



THE EQUITY

Pontiacs and Kings share throne through four games | page 5

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Future uncertain for John Paul II school

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
CAMPBELL'S BAY • Options listed in the Western Quebec School Board's five-year strategic plan suggest closing John Paul II School in Campbell's Bay.

Officials of the school board presented a five-year strategic plan Feb. 22 that may restructure 13 elementary and high schools in the region to address declining enrollment, of which funding is 90 per cent based.

WQSB director-general Mike Dawson presented the board's proposal to reorganize St John's/John Paul II School, (JPJII) Dr. Wilbert Keon (DWKS), Pontiac High School (PHS), Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary and Onslow Elementary Schools in Pontiac.

Five options, which were created over the past two years by the board's planning and review committee, were presented to the public.

Option one would be to leave all schools status quo.

Option two would establish boundaries for JPJII and PHS.

Option three would see JPJII become a kindergarten to Grade 6 school and for JPJII high school students to move to PHS.

The fourth option would see JPJII accepting only kindergarten to Grade 8 students and to establish a boundary, and for Grade 9 to 11 JPJII students to move into PHS.

Option five would require the adult vocational centre to move into JPJII, and for JPJII's students to move into PHS and McDowell.

The sixth option would be to take into consideration any viable solution brought up at consultations from the public.

Upon seeing the options, most stakeholders who spoke opposed closing JPJII's doors.

"We fought to get this school in the early eighties and saw it to fruition," said Pat Kavanagh, a former teacher at the school. "We can't entertain closing this school for a minute because this commu-

nity fought for years to get it."

He said many fine community members graduated from this school.

"I enrolled my kids here because of the bilingual program," said parent Karen Graveline. "I will not deprive them, limit them or label them to what they can achieve."

She added that the school is unique and the children should not be treated as a statistic by being grouped together.

Teacher Brian Cross emphasized how important it was to keep the youth sector in Campbell's Bay.

"It sounds like the adult education is looking for a home, but right now, we're using this," said Cross. "We've been referred to as the little school that could. We've shown students that just because you're from a little school in Pontiac, that doesn't mean you can't succeed."

He cited examples of fundraising accomplishments that took students to Italy, and bought countless snowsuits for children.

"I've taught here for seven years and watched students grow up over the years," said Cross. "We belong here."

Not only did the teachers say they belonged in the school, but parents said their children did most of all.

"Our school needs our community and vice versa," said Patti Dunlop Normandeau, chairperson of JPJII's governing board.

"We are the little school with the big heart."

She listed an international exchange program, student lap tops, a new \$13,000 basketball court, yearbook committee, homework club, French tutoring, the gym and field trips as signs that the school is very much alive.

"I have a daughter with special needs and she is here because it's her community school," said Dunlop Normandeau.

"I believe she benefits from the smaller school atmosphere and my fear is that she will get lost in a bigger school." Please see JPJII on page 2



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Breanna Hodgins of Shawville implores the onlooking judges to appreciate her skating skills at the Shawville Winter Invitational last weekend. Over 110 skaters from 14 clubs in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec competed in 48 different events. The club from Arnprior won the overall title.

Bigger skating competition a rousing success

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • Approaching the results wall in the Lions' Hall in Shawville, Bria Hearty was skeptical.

Peering upon the sheet listing the medal winners in the preliminary solo category at the Shawville Winter Invitational, Hearty's coach, Katie Skerkowski, found the 11-year-old's name first.

"You won first place," exclaimed Skerkowski, excited for her charge.

"You got the gold medal." Receiving congratulations from her Shawville Figure Skating Club cohorts, Hearty was beaming at the first gold medal she'd received in five years of competitive skating.

She also admits that she was surprised by the result.

"Everybody else attempted doubles and I didn't," said Hearty, before her medal presentation. "But I landed my axel and the other ones didn't." Hearty's gleaming at her success was one of the

many positives that came out of this year's Winter Invitational, which took place last Saturday and Sunday.

The event, in its sixth year, featured over 110 skaters from 14 skating clubs based in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec.

In all, the competition grew to 48 events from 30 last year, and expanded to a day-and-a-half, rather than the single day of skating in 2005.

Overall, it went very well according to Lyse Lacourse, Winter Invitational chairperson.

"We were much better this year, better equipped and we had better people," said Lacourse, who boasted of the professionalism of the event, from the judges to the organizers to the sponsors.

"This is a training ground for the Olympics." Indeed, the event is treated with a great level of seriousness.

The judges are fully-trained and qualified, the crowd remained respectfully stoic throughout the competitors' skating and the volunteers who helped were well-organized and maintained a tight schedule.

One look at the tearful face of a girl who fell three times during her routine was proof of how important the event is to those involved.

Overall, Arnprior took the trophy for top-performing club, while Shawville finished second.

Skerkowski was pleased with her team's results this year.

"Medal-wise, we did well," said the third-year Shawville Figure Skating Club coach.

"There was very tough competition, from Arnprior, especially."

She said this season has been a good one for Shawville.

"We did really well, they all skated personal bests this year."

Included in that group is, of course, Hearty, who waited patiently for her gold medal to be awarded. She was still having a hard time believing her result.

"I thought I might get second or third," said Hearty.

But first? Speechless, Hearty's only response is a smile.

Calumet Island man honoured posthumously

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
CALUMET ISLAND • René Lemaire of Calumet Island, who drowned after he attempted to save his son last June, was honoured posthumously with a Medal of Bravery from Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

The medal was announced Friday along with 10 other decorations for bravery.

On June 5 of last year, 39-year-old Lemaire died while trying to rescue his seven-year-old son from drowning in the Ottawa River off the docks at Calumet Island.

Lemaire was fishing with his three sons

when his son slipped off the dock. Although Lemaire could not swim, he jumped into the four-metre-deep water, drowning before he could save his eight-year-old son Daniel.

"He tried to save my son's life," said his wife Linda Bélair.

A neighbour was able pull the boy from the river, but Lemaire couldn't be saved. His body was recovered by the authorities the next day.

"I'm glad we're going to have it, but we miss him a lot," said Bélair. "It's been really hard for me and my three sons."

Please see BRAVE on page 2

Site on 148 in Shawville chosen for slaughterhouse

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • A site nestled between Kelly's Garden Centre and Shawville Meats Co-operative president, Bob Griffin, said groundbreaking should take place in May or June of this year, with the project's completion one year after construction starts.

Located about 50 metres north of

the highway, the site is currently marked only by orange posts.

However, Outaouais Valleys Fine Meats Co-operative president, Bob Griffin, said groundbreaking should take place in May or June of this year, with the project's completion one year after construction starts.

MCI, an engineering firm in Trois-

Rivières, selected that site from seven original tenders.

"It was chosen because of the water in Shawville, that was the main reason," said Griffin, who noted that sewage was also a major factor in the decision.

The rejected sites included Bristol Mines, Vinton, two locations in

Campbell's Bay and a pair of other places in Shawville.

There are a number of steps being taken by the co-operative in the coming weeks. Financing will need to be secured and the engineers still have some work to do in the preliminary stages of the site.

Please see ABBATOIR on page 2



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Seated in the same place where she wrote her column for decades, Hermonie Sharpe reflects on her time with THE EQUITY, which concluded two weeks ago when she decided to retire. Sharpe has lived in the same home in Caldwell for over 50 years.

THE EQUITY'S monarch retires from news writing

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
BRISTOL • Queen Elizabeth II became England's monarch on Feb. 6, 1952.

At that time, Hermonie Knox Sharpe of Caldwell was writing for THE EQUITY.

Two weeks ago, with none of the fanfare that traditionally marks the transition between monarchs, the long-reigning queen of THE EQUITY rescinded her crown.

After submitting her weekly social notes to THE EQUITY through the Korean War, Elvis Presley, the first man on the moon, hippies, disco, rubik's cubes and Wayne Gretzky, on Feb. 15, buried in the fourth paragraph of her correspondence, Sharpe wrote that she was retiring from her post.

Just like that, the woman who had been writing since before Newfoundland was a province,

retired. "I can't see to do it anymore. I can't see to write," said Sharpe.

Afflicted with macular degeneration, the number one cause of loss of sight in elderly people, Sharpe's eyesight has been falling for years.

"My notes were the love of my life," said Sharpe, "but I can't do it justice anymore."

Don't feel too sorry for Sharpe, though. She's not down about it at all.

"There's no use getting sad about it, life goes on."

A tough woman, Sharpe doesn't see a need to get down about it.

"A lot of people who have these problems, they hole up at home and get depressed but I could be a lot worse. I could have cancer. I could be up at the (long term care centre) in Shawville, I could be losing my mind."

It should come as little surprise

that Sharpe doesn't get down on herself.

She raised 10 children, operated the Caldwell post office for 20 years and once ran a store out of her home.

The 86-year-old, who has absolutely no qualms about revealing her age, has accomplished more in her lifetime than the average person could hope.

"It was nothing to me, really" said Sharpe.

Ruth, her daughter concurs.

"There isn't anything she can't do."

The five-night-a-week euchre player isn't overly sentimental. She kept none of her columns over the years until recently when she began typing them on the computer.

She can't recall what she used to be paid for her work — "We were lucky if in three months we got enough to pay for a pair of nylons, I'll

tell you that much" — and doesn't even remember a definitive reason why she began writing in the first place.

To her, none of it is a very big deal which, of course, makes it even more important to everybody else.

Sharpe has received dozens of phone calls and has run into dozens more well-wishers who had taken stock of her retirement from writing.

