit, Richard and Moniques Wallace. Everyone had a lovely time especially when we all would go right and then left. Thanks Phyllis and Elwyn for the lovely time.

Happy 64th birthday to Melvin Stewart of Matagami and a very happy 91st birthday to Aunt Emelia Benoit. Hope you have many more.

Our sympathy to the Brousseau family of Calumet on the death of a father and husband Parmelio.

A special meeting was held in the Immaculate Conception Church on Wednesday evening concerning the changes that will take place in the future. Another one will be held Wednesday evening in the parish hall. Everyone welcome.

Greetings to Liz Bastien who is still in the hospital. Hope you will soon be home.

We attended the ecumenical worship at the Faith, Praise and Prayer Church in Campbell's Bay with Sharon Rivest, Father Basil tanguay, Rev. MacDonald and Pastor John Foley. Father John Stopa of the Anglican Parish was unable to attend due to sickness. It was very nice. The church was filled. A light lunch was served after. Pastor Sharon Rivest sang a few verses of Amazing Grace. She has a lovely voice.

Winners of the Golden Age euchre were 50/50 Laurent Chevalier, door prize Joan Sicard, men's first Lucien Dumouchel, men's second Laurent Chevalier, Louis Johnston and Ivan Saunders, ladies first Georgette Piche, ladies second Anna Porter, Georgette Robitaille and Emma Lepine. Have a safe and healthy week.

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CHAUD CHANSONS MAIS FROID: Allison Wanamaker de Fort Coulonge a chanté avec l'équipement Karaoke chez le Patro Défi en Patin dimanche le 25 janvier.

Des pêcheurs en herbe sur glace

Le Patro de Fort-Coulonge/Mansfield et la Fondation de la faune du Québec initient des jeunes à la pêche blanche

MANSFIELD — Le Patro de Fort-Coulonge/Mansfield accueillera mardi le 2 mars durant la semaine de relâche au Patro 209 Chemin de la Passe à Mansfield soixante jeunes filles et garçons âgés entre 9-12 ans pour une journée d'initiation à la pêche blanche dans le cadre d'une activité spéciale organisée avec la collaboration de la Fondation de la faune du Québec.

La fondation de la faune fournira une aide financière afin de fournir des brimbales pour l'organisation de cette activité de pêche pour les jeunes par le biais de son programme Pêche en herbe. Notons que l'activité offerte par le Patro Fort-Coulonge/Mansfield a été sélectionnée parmi les projets offrant le meilleur encadrement et les meilleures activités de formation auprès des jeunes adeptes de la pêche. Avec l'autorisation de la Société de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec, chaque jeune pêcheur recevra un certificat de Pêche en herbe qui lui tiendra lieu de permis de pêche jusqu'à ce qu'il atteigne 18 ans.

C'est ainsi que la Fondation de la faune compte rejoindre près de 1500 jeunes Québécois par l'entremise des organismes locaux qui, par leur projet de pêche blanche, prennent en charge la formation et l'animation. C'est une formule souple et efficace qui permet de varier l'activité et de l'offrir tant en hiver qu'en été à un plus grand nombre de jeunes.

La pêche blanche qui met à contribution les organismes locaux, nous permettra de rejoindre les jeunes durant la période d'hiver. Le programme de Pêche en herbe a permis d'initier à ce jour plus de 50 000 jeunes et nous visons 62 000 jeunes d'ici la fin de 2004. Nous comptons sur la collaboration de nos partenaires du milieu pour tendre vers nos objectifs de recrutement de nouveaux adeptes à la pratique de la pêche. Je remercie le Patro de Fort-Coulonge/Mansfield pour l'initiative qui a été prise pour faire découvrir à nos jeunes la grande nature du Québec et les plaisirs de la pêche en hiver, conclut Monsieur Bernard Beaudin, président directeur-général de la Fondation de la faune du Québec.

Février 2004 est le mois du coeur

La municipalité de Shawville affiche son coeur! Par ce geste elle démontre sa préoccupation pour la santé cardiovasculaire de ses concitoyens. Toujours première cause de décès, les maladies du coeur tuent une personne toute les 27 minutes au Québec.

