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THE EQUITY

History of Pontiac Lumber ... page 3

The Express du Suroît capture the Giant Tiger Cup ... page 7

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NEWS BRIEFS

Warden vote explained

CAMPBELL'S BAY — A story in this paper two weeks ago about the election of the Pontiac MRC warden left the wrong impression with some readers.

The story, "McCrank beats Ferrigan 17-1 for warden" was not quite correct. Though McCrank received 17 votes and Ferrigan one, there was no actual nomination process, so McCrank didn't actually "beat" Ferrigan. In a secret ballot, each of the 18 mayors received a slip of paper upon which they wrote the name of their preference for warden.

Ferrigan was on record before the secret ballot that he was not interested in the warden's position and had there been a nomination process, he would have declined.

"I'm not interested in being a warden at this point in time," Ferrigan said. "At this point in time, everyone is satisfied with Warden McCrank.

"I'm satisfied with running my own municipality and I am very busy with the 100th anniversary."

Campbell's Bay celebrates 100 years as a municipality this year. It kicks off its centennial at the RA hall Sunday, February 22 beginning at 11:30 a.m. A schedule of events for the 10-day celebration Aug. 13-22 will be presented.

MP Bertrand supports inquiry

PONTIAC — MP Robert Bertrand (Pontiac-Gatineau-Labelle) was "shaken and shocked" by the findings of the Auditor General's investigation into the federal sponsorship program.

Bertrand supports Paul Martin's decision to create an independent commission of public inquiry to conduct a thorough review of the now-defunct programs.

"The people of Pontiac, Gatineau and Labelle are entitled to know all the truth about this scandal that has tarnished the reputation of our government," said Bertrand in a press release. "Those responsible must not escape punishment."

The inquiry will provide recommendations to prevent any abuses, breaches of ethics or mismanagement in the future.

This inquiry, which will be completed immediately, will have all the powers of a regular federal public inquiry.

That means the inquiry may hold public hearings, call on witnesses, and gather any evidence it deems necessary to complete its mandate.

The specific terms of reference for the commission will be finalized quickly so the public can know exactly what the inquiry's work will entail.

Justice John Gomery of the Québec Superior Court will be heading the commission. The government has also appointed a special counsel who will try to recover money improperly received by certain parties involved in the delivery of the sponsorship program.

Bertrand said he believes those responsible should be brought to justice and made to pay back the money stolen from Canadian taxpayers: "While I understand the public's disgust with this affair, I have faith in the prime minister's leadership and am confident that answers will be given to the legitimate questions raised by Canadians," said Bertrand.

Allen rink makes it to Provincial semi-finals

Lose 8-4 to Guy Hemmings in semi-final match Sunday

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE — Three Clarendon lads journeyed further up the curling ranks than any local team before them, going all the way to the semi-finals of the Coupe Desjardins provincial championships in Amqui Sunday, only to lose to the popular veteran Guy Hemmings.

Representing the Outaouais in the 16-team round-robin, skip Steve Allen, 25, third Charles Chartrand, of Thurso, second Rickey Lee Allen, 27, and lead Rob Lang, 27, curled their way to a 5-2 record, winning the "B" Division.

"I think we surprised ourselves by finishing first in the round-robin," Steve said.

In Saturday's quarter-final, Allen's Outaouais rink faced "A" Division winners, D. Lafleur's Montreal 2 rink, losing 5-4 in 10 ends. Lafleur's rink scored one rock in the tenth to win the match. Despite the quarter-final loss, the Allen rink made it to the semi-final by virtue of winning the "B" Division.

In the quarter-final Sunday, Allen's Outaouais rink squared off against Hemmings Southwest rink, falling behind 5-1 after four ends before scoring singles in the fifth and sixth ends to close the score to 5-3. However, Hemmings rink left three in the seventh to jump to a commanding 8-3 lead. The Allen rink scored one in the eighth to make the final score 8-4.

"They had our number," Steve said of the Hemmings rink. "Still, I think it was the best game all of us curled all week. We were a little disappointed (losing), but we weren't disappointed with the way we played."

Steve said going broom to broom against a player of Hemmings' calibre was an enjoyable learning experience.

"(Hemmings) was a good guy to play against," Steve said. "He's really in the game, but he's not afraid to tell you you made a good shot. After the game, he was good to help out (with tips)."

To top off a highly successful week, their peers in the "B" Division selected Steve as the top skip and Rickey Lee as the top second.

"It was quite an honour," Steve said. "I never really expected that."

Steve said the road to the Provincials, which began in early-January with the Zones, then the Regionals, was a challenge.

"It's always a tough road to get there," Steve said. Steve and Rickey Lee made it to the Regionals in Sillery with Gary Harris' rink in 1998.

"It's always a fight to get there."

Once there, the curlers had to adapt to the pressure of playing against the elite.

"It's a level where you have to be confident, but not over confident," Steve said.

Rick Younge, president of the Shawville Curling Club, said the club is proud of their accomplishments.

"We're extremely elated with the job they did," Younge said. "We're very proud of them. They went down there as unknowns and caught the attention of a lot of people."

Younge said the club is also very proud of the way the community rallied to support the curlers on their 10-day trip to Eastern Québec.

"I'm also very proud of the way the community rallied around the boys," Younge said.

Frosty protesters chop Tembec plan

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

FORT COULONGE — About 60 people withstood bone-chilling temperatures Monday morning to protest a proposal that would see Tembec Davidson move hardwood out of Pontiac to its mill in Mattawa in return for softwood.

The deal, being brokered by the Pontiac MRC and CLD and reportedly supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources, would see 52,000 cubic metres of hardwood harvested on Crown land in Pontiac MRC sent to the Mattawa mill in exchange for 80,000 cu. m of softwood from Ontario.

If approved, it is believed the deal would set a precedent, at least in Pontiac, in allowing Crown land wood to be shipped out of province without transformation, a precedent many in the forestry industry feel darkens the industry's future here.

"Already, 40 per cent of the timber is going out of the county," said protest organizer Daniel Dagenais, who is an employee at the PFC mill in Litchfield, which has been out of operation due to strike action since last May.

"The next thing you know, New Brunswick will want wood from us.

"If we start to let logs go out, what will it be like in five years?"

Dagenais recalled the industry's decline in the '80s to support his argument.

"Ten, fifteen years ago, we used to have lumberjacks, we had truckers who owned their trucks," he said.

"After the big boys came in those jobs were gone."

Dagenais also said they are curious about the way the deal has developed, without public consultations. (Tembec held an information meeting at St. Peter's Roman Catholic church parish hall yesterday after press time.)

"We don't like the way that it was done," Dagenais said. "The public in Pontiac should make a big decision like that."

With the future of so many Pontiacers at stake, Dagenais said the public should be kept abreast of any developments that may have a negative impact on the local industry.

Keep wood here

Dagenais said with the PFC saw mill primarily a hardwood mill, there is no need to send hardwood out of the province.

"Especially when we have saw mills in the county," Dagenais said. "If (Tembec) doesn't want to saw it, let us know, we'll take it."

"We want to keep the wood in Pontiac," said Ricky Romain at the protest.

Tembec officials said the exchange would create 37 jobs at its Davidson mill, a number disputed by observers.

The protesters were concerned that moving hardwood out of Pontiac may result in fewer jobs in the long run.

"Every spring (Tembec) complains that they are short of wood and they close a shift," said a protester who requested anonymity.

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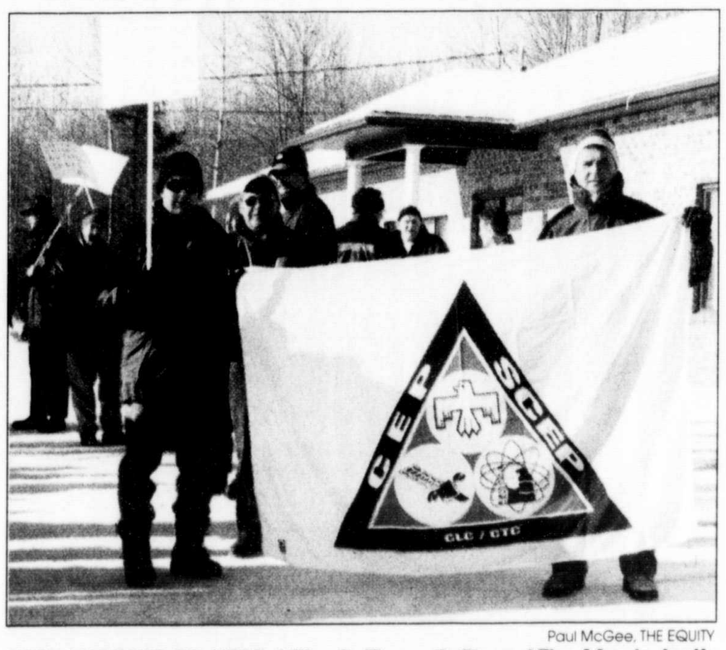
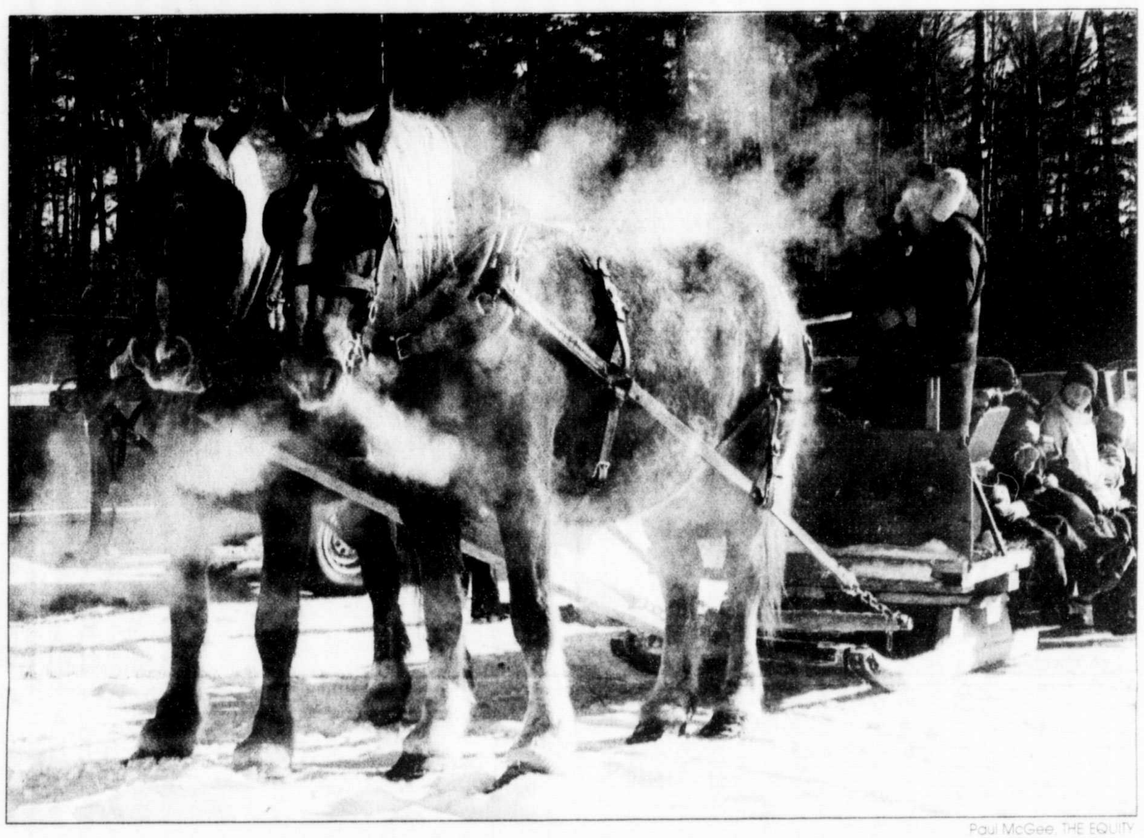


Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

KEEP HARDWOOD HERE: Mike Sullivan (left) and Tim Morris, both employees at the Smurfit-Stone pulp mill joined the protest in front of the Ministry of Natural Resources building in Fort Coulonge Monday. The protesters are against the Tembec proposal that would see Pontiac hardwood shipped to Tembec's mill in Mattawa in exchange for softwood.



Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

TAKING A BREATHER: Don McCredie's Belgians Prince (left) and Bob take a break after a sleigh ride trip in Norway Bay at the Bristol Winter Carnival Sunday. The sleigh rides were very popular with young and old alike.

Bristol Carnival crowd small, spirited

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

BRISTOL — What the annual Bristol Carnival Sunday lacked in numbers, it made up for in spirit.

"There was not a large crowd, but they were enthusiastic," said Bill Smith, president of the Bristol Community Association, the carnival's organizers.

Carnival events included a hockey skills challenge, a tug of war, waiter races and sleigh rides at the Norway Bay rink and a euchre tournament and bean supper at the Bristol Community Hall.

"A highlight was the celebrity event where several mayors had a waiter race," Smith said.

Lining up on the ice with trays in hand, mayors Jack Graham of Bristol, Jack Lang of Clarendon and Albert Armstrong of Shawville competed to see who could carry a loaded tray the farthest, with Armstrong emerging victorious.

In the adult section of the waiter races, Roger Rioux was tops at skating and tray handling with Keith Tubman winning the youth division.

"The glasses kept sliding off from side to side and I was getting really cold on the hands," Tubman said when asked if the event was difficult.

"It was a lot tougher than the pylons (in the hockey skills competition)."

The hockey skills challenged featured youth and adult classes, with contestants competing in three events: breakaways, shooting from a fixed position, and stickhandling around pylons. Roger Rioux won the adult class; Keith Tubman won the youth section.

Tubman also took part in the tug-of-war, though, again, the turn-out was small.

"We didn't have a large turn-out, just one competition," Smith said.

Still, the show of strength went on, with a four-on- three pull. The three-person team won.

"Their team had a really big guy," Tubman said of the winners.

The sleigh rides featuring Don McCredie's team of Belgians, Bob and Prince, both about eight years old, with Ken Durant running the reins was very popular.

"That's always a big attraction," Smith said.

Smith said it was gratifying to see the people having a good time on a frosty day.

"It's fun to see people having a good time," Smith said.

Pike not biting Sunday at Quyon derby

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

QUYON — The annual Pontiac Mallard Fish and Game Club ice fishing derby on the Ottawa River at Quyon had about the same number of entries this year, but the fish weren't biting. At least that's the story told by several of the anglers at the two-day event.

"There are lots showing on the fish finder, but they're not biting," said John Gibeault, of Quyon, while setting his lines Sunday. "I got a few yesterday."

Cliff Grant, of Ottawa, said catching pike or pickerel depends on a secret, one that isn't much of a secret at all.

"The secret is if you get the right spot to fish," Grant said.

"In the last couple of days, I got three of them — a seven-pounder, a six-pounder and one at three and a half pounds.

Interestingly, Grant said, a fellow angler's fish calendar marked Sunday as an off-day for fishing.

"They're not biting too good," said Scott Lasalle, of Quyon, confirming the fish calendar's prediction.

Another angler said waiting for an occasional bite was not his idea of a great time: "It's not fun if they don't bite," said Shawn Grant.

For another, the great outdoors made up for a lack of fish.

"It's fun to get out in the fresh air," said Cliff Grant.

Ron Trudeau, president of the club, said the derby went well considering that the 65 entries were only one more than last year's 64.

continued on page 2

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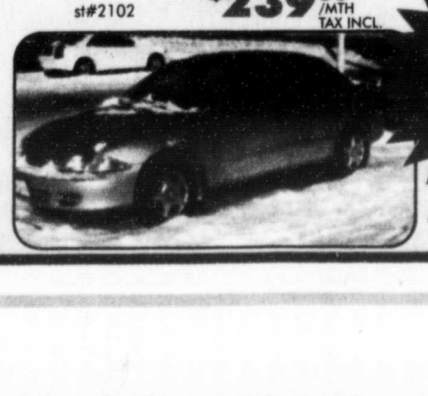

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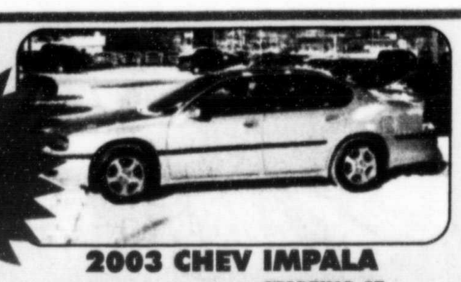

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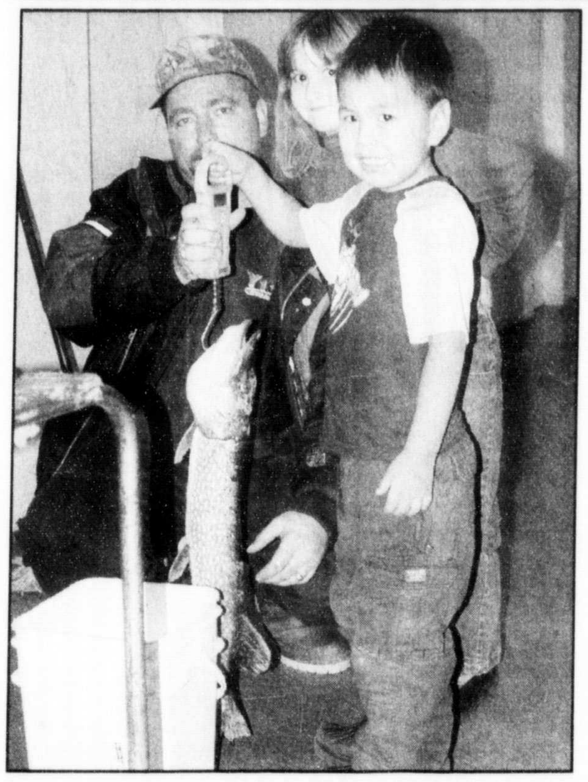

Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

BIGGEST FISH: Kids play on the big ice pike crafted by the organizers of the Rocher Fendu Club ice fishing derby held at Davidson Saturday, Feb. 7. A large crowd turned out for the 5th annual derby.

Frosty protesters chop Tembec plan

continued from page 1

The protesters, carrying signs reading "Our Forest, Our Money" and "Transform Our Wood in Pontiac", wanted to send the message that they were concerned for their future.

"We have big families to take care of," said Joanne Newberry.

Not official

A spokesperson with the Ministry of Natural Resources said the Ministry is aware of the proposal, but Tembec has yet to file an official plan.

"The Ministry suggested to Tembec's executives that they present the plan to various community leaders in order to obtain their points of view," said Catherine Rooney, a communications officer with MNR.

"These are the key elements which the Minister must have in order to continued analysing the proposal."

Rooney said the Ministry will analyse the proposal "on the basis of the positive economic benefits for Québec."

"Not only in terms of the general economy but also in terms of employment," Rooney said.

Benefit Party
for
Eric Provost
Saturday, February 28 at 9:00 pm
Gavan' s Hotel, Quyon
(who lost his shop in a fire)

Pike not biting Sunday at derby

continued from page 1

Ron Trudeau, president of the club, said the derby went well considering that the 65 entries were only one more than last year's 64.

"Though it was a success, there was not as big a turnout as we would have liked to have," Trudeau said.

"We can always hope for more next year."

The derby's numbers confirmed the tales told by the fishermen — the fish, especially the pike, weren't biting.

Whereas last year's 64 anglers in both the adult and junior categories pulled in 14 pickerel, 92 pike and 10 perch, this year's 65 line droppers pulled in 14 pickerel, 60 pike and one perch.

Winners

Cliff Grant took home $50 for catching the largest fish, a 7-pound pike.

The random draw for the top three anglers in the adult category saw Rick Laroque take first ($300), Dean Howard second ($150) and Sylvie Fournier third ($50).

In the junior category, the random draw resulted in Brittany Wiens taking first place ($25), Raymond Perriard ($15), the club's youngest member at 18 months, taking second and Nicholas Rebertz finishing third ($10).

The television donated by the Giant Tiger store was won by Neil Stanton.

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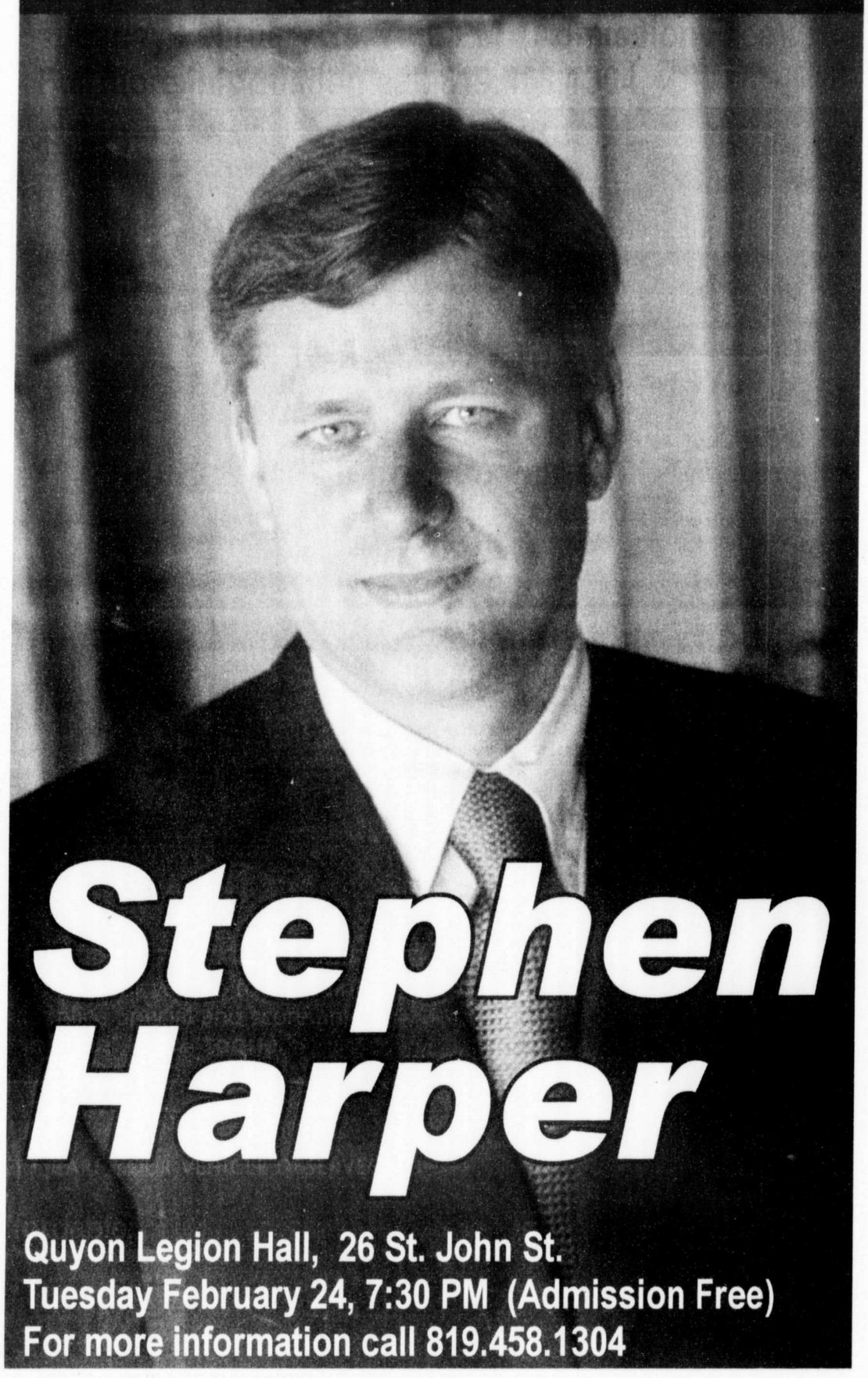

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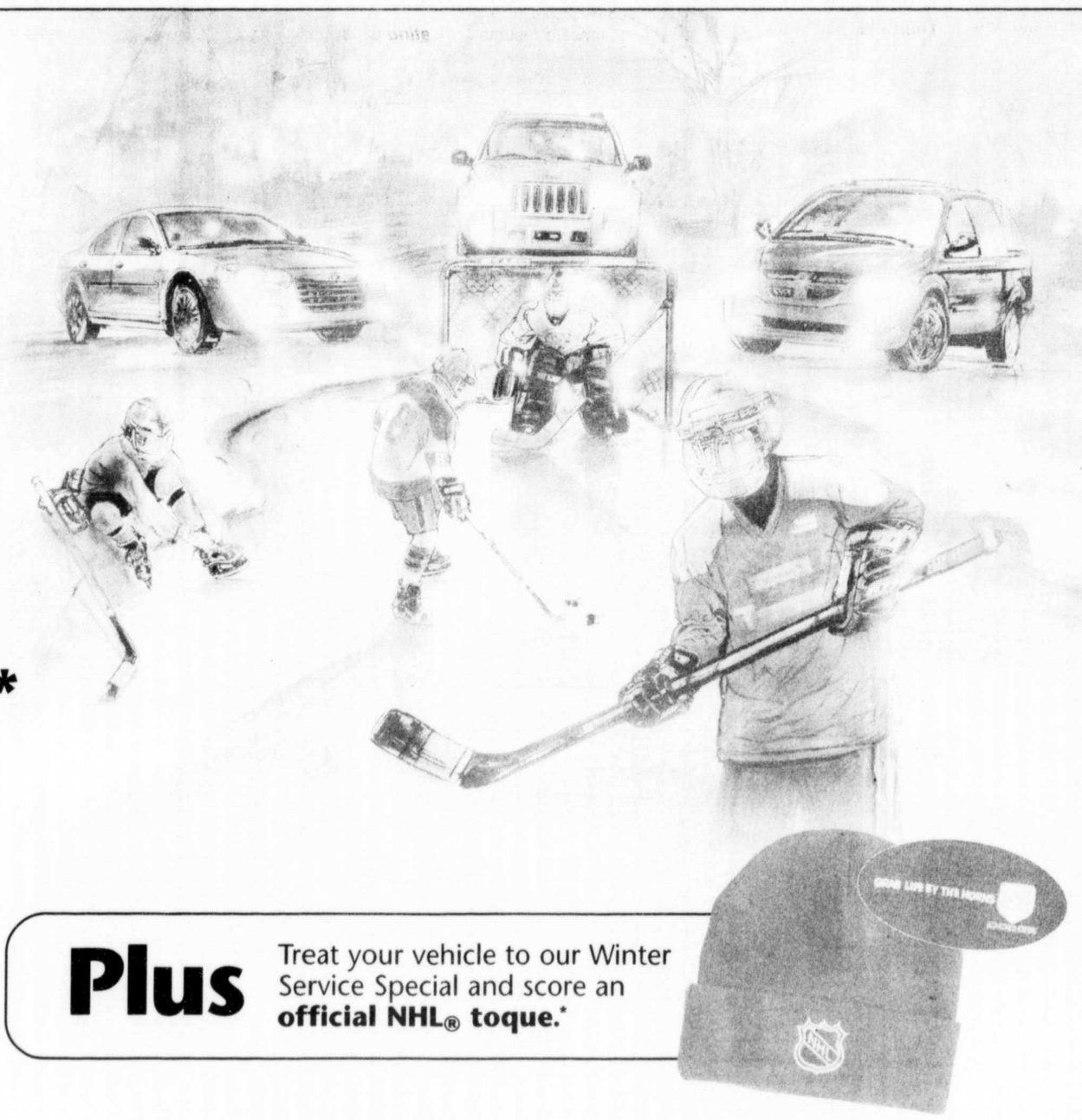

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Man devoted to history of lumber

OTTAWA — An Ottawa man who has spent his retirement researching the history of the lumber industry in the Ottawa Valley has roots in the Pontiac.

John Dunfield is the grandson of Robert Davidson, who managed the John Davidson Sons mill in Davidson until his death in 1925.

JOHN DUNFIELD

He spent his summers at the family cabin near Davidson until he was 19.

After a wartime stint in the Army, and marriage — he celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary this month — Dunfield graduated from the University of New Brunswick in 1950 with a degree in forestry.

He went on to devote his entire career to the forestry sector. He began by working for lumber companies in the Ottawa Valley, then spent 18 years working in the Ontario and federal forestry departments, assisting Indian Reserves in their forestry management.

"I had it in my blood, I guess — the wood and trees," says Dunfield.

Dunfield arrived at a crossroads in the lumber industry.

"I came in at the end of the real lumberjack time and at the beginning of mechanization," he says.

It was a time of winter camps and river drives, when men were away from their families for months at a time.

"There was no other job available to the local (residents)," he says. "Most were part-time farmers and village people."

After his retirement in the early 1980s, Dunfield began writing about the history of lumbering in the Ottawa Valley.

"I was always a bit of a history buff in a way, but I never had the time," he says.

It began with a trip to the Bytowne Museum, where he had gone to donate a copy of his history of the Davidson family.

"They didn't know the history of lumbering of the Ottawa Valley," he says. "That started me writing."

He spent years interviewing people who had been involved in the industry, visiting the areas, taking hundreds of photos, and accumulating a "substantial" library.

The aim was to gather as many stories as he could about the lumbering industry.

"There were a lot of missing stories," he says. "No books on certain people."

So far, Dunfield has produced two books on the subject: *Artifacts and Remnants of 200 Years of Lumbering in the Ottawa Valley*, which came out in 1996, and *Where Have All the Sawmills Gone*, which came out in 1999.

A third book, *Illustrations and Photographs of Lumbering in the Ottawa Valley*, which collects the illustrations and photographs that he collected over the years, was put out in 2002.

Dunfield published the books himself, without financial assistance. Many of the books went to libraries.

But his work isn't limited to books: he spent two summers in the 1990s restoring a replica of a pointer boat that he had salvaged in Arnprior. The boat was donated to the Coulonge Chutes in 1996, where it is now on display.

Dunfield had hopes of getting a museum of forestry established in the National Capital Region, but he's less hopeful of achieving that now.

"It's not really a go because it's really costly, and I didn't get the backing of any particular agency," he says.

Pontiac agencies hope for Centraide funding

Teams head to Outaouais to see where money is needed

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE — The process of allocating funds from Centraide's successful 2003 campaign to some agencies in the Pontiac has begun.

Since Feb. 4, the Centraide Outaouais' committee of allocations and relations with agencies (CARA) sent out six teams of volunteers.

The teams are to visit each agency and make recommendations for allocating funds.

There are no new agencies from the Pontiac on the list for visits of the volunteers, but some agencies from Pontiac who have received funds last year, are back on the list again this year.

Some agencies on the list from the Pontiac area include Jardin Educatif du Pontiac, Maison des jeunes du Pontiac, Maison de la famille de Quyon, Patro de Fort-Coulonge/Mansfield, Répit Serge Bélair, Comptoir St-Pierre de Fort-Coulonge, and Centre Social Kogaluk.

"We have quite the program," said Jean-Maurice Lafond, executive director of Centraide Outaouais. "We are looking forward to meeting with the volunteer teams and hear what feedback they have."

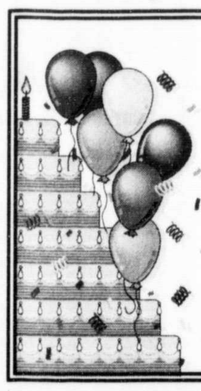
Once the teams have finished visiting each of the 61 agencies, the decisions of how much funding to be allocated to whom will be made in mid-May.

Then the final announcement will take place in June, and the money will be sent out.

The 2003 campaign raised a record total sum of $4,631,272.

"Again this year Centraide Outaouais can count on the support of dedicated volunteers," said Pierre Archambault, CARA chair in a recent press release. "I would like to thank them for the commitment they demonstrate in helping those less fortunate in our society."

Happy Birthday, Gramma Shirley
We love you lots!
Brianna and Brynne
Pete, Brian and Jody
Jill and Steve



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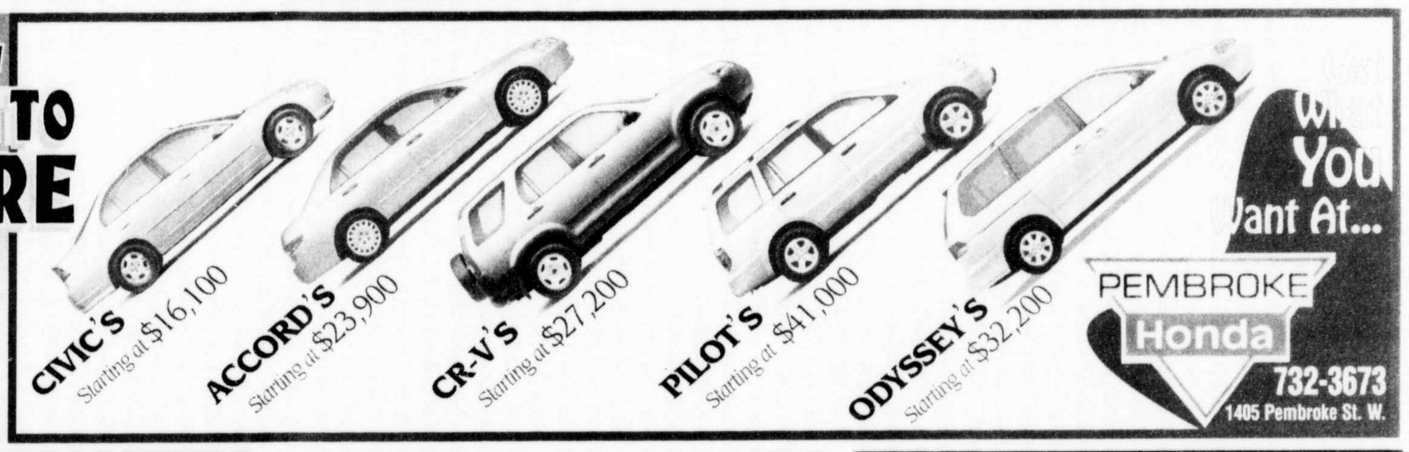

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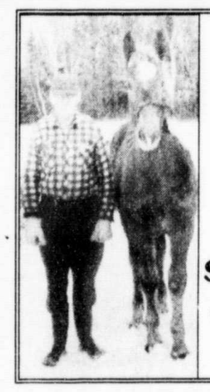

The family of
Stanley Kearns
wish to invite relatives and friends to a party in honour of his
75th Birthday on Saturday, February 21, 2004.
Quyon Lions Hall - 8:00 pm
"Best Wishes Only"

Best Wishes Only
The family of
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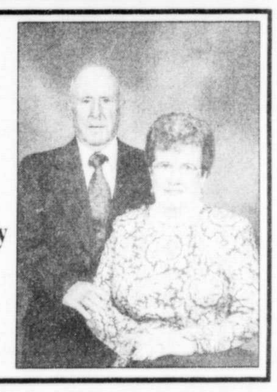

Guide to reduce food poisoning

By HEATHER DICKSON
Equity Publisher

SHAWVILLE — Each year, more than 4,000 Quebecers are affected by food poisoning, with many of these infections directly linked to food storage and/or handling.

The guide includes a colourful chart which advises food handlers on how long to store foods, either in the refrigerator, freezer, cold storage or ambient room temperature (cupboard).

For example, beef steaks can be stored for three to five days in the refrigerator or six to 12 months in the freezer; spinach can last four to five days in the fridge and up to a year in the freezer; peanut butter is good for two months in the cupboard, the same for vinegar. The chart lists most foods commonly found in a home and their potential storage times.

Also included in the kit for younger children are 40 6 by 9-inch informative colouring sheets. The sheets cover a range of topics from food safety, purchasing, storing, preparation, cooking, refrigeration, and hygiene all focused on reducing the growth of bacteria and the prevention of food poisoning.

The kit can be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture by calling 1-800-463-5023 or by Internet at dge@agr.gouv.qc.ca.

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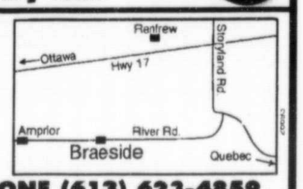

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EDITORIAL

Opening the door?

The cold winter air in Pontiac is buzzing not with chainsaws but with rumours about the current state and future of the county's number one industry — forestry.

At the root of the talk is industry giant Tembec's wish to convert its Davidson saw mill to an exclusive softwood operation while transforming its Mattawa mill into a hardwood-only entity. In order to do so, Tembec needs the approval of the Québec provincial government to ship its hardwood logs harvested on Crown land out of province.

Industry workers and insiders are having reservations about opening the door just a bit to allow Crown land timber out of the province. Arguing that both jobs and harvestable trees are hard to find these days, opening the door for exports may one day in the not so distant future result in the loss of jobs in the county's saw and pulp mills, leaving Pontiacers with cutting and transporting.

Tembec, on the other hand, claims it is only operating at 66 per cent in Davidson, thus losing money in an increasingly competitive market. Shipping in 80,000 cubic metres of softwood as part of the inter-company exchange would boost the Davidson operation to 100 per cent capacity, resulting in the creation of 30 or so jobs.

Critics, however, argue that Tembec's promise of creating jobs should be taken with a grain of salt because the company can't make such a guarantee for the long-term.

Let's hope that the decision made is the best one for both Tembec and the Pontiac forestry industry, and that we are not rushing headlong into a decision that may have a serious negative impact on the forestry industry. After all, forestry and farming remain the two pillars of our local economy, and we'd better hope they remain so in the future.

Paul McGee

YOUR OPINION

Clean river wanted

Dear Editor,

To: Prime Minister Paul Martin,

I was interested in your latest speech on TV quote: "To have clean air and water for all Canadians."

What about the pollution in the Ottawa River? At my cottage at Norway Bay, QC our children's swimming program is in danger with polluted water. The fish have all but disappeared in the lake. The beautiful seasonal birds are not nesting on the shoreline.

Are Canadians not concerned about our drinking water? What about all the beaches on the Ottawa River?

Why not start an all intensive study of the Ottawa River (its shoreline also) from Lake Temiskaming to Montreal. Make the study public for all concerned to read, offer guidelines and strict rules for property owners to follow, also boat owners. Examples: Are farmers following the rules? No cattle runoff; Are the towns checked for runoff of sewers? Atomic energy runoff? Cars and skidders dumping oil and gasoline on the ice in winter? Boats don't have a pump-out station on the river so they empty in lake?;

May I suggest a great project for 2004. The province of Ontario and the province Quebec work together in "Cleaning up our Ottawa River."

Orpha Fenton, Norway Bay

CORRECTIONS

Incorrect information appeared in the story "I.W.A. to protest Tembec deal" on page one of the Feb. 11 EQUITY. The protest at the MNR building in Fort Coulonge was organized by Daniel Dagenais and members of the community. THE EQUITY apologizes for the error.

Dave Moore, THE EQUITY

Could be a fun ride

REFLECTIONS: 121 YEARS OF NEWS

The Way We Were

COMPILED BY HEATHER ALBERTI DICKSON, PUBLISHER

25 Years Ago

February 14, 1979

Pontiac Agri-Coop needs public support for sale barn project: The annual meeting of the Cooperative de Services Agricoles du Pontiac had to be postponed twice on account of weather and now has been scheduled to take place on Thursday, March 1 at Vinton Parish Hall. The president, Mr Theo Dufault has told THE EQUITY that one of the conditions of the anticipated government grant to help build the projected slaughter house and sale barn would be the acceptance and support from local buyers.

Quyon winter carnival: The second annual Quyon Lions Club Winter carnival was held from Feb. 8 - 11. Starting with a teen dance on Thursday night the carnival progressed to the highlight, the Queen Contest on Friday night with Ray Boucher the MC. Despite chilling temperatures Quyon residents packed the Onslow Elementary School auditorium Friday evening to observe the crowning of their snow queen. Four girls from Quyon were judged in three different categories: on stage appearance, talent and public speaking. Contestants Diane Muldoon, Joanne Stanley, Julie Fraser and Sally Foran excelled in all three categories making the judges decision difficult. The evening was filled with local entertainers such as Gavan's fiddlers, Dolly Parton and Cher Bono (also known as Joanne Daly and Gail Gavan) and step dancer Charlene Graham. The entire show was skillfully Mc'd by Ray Boucher of CJOH. The evening's activities were concluded with the crowning of Sally Foran as Quyon's Carnival Queen.

• • •

50 Years Ago

February 18, 1954

Wyman's Wyman now all-Canadian Ayrshire breeder's president: At a meeting in the Royal York in Toronto last week. S Wyman MacKechnie was named president of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders Association, succeeding Dr J C Berry of Vancouver.

Portage Mayor really first: Mayor Mrs Gordon Gibbons was recently requested to speak over Montreal's radio station in regard to her accepting the position of mayor last May. AFter her election she received quite a lot of publicity in the Ottawa and local papers. But it seems Montreal did not know that Mrs Gibbons was the first lady Mayor elected in the Province of Quebec.

Diamond drilling next at Calumet uranium mine: As a result of favorable assays of grab samples on Grand Calumet Island in Pontiac County, near Campbell's Bay, diamond drilling tenders have been asked by Calumet Uranium Mines Limited.

• • •

75 Years Ago

February 14, 1929

Local news: A snow storm that had been expected for a couple of days, in consequence of atmospheric indications, came in copious measure during the early hours of Thursday morning last, and afforded ample exercise to our citizen shovel brigade, and a heavy day's work for the town plowman. The snow fall measured about five inches. Bright, seasonable weather marked the preceding days of the month, with a temperature never below zero in this locality.

Misfortune and bereavement: These sore afflictions followed each other closely in the case of Mr and Mrs George Moore, of Lower Litchfield, who lost their dwelling house with practically all its contents, by fire on Saturday night last. This blow was succeeded by the sad and more severe visitation on Thursday morning, when death claimed an invalid son. Under these distressing circumstance, the deepest sympathy of the community goes out to Mr and Mrs Moore and family in their loss and bereavement.

Teachers wanted: Applications will be received up till March 1 for nine teachers holding elementary diplomas, and one teacher holding an intermediate diploma, for the public schools of Bristol for next school term. Salary offered - $600 per year for elementary teachers and $1000 per year for an experienced qualified teacher with an intermediate diploma. Applicants please state experience and Church of choice. Apply to H I Smith, Sec. Treas. Maryland, Quebec.

• • •

100 Years Ago

February 18, 1904

Local news: Many of our citizens are complaining of a shortage of fuel. Wood is scarcer this winter in town than it has ever been before, owing to the bad state of the roads and the difficulty of getting it out of the woods. And the worst of it is the prospects are poor for a change in the conditions before the general break up comes. Should a heavy thaw come the roads will be simply impassable till the snow disappears.

Quite a contingent, representative of the sporting element of the village attended the two-day ice meet at Quyon last week. The fact that several Shawville horses were competing, no doubt, made the occasion of more than ordinary interest to the boys and when it became no longer a matter of doubt that the biggest stakes were going to be swooped by their favorites, their enthusiasm knew no bounds.

Hockey: The Shawville hockey team played their second match with Coulonge on the ice of the latter, Wednesday night last, after the arrival of the train. After a spirited match, victory perched upon the wigwam of the locals - the score standing 7 to 3. After the match the visitors were royally entertained at the Jewell House, where a most tempting spread was served up, and formed a substantial basis to the flow of oratory which followed. Mr Geo. Bryson, the donator of the league trophy, was among those present at the match and attendant festivities, and was a big factor in planning a good time for the visitors.

THE AG BEAT By RON HODGINS

Slaughterhouse tomorrow?

I've come to the conclusion that having a Beef Club meeting on a Wednesday following a huge drop in cattle prices that day at the local sales barn is not a good thing to do. With stocker prices at Galetta Sales Barn dropping another 20 cents and springer cows selling for $200 to $300 dollars it certainly weighs on the mind of the local producers.That was the local talk at the Pontiac Beef Improvement Club meeting on Feb. 11. Approximately 50 invited guests attending the meeting, many with frowns and looks of disbelief on their faces. "How much lower can the prices possibly go?" one farmer asked. "Will things ever get back to normal?" asked another.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recent survey sent out to local producers concerning the need for a local slaughterhouse. Of the 362 surveys sent out 43 per cent responded. The following is a summary of some of the questions asked on the survey.

Q: What municipality do you live in? A: 99-MRC Pontiac; 48-MRC Collines; 6-MRC Vallee; 3-City of Gatineau (156 returned surveys).

Q: The number of livestock on these farms? A: 9,622 beef cows; 1,001 dairy cows; 3,548 feed lot cattle; 261 veal calves; 643 ewes; 109 horses.

Q: Do you finish your cattle to slaughter weight? A: 75 per cent of the producers finish their animals.

Q: What provinces do your sell your cattle in? A: Only 22 per cent of all animals are sold in Quebec while 78 per cent are sold in Ontario.

Q: Where do you sell most of your livestock? A: 72 per cent of all calves are sold through sale barns; 60 per cent of semi-finished are sold the same way; 34 per cent of finished steers are sold to slaughterhouses and approximately 89 per cent of all cull dairy or beef cows go through a sale barn; 50 per cent of all lambs sell through a sale barn.

Q: What time of year do you usually sell? A: Most cattle sales happen in the last trimester October, November and December. Other sales are evenly spread out through the year.

Q: The number of farmers interested in selling to a slaughterhouse? A: 97 per cent said that they would be interested in selling to a regional slaughterhouse.

Q: Would they increase the herd size if there were a slaughterhouse available? A: 58 per cent said they would increase the number of finished animals if a slaughterhouse was implemented.

Q: What time of year could you supply a slaughterhouse? A: The majority of animals including lambs could be sent evenly through the year.

Q: What are three important services you would like to see offered by a slaughterhouse? A: To purchase and market regional finished steers, do custom slaughtering, and C-1 services (cut, wrap and quick freeze).

Q: What are the most important criteria in choosing a slaughterhouse? A: Quality of the service, competitive prices for slaughter services, better prices per product for the producers and custom services.

Q: What are the average ages of the producers? A: 74 per cent are between 35 and 64 years of age.

Q: How long have they been in production? A: 32 per cent of farm owners have been operating 15 years or less and 50 per cent of farm owners have been operating between 16 and 40 years, 18 per cent of farm owners have been operating for more than 40 years.

Q: How long do they plan to continue to farm? A: 37 per cent plan to quit in the next 10 years; 2.9 per cent plan to operate for the next 20 years while 34 per cent plan to be around for more than 20 years.

Q: Do they have a planned successor who will take over the farm? A: 28 per cent of the farm owners surveyed do not have a planned successor and 47 per cent state that the future of the farm is uncertain as per its ownership.

I guess that the last question pretty well sums it up. Most producers are very uncertain where their industry is headed. A slaughterhouse would certainly benefit all the producers but how soon will it come? Tomorrow or when?

Slaughterhouse Tour

On Jan. 29 and 30 a group of seven people representing the Pontiac Beef Improvement Club, MAPAQ, CLD Pontiac and CRAIE toured four slaughterhouses in the Quebec City, Montreal area. Our goal was to see the size of these facilities as well as their production levels. We had a first-hand look at a slaughter plant that specializes in the production of red deer meat and bison, la Viandes de la Petite-Nation in St-Andre Avellin was our first stop. They were red deer farmers who needed a way of processing their own product. Hence their own butcher shop. They supply a quality product in a vacuum sealed pack to some of the most upscale restaurants in Montreal. They also supply the Casino in Hull with their products. Custom slaughtering for some local producers in the area is also a big part of their business. They have a slaughter plant as well as a separate building for the cutting and wrapping process. This business employes about 12 people on a full-time basis.

Our next stop was Boucherie Viau at Hemmingford, QC. This was probably the Cadillac of all that we saw. They run a butcher shop, slaughterhouse, smoke house as well as a store front location. The enterprise does a lot of transformation of meat products in order to offer a complete line of meat products. Smoked bacon, ham and deli meats as well as a complete line of sausages and deli meats are their specialty. They sell approximately $50,000 worth of ham and other pork products during the maple syrup/sugar shack season. Custom slaughtering and meat cutting is also a big part of their business. They slaughter about 260 head per week. 40 head of beef on Wednesday and 220 head of pork on Mondays. Their store front location was full of home made bread, cheeses, honey and other products that gave it that real country feeling.

Our second day travels took us to Clermont, QC. Le Veau Charlevois is a slaughter plant that specializes in veal production. Nestled right in the heart of the community, you would be unaware what was going on behind those doors. Dairy calves weighing 500 to 600 pounds that have been milk fed are their specialty. They too provide a special product to restaurants that is consistent in quality. The Casino is also one of their customers. They kill about 100 head per week and employ 30 people. They have been in production since 1995.

Our last stop was at Manseau, QC at the home of Bertrand Raymond. Abattoir Boucherie Manseau was destroyed by fire in 1994. With the help of many local farmers and friends the slaughterhouse and butcher shop was rebuilt at its present location. They too do custom slaughtering and offer deli products, smoked products as well as a catering service. 80 per cent of his work is custom slaughtering for local clients who run food booths at local fairs and markets. They slaughter one day a week and kill about 70 head. They can kill 10 to 12 pigs an hour and four to five beef an hour. The men who work in the killing plant become the workers who do the cutting and wrapping the rest of the week. This business also has a small store front counter where people can come in and buy their products right off the shelf. This business employees seven people.

All four of these slaughterhouses offer something different to see and compare. We took many pictures for reference and showed them as a slide presentation at our meeting.

Future

Our next step planned is to form a focus group. We are looking for people interested in joining our group to make future plans concerning a slaughterhouse. A feasibility study will then follow.

At a time when there seems to be so much uncertainty in the farming industry we must think ahead longterm.

"Let us plant the seed today and watch it grow big and strong. When harvest day will come we can all be proud."

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM By KATHARINE FLETCHER

Recreational trail: Genivar consultants propose options

For ten years or so, there has been often acrimonious debate concerning whether or not to create a recreational trail linking Aylmer to Wyman and the PPJ recreational trail. The issue continues to be especially contentious because several landowners living along the old Push Pull and Jerk (CPR) railway track along this "missing link" are vehemently opposed to having a bike path either running alongside or bisecting their properties. The issue is especially difficult for farmers who need to drive distances around the railway bed so as to tend their fields and transport livestock.

Other landowners are keen about the project and consider a recreational corridor both appealing and as an asset to their property values.

What to do? Former Mayor Marcel Lavigne was strongly opposed to the recreational corridor, and council voted against using the rail bed as a trail. As a result, Municipality of Pontiac Council lost the opportunity to have the Pontiac linked to the rest of Canada via the Trans Canada Trail, the world's longest recreational trail.

Continued debate

The trail issue has not gone away. Over the years, some people opposed to the railway bed solution have proposed other routes.

This is why Mayor Campbell, now in his second term of office, and Municipality of Pontiac Council, along with the MRC des Collines de l'Outaouais, Tourisme Quebec and others, hired Genivar Consulting to the tune of $30,000 to study our region and suggest routing options for the recreational trail..

Genivar's options

On Monday, Feb. 16 Genivar consultants presented their analysis to a crowd of 150 MoP residents at the Luskville Community Centre. All of MoP Council were in attendance. North Onslow councillor Roger Larose succinctly introduced Genivar consultants to the crowd, explaining that the purpose of the meeting was to present their recommendations as per the routing.

Genivar proposed three options for the location of the trail. (Note that the price tags are estimations.) Here are their recommendations with #1 being the most technically feasible, cost effective and logical choices, with #2 and #3 being less so:

1. the railway bed ($3.7 million);
2. municipal roads on separate corridor ($3.9 million); and
3. designated municipal roads ($5.5 million).

Genivar consultants noted that creating a 40-km trail constitutes a big project – hence the costs. They explained that technical constraints such as percent of grade factor into their decision to select the rail bed, which has a desirable maximum of an 8 per cen grade. Other routes such as alongside Gatineau Park were studied and dismissed as the trail would be more "mountainous" with 15 per cent grades, and hence more expensive to build.

Another suggestion to use Route 148 as a recreational corridor was analyzed but Genivar consultants said it is "too dangerous, impossible to use."

Land expropriations

This was an interesting meeting to attend, particularly because of the questions from the crowd. One resident said he felt it was ridiculous to contemplate spending millions on a new trail when the highway needs improvement. This is a provincial, not a municipal cost, however. Another person suggested that although the rail bed is option #1, it no longer exists as a complete entity: had Genivar taken the cost of expropriation into consideration, he wondered, when considering option #1.

Certainly there is a great deal of opposition to the rail bed being used. But there is also a great deal of support for it, too.

Council will have much to consider, that's for sure.

Expropriation of lands is not a trivial concern to any of us – nor should it be. It's easy for people who are not personally affected to think, "go ahead and expropriate person X's land, it's for the good of Society."

Individual vs. society

We've heard this argument before, and very recently. Twice, as a matter of fact. A few weeks ago, Aylmer resident Ian Huggett wrote a letter to the editor of The Equity suggesting that the NCC expand Gatineau Park's westernmost boundary (in Pontiac and Lapeche) by expropriating private landowners. That letter was rebutted by outraged MoP resident Erik Scobie, in another letter published in this paper.

The second instance happened on Feb. 5, at the MRC des Collines waste management plan meeting at Luskville's community centre. It was announced that septic systems would be pumped every two years. Residents who were attending complained this was far too often for their one-or-two-person households. Nicole DesRoches chaired that meeting. She is director of CREDDO (Council regional de l'environnement et du developpement durable de l'Outaouais). DesRoches and others at the MRC head table responded, saying that many new rules and regulations would be difficult for individuals to accept, but would have to be done for the "good of society at large."

Many people who attended that meeting also attended this trail meeting. Most of us realize that there are issues and realities which we will have to accept for the good of the community.

Social good, however, has this nasty habit of sticking in the individual's craw, doesn't it?

Decision won't please everyone

What will Council and the MRC do about this study? Is a recreational corridor that will take ATVs, snowmobiles and bikes – and presumably walkers and hikers – needed?

Personally, I believe MoP needs to be "on the map." On the one hand, we complain bitterly that the Quebec government leaves us out of their tourism maps. Ironically, we complain just as strenuously when a proposal that would put us firmly on the map is suggested.

Genivar consultants have done their job, proposing three options for Council and others to consider. Now MoP council will have to decide whether to pursue the trail.

Personally, I hope Council decides to connect MoP and MRC Pontiac to the rest of Canada.

• • •

Cougar lecture Thurs., Feb. 19

Wildlife biologist Fred Scott from Acadia University in Nova Scotia will give a talk on the debate surrounding the presence (or not) of eastern cougars on Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Canadian Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod Street.

• • •

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance writer who telecommutes from her farmhouse north of Quyon. Contact her at chesley@allstream.net

WALTHAM

Tasty supper at Fred's

By HELEN PERRY
Correspondent

On Sunday, Feb. 9 a surprise 50th birthday party was held in honor of Frances Allard. It took place at Marianhill in Pembroke. Family and friends from Waltham, Chapeau, Chichester and Pembroke gathered to express their love and best wishes to Frances. He was very happy and deeply touched. We sure hope that you had a great birthday Frances.

Birthday wishes are sent out to Frankie Turner, who celebrated his birthday on Monday, Feb. 16. We hope that you had a great day Frankie.

Birthday wishes are sent out to Gerard Pharan, who celebrated his birthday, Tuesday, Feb. 17. All the best Gerard.

Birthday wishes are sent out to my sister-in-law Gail Perry who will be celebrating her birthday on Friday, Feb. 20. I hope that you have a nice day Gail.

A very happy birthday is wished to Betty Grieve who will be celebrating on Feb. 22. All the best Betty.

A very happy anniversary is wished to Brenda and Ian Rehel who celebrated their on St. Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. We hope that you both enjoy many years of health and happiness.

On Saturday, Feb. 14 a euchre tournament was held at the Waltham Station. They had nine table and the proceeds went to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Reina Gagnon won first place. Afterwards, they served delicious turkey potpie, cake, tea and coffee.

I sure hope that everyone had a nice St. Valentine's Day. Larry and I, along with our dear friends Bobby and Donna Maika, from Petawawa enjoyed a tasty steak supper up at Fred's.

Ita and Phil Perry and Anne Marie and Mike Chaput were also out enjoying a nice Valentine's dinner.

We also had a lovely chat with Madot and Andrew Keon, from Chapeau.

SHEENBORO

Full house this weekend

By MYRTLE SULLIVAN
Correspondent
689-2236

Happy birthday to my granddaughter Allison Clyde who celebrates on Feb. 17.

Next weekend is the R. A. Sleigh Ride at Billy Brennan's farm Sunday Feb. 22 between 2-4. This is always lots of fun.

We are looking forward to our St. Patrick's Dance on March 13. The music will be wonderful with Champion Fiddler Louis Schryer and friends entertaining.

John Williamson spent the weekend in Sheen. He is Margaret Mary Downey's son and I enjoyed seeing all the old pictures he had of Sheen residents of years ago.

Belated happy birthday wishes to Erla Picard who celebrated this past week. There was a little get-together for her at the Regal Beagle last Wednesday night.

My daughter Myra cooked a nice meal for Valentine's for Ray and Mary Walker, Betty and myself at my home. We enjoyed a nice evening looking at pictures.

Congratulations to Alesia Godin from Chapeau who placed in the Kiwanis Music Festival.

Happy birthday to Darcy McKinnon who celebrates on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

My daughter Betty had Joe and Leanne Smith, Myra and myself for a lovely supper Sunday evening. It was good to see Leanne and Joe again.

Pat and Cindy Smith just returned from their trip to the Dominican Republic. They had a great time.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Magdalene Gagnon Turner of Chichester who passed away last week.

Mary and Artie Hunt returning from Dominican Republic met Marian Poirer and Carmelitta Gleason returning on the same plane home.

We are happy to announce to the seniors that we have a new driver for Sheen, Chichester, and Chapeau. The number is 689-2900.

We regret to announce the passing of Mrs. Edgar Downey of Val D'Or, Quebec. She was buried in Vinton this week. Edgar was born and brought up in Sheen and was a very good friend of my late husband Emmett Sullivan.

Trudy, Garth and Kyle Middlestead had a full house visiting them this past weekend with Jim and Louise Tallon and Nancy, Ron, and kids in Ottawa for the Winterlude Festivities.

Next week is Carnival Week at Dr. Wilbert Keon School. This is always a fun, busy week with all kinds of dress-up days and activities planned including tubing and skiing. I wish all the kids a fun last week before their March break.

Quyon CWL discussed upcoming events at January meeting

QUYON – The first Quyon CWL meeting for the new year was held the evening of Jan. 13.

President Claire Dubois welcomed members and wished everyone a Happy New Year. She expressed her hope for a good year – a year of working together for the good of the League.

Discussions were held regarding the upcoming Share Lent Breakfast, a yearly CWL event. The day has yet to be set.

A friendly reminder is extended to members who have as yet not paid their CWL dues. Payment as soon as possible would be appreciated.

St. Alphonsus CWL

By JANE CARROLL
Correspondent

The CWL of St. Alphonsus met for their monthly meeting at Harrington Hall on Feb. 3 after the evening mass. The meeting was called to order by President Donna Gagnon. Opening prayers were led by Gail Sullivan who also did the spiritual reading form the mass of the day. (2 Samuel). We were privileged to have Father Michael Lapierre s.j. join us in the absence of Father Moyle. His comments on the reading made it much more meaningful.

Minutes of the December meeting were read and accepted. Items on the agenda were presented and discussed. A card party will be held on Feb. 15 with proceeds going to Development and Peace. Tentative plans were made for the Marianhill birthday party in March and the appreciation dinner of the choir.

CWl membership fees are being collected this month and we hope this can be accomplished in record time this year. Several members also sent in their used stamps.

Thank you letter was received from the Sisters of St. Joseph in Peru accompanied by a Christmas card from our Peruvian child. The card party held last month for this purpose was well attended.

Reports were made by the chairpersons of the standing committees. Several funeral luncheons were served. Christmas cards as well as get well cards were sent to several people.

Meeting was adjourned and Father Michael led the closing prayer and gave his blessing.

Hostess for the evening was Helen Fleming.

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BOOK SALE FOR NEW LIBRARY

Heather Alberti-Dickson, THE EQUITY

Sales were brisk on Friday at the old Dash Deli on Main Street in Shawville as book lovers came out to support the new library — located just across the street — by purchasing used books. Happily browsing and buying books were Lydia Bastien and her six-year-old daughter Susan.

TransporAction gets MRC cash, passengers ready to roll

By PAUL MCGEE
Equity Editor

CAMPBELL'S BAY — TransporAction Pontiac is rolling towards a start-up date in March, and collected the Pontiac MRC's share of the project at a gathering at Cavans Restaurant in Campbell's Bay Monday, Feb. 9.

"We are 100 per cent developed in the sense that all the math is done, the studies are in, the business plan done, the formal structure is there, and finding partners is done," said Paul Drouin, the project's steering committee coordinator.

"What is now visible is the MRC's support."

The MRC's support comes in the form of a $94,000 grant for the first year of its operation. The money comes from the Rural Pact fund, expected to keep coming up to and including 2007.

At the Cavans' gathering of about 20 people attached to the TransporAction project and the the evening's other recipient, the Maison des Jeunes, TransporAction received a cheque for $54,000 for the first six months of its operation. The other yearly budget money will come from Transport Quebec, which will give $28,000/yr. for the collective transport and $186,000/yr. for the adapted (handicapped) transport.

TransporAction will work out of the former Sûreté du Québec building on Hwy. 148 currently housing MNA Charlotte L'Écuyer's office.

"We expect to move in at the beginning of March," Drouin said.

Next on the agenda for Drouin and Harry Gow, director of TransporAction Pontiac, is hiring a dispatcher and an office person.

Once the office is equipped and the staff ready to go, TransporAction will begin transporting people around Pontiac and outside the county. The first passengers on the system that will use existing transportation such as buses, taxis and volunteer transport will be carried for health reasons, such as a trip to the doctor.

"We'll begin small, with a small amount of trips," Drouin said.

"It will be a good opportunity to test the system."

One thing for certain is that the shared collective transportation will not be as costly as the adapted transport for the handicapped.

"Where it gets expensive is the adaptive transport," Gow said.

"The Ministry (Transport Québec) wants to squeeze as much money as it can out of the seats.

Drouin added: "We're not allowed as a non-profit organization to have our own transportation."

Gow said the survey they conducted showed that the two main points of attraction for the respondents were Shawville and Fort Coulonge, specifically the hospital at the former and the CLSC at the latter.

"The survey shows that every couple of weeks, there are several hundred rides not fulfilled," Gow said. "The surplus of need is not being served."

Also receiving money from the MRC that night was the Maison des Jeunes, which collected $25,000 to hire more animators and offer more services to the youth.

"The MRC will soon, hopefully, come up with a policy on youth so we can move ahead," said Warden Michael McCrank.

CLD president Ross Vowles concluded the evening this way: "I think we got a couple of great projects here," he said.

Main Street Foundation meets to plan new year

By LEAH MILLER
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE — The Main Street Foundation, a committee that is in charge of revitalizing Shawville, is currently meeting to go over what is planned for the upcoming year.

The projects, which involve planning events or simply replacing street lamps, won't begin operation until April 1. But the management committee is in the fourth year of a 10-year plan.

"We are working on planning projects the committee wants to see for the coming year," said Mayor Albert Armstrong.

The committee is meeting with representatives from the Shawville and Clarendon councils to draw out proposals for the spring.

One of the first items on the agenda for the new year will be to begin advertising for a new project coordinator. The committee will to determine a complete description of the job before accepting any applications.

"We are looking forward to a full summer with lots of activities," said management committee chairperson Janet McCord.

The management committee, comprised of interested citizens, holds six members, and McCord hopes to boost that number this year.

McCord also believes the new businesses that have recently opened in Shawville are a direct fallout of the revitalization project.

"We are behind the scenes of economic development," she said.

SPECIAL STOCKER and YEARLING SALE

Saturday, Feb. 28/04 at 10:30 am
at Leo's Livestock Exchange Ltd.
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Next Special Stocker Sale
Saturday, March 20/04
(NEW! Call for consignment please! Thanks)
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Saturday, April 10/04

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Monday and Thursday: 613-821-2634
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Douglas Bull Evaluation Centre
OPEN HOUSE
Sat., February 21, 2004
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
(108) Group I bulls born Dec. 15, 2002 - Feb. 28, 2003, off test Feb. 16, 2004.
(121) Group 2 bulls born Feb. 15, 2003 - Apr. 30, 2004 - off test Apr. 5, 2004.
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Come Voice Your Opinions and Solutions
OPEONGO HIGH SCHOOL
1990 COBDEN ROAD, DOUGLAS, ONTARIO
on **Friday, Feb. 20, 2004** at 7:00 p.m.
GUEST SPEAKERS:
JIM LAWS — Executive Director of Canadian Meat Council
JACK McCOUBREY – B.I.O. Ontario Cattleman Association Representative
Talking Is Over, Time for Action
SOME SOLUTIONS TO PONDER:
— 20% depopulation of cows with compensation from government (who is going to buy this year's calf crop?)
— organize a rally in March
— no deduction for OCA ($2.25), OFA, NFU and Christian Farmers registration until this is solved
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Farmers, your future is yours! What do you want to do?!
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February 7th - 29th

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SAVE 71%
Sale: $84.95 - $109.95

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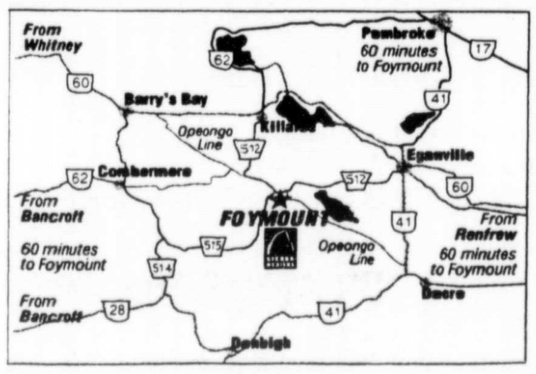

Jrs in control

SHAWVILLE — In three-straight games the Pontiac Junior B hockey club went from zero wins to into control and could wrap it up as this issue goes to press.

With scores of 7-3, 5-3 and 4-1, J.F. Perron backstops the Pontiacs to convincing victories in between the pipes over Arnprior and as mentioned, could have this wrapped up as of yesterday in Shawville.

In the 7-3 win, Rocky White and Jordan MacDougall came alive, tearing up the game sheet with two goals each and a bunch of assists after the Pontiacs let go of a 2-0 lead in the second period. Wayne Rumleski, Chris Byrne and Erik Barber scored the singles.

Chad Schroeder, Frederic Genereux, Chris Byrne, MacDougall and Dan Pilon scored in 5-3 win while Eric Barber, David Coles and MacDougall, twice, tally.in last game.

• There was more hockey going on for Pontiac teams this past weekend.

The Novice "A" Pontiacs dropped 3-0 and 3-2 decisions against Hull and Aylmer. Quinn O'Brien and Joshua Bourgeau scored in the Aylmer game.

• The Novice "B" Draveurs picked up a win over Masson with Philippe Pearson and Quinn O'Brien scoring. Then O'Brien scored all four in a tie with Buckingham.

• The Atom "A" Pontiacs won their last game in Gatineau 3-1 Brandan Alexander, Colton Keon and Cameron Huckabone scored, but lost first over-all to Gatineau Titans.

• The Atom "B" Pontiacs tied Fort Coulonge 2-2. Cody Hobbs and Jack Kelly scored for Shawville. Stephane Paré and Lee Bourque for Coulonge.

• The Peewee "B" Pontiacs made it all the way to the finals in Papineau. Chelsea Carson, Logan Greer, Ross Coté all scored twice against Low. Matt Hickey and Patrick Chenier with his first goal ever, scored in the 8-2 win over Low. In their second match Coté and Hickey tally for a 2-1 win over Betsiamites and Hickey touches the twine in the finals but the team can't produce more in a 4-1 loss to St. Basile le Grande. Ryan Tracy won the tournament's top defenseman award.

• The Draveur "B" Peewees finish up the season in first place so far. Shawville has one game left and could tie them.

In their matches, the Draveurs Peewees' Robert Chartrand, Michel Vaillancourt, John Charron, Patrick Pearson, Joel Boisvert and Jean Michel Normandeau scored in a 7-1 win over Maniwaki Friday. Saturday they beat Hull with Steven Chugg, Eric Godette and Ethienne LaSalle scoring for a 3-0 win. Then on Sunday, the Draveurs slammed the Rockets 6-0, giving goalie Tyler Ladouceur his eighth shutout. Boisvert, Vaillancourt (2), LaSalle, Pearson and O'Brien scored.

• The Bantam "CC" Lions dropped a 4-2 decision to Papnineau in league play with Danny Hobbs and Scott Danis getting the goals.

At the Maniwaki tournament, the Lions make it to the semis with a win, loss and a tie. Zach Villeneuve and Scott Levesque scored to win 2-1 over the Cumberland Barons. Danis got the only goal in 7-1 loss to Lachute and Sandy Dubeau, Danis and Hobbs then scored to tie Hull/Aylmer.

In the semis, Justin Murray and and Lance Orr score in a 4-2 loss to Maniwaki.

It's round robin play off time for the "CC" Bantams. They'll play in Shawville Feb. 26 and March 13, March 5 and 7 in Fort Coulonge. Between those games, they'll play in other rinks for total of eight games.

• The Bantam Pontiacs decimated Low 7-1 with Justin Allary (3), Andrew McLachlin (2), Ryan Racine and Kyle Sturgess-Smart getting the goals.

The day before, the Fort Coulonge Bantam Draveurs clip the Pontiacs 3-1 with Travis Johnston scoring the first goal followed by Marc Masseau and Mathieu Tremblay.

Cody Hodgins got the lone Shawville goal in the loss.

• The Coulonge Midgets drop their last game to Hull with Serge Duval scoring in a 4-1 loss.

The Madawaska Midget Girl's hockey team put in a strong showing at a tournament in Petawawa. The girls won the tourney, playing five games and had only two goals scored on them. (Back row, left to right) Head coach Ron Lance, assistant coach Jeff Vaive, trainer Kathy Pirie and team captain Desta Buse. (Middle row, left to right) Natalie Dubeau, Candice Sweet, Kelsey Vaive, Rebecca Dunbar, Laura Neill, Jodie King and Amanda McLaughlin. (Front row, left to right) Melissa Pirie and Allison McGrath. Missing from the photo are Lindsey Dougherty and Sarah Collins.

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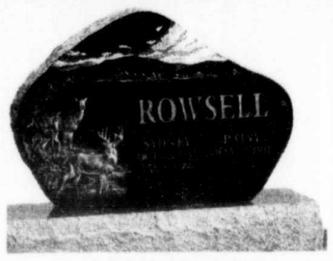

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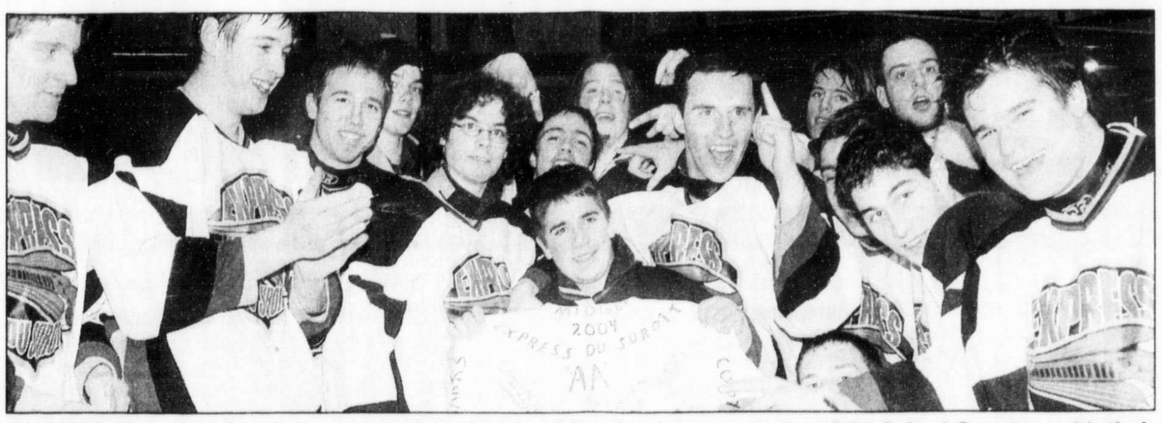


CHAMPS: The "AA" Suroît Express celebrate a hard fought victory over the "BB" Orford Coyotes, with their ambassadeur Cody Hodgins, centre. The Express went the distance winning all five games to take the 2004 Giant Tiger Cup in a come from behind 4-3 win.

Photos by Dave Moore, THE EQUITY

Express win GT Cup

SHAWVILLE — They saved the best for the last. Out of all the games played at the Pontiac National Midget Hockey Tournament, the last day was the best for hockey. Despite a few lopsided games, the finals in the "BB" class and grandfinal was worth waiting for.

"BB" Orford Coyotes and the "AA" Suroît severed up one of the best championship games in a couple of years with the lead changing hands a few times. It all came down to the last tick of the clock.

4-3 was the final score in the game for the "AA" Express to claim the 2004 Giant Tiger Cup and go home happy. On the other end, the Orford Coyotes were one of the class acts of the games as well, defeating Cornwall, St.Eustache and tying Rouyn-Noranda and providing a most entertaining "BB" final against Osgoode Rideau.

The Express, in turn defeated Sudbury, Ottawa Valley and Rideau Kings before eliminating the defending champs and league rivals, the D.D.O Vipers in the "AA" final, which seemed to them to be as big as their cup win later that evening.

CHAMPS IN CC: Terry Campbell, centre presents the "CC" banner to the Muskrat Voyageurs. From the left, Darren Reigier, Jeff McLeese, Campbell, Ryan Powell and captain Brett Coughlin.

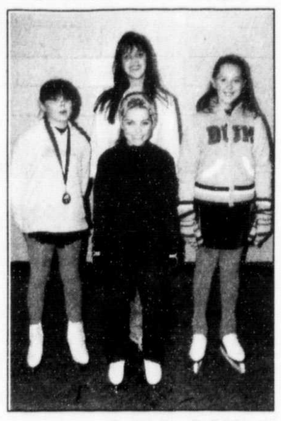
Local boys

As for the Muskrat Voyageurs, they provided the usual, exciting brand of hockey tournament goers have come accustom over the years in capturing wins over Lakeshore, D.D.O. and Manitoulin. This team also sported three Pontiac lads on the roster and they helped to take the Shawville Lions Banner in their division. Ryan Powell, Curtis Young and Jason Campbell all contributed to the games and Powell got the nod on the "CC" division's All-Star picks.

The Voyageurs went down to defeat 6-1 against Orford in the "BB/CC" finals after posting a fourth win over the Valley Storm in the "CC" final.

Powell scored a goal and had two assists, Young, had four assists in the games. Campbell has been on the mend saw action a little bit in the games.

CONGRATULATIONS: Members of the Shawville Figure Skating Club did well at two competitions last month. Melissa Lafleur (back row, left) took home a silver in the Pre-preliminary Freeskate at the Prescott Invitational Jan. 10 and 11.. Janice Black (back row, right) also competed at Prescott. Kylie Beck (back row, centre) and Keri Beck (front) both placed fourth at the Regional Championships (Jeu de Quebec) in Gatineau Jan. 24 and 25. (Missing from the photo are Jessica McGuire and Tessa Peck. Both girls competed but didn't place.)



Paul McGee, THE EQUITY

CORRECTION

Gavan's Hotel

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Poker Rally
Gauvreau Ski-doo - Masham
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COMING EVENTS

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

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

Feb. 24 – Pancake Supper, St. John's Church basement, Quyon. Time 4:30 - 7 p.m., admission adults $7, children $3. Everyone welcome. 2bf18

Sat., Feb. 21 – Mid-Winter Fling Party, cards, shuffleboard, dancing with live music, lunch served. $5 per person. Oddfellows' Hall, Alfred Street, Shawville (behind Ford Dealership). Call John Green 647-3427 or Harland Armitage 647-2405 for tickets. 2bf18

Mon., Feb. 23 – 2 to 4 p.m., Birthday Party for Gladys Queale at 24 Reid Street, Campbell's Bay, Quebec. An open invitation to all her friends. bf18

Tues., Feb. 24 – 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at the TCRA in Ladysmith. Cost $7 for adults, $3.50 for children aged 3 - 12. Sponsored by the Anglican Parish of Northern Pontiac (St. George's Thorne Centre). Come join us for this feast! For information call 648-2949 or see www.pontiacanglican.org 2bf18

Ash Wednesday Services and Programmes in the Parish of Northern Pontiac: At St. George's Anglican Church, Campbell's Bay: 10 a.m. Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes followed by Bible Study for Seniors from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch provided. At Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Danford Lake 7 p.m. Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes. For information call 648-2949 or see www.pontiacanglican.org 2f18

Feb. 24 – Pancake Supper, St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall 5 - 7 p.m., Adults $6 children under 12 $3. Everyone welcome. 2bf18

Sat., Feb. 28 – 5:30 Shawville Supper and Euchre, Masonic Hall, 244 Main St., Shawville. $8 per person. To reserve call Bev. 647-5911. Everyone welcome. *Shawville Chapter O.E.S. xf18

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Evaporators (sap) sizes, 2' x 3' and up ... 6" flues, stainless pans, float control, chimney, syrup valve ... Used aluminum buckets and spouts. Gatineau (819) 568-7213. 4xm10

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

Quyon – 2 bedroom apartment. References required, phone 458-2042. 2bf18

Quyon – 3 bedroom house on Main Street 613-591-3989. xf18

Quyon – one bedroom apartment, fridge and stove, heat and hydro included, 846 Clarendon Street. Phone 458-1233 or 729-4949 after 5 p.m. 2bF25

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Municipalité de Bryson
Avis Public
Avis Public est donné par la soussignée secrétaire-trésorière de la municipalité, Que le ministre des Affaires municipales, du Sport et du loisir, M. Jean-Marc Fournier, approuve conformément à l'article 25 de loi sur l'organisation territoriale municipale la demande de changement de nom de Municipalité du Village de Bryson pour lui donner le nom de "Municipalité de Bryson" situé sur le territoire de la Municipalité régionale du comté de Pontiac est entré en vigueur depuis le 20 décembre 2003.
Donné à Bryson (Québec) ce 16 février 2004
Tracey Herault,
Secrétaire-trésorière 0-1-F18

Municipality of Bryson
Public Notice
Public Notice is hereby given by the secretary-treasurer of the municipality that: the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Jean-Marc Fournier, has approved in conformity with article 25 in the Act of the Municipal Territorial Organization the request for the name change of Municipality Village of Bryson to the name of "Municipality of Bryson" situated on the territory of the Regional Municipality of the County of Pontiac, effective December 20th, 2003. Given at Bryson (Québec) this 16th day of February, 2004.
Tracey Hérault
Secretary Treasurer 0-1-F18

PERSONALS

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BIRTHS

Its a girl!
Allo – Jeff and Kimberley are pleased to announce the early arrival of Caitlin Ann on February 6, 2004 weighing 7 lbs. 10 oz. Caitlin is the third grandchild for Harvey and Fern Smith of Shawville and the first grandchild for Fred and Dyanne Allo of Oakville. Caitlin is blessed to have Robert and Dorothy Jack and Gordon Allo of Montreal as her great-grandparents.

Larocque/Jean-Marie – Alana Grace was born Jan. 29th, 2004 weighing 6 lbs. 9 ozs. Proud parents are Cory Larocque and Jenna Jean-Marie. Grandparents Suzanne and Raymond Larocque, Eddie and Angie Jean-Marie, Great-grandparents Doreen and Phil Jean-Marie, Gertrude Lemay, Alex Rutledge, Doris Larocque. Great-great-grandmother Beulah Hodgins. Thanks to Dr. Wootton and the wonderful nurses at the Shawville Maternity Ward.

BIRTH

Schwartz – Welcome baby girl! Mark and Kelly Schwartz are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Heidi Margaret Schwartz. Born on February 4th, 2004 at 2:25 p.m. at the Ottawa Civic Hospital weighing 6 lbs. 3 oz and having big beautiful blue eyes. Proud great-grandparents Phyllis O'Rourke and Ray and Mary Wiggins. Proud Grandparents are Terry and Margaret O'Rourke and Doug and Isabel Schwartz. A special surprise for Heidi, her Aunt Virginia Schwartz has flown home from Vancouver for the occasion joining Aunt Terri Thompson (O'Rourke), Aunt Kerry Brydges (O'Rourke) and Uncle Shawn Schwartz. Thank you to both our families for your kindness, love and support, we can't express our gratitude.

DEATHS

Rogers, Aimee and Dana – Cradled from their Mommies' arms into Heaven, peacefully surrounded by love, on Sunday, February 8, 2004. Our baby girls, Aimee Claire Margaret and Dana Catherine Bridget, precious daughters of John and Kimberly (nee Lalonde) Rogers. Friends called at the Garden Chapel of Tubman Funeral Homes, 3440 Richmond Rd., (between Bayshore and Baseline Rd.,) on Monday, February 16, 2004 from 7 to 9 p.m. Those wishing may make a donation to the charity of choice. Condolences may be made at www.tubmanfuneralhomes.com.
Twinkling stars are shining down on a world of tears forever here.
Our eyes follow you, wherever you are.
Always a part of us, never gone, untouchable but adored,
My baby girls.

Smith, Lorena Grace – Peacefully in the Ottawa Hospital, General Campus on Monday, February 9, 2004 in her 100th year. Loving wife of the late William Smith. Dear mother of Winona (Bill Hoad) of Sarnia, Ontario, Lorena (late Ray Wallace) of Greely, Ontario and Evangeline Wallace (Allen Cassidy, and predeceased by husbands Elson Smiley and Gary Wallace) of Ottawa and Catherine (Jim McCallum) of Pembroke, Ontario. Loving grandmother of Janet and Douglas Hoad, Trudy, Sandra and Wendy Smiley; and Tracey, Kim and Christina McCallum; and 8 great-grandchildren. There will be no visitation. A graveside committal service will take place in Campbell's Bay United Church Cemetery in the Spring. The family wishes to express their appreciation to the Glebe Centre during her many years of residency and also to the Ottawa General Hospital staff and Dr. Pollock. Special gratitude to Pierre Piché, Nurse Manager and Dr. Sealy of the Palliative Care Unit. Arrangements in the care of W. J. Hayes & Sons Funeral Home, Shawville, Quebec. 819-647-2221.

MEMORIAM

Carson, Linda – In loving memory of a dear daughter, sister and aunt who passed away Feb. 17, 2003.
We are thinking of you today
But that is nothing new
We thought about you yesterday
And the day before that too,
We will think of you tomorrow
And each day as we come and go,
We will think of you forever
We love and miss you so.
Always remembered,
Mom, Brenda, Lindsay, Michelle and Brandon

Corrigall, James – In loving memory of a dear husband, father, Grandfather and Great-grandfather who passed away Feb. 22, 2002.
They say that time heals everything
But I know it isn't so,
Because it hurts as much today
As it did two years ago.
Among the loss and heartache
One thought has made me glad
You chose me to share with you
The precious years we had.
Missing you and loving you.
Forever your wife, Ruby, Brian, Pat, Kathy and families

MEMORIAM

Dagg – In memory of a loving son, brother and grandson, Marty, who was taken to Heaven Feb. 18, 2001.
You've been gone for three years, and nothing has changed,
The empty place in our lives can never be filled.
You are always in our thoughts,
Your memory forever in our hearts.
We love and miss you so very much. Dad and Mum, Tami and Greg, Grandma and Grandpa

Lepine – In loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother Rita Lepine who died February 19, 1998.
It tears could build a stairway
And memories build a lane
We'd walk right up to heaven
And bring you back again.
Your loving family Jeannett and Garry, Margaret and Tom, grandchildren and great-great grandchildren

Lepine – In loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother, Rita, who passed away on February 19, 1998.
Memories have such lovely ways
They give us back our yesterdays,
Treasured memories keep you near,
As time unfolds another year.
Always in our thoughts.
DeeDee, Donnie, Randy, Patsy, Tyler and Jake

Pitt, Delmer – Husband, father and grandfather who died Feb. 17, 2002.
Time speeds on, two years are gone,
Our lips cannot tell how we miss him,
Our hearts cannot tell what to say
God only knows how much we miss him,
In our home that is lonesome today.
You live forever in our hearts.
Joyce and family

Stanton, W. J. – Memories of W. J. Stanton – Dad (Aug. 7, 1917 - Feb. 21, 2001)
"Still"
Still sad that you're no longer with us
Still happy your suffering is gone
Still sad that the voice we loved dearly,
No longer sings that old song (Paddy McGuinty's Goat).
Still aching when we pass your picture,
Still happy that Heaven above
Holds someone we love and we cherish,
Wrapped warmly in heavenly love.
How the angels must laugh almost daily,
And their choirs ring with sweet Irish lilt
Hearing "Jay" tells his humorous stories,
Singing songs that would make their hearts melt.
Oh Dad, how we hope we will see you
When God calls us home – one by one
And we ask that you pray for us always,
Your family – each daughter and son.
Tell the Lord to look after our loved one,
Pray Dad that we don't lose our way
And make sure that God knows Our Heaven
Would be "Chatting with W. J."
Love Colleen and Ron

Stevens – 1913 - 1994; 1942-2002. In memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather Frederick William Feb. 25, 1994 and son Robert Sidney who passed away Feb. 27, 2002.
There is a family who misses you both dearly
In a home where both of you used to be,
A family who wanted to keep you both
God willed it not to be.
You left us happy memories
A sorrow to great to be told,
But to us who loved you both,
Your happy memories will always remain in our hearts,
And never grow old.
Fondly remembered by wife and family, Florence M. Stevens

MEMORIAM

Gravelle – A dear sister Darlene who passed away Feb. 21, 2002.
Love you forever.
Love Lorna

Gravelle, Darlene (Brown) – Feb. 21, 2002. Loving wife and cherished mom.
Deep in our hearts lies a picture
Of a loved one laid to rest
In memory's frame we shall keep it
Because Darlene was the best.
Forever loved, Lionel and Natalie

Gravelle – A dear sister Darlene who passed away Feb. 21, 2002.
Precious memories, how they linger.
Love Eileen

Gravelle – In loving memory of my dear Aunt Darlene who passed away Feb. 21, 2002.
The moment that you died
Our hearts split in two,
The one side filled with memories,
The other died with you.
We often lie awake at night,
When the world is fast asleep,
And take a walk down memory lane,
With tears upon our cheeks.
Remembering you is easy,
We do it every day,
But missing you is a heartache,
That never goes away.
We hold you tight within our hearts,
And there you will remain,
Life has gone on without you
But it never will be the same.
Loving you always. Andrea

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THANKS

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.
R.B.O.

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LE PLUS GRAND POISSON: Les enfants ont joué sur un grand poisson de niege chez le Rocher Fendu competition des poissons à Davidson le 7 février.

'Villages branchés' : où en est rendu le dossier?

MANIWAKI — Le dossier 'Villages branchés' continue son cheminement et une réponse est attendue pour bientôt relativement à la demande d'aide financière.

On se souvient que ce dossier porte sur la réalisation d'un réseau de télécommunication à large bande sur les territoires de la Vallée de la Gatineau et du Pontiac. Piloté par la Commission scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais, ce projet est d'une grande importance pour le développement de ces deux régions et représente un investissement de 3 millions $ et plus.

L'automne dernier, les deux MRCs concernées ont donné leur appui au projet, ainsi que les deux CLDs. La demande d'aide financière a été envoyée au programme 'Villages branchés' au cours du mois d'octobre 2003. Ce programme provincial défraie les deux tiers des coûts nécessaires à la réalisation des projets, le reste étant à la charge des partenaires locaux. La réponse à la demande d'aide financière est attendue au début 2004, peut-être en janvier.

Dans le cas du projet de la CSHBO, les principaux partenaires impliqués sont au nombre de trois : la commission scolaire, la MRC Vallée de la Gatineau et la MRC Pontiac. D'ailleurs, en ce qui concerne la CSHBO, le conseil des commissaires, lors de sa rencontre du 26 novembre, a mis en réserve un montant de 500 000 $ pour acquitter sa part des frais, pris à même le surplus accumulé.

Un changement important à signaler, c'est l'arrivée de la Commission scolaire Western Quebec dans le dossier. Cette commission scolaire anglophone couvre tout l'ouest de la province de Québec, soit les territoires de l'Outaouais et l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Essentiellement, la CSWQ souhaite se brancher sur le réseau qui est appelé à être construit, afin de pouvoir relier plusieurs de ses écoles situées sur notre territoire. Du coup, elle participera aussi au financement du projet, d'une façon proportionnelle aux aménagements faits pour répondre à ses besoins.

Un autre partenaire additionnel s'est joint au groupe initial : le Centre régional de service aux bibliothèques publiques de l'Outaouais. Le CRSBPO souhaite participer au projet pour brancher certaines de ses bibliothèques membres au réseau qui sera construit.

Par ailleurs, il faut signaler la formation de deux comités qui piloteront le dossier au cours des prochains mois. Le premier comité est à caractère politique et regroupe les préfets des deux MRCs (MM. Pierre Rondeau et Michael McCrank), les directeurs généraux des deux CLDs (MM. Marc Dupuis et Jean-Pierre Ledoux) et deux représentants de la CSHBO, soit la directrice générale (Mme Marlène Thonnard) et le directeur du service des ressources matérielles et des technologies de l'information (M. Alain Royer). Deux représentants de la Commission scolaire Western Quebec (M. Paul Lamoureux et Colin O'Shea) et une du Centre régional de service aux bibliothèques publiques (Mme Sylvie Thibault) viennent compléter ce comité.

Le deuxième comité est d'ordre technique. Il rassemble M. Nicolas Chaussé (coordonnateur informatique à la CSHBO), Greg Charron (régisseur au service informatique à la CSWQ), Marc Langevin (représentant de la MRC Vallée de la Gatineau) et Unik GiVogue (conseiller informatique au Centre régional de service aux bibliothèques publiques de l'Outaouais), plus un représentant de la MRC Pontiac (à déterminer). Viendra également s'y adjoindre un représentant de la firme de génie-conseil qui sera choisie sous peu.

Cette firme de génie-conseil sera sélectionnée d'ici quelques mois, suite à un appel d'offres. La firme agira comme maître d'œuvre du projet et produira notamment une étude d'ingénierie détaillée. Elle supervisera également les travaux de construction du réseau de télécommunication qui reliera les divers bâtiments des partenaires : écoles, centres, salles municipales, casernes d'incendie, bibliothèques, etc.

En 2003, le Ministère de l'Éducation à versé plus de 2,5 millions de dollars pour soutenir les projets des étudiants inscrits au concours québécois en entrepreneurship

GATINEAU — Le Concours québécois en entrepreneurship favorise le développement de l'esprit entrepreneurial dans le réseau de l'éducation au Québec. De plus, il permet de créer un lien tangible entre la dimension éducative et celle du progrès de l'économie et de l'emploi. Il offre aussi un tremplin aux jeunes de tout âge désirant se lancer en affaires ou réaliser des projets qui feront valoir leurs talents et leurs habiletés de futurs entrepreneurs.

Afin de soutenir les projets conçus par les étudiants des commissions scolaires, des collèges et des établissements d'enseignement privés agréés aux fins de subvention, le ministère de l'Éducation, au moyen de sa Mesure de sensibilisation à l'entrepreneurship, verse une aide financière aux établissements d'enseignement pour tout étudiant inscrit à temps plein qui présente un projet dans le volet « Entrepreneuriat étudiant » du Concours québécois en entrepreneurship. En 2002-2003 seulement, le ministère de l'Éducation a versé plus de 2 500 000 $ pour quelque 50 700 élèves du primaire, du secondaire et du collégial qui ont déposé des projets. Dans la région de l'Outaouais les montants alloués ont été de l'ordre de 37 800 $. Cette participation financière importante permet au Concours d'obtenir un succès considérable.

Les barèmes de financement varient selon les ordres d'enseignement admis au Concours. Ainsi, les établissements d'enseignement primaire et secondaire, publics ou privés, reçoivent 50 $ par élève, alors que les établissements d'enseignement collégial (préuniversitaire et technique) reçoivent 62,37 $ par étudiant et étudiante.

Le ministère de l'Éducation est convaincu que la sensibilisation à l'entrepreneuriat amène les étudiants à considérer le lancement d'une entreprise ou le travail autonome comme des moyens d'intégrer le marché du travail. Ces deux avenues doivent faire partie des choix d'avenir qui leur sont offerts. C'est pourquoi il faut donner aux étudiants l'occasion de réfléchir sur ces possibilités, qui comportent de grandes exigences et de beaux défis sur le plan de l'initiative, de la créativité et du dynamisme. Dans cette optique, il faut les faire connaître aux jeunes et aider ces derniers à acquérir les compétences nécessaires pour réaliser leurs rêves.

Le ministère de l'Éducation souhaite bonne chance et bon parcours à tous les participants et participantes au Concours québécois en entrepreneurship.

Une assemblée générale spéciale du Centre local de développement du Pontiac aura lieu le 25 février 2004 à 19h00 à la salle de conseil de la Municipalité régionale de comté de Pontiac au 602, Route 301 à Campbell's Bay.

L'ordre du jour est le suivant :
1. Apporter les modifications requises à la composition du Conseil d'administration et au droit de vote afin de les rendre conformes entre autres aux dispositions des articles 89 à 96 de la loi 34
2. Modifications des lettres patentes
3. Modifications aux règlements généraux

Seuls les représentants des membres privilégiés et municipaux présents, tel que décrit à l'article 6 des règlements généraux du CLD du Pontiac, ont droit de vote.

The Pontiac Local Development Center will hold a Special General Meeting on February 25, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Regional County Municipality of Pontiac Council room at 602 Route 301 in Campbell's Bay.

The agenda is as follows:
1. Modify the composition of the Board of Directors and the right to vote in order to conform with Articles 89 to 96 of Law 34
2. Modifications to the Articles of Incorporation
3. Modifications to the General By-laws.

Only the representatives of the Privileged and Municipal Members present at the meeting, as described in Article 6 of the By-laws of the Pontiac CLD, have the right to vote.

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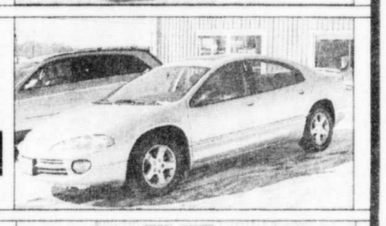

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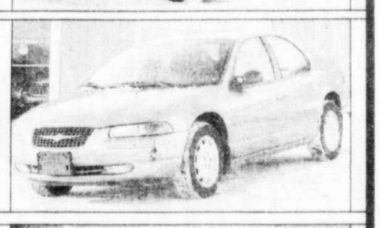

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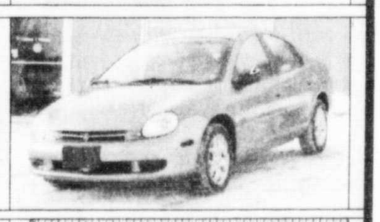

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CALDWELL

Keep up the good work

By HERMONIE SHARPE
Correspondent
647-3459

Birthday congratulations go out to Mary McCagg of Shawville who celebrated her 99th on Monday, Feb. 9.

This is Wednesday, Feb. 11 and after reading THE EQUITY I realized that Caldwell was really on the map this week. First there was our neighbour and friend, Michelle Tremblay, on the front page with some of the ones who did such a marvelous job collecting and supplying school supplies for school children in Mazamnbique, South Africa.Then on the page is her dad, Dan Tremblay with the group playing on the Highway 148 Auto Transmission curling team. They won the coveted toilet trophy seat. Congratulations. On the front of the bridal section was Ruth Sharpe's daughter, Chrissie Gordon with her husband Chad Parson. Their wedding took place this past summer at the little Cushman Memorial Church is Norway Bay. Chrissie is also one of my granddaughters. The pictures were taken by the Starlet Studio in Shawville.

This past Thursday night the euchre club held their Valentine potluck supper. What a meal we enjoyed. We sure have some good cooks around. The crowd was moderate but the atmosphere and fun was just what all these clubs are about. Some of our clubs are run differently. But, then it wouldn't be much fun if they were all the same. Our club started out to help our new hall. We give help throughout our community wherever we see it is needed. Some clubs take trips but instead we have three free meals a year to all members as well as entertaining on special occasions. We had a lovely letter from a very busy man who will soon be retiring, in the person of Dr. Wilbert Keon. He thanked us for our help with our donations towards the Heart and Stroke and asked us to keep up the good work. As these clubs play on different nights we can always go to more than one and help them, which many of us do.

Birthday congratulations go out Gladys Queale of The Manor in Campbell's Bay who celebrates her 93rd on Feb. 23.

Birthday congratulations go out to my daughter Ruth who celebrates Feb. 10. Hope you enjoy many more Ruth.

Anniversary congratulations go out to John and Louise Lateer of Sussex, New Jersey who celebrate their 64th on Feb. 24.

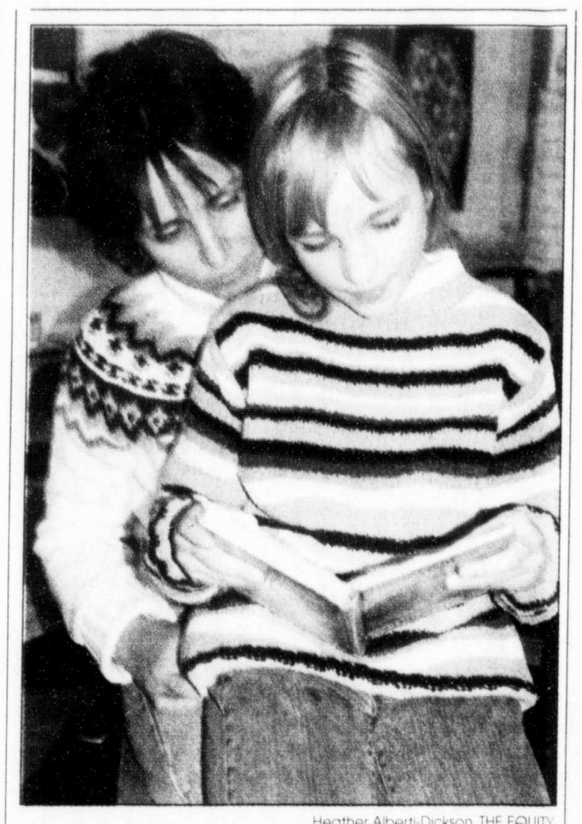
Birthday congratulations go out to my niece Joyce Thompson's husband Maynard, of Ottawa who celebrates on Feb. 25.

Birthday congratulations go out to Nellie Jette who celebrates on Feb. 22.

Get well wishes are sent to Morley Sharpe who has been a patient in hospital in Shawville.

Anniversary congratulations go out to Frank and Yvette Lacourse of Shawville who celebrate Feb. 18.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Jean Beatrice Knox, loving wife of the late George Knox who passed away on Friday, Feb. 13 aged 84 years. Dear mother of Sterling (Greer Forster), North Gower, Ron (Eleanor Sinclair) Nepean, Terry (Sue Eberts), Kevin (Lyn Campbell) and Beth (Ron Campbell) all of Shawville. Loving sister of Paska (late Ernie Emerson, Lavina (late Fred Alexander), Eldon Morrison (Isabella). Sadly missed by six grandchildren. Dear sister-in-law of Carolyn Knox and Helen Dale and brother-in-law Jim Knox. Funeral services were held on Monday, Feb. 16 from Shawville United Church with burial in Norway Bay United Church Cemetery.



Heather Alberti-Dickson, THE EQUITY

LITERACY DAY: Literacy Day was celebrated in a big way at the Dr. S.E. McDowell School in Shawville last Tuesday, Jan. 27. Parents of Grade 4 students participated in class work by reading out loud with children. Photographed here reading are Jillian Pasch and her mother Cathy.

BRYSON

Best care you could receive

By ANNA STEWART
Correspondent
648-2351

Get well wishes to Melba Wallace. Hope you are feeling better.

I hope everyone had a nice Valentine's Day. We went to the Chinese buffet in Renfrew. It was excellent.

Well hi Bill Wallace. It's your big birthday this year. Well, all I can say is you will be richer at the end of March when your first big cheque comes in. Well have a super day Bill.

A special get well wish to Liz Bastien who is in the Shawville Hospital. Also get well wishes to Charlie Routliffe of Bryson who is also a patient in hospital. Hope you are feeling better.

Belated birthday to Melissa Piche of Calumet Island. Hope you had a great day.

On Sunday morning I took my daughter Heather to emergency at the hospital. She needed emergency, minor surgery. Dr. Potvin and Dr. O'Neill were called in. Within the hour Heather was looked after with the best care you could receive anywhere. She said the doctors and emergency nurses were excellent. She would like to thank them and recommend the hospital and care to anyone. Winners of the euchre this past week were 50/50 Napoleon Bleau, door prize Laura Godin, men's first prize Napoleon Bleau, men's second prize Ivan Saunders. Ladies first prize went to Veronica Perrier, second Anna Porter and Rita McGuire.

SHAWVILLE

They sure know how to party

By RON HODGINS
Correspondent
647-6001

Well Valentine's Day has come and gone and what a fun weekend it was. Jill and I teamed up on Friday night and worked the door at the Midget Tournament. It had been a long time since I had gone to a hockey game and I was somewhat surprised at some of the things I saw. Everything seemed to be so well organized. Weekend and team passes were ready when the hockey teams arrived. There was a draw on a hockey stick, a 50/50 draw was being sold to raise money and there was plenty of food upstairs for the teams. Jill and I were also treated, as a plate of food and coffee.

The neat professional look of some of the players is what surprised me the most. Many were dressed in shirt and tie with dress pants and don't forget that they had just travelled their way on a bus. But, there were some who didn't dress the part. A distant team arrived in baggy jeans trailing the floor with wind swept hair. Perhaps the windows were all opened on the bus, or perhaps they were trying to copy their hero, Daniel Alfredson who is also badly in need of a hair cut.

Then Jill and I went to Atkinson's for a Valentine's drink and to harass a certain EQUITY staff member who moonlights there at night. This person was also part of the curling team (remember last week's comments). So, I had to set a few thing straight with her. On my way home I was presented with a lovely gift. Thank you Jill they were great. I took some of them to bed with me that night.

Now, to EQUITY Dave! I enjoyed your add on comment last week. Yes, congratulations on placing second in your division. You do know why there are different color division don't you? The fact that your team only curls once a year is too bad. Let me remind you that curling season starts in November and lasts til April and that the club is always looking for good, experienced players such as your team. If that was the case we might see more curling photos and stories from you. Laird, I hope you move them up a division or two next year so we will see if they can brag next year.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jean Knox who passed away this past week. She was a kind-hearted person who took pride and joy spending time with her granddaughters. She will certainly be missed by all her friends and neighbours whose lives she touched.

Saturday night a group from the Shawville area travelled to Calumet Island to their Valentine's Dance. What a good time we all had. The supper was great with lots of food and different choices. They sure know how to party up there. The organizers had a table reserved for us close to the band and we gave them requests all night long. Dr. Horner requested her favorite song (the Rodeo Song) and they were able to play it. We all sang along and brought the house down. We're not sure if we will ever be invited back.

Get well wishes are sent to Lynda Horner (Mrs. Henry) who is in the Shawville Hospital. Sure hope you are feeling better real soon.

I had a call from a lady telling me that my neighbor, Mr. Bill Wallace is celebrating his birthday this Friday. Not only is he turning another year older but also it is his 65th. Now many of you already know that Bill has retired from farming but I see a new pile of wood in his yard that needs sawing and splitting. I'm sure this will give you something to do on you big day. Hope you have a good one.

LADYSMITH

A claim to fame

By DEBBIE LANCE THRUN
Correspondent
647-3927

Valentine's Day has come and gone once again. I'm sure everyone had a lovely day as you celebrated with your special loved ones.

Special anniversary congratulations to Idena and David Parent of Charteris who celebrated their 45th on Feb. 16. Wishing you both many more with good health and happiness.

Birthday congratulations to Dodie Holmes who celebrates Feb. 19. Wishing you a great day from all your friends.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Jean Knox of Shawville. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends.

Get well wishes to Ernest Bretzlaff who is a patient in Shawville Hospital.

Visiting with us on Saturday were Angie and Steve Venture of Johnston's Lake.

The deer seem to be having a fairly good winter. They have their trails made and are travelling on them. Some people are putting out food which certainly helps them.

The Thorne Hospital Auxiliary Valentine Bake Sale held this past Thursday was once again a huge success. A special cake which was made by Essie Schwartz was raffled off. It was won by Brittany Benjiman of Charteris. This is one of the ways the auxiliary raises money for the hospital. The auxiliary appreciates those who supported the sale either by baking, donating or buying the products.

Last week I had a lovely phone conversation with Idena Parent of Charteris.

On Sunday, Feb.8 Margaret Fieroben, Jean Thompson and George all went to visit Mary McCagg who is a patient in the long term. The occasion was to celebrate Mary's 99th birthday. Her family had organized a party for her and large number of family members attended to help celebrate. We heard that the McCagg family has a claim to fame. They currently have five generations living. This is certainly something you don't hear of every day. Congratulations.

Visiting with Margaret on Friday were her sister, Grace and Bob Stewart and David of Ottawa. They all went out to the restaurant and had a lovely dinner. A great social time was much enjoyed by everyone.

Birthday greetings to Philip Atkinson who celebrates Feb. 23.

Paul visited and we hope all had a good Valentine's Day.

My there certainly are some careless drivers on the roads these days. They don't seem to realize that winter driving conditions require more caution. It's harder to steer, brake and control your vehicle on snow or ice. I've noticed a lot of people follow too close to the vehicle ahead. If that vehicle ever had to stop suddenly you wouldn't have much of a chance. Another thing is passing and speeding up on snow covered roads.

Deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Mrs. Jacques Lapointe who recently passed away.

Calling us on the weekend was our good friend, Harold Mahlitz of Kitchner. He reports getting much the same weather there as we have been getting. He sends greetings to all his friends in this area.

The snowmobile trails are probably as good as they are going to get. There was a very late start this winter. On the weekend the trails were quite busy. There seemed to be snowmobilers everywhere.

The cold temperatures are really staying with us and all the wind makes it feel even colder. All we can do is wait and see what nature is going to bring us. So, in the mean time keep those fires stoked up and keep warm.

Eric Campbell who lives in the Holy Land reports on Sunday morning it was so cold that the cows were giving ice cream.

OTTER LAKE

Exciting hockey

By ELIZABETH HAHN
Correspondent
453-7326

On Thursday Elizabeth Hahn and her son Pat drove to Waterloo for Natalie Hahn and Sarah lavendure at Wilfred Laurier University who are both home for one week. This is their reading week.

Also visiting with Pat and Dolores in Pembroke were Pam and Randy Thoms, Kathryn and Graham of Kanata, Roy and Shirley Thoms of Shawville, Kelly Hahn and her family. They all attended the hockey tournament at Pem Ice 2. My grandson Graham Thoms plays with the West Carleton Warriors B1 Atom. They won the tournament. Congratulations Graham and to your team for playing great, exciting games.

VINTON

Sympathy expressed

By BERTHA MCGEE
Correspondent
648-2669

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family of the late Toner (Tony) Davis who passed away Monday, Feb. 9 at the age of 97 years. Beloved husband of the late Robina Mousseau,d ear father of Brian (Mona Durocher), Dwight and Jeffrey (Joanne Adams). Survived by four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by brothers Ray, Frank, James and Eddy and sisters Vera, Zita and Nellie. Funeral mass was celebrated in St. Peter's Church, Fort Coulonge on Friday, Feb. 13. Tony was a reader of THE EQUITY which he enjoyed very much. He always looked forward to THE EQUITY. He also enjoyed playing violin and banjo. He will be missed by all his friends and family. He had a very good memory and could talk about anything as he remembered times of long ago. He had a nice long life and was very smart. He lived in Fort Coulonge all his life.

A former Vinton resident passed away at Foyer de Val D'Or on Feb. 7 at the age of 88 years. Agnes Mulvey beloved wife of Edgar Downey. Dear sister of John of Penticton, BC. Also survived by sisters-in-law Mary Lapierre, Chapeau and Hazel McGuire Allumette Island and Elaine Grace Mulvey, wife of the late Thomas Mulvey of Aylmer and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by a son Ray, brothers Thomas, George and Charles and sisters Della (late Lorney Cosgrove) and Bridget (late Austin Sloan). Wake and funeral were from Ringrose Brothers Funeral home, Campbell's Bay on Feb. 10 and mass of Christian burial was held in St. Elizabeth's Church, Vinton on Feb. 11 with Father Douglas Morris officiating. Interment was in the parish cemetery. Lunch was served in the Lions Hall, Campbell's Bay following the burial. A large crowd from Sheenboro and district and also from Ottawa attended.

News is scarce so if you have any to report call me at 648-2669.

CAMPBELL'S BAY

Everyone is invited

By IRIS SMITH
Correspondent
648-5821

Get well wishes to June Stephens who had the misfortune to break her arm.

Sunday, Feb. 22 is the kick-off to the Centennial Celebrations in Campbell's Bay for the 100th anniversary at the R.A. Hall with lunch and cake at 11:30 a.m. Greetings are at 12 p.m. and a magic show at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to join in the first of the celebrations.

The Golden Age held its Valentine euchre on Tuesday evening. Ladies high was a tie between Doris Telford and Veronica Perrier, second was a three-way tie between Anna Porter, Blanche Doucette and Iris Smith. They split the prize. Men's high was a tie between Theo Schroeder and Laurier Dumouchel. They split the prize. Second was a four-way tie between Gordon Porter, Lucien Dumouchel, Tom Hearty and Laurent Chevalier. They split the prize. The door prize was won by Veronica Perrier, the Valentine door prize by Georgette Robitaille and the 50/50 draw was won by Roger Lacroix. Everyone present came away with a prize. Refreshments were by Laurent Chevalier and Marie Therese Ryan.

Two of our local artists, Stephan Scrak from Vinton and Kay Ranger from Campbell's Bay are showing at Café 349 on Main Street in Shawille next to the National Bank. Their oils and water media are featured along with works of other artists in pottery and painting on silk. The Café is an enjoyable spot for lunch and there is the opportunity to view all this wonderful art while you are there. Their paintings are on display from Feb. 14 until the end of March. It's worth a visit and the food is homemade and always fresh.

Two robberies on Friday and Saturday afternoon kept police busy tracking down the culprits. So everyone should be on the alert and keep your doors locked.

The Pontiac Lionettes held their Valentine's euchre on Friday evening. It is an annual affair that everyone looks forward to. Ladies high was a tie between Bella Lasalle and Rita McGuire. They split the prize, second was a four-way tie between Sheila Racine, Isobel Dagenais, Lorraine Gagné and Isobel Lacroix. They split the prize. Men's high was won by Fern Lepine, second was a tie between Leo O'Brien and Lucien Dumouchel. They split the prize. The winner of the skunks after a draw were Sheila Racine and Boyd Ebert. Boxes of groceries were won by Shirley Landry, Guy Racine and Mary Hearty. The 50/50 was won by Ella Romain and the door prize by Gwen Black. Everyone went home happy as they received a gift and enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Get well wishes to Nellis Stewart and Morley Sharpe both patients in Shawville Hospital.

Sunday after church at St. Andrew's United Church in Campbell's Bay there was a potluck dinner following the service. Everyone enjoyed it. Afterwards they held their annual meeting and made plans for the year.

Birthday greetings to Matthew Black, Mandy Theriault, Ashley Revit, William Stewart, G. C. Meilleur, Cory Hobbs, our grandson, Bill Crawford and Denis Larriviere all celebrating birthdays this week.

Anniversary wishes to Maurice and Laurette Dubeau and Dale and Wendy Crawford who celebrated this past week.

The Golden Peak dinner was held at the Lions Hall on Thursday at noon. This is a special meal for seniors and greatly appreciated.

Birthday wishes go out to Bill Wallace who celebrates a birthday this week.

Gladys Walsh spent several days in Aylmer this past week visiting with relatives.

The Respite Center held an Open House on Saturday, Feb. 14. Musicians included Maurice Dubeau and Anna Crawford and Paul. A light lunch was served and friends and relatives were able to visit.

QUYON

Supper must be good

By JILL McBANE
Correspondent
458-2366

Happy 60th anniversary to Roly and Dorothy Trudeau. There will be an open house at the Women's Institute on Saturday from 1 to 5. Best wishes Roly and Dorothy.

The Pontiac Mallard Fish and Game held their annual two day fishing derby this past weekend. The overall winner with the biggest fish was Clifford Grant, first place went to Ricky Laroque, second to Dean Howard and third to Sylvie Fournier. In the kid's category first .place went to Brittany Wiens, second to Raymond Perriard and third to Nicholas Rebertz.

Hey Ron I hope you survived Valentine's Day and thanks for helping me at the Midget Tournament last weekend.

The Onslow School will be having their annual winter carnival this Friday. Activities included are downhill skiing, snowboarding, skating at the Quyon Rink, sliding at Sue and Richard Greenshield's hill and winter activities in the school back yard.

Belated birthday wishes are sent to Kendra Kearns with love from Grandma and Grandpa Gibbons.

Get well wishes go out to Oakie Gordon from family and friends.

A very happy birthday to Jewell Zimmerling who celebrated Feb. 14 from all your friends. Sorry we're late.

Happy birthday to Barclay Wickens who turns 30 on Feb. 24. His sisters want him to know that he went from being the youngest to the oldest in the family since they are all 29. Love Lisa, Lorna, Lorretta and Lorraine. I'm sure Barclay if you go to your dad's (Hawley's) you'll be sure to get a cup of tea.

Congratulations to Maddie Morris the meat winner at the Legion this week. Supper must be good at the Morris house these past few weeks.

Happy birthday to David Scully love Mary and Connor.

Randy Bean and his two grandchildren Chris and Cory-Lee from Winnipeg visited his parents Earl and Mildred Bean in Ottawa recently. Also home for the weekend was Colin and Culley Bean from Woodstock. Robert Lacourse visited with Randy on Saturday. randy had just returned form Mexico as a guide on a hunting safari. Randy owns and operates Aksarnerk Adventure at Riding Mountain near Brandon, Manitoba. His clients are mostly from the U.S.A. He has travelled to Africa on several occasions. It has been quite an experience for him.

Ron and Bonnie Bean and Ron and Christine Kelly spent a nice holiday in Arizona visiting with uncle Emmett Kelly and while there they motored to Mexico and visited several historical places. A great trip.

Congratulations go out to Lise and Clint Pile on the arrival of their son Bailey Stephen born Feb. 13. Proud grandparents are Bob and Anne (Cartier) Bean. Also excited are first-time Aunt Lesley and her husband Sean Parkes.

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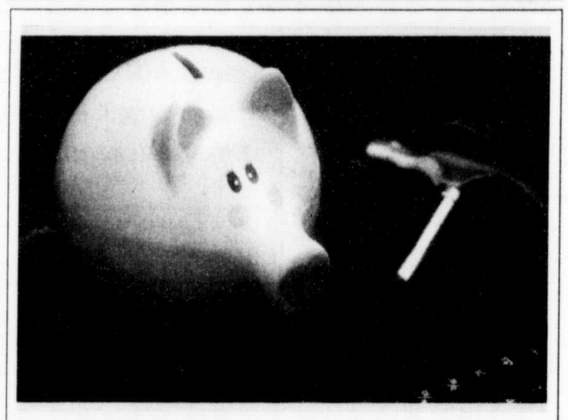

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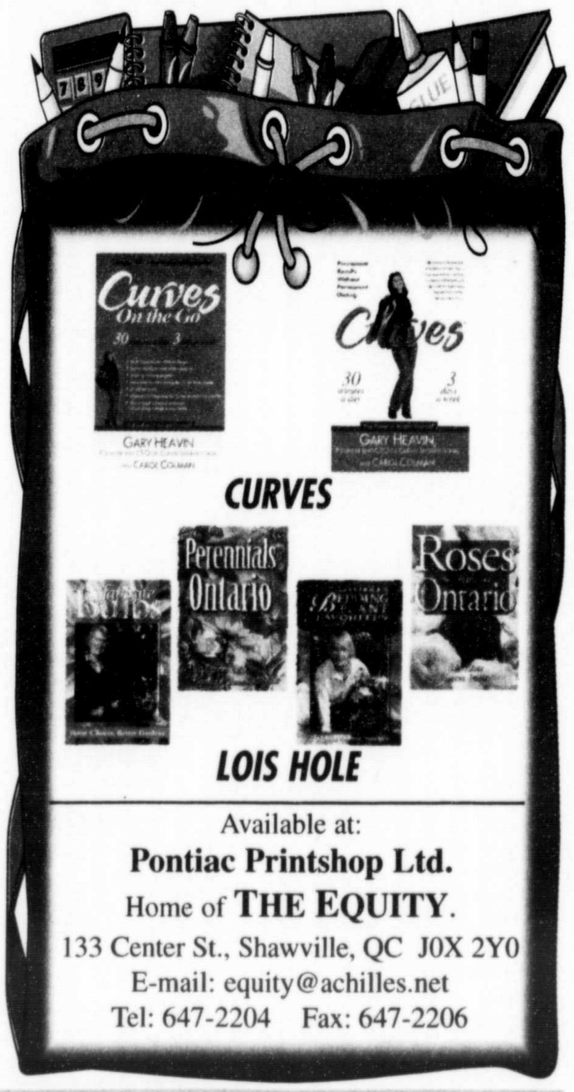

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