

Thom Transport threatens to cancel Pontiac's inter-city bus service

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
PONTIAC • Transport Thom Ltée is threatening to cancel inter-city bus service from Pontiac to Ottawa if passenger numbers don't jump by the end of May.
Passengers on the charter bus line were handed a notice April 28 stating that the Gatineau-based company is considering discontinuing the service.
"We are thinking of it," said Antonio Thom,

owner of Transport Thom Ltée. "We are not making any money."
The bus, which holds a maximum of 47 people, regularly transports 25 to 30 into and out of Ottawa each weekday.
Thom says that in order to make a profit he would have to fill the bus each day and raise the fare.
Right now a passenger can get on the bus at Allumettes Island and head to Ottawa for \$17 one-way.

"We advertised last year that we would raise the rate, and added pick-ups between Allumettes Island and Fort Coulonge, thinking we would get more people, but it didn't," said Thom. "We charge half the fare of Greyhound which runs on the Ontario-side."
Passengers who received the notice are scrambling to stop the process.
"They can't think of discontinuing this service," said Danielle Lepage of Calumet Island, who sent open letters to MP Lawrence Cannon

and the Pontiac MRC seeking support.
Lepage said that the price of gas and the reduced stress from not driving are what keep her taking the bus, as well as being environmentally friendly.
"I moved to the Island in September because I only have four and-a-half years left in the government to work and my doctor told me I shouldn't drive," she said. "I'm not going to sell my home — I'll have to drive if they discontinue the service."

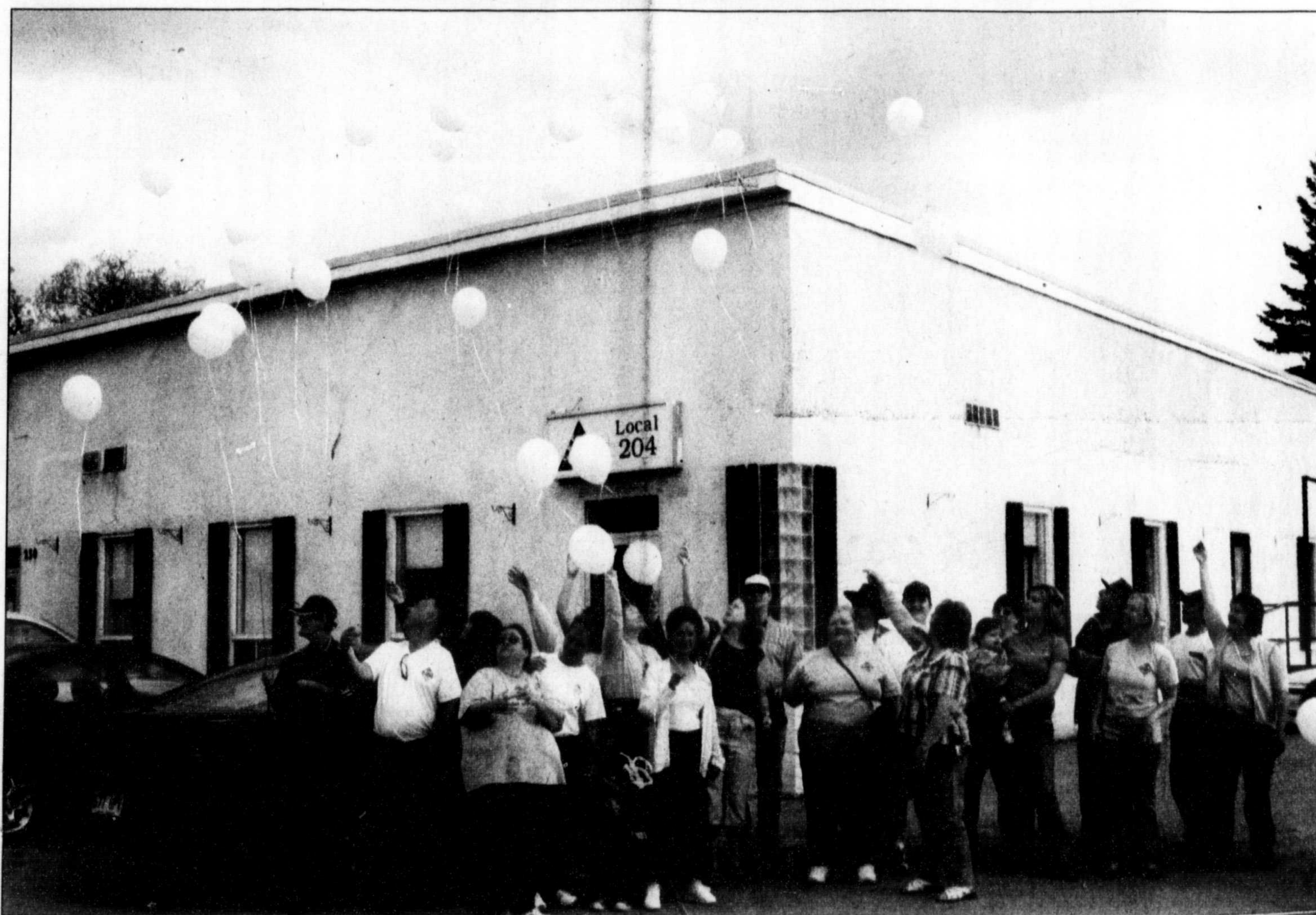
Others feel that the service has been threatened to be taken away so many times, that the situation is just an empty threat.
"I'm not too happy about it," said Sandy Draper of Guyon.
"I feel like we're being held hostage — I'm pretty ticked off about it. They've done this a couple of times."
Theresa Provost says this is the second time in three years the service has been threatened.
Please see BUS on page 3

Final public meeting held to discuss JPII's future

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter
CAMPBELL'S BAY • Buoyed by over 250 community members, supporters of St. John's/John Paul II school in Campbell's Bay made their final public plea to save their school last Monday, May 1.
Representatives of the Western Quebec School Board were at the Campbell's Bay R.A. Centre for the second public consultation meeting regarding the future of the school, which has been targeted for changes, including the possibility of closure.
The JPII governing board ultimately recommended setting up boundaries that would force students who live within a certain proximity of the school to attend St. John's/JPII.
"I think we had a few points to put across and I think we did that, we brought forth some legitimate points," said Patti Normandeau of the JPII governing board following the meeting. "It'll make them think before they make a decision."

The school is being targeted because of its chronic underenrollment — at 208 students, St. John's/JPII is only at slightly more than half of its listed capacity of 408 students.
Also, the school faces changes because its proximity to other nearby schools, specifically Pontiac High School and Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School, make it a reasonable target distance-wise for student displacement.
"I can understand why they're upset. It's personal for them," said WQSB Director-General Mike Dawson. "We have to make sure students get the same opportunities (regardless of what school they attend). We need to get the best bang for our buck."
People are still entitled to submit information, ideas or suggestions to the school board until May 19. From there, the Planning Review Committee of the WQSB meets on June 14 where they will formulate a recommendation on the board's strategic plan as well as JPII's future. That recommendation will be presented, further discussed and voted on at the Council of Commissioners' meeting on June 27.
Please see JPII on page 3

Mental Health Awareness Week



Centre Intervalle Pontiac celebrated mental health week by releasing balloons with messages about mental health inside them into the sky above the centre in Fort Coulonge. Mental health week aims to make people aware about prevention and treatment of mental illness.

Keep mentally fit: Pontiac mental health services

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
FORT COULONGE • To spread awareness about National Mental Health Week, Centre Intervalle Pontiac held events over the past week for the public and its users.
Very few Canadians are unaffected by mental illness, and face difficulties either with themselves or while supporting family members, friends or co-workers. While the Government of Canada works to improve prevention and treatment of mental illness, right here in the Pontiac mental illness is being properly diagnosed and

treated.
"It went really well," said Centre Intervalle director Rosalie Boucher of events Centre Intervalle hosted from May 1 to 4 in and around the area.
The group headed to Aylmer to bowl and have a picnic at the Aylmer Marina Monday, May 1, while on Tuesday a walking rally got users searching local businesses for clues on a treasure hunt. Beauty was on the menu Wednesday for users, as workers and volunteers gave massages, manicures and hair cuts before a barbeque and dance. The big day was Thursday

when Centre Intervalle held its open house and invited the public to join the centre for a balloon release, annual walk from the red covered bridge to downtown Fort Coulonge and to finish up the day with a buffet dinner.
"We invited workers and their families and friends to join us for our buffet supper," said Boucher. "We want them to see what family life is like."
Health Canada says that one in five Canadians will directly experience a mental illness at some point in their lifetime.
Please see HEALTH on page 3

New ATV rules may help, say Pontiacers

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
PONTIAC • The Quebec Ministry of Transport has released a proposal of new regulations for off-road vehicles, and despite changes, Pontiacers seem to be happy with the outcome.
"These regulations will give us a hand," said Doug Cook, president of the Pontiac Quad Club.
"Now we have patrollers, but no clout. This will give us more power to control these guys who go against the laws."
Bill No 9, amending the law on off-road vehicles, was deposited at the National Assembly April 12 and includes changes that aim to reduce noise and accidents.
The changes were made after 16 public consultations were held beginning December 2004.
New rules include increasing the minimum age required to drive an ATV from 14 to 16 years and making training required for 16- and 17-year-old drivers.
Philippe Pilon of Campbell's Bay runs an ATV training course. Many of his students are between the ages of 14 and 16, but he doesn't think the new regulations will affect his course too much.
"I teach them about safety, how to use the brakes, how to avoid deer and other objects and how to come down big hills," said Pilon who has been instructing for four years.
Pilon teaches the course off Hwy. 148 near Campbell's Bay to about eight students at a time. He runs about nine courses a year, but has been facing a bit of a rush by younger students who want to get their license before the new age regulations set in.
"I am running even more courses," he said. "And for women, too."
Please see ATV on page 3

Children learn, win trips to Halifax with Heritage Fair

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • Apparently, one penny could buy a trip to Halifax.
Local students aged nine to 14 presented their projects at the annual Heritage Fair, which took place at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School in Shawville on Thursday, with the chance to win a trip to Halifax.
Among the competitors was Onslow Elementary's Taylor Campbell who modelled the evolution of the Canadian penny.
In all, 16 students prepared exhibits about a specific aspect of Canada's history and culture.
Two contestants from a list of four finalists will be chosen to attend an all-expenses paid trip to Halifax, Nova Scotia for the Canada-wide edition of the Heritage Fair, sponsored by Historica, a national organization devoted to developing knowledge of Canada's history and culture.

Other booths featured exhibits on the Ottawa River, the 4-H Club and even Ottawa Senators Coach and Shawville native, Bryan Murray.
Unlike past years, participation in the 2006 edition of the Heritage Fair was not required in schools and instead students completed all projects on their own accord.
"We had some wonderful displays here. What we don't have in quantity, we made up for in quality," said event organizer, Barry McGowan.
"It was their own blood, sweat and tears."
While the event did have fewer participants than in a year when every student entered, the fact that it would require extra work outside of school did not deter this lot of contestants.
"I like doing projects, I have fun with them," said 10-year-old Jon Toupin, who presented a project on the Canadian beaver.
Please see FAIR on page 5



Ten-year-old Donna Lake stands beside her Heritage Fair presentation on the Canada Goose, one of 16 projects shown at the event, which took place on Thursday at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School in Shawville.

Man arrested for Henderson's break-in

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
NORWAY BAY • A Norway Bay man who broke into Henderson Groceries has been charged and handed a three-month jail term as punishment.
Joseph-Stephen Wilson, 43, broke into the grocery store on Wharf Road at about 1 a.m. Sunday, April 30.
"The man was unarmed and there was nobody in the store," said Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec Lieut. Jacques Piché.
The store's alarm system was triggered, alerting a neighbour to contact a nearby employee.
"A neighbour said he saw the person," said Valerie Henderson, mother of owner Andy Henderson, who lives across the street from the store.
"Police were called and they went immediately," said Lieut. Piché.
Police arrested him further down the road.
"They found him on the road with the stolen goods," said Lieut. Piché. Damage to the store amounted to \$50 and about \$20 of stolen beer.
"He broke a sliding window where people put videos in," said Henderson.
Please see ARREST on page 3