La Fondation des maladies du coeur du Québec, forte de l'engagement de ses bénévoles, de ses employés et de ses donateurs, a pour mission de promouvoir la santé du coeur en recueillant des fonds afin d'appuyer la recherche et la prévention des maladies cardiovasculaires et des accidents vasculaires cérébraux au Québec.

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

Proposé par Sylvia Hodgins, appuyé par Blake Pirie, qu'en ma qualité de Maire et appuyé par les membres du Conseil municipal de SHAWVILLE, je proclame **Février, mois du coeur** et j'encourage les conseillers et toute la population **à Afficher son coeur!** Adopté à l'unanimité.

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Salary according to experience and schooling. Only those considered for interview will be contacted. Send your resume **before February 19, 2004**. SELECTION COMMITTEE, Picabou C.C.C., 166 Front Street, P.O. Box 607, Campbell's Bay, QC J0X 1K0. Tel.: (819) 648-5545. Fax: (819) 648-5277. E-mail: picabou@qouest.net

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MUNICIPALITÉ DE PONTIAC
OFFRE D'EMPLOI / JOB OFFER

POSTE
Inspecteur municipal (travaux publics)
TYPE DE POSTE
Permanent, temps plein
RESPONSABILITÉS
Assurer à la municipalité et à ses citoyens toute l'expertise nécessaire pour garantir une saine gestion de l'ensemble de son réseau routier et de ses infrastructures physiques (bâtiments, équipements, parcs, etc.).
Pour réaliser pleinement sa mission, l'inspecteur municipal est responsable de la gestion (planification, organisation, direction et contrôle) des ressources humaines, matérielles et financières mises à sa disposition. (Le budget du département est de l'ordre de 1 250 000,00$.)
EXIGENCES
- Expérience et/ou scolarité en administration, planification, organisation et contrôle des ressources humaines, matérielles et financiers reliés au domaine municipal ou connexe ;
- Connaissance des logiciels reliés à ses responsabilités (Microsoft Office princi-palement Word et Excel) et des logiciels spécialisés du domaine municipal serait un atout;
- Sens de la communication, tact, travail méthodique et organisé;
- Connaissance des divers aspects du travail en milieu municipal ou connexe;
- Connaissance de la mécanique des véhicules lourds serait un atout;
- Permis de conduire valide;
- Certificat médical demandé si votre candidature est retenue ;
- Bilinguisme obligatoire.

COMMENTAIRES
La Municipalité de Pontiac remercie tous les candidats de leur intérêt pour le poste et ne communiquera qu'avec les candidats retenus.
CONDITIONS SALARIALES
Le salaire sera déterminé selon les qualifications et l'expérience.
Faites parvenir un curriculum vitae et un état de votre expérience pertinente le ou avant le 16 février 2004 à 16h00 à l'adresse suivante :

POSITION
Municipal Inspector (public works)
TYPE OF POSITION
Permanent, full-time
RESPONSIBILITIES
Ensure the expertise needed to guarantee the sound management of the municipal road network and facilities (buildings, equipment, parks, etc.).
To fully accomplish his/her tasks, the municipal inspector is responsible for the management (planning, organizing, managing and controlling) of human, material and financial resources at his/her disposal. (The departmental budget is approximately $1,250,000.00).

REQUIREMENTS
- Experience and/or education in administra-tion, planning, organizing and control of human, material and financial resources related to the municipal field, or related ;
- Knowledge of software related to his/her responsibilities (Microsoft Office mainly Word and Excel) and of specialized software in the municipal domain would be an asset;
- Sense of communication, tact, methodical and organized work;
- Knowledge of the various work aspects in the municipal field, or related;
- Knowledge of heavy equipment would be an asset;
- A valid driver's licence;
- A medical certificate is required upon selection;
- Bilingualism is compulsory.