To a lot of people, it's difficult to imagine a Hermonie-less EQUITY.

"The EQUITY will never be the same," said Rosaleen Dickson, who owned the newspaper for over 30 years, beginning in 1952.

"She set the standard for country correspondence."

Dickson, who now lives in Ottawa, was surprised to hear that Sharpe had retired after all these years.

"It's tragic." Please see NOTES on page 2

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JPII: school board considering closure

Continued from page 1

Parents echoed her concerns saying it would be hard for students to transition comfortably into a bigger school and endure a longer bus ride to Shawville.

"If you close our school, you are taking away our choice as well," Dunlop Normandeau said.

Others argued that the small size of the school kept kids safe.

"We don't have the same problems as big schools," said Bill Kearnan, a former principal of JPII.

He also brought up the fact that it would be foolish to close the school board's newest building in Pontiac.

"Why are we considering closing the newest building before we close others?" he asked. "It has great classes, great labs and is a great place to learn."

Although PHS principal Mike Dubeau stated he didn't want to see the school lose its students — he was part of the first graduating class from JPII, and helped stop it from closing in 1997 — he was also opposed to installing boundaries that would prevent students from attending PHS.

"PHS has kids from Danford Lake, Cayon, Calumet Island, Campbell's Bay, and Shawville," said Dubeau. "Our learning community is from Pontiac."

Stakeholders voiced that they wanted the school board to look at other options the school could create to attract students.

"We want to keep the school here and going, so we need to entice more students to come here," said Joanne Brownlee, a teacher. "Tradespeople are leaving Pontiac. Why don't we get a vocational training program here?"

While others thought some options the board brought forward were viable.

"If the administration is serious," said Bill Hendry, 16-year ward 4 commissioner for Dr. Wilbert Keon, "it will go for option two."

Community members were concerned that losing the school would hurt the nearby businesses.

"It affects the community, the stores, the businesses," said Campbell's Bay Coun. Lois Smith. "These are issues that should not be taken lightly. The board and



Amongst a packed house, Western Quebec School Board Director-General Mike Dawson (standing left) listens as Mansfield Mayor Ricky Romain addresses his concerns to the possibility of John Paul II school in Campbell's Bay closing. A consultation was held at the school Feb. 22 to hear opinions on the board's suggested strategic plan.

commissioners should find a reason to keep it open."

But some people were in favour of moving youth-sector students out of Campbell's Bay and into Shawville.

"We have been borrowing classrooms for 15 years,"

said Gretchen Schwarz, an adult education teacher.

"We are the only centre that doesn't have its own building."

Schwarz said the centre is crammed for space and is limited to teaching at night when PHS is not occupied

with day students.

Currently the continuing education centre is spread out in three separate buildings in Pontiac.

"Let's fill the elementary school with elementary kids and maybe the adult education kids can fill JPII," said

Schwarz.

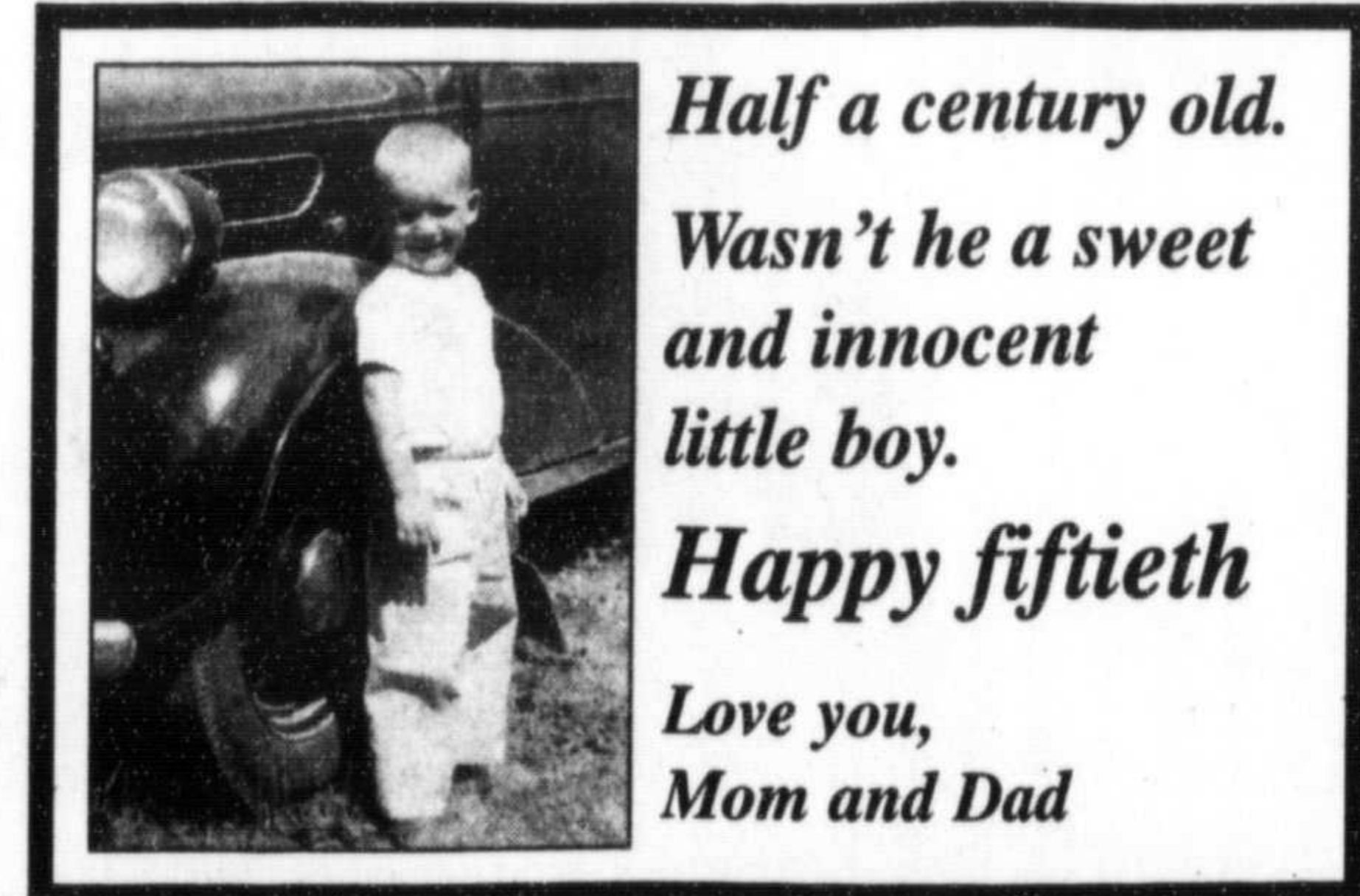
Low enrollment is not a new problem to Campbell's Bay, as it has lost three other schools over the years. Most recently, St. John's Elementary School was moved into John Paul II High School about two years ago. St. John's stood vacant for a year before the continuing education nursing program moved in last year.

Sophie Ringrose, ward 5 commissioner for St. John's/JPII, encouraged stakeholders to continue to voice their concerns via e-mail, to commissioners or by attending future governing board meetings.

A consultation regarding similar decisions for St. Michael's High School in Low took place Feb. 20 and on Thursday at Eardley Elementary School in Aylmer.

The first round of consultations ends March 27. The council of commissioners hope to have a final document ready for approval by June 27.

Any decision made will come into effect at the beginning of the next school year this September.



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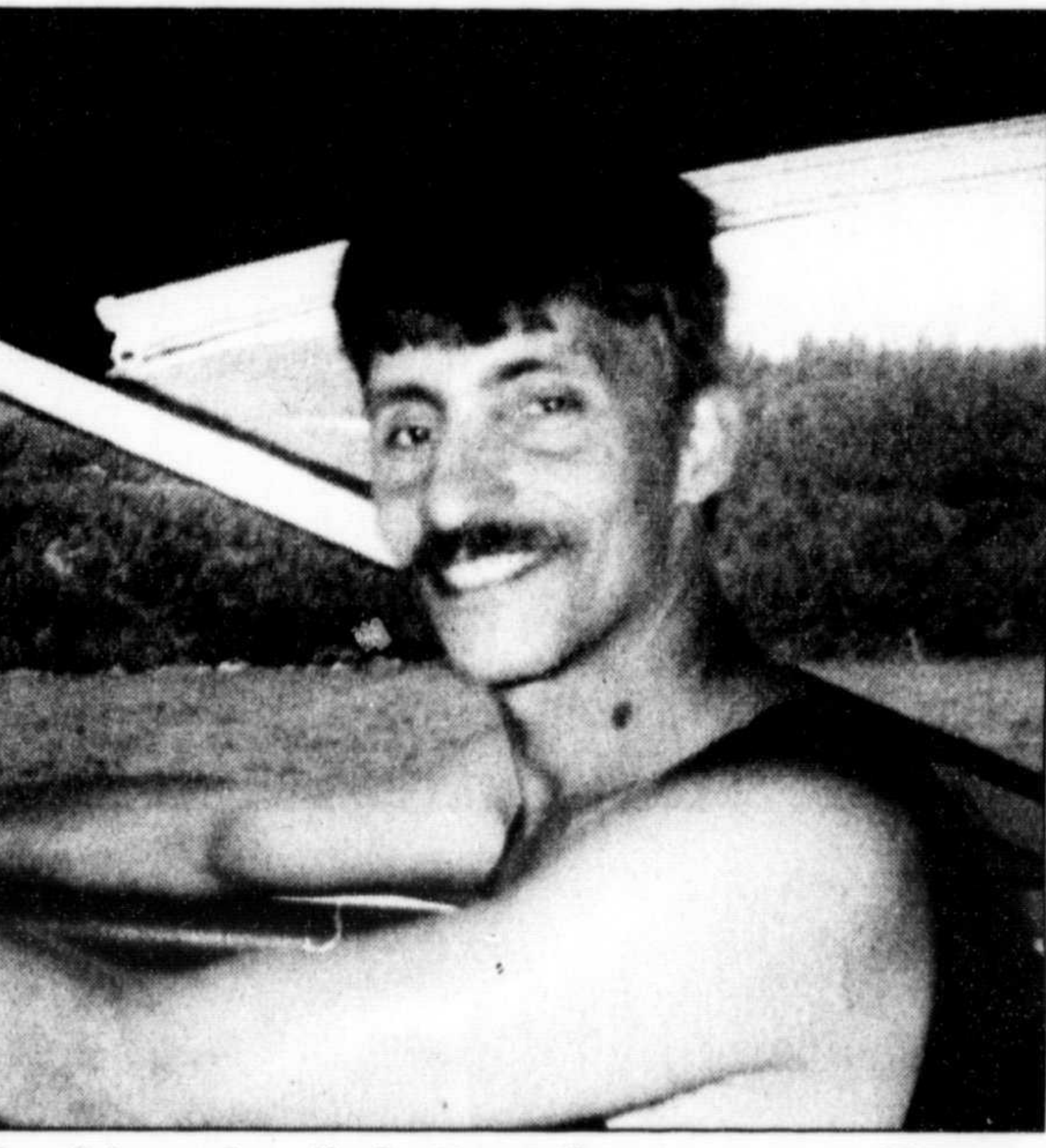
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René Lemaire died attempting to rescue his son from the Ottawa River off Calumet Island.