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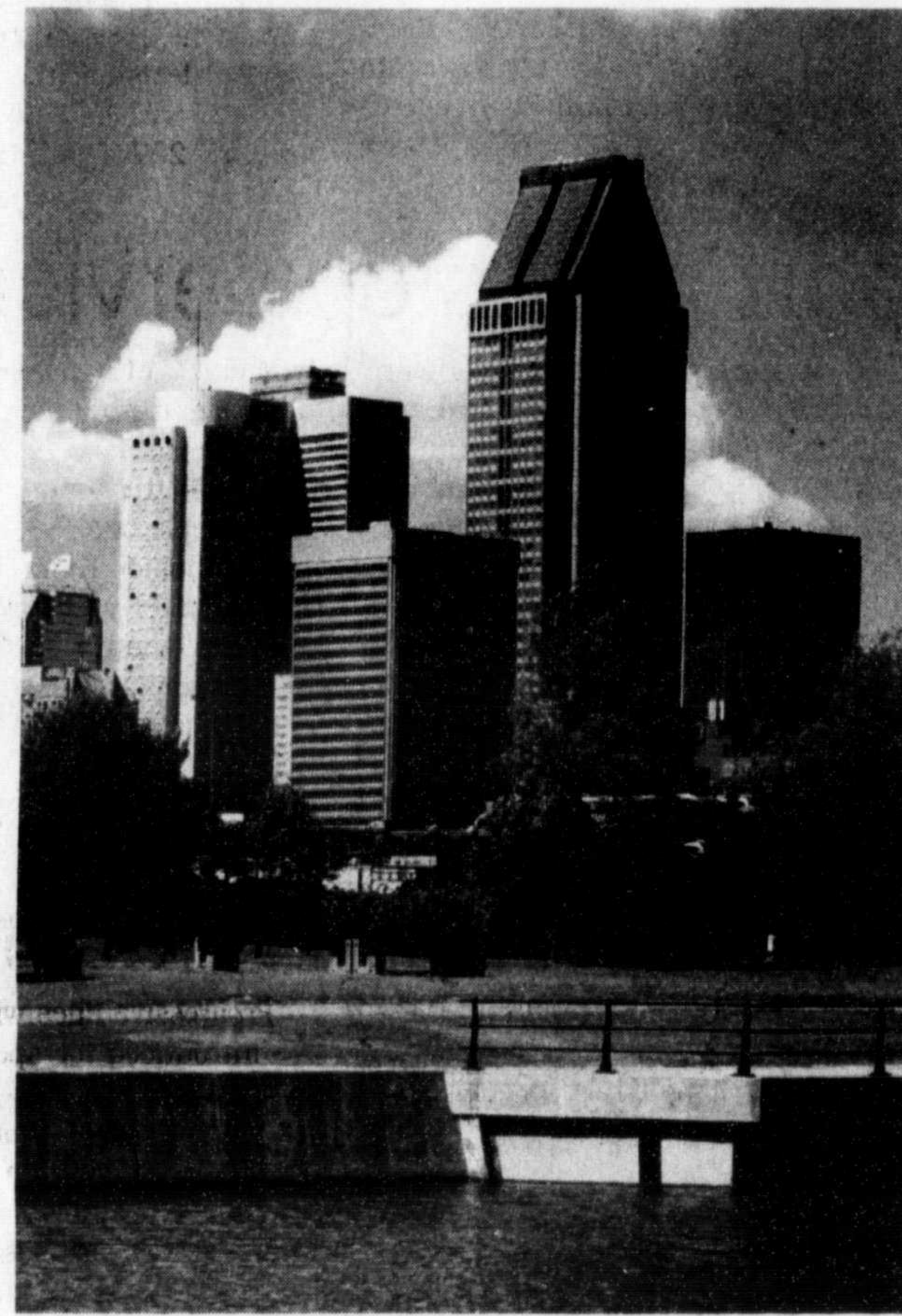
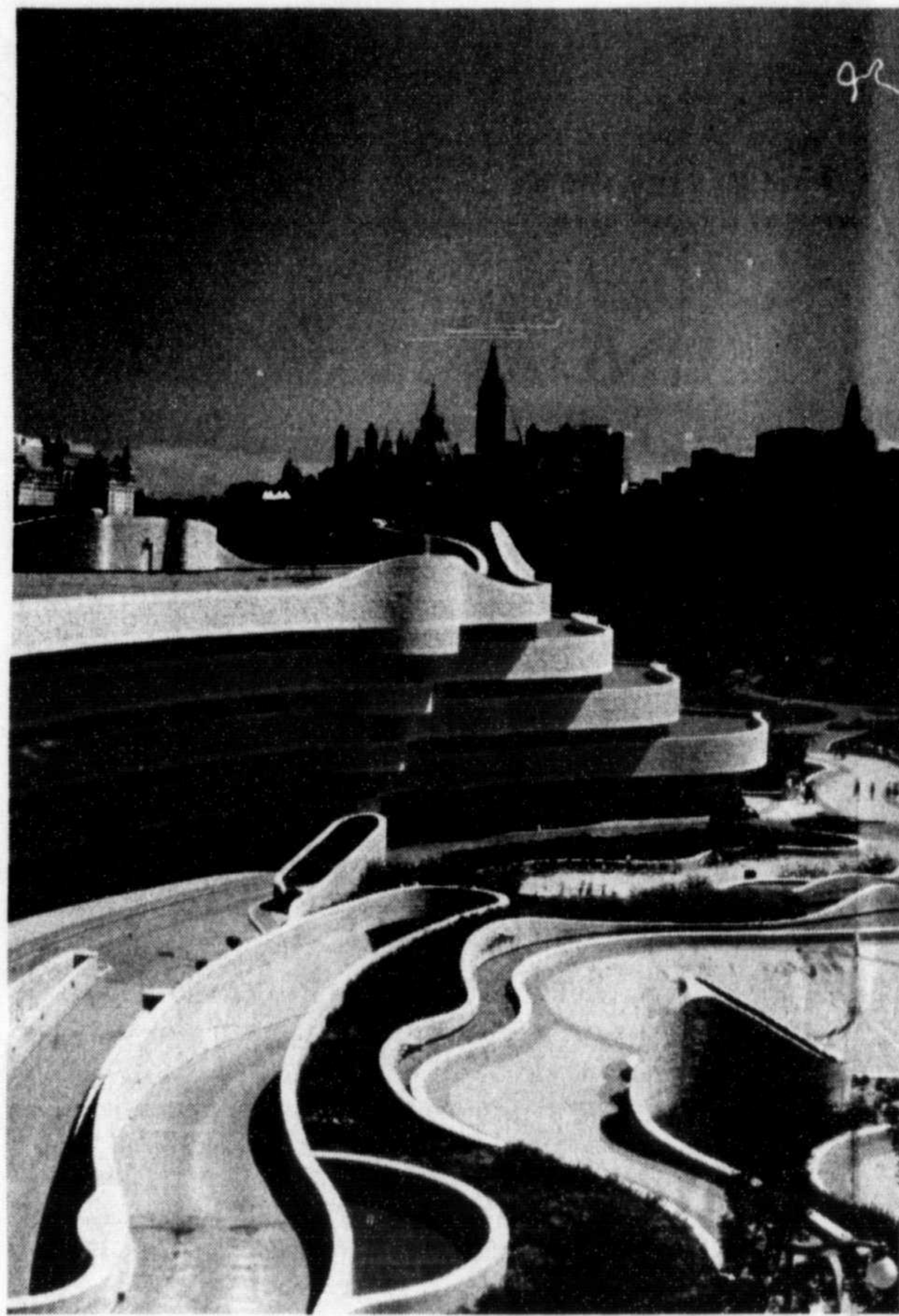
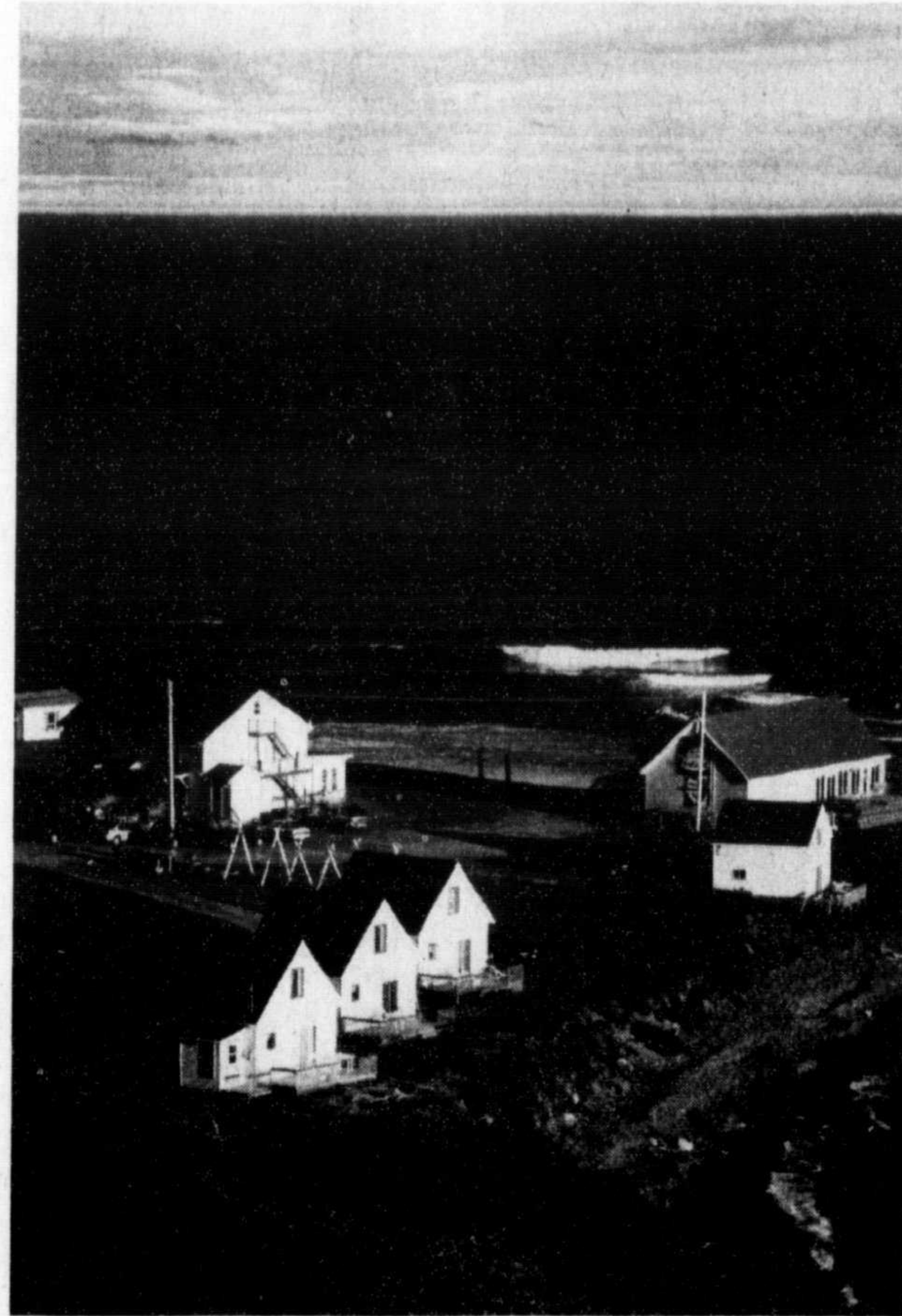
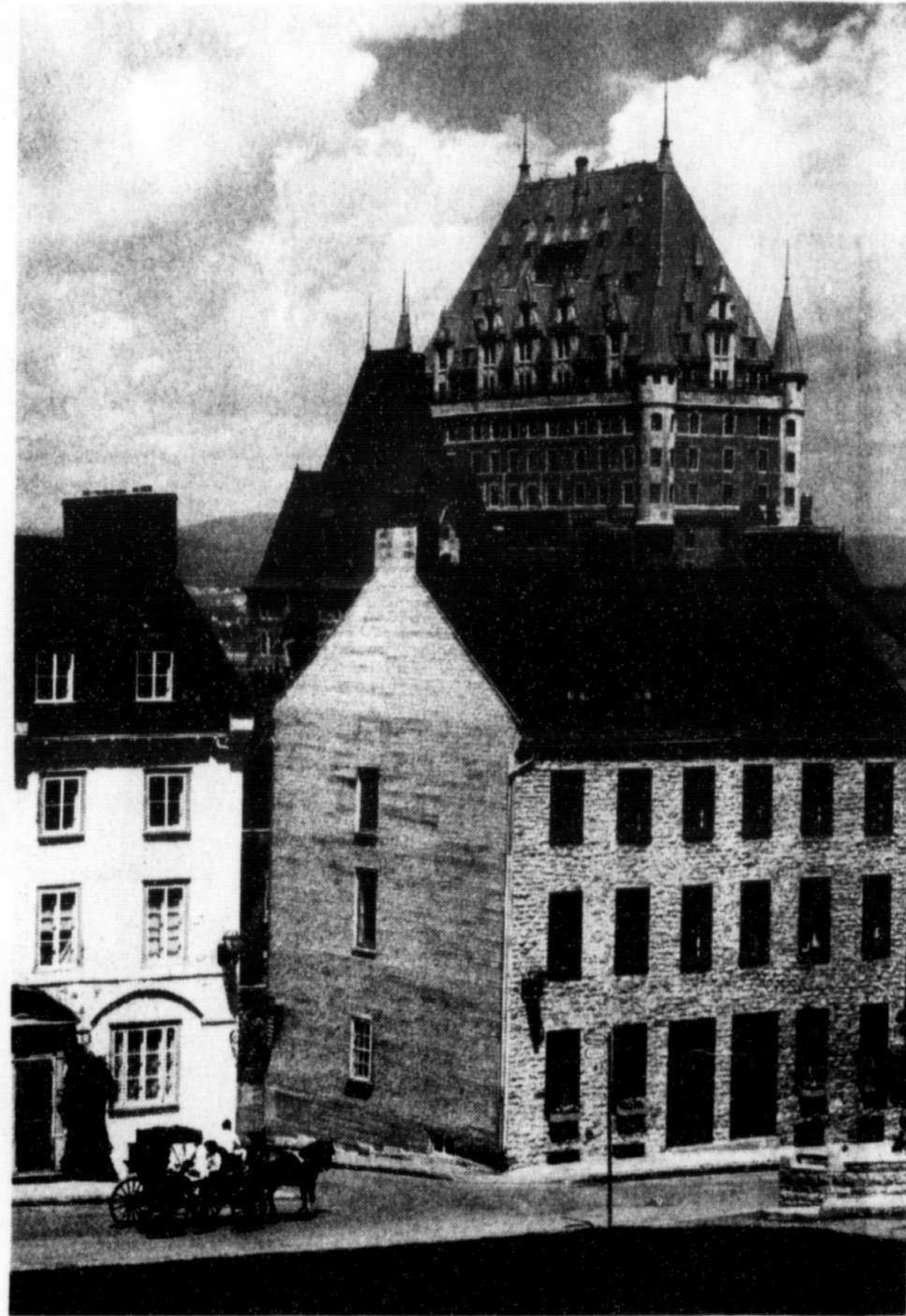
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The new financial partnership with municipalities

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The new agreement ensures a fair distribution of substantially increased funding for all municipalities, regardless of size. It also guarantees them a revenue stream for providing quality public services and creating a standard of living that benefits the entire population of Outaouais.

Close to **\$154 million**
will go to municipalities
in the **Outaouais** region.

Québec 

JPII: Final public meeting held



Patti Normandeau of the St. John's/John Paul II school Governing Board made a presentation in support of saving JPII at the second public consultation meeting of the Western Quebec School Board, held at the Campbell's Bay RA Centre on Monday, May 1.

Continued from page 1

Consultation
The two-hour long session provided little new information but was highlighted by Dawson's presentation, which answered questions the board had received following the last public consultation meeting on Feb. 22.

In it, Dawson provided grim statistics about the academic success of JPII's students, who performed below average when compared with the rest of WQSB schools and institutions across Québec.

"Consistently, unfortunately, St. John's/John

Paul II does not perform as well as other schools," said Dawson.

Afterwards, Normandeau countered that "Just because we take them out of JPII and put them somewhere else doesn't mean they'll all of a sudden do better."

Addressing questions of funding for the school, Dawson discussed the formula used to give extra funding for schools of smaller sizes and in socio-economically disadvantaged areas, under which JPII qualifies.

Dawson presented facts that showed in all JPII received an additional

\$174,000 in various grants and supplements last year alone.

Normandeau, who has led the charge to save the school, made an initial presentation arguing various strengths of the school's small size and questioning the motives of the board considering closure for JPII.

She argued that money would ultimately be a factor in the school board's decision since moving adult education to JPII and sending the primary and secondary students to McDowell and PHS, respectively would, in theory, save the WQSB money.

Adult education is more profitable because there are no transportation costs and students purchase their own textbooks.

Dawson dismissed the profit-mongering argument, however, emphasizing that the school board's aim is equal opportunities for all students across the board.

Principal speaks

During the question period, a JPII student called on the school's principal, Ken Whitcher, to address those in attendance.

Whitcher, who did not speak at the first public consultation meeting, promptly approached the microphone to some cheers and other boos and made the statement, "I do want the school to remain open." He then said, "The best way we can keep the school open is to increase our academic success at all levels. The teachers can do that, the principal helps, but we need all the students to do it and, in addition, we need all the parents to do it."

Whitcher's comments were met with some catcalls, though many also cheered his statements.

Members of the community-at-large, Campbell's Bay Mayor Jean-Louis Auger, JPII students and teachers all spoke as well during the question period. Any decision made by June 27 will go into effect for the 2006-2007 school year.

Mixed Stag
in honour of
Natacha Corriveau
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Campbell's Bay R.A. Hall
9:00 p.m. Music: DJ
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Bring your "Mom" and yourself in, and your "Mom" receives 50% off the same service. (Equal or lesser value)
Gift Certificates Available

Bus: Thom Transport may stop service

Continued from page 1

"It may be a scare tactic and I'm proved of being scared," Provost said, who has been taking the bus from Quyon for two years. "My God, I don't want them to cancel it," she said. "I don't drive in the city and I will have to try to look for a ride."

Provost said the bus is comfortable, dependable

and on time.

"I'm not thinking just for me, but elderly, those who don't drive and students depend on it," she said. "It would be a shame to take away that service."

Draper said that if Thom raised the fares, a moderate increase would be reasonable.

"The fares are more than raise-able," she said. "I'm

surprised it hasn't gone up."

In the past, the weekend runs and the late run on Friday night have been cancelled due to low usage.

Transport Thom Ltée has been operating since 1968. Thom said he has been running a Pontiac route for eight years.

Thom says he doesn't want to lose customers, though he is aware that the

number of passengers decrease during the summer months.

"So far we've got four to five people saying not to stop it," said Thom of the Pontiac inter-city service.

"In a month we'll see what happens and advise the transport board," said Thom. "We've tried everything to boost (the number of passengers up)."

ATV: new rules may help say Pontiacers

Continued from page 1

The rules regarding needing a valid driver's license to cross a roadway are still in effect.

Once finalized by the province, no training courses will be offered to youth under 16.

"There will be a two-year integration time," said Carole Jolin of the Fédération Québécoise des Clubs Quads. "Fourteen- and 15-year-olds who have the course by June will be fine."

The rules will also prohibit modifying vehicles and selling equipment used to modify vehicles.

Steven Gilpin of Campbell's Polaris in Quyon said the new laws may benefit his company.

"In the last few years we have been turning away from that area because we knew that this noise law was coming," said Gilpin. "Our customers want to follow the guidelines to keep



New proposed provincial regulations for off-road vehicles are expected to be finalized in June.

the trails open."

To reduce the amount of noise ATVs create, standards have been established relating to the polluting traffic noise not meeting these standards.

Pilon, who also volunteers as an ATV trail monitor for the Pontiac Quad

Club, said the law will also provide new training for trail monitors.

The new regulations propose to install newly Sûreté du Québec-trained monitoring agents to keep an eye on modified vehicles, drivers not wearing helmets, and the hours vehicles access trails.

Progressive fines will also be introduced for speeding, beginning with a \$115 ticket for driving 30 kilometres over the speed limit and \$275 for any faster.

Property owners who grant access to off-road vehicles will also be protected.

The new regulations, if passed at the end of June, will be in effect for five years and revised after three years at the National Assembly in order to adapt standards for different areas.

"There may be more accidents with kids who drive without training. We are afraid 14- and 15-year-olds will still ride on private land," said Jolin. "We feel a little bit sorry for the kids."

She said it may also create an insurance gap. In addition to the new regulations, the government and regional partners will be allotting \$8 million to implement the new program's infrastructure.

Arrest: Man charged for Norway Bay crime

Continued from page 1

"Then he broke a shelf in front of the window, I guess when he stepped on it."

Henderson said that other than a large mess where he entered and the missing beer, there was lit-

tle damage. Henderson's has been broken into three times in its 25 years of business.

Police transferred Wilson to Campbell's Bay that night where he spent the weekend detained. He was again trans-

ferred to the jail in Hull May 1 where he appeared in court and stayed in jail until Thursday for a bail hearing.

"On May 4 he plead guilty," said Lieut. Piché. Wilson was charged with breaking and entering a

building other than a dwelling or house. Wilson was sentenced to three months jail time which began that day.

Lieut. Piché said Wilson is currently under investigation for other complaints police have received.

Health: Mental health awareness week celebrated

Continued from page 1

Centre Intervalle sees about 30 users with mental illnesses from Quyon to Nichabeau come in and out of the centre on a daily basis.

"Their social surroundings are confined to us," said Boucher. "Their network is here, where they build onto it."

In addition to counselling, transportation and hosting activities, Centre Intervalle provides supervised housing for patients.

"We run an eight-bed residence on Rue Principale in Fort Coulonge," said Boucher. "It's very family-oriented and workers are there from 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m."

Boucher herself lives next door and is on call in case of an emergency 24 hours a

day. "They relearn abilities they've lost staying in a hospital," she said. "If there wasn't this residence they would still be in a mental institution or in a foster home."

Beyond the residence there are other less supervised apartments in Fort Coulonge for those more independent.

The centre is funded by the provincial government, but relies heavily on private and business donations.

For a long time, the clichés of mental illness has made victims hide their symptoms instead of seeking out help.

"There is still a lot of taboo because of mental illnesses," said Boucher of the perception of mental illness, which is improving though more work needs to be done to edu-

cate people. "They imagine mentally ill are people who are crazy. People are not aware that regular people could be patients themselves."

Stress is a major cause of depression and bipolar disorders, which Boucher says are two of the most common mental illnesses.

Mental illness can be treated and kept under control with effective medications and other treatments. Mental illness is different from being developmentally disabled, when a person has severe, life-long disabilities attributable to mental or physical impairments. In both cases, though, leaning on family, friends or colleagues for support can help.

"When you feel you need to talk to someone, don't wait to talk to a doctor or a mental

health worker," said Boucher. "Don't wait - with help, in a month you might be back on your feet."

The Canadian Mental Health Association set practicing mind and body fitness as mental health week's theme, challenging Canadians to devote just as much attention to their minds as they do to keeping their bodies in shape.

A major part of dealing with mental illness is knowing where to go when someone needs help.

"The mental health team in the Pontiac is very available to everyone," said Boucher, listing the Pontiac health and social services centre's 24-hour 1-800-567-9625 mental health information line. "There's always help around the corner."

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(Due to Mother's Day Special regular breakfast will end at 11:00 a.m.)

OPINION

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OUR OPINION

Smokey Bear knows best

The old saying of Smokey Bear's is "Only you can prevent forest fires." This warning should especially be heeded this spring as extreme dry conditions are causing dangerous fire hazards in the region.

During spring, there is usually a dry period that brings the fire hazard level up. But this year, it has been exceptionally dry — creating havoc for local fire departments and firefighters across the county.

Most fires are caused by simple negligence such as throwing cigarette butts out your window. This does more than just litter your community, you could also be the catalyst in igniting a devastating forest fire. This area depends on the forestry industry and it needs to be protected as much as any building or home.

Forest fires are not only devastating to our environment and land owners, they are also very costly to put out.

Every time a forest fire is fought, it costs us. Although we may not pay for it directly out of our own pockets — the provincial government, forestry companies and large-area land owners cover forest firefighting costs — taxes may increase, or other services may be pushed aside to absorb the costs. Whenever a water bomber and fire crews are dispatched to a forest fire, it's not outrageous to say it costs thousands of dollars to provide the service. One of the things that makes the Pontiac so beautiful is its forests and wildlife, and if we don't play our part in protecting it, we will lose one of our most valuable resources.

SOPFEU, La Société de protection des forêts contre le

feu is responsible for the prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires in Quebec. The closest operations centre is in Maniwaki, which sends out water bomber aircraft to drop water or fire suppression material on raging fires in the area.

In the month of April, SOPFEU fought 84 forest fires in Quebec across 60.4 hectares of forest. One of the fires was started at the end of April on Calumet Island, where a water bomber and ground crew came to douse the blaze. The fire was extinguished before the water bomber arrived. In the first week of May, 25 fires have already burned in the province. These statistics are not good. Of the 84 fires fought in April, 50 were started by residents, therefore this shows we need to put an emphasis on fire prevention and safety measures.

Not all municipalities require a fire permit before burning, but they do recommend that residents at least notify the local fire chief before burning in case of an emergency. Even after a rainy weekend, SOPFEU lists the Pontiac as having a moderate risk for a forest fire. It's important that we all do our part to try and prevent forest fires. Be safe and always extinguish camp fires, avoid burning brush on dry, windy days and make sure you butt that cigarette out completely.

While Smokey's message of the dangers associated with fire is most often memorized by young children, it should also be on the mind of anyone about to light a match.

LM

'Ruff' life on the farm

Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY



ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Bird watching reveals uncommon sightings

Last week I went bird-watching in the Shirley's Bay area, as well as the Bill Mason Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies Centre.



Katharine Fletcher

My friend, Tony Beck, led the expedition and I joined an eager group of his bird-club members. These outings cost \$35 apiece but there is a reduction if you buy a package. I can recommend them highly as Beck is an informative, engaging and easy-going guide. To see Beck's complete list of expeditions, a few of which are in our area, go to www3.sympatico.ca/beck.tony/

Shirley's Bay
We set out at 7:30 a.m. to the dyke at Shirley's Bay, seeing a pileated woodpecker fly in front of the car as we neared our destination. We parked at the National Capital Commission managed parking lot overlooking the Ottawa River, at the foot of Rifle (Range) Road.

Before heading to the dyke, Beck reminded us all not to chatter, as our conversations would impede his ability to hear different bird calls and songs. As we were walking out of the lot, he suddenly stopped, asked us to be quiet, and said, "There's a house wren over in those bushes. Let's take a look."

I know Beck far too well to think he'd make a mistake. Sure enough, the tiny wren was perched at the top of a tree, declaring its territory.