COMMENTS
The Municipality of Pontiac would like to thank everyone for their interest in this position and will contact only those whose candidacy is being considered for the position.
SALARY
The salary will be determined according to qualifications and experience.
Send your résumé and a statement of your relevant experience on or before February 16, 2004, 4:00 p.m. at the following address:

Municipalité de Pontiac / Municipality of Pontiac
2024, Route 148, Pontiac, QC J0X 2G0
POSTE D'INSPECTEUR MUNICIPAL / MUNICIPAL INSPECTOR POSITION
Attention : Mr. Sylvain Bertrand
Sylvain Bertrand, Secrétaire-trésorier / Secretary treasurer

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- Conseiller les entrepreneurs;
- Assurer le suivi des clients;
- Présenter les dossiers au comité d'investissement;
- Promouvoir les produits et services de l'organisme.

PROFIL :
- Personne dynamique et autonome;
- Aptitude à prendre des décisions;
- Capacité à résoudre des problèmes;
- Esprit d'initiative, sens de l'organisation;
- Compétences dans les deux langues officielles;
- Esprit de synthèse développé.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Bacc. en administration des affaires ou équivalence;
- Avoir acquis de l'expérience pertinente;
- Bien maîtriser les principaux logiciels Word et Excel;
- Facilité à établir de bonnes relations interpersonnelles.

SALAIRE
Contrat d'une durée de 16 mois, rémunération en fonction des qualifications.
Les personnes intéressées doivent faire parvenir leur curriculum vitae aux bureaux de la
SADC Pontiac CFDC
a/s Comité de sélection
1409, Route 148
Campbell's Bay, Qc, J0X 1K0
Courriel : sadc@commercepontiac.ca
au plus tard le 13 février 2004, 16h.
Les candidatures seront traitées confidentiellement et dans le respect de l'équité en matière d'emploi. Seules les personnes retenues pour une entrevue seront contactées.
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CALDWELL

What tricks they play

By HERMONIE SHARPE
Correspondent
647-3459

You Snowbirds in the sunny south are sure missing a lot of activity at your home in Canada. Just ask your plumbers who are run ragged with their blow torches to thaw out water lines and the oil lines into furnaces or oil stoves frozen up as well, specially if the tank is outside. How cold was it? Well, as one man put it "even the lawyers put their hands into their pockets instead of into yours." Pretty cold!

This is one year we feel the ones who went south sure knew what they were doing. The weather has been bitterly cold dropping below the -30 degree celsius mark. Crisp cold sometimes quite blustery. It's getting around and before long we'll be getting the seed catalogues out. Hope all our friends in the south and out west are enjoying the winter and keeping well.

Belated anniversary greetings go out to Bill and Nellie Jette who celebrated their 34th on Jan. 24. May you enjoy many more.

Birthday congratulations go out to my grandson, Corey Sharpe who celebrated on Jan. 30 and Elaine Madaire of Oliver, BC on the 31st and to John Brusenbauch of Bryson who celebrates on Feb. 5. May you all enjoy many more.

What a surprise this past Monday night when my son Donald of Marathon came in the back door. He was just talking to me before hand and I thought it was from his home. When the door opened, he said, "okay you can hang up as I was talking to you on the cell phone." What tricks they play. But, it was a very welcome trick. He will be visiting with us for a while and then off to Embrun to spend some time with daughter Stephanie before returning back to his home in Marathon.

I was so shocked to hear of the death of Brent Acres of Beachburg who passed away so suddenly Sunday, Jan. 25 at his home. He was the loving companion of Janet Hamilton and was predeceased by his wife Heather MacDonald in January 2000. Funeral services were held from the W. J. Hayes Funeral Home on Wednesday, Jan. 28. Interment Maple Grove Cemetery.

Another one of the older residents of Norway Bay has passed away. Isobel Jeffrey passed away on Jan. 26 at Colonel By retirement residents in Ottawa in her 89th year. Predeceased by her husbands Dr. Fred Jeffrey, Keith Playfair and Howard Walker. To her family and friends we send our deepest sympathy.

Sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Edgar Campbell Dods of Bristol who passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 27. Devoted husband and best friend of Isobel Nina Corrigan for 57 years. Funeral services were held from St. Andrew's Knox United Church on Friday, Jan. 30. Interment Norway Bay Cemetery.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner so the Thursday night euchre card players are planning a potluck supper with all the usual trimmings on Thursday night Feb. 12. Keep this date open and we wills ee you there.

Deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friend sof Rev. Walter A. Smith of North Bay, formerly of Shawville who passed away on Jan. 29 aged 83 years. Beloved son of the late Benjamin and Margaret (Presley) Smith of Shawville and loving husband of the late Phyllis (Hudson). Dear brother of Dorothy Deeks of Ottawa and Margaret Smith of Shawville. He will be sadly missed by his many nieces and cousins throughout the Pontiac and Ottawa area. He was a first cousin of the writer. Funeral services were held in the West Chapel of Playfair and McGarry in Ottawa on Monday, Feb. 2. Interment in Maple Grove Cemetery, Shawville.

Visiting with us on Sunday were Neil and Margaret Sharpe of Shawville.

SHAWVILLE

Cattle prices nothing to brag about

By RON HODGINS
Correspondent
647-6001

Did you all get your new Tele-Pontiac phone book recently in the mail? Like many of you, the first thing I did was look to see if my phone number was there. Guess what? It's not! Now, I have had a new phone number for a year now so where is my number? After looking a little closer they have also taken out my parents' number that has been in the book over 40 years. My uncle who died this past year still has his number in. So what's going on?

The weather certainly hasn't been too warm this past week. Many people that I've talked to all have the same problem, their water source for the cattle keeps freezing up. Let's hope that the February sun will warm thing up and that the worst is past us.

The Shawville Curling Bonspiel started this past Thursday and all weekend the club was full of players and on-lookers. I had the pleasure of joining the team of Kerry and Bev Sharpe and Mary Allen this year. We played our first game last Saturday against the stacked, Municipal Shawville team. Albert Armstrong, Royce Richardson, Jim Hodgins and Mike Tubman, all seasoned veterans, beat us nine to four. I think that they all went to church first because they never missed a shot. Congrats on a job well done! When you get in this division there is no room for error, so let's hope that we do a better job on our second game.

Congratulations to Cindy Stafford and Dan Côté who are expecting their first child. Let's hope that the baby takes after Cindy and not like Dan. At least he or she will have some hair. Ha ha!

Cattle prices at Galetta last week sure were nothing to brag about. Hereford steers weighing about 600 lbs. were 45 to 50 cents and heifers were even lower. When will things ever get back to normal?

Happy birthday to Colleen (Belsher) Corrigan who celebrated her big 40th this past week. Colleen is one of the first of the 1981 grad class from PPHS to turn this milestone. I'm glad to know that you are now much older than I am. We should all have a big 40th birthday party sometime this year and celebrate.

I see that the new Shawville Library windows were unveiled this past week. They are small cluster windows formed together to make one big window. The group of construction workers seem to be working on the front and inside of the building. Many of us are patiently waiting for the job to get finished so that we can all get a look.

Happy birthday to Jeff Tanner who turns another year older on the 7th. He has a full week of birthday celebrations but would enjoy a call from anyone who knows him. If you know Jeff you should give him a call and wish him well.

Hey Jill, I just came back from a short winter vacation in Montreal and Quebec City. There is always lots to see when you go away and we certainly did that. The rolling hills and the beautiful countryside on the way to Clermont was breathtaking. We saw lots of cattle, deer, bison and pigs, in the slaughter houses we visited, hanging around quietly. We also met many wonderful people that gave us many ideas to come home with.

WALTHAM

Doing fine in Florida

By HELEN PERRY
Correspondent
689-2652

On Tuesday, Jan. 27 the Golden Peak held its monthly dinner. Seniors braved the cold, to enjoy a tasty roast pork dinner tea and coffee and apple crisp for dessert.