Brave: Lemaire honoured by GG

Continued from page 1

Lemaire's oldest son Jean-René, 11, will be accepting the medal.

"We're very proud he will be recognized," said Calumet Island Mayor Paul-Émile Maleau. "The population is behind him."

The medals were awarded on the recommendation of

the Canadian Decorations Advisory Committee (Bravery).

The Decorations for Bravery were established in 1972 as part of the Canadian Honours System. The Medal of Bravery is awarded for acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances.

Earthquakes run through region

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
 PONTIAC • Two earthquakes shook the region this weekend, creating tremors that could be felt from Montreal to Shawville.

A magnitude 4.5 earthquake struck Thurso Friday night at about 8:30 p.m., which could be felt by residents of Ottawa, eastern Ontario and west Quebec.

A second, smaller tremor hit Saturday night, reaching a magnitude of 3.2 on the

Richter scale. Natural Resources Canada said the earthquake erupted west of Hawkesbury, ON at about 11 p.m. and say it was an independent earthquake from Thurso's.

There are no reports of damage or injuries.

These quakes are the third to take place in the region this month, after a magnitude 3.1 quake was centred south of Mont-Laurier on Feb. 7.

Calumet Island RA hall vandalized

LEAH MILLER

CALUMET ISLAND • The RA hall of Calumet Island was broken into and vandalized recently.

About \$700 of damage was made inside the hall and some items were stolen, said Calumet Island Mayor Paul-Émile Maleau.

"After we had our carnival last Sunday somebody broke into the RA hall," he said of the carnival held over the Feb. 18 weekend. "They made an awful mess."

Maleau said defamatory words were painted on the inside walls of the hall in fluorescent paint, \$20 in change was stolen, windows and locks were broken and gas for the snow blower was taken. Food and beer left over from the carnival were also taken.

"It was a disaster," said

The municipality closed the rink from Monday to Wednesday after the incident to clean up the mess.

"We don't know why they did it," he said. "We're trying to build a new RA hall in the back and after three days of volunteer work, I don't want to lose my volunteers over this."

Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec Lieu. Jacques Piché said police believe a group of kids could have broken in and caused the damage.

"We have a few leads we're working on," he said. Police believe the damage was made between the evening of Sunday, Feb. 19 and the morning of Monday, Feb. 18.

Police are urging anyone with information about this crime to call the InfoCrime Line at 1-800-711-1800.

Abattoir: Shawville site chosen

Continued from page 1

"We're still waiting on the engineers to see how exactly the sewer system is going to work," said Griffin.

The co-operative will also have to begin looking into acquiring machinery for the slaughterhouse, and Griffin noted that aspect of the project may be challenging because of the current backlog on the ordering of equipment.

"There are a number of slaughterhouses being built because of Mad Cow (disease)," said Griffin.

"We can't ship the cattle over to the States, so they're building lots of plants here."

The sheer volume of plants being built has created a shortage of some necessary equipment.



Currently an empty field, this site looking onto the village of Shawville will soon house the Pontiac's slaughterhouse. The abattoir will be situated between Shawville Chrysler and Kelly's Garden Centre, about 50 metres north of Hwy. 148.

Currently, the co-operative has 233 producer members. Those looking to

purchase memberships or support the project financially can do so through

ProMutuel offices in Shawville, Fort Coulonge or Gracefield.

Notes: Monarch retires from news writing

Continued from page 1

Throughout the decades, Sharpe recalls a couple of the columns she wrote as her favourites.

In the 1960s she wrote a column discussing the prejudice against people with mental sicknesses, which she received a lot of feedback from.

"People shouldn't look down on someone just because of their mentality," said Sharpe.

Her all-time favourite,

however, was one written in the 1970s entitled "Caldwell Then and Now" wherein she discussed where former Caldwell natives had moved to and what they were doing. Sharpe herself moved 60 years ago from Shawville to Caldwell, located one kilometre north of Hwy. 148 in Bristol.

She wanted her children to have more open spaces. She hasn't moved since.

"I love Caldwell. Whenever something goes

on around the corner, there's always somebody there to help."

Sharpe's plans in her post-writing life are few. She insists she will keep busy, and swears to keep playing Euchre for as long as possible.

"I can find lots to do," said Sharpe.

But what of the rest of us, who will be without Sharpe's weekly notes, usually found on the back page of THE EQUITY?

Departments unable to receive adequate English fire training

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
 SHAWVILLE • Lack of English-language firefighting training is keeping fire departments in Pontiac from beginning new training courses with the Quebec National School of Firefighters.

Lise Bénéard, a consultant of the Western Quebec School Board, was there to work with fire departments and municipalities to get English materials.

"We waited for the materials to be translated," said Bénéard. "We understood they would be provided in English."

Schedules for training were set and firefighters signed up.

Shawville Fire Chief Lee Laframboise said the night before training was set to begin for his department Feb. 1, his instructor called and informed him that work books were not available in English.

"He was ready to come, but decided there was no point," said Laframboise. "Training is now on hold."

Training needs to be completed in the program by September 2007.

"I knew the firefighters would not learn from the material unless it was completely in English," said the instructor, who wished to remain nameless.

English fire departments in Pontiac were waiting to begin training until they received English versions of the work books, which they were told they would be the Quebec National School of Firefighters.

"I took it upon myself as an instructor to spend time on the computer putting it into English," said the instructor. "They just assumed we would take care of it."

Bénéard said the work book is needed even more now since the program changed, reducing hours spent with instructors and increasing amount of study time required by each student to pass.

"There is more pressure on firefighters to do the reading," said Bénéard, who has worked in education for 23 years. "The change was to save municipalities money."

Mayors decided to MNA Charlotte L'Écuyer Monday morning to discuss the problem.

"We need to send resolutions to our local member," said Thorne Mayor Ross Vowles. "We all pay the same taxes and we deserve the same services."

L'Écuyer was notified of the meeting, and representatives agreed to attend, although none showed up. Yves Desjardins, director-general of the Quebec

The instructor said he had the same problem when the firefighting training program changed to nine modules.

"I took it upon myself as an instructor to spend time on the computer putting it into English," said the instructor. "They just assumed we would take care of it."

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PHS sweeps Pontiac Cup

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Both the boys' and girls' Pontiac High School volleyball teams won the annual Pontiac Cup tournament last Thursday, hosted this year by PHS.

The boys' team defeated École Secondaire Sacré-Coeur de Gracefield in an exciting, three-match final by scores of 25-17, 19-25, 15-11.

The girls mirrored the boys success in topping a competitive side from École Secondaire Steur de Coulonge, also needing a decisive third set in the 25-20, 23-25, 15-8 win.

In all, 10 senior-aged teams representing grades nine through 11 represented five schools in the tournament, which was in its 24th year.

Teams from Dr. Wilbert Keon in Chapeau, John Paul

II in Campbell's Bay, École Secondaire Steur de Coulonge in Fort Coulonge, École Secondaire Sacré-Coeur de Gracefield and Shawville's PHS participated in the event.

The tournament is conducted in a round-robin fashion, whereby each school plays two sets against every other school.

The two teams that compiled the greatest number of victories over the eight sets played proceeded to the final, a best two-out-of-three match.

Head Coach of the girls' team, John Petty, has been coaching PHS's Pontiac Cup team since the tournament's inception.

"We attacked well, we hit well," replied Petty when asked about the PHS girls' strengths.

He noted that this particular team had its challenges,



A player from École Secondaire Sacré-Coeur de Gracefield gets up to block a shot from a Dr. Wilbert Keon School player at the Pontiac Cup, which took place at Pontiac High School last Thursday. PHS won both the boys' and the girls' tournament.

however.