While walking to the dyke, we heard a Baltimore oriole, saw robins, cardinals, tree swallows, cowbirds, downy woodpeckers, redwing blackbirds, and the more unusual rusty blackbird. This last bird, while resembling a common grackle, is more streamlined, resembling the redwing in its silhouette.

The female is reasonably colourful, with buff, caramel and other colours. The male closely resembles the common grackle; however, its tail is more delicate and straight, unlike the grackle's tail, which is spatula-shaped with a hint of a V indentation at its tip. Both male and females have brilliant gold eyes — as does the common grackle.

However, their song is an intriguing "rusty" whistle sound. These birds, which we saw in both locations we visited, were in small flocks of six or so individuals.

As we approached the man-

made dyke protruding into Shirley's Bay, we walked alongside a wetland woods primarily of red maple, with some ash at the edges. Again, Beck paused, saying "There must be warblers here!" Sure enough, he discovered a pair of male yellow-rumped (or myrtle) warblers, which appeared to be fighting one another for territory and/or a female. They certainly put on quite a show.

I thought this would be the perfect habitat for wood ducks and sure enough, we found a male gliding about amid the flooded landscape.

Just beside the dyke, we saw double-crested cormorants, black ducks, and a great blue heron.

I was particularly delighted that one of the birders found a map turtle, basking in the sunshine on a rock. With this lady's scope, we were able to see its yellow lines along its head, legs and tail. The head is streamlined, coming to a pronounced point, while the shell is flat-looking.

While we were there, an army ranger approached, to check on us. Also, army helicopters were practising manoeuvres overhead, while the sound of shots from the firing range certainly didn't help Beck listen for birds. We decided to head to a second location.

Bill Mason Outdoor Education

En route here we spied a merlin, and at the free parking lot we found another raptor, soaring above the playing fields. After noticing the single white band on its tail, Beck identified it as a broad-winged hawk.

But our aim was to stroll the boardwalk circuit, looking for rails.

Rails are hard-to-find, solitary and secretive birds. Says Beck, "Sora and Virginia rails are both relatively common in marshlands of the St. Lawrence Lowlands. However, they become uncommon in our Canadian Shield habitats, mainly because their preferred habitat is reduced. The reason they are so exciting is because they are very shy, and rarely seen. Most people only get to see them with special effort (like calling them into view)." Even

with Beck's calling capabilities, frankly, I didn't expect to see them... Think again! True to form, Beck called them in.

While walking, we suddenly were startled by a squealing whinny sound — for all the world resembling my horses. "Aha!" cried Beck, and as we crossed to the side of the boardwalk from which the sound emanated, he started to call back. The bird cooperated.

We were all lined up along the edge of the boardwalk, so all of us got the opportunity to see the Sora rail which emerged from the dense matt of cattail marsh — perfect rail habitat.

The sora rail has a brilliant yellow, sturdy-looking beak, a black face mask, gray breast, rufous body with white banding, and yellow legs. Its body is somewhat stocky and made me wonder how on earth it manages to winter here, all the way from its winter home in Florida and other southern American states.

A few steps further along the boardwalk, another sound startled us and unbelievably — to me — it was what author David Allen Sibley terms "wheezy, piglike grunting" sound of the Virginia rail. (*The Sibley Guide to Birds*) Again, Beck called it in.

What a contrast to the Sora rail! Instead of having a short yellow beak, the Virginia rail has a long, scarlet red beak, red eye, gray face, and black crown. The breast is a rich rufous-red, back a striped reddish colour with black stripes, and the legs are vermilion.

The expression "thin as a rail" comes from these birds. Explains Sibley, "Rails' bodies are laterally compressed — hence the expression 'thin as a rail' — which allows them to escape into dense grass or reeds. An illustration in his book depicts a rail standing with its wings outstretched, laterally, between cattail stalks.

Feeling incredibly blessed to see these two uncommonly seen rails (for our region), we continued along the boardwalk. A snipe perched on the very top of a dead tree observed us, unbothered, for 20 minutes or so, while the display of another snipe kept us looking skyward — we located it. Swamp sparrows called, a flock of rusty blackbirds creaked, a white-crowned sparrow called, mallards paddled about, flickers and downy woodpeckers flattered in the woods, and a yellow warbler did a fly-over. We spotted a

phoebe near the parking lot, as well as a robin sitting on its nest.

Once in the woods, a pond stopped us in our tracks — here we found three bullfrogs — one being quite immense. Searching the pond water itself revealed freshwater shrimp — these are scarlet with jet-black, round eyes.

Returning to our cars, we decided to hunt for bluebirds in a third location.

Dunrobin area

Although we discovered mallards, black ducks, redwing blackbirds and meadowlarks, along the 5th Concession (off Thomas Dolan Parkway) the bluebirds proved elusive. Beck seems concerned about the this: I've not yet seen any at home — have you? Let me know.

Back in Pontiac

Last week a friend invited me over for a walk in her woods and fields near Ghost Hill. Outside her home, a rose-breasted grosbeak alighted on her maple tree outside her window. What a colourful bird! It has a stocky little body — just like the evening grosbeak which is gold, black and white.

However, to me, the male rose-breasted grosbeak looks as if it's wearing a tuxedo: its back is primarily black, wings black and white, breast pure white — with a dashing, vivid magenta V around its throat. Once in flight you will observe two more bright blushes of magenta in its "wing pits."

Naturally, while chatting with Beck, he asked if I'd seen any exciting birds — so I related my May 2 sighting of this migrant. He was amazed.

Another Ghost Hill bird he was interested in was a report by my friend of four fox sparrows, which Beck says is unusual because most of them have already migrated further north. That's interesting: the red fox sparrow that travels through Pontiac is also known as the taiga sparrow, since it summers in northern Quebec. It also summers in the taiga environment of Alaska.

Other species I've noted at home on the Steele Line: red-tailed hawks, northern harrier ("my" pair of harriers are back, patrolling our fields), meadowlarks, phoebes, common snipe, killdeer, and woodcocks. Please keep a lookout for shrikes, cuckoos and other unusual birds, and do report them to me.

Katharine Fletcher, a freelance writer and birder, lives north of Quyon on the Steele Line. Contact her at chesley@allstream.net

Open letter to MP Lawrence Cannon

Dear Editor,

I am a federal government employee (25 years of service), and I live in the riding of Pontiac (specifically on Calumet Island). I purposely purchased a home on the Island last September because there was no public bus service.

I received a letter from Transport Thom Lée stating they are considering discontinuing Fort Coulonge intercity bus service if usage doesn't increase. We have one month to increase the number of passengers. The weather is nice, summer is fast approaching, and needless to say people do take holidays, which has diminished and will continue to diminish the amount of passengers.

I do want to confirm that the bus is never full.

Because of all the environmental issues related to driving your vehicle back and forth to work, and the Conservative Party's mention of helping defuse the cost of public transportation, I thought it advisable to inform you of what is happening in your constituency.

Also, the stress of having to drive over 100 kilometres, twice a day, can be immense on an individual. Most of the passengers are women who have families to care for on their return from a day's work, so the bus ride home gives us time to rejuvenate ourselves and be ready to attend to our family responsibilities.

Can you help?

Danielle Lepage
Calumet Island

New committee supports bridge

Dear Editor,

A formal committee is being established to promote the construction of a toll bridge between Quyon, Quebec and Fitzroy Harbour, ON. There are enormous benefits that would be derived from the construction of a permanent link between the two communities.

Think of it! Availability 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year which would provide you with direct access to Hwy. 417 and AutoRoute 50 without having to negotiate Gatineau and Ottawa traffic congestion.

Consider the socio-economic impact on both the Quebec and Ontario border regions about Chats Falls. Based on comments received from many people (i.e.: businessmen) who were made aware of the proposed project, we are assured that construction of this bridge would bring about the following benefits.

Twenty-four hour access year-round. High speed links between Hw. 417 and AutoRoute 50. Divert trucks from downtown Ottawa and downtown Gatineau. Attract individuals to invest in existing or new commercial/industrial enterprises. Increase employment. Generate more tax revenue for the municipalities. Divert the traffic of heavy trucks and noise away from the residents living close to Ferry Road on both sides of the Ottawa River. Reduce the traffic congestion at the Champlain Bridge. Provide for the year-round transportation of goods and products to markets on both sides of the Ottawa River. This will lower delivery times, mileage charges, and overall operating costs. Enhance the links to Hwys. 148, 50, 301, 303 and 366 and on the Quebec-side and Hwy. 416 and 17 on the Ontario side. Improve the real estate market on both sides of the Ottawa River. Enhance the ability of emergency response crews in both provinces to better serve the region. Provide easy access to shopping, events, and recreational activities on both sides of the river and help increase tourism.

In closing, the Ottawa River once brought prosperity to the people in the Ottawa-Outaouais Valley through the logging industry.

As it stands now, the economy of the Ottawa-Outaouais Valley is being stifled by the lack of a bridge across the Ottawa River between Quyon and Fitzroy Harbour.

We strongly believe that the construction of such a bridge would bring about renewed economic growth and prosperity to the two regions.

If you would like to let us know your views on this initiative, please send your comments to mecann@CambrianHosting.com or visit our web site at <http://www.ottawavalleybridge.ca> where more information including an on-line petition will be coming this week.

Doug McCann, Media Spokesperson
Committee of Concerned Citizens in
Support of Ottawa Valley Bridge

Open letter to MNA Charlotte L'Ecuyer

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter today in response to a memo received on April 28 from Thom Transport Limited regarding the threat of cancelling our Pontiac public bus services, which many of us use.

As a taxpayer and public servant, I feel it's my responsibility to voice my concerns regarding this much-needed service. I have been using this service for two years now, it gets myself and many other passengers to work and home safely and on time.

With today's road conditions, price of gas and transportation safety issues, I think it is mandatory that this service not be cancelled.

Because we choose to live in a rural area as opposed to the city, where these services are readily available, should not be a factor. We pay our share of taxes and contribute to society as much as city people do. This bus service not only helps people get to and from work, but also helps students get to school, seniors get to doctor appointments or simply give someone the opportunity to spend a day in the city.

I hope that my letter is heard and that people in the Pontiac can continue to benefit from this public transportation, after all, we work to strive and we should not be punished for that... right?

I hope that you can help us with this, your reply is urgently needed we have only until the end of May, 2006.

Theresa Provost-Demell
Quyon

The short end of the stick

Dear Editor,

Having grown up in St. Adolphe, Manitoba, I witnessed the importance of adequate funding for the education of a minority linguistic community. Back then it was widely believed that the continued vitality of the community cannot be maintained if the community does not possess the necessary educational institutions to ensure the transmission of the minority language from one generation to another. In Manitoba, this meant a significant investment of public funds over and above the tax revenues generated by the minority community was needed to build the schools and to hire the staff so that fran-

Correction

In the story, "Natives embroiled in dispute", which appeared on the cover of the May 3 issue, Daniel Berndt is the head of the Hochelaga community of natives in Montreal. Also, the Native Alliance does not directly control the Waskahegan Corporation. Rather, many of the same people who are involved with the Native Alliance are also employed by Waskahegan.

Incorrect information was given in the story "Youth: Maisons des Jeunes turns 10" on page two of the May 3 issue. In the past few months, Maisons des Jeunes youth participated in artist workshops directed by Pontiac artists Dale Shutt, Sara Willaert, Marc Melo and Nicole Lavioie.

Brian Gibb
Executive Director
Regional Association of West Quebecers

123 years of news from the Pontiac

THE WAY WE WERE

Compiled by Heather Albert-Dickson Publisher

25 Years Ago

May 13, 1981
REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD CONSIDERS AYLMER SITE: The Old Symmes School in Aylmer is one site being considered as the new home for the Protestant Regional School Board of Western Quebec. Due to a re-organization which gives the board responsibility for elementary as well as secondary education, the present offices in Hull are too small.
FIRE PERMITS NEEDED AT WALTHAM TOO: Mayor Gerald Dempsey of the Municipality of Waltham and Bryson has informed THE EQUITY that it is necessary to obtain a permit before burning anything on property within his municipality.

50 Years Ago

May 10, 1956
QUEBEC SUSPENDS MINNOW BAN: From an official of the Department of Game and Fisheries at Quebec last week came news it has been decided

to suspend until further orders the application of the recently-announced new law forbidding the use of minnows in the St Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers.

PARKING METER BYLAW: Shawville council met May 7th at a regular monthly meeting. Cr. Smith gave notice that at the next regular sitting of this council he would introduce a parking meter by-law.

SEE HOPE FOR BRIDGE BY FALLS OF 1956: Public Works Minister Winters has told Parliament that all three spans of the Allumette Island bridge should be open for traffic sometime next fall.

BOY HIT ON BICYCLE: Francis Dilligan of Ottawa, driving a 1956 Buick on Hwy 8 about 50 yards west of the new bridge across the Coulonge River accidentally hit one of three boys on bicycles on Sunday afternoon. Napoléon Leveque, son of Adam Leveque of Fort Coulonge, was the boy injured slightly - nothing serious. Mr Dilligan was going west on the highway and in trying to avoid a serious accident ran off the road damaging his new car to the extent of \$150.

75 Years Ago

May 7, 1931
LOCAL NEWS: Motor trucking on the Pontiac Highway has developed into quite a business this spring, and some rivalry exists in the race for patronage. Four trucks are in commission in Shawville, and one or two at Campbell's Bay, making daily trips to and from Ottawa. To the casual observer, it looks as if the business was being over done.

The branch of the Bank of Montreal at Campbell's Bay was closed on April 30, and the bank building, erected not many years ago, has been taken over by the Bank of Nova Scotia, and is now in possession of the latter. The presumption is that there was not sufficient business for the two banks at the Bay, and the Bank of Montreal decided to pull out. Banks, as a rule, do not maintain branches in places that do not afford enough business to make it pay.

Judging by the piled up furniture on verandahs, and bedding hung out on

lines, there is many a husband without a home, and many a wife trying her best to make one. This spring housecleaning may be necessary from a woman's point of view, but from a man's, it is one of the biggest nuisances ever thought of.

For Sale: Chrysler Sedan 1927 model, in excellent condition; 4 new tires. Price \$400. Will take cheaper car in part payment. Owner going to leave Shawville. Rev V G Manchester.

100 Years Ago

May 10, 1906
LOCAL NEWS: Mr Malles L Cowley of B.C. was in town on Thursday procuring some lumber and mouldings at the factory to put the finishing touches on his new steam yacht, which is to ply on the Chats Lake this summer, and afford an additional source of pleasure to the campers at Norway Bay.

The long deferred hopes of the citizens of Portage du Fort, with regard to a railway look now as if they are at last to be realized, through a channel which some years ago was scarcely dreamed of. A scheme for the construction of two lines of railway that are to form part of the proposed James Bay railway system was

suggested. According to the outline given, the portion of the proposed line in which Pontiac is particularly interested, will cross the Ottawa River either at the Chats Rapids, or by way of the islands near Ross' point, then up through the front of Bristol and Clarendon to Portage du Fort, where the river will again be crossed, for the third time, probably above the village. Should the project materialize, it will certainly give a great impetus to business in the languishing villages of Bristol Corners and Portage du Fort, which up to the present have been contributing their share to the construction of a railway, which has been rather more of an injury than benefit to their material advancement.

The municipal council of Campbell's Bay, among others has passed the following by-laws:

To prohibit driving on the streets at a greater rate of speed than six miles an hour.

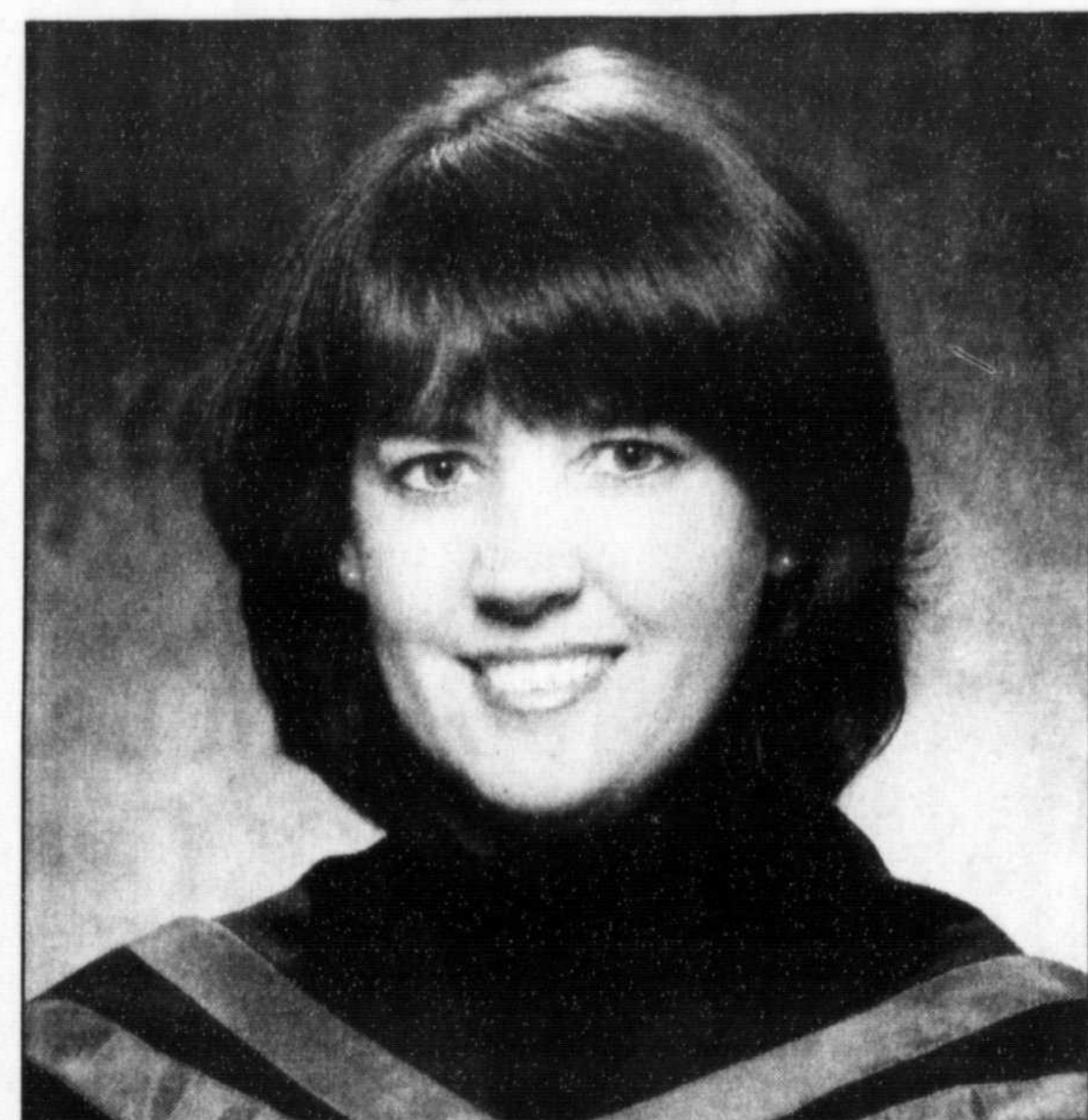
To prohibit the use of

Look who's
50
May 18, 1956-2006



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Graduation



Delreen I. L. Hiscock has recently graduated with a Masters of Divinity in counselling from Tyndale Seminary, Toronto, ON. Delreen is the wife of Dale Hiscock and mother to Deven, Dustin, Destinee and Dillon. She is the daughter of Perley and Joan Belsher, sister of Leonard Belsher and granddaughter of Lois Pirie. Delreen is presently working as an intern therapist in marriage, family and individual therapy in Brampton, ON.

Fair: Children learn heritage, win trips

Continued from page 1

"I like doing beavers because I have so much information I can just do them for life."

Toupin noted that he has an uncle who is a beaver trapper.

At the conclusion of the judging period, when three judges extensively reviewed and discussed each project with its creators, the finalists were announced.

Kelli Knox's project, Three Trips Across the Ocean, Toupin's Canadian Beaver, Vanessa Prevost's Team Canada and Hayley Campbell's Girl Guiding were deemed to be of the highest quality and were named finalists.

All finalists were from McDowell.

McGowan and the judges will meet with each of the finalists in the next few days and select two who will represent the region in Halifax from July 10 to 17.

Fifteen students from each province and 15 more from the territories will be represented at the week-long event, which moves from city-to-city each year. There, "they will be treat-



The finalists and honourable mention winners pose for a photograph following the Historica Heritage Fair at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School in Shawville last Thursday.

ed like kings and queens" according to McGowan, and on one day they will display their presentations in a major location in Halifax.

"It's usually someplace prominent, where lots of people will see it, like outside the legislature," said McGowan.

Honourable mentions were given to John Paul II's Rebecca Gagnon for her Dionne Quintuplets project, McDowell's Tiffany Bretzlaff who presented on CP Rail, Onslow Elementary's Jessica Nugent and Ashley Graveline, who had a Hershey chocolate display,

McDowell's Jillian Pasch's Maurice Richard exhibit and Campbell's Canadian penny piece.

Historica is best known for their Historica Minutes, which appear as one-minute long history lessons on Canadian television stations.



Forward Marc Maurice (left) is presented with the Bob "Fish" Findlay Rookie of the Year award by family members of Bob Findlay at the Pontiacs Jr. B year-end banquet at Pine Lodge in Bristol.



Eastern Ontario Junior 'B' Hockey League Division President Ron McRostie presents Pontiac Jr. B Captain Jordan MacDougall with his division MVP award.

Loback picks up award at Jr 'B' banquet

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter
BRISTOL • One of the most successful seasons in team history completed, the Pontiac Junior 'B' players, parents, volunteers and supporters gathered at Bristol's Pine Lodge for the annual year-end banquet.

Collectively, President and GM Chris Young and Head Coach Pierre Lagacé each had ample opportunity to reflect on the season, a

rousing success for the team which won only its second Valley division title in team history.

Present were the vice-president of Hockey Outaouais Laudalina Santos and the Eastern Ontario Junior 'B' Metro/Valley division president, Ron McRostie.

As per every season, a myriad of awards were presented to the Pontiacs' players.

Marc Maurice won the Bob "Fish" Findlay award for rookie of the year.

The Katie-Leigh Gagnon memorial trophy presented to the player who combined sportsmanship and ability was picked up by Ryan Rees.

Goalie Adam Loback was named the playoff MVP, winning the Earl Devine trophy and Brian Kealey picked up the award for most dedicated player.

Matt Collins was named the top defenseman.

Captain Jordan MacDougall was also represented the division MVP award he won in March.

The team's annual general meeting was scheduled for Tuesday at the arena in Shawville.

There, Young hoped to retain his position as President with the team.

See the report next week in THE EQUITY.

Driver collides with horse on Hwy. 148

CLARENDON • A man driving a Pontiac G6 collided with a horse on Hwy. 148 Saturday night.

"A horse was in the middle of the road and a car was going east and hit it," said Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Mélanie Larouche.

The 53-year-old Gatineau man and his

female passenger suffered from minor injuries and were treated at the hospital in Shawville before being released.

The horse was killed and removed from the road with a tractor.

"We do not know who owns the horse," said Larouche, who added alcohol could be a factor in the accident. "The crown attorney will determine whether charges will be (laid)" - she said.

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2006 - 2007

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Appointment

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WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • Just when the ice and snow clears, the Pontiac's drivers welcome back their summer friends: potholes.

It seems cars in the

county just can't catch a break and any person who's driven in the Pontiac knows of the wear the roads present for vehicles.

So, naturally, there are some things that need to be taken care of for the winter-

to-summer transition and with the help of some local mechanics. THE EQUITY looks at some.

Tires

Many people forget or simply don't bother to remove their car's winter tires when they are no longer required.

Wayne Limlaw of Duquette's Auto Clinic in Bryson says leaving them on can cause harm to a vehicle's suspension, because the tires will try to grip to the road.

Also, the winter tires' tread will be worn quickly and be almost useless come the following winter.

"It'll just wear them right out," said Limlaw.

Also, tires can be affected by the numerous potholes on the area's roads.

"Anything that affects the suspension, you want to take a look at," said Shawville Chrysler's Dealer Principal Ron Eades.

When winter comes around again, cars throughout the Pontiac will be thankful for road-ready tires.

Spring tune-up

This is vital, especially with gas prices not expected to get much lower than their already exorbitant rates.

Regular maintenance is important to keep car repair costs low. Get things checked regularly to prevent one large bill down the road resulting from neglect.

Ken Racine of Ken's Auto Service in Ladysmith says



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Shawville Chrysler Dealer Ron Eades presents a display of charred, black, sticky material that is from a car that left its oil unchanged for far too long. Eades keeps the display on the dealership's front desk to remind car owners to have their oil changed regularly.

to have plugs, air filters and cooling systems all inspected.

Also, don't overlook connections, hoses and belts. Properly running, all will help your car run more efficiently and in many cases, save on gas costs.

"With gas (prices) the way it is, you want to save every cent you can," said Racine.

Limlaw recommends asking your mechanic what he suggests should be looked at, since often the car's owner does not know every-

thing that needs to be cared for as well as the mechanic. At Shawville Chrysler, Eades' staff performs routine maintenance checks with every oil change.

Oil change

Eades can not emphasize enough the importance of regular oil changes.

Every 5,000 kilometres, car owners should take their cars in for an oil update.

"If you don't change your oil, you'll end up changing your engine," said Eades.

Shawville Chrysler's front desk has a display of black, sticky, charred material that Eades reveals as oil that had been not been changed in a car for far too long.

Its ability to lubricate was non-existent.

"Today's engines are a lot more high-tech. They need good coolant, they need good oil," said Eades.

"Keep the little things going well and you won't have to worry about the big things as much."

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A day at the track

The Luskville Dragway opens its doors for another season of racing thrills



All photos by Wilbur McLean

Robert Adey, fan: "I don't care about the results. Anything that's loud and has an engine in it, I'm there."

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

LUSKVILLE • It's Sunday, the first weekend of the racing year at the Luskville Dragway.

Tucked neatly into a corner of the Pontiac near Luskville, the quarter-mile long racing strip welcomes hundreds of car aficionados on a weekly basis all summer long.

The machines raced are diverse. There are street cars, racing-specific cars, dragsters, motorcycles, and modified snowmobiles.

The vehicles fall into all sorts of classes, which divide them by vehicles, engine and fuel type.

Cantusci's operation is family-run, his father the lead mechanic and his brother also a racer but, on this occasion, helping out.

"My dad did it and my brother did it and now it's my turn," says Franco.

Father Frank has been involved in auto-racing for 47 years.

"He invented drag racing, this old (expletive)," laughs Frank's elder son, Gianni.

Between each run, the Cantuscis dig through their tools and equipment in a trailer, making minute adjustments for the next time.

Cantusci Racing is known as one of the best racing teams in Eastern Ontario, and they take their cars from Montreal to Toronto.

This is serious business. "There are a lot of ways to lose, but only one way to win," says Franco, as his brother and father poke their heads under the hood of the car.

If they win on this particular day, the prize money is \$400, a mere drop in the ocean of their automotive costs.

The points they pick up in the series of races that will eventually crown a champion are nominal.

Even at the top national events Franco says first place will only net \$15,000.

Their hair is low-cut, pants sagging, clothing branded and vocabulary littered with expletives. It's a self-prescribed uniform.

They live for their cars.

Between races, their vehicles' hoods remain open though none of them have tools to do any work, even if they wanted to. It's all part of the show.

Michael Richards works for a car modification business in Gatineau. He helped rebuild his friend's Acura Integra and is there to watch how he performs.

"Customers like to know how other cars I've worked on have done," says Richards, who is flanked by

though his knowledge is extensive.

"I like tinkering with engines," he says. "I used to have some faster cars in my younger days."

Now in his 40s, Adey recalls days when he and his friends would pack up their gear and drive to the Sanair track east of Montreal for a weekend.

He says the cars there were better and "the women were better, too."

His visits to the track are limited to three or four times per year now, and usually only to Luskville.

"It's close and it's classy," he says.

Fifteen dollars provides

fast car for a day and bring it here so that you don't have to drive your own," says Adey, who knows a few people who have done that.

He does add a caveat, however.

"I'm not really sure if (the car rental companies) let you do that anymore... though some of these guys must still do it."

First win

After some preliminary runs and a win in the semi-finals, Franco finds himself in the finals of the semi-pro event.

He's never won before, and his opponent is a veteran, Jim Hewitt, an Ottawa man who drives an '81 Camaro.

Hewitt has been a member of the semi-pro series at Luskville for a few years.

At the green light, Cantusci gets off slowly and quickly falls behind Hewitt.

Cantusci makes up the difference quickly, though, pulling even at the halfway mark and ahead soon after.

He holds his lead through the final sixteenth of a mile, posting a time of 6.986 seconds, one of his best for the day.

Hewitt finishes about a half-second behind, a blowout in the world of racing.

Cantusci's finishing speed was 96.93 miles-per-hour or 156 kilometres-per-hour.

Back in the pit, there's no cheering or celebrating as usual.

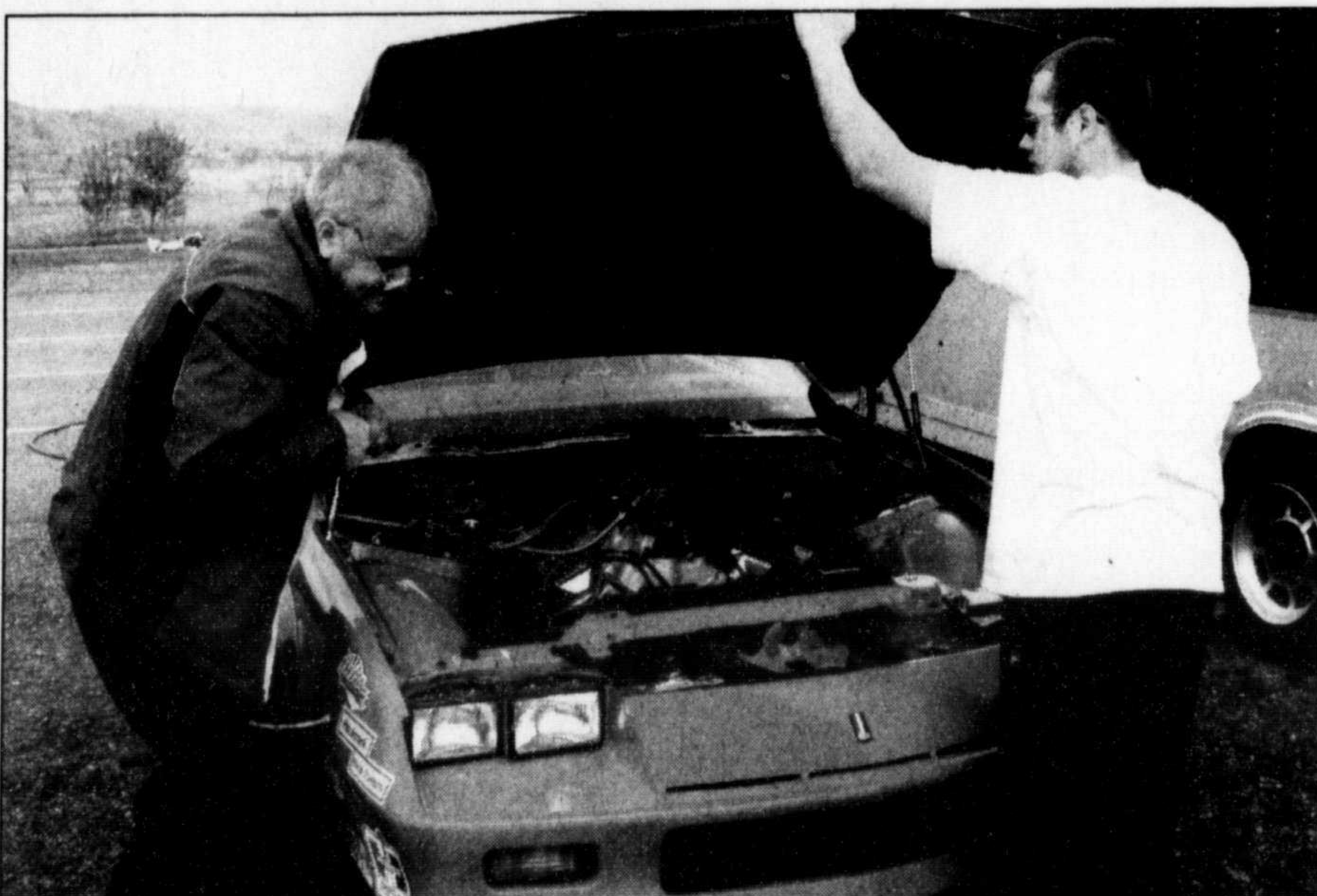
"We've been doing this for a long time, we always expect to win," says Frank, the father Cantusci, who admits to not even knowing how much money they won.

Whatever it is, "it barely pays for anything," he says.

"The appeal is winning. If you kept losing, you'd want to keep getting back in to win."

Soon after, the day concludes.

The fans file out, semi and



Frank Cantusci: "We've been doing this for a long time, we always expect to win."

super-pro racers store their cars atop trailers and street racers atop the drive on the bumpy roads with their modified rides.

Malcolm, meanwhile, pauses for the first time all day.

He chatters non-stop during the event from the tower over the racetrack, keeping fans knowledgeable about the proceedings, informing drivers when it's their turn to race and promoting future events.

His only breaks come during races and that's only for a few seconds.

From 8 a.m. when the first time trials begin to 4 p.m., there are few pauses.

"It's been a good day," he says. "No accidents, no breakdowns, good weather, it's a good day."

Self-admittedly cocky and also brash, Malcolm talks about how he took over the Luskville track 26 years ago and improved it immensely.

"We've taken this from nothing and turned it into a whole lot of something," says Malcolm, the 'we' being his family.

His 26-year-old daughter works the entrance booth,

his wife operates the snack bar and his son is one of the track's top racers.

Malcolm himself was heavily involved in drag racing when he decided to purchase the track.

"When I was a racer I felt nobody did it right. I'm an arrogant (expletive), so I decided to do it myself," says Malcolm without a hint of pretentiousness.

"I'm an astute studier of motorsports. I watch what successful people do and I copy that."

Malcolm still maintains his full-time job in Ottawa, making the work he puts into the dragway a time-consuming part-time job.

The fact that there's no pressure on him to be exceptionally profitable from the track makes things easier on him.

"I don't have to make money here to pay my mortgage," he says.

He attributes his success to his knowledge of racing and his understanding of what fans like Adey want.

"This is entertainment, not a sport," he argues.

"The people don't care who wins. They just want to

be entertained. That's why I'm always getting on the drivers to get on the track, to keep it moving. These egotistical guys, they stand there, posing, trying to look cool, that's not what people want to see. They want to see racing and that's what I bring them."

Malcolm pauses to peel off twenty \$20 bills to be given to Cantusci, his prize money for winning the semi-pro event.

"I live, eat and sleep racing, we all do," he says, referring to everybody at the track that day, from the fans to the racers to the staff.

Malcolm himself sees no finish line to his running of the Luskville Dragway — "I'll keep going until I die or can't walk" — and he thinks of an appropriate simile to get the average person to understand the appeal of racing.

"This is our form of entertainment. This is what we do all summer long. This is our goal."

"We don't go fishing or boating or to the cottage. This is our cottage every weekend."

A cottage with a whole lot of horsepower.



Arnie Malcolm: "We've taken this from nothing and turned it into a whole lot of something"

The cars are loud, so loud that many spectators wear earplugs while others admit to hearing loss.

The rumbling the faster cars produce shake the entire grounds and their speed is impressive.

The fastest machines tear up the strip in six to seven seconds, their front wheels often lifting from the ground upon their start.

"Watch this one, he'll go real good if he gets it going," points out Robert Adey, a fan.

The red Camaro is covered in sponsor-related decals and is running alone during this particular time-trial.

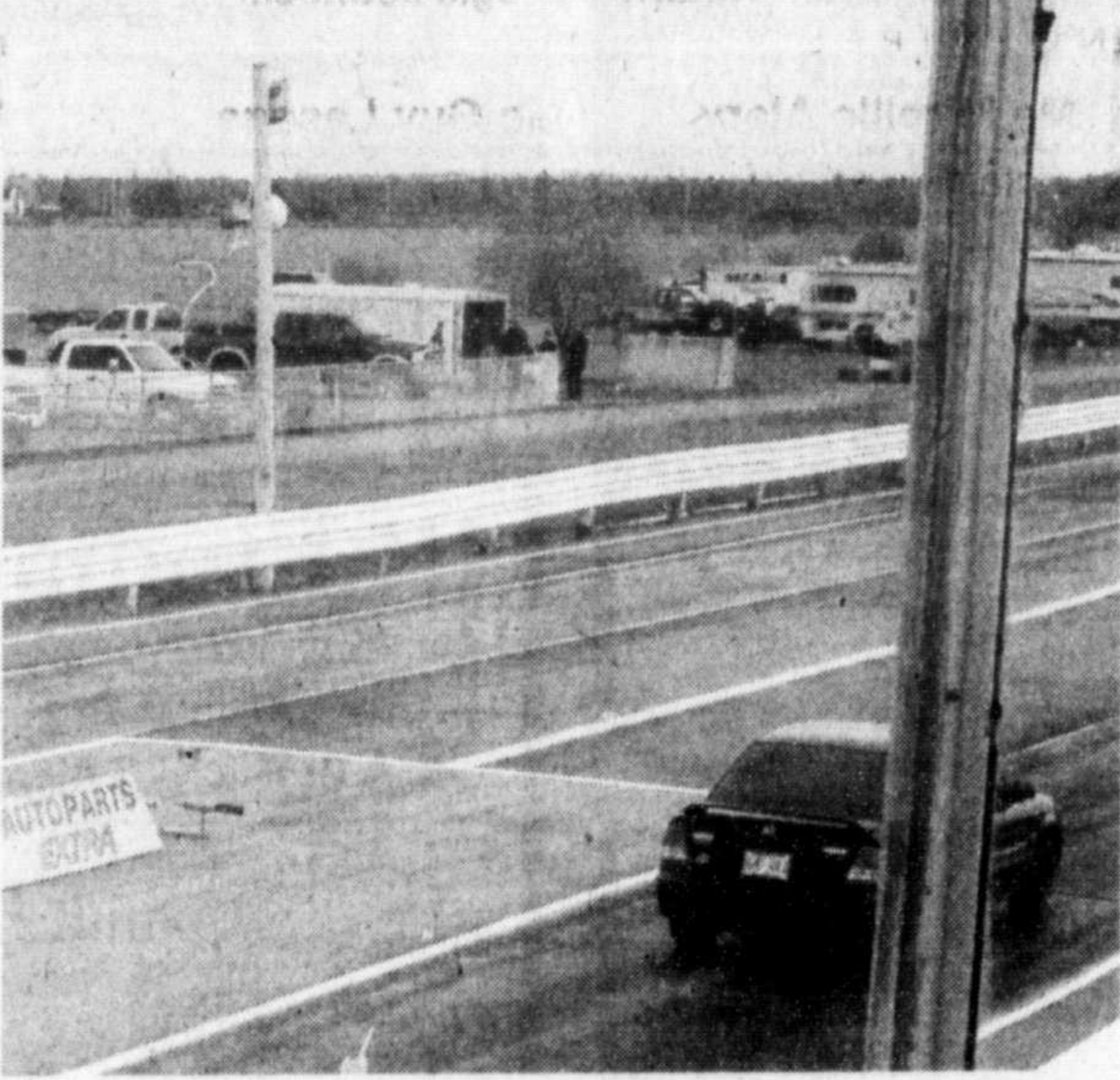
It roars away from the starting line at the beckon of the Christmas Tree lights, which flash red, yellow and then green to go.

"It's pretty amazing, huh?" asks Adey.

Later in the day, that Camaro will be amongst the field of cars competing in the semi-pro event.

Its driver is 24-year-old Franco Cantusci, who is in his second year of racing.

Franco Cantusci: "My dad did it and my brother did it and now it's my turn"



Franco Cantusci (middle): "There are a lot of ways to lose but only one way to win"

cigar-smoking friends. "This (expletive) has \$25,000 in this car," chimes in one.

"I took out the engine, rebuilt it, ported the cylinder head, turbocharged it..."

Richards provides a laundry list of changes he made to the car, eventually synthesizing that the only thing about the car that resembles its original state is the body.

Richards builds the kind of cars teenage boys yearn for and grandmothers roll their eyes at.

The Luskville Dragway provides an opportunity for the cool crowd to race legally for only \$20 per day.

That money gets them unlimited runs all day on the track, in-between the streamlined semi-pro, pro and dragster races.

"We treat the street guys like gold," says the 55-year-old Malcolm.

On certain evenings throughout the summer, the street racers can bring their souped-up cars for a few hours of racing devoted to them, again for only the \$20 entry fee.

They come by the dozens from Ottawa and Gatineau for the opportunity.

"Anything that's loud" Adey stands lone atop the bleachers at the dragway, arms crossed and bottled water in hand.

He's a soft-spoken man, but one who enjoys talking about racing, loves the nuances of the event.

He's never raced himself,

fans a full day of racing. On this particular day, about 150 spectators are in the stands, a respectable number considering the season's just begun.

From Smiths Falls, Adey had arrived that morning and did not move from his spot until the track shut down at 3:45 p.m.

He can name only one driver at that track, and that's only because they live a five minute drive away from one another.

Who won and who lost mean nothing to him. "I don't care about the results," he says.

When asked to explain his interest in drag racing, he shrugs his shoulders as if to imply he has no real say in the matter.

"Anything that's loud and has an engine in it, I'm there."

Stoic throughout most of the proceedings, Adey emits a groan when a street car makes a loud popping noise half-way down the track.

"Oh, that doesn't sound too healthy," he says. "That's one of the reasons I don't race my own car. Because afterwards, I'd have to drive it home."

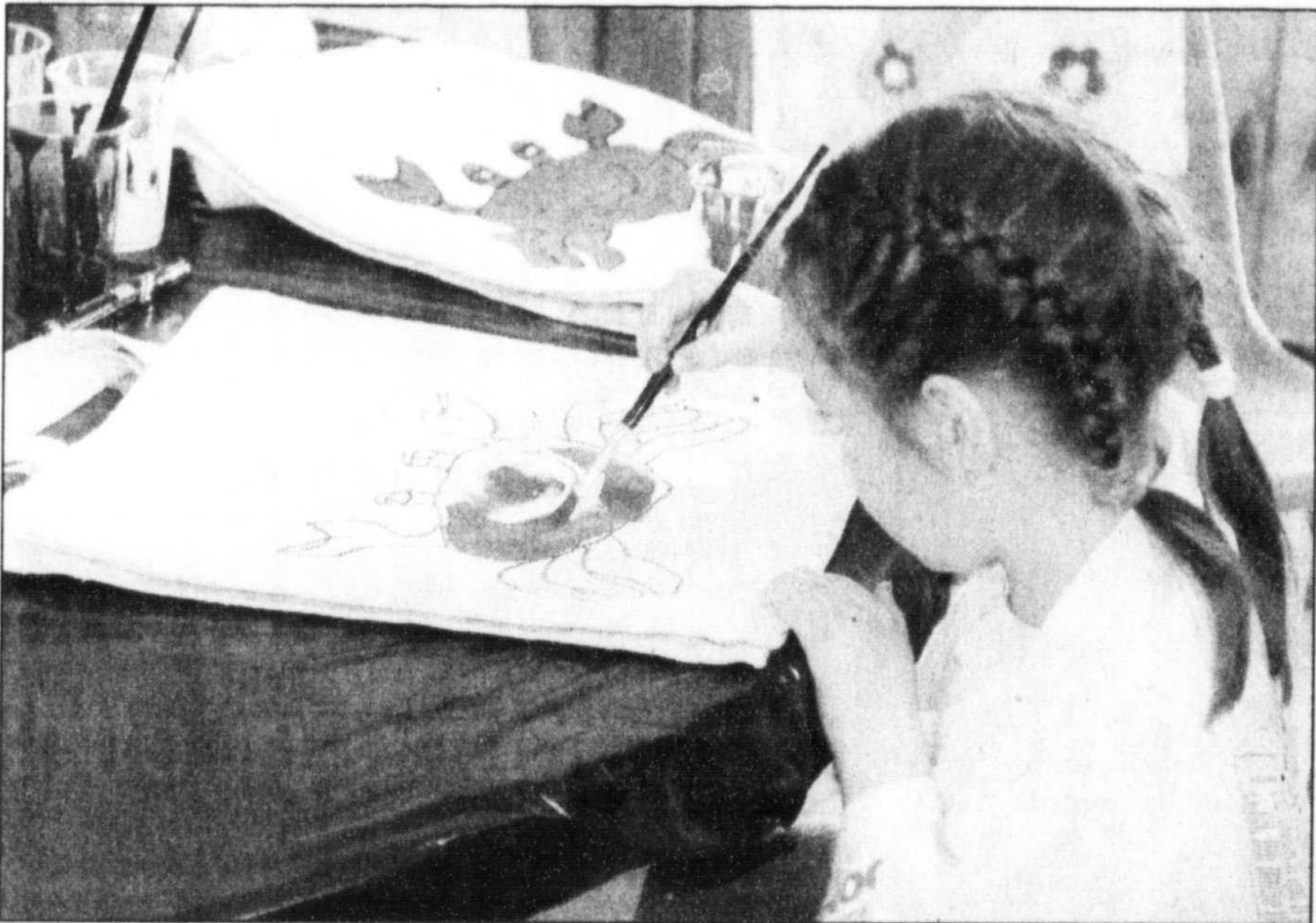
Not surprisingly, Adey makes a living working with things that go fast.

He's an employee of DRS Technologies in Carleton Place, which builds defense systems for the military, including jet fighters.

"The best thing you can do (if you want to race) is rent a

Franco Cantusci (middle): "There are a lot of ways to lose but only one way to win"





St. Mary's student Katherine Lafleur paints a crab on a bag as part of the Otter Lake In Colour event that was held at the Otter Lake R.A. on Saturday. The event was originally supposed to be held outside but rain forced the activities indoors.

Otter Lake's colours shine

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

OTTER LAKE • Shades of rain threatened to wash away Otter Lake's colour, so residents created a new palette.

Twenty volunteers assisted in moving the Otter Lake in Colour event to the Otter Lake R.A. after rain dictated it could not be held outdoors as planned.

Surprising even to its organizers, the fundraiser's success was not affected by the weather.

"We're kind of impressed with the people that came," said Kelly Côté of the St. Mary's parents' committee.

With the fun to be had, it was difficult for people not to turn out.

Kids enjoyed face painting, bracelet-making, bag-designing and big, inflatable toy-jumping.

Parents, meanwhile, perused the contents of the rummage sale and consumed the results of the barbecue.

The goal was to raise money to build a new play-

ground for St. Mary's School.

By the end of the year, the parents' committee is hoping to have approximately \$3,000 for the project.

Whatever they raise will be matched by the Municipality of Otter Lake.

"Everyone uses that playground, not just the school," said Côté.

The effort is a grand one, considering the school only has about 40 students.

The other highlights of the day included the unveiling of an activity book created by St. Mary's students for sale to the community.

Contained within its bilingual pages are recipes, craft ideas and kids' jokes.

The book is on sale for \$10 and 25 had been sold within a few hours at the event.

Municipal councillors also aided with Otter Lake in Colour by putting on their chef's hats and barbecuing hot dogs and hamburgers for attendees.

Act amended to allow for dump

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

DANFORD LAKE • The Pontiac MRC council of mayors recently resolved to amend its land development act to allow Danford Lake to be identified as a potential site for an engineered landfill.

The lots they specified were parts of 29 and 37 in Range 3 and 4, which are government-owned.

When Alleyn and Cawood Mayor Joe Squitti brought back the news at the municipality's monthly meeting May 1, residents in attendance were less than impressed.

"I believe actions speak louder than words and your actions violate everything we believe in," said resident Zenon Chmielowski.

"I've totally lost trust in what you're doing."

Residents, besides stating complete opposition to the possibility of an engineered landfill site being built west of Danford Lake, questioned the control the municipality would have if they

sold the actual property the proposed site would sit on to the promoters, who could then turn around and sell it once more.

"My understanding on that is if that does happen, at the BAPE hearing the criteria will be laid out," said Squitti, of government-organized public hearings that will hear anyone's opinion on the proposed project if it passes 22 environmental studies that are currently being taken. "If it expands, it would have to go through council and a hearing with the government."

After council's last public consultation meeting early April that announced draft bylaws, Squitti said the municipality received 125 responses against accepting the bylaws as drafted.

Residents wanted a sentence included in the bylaws, which stated the municipality would be open to building an engineered landfill in its territory, removed before council finalized the bylaws.

"Our planner will go over the responses, we'll look at them

and then have another public consultation," said Squitti. "We will only hold a registry if there is still a disagreement."

A registry will require that any resident who is eligible and willing to vote for or against the proposed bylaws sign the registry, and later be part of a referendum.

"If we agree with every question that was brought to council, there is no point of having a registry," said Squitti.

The Coalition Against the Danford Megadump has counted a total of 3,200 signatures on a petition opposing the proposed landfill.

"There is a strong majority opposing," said the coalition's president André Carrière.

He said the majority of residents won't be re-electing the current council again.

"This is a waste of time," said Pam Miles.

"We could be spending the countless hours we dedicate to this instead on projects like Mount O'Brien and other development projects."

Small fire at AECL's Chalk River Laboratories

CHALK RIVER • The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) was informed by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) on Thursday, May 4, that a small fire had broken out in a laboratory at the Chalk River Laboratories site at approximately 1:30 p.m. The fire was quickly brought under control by AECL's emergency and fire personnel.

CNSC site staff confirm that AECL followed all regulatory requirements in responding to and reporting this incident. There was no exposure to or release of radioactive materials as a result of the fire. CNSC staff will continue to monitor the situation and follow up as required to review any compliance issues.

The CNSC's mission is to regulate the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect health, safety, security and the environment and to respect Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The parents' committee are hopeful of having the playground built in 2007.

Flaming brush



The Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department was called out to a brush fire near Greermount Monday afternoon. Extremely dry conditions have increased the risk of forest fires in the area.

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Quebec agricultural producers see little in budget

LONGUEUIL • Reacting to the recently released federal budget, Gib Drury, president of the Quebec Farmers' Association (QFA), said that "The budget is long on generalities and desperately short on immediate relief. Farmers cannot wait for assistance to survive the current income crisis and many will have trouble scraping up the cash to plant this year's crops."

Speaking from his beef farm in the Gattineau Hills, Drury emphasized that "The Conservatives campaigned on a promise to deliver \$2.25 billion a year to the agricultural sector. They announced just \$1.5 billion in assistance."

Between 1995 and 2005, Canadian farm debt grew by 90 per cent. Net farm incomes were at an all time low. Despite recent efforts by farmers to attract government attention to their crisis, the budget fails to deliver much needed support.

"Prime Minister Harper claims to be delivering on his promises," said Drury. "But some are taking a higher priority than others and agriculture is low on his list."

Although the budget reiterates the government's promise to replace the flawed Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program, no concrete time frame was

given and no details were presented as to how this support will come through.

"Farmers in other countries don't have to survive off 'one-time investments,'" Drury continued. "In Europe and the United States the national governments are solidly supporting their agricultural sectors. Here we get the crumbs — and it takes marching on Parliament Hill to get even that!"

Drury described some of the budget's provisions as bitter sweet. For example, the GST reduction is beneficial, but for farmers "It would have been much more helpful to have had a reduction in the taxes charged on fuel."

Similarly, the infrastructure investments are welcomed but the benefits will not be seen for another five years. Another example is that the lower taxes on small and medium-sized businesses will only assist farms that are profitable.

Some have been charitable and have called this a transitional budget but the QFA expected more support for agriculture and rural Quebec from the Harper government.

About QFA
Founded in 1957, the Quebec Farmers' Association represents the province's 2,100 English-speaking agricultural producers.

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SPORTS



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Pontiac Royals first baseman Tim Ferrigan beats a Quyon Flyer to the base, making an out early in last Wednesday's exhibition game. The flyers lost the game 7-5. To view more photos of this event click on THIS WEEK'S PHOTOS at www.theequity.ca.

Royals win exhibition match-up

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

BRYSON • The Pontiac Royals of the Upper Ottawa Valley Men's Fastball League won their lone preseason exhibition game on Wednesday, May 3, defeating the Quyon Flyers 7-5. Shawn Laframboise led the way for the Royals, hitting two home-runs including a two-run, walk-off blast in the bottom of the seventh to win the game for Pontiac.

Winning pitcher for the Royals was Tony Newberry, who pitched in the absence of regular starter, Len Burger.

Quyon benefitted from two home runs, one each by Joe McCleary and Matt Greer.

Luke Young was the losing pitcher for the Flyers.

Rookie rightfielder Dave Dagenais of Campbell's Bay was a bright spot for the Royals, going 2-2, with a

double, two walks and a stolen base.

"He was a real bright spot for us," said Royals Manager Tim Ferrigan.

The Royals' season begins today with a game in Micksburg against the defending league champion Twins.

A second team, based in the Pontiac, Shawville Hurst's Bar Athletics, also played their first game Tuesday at home against

Beauchburg.

The Quyon Flyers are a youth-aged team that play in the Ottawa R.A. League. Players are 23 years of age and under. They played a second exhibition game against Fitzroy Harbour on Sunday, which ended in a 2-2 tie.

Their regular season begins on Monday against Orleans. All their games are played in Ottawa.

Chapeau martial artists excel at national championships

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

CHAPEAU • Chapeau's Karate Club performed extremely well at their first national championships, finishing the event with four trophies in all.

Eight Chapeau students competed in the Shito-Ryu Itosu-Kai Canadian Championships, which took place in Toronto on Saturday, April 29.

White belt B.J. Gaudet won two trophies, placing

first in kata, or forms, and was a runner up in kumite, or fighting.

Lily Fornier, a yellow belt, finished third in kata and April Sullivan, a brown belt, took home the second place prize in kumite.

The team's performance was exceptional considering the competition featured schools from across Canada with about 300 people competing in all.

However, Sensai Tim Sullivan said he was not

surprised by his team's success.

"I knew they trained hard and that they'd have no problems," said Sullivan, who also competed himself as a black belt.

Sullivan's school in Chapeau has been open for 13 months now and he currently has 16 students.

He said he decided to take his students to the competition to motivate them.

"It was more or less for experience and to open their

eyes to the culture. Now they work so much harder," said Sullivan.

Other students who competed in Toronto from Chapeau's Karate Club were Mark Deslauriers, Lisa Lapine, Guy Fernier and Brenda Tallon.

The Chapeau school trains twice per week at Dr. Wilbert Keon School.

It is one of four martial arts schools in the Pontiac, with others in Campbell's Bay, Otter Lake and Quyon.

Shawville's Hobbs drafted into USHL

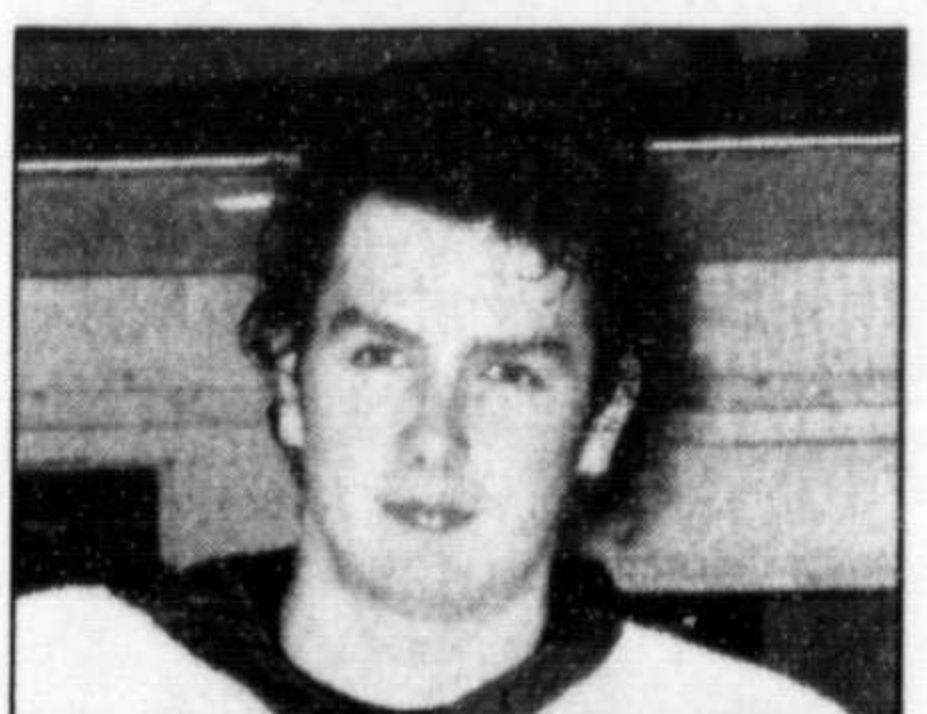
WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Fifteen-year-old Shawville native Danny Hobbs was selected 28th overall in the United States Hockey League draft by the presently unnamed expansion team from Columbus.

Hobbs currently attends Stanstead College in Southern Quebec near Vermont where he was the leading goal scorer for Stanstead's elite hockey program this past season.

The USHL is a top-tier 16-



Shawville's Danny Hobbs

20 year-old junior hockey league, considered a notch below the Ontario Hockey League or Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) in terms of calibre. Hobbs was selected in the

third round with the fourth pick in the 19-round draft.

Columbus is an expansion team, the league's 12th, and will begin its first season in 2006-2007.

The league is considered a fast-track to a university scholarship in the United States. Currently, 149 of the league's former players suit up in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Also, in 2005, 26 players who played in the USHL at one time or another were selected in the National

Hockey League entry draft.

Hobbs is also on the central scouting draft list for the QMJHL, making it possible that he could be drafted into that league on June 10, though the list currently has him projected as undrafted.

The six-foot tall, 175-pound centre could also choose to stay at Stanstead.

"Of course we hope he stays, he's a great kid," said Ross Murray, Stanstead's spokesperson, "but we'll support him no matter what he chooses."

McDowell receives money to fix leaky roof

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School has received funding from the provincial government to repair its leaky roof. Last month MNA Charlotte L'Écuyer announced more than \$1 million devoted solely to school building repairs.

A total of \$1,379,020 from the Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sport will be

spent on McDowell, St. Mark's School in Aylmer and École Secondaire de Grande Rivière of the Portages de l'Outaouais School Board. McDowell will have \$505,195 to begin repairs when school is out for the summer.

"There is water trapped in three basins on the roof,"

said Colin O'Shea, deputy director-general of the Buildings and Equipment Department at the Western Quebec School Board. "Three (basins) will be replaced and the roof will be treated."

McDowell principal Stewart Aitken said a year ago major leaks from the

roof reached classrooms and books.

"We've had temporary repairs, but the roof is in need of repair," he said.

O'Shea said the plan will be ready in about a week and the repairs should be finished by August.

McDowell was built in 1962.

Norway Bay senior golfers tee off for first game

NORWAY BAY • Golfers in the Norway Bay Seniors Golf Association teed off for their first official game of the season Wednesday, May 3.

With 20 members in attendance, and two new additions to the league — Harry Morrison and Wayne Langford — golf was played in cloudy and warm conditions.

Pete Charron won the lowest gross score of 46, while René Bribe won the lowest net score of 34.

Morrison also picked up the 50/50 draw win. The beer jug was won by the team of Terry Milford, Richard Parker, Ken Claude and Dave McGaw.

Congratulations 2006 West Quebecers Community Award Winners!

We invite you to join us at the 2006 Community Awards Banquet and Silent Auction on Friday, June 2nd at Camp Fortune to celebrate the outstanding contributions made in the English-speaking community of West Quebec.

J.D Coulson Award for Outstanding Achievement
Fred Ryan

Graham Greig Award for Outstanding Community Service
Glennis and Philip Cohen

Award for Outstanding Leadership
John Trent

Leadership Award for Youth
Samantha Everts

Community Service Awards

Education
Caroline Eastman

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Germain Bertrand

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Gillian Heginbottom

Recreation and Livable Communities
Philip Gabriel

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Ensemble Together

Voulez vous contribuer à aider au **Projet de Sécurité Alimentaire et le Développement Social** desservant la population de la MRC de Pontiac. Un tournoi de golf bénéfice est organisé par la Sûreté du Québec et la Municipalité régionale de comté de Pontiac (MRC). L'argent ainsi amassé ira aux trois organismes suivantes : 60% à MOISSON OUTAOUAI, 20% aux ARCHIVES DU PONTIAC et 20% AU PROJET SORTIR DU BOIS.

Cet événement se tiendra vendredi, le 2 juin 2006, sur le parcours du terrain du club de golf Island Brae dans la municipalité de l'Isle-Aux-Allumettes au coût de 60\$ qui inclut le golf, la voiturette et un souper qui se tiendra au club de golf dès 18 h, au menu un steak sur le BBQ et un buffet.

Pour vous inscrire, pour faire un don ou pour offrir une commandite communiquer avec l'agent Frédéric Gagnon au (819) 648-2141 ou par télécopieur (819) 648-2831.

LES DONS SERONT REÇUS À LA MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE DE COMTÉ DE PONTIAC.

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602, Route 301 Nord, C.P. 460
Campbell's Bay (Québec) J0X 1K0

Do you wish to support the **Food Security and the Social Development** projects serving the MRC Pontiac population. A benefit golf tournament is organized by the Sûreté du Québec and the Regional County Municipality of Pontiac (MRC). The amount of money raised will go to the following three organisations; 60% to MOISSON OUTAOUAI, 20% to the PONTIAC ARCHIVES and 20% to the PROJET SORTIR DU BOIS.

This event will be held on Friday, June 2, 2006 on the Island Brae Golf Course in the Municipality of Allumette Island the cost is \$60.00, this includes the green fee, a cart and it will be followed by a supper which will be served at 6 p.m. at the golf club, steak on the BBQ and a buffet is on the menu.

For registration, to make a donation or to offer a sponsorship, call Officer Frédéric Gagnon at (819) 648-2141 or by fax (819) 648-2831.

DONATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE REGIONAL COUNTY MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC.

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To ensure that families get childcare that is increasingly adapted to their situations, 9 coordinating offices will be handling the administration of home childcare in the Outaouais region.

Starting June 1, 2006, these coordinating offices will facilitate parents' search for a home childcare place. Home childcare providers, as well, will be able to rely on pedagogical and technical support to help them better meet the needs of children and their parents.

THE COORDINATING OFFICES THAT WILL ADMINISTER HOME CHILDCARE IN YOUR REGION:

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CPE L'Éveil de la nature	MRC Les Collines-de-l'Outaouais
Réseau petits pas	MRC La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
CPE I-2-3 Picabou	MRC Pontiac
CPE Des Premiers Pas	Ville de Gatineau – ancienne ville de Hull
CPE Les Feux follets	Ville de Gatineau – ancienne ville de Gatineau secteur nord – J8V et J8R
CPE La Gatinerie	Ville de Gatineau – ancienne ville de Gatineau secteur sud – J8T et J8P
CPE Trois Petits Points...	Ville de Gatineau – anciennes villes de Buckingham et de Masson-Angers
CPE La Ribambelle d'Aylmer	Ville de Gatineau – ancienne ville d'Aylmer

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Famille, Aînés et Condition féminine
Québec

May '06

June '06

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SUBMISSIONS > DEADLINE MONDAY 5 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

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

Celebrate Mothers with a special silk floral arrangement assorted styles and colours available at Belanger Monuments, Highway 148, Campbell's Bay, QC (819) 648-5858. xm10

Computer Basics Course - Tuesday or Thursday mornings, afternoons and evenings starting May 2, 2006. Learn the basics of computers including Windows, Internet, E-Mail and Word Processing. Call the Renfrew Learning Centre for more information, 613-432-1002 or E-Mail Programs@thelarningcentre.ca. 4bm17

Fri., Sat. & Sun. May 12, 13, 14 - Shawville Flea Market, 193 Centre St., family clothes, books 50 cents, videos, toys, golf, antiques, collectibles, half price on lots of items. xm10

Sat., May 13 - Mother and daughter Brunch Wesleyan Standard Church, Main St., Shawville 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Floral demonstration, prizes, special music, speaker, catered brunch. Tickets \$10 available at Shawville Shoe. bm10

Sat., May 13 - ATV Breakfast, Shawville Lions Hall 7 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. catered by Armstrong Heritage Farm. bm10

Sat., May 13 - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Luncheon and Bazaar, Masonic Hall, 244 Main St. Adults \$8, children under 12 \$4. xm10

Sun., May 14 - 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Mother's Day Hot Turkey Supper by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Churches, Cobden and Ross, at the Cobden Agricultural Hall. Wheelchair accessible. Adults \$10.00; Children 5 - 12 years \$5.00; under 5 years free. Take-out available. Everyone welcome! 2bm10

Fri., May 19 - Barbecue Fundraiser for Armstrong Heritage Farm, Ottawa Valley Office Supply parking lot 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. 2bm17

Wed., May 24 - Chutes Coulonge - Tea Party - noon to 2 p.m. Strolling tea party around the Chutes. Advance \$12, door \$15. Door Prizes!!! Groups/organizations welcome. (888) 683-2770 www.chutescoulonge.qc.ca 3bm17

Sun., May 21 - 1 - 3 p.m. Gavan's Hotel, Quyon, It's a party! A book launching party! Meet the author of "How Quyon Came to Be" Jim Robinson, and take part in the fun as he unveils his book. Jim will be glad to autograph your copy, as well as copies purchased earlier. Information www.quyon.ca. xm10

Fri., May 26 - 6:30 p.m. Murder Mystery, "Mob Mayhem" Dinner and a Murder, Pontiac Community Players, PHS gym, tickets \$25 available until May 19 at PHS main office. 3bm10

Fri., June 2 - Amplify 819 at the R.A. Centre, Shawville Featuring the bands: Harmonic Distortion, In Safe Hands, For the Mathematics. xtc5m31

COMING EVENTS

Sun., June 25 - Maple Grove Cemetery Decoration Service (Shawville) 2:30 p.m. Guest speaker Dr. Anthony Bailey. Bring your lawn chairs. No artificial flowers please. 2bm17

June 30, July 1 & 2 - Quyon Country JamFest. Featuring: George Fox and Shania Twin. Advance Tickets Available now - call 458-2139. 11bn21

September 19 - 24, 2006 - Come to the National Communities in Bloom Awards Brandon, Manitoba For information visit www.brandon.ca. Phone: 204-729-2257. Email: communityservices@brandon.ca. xm10

Oct. 15 - Travel to Dublin Ireland with the Mick Armitage Band and Gail Gavan. Call Barhaven Travel at 613-823-4700 or email Steve at barhaventravel.com or go to www.mickarmitageband.com or call 613-226-9178 for more details. It's going to be a blast and we want you to come along. bm10

YARD SALE

Fri., Sat., Sun. May 12, 13, 14 - 8 a.m. - dark, Huge Yard Sale. Hwy 148 to Wolf Lake Rd. 2 km to 5272 6th Conc., Quyon. Ken Stanton's - Pepsi, Pure Spring cooler, vintage, household items. Rain or shine. bm10

May 13 - Yard Sale, rain or shine Emmeron Cote (Young's Subdivision), Shawville 8 - 2. xm10

May 20 - 21 - 14 Church, Vinton, QC 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. xm10

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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Large round 4 x 5 bales for sale. Please call 819-455-2312. 2bm10

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Round baler 630 New Holland; 7600 Ford tractor, Leveling harrows; 4 score International Plow; Elias cattle scale. 647-3583. 2xm10

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Shawville - Spacious one bedroom basement apartment. Central air conditioning. Shared washer and dryer included. References and credit check required. \$350.00, month plus utilities. Avail. June 1st. Call 819-647-2398 evenings. 4bm24

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

Snack bar corner of Hwy. 148 and Aylmer Rd., Bristol. For inquiries call 647-2376. otc

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Waterfront lots on the Black River. Beautiful secluded wilderness setting on 5 acre wooded lots with 175' of shoreline. Only 3 lots available. Lots back onto Crown Land. Prices starting at \$38,500. Call (613) 839-6125 or toll free (613) 1-877-679-4494. 3bm24

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Farm for sale - custom built bungalow 2001, Shawville, Quebec. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, finished basement, double garage, 100 acres of tile-drained land, good barn. 819-647-6528. qm10

HELP WANTED

Part-time/ full-time cooks required, experience preferred. Call 648-2400. 2bm17

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Driver wanted at Marie-Joe's Restaurant in Luskville. Call 455-9449. bm10

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THE EQUITY is searching for a freelance news reporter that is ambitious, has a strong work ethic and a passion for journalism to cover local events in the Pontiac. Salary will vary with experience. A bilingual applicant is preferred. The job will require evening and weekend work. A digital camera (minimum of 4.0 megapixels), a valid driver's license and car are required. Mileage will be paid. Forward your resume, along with samples of published writing, to Box 4300, Shawville Quebec, J0X 2Y0 or via e-mail to leahmiller@theequity.ca xtc

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Need a job? One man full time/part-time. Call 648-5700 between 6 p.m and 7 p.m only. 2bm10

A career teaching English internationally begins with professional training. A 5-day certificate course will be offered by The College of Applied Linguistics in Montreal at Dawson College June 14-18 (open house May 16) & University of Ottawa May 24-28 (open house May 9). To register for the Open House May 2 call 1-888-246-6512. www.INTLcollegeoflinguistics.com. qm10

Discovery Toys - expanding in this area. Urgently needs 10 consultants to represent our line of educational toys, books, software. Call for free information package 514-937-3889. qm10

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DEATH

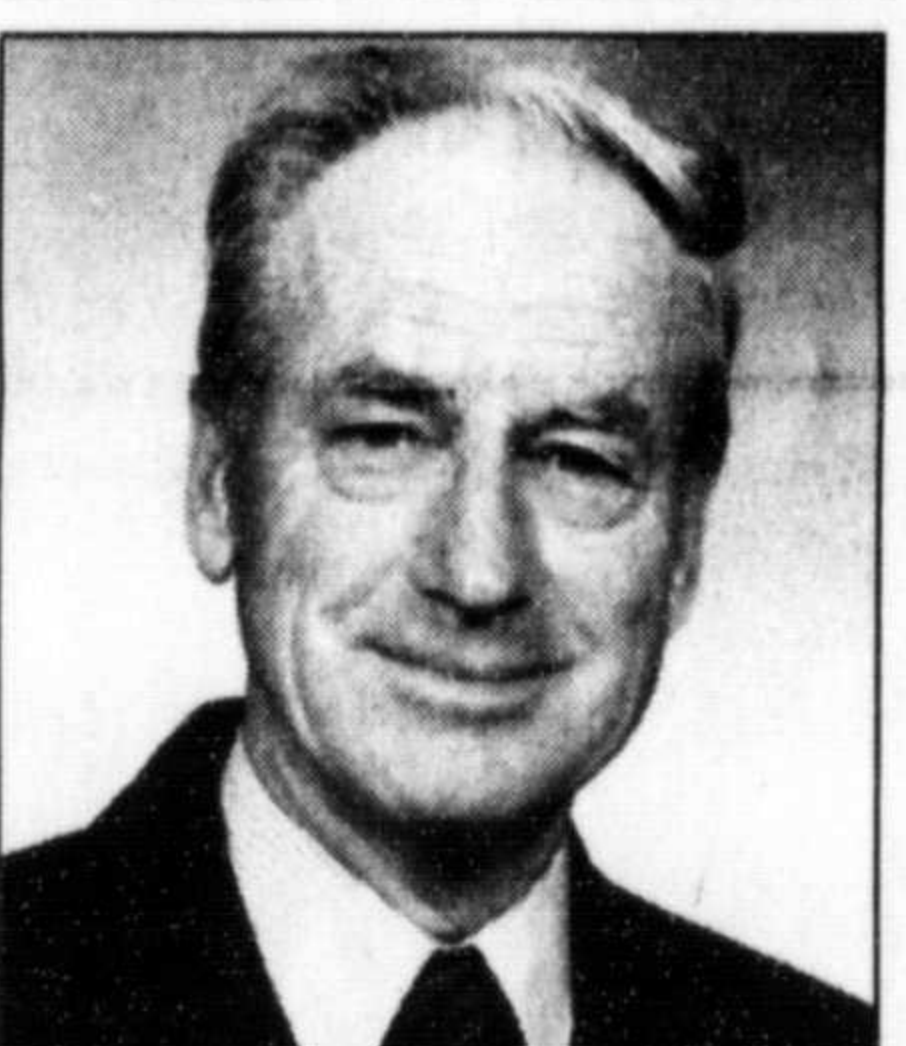


Leach - Viola Paulina

Suddenly at her residence in Quyon, Quebec on Thursday, May 4, 2006 at the age of 79 years. Daughter of the late Minnie Leach (nee Fierrobin), who she dearly missed. Cherished and never to be forgotten by her sons, Fernand (Betty), Germain (Gloria), Norman (Debbie), and daughters Geraldine and Loreen. Loving granny to Crystal, Cindy, Curtis, Colleen, Sheldon, Amanda, Jennifer, Shannon, Donna, Christine, Charlene, and great-grandmother of 9. Her surviving sisters Nora, Enie, Edna, Irene, Martina, and brother Martin will sadly miss her. You will not have to make this journey from earth alone; your mom, sister Eva, and brothers Fred and Michael will be waiting to take your hand and lead you to heaven to join them. Go in peace and be happy. Special thanks to Rejean for his care in the last few months and also special thanks to Dr. Zaroukian at the Shawville Hospital. Visitation was held at W.J. Hayes & Sons Funeral Home, 1040 Clarendon St., Quyon, Quebec on Sunday, May 7, 2006 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial took place Monday, May 8 in St. Mary's Church, Quyon, Quebec at 12:30 p.m. Interment St. Mary's Cemetery.

Renaud - Ronald Lionel Peacefully at the CHVO, Hull, Quebec with his family by his side, on Tuesday, May 8th, 2006 aged 71 years. Survived by his wife Zelma (nee Craig) and the late Claudette (nee Chevrier). Loving father of Joanne Provost (Raymond Johnston), Frank (Judy), Kerry (Sheri), Michael (Tina), his step-children, Dwayne, Debbie, Brenda and Wendy. Proud Grandfather of Enjolie, Jovan, Stephanie, Mandy, Nicholas, Steven, Jessica, Joshua and his step-grandchildren, Tyler, Amy, Sean and Amanda. Dear brother of Roland (late Gladys), Ernie (Claire), Theresa Renaud, Doris Renaud (Randall Frobel) and Denis (Gwen). Ron was an active member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Quyon Branch 231. He was a dedicated member of St. Mary's Church. Friends may call at W.J. Hayes & Sons Funeral Home, 1040 Clarendon St., Quyon, Quebec on Wednesday, May 10th, 2006 from 2 to 4 & 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral Thursday, May 11th, 2006 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Quyon, Quebec for Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. Interment Parish Cemetery.

Spinks, Gail - On Thursday, May 4, 2006 at the age of 61. Beloved wife of Ronald Spinks. Cherished daughter of Lillian Clark and the late Cecil Cole. Dear sister of Doris (late Ron Nadeau), Echo Bay, Ont., Marcella (late Bruce Kennedy), Kamloops, BC, Winston (Joan Dechamp), Sault Ste. Marie, Warren, Sault Ste. Marie, Elaine, Kamloops, BC, Darwin, Waltham, Que. and Glenda (Don Paquette), Waltham, Que. Cremation has taken place. A grave side service will be held in Ivy Hill Cemetery, Waltham, Quebec on Friday, May 12 at 2 p.m. In memoriam donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be greatly appreciated. Arrangements are in the care of Ringrose Brothers Funeral Home 1-819-648-2181.



Dahms - In loving memory of Uncle Albert May 11th.

You live in us in memory still Not just today But always will. Lovingly remembered by Sharon and Gord and family.

Dahms - In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather Albert, who passed away May 11, 2001. Today we have sad memories Of a dad gone to rest The ones who think of him today

Are the ones who loved him best. Lovingly remembered, King, Myrna and family and Chris Alexander

Thomas, Charlie - In loving memory of a dear brother Charlie who passed away May 8, 1997. A thought of sweet remembrance. A memory sad and true, The love and sweet devotion Of one who thinks of you. Alex and family

Thomas-Vallant, Mary Agnes - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother Agnes who passed away May 10, 1996. Remembering you is easy, We do it every day, Missing you is a heartache, That never goes away. Sadly missed by her husband Alex and family

McNeill - In loving memory of our dear Father, Grandfather, Great-grandfather, Great-great-grandfather Norval McNeill who passed away peacefully May 12, 1997. Dearest Daddy, It has been 9 years now since God saw you getting tired, When a cure was not to be, So He put His arms around you And whispered "Come with Me."

You tried so hard to stay with us, But your fight was all in vain, God took you in His loving arms, And freed you from your pain. If we could have one life time wish One dream that could come true, We'd pray to God with all our hearts For yesterday and you. Happy 98th birthday Daddy Monday, May 15th.

Loving and missing you always, daughter Bernice, son-in-law Lorn and grandchildren Laurie Ann, Debbie and Brian, Great-grandchildren Brian and Serena and Danny and Great-great-grandchild Brian

BIRTH

Brownlee - Keeping up the Brownlee tradition! Lee, VeraLynn and big brother Ryan are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their sweet baby boy James Martin Brownlee born April 13, 2006 at 8:49 a.m. Weighing 9 lbs. 5 oz and 22 inches long. Proud grandparents are Brian and Brenda Brownlee and Eric and Evelyn Campbell. Another great-grandchild for Ervina and Eleanor Brownlee. Many thanks to Dr. Wootton and the nursing staff of Pontiac Community Hospital and friends and family for gifts and good wishes.

THANKS



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

The first Wednesday morning play group was held at the Luskville Community Centre May 3. The play group is open to any parent and their child up to the age of five.

Luskville toddlers now have room to play, grow

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
LUSKVILLE • A group of caregivers and their children met for the first time Wednesday to participate in Luskville's first community play group.

Four Luskville women, Danielle Samur, Brigitte Bonneau, Kate Ale and Adriana Saenz, felt they wanted to get to know their neighbours a bit better, while at the same time have a place to let their kids play and socialize.

"It gives us an opportunity to learn and for our kids to be with other kids and see other moms in Luskville that

have kids," said Bonneau. The public was invited to this first community play group to also take part in a community consultation run by the Community Economic Development and Employability Committee (CEDEC) Outaouais to generate ideas on how to improve the community.

"We wanted to support these four women who wanted to get to know their community," said CEDEC director Tina Michaud.

A play group similar to this initiative is held in Guyon, but due to being

subsidized, it has a limited number of spaces for children.

"It's an excellent facility but for us, the driving is too far," said Saenz.

The hall is donated by the municipality for the parents to use.

The play group, successful in its first run with over 15 kids attending, will be held each Wednesday morning at the Community Centre starting at 9 a.m. Kids up to age five and their guardians are welcome to bring and share toys, sing songs and enjoy a few snacks.

Hospital Auxiliary welcomes new members

SHAWVILLE • The April meeting of the Shawville Hospital Auxiliary was held at the Respice Centre in Campbell's Bay so we could be with our senior members. A warm welcome was expressed by Anna Bowen and her staff.

Seventeen members answered the roll call and

there were seven guests.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Helen Towell. The treasurer's report was given by Pauline Grant. The report from the Central Auxiliary was given. The prayer was by Margaret Willis. Marjorie Smith from Elmside read some of her favorite poems.

The next meeting will be at Marjorie Smith's.

New members are welcome. The ladies thank for Anna Bowen and staff for having them. Meeting was adjourned by Ina Kilgour. Lunch was served by the members. A few games of bingo followed which everyone enjoyed.

Sheenboro



Myrtle Sullivan
689-2236
Congratulations to Karen

McPherson who graduated from Ottawa Teacher's College. We wish you the best of luck in your new career.

Birthday wishes to Tony Dunn and to Erin Dunn who both celebrate this week. Erin is turning 18 and I heard she has been counting down the days! I hope you both have a great day.

We'll have a wonderful CaSheeno Night on Saturday. Heather and Norm Lemke did a great job organizing the event and to all those who helped make it such a success. Congratulations.

The kayak donated by Gary and Diaan Juby from River Edge Canoe and Kayak was won by Helene Chartrand. The barbecue donated by the residents of Hudson Bay Road was won by the Hudson family. The minnow races were officiated by Father Shalla. It drew quite a crowd. The winning Nascarr Minnow was the SS Shannon coached by Steve McDonald. It was nice to see Father Kenny and Father Beachy there. There were many volunteers from the neighbouring communities who gave so generously of their time to make our first CaSheeno night such a success. Mark Hargreaves was the auctioneer and he was so entertaining. He auctioned off 276,000 worth of prizes in CaSheeno money. The prizes donated were overwhelming. I saw old friends and met some new ones Phyllis and Elwyn Kealey from Calumet Island who heard about it from the newspaper. It was nice to see Mrs. Taylor back, Gilbert and Carol Anne Lapierre and all the Walker family.

My sympathy to my son-in-law Marcel Crozon on the passing of his sister-in-law, Anna Crozon.

Happy birthday to Brittainy and Tim Ranger who celebrate this week on the 8th and 9th.

Happy anniversary to Donna and Donny Gagnon on their anniversary May 15.

My sympathy to my son-in-law Marcel Crozon on the passing of his sister-in-law, Anna Crozon.

Happy birthday to Brittainy and Tim Ranger who celebrate this week on the 8th and 9th.

Quyon



Jill McBane
458-2366
Sympathy expressed to the family of Brian

Armitage who passed away last week.

Correction to last week's notes happy birthday to Rori Richardson not Ron Richardson.

Get well wishes are sent to Gilly Braden who is a patient in the Pontiac Community Hospital. The gang from the restaurant say hello.

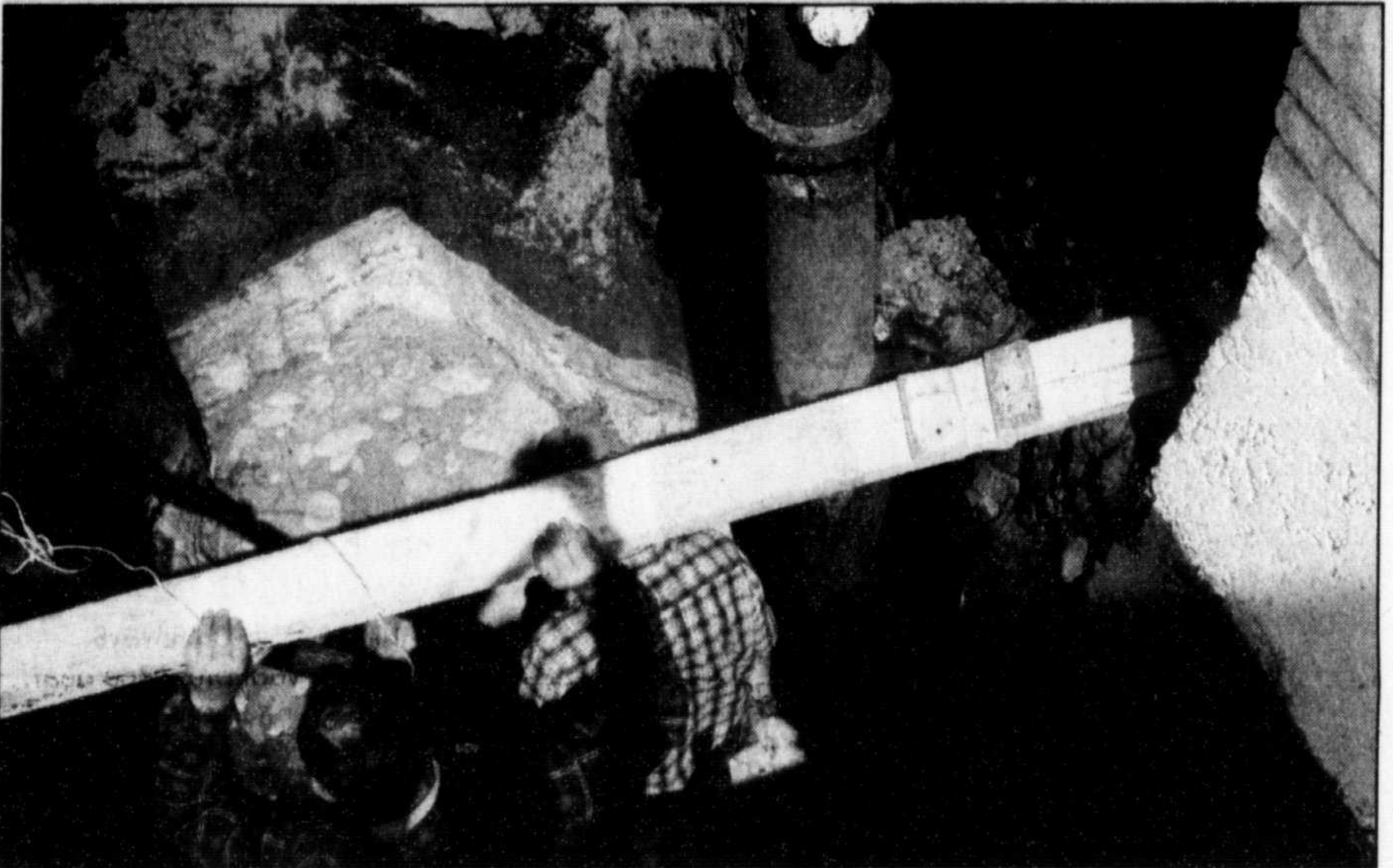
Mark Kearns' Quyon Flyers played an exhibition ball game Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Quyon Ball Park. The final score was 2 - 2. A lot of people attended just like the good old days.

The Lions Cub Effective Public Speaking took place last Friday and Saturday at Sir Robert Borden High School. The final speeches and awards were presented at the Travel Lodge Hotel in Ottawa. Brooke Welburn placed third overall in the junior division sponsored by the Shawville Lions Club. Breauna Corrigan placed third overall in the intermediate division sponsored by the Quyon Lions Club and Morgan Welburn was the overall winner of the seniors division sponsored by the Shawville Lions Club. These girls were regional winners competing against 10 other regional winners.

Congratulations girls. Don't forget Mother's day is Sunday, May 14. I would like to wish my mom, Beulah MacDougall and my grandma, Mona MacDougall a happy Mother's Day.

A group of ladies are getting together May 16th at Norway Bay Golf Course to have a ladies night out. If interested in golf please call Kathy Young. This will be every Tuesday.

Man Hole



Wibur McLean, THE EQUITY

Shawville municipal workers worked on Monday to replace a fire hydrant that had been leaking in town on Main Street.

Incendie mineur aux laboratoires d'EACL

CHALK RIVER • La Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire (CCSN) a été informée par ÉNERGIE atomique du Canada limitée (EACL) que le jeudi 4 mai 2006 vers 13 h 30, un incendie mineur s'est déclaré dans un laboratoire des Laboratoires de Chalk River. L'incendie a rapidement été maîtrisé par le personnel d'urgence et des incendies d'EACL.

Le site confirme qu'EACL a observé toutes les exigences réglementaires en réponse à l'incident, et également, en rapportant l'incident. Il n'y a eu aucune émission ou rejet de matières radioactives, ni exposition à des matières radioactives, en raison de l'incendie.

Le personnel de la CCSN surveille étroitement la situation et fera le suivi requis afin de revoir toute question de conformité pertinente en sus.

La CCSN réglemente l'utilisation de l'énergie et des matières nucléaires afin de protéger la santé, la sûreté, la sécurité et l'environnement et de respecter les engagements internationaux du Canada à l'égard de l'utilisation pacifique de l'énergie nucléaire.

Défendons notre école!



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Étudiants, parents et membres de la communauté sont descendus dans la rue lundi, 1 mai. Ils ont marché de la rue Leslie au centre récréatif de Campbell's Bay pour assister à la deuxième consultation publique de la commission scolaire Western Quebec. Celle-ci examine les différentes options pour aborder le problème de sous-encadrement, incluant la possibilité de fermer le primaire et secondaire. Le conseil des commissaires prendra une décision d'ici le 27 juin.

Aide pour la cour de l'école Poupore

CAMPBELL'S BAY • La députée de Pontiac, Mme Charlotte L'Écuyer, a annoncé au nom du ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, M. Jean-Marc Fournier, qu'une somme de 7 321 dollars avait été affectée à l'embellissement de la cour de l'école Poupore de la Commission scolaire des Hauts-de-l'Outaouais.

Cette aide, qui représente 33 par cent du coût des projets, pour un maximum de

25 000 dollars, se veut un appui à la participation du milieu et de la Commission scolaire.

Le ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport souhaite ainsi aider la communauté à se doter d'équipements répondant aux besoins de différents groupes d'utilisateurs, au sein desquels figurent, au premier chef, les élèves, a déclaré la députée.

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Neil Dunlop - 819-647-5430
Ladysmith, Quebec J0X 2A0

WANTED
2 bedroom furnished cottage on waterfront within 1/2 hour drive of Shawville for the month of July 2006. Please call Dr. John Wootton at the Centre de santé et service sociaux du Pontiac at:
(819) 647-2211, ext. 2194

Gagné Isabelle Patry Laflamme & Associés
Notaires & conseillers juridiques
Notaries & legal counsels
NOTAIRES
M^{re} Mireille Alary
188 Montcalm, bureau 300, Gatineau (Québec) J8Y 3B5
Tél.: (819) 771-3231, poste 301 - Téléc.: (819) 771-3232
malary@gipl.qc.ca
131A, rue Victoria, CP 569, Shawville (QC) J0X 2Y0
Tél.: (819) 647-6300 Téléc.: (819) 647-7004
HEURES D'OUVERTURE - SHAWVILLE - HOURS
Lundi à vendredi - 10 h à 16 h
Monday to Friday - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

AUCTION SALE
For the Estate of **MR. GARRY CUNNINGHAM** of RENFREW and GUESTS
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006
Sale starts at 9:30 a.m.
LOCATION CHANGE: Sale held at #110 Airth Blvd., Renfrew, Ontario
Travel Hwy. 17 to O'Brien Rd. Travel O'Brien Rd. to Raglan St. South Travel Raglan St. South to #110 Airth Blvd.
Trailers, snow blower, lawn mowers, electric and gas garden tools, power and hand tools, 1993 Ford 1/2 ton, 1993 Ford car, fridge, furniture, household, collectibles, contents of meat shop - scales, grinder, freezer, meat saws and related items.
"HOPE YOU CAN BE WITH US"
Stewart's Auctions, Box 97, Cobden, Ont. (613) 646-7649

AUCTION SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006
at 10:30 a.m. for **LLOYD and MARIAN TIMMINS**
3608 Timmins Side Road, R.R. #4 Pakenham, Ont.
Off Kinburn Side Road onto Timmins Side Road, approx. 2 km to sale OR approx. 3 miles from Pakenham to Timmins Side Road. Signs Posted.
Alls Chalmers D15 tractor with loader; 479 pivot plow for A.C. tractor; Ferguson 20 - 85 tractor; I.H. 379 Haybine; N.H. 450 mower; I.H. crop chopper; N.H. 327 manure spreader; full line of older farm machinery; tools; assort. of 2" lumber; antiques; household items. Household items sell first.
TERMS: Cash or cheque with I.D. Lunch available.
Auctioneer: Preston Cull, Douglas, Ont. Phone: 613-649-2378
Owner or auctioneer not responsible in case of accident or theft.

The Centre d'insémination artificielle du Québec (CIAQ), an organisation with a 58-year history in the field of bovine reproduction, is seeking to fill the position of:
A.I. Technician
Pontiac area
Reporting to the district manager, you will carry out an outstanding inspection service to all the clients in the area and provide them with a consulting service, mainly in production management and genetics. With regards to genetics, you will also help the breeders with their choices of semen offered by CIAQ. Finally, you will apply CIAQ's commercial strategy and more particularly the action plans in your zone, with the objectives of maintaining the demand for A.I. service and developing sales.
You hold a college diploma in agricultural technology (animal science or farm management or animal health) or a Secondary V Certificate (agro-technical). Any other schooling and related experience deemed equivalent will be considered. You have a solid knowledge of the characteristics of the sires offered by CIAQ and are responsive to team work. You demonstrate persuasion abilities and communication skills. You have some notions of customer service and show manifest interest for sales.
If your profile seems right for the position and you have a working knowledge of French, please send your resume, before May 19, 2006, to the following address:
Position: A.I. Technician, Area # 096
Centre d'insémination artificielle du Québec (CIAQ)
Human Resources and Quality Department
3450, rue Scotte, P.O. Box 518
Saint-Hyacinthe (Québec) J2S 7B8

Municipalité d'Otter Lake
Municipality of Otter Lake
OCCASION D'EMPLOI
DÉPOTOIR MUNICIPAL
AVIS PUBLIC est donné par la Municipalité d'Otter Lake que des résumés sont demandés pour quiconque serait intéressé à un emploi au dépotoir municipal. Cet emploi est aussi sur fin de semaine, les heures seront déterminées à une date ultérieure. Cet emploi est strictement pour le dépotoir. Doit avoir son propre transport.
Les résumés seront reçus au bureau municipal situé au 15, avenue Palmer, Otter Lake, QC J0X 2P0, jusqu'au 24 mai 2006 à 14h00.
Anita Laflaur
Directrice générale
JOB OPPORTUNITY
MUNICIPAL DUMP
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the Municipality of Otter Lake that persons interested in working at the municipal dump are asked to submit their resume at the municipal office, no later than May 24, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at 15 Palmer Avenue, Otter Lake, QC J0X 2P0.
This work consists of weekend work, with hours to be determined at a later date. This position is strictly for the dump. Must have own transportation.
Anita Laflaur
Director General

Municipalité d'Otter Lake
Municipality of Otter Lake
AVIS PUBLIC TRÈS IMPORTANT
CHANGEMENTS PROPOSÉS À
NOTRE SITE D'ENFOUSSEMENT
VOTRE PRÉSENCE EST IMPORTANTE
Il aura une deuxième consultation publique, samedi le 13 mai 2006 au sous-sol de l'Église St-Charles, situé au 367, avenue Martineau, Otter Lake, Québec à 10h00.
À cette consultation les nouvelles réglementations que nous devons mettre en place à notre site d'enfouissement seront discutées.
Nous considérons cette consultation de grande importance.
Anita Laflaur
Secrétaire-trésorière et Directrice générale
VERY IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPOSED CHANGES TO OUR DUMP SITE
YOUR ATTENDANCE IS VERY IMPORTANT
There will be another public consultation meeting on Saturday, May 13th, 2006 in the basement of St-Charles Parish Church, situated at 367 Martineau, Otter Lake, Quebec at 10:00 a.m.
At that meeting the implementation of new measures concerning our current landfill site will be discussed and explained to the public.
We consider this meeting of great importance.
Anita Laflaur
Secretary-Treasurer and Director General

Municipality of Otter Lake
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Position: Part-time and seasonal
Assistant Building Inspector and
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
• Must be able to work and communicate in French and English
• Knowledge of computers and Simply Accounting
• Experience in office procedures and in dealing with the public
• Aptitude and composition in letter writing in both languages
• General Aid to the building inspector
• Filing
• Other inspection works dictated by the Building Inspector and Secretary-Treasurer
• Have a valid driver's license
• Like to work in the field as well as in the office
• Must be able to work alone or in a group
• 30-hour week, during the seasonal period
The position of building inspector is seasonal from April 1st until November 30th. The position of assistant secretary-treasurer is on call and may coincide with the position of building inspector (10-12 weeks per year).
The salary will be established according to the training and pertinent experience of the candidate retained. Resume stating experience and qualifications will be accepted at the Municipal Office, 15 Palmer Avenue, Otter Lake, QC J0X 2P0 until 2:00 p.m. May 24th, 2006.
Only qualified candidates will be contacted for an interview.
Anita Laflaur
Director General

Municipalité d'Otter Lake
OFFRE
D'EMPLOI
Poste : Adjoint(e) inspecteur(trice)
en bâtiments et
adjoint(e) secrétaire-trésorier(ère)
Temps partiel et saisonnier
• Pouvoir travailler et communiquer dans les langues française et anglaise
• Connaissance en informatique et comptable simple
• Expérience en procédure de bureau et avec le secteur public
• Aptitude et composition dans les deux langues
• Aide générale à l'inspecteur en bâtiments
• Classement
• Formuler des recommandations concernant les règlements municipaux
• Autres fonctions d'inspection dévolues par l'inspecteur en bâtiments et secrétaire-trésorier
• Avoir un permis de conduire valide
• Être autonome et aimer travailler en équipe
• Apprécier le travail sur le terrain et au bureau
• 30 heures semaine, pendant la période saisonnière
La position d'inspecteur est saisonnière à partir du 1er avril au 30 novembre. La position d'assistant(e) secrétaire est sur appel et peut coïncider avec celle de l'inspecteur (environ 10-12 semaines par année).
La rémunération sera établie en fonction de la formation et de l'expérience pertinente du candidat(e) retenu(e). Résumé citant expérience et qualifications sera reçu au bureau municipal, 15, avenue Palmer, Otter Lake, QC J0X 2P0, jusqu'à 14h00, le 24 mai 2006.
Seulement les candidats(tes) qualifiés(es) seront invité aux entretiens.
Anita Laflaur
Directrice générale

A Lot of 'Fores'



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Participants of the annual Ron "Fish" Findlay memorial one-hole golf tournament prepare to tee-off on Saturday at Keller Stables near Ladysmith. The event takes participants about one kilometre into the property and then back again into a designated hole near the start. This year Dean Howard won, tying the record with 19 strokes. Participants also donated \$100 and a gift certificate to Barb Ballard, who works with mentally challenged children.