I am recovering from gallbladder surgery which I had recently. I want to thank Dr. Potvin at the Shawville Hospital for his excellent surgical skills and the nurses in the OR and on the floor and the staff for the great care that I received. I am recuperating quite well, and staying nice and warm in the house.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Chantal Clouthier Pharand and Melanie Clouthier Pilon, of Aylmer on the recent passing of their grandmother Helen Clouthier née Hill of Pembroke. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families at this sad time.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Angele Hudon, of Gatineau in the recent passing of her beloved husband Marius. They had just moved from Waltham to Gatineau during the past year. Our thoughts and prayers are with Angele and her family at this sad time.

I was saddened to hear that Rev. Walter Smith, of North Bay passed away this past week. He was the Wesleyan Church pastor here in Waltham, in the 1950s. He was 83. His funeral took place in North Bay this past Monday, Feb. 2. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

I received a lovely get well card and note from Margaret and Andre Pilon, who are spending the winter months in Lakeland, Florida. It was nice to hear from them. They are doing just fine.

On Saturday, Jan. 31 Larry, Mark and Ray Bechamp arose very early, drove down to Embrun, to help Jodi and Mike with their big move into their new home. Congratulations and all the best in your beautiful home!

Audrey and Pierre and Morgan Valiere were weekend visitors at Audrey's parents Lysanne and Ted Bechamp's.

Melanie and Michel and Evan and Ryan Pilon were weekend visitors at Michel's parents Nicole and Jean Pilon's.

LADYSMITH

Wild boar reported

By DEBBIE LANCE THRUN
Correspondent
647-3927

Well, I guess our next big occasion coming up is Valentine's Day on Feb. 14. I've noticed the stores have their decorations and assortment of hearts, plus everything else to make Valentine's Day extra special.

The winter sports enthusiasts must be happy now with the snow. The snowmobile trails are reported to be quite good with a good number of machines around. The community skating rink is in excellent condition and is being enjoyed by skaters and hockey players. A lot of volunteer effort has gone into the rink. There is also now a place to get warmed up and for changing.

Margaret Fieroben had a lovely phone conversation with Wendy Early of Edmonton recently Wendy was telling Margaret that the temperature out there was three degrees above celsius. Margaret told her what kind of temperatures we were getting here and for her to send those warm temperatures this way. Wendy is a daughter of Grace and Dave Early of Cawood. She receives THE EQUITY out there. She enjoys reading up on the news back home because she doesn't get to come home very often.

Belated birthday greetings to Ernest Bretzlaff who celebrated Jan. 25.

The deer are really coming to the feeders now with the increase of snow. I've been told that they wander up and down the street in Ladysmith visiting different places.

Well, it's hard to believe but here we are into February already. One nice thing about it all, the days are starting to get longer and the sun warmer. So, that's one good sign. February and March can be very surprising months though, with snowstorms and even cold temperatures.

Birthday greetings to Donna Elliott of Shawville who celebrates Feb. 6.

On Friday I had a lovely phone conversation with my good friend Lila Dale. She recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Her family held an open house at her home to celebrate her special day. She received many beautiful gifts. A lovely lunch was served including birthday cake. She tells me it was a most enjoyable day for her and certainly a birthday to always remember.

Visiting with us on Wednesday were Jean and Garnet Martineau of Shawville and Thursday were Angie and Steve Venture of Johnston's Lake.

This past Wednesday I had a lovely visit with Shannon Lasalle of Otter Lake.

It has been reported that there is a wild boar on the loose around the Johnstons' Lake area. They tell that it's much bigger than a bear and is very fierce looking.

There have also been sightings of a bear cub around the area. This is very unusual. The little fellow should be long ago denned up and sleeping.

While chatting with Harold Mahlitz of Kitchner on the weekend he says they had a lot of snow lately. Apparently more than we have here. He reports that he has to blow his driveway almost daily.

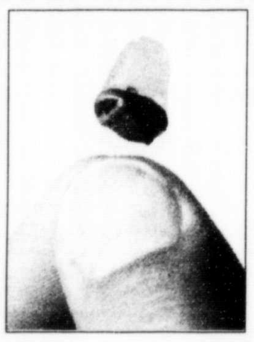
As I write this it's Saturday and the temperature is a lot milder with cheerful sunshine. We noticed a lot of snowmobilers enjoying the trails. Even the stores were busy. It seemed everyone was out enjoying the great change in weather.

While shopping this past week I had a great chat with neighbour Yvette Pasch and Edna Carruthers of Shawville.

Up for the weekend at Grey's Lake were the Lacelles and Bucks of Ottawa.

Get well wishes to Wayne Carruthers of Shawville who has been on the sick list.

Happy brithday to Chad Venture of Johnston's Lake who celebrates his fourth on Feb. 8. He is the son of Angie and Steve Venture.



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OTTER LAKE

High marks achieved

By ELIZABETH HAHN
Correspondent
453-7326

Kim Lesage, daughter of Hélène Boulet and Guy Lesage from Otter Lake, who graduated from the local Ste. Marie's grade school and Sieur de Coulonge's High School, is now studying civil engineering at the University of Ottawa. Her high marks have granted her to become a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Congratulations Kim.

Happy birthday to Ernest Bretzlaff who was 93 years young this past week.

On Saturday visitors for lunch at the home of Elizabeth Hahn were her son Pat, his daughter Kelly and her daughter Julia of Pembroke. They also visited with their grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Mayhew.

Happy birthday wishes to my sister Olive Gravelle Utz in Mission, BC. Her birthday is on Feb. 13.

Happy birthday wishes to Alexie Durocher who is five years old on Wednesday, Feb. 4. She is the daughter of Stéphane Durocher and Pauline Lanoix. Best wishes from grandma Dolores Bertrand.

QUYON

Jamfest committee hard at work

By JILL McBANE
Correspondent
458-2366

The Beechgrove Rink Committee are planning their annual Children's Fun Day which is being held on Sunday, Feb. 22.

Hey Ron! A trip, warm weather, secluded location, boat, sounds awesome! Could this be something EQUITY Heather is putting on and we could be the hosts you know like Y101. Ha ha!

A reminder that Quyon United is back in Quyon this this Sunday for the month of February.

On Sunday, Jan. 25 Father Costello hosted his annual brunch to thank parish members for their support during the year.

Happy 75th birthday to Jessie Earl with love from the family.

Congratulations to Steve McKnight on being the big winner of the meat draw recently at the Legion.

Kathy Young, President of the Quyon Lionettes presented a cheque for $5,000 to Jocelyne Vigeant, Regional Coordinator of the Canadian Cancer Society at the Lionettes December meeting. Jocelyne was accompanied by Jean McCann, Quyon Sector President of the Canadian Cancer Society for 18 years. The money was raised at the Fourth Annual Jane Mohr Memorial Golf Tournament. Jane, a charter member of the Quyon Lionettes, passed away in the spring of 2000 and over $24,000 has been raised for Breast Cancer Research in her memory.

Get well wishes are sent to John Derraugh, William Hickey and Sharron McKay.

Jennifer McBane and Krystal McColgan visited with Stacey and Randy Peck and childrenn Ryan, the quads' Luke, Carter, Kylie and Madisson this past week. They reported that bath time with the quads is quite an experience.

Freddie Morris was the meat winner this past Friday, Jan. 30 at the Legion. I'm sure he will enjoy it.

Sympathy is expressed to Maureen (Coyle) and Peter Grant on the death of their only daughter Heather who died in a tragic accident in Beaverlodge, Alberta. She was only 22. Heather was the granddaughter of Abby Coyle and niece of Jim.

Doug and Abby McBane motored to Sudbury, Jan. 27 to surprise their uncle Francis McBane on his 85th birthday. A delicious lunch was served by aunt Katie. Uncle Francis felt so bad that Doug missed his pie for breakfast, he made sure he got an extra large piece of birthday cake.

Congratulations to Scott and Mary Ellen (Tracey) Harris on the birth of their baby girl Madison Patricia. Proud grandparents are Lawrence and Grace Tracey and Lynette (Harris) and Dennis Boucher.

Belated birthday wishes are sent to Gail Boucher and Mona MacKechnie.

The Jamfest Committee is hard at work organizing this year's country music festival which will take place the first of July. Every month there is a 50/50 draw and a name is pulled the last day of each month. The lucky winner for January was Mary Ramsey. These tickets are available at Stanton's Restaurant.

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Marilyn Young who passed away Jan. 31 from cancer. She is the daughter of Lois and the late Arnold Young.

Also sympathy is sent to the family of Edgar Dods who passed away last week and to the family of Bob Allard who died suddenly at his home Jan. 30.

The Pontiac Mallard Fish and Game Club will host their Annual Ice Fishing Derby Feb. 14 and 15. Check the EQUITY ad for more details.

Birthday wishes are sent to Mary Ramsey with love from David and Connor.

Congratulations to Colleen Morris and Garrett Bonavon who will be getting married March 6. There will be at stag at the Quyon Legion Feb. 14. Colleen is the daughter of Priscilla Derouin and stepdaughter of Steve McKnight and sister of Darlene Morris.

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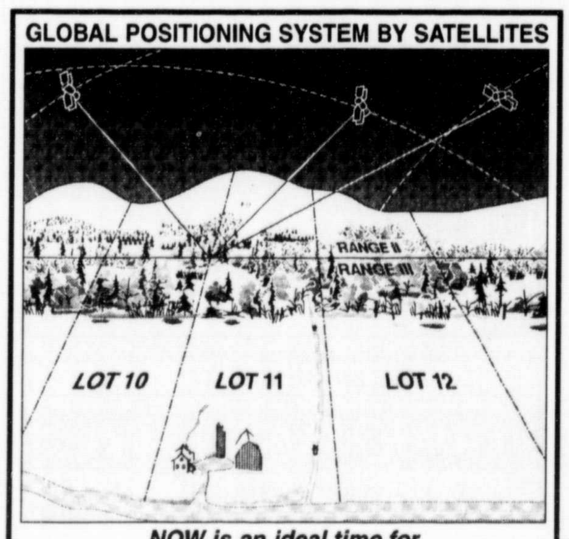

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VINTON

Good meal at Mickey Creek

By BERTHA MCGEE
Correspondent
648-2669

Friday, Jan. 23 Georgette Paquette drove to Carleton Place to spend the weekend with her sister Annette (Lance) Tierney. She returned home Sunday. It was her sister Annette's birthday on Saturday, Jan. 24. They had a very good weekend.

Saturday, Jan. 24 Leo. Bertha and Paul McGee enjoyed a very good supper at Mickey Creek Golf Course. It was Bertha's birthday. A good place to go and eat.

A belated birthday wish goes out to Alma McCoshen who had a birthday Jan. 31. May she have many more happy birthdays.

Congratulations go out to Michael McCrank who was reelected county warden by his peers at the Pontiac MRC January meeting. He has won his third consecutive two year term.

Jan. 1 of every year we wish each and every one a Happy new Year but what's so happy about it? Of course we think about our health. As long as we are feeling fairly good we'll not complain except for January of this year it was mighty cold and not much snow.

Saturday, Jan. 31 Alma McCoshen celebrated her 75th birthday. Brian and Kim organized a supper at Mickey Creek Golf Course. Kim's parents and her grandmother attended from Aylmer. Some neighbours from Vinton also attended. She got nice gifts and a nice plaque signed by Robert Bertrand, our M.P. and Paul Martin our Prime Minister. We were served half a barbecue chicken and cake. It was a very good meal. A big thank you to Wayne and Susan Narlock.

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Public Skating	11:00 - 12:00
Hockey Skills Challenge	12:00 - 1:00
Tug-of-War	1:00 - 1:30
Waiter Racing	1:30 - 2:30
Sleigh Rides	2:00 - 4:00
Pick-up Hockey Game	3:00 - 4:00
At the Bristol Community Hall:	
Euchre Tournament	2:00 - 4:00
Bean Supper	4:30 - 6:30

ALSO
On weekend of Feb. 7 & 8:
Car Races on Ice at the Ottawa River in Norway Bay

When the cold winds blow ... curl up with a book and enjoy those long winter nights.

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