"This team was very frustrating. A lack of commitment was a problem, but we really played as a team for the last week or two," said Petty, a retired physical education teacher at PHS.

"Congratulations to the girls for taking care of business."

Boys' coach and tournament organizer, Pascal Asselin, marvelled at his team's enthusiasm.

"This was the first year I had so much spirit and so much teamwork," said Asselin, in his third year as coach of the boys.

"Everybody did their job on the court. They played the system perfectly."

The Pontiac Cup rotates between Pontiac-area schools each year, and the winning team is awarded a trophy, banner and bragging rights.

Teams spend a number of

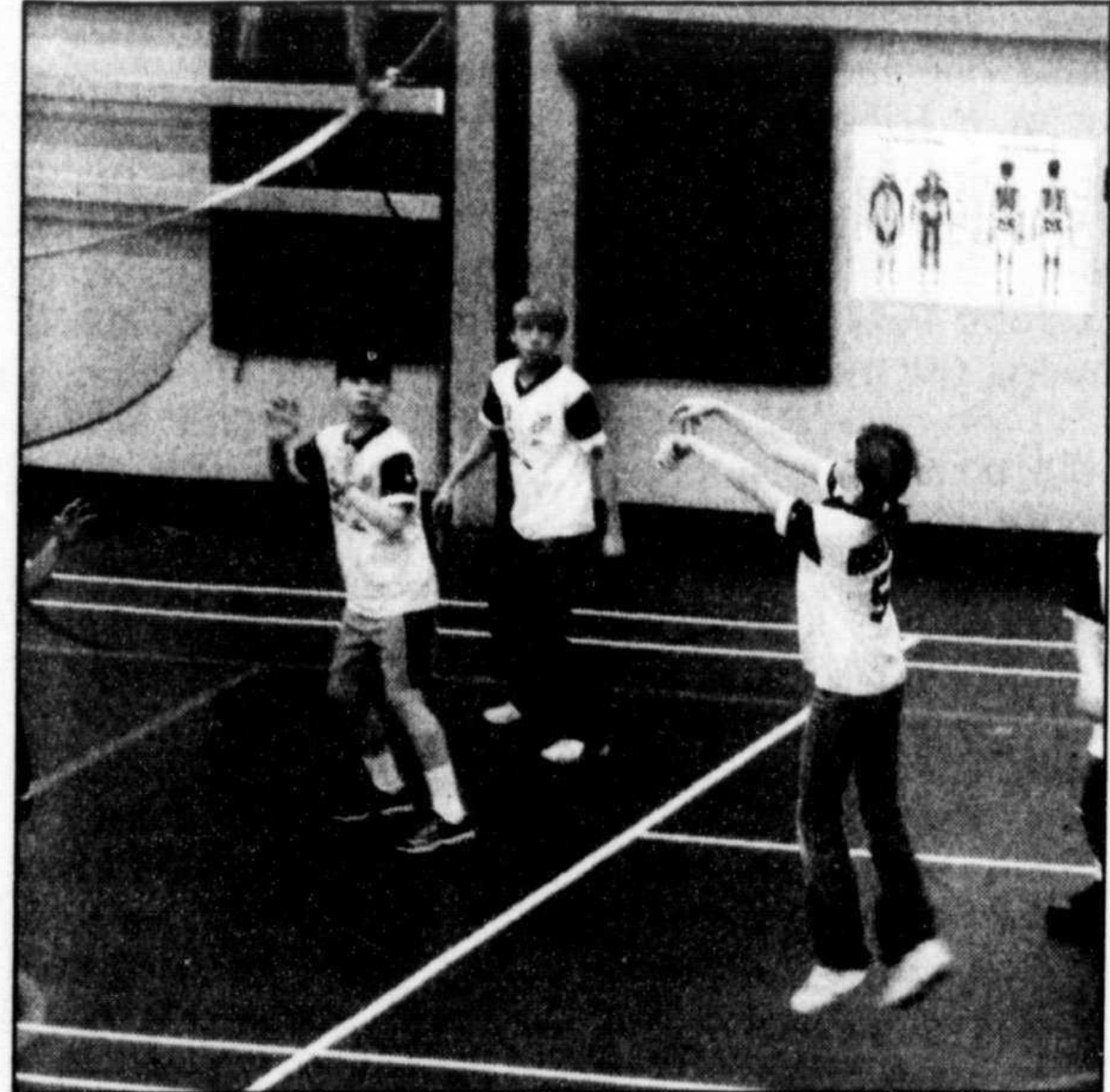
weeks practicing in preparation for the tournament, and each player wore a customized uniform with their name emblazoned across the back.

Elementary volleyball

One day following the Pontiac Cup, some local elementary schools played in a fifth and sixth grade volleyball tournament hosted at Dr. S.E. McDowell School in Shawville.

Two teams from Onslow Elementary School in Quyon, a team from McDowell and a pair of squads from Lord Aylmer School played each other in a day designed to apply the volleyball skills the students had learned in physical education class.

"The main focus is to get active and have fun and to enjoy sports," said Brenna Delaney, physical education teacher at McDowell and tournament organizer.



Onslow Elementary School's volleyball team return a ball over the net as part of the Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary Schools volleyball tournament for area elementary schools last Friday.

Teams at the McDowell included participatory ribbons for each of the 68 players and the all-day affair.



Players from the Pontiac Cup winning Pontiac High School girls volleyball team pose for a celebratory victory following their 25-20, 23-25 and 15-8 win over École Secondaire Steur de Coulonge.



The Mick Armitage Band will be travelling to Ireland to record a live CD and DVD in October. The band is inviting fans and friends of the group to go along with them on the trip, and through a radio contest on Y101. Those who book their trip are eligible to win it for free.

Mick Armitage band to "work" in Ireland

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Being a member of the Mick Armitage Band must be fun.

There are a few other ways that somebody can say they're going to Ireland for a week, spending time in local pubs "working", with dozens of friends and soon-to-be friends in tow.

However, that's exactly what the Armitage Shawville and his band are planning to do this Oct. 15 to 22, when they will be recording a live CD and DVD in Dublin.

The band consists of drummer and vocalist, Mick Armitage, guitarist and vocalist, Roger Plant, bass guitarist, Grant Tomkinson, saxophone player, Bruce Baker and pianist and steel guitarist, Al Bragg, all of whom hail from Ottawa and surrounding areas.

Travelling with them will

be a number of Ottawa-area friends and fans, as well as Quyon's crooner, Gail Gavan.

Drummer and vocalist, Armitage will be bringing his son and father along for the trip.

"It'll be great to have some fun with people you know," said Armitage.

Armitage, who has Irish roots, is looking forward to making his first trip to his motherland.

"Just playing music in Ireland is going to be fun."

By the time the trip rolls around, Armitage is hoping for over 100 people to join them to Ireland, at a cost of \$2,159 per person for double occupancy.

Thus far, 35 people have booked the holiday.

So why would somebody want to go with the Mick Armitage Band to Ireland for a week?

"They make good music

and are honest, hard-working people," said Mark Boudreaux of Ottawa, who will be on the flight come Oct. 15.

"(Armitage) has a glint in his eye. He really enjoys life. You have to enjoy life while you can."

Boudreaux considers himself both a friend and a fan of the band and with this year being his 30th of marriage and his wife being of Irish descent, he decided it would be a good trip to make.

"For us, it's a trip we're really looking forward to," said Boudreaux.

Those interested in joining Armitage and his crew can find out more by calling Fairlawn Travel at 613-723-9223.

A radio contest through Y101 will also find anybody who books their trip through Fairlawn eligible to win their Irish voyage for free.

New Pontiac bylaw aimed at cleaning up rundown properties

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Property owners or tenants with rundown property are the targets of a new bylaw introduced by the Municipality of Pontiac.

Persons who store tires, scrap, furniture or other materials deemed to hinder "the well-being of the community or the aesthetics of a building" will be subjected to fines up to \$1,000 on the first offence under the new public nuisances bylaw.

The idea, says Pontiac Mayor, Eddie McCann, is to improve the visual appeal of the municipality.

"The bylaw gives us more power to clean up some of the sore spots," said McCann.

While McCann admitted there were certain areas targeted by the bylaw, he wouldn't specify where.

"There are some problem areas that are extremely dilapidated," said McCann.

Under the bylaw, vacant property owners will also be held responsible for their holdings, as any property deemed to have lost 50 per cent of its original value and considered a "danger" or "fire hazard" will also be declared a nuisance and be subjected to the applicable fines.

For a first offender, fines range between \$150 to \$1,000 for a person and \$300 to \$2,000 for a business or organization.

The penalty for repeat offenders increases to maximums of \$2,000 and \$3,000 for persons and entities, respectively.

The storage of any vehicle more than seven years old, unregistered for the current year and not in working order is also prohibited by the new bylaw.

The resolution to introduce the bylaw was passed unanimously by council at its monthly meeting on Feb. 17.

Under the bylaw, the municipality would give rundown property owners a "reasonable" amount of time to clean up the area, said McCann.

Council pay raise
Municipality of Pontiac councillors voted unanimously to give themselves a pay raise, increasing their salary to \$9,000 per year, up from the old rate of \$5,700 per year, rising just over 63 per cent.

The mayoral salary will increase to \$27,000 per annum, up from \$16,920.