Charteris

Mona Rutledge 647-6250
Get well wishes go out to my husband Joseph (Joe) Brownlee who is very sick and is in Hull Hospital. Get well real soon honey as we are all thinking about you and miss you a lot.
Julia Rooney had a piano festival in Renfrew last week and she placed first and second in it. Congratulations Julia from mom, dad and Riley.
Today is Monday, May 8 and it looks like it is going to be another very nice day out there.
Saturday I went to the hockey gala at Pine Lodge with all of our Junior B players to say goodbye to the ones that are leaving. Pine Lodge put on a very good meal and a lot of fun was had by all who came to it.

Vinton

Diane Boisvert 648-5296
Remember to put out your blue boxes tomorrow.
I saw my first hummingbird on Sunday, May 7. He buzzed over my head and hovered near his feeding spot. So, I went and got the feeders out and filled them. It was -5 degrees Celsius on Sunday and it will be cold again tonight.
On April 29 I went to Sudbury with my cousins, Marcel, Allain, and Joanne Dupuis and Marcel's girlfriend Julie. We went to visit our uncle Rudolphe Mayhew who is in the Sudbury Hospital. Rudolphe's daughter, Denyse had flown in from Winnipeg and it was nice to see her. I also visited Maurice and Carole

Pontiac Station

Hope Cadieux 647-5452
This must surely be one of the earliest springs on record. I planted my (unheated) greenhouse on April 18. Even though I had to give the tomato plants some extra protection on those nights when the temperature went below freezing, they seem to be thriving now. Outside, the spring-flowering bulbs, daffodil, crocus and Scylla, are already finished. The wild plum and some of the apple blossoms are in bloom, and the lilacs are getting ready to flower. I predict that before next weekend, the sound of the lawnmower will be heard throughout the land.
I don't know if any of you will remember, in fact I would be surprised if any of you did, but a few weeks ago there was a public recall of Cadbury cream eggs, a seasonal delicacy that appears on the market around the beginning of Lent. Apparently, some bits of plastic had been found in the creamy part of a peanut butter egg. Knowing that my son, Davie, has been a longtime aficionado of cream eggs, I immediately got on the phone to warn him, in full knowledge that he would probably not

Otter Lake

Elizabeth Hahn 453-7326
On Tuesday, May 2 the Otter Lake Golden Age Club held its weekly euchre games. Winner of the 50/50 draw was Rosette Fleury. Ladies high score was Pierrette Graveline and second was Rita Beaudoin. Men's high score was won by Paul Blaskie and second was Lionel Racine. A delicious lunch was prepared by Paulette Lewis and Pauline St. Pierre. Happy birthday to Dolly Lepack who celebrated on May 4. Get well wishes go out to Felix Kluge.
The Otter Lake Golden Age dart league is over for another season. The winners were Maureen Racine and Moe Lajoie for high average, Mabel Kluge and Carl Kappes for high score,

I would like to wish happy birthdays to Wendy Schwartz, Rolly MacDougall, my cousin's wife, Jerna Jean-Marie, and Cory Thomas on May 8, Neil Sharpe on May 9, Dan Kelly and Rodger Young on May 11, Rod Rooney and Sara Beer on May 12, Karen Smith and Milburn Hobbs on May 13 and last but not least on Mother's Day Andrew Lang.
I was sorry to hear about Mike Fogarty's mom passing away.
Happy anniversary goes out to Bob and Dot Alexander, Harry and Velma Coles, Frankie and Donna Cahill on May 8, Neil and Peggy Elliott on May 10, Cyrus and Helen Atkinson on May 11, John and Rita Beimers and Keith and Lorraine Harris on May 13 and on May 14, Mother's Day Albert and Gwen Armstrong and Kelly and Lisa Johnson Hodgins. Have a real good one guys on your special day.

Mayhew. We drove back the next day so it was quite a rushed trip but I was happy to see everyone.
Happy belated birthdays to Frank Frost May 3, Brian McCoshen May 4, Sharon Crawford May 5, Sarah Bertrand, Joan O'Brien and Amanda Hearty May 6, Mary Hearty on May 7, Gerry Kluge on May 8.
Happy birthday wishes go out to Matthew Hearty on May 10, Karen Naylor Kelly, T.J. Vibert May 13, Richard Guillem and Jeremy Frost May 14, Steven Chenier, Daniel Lepack Sr., Richard Lepack, Barbara Kluge, Yola Lepine and Wayne McCoshen May 15, Susan Farrell, Sandra Sauriol on May 16.
Happy anniversary to Faye and Mike McGuire on May 10, Brent and Lindsay Sloan May 15, Marthe and Richard Lepack May 16.
Kiki, the wonder cat, is on

the prow again. This time she is on the hunt for pork. She hasn't got anything yet but Rat told me there is a pig missing in the area and that Kiki has been gaining weight and smelling like pork. I do believe his stories are getting to be as long as his nose.
Shelley, Carl, Corben and Tao Davidson spent all day Sunday with Theresa and I at my place. Emile and Steve Mayhew also visited with us. Although it was fairly cold and windy on Sunday, we had a hard time to get the boys inside to eat. Carl had to leave earlier to go back to Bracebridge but Shelly and the boys stayed until Monday.
Everyone is reminded to fill in their Statistics Canada forms and send them in.
I would like to wish all mothers a great Mothers Day.
I appreciate it. But to my surprise, he only said thoughtfully, "Hmm, maybe I could get some for free at the Seven-Eleven."
We all try to bring our kids up as safely as possible by teaching them to avoid some of the better-known risks in life - don't touch a light switch with wet hands, don't sit in a parked car with the engine running, don't undercook chicken, don't lick a wrought-iron railing in winter, etc. But it seems that mothers are always coming across new hazards to warn us about.
A few years ago, my mum told me about a recently recognized hazard associated with dishwashers. Apparently, a man had been unloading the dishwasher alone in his apartment when he accidentally impaled his hand on a sharp knife standing upright in the cutlery basket, and bled to death on the kitchen floor.
I listened politely but scoffed inwardly. How could anyone do something that stupid? Nevertheless, before the day was out, I'd repeated the story to three other people and begun placing all sharp knives and even forks blade and tines down in the cutlery basket. What was the price of a new basket every few years compared to the possible loss of a life?
I guess the apple doesn't fall far from the tree after all, Mum. Happy Mother's Day.

and the meal was super delicious.
We also attended two hockey games at the Pembroke Memorial Centre.
I also had a nice visit with my granddaughter and her family, Kelly Hahn, Craig, Travis and Julia. I had a lovely weekend. Happy Mother's Day to all the moms.
Sincere sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of Mabel Erfle (née Zacharias) who passed away on May 4 after a short illness.
Happy birthday to Graham Davis who was 21 on May 8. Best wishes from Mom Rhonda, Pa and Nana, Uncle Randy, Aunt Nicole and Cousin Kyle.
Willard Lance reports sighting many hummingbirds on Saturday, May 6.
Happy birthday wishes to Bonnie Lance who had a birthday on May 8.

Campbell's Bay

Iris Smith 648-5821
Last month was donor awareness month in which many people were asked to sign their organ donor cards. One brave person donated a kidney for transplant. Congratulations to Mabel Flood for this great gift.
Congratulations to Gerald Smith and Ivy Thomas who were married April 29 at Bethany. Gerald lived in Fort Coulonge with his wife and family for many years. They retired to Pembroke. They are presently on their honeymoon by train to the west coast where they will spend some time.
Alice Zhang of Alymer and Cindy Wang of Hull visited with Gladys Walsh on the weekend. They are friends of her daughter who is attending nurses classes at Heritage College in Hull.
A large crowd was hand at the R. A. Hall to protest the closing of Jean Paul II High School, in Campbell's Bay. The discussions were quite heated at times. Many considerations were presented by both sides. But the final decision will be made in June.
Deepest sympathy to the family of the late Mabel Erfle who passed away May 4. She was well known throughout the area and will be sadly missed by family and friends.
St. John the Evangelist Church held the Week of Prayer service on Thursday evening. Usually it is cold in January and they hope for a bigger crowd in May. All churches took part in the service.
A tea was held at St. John's Parish Centre on Saturday. The lunch was delicious. A nice time for a visit as well.
The Golden age Club held its euchre on Tuesday at the Clubroom. Ladies high was won by Barbara Ostrom, second was a three-way tie between Isabelle Lacroix, Annette and Coral Peck. They split the prize. Men's high was a tie between Laurier Dumouchel and Roger Lacroix. They split the prize, second was won by Bertal Smith. The door prize was won by Lucien Dumouchel, the 50-50 was won by Tom Hearty.

The Campbell's Bay -Litchfield Fireman's Ball was Saturday at the R. A. Hall with a good crowd in attendance. Lunch was served as well.
Get well wishes to Doris Telford a patient at Shawville Hospital.
Birthday wishes go out to Shannon Sloan, Frank Frost, Brian McCoshen, Brandon Sparling, Jodie Brown, Denise Morin, Jami Morin David Laliberte, Josh McAteer my nephew in Ottawa, Dale Crawford, Barbara Belanger, Mary Hearty, Jason Gravelle and Brenda Simpson all celebrating their special day in the past week.
Anniversary wishes to Vicky and Jim Lepack, Leonard and Sharon Stewart, Wayne and Robyn Crawford, Don and Gayle Sloan, Frank and Linda Frost and Mike and Faye McGuire. These couples all celebrating this special time in their lives.
Donna Stewart and her daughter Trina of Carleton Place visited with Norma Stewart on the weekend.

Ladysmith

Debbie Thrun 647-3927
This Sunday is Mother's Day. I would like to wish all mothers a very happy day. Don't forget to sit back and relax and let your family pamper you for a change.
Anniversary congratulations to Gloria and Murray Richardson who celebrate May 5.
Birthday congratulations to Jane Fieroben and her twin sister Janet McNaulty who celebrate May 9.
We were very saddened to hear of the passing of Mabel Erfle who lost a courageous battle with cancer. Our sincere sympathy goes out to the Erfle and Zacharias family and friends. This dear lady always had a happy smile and a glow on her face. She will be sadly missed by everyone who knew here. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families.
The lakes are alive with fishermen but the reports are that only a few fish have been caught. They are not biting yet. I think the water is still a little too cold.
Has anyone seen their first hummingbird yet now that the weather has started to warm up again? Last year the first one spotted was on May 10.
While shopping I had a nice chat with a lovely lady Juliette St. Pierre of Otter Lake.
Well, it's coming to that time of year once again for all the yard sales to start. The first flea market sale of the season in Ladysmith will start some time in June. Watch for the date under coming events.
Congratulations to Moe Lagote of Otter Lake for winning the high category dart league from your pal, Dennis.
While out and about in the bush the other day Dennis observed a large owl. They are becoming rare.
Anniversary congratulations to Joanne Holmes and Jerry Schwartz of Ottawa who celebrate May 15.
Birthday congratulations to Ada Dadds of Shawville on May 10.
Karl Kappas has been on a vacation to the States visiting his sister and other relatives.
Calling us over the weekend was our friend, Harold Mahlitz of Kitchener. He is planning a vacation to this area sometime in early summer.
Visiting on Thursday evening was neighbour Laynard Pasch.
Visiting us on Saturday were Donna and Kip Smith of Eganville.
On Saturday evening, April 29, Margaret Fieroben, Dorothy Schwartz and Bev Murray all of Shawville

attended the Ranger Family Concert at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ladysmith. They say the music and evening to be most enjoyable.
On Sunday, April 30, Margaret along with Gen and Clifford Fieroben of Ottawa started their day off by attending church service at St. John's Lutheran, Ladysmith. After the service they were lunch guests at the home of Elda and Dorval Wickens who is a brother to Gen. Margaret tells me a most delicious meal was served and a great time was enjoyed by everyone.
In the afternoon Margaret, Gen and Clifford took a drive to Margaret's farm in Cawood. They hadn't been there since last fall. So, Margaret tells me it was nice to go back to visit and walk around the farm and into the house again. So, they had a full day, but the weather was perfect for it. They all had a most enjoyable time.
Deepest sympathy goes out to the Leach and Chartrand family and friends on her recent passing of Viola (Leach) Chartrand. She will be sadly missed.
While shopping in Shawville last week I had a lovely chat with a long-time friend that I haven't seen in quite a while, Claudette Dufault of Bryson. So, we had a lot of catching up to do. She was out shopping with her granddaughter, Kyle. She was having a fun time showing me all the adult clothes that I should buy. Quite grown up and old-fashioned. I thought she was quite cute and comical doing this. I can remember this little girls mother, Alne, was exactly the same when she was Kyle's age. Where did the years go? It makes me feel very old. Anyway, it was great to see you Claudette.
There have been sightings of a cow moose around the Johnson Lake area.
Happy birthday to Danny Pasch who celebrates May 15. He is the son of Cathy and Ernie Pasch.
I guess the next thing we will have to contend with are the black flies and mosquitoes. In fact there are some black flies out already. So, the mosquitoes won't be too long behind. But, they mostly come when the weather starts to get hot.
Raymond and Yvette Pasch were dinner guests of John and Micheline Thompson of Grey's Lake on Saturday evening. John was the chef for an excellent meal. Also present were Brian and Louise Rivington. Afterwards they all attended the Northern Sons Bluegrass Concert in St. James Anglican Church in Otter Lake. Altogether it was a most enjoyable evening.

Caldwell

Hermonie Sharpe 647-3459
What is it they say? April showers bring May flowers. Well it is the last of April and we are getting the showers. So, the next thing we will be able to drive through the country and see spring in full bloom. They tell me that the deer will eat the flowers, as the deer are so plentiful. While driving along in my car, my driver counted 12 deer in the field, just like cows.
We were sorry to hear of the death of Margaret Easy. She had been a patient in the Long Term at Pontiac Community Hospital for quite a while. She was laid to rest in the Norway Bay Cemetery and her wake and funeral was from St. Andrew's Knox United Church in Bristol. She was 91 years of age. To her many friends and relatives we send our deepest sympathy. Funeral service and burial was April 22.
What would we do without family and friends when our health begins to fail. I'm very fortunate to have both to help me and I sure appreciate them.

We have a new little neighbour on our corner, Koree Bridget Lynn Yach, daughter of Shawn and Jennifer. She arrived on April 18, a sister for Travis.
Welcome also to Laura Jean Mayhew who has joined to make a foursome at Roger and Jennifer Mayhew's home, a sister for Alex. Alex has made such a young farmer of himself it might not be too long before he has Laura by the hand showing her the wonders on the farm. She was also born this past week and how fast they grown up.
Birthday congratulations to my son Cliff of Montreal who celebrates his 64th on May 1, my son Neil who will be 65 on May 9, also birthday wishes to Jane Alexander who celebrated recently as well as Esther Dakin on May 2, Romeo Arabec on May 31, Liz Latere of Sussex, New Jersey on May 5, Mary Wife of Sudbury on May 6, Ada Dadds on May 10, Sean MacDonald of Orleans on May 13 and we can't forget the lady who is always giving a helping hand, Raeburn Orr who celebrates her 80th on May 18.

Anniversary congratulations to Cyrus and Helen Atkinson who celebrated on May 11, Ron and Marion Workman on May 16,

Waltham

Helen Perry 689-2652
Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Marc Pilon, in the recent passing of his wife Jeanine of Montreal. Our thoughts and prayers are also wished to her children Lorraine, Francine, Joanne and Marc and to their family and friends at this time.
Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Khrista Madisen, fiancée of Robert Becamp in the recent passing of her dearly loved father Dean of Toronto. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this time.
I had a lovely chat with Lorna Agnes of Sheen this past week and she was telling me that she celebrated a birthday on May 2. She enjoyed supper out with Vince and some friends. She also told me that she is starting to feel better.
We were very saddened here in Waltham to hear of the passing of Gail Spinks (née Cole). She was the beloved wife of Ronald Spinks. Gail was a quiet person but she was very pleasant and had a wonderful disposition. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this time.
Last Friday Mariene and Alex Grieve of Alma were supper guests at Betty and Earl Grieve's.
Our tulips that we planted last fall are in bloom. They are so pretty.
Natasha Beaubien and Dan Von Allmen of Yellowknife are home for a few weeks. They are visiting Natasha's parents Shirley and Serge Beaubien and other family members and friends.
On Saturday morning, a memorial mass was held in memory of Theresa Nadeau (Dube). It took place at Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Church. Fr. Chris Shalla

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Ronnie and Florence Sharpe on May 17, Ken and Donna Workman on May 18, Bill and Sandy Dagg on May 20. If my husband were alive we would have been 66 years married on May 25.
Birthday congratulations to Dorothy Wilson on May 16, Rita Strutt on May 21, Linda Sharpe of Courtenay, BC on May 19, Ann Taylor and George Wittig on May 22. My niece, Roberta Little of Rochester also celebrates on May 23 and then we come to May 25 and Mae Schwartz, Fern Young and yours truly celebrate.
May is a beautiful month that brings new growth as our lawns start growing, early spring flowers start blooming. It won't be long until the apple blossoms and lilacs are all in bloom. By the way there was a lady that asked me at euchre last Thursday night for the recipe to keep the worms out of the apple trees. You know what they call forgetfulness, yes old age because after I came home I couldn't for the life of me remember who it was. She told me they had mislaid my recipe that I had printed before. Well here goes, you mix nine cups of water with one cup of molasses and two packages of yeast. Pour the mixture into small pails and hang them on the apple trees. It may be early but I have a pail in each tree. You know what they say, "The early bird gets the worm, and so this old bird is ready for them."
Summer is on its way and the Wednesday night euchre club sure picked a lovely night to have a barbecue. Hope you had a good crowd. I just might drop in one of these Wednesday nights for a game as I'm promised a ride home after.
There is my car sitting in my yard and I can't drive it. Oh well it could be worse as I have a son who takes me on his days off and I have some really good neighbours, which reminds methat last Sunday Millie Boyd and I visited with our friends at St. Joseph's Manor. Such a lovely place and those rocking chairs sure come in handy. Not only for the residents but also for visitors too. How lucky we are to have these homes.
I had a very interesting chat with an old friend this past week, Clair (Hamilton) Larsen of Burlington. We all knew Clair from our school days. You know the saying, "make new friends but keep the old, one is silver the other gold."

prayers are with you Lola. A very happy birthday and lots of love is wished to our dear Mark, who is celebrating his birthday on May 15 and also to my dear aunt Mary Spence. We hope that you both enjoy your day and may the coming year be filled with God's richest blessings. Yours truly is going to be another year older on the same day.
This coming Sunday, May 14 is Mother's Day. I hope that every mom has a chance to be pampered and enjoy her special day. Let us lift up a silent prayer to all mothers who are not with us. Happy Mother's Day!