The mayor also receives a stipend for sitting on the MRC Collines mayoral council.

cl.

The pay raise is the first for Pontiac council in about a decade, said McCann. He defended the raise as the municipality catching up for years of its representatives being underpaid.

"Compared to Bristol, Shawville, Clarendon, we're still substantially less considering our budget is \$5 million," said McCann.

Shawville's councillors are paid \$3,687.16 per year and the its mayoral remuneration is \$11,061.48.

Shawville's budget for 2006 totalled \$1.3 million. Future pay increases for council have also been regulated. Each year, elected representatives' salaries will grow by 75 per cent of the consumer price index.

While the nature of voting for one's own pay increase usually gains the ire of taxpayers, McCann believes his openness with the process has meant the raise has gone relatively smoothly with ratepayers.

"I talked about it at budget, I was quite open about it from the beginning," said McCann.

"I don't think it's out of line at all."
The new salary will be put into effect beginning May 1, 2006.

Shawville may be hockeyville

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • A group from Shawville is putting forth its candidacy in the country-wide CBC Hockeyville competition.

The grand prize winner from entered communities across Canada will receive \$25,000 in arena upgrades, \$10,000 in hockey equipment and play host to an NHL exhibition game.

"This would do so much for Shawville," said Dan Duggan, who, along with other residents, has taken it upon himself to organize the Shawville entry.

The 50 finalists will be named on March 29 with the grand prize winner announcement coming on June 11.

Duggan is currently seeking the help in putting together the application.

He needs video footage of anything Shawville hockey-related, whether it be backyard hockey, games at the arena or tournaments away from home.

The entry will also require other hockey-related memorabilia, photographs, historical documents, stories: anything that will show the judging committee that Shawville is deserving of the top prize.

"This will be huge," said Duggan.

If you're able to provide anything for the entry or are willing to help with the application, send an e-mail to the organizers at shawvillespirit@hotmail.com.

Read the whole story...
...every week in
THE EQUITY

The Voice of the Pontiac since 1883

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March 4
Registration 9 a.m.
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March Entertainment Line-up

- March 3 - Hyrd Gunz
- March 10 - Foundation
- March 17 - Joe Lance Band
- March 18 - John Henry's St. Patrick's KARAOKE PARTY
- March 24 - Tequila Mockingbird
- March 31 - Full Moon Fever
- April 1 - Full Moon Fever (Flying Elbows weekend)

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NOTICE OF MEETING
Annual general meeting

Promutuel La Vallée, société mutuelle d'assurance générale invites all its insured members to attend the annual general meeting which will be held on:

8:00p, March 9, 2006 at 8:00 p.m.
Anglican Parish Hall
516 Main Street
Shawville.

Seats to be filled

- Seat No. 7: Boyd Brownlee - elected by acclamation
- Seat No. 8: Benson Moffatt - elected by acclamation
- Seat No. 9: Ronald Strutt - elected by acclamation

A lunch will be served. Door prizes.

Dana Morin
Board of Directors Secretary

Issued
February 7, 2006

Everything starts with trust
PROMUTUEL LA VALLÉE VALLEY MUTUAL ASSURANCE

MRC's director-general moving on

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor

CAMPBELL'S BAY • The Pontiac MRC's director-general Luc Seguin will be leaving the Pontiac to move on to a new job.

Seguin, who has been working with the Pontiac

MRC for 14 years, presented a short text to members at Monday's MRC monthly meeting, making recommendations to council on the upcoming transition period.

He will be working with Pontiac in the process of

hiring a new director-general/secretary-treasurer, and said he will be on the hiring committee if needed.

Seguin will be taking a job at the MRC de la Vallée de la Gatineau beginning March 11.

OPINION

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OUR OPINION Stepping back in time

The options put forth by the Western Quebec School Board's strategic five-year plan that may take the youth sector students out of John Paul II School in Campbell's Bay are smart, considering what tight budgets the board is working under these days, but they are also a step backwards.

The WQSB is facing some important decisions in the coming months. Whatever avenue the council of commissioners decides to go down will have a major impact on the community and Pontiac. Although only 202 students attend JPII, the number of people affected by the decision will be even greater.

Commissioners will be born greater practical common sense moves of grouping the adult education and youth sector students together, and the emotional pleas from parents who fear negative repercussions that moving a child out of a familiar learning environment could cause.

Because of Pontiac's declining population, schools and economy in general are in a backwards slide downhill.

At one time, when Pontiac was booming much like other small Canadian towns, a dedicated group of community members brought John Paul II School in Campbell's Bay to life. It remains the most recently-built school the board has.

As a few stakeholders at the board's consultation meeting reminded the board, the community fought hard to get the high school in Campbell's Bay. Then, in 1997, when the school board dealt with a \$3 million cut, the board gave the community a choice of scenarios, with the last option being to close schools. The community vehemently opposed the idea, and successfully stopped the closure. Their work helped

restore the community's confidence and brought families back into the Campbell's Bay area.

But it seems taking the youth sector students out of the school is inevitable. Now, with the latest plan to take students out of JPII and reconfigure boundaries with several other schools, it shows the board is taking a huge step backward. The proposal may not only slow progress in the area, but it could move families out of the Campbell's Bay-Litchfield area and into Shawville-Clarendon.

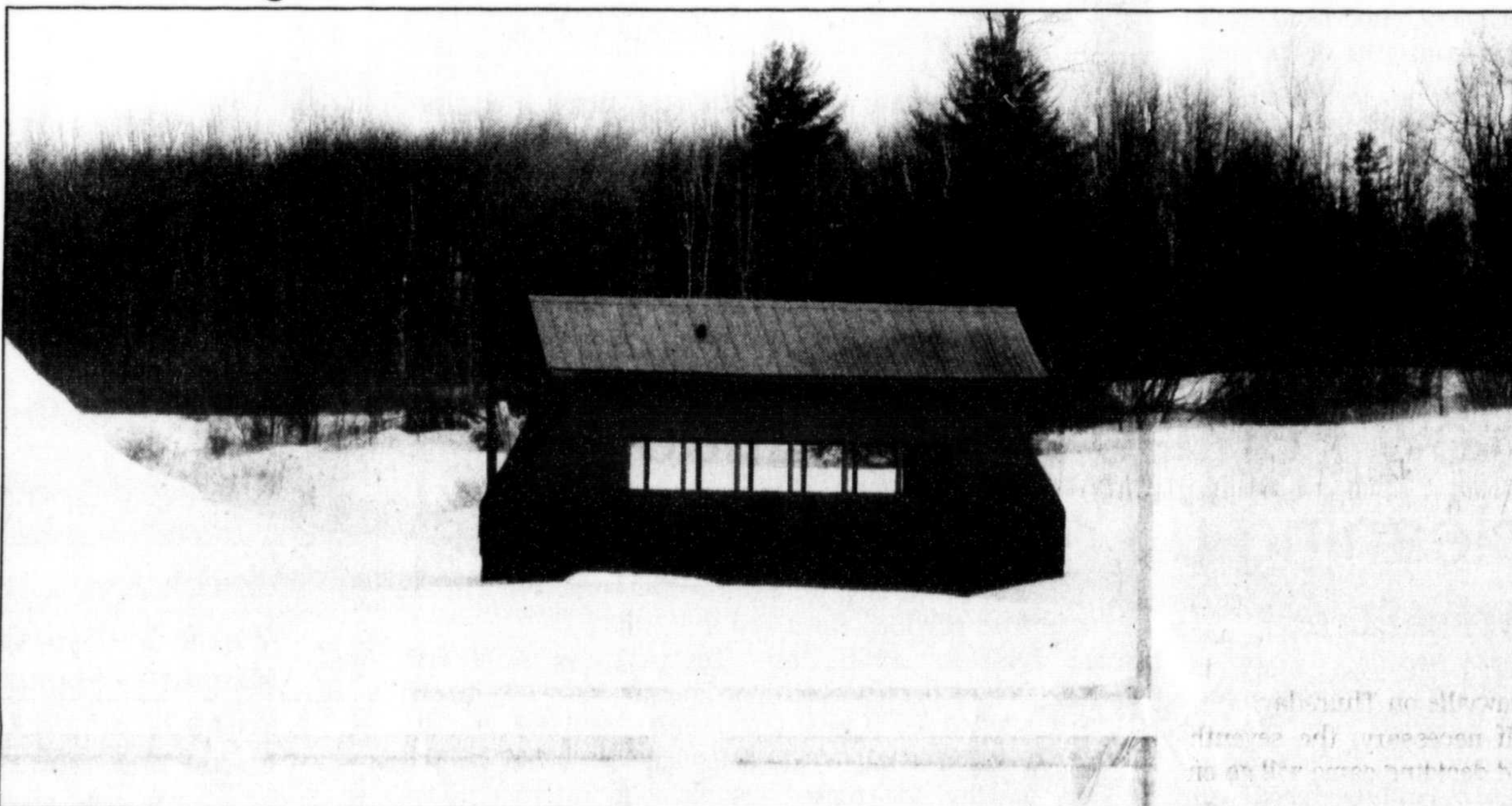
A vibrant town such as Campbell's Bay, especially one that is slowly growing smaller by the year, depends on schools and participation by people in all economic groups.

Obviously, the board cannot cut costs, get more money from the government and please everyone. When government funding is 90 per cent based on how many students sign up to attend a school, the board isn't left with too many options.

To prevent this backwards slide downhill, it is now in the community's hands to come up with an alternative suggestion. The board has obviously wracked its brain for a positive solution, but they are not the ones there, in the classes or in the town that it will greatly affect. They have held these consultations to seek help from the local people, and it is our right to take advantage of it. Whether it be a massive demonstration to direct more funds into education, or a group initiative to attract more students and families into Pontiac schools, Pontiacers need to assess what is most important to them and help its school board find the right answer that the community can ultimately live with.

LM

Snow bridge



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Radon and wells: Pontiac wells may be at risk

H2O Chelsea is a Chelsea, Quebec organization. Its goal is, "to develop a better understanding of ground and surface water resources in Chelsea that will inform municipal planning and management decisions." Although Chelsea is not part of Pontiac, it is so close to us that we all need to sit up and take notice of tests that have recently been done on residents' well water.

Test results

H2O Chelsea recently conducted tests of its wells. As their website states (www.h2ochelsea.ca/Uranium_Chelsea.htm) more than a third of the community's well water is contaminated by uranium: "Statistical analysis of our well-water testing data indicates that 42 per cent of the wells in Chelsea that tested for uranium (66 of 159 uranium tests) had results that were over the Health Canada Interim Maximum Allowable Concentration (IMAC) of 0.02 mg/L (20 µg/L)."

One concern is that uranium can cause damage to the kidneys. The H2O Chelsea site informs us that it is possible to remove uranium from drinking water, and that "there may be a link between uranium in your water and the presence of radon gas in your house." (www.h2ochelsea.ca/Uranium_Chelsea.htm)

What's natural can hurt just because something is "natural" does not mean it is safe or cannot hurt you. Uranium naturally occurs in some



Katherine Fletcher

granitic rock, which comprises much of the bedrock of the Pontiac region. Therefore, it might be reasonable to expect that uranium could contaminate ground water here in our area

- the source of people's drinking water. Uranium and radon The H2O Chelsea site tells us, "Radon is a radioactive gas that is colourless, odourless and tasteless. It is formed by the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water." Radon can cause lung cancer, and therefore is of concern to homeowners.

The site continues, advising us, "Radon gas that enters an enclosed space such as a home can sometimes accumulate to high levels. The only known health risk associated with exposure to radon is an increased risk of developing lung cancer. Under normal conditions, the intake of radon from indoor air far surpasses the intake of radon from drinking water. Your risk of developing lung cancer from radon depends on the concentration of radon in the air you breathe and the length of time you are exposed."

It is recommended that remedial measures (seal cracks in basement, etc.) be taken where the level of radon in a home is found to exceed 800 Bq/m3. Kits to test for Radon Gas are available for approximately \$100.

Why bother with radon?

The Radiation Safety Institute of Canada tells us: "The radon gas in your home or in any other place undergoes a process of change called 'radioactive decay.' This constant process produces radioactive atoms, solid particles, called 'radon progeny' (also called 'radon daughters'). As you breathe, some of these solid radioactive particles in the air are

drawn into your lungs and are retained there. When they also change ('decay'), they emit a tiny burst of radiation that damages cells inside your lungs. Prolonged exposure to these high concentrations can lead to lung cancer. In fact, radon in the home is the leading cause of lung cancer after smoking, according to the Surgeon General of the United States."

The Institute's site explains: "As a gas, radon is mobile. It travels through fissures in the rock of the earth's surface, through air spaces between particles of soil, and it enters a building by seeping through cracks in the foundation walls and in the floors. Radon can also be found in some well water. In homes, cottages or camps that draw on wells for their water, radon can enter the air from running taps and even from the shower head. Therefore, high concentrations of radon can occur inside any home or building. Because radon is odourless and colourless, the only way to know the level of radon in your home or workplace is to test for it."

Procuring kits

Find out more about kits at the website of the Radiation Safety Institute of Canada at www.radiationsafety.ca/HomeRadonMonitor.htm. Or, contact the Radiation Safety Institute of Canada, 1120 Finch Avenue West, Suite 607, Toronto, Ontario M3J 3H7. Or, for more information contact Tina de Geus at 1-800-263-5803, ext. 28. Kits cost \$98.98.

Taking water for granted

Canada is renowned for its vast supplies of fresh water. It is a pity not all of us can drink it. Now, I'm fortunate. Here at our farm we turn on the tap and get delicious spring water from an uncontaminated well. However, down the road, neighbours have sulphur water. And, in nearby Quyon, residents use bottled water for drinking and cooking. Don't kid yourself: it's by no

means only Quyon that is so affected. Many other communities from Bristol to Fort Coulonge suffer the same fate as Quyon residents, where either by choice or by municipal recommendation people are buying bottled water.

If you're like me and have good water, you may take potable water for granted. What brought Eric's and my attention to the rarity of our situation was a few years back when we hosted a family reunion. Fourteen nephews and nieces were here along with eight adults: ours was the only household in the entire family who were drinking water from the tap. That's shocking. Eric's family all live in Canada. The Okanagan cousins were fearful of beaver fever - their water in Summerland had been infected by bacteria, and school-children were told not to drink tap water. Other kids from Vancouver, Prince Rupert and Ontario similarly didn't drink their tap water.

Bottled water

All over the world, people are buying bottled water regardless of whether they can get potable water from their taps. Moreover, groundwater levels are being depleted. Local farmers in many countries are finding they cannot irrigate their fields because their wells are running dry. All of this because North Americans and Europeans - and others - have been duped. Instead of drinking tap water, it's trendy to walk about drinking branded water bottles. Go figure. Canadians have bought into this all-too-often ridiculous notion. Ridiculous, I say, because tap water is usually just fine. In fact, many bottles simply use tap water and do myer bottled water?

Why? Ask yourself that question, and decide whether you really need to purchase your water.

Are you glad your kids are buying water rather than soft

drinks? Of course! However, what about their political stance on landfills, garbage, and recycling? Most teenagers I know are environmental advocates at some level. However, like many adults, it's difficult sometimes to accept that we are all part of the problem. Yes, that means we all have to look in the mirror and examine what we can do to reduce waste.

Danford Lake proposed dump

In addition, think about all the empty plastic water bottles tossed into landfills. At minimum, reuse the bottles. Fill it with your tap water. If you are forced to purchase gallon bottles of water for your home because you cannot consume your own tap water, you can still reduce landfill waste. Simply fill a smaller bottle and take that along with you instead of buying yet another plastic bottle.

Some of us don't want to see a large regional landfill anywhere in the Pontiac. But we all - all - need to be part of the solution. After all, why should Danford Lake residents who are facing a possible regional mega-dump get your water bottles and other waste?

Reduce, reuse, recycle

First, ensure you are drinking clean water. Second: put the three Rs mantra to use. Avoid purchasing more and more wasteful products (in this case, plastic water bottles) that end up in landfills because you've forgotten to recycle them.

Another thing: many recycled goods emanating from North American homes end up on ships that dump our waste offshore in third world countries.

Surely we can all do better than this, can't we? Be part of the solution for the Pontiac and the earth. Katherine Fletcher is a freelance writer. Contact her at chesley@allstream.net.

YOUR OPINION

Response to letter

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to the letter a lady wrote a few weeks ago concerning the new garbage dump to be located in the MRC Pontiac near Danford Lake.

Although, like her, I really don't have any business in this matter as I live in the Municipality of Pontiac, I feel she is totally out of line in just about everything she had to say.

Quebec has passed new laws concerning garbage, the main aspect of these new laws or the ones which concern the MRC Pontiac are, I believe, as follows:

1. All trench landfill sites must be closed and monitored
2. All garbage must go to engineered landfill sites.

Do you have any idea how much this would cost Municipalities in the MRC Pontiac? Probably more than they can afford.

In the Municipality of Pontiac, seven or eight per cent of the 11 per cent tax increase is going to pay for our policing and recycling, which we have "just about started." The opportunity to ship our garbage to Danford Lake will be a small tax saving for us, so maybe I do have a small say in this matter.

Will these cells leak? No! They're only about 20 feet deep with hardly any pressure. And in the extreme possibility that they did get punctured or damaged, they are closely monitored and the operator would know and make the necessary repairs.

As for all these reports and horror stories circulating about, probably only one out of 10 of them have any credibility and usually it's just plain human error (or just plain stupidity) that caused these results. Most of these reports are made by people selling alternate systems or people with fake credentials.

The engineered landfill is the approved system of Quebec and is included in the law. These cells aren't that hard to look at... you can find them on the Internet. The City of Ottawa uses them as well as Pembroke, etc.

This would be a huge shared infrastructure for the MRC Pontiac, used also by the MRC des Collines and the City of Gatineau. I really don't think the transportation problem will last long as infrastructure does create roads. I sense a lot of the "not in my backyard" syndrome from this lady and her committee.

It's this "not in my backyard" syndrome that's killed this project in the Municipality of Pontiac and we missed out on an opportunity to have our dump keep on operating, and the big one have it cleaned up. Instead we must pay the MRC Pontiac, but you know, I'd rather do that and have my garbage go to a site that is managed by family-oriented, professional, well-respected businessmen who know what they're doing.

This new law is needed because the status quo is no longer acceptable. The MRC Pontiac has the most to gain because without this site, they would have the most to lose. Just about every municipality has their own trench dump site and without this revenue, they could be looking at some extremely high costs to treat their garbage. I salute the MRC Pontiac for their integrity and wish them success on this extremely important venture.

Bruce Campbell
 Quyon

Road maintenance

Dear Editor,

Just a word of thanks to all the men who work for the Bristol and Clarendon Councils keeping our municipal roads safe. These men spend countless hours out in terrible weather, while the rest of us are asleep in our warm beds. I'd say that they are very lucky to have excellent people providing these services and we don't have to pay thousands of dollars in taxes, unlike our city friends. There are many miles of road to cover during a bad storm and our guys always get it done!

To those of you who have a problem with the services, maybe you should consider being out there in the cold temperatures, blinding snow and freezing rain, in the middle of the night, trying to keep those of us looking out the windows of our warm, cozy homes happy!

The ice storm and flash freeze a couple of Fridays ago was predicted 24 hours in advance. It was predicted for everyone (commuters included) not only the road maintenance crews. Therefore maybe we, as commuters, should plan ahead as well. If the roads are so bad that we have a problem commuting, then stay home until it's safe - I'm sure your boss will understand. It's better to be a little late in this world than too

early in the next.

Thanks again to Brent Orr, Ron Orr and Dennis Findlay in the front of Bristol and John and Dan Kelly in North Bristol, Victor Dumouchel, Steven Towns, Bruce Telford, Donnie Brownie, John Grant and Sherwin Greer in Clarendon. Jobs well done!

Well Tubman
 Clarendon

Safer commuter roads

Dear Editor,

I agree the roads are in poor condition beyond Bristol. It has been a very bad year for ice and flash freezes and I think the men are doing an excellent job. I think all the men are doing the best they can this winter.

Bristol Municipality employs three men: Brent Orr, Ron Orr and Dennis Findlay. They are always out on the roads making sure the roads are safe to drive on because they are all good operators and caring people. I would like to commend all three men and also John and Danny Kelly for their hard work and dedication. They work well as a team to make sure we are all safe on the roads. Great work guys, the winter will soon, over, we hope.

June Orr
 Bristol



25 Years Ago

March 4, 1981

MANSFIELD-PONTEFRAC TO PURCHASE BRYSON HOUSE: The future of the Bryson House in Mansfield has finally been assured. Through the cooperation of the Municipality of Mansfield and Pontefract and the CLSC this historic building will be preserved and restored to a usable condition.

ARMED ROBBERY SUSPECTS

SOUGHT: The police have been able to obtain descriptions of both of the people who broke into the Keindel home last week, armed with a shotgun. Although the pair, a man and woman, fled through the woods, the police were able to follow their trail to a sideroad where the get-away car was parked. The QPF are looking for a man about six feet tall weighing approximately 200 pounds, and a woman five feet three inches with brown hair, driving a blue car.

50 Years Ago

March 2, 1956

BRIAN HODGINS CRITICAL AFTER KING ST. ACCIDENT: Brian Hodgins, 5, Terry Murray, 4, and Ray Bretzlaff, 4, all of Shawville, were helping Ray's father carry wood blocks to his shed on Tuesday afternoon. As Brian was about to load his sled with a block, the sled slipped away from him out onto King St. According to Terry Murray, Brian ran out after it onto the street and was instantly struck on the head by a car being driven by Bernard Jutras, 34, of Westmount, Quebec. Mr. Jutras swerved his car deep into the opposite snowbank. He and his passenger, Clarence Dean of Shawville, carried the unconscious

child into the home of Cliff Dale and phoned Dr Frank Cowley. Brian was taken by Hayes Ambulance to the Pontiac Community Hospital for immediate X-rays after which it was decided to move him to the Ottawa Civic Hospital at once, as he had a compound fracture of the skull.

JURY RECOMMENDS CROSSING LIGHT:

Very few spectators were on hand at Campbell's Bay Tuesday night to watch the inquest into the death of 19-year-old Harold Knudson, killed instantly last week in a level crossing accident on the Portage to Bryson road. At the outset, Coroner Bradshaw stated that for the sake of simplification the court would consider only the death of one of the victims although three youths were killed at the crossing and a fourth died 10 hours later as a result of injuries suffered in the same accident. The other three boys were Elroy Zohr, Calvin Fiebig and John Hunt. The six-man jury found that the driver of the car was unaware of the approach of the train until it was too late to stop.

75 Years Ago

February 26, 1931

LOCAL NEWS: With four of his huskies, Mr Donald Dodd, left a few days ago for a point about 190 miles north of Fort Coulonge. Mr Dodd took the animals by rail to the Coulonge and then started on the long overland trek to Lever Lake where his team will be engaged in hauling operations for a gang of live surveyors employed by Gilles Bros. Ltd of Brakeside. No. 7 Feet Look Here! We have an overstock of Men's GUM RUBBERS (N. 7 only) MINER'S MONITORS. These were our regular \$2.50 line.

This size only with a pair of felt soles for \$1.95. W.A. Hodgins Store Co., Ltd., Shawville, Que.

Bristol Council. Motion - Beattie and Russell - that this Council spend \$4,000 to relieve unemployment in this township by giving grants to the different road divisions. - Carried.

100 Years Ago

March 1, 1906

LOCAL NEWS: William Grier, 24 years of age, step-son of Wm A Howard of North Clarendon, while working in the woods at Sam Brownlee's camp, Eau Claire district, met with a severe accident necessitating his removal to the hospital, and the amputation of one leg above the knee. The young man, it seems, got jammed between a tree and a sawlog, which was descending a hill with considerable force; one leg was literally smashed at the knee, and the other somewhat injured.

Two cans of syrup were stolen from the platform in front of W H Lucas' shop on Tuesday evening. The party who took them will have to answer to the charge of theft unless he makes payment or returns the cans at once.

The recent mild weather has made travelling on the ice rather dangerous. Several accidents are reported to have occurred last week at different points along the Ottawa River. One of these was experienced by Rev V Ferreri of Vinton, while crossing from Pembroke to the Allumette Island with his team. Horses, sleigh and occupant, went through the ice, and it was several minutes before the Rev gentleman succeeded in crawling onto the solid ice. The team managed to keep afloat till the owner summoned assistance.

SPORTS



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Adam Fenn of the Pontiacs Junior B club scores one of his two shorthanded markers against the Carleton Place Kings in game four of the two teams' division semi-final tilt. The Kings won game four in Shawville 6-3 to tie the series up at two games apiece.

Pontiacs, Kings split first four semi-final games

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Game-winning goals by centre Jordan MacDougall in games two and three highlighted the exciting first four games of the Junior 'B' Pontiacs division semi-final series with the Carleton Place Kings.

The Pontiacs will be without MacDougall for the remainder of the series, however, as he has gone on a long-planned vacation.

"He's obviously a very big piece of the jigsaw puzzle," said Head Coach Pierre Lagacé.

"We need everybody else to step up on both ends of the ice. Each guy has to play at their best."

After dropping game one in Carleton Place by a convincing 7-4 margin, the Pontiacs returned home a hungry bunch.

In game two, a back-and-forth contest found the teams tied on three separate occasions and heading into overtime after the Kings scored to tie the game at three with only 32 seconds remaining.

However, leading scorer MacDougall ended the game in overtime with a beautiful solo effort, slipping the puck past Kings' goalie, Josh Blank, as he was being hooked to the ice.

In game three on Friday night, the Pontiacs looked in control with a 4-0 lead heading into the locker room for the second intermission, but the Kings pounced on the Pontiacs' complacency, scoring five goals in 12 minutes to take a 5-4 lead.

Shawville fought back valiantly to tie the game on a Matt Collins goal before another heroic MacDougall effort lifted the Pontiacs to victory with only 1:40 remaining.

On Sunday evening, the team blew a chance to take a commanding 3-1 series lead with a lacklustre performance.

Defeated 6-3, the Pontiacs clearly missed the presence of MacDougall and despite the offensive prowess displayed by forward David Fenn, who scored two amazing individual goals while a man down, the team was unable to make the game much of a contest.

"They looked a bit tired, they may have been physically and mentally fatigued," said Lagacé about Sunday's performance.

"We were a bit sloppy in our own zone down low giving them chances in front and a couple of wraparound goals."

Down 3-0 at one point, the Pontiacs rode some

momentum on the back of a Kevin Cuddihy goal and Fenn's shorthanded marker to make the game 3-2.

That was as close as the match would get, though, as two more second-period goals by Carleton Place put the game out of reach.

Despite the bad loss, Lagacé doesn't see any reason for concern based on one game.

"For the most part, we've been executing our plan well."

Lagacé pulled goalie Adam Loback after two periods, giving Matthieu Labelle his second look of the playoffs.

Loback had also been pulled in favour of Labelle in the game one loss.

Labelle fared slightly better, giving up a single goal on eight shots in the final period, as opposed to the five goals on 20 shots, Loback had conceded in what was not the strong performance the Pontiacs were used to

receiving from him.

"For whatever reasons, he just wasn't on his best game," said Lagacé.

"I'm not concerned. He'll likely continue to be our starter."

Lagacé said he's been most impressed by Carleton Place's ability to break out of their zone, citing their strong transition game as the focus of the Pontiacs' tactics.

"It's being responsible defensively and not permitting them to take advantage of centre-ice," said Lagacé.

"With the exception of (game four), we've been executing it well."

Game five was scheduled for last night in Carleton Place, before the teams return for game six in Shawville on Thursday.

If necessary, the seventh and deciding game will go on Friday, with the series winner to play Perth for the Valley division championship.

EOJBHL Valley Division Playoffs

Second round

- Perth (1) receives bye
- Shawville (5) vs. Carleton Place (3), tied 2-2 in best-of-seven
- Game 1: Carleton Place 7, Shawville 4
- Game 2: Shawville 4, Carleton Place 3 (OT)
- Game 3: Shawville 6, Carleton Place 5
- Game 4: Carleton Place 6, Shawville 3
- Game 5: Last night, Shawville at Carleton Place, 7:15 p.m.
- Game 6: Thursday, March 2: Carleton Place at Shawville, 8 p.m.
- Game 7: Friday, March 3: Shawville at Carleton Place, 7:45 p.m.

Bantam 'B' Pontiacs finish regular season atop league

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • The Bantam 'B' Shawville Pontiacs completed their regular season last weekend with two more resounding victories over the Maniwaki Forestiers and Gatineau Barons.

The two wins gave the Pontiacs first place overall in the East and West divisions with a record of 18 wins and two losses.

On Saturday, the team thumped the Forestiers 9-0. Jacob Bourgeau and Kris Kelly each had two goals, while Jeremy Campbell, Logan Greer, Ryan Tracy, Matthew Hickey and Ross Coté all lit the lamp once

apiece.

Joey Derouin picked up his third shutout of the season in the win.

Greer and Coté also picked up two assists.

Campbell, Kelly, Bourgeau, Hickey had an assist each.

On Sunday, the team finished the regular season with a 5-3 win over the Barons.

Jason Belsher's two goals led the way, while Tracy, Campbell and Greer had a goal each to produce the win.

Ryan Miller, Tracy and Campbell all had a pair of assists. Adam Orr, Greer and

Hickey had an assist each as well.

During the season, the team dominated its opposition, scoring 105 times while conceding only 27 goals.

Novice A
The Novice 'A' Shawville Pontiacs had a tough weekend, losing both of their weekend games.

On Saturday, the team fell 4-0 to the Aylmer Vikings and Sunday's game was a defeat, 5-1, at the hands of Loups La Peche.

Simon-Richard Corriveau had the team's only goal, with Ayden Hodgins picking up the assist.

Novice B
A strong road win wel-

comed the Pontiacs' visit to Maniwaki over the weekend, as the team defeated the Forestiers 3-1.

Kyle Misener and Danny Pasch scored in the first period to give the Pontiacs a lead they didn't rescind. Zachary Elliott's third period goal guaranteed the victory.

Thomas Barry, Darron Bruce and Pasch each had an assist in the win.

Playoffs
Get your team's playoff results printed in THE EQUITY. E-mail scores, scorers and playoff results to equity@theequity.ca by Monday at 1 p.m. Be sure to specify age level and classification.

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Community centre commences operations in west-end Pontiac

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

CHAPEAU • A group of local residents are hoping to make the lives of west-end Pontiacs more social.

The inaugural meeting of the Dr. Harold Keon Community Centre took place in Chapeau on Tuesday, Feb. 21, and the organization is striving to centralize community activities for Waltham, Allumettes Island, Chichester and Chapeau.

"There's definitely a need," said executive member and general meeting organizer,

Peter Lafond.

"You go into Chapeau and the kids are hanging out at the arena. There's no place for them to go, nothing for them to do."

The centre is named for the family practitioner, brother of Wilbert Keon, who ran his medical office out of Chapeau for a number of years. He died of cancer in the 1970s.

Initially, plans are for the group to act without a facility, organizing and holding events in various buildings in the area.

The Dr. Harold Keon

Community Centre have already approached the municipalities about receiving a building, with locations in Chapeau and Waltham being discussed.

"We know there are facilities that are empty, we wanted one that's available," said Lafond.

For now, however, action is the goal and the organization hopes to function as an umbrella group for other social clubs in the area, such as the Lions Club.

Allumettes Island mayor, Brian Adam, was at the inaugural meeting and is

pleased at the community centre initiative.

"Anything that can improve services in our area is of interest to me," said Adam.

"We're an underserved part of the region, we're an underserved part of the world."

Lafond said there appears to be a cautious optimism throughout the community.

"We have to prove ourselves before people are going to be willing to envelop themselves in our project, but we're confident we can do it," said Lafond.

Estate bequest



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

The family of Harry Armstrong pose for a photo with the surgical table and operating room lights he bequeathed to the Pontiac Community Hospital. The value of his bequest was \$68,937.98. Armstrong, a Shawville native who died in 2003, also donated \$9,500 to the CAT Scan project in 2000. From the left: Brenda Kluge, operating room co-ordinator; Erin Armstrong of the PCH Foundation; Doreen Armstrong, executor; John Musgrove, PCH Foundation and Joyce Hodgins, PCH Foundation President.

Les employeurs du Québec seront sensibilisés à l'embauche de travailleurs issus de l'immigration

MONTRÉAL • La ministre de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles, Mme Lise Thériault, et la présidente-directrice générale de la Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec, Mme Françoise Bertrand, ont dévoilé le contenu d'une entente réalisée en partenariat avec Emploi-Québec concernant la mise en place d'un programme de sensibilisation et de mise en valeur de la main-d'œuvre immigrante auprès des entreprises du Québec.

Le financement du projet, d'un budget total de 315 000 \$, comprend les contributions du ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (MICC), à hauteur de 150 000 \$, d'Emploi-Québec, à hauteur de 100 000 \$, et de la Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec (FCCQ), à hauteur de 65 000 \$. Le projet, d'une durée de dix-huit mois, permettra la réalisation d'ateliers de sensibilisation à la gestion de la diversité ethnoculturelle qui seront donnés aux dirigeants d'entreprises par l'entremise du réseau des

170 chambres de commerce membres de la fédération et présentes sur le territoire du Québec.

L'entente que nous annonçons aujourd'hui est au cœur de l'avenir du Québec.

Ce partenariat est le résultat d'une collaboration fructueuse entre des acteurs épousant une même vision du futur, a souligné la ministre de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles, Mme Lise Thériault.

Les entrepreneurs du Québec doivent être sensibilisés au fait que l'immigration leur donne accès à un bassin de main-d'œuvre possédant de nombreux atouts en termes de compétences techniques et culturelles. Cette main-d'œuvre peut grandement les aider, d'une part, à combler leurs besoins de travailleurs spécialisés et, d'autre part, à s'ouvrir aux marchés mondiaux, a mentionné pour sa part la ministre de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale, Mme Michelle Courchesne.

Le contenu des ateliers aidera les employeurs à s'ouvrir aux réalités des dif-

férences culturelles et aux adaptations de comportements et d'attitudes nécessaires pour créer un milieu de travail positif et ouvert à d'autres valeurs et traditions. Ces ateliers de trois heures, mis au point par le Service-conseil en relations interculturelles du MICC, seront offerts aux dirigeants d'entreprises intéressés à embaucher des travailleurs issus de l'immigration.

Ils s'inscrivent dans la foulée d'un programme existant de formation portant sur la gestion prévisionnelle de la main-d'œuvre, offert par Emploi-Québec et la Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec aux employeurs de l'ensemble du Québec.

La Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec est fière d'offrir le soutien de son vaste réseau afin de sensibiliser les dirigeants d'entreprises à l'immense potentiel de talent et de compétence des travailleurs immigrants pour contribuer à la croissance de leur entreprise et au développement économique des régions.

Les entreprises doivent absolument pouvoir compter, à court et à moyen terme, sur un apport suffisant de main-d'œuvre qualifiée pour assurer leur capacité de production et leur compétitivité.

C'est d'ailleurs une grande préoccupation qui a été exprimée par les membres de la FCCQ lors d'un récent sondage.

Si le défi de la main-d'œuvre se pose dans les grands centres, il est d'autant plus criant en région, a souligné la présidente-directrice générale de la FCCQ, Mme Françoise Bertrand.

L'originalité de l'approche privilégiée dans cette entente tripartite est que les mêmes canaux, ceux de la fédération, seront utilisés pour sensibiliser les dirigeants d'entreprises à la nécessité conjointe de planifier leurs besoins de main-d'œuvre et de s'ouvrir à l'embauche de travailleurs issus de l'immigration ainsi qu'à l'importance de favoriser leur intégration durable en emploi de même qu'à préparer leur accueil et leur intégration au sein de la communauté.

Les élus se prononcent sur la mise en place des bureaux coordonnateurs en milieu familial

GATINEAU • La Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais (CRÉO) a adopté ce matin, suite à son conseil d'administration, un avis régional sur la délimitation des territoires des bureaux coordonnateurs en milieu familial.

Suite à l'adoption du projet de Loi 124, sur les services de garde éducatifs à l'enfance, en décembre dernier, la CRÉO a mobilisé les principaux partenaires concernés et mis en place un comité de travail ayant pour but de développer un consensus au sein du milieu et d'émettre un avis au gouvernement en fonction des enjeux et des caractéristiques spécifiques à la région.

L'objectif visé est

d'obtenir un nombre de bureaux coordonnateurs et une répartition territoriale qui tiennent compte de la qualité, la proximité et l'accessibilité des services autant pour les enfants, les parents et les responsables des services de garde en milieu familial.

Le comité de travail, piloté par la CRÉO, était formé de représentants de la ville de Gatineau, des municipalités régionales de comté (MRC) de Pontiac, de Papineau, des Collines-de-l'Outaouais et de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, de l'Association des centres de la petite enfance de l'Outaouais (ACPEO), de l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais (ASSSO) et La CRÉO a

donc fait parvenir aujourd'hui à la ministre la recommandation suivante: Nombre de Bureaux Coordonnateurs Ville de Gatineau 7 Secteurs Aylmer Secteurs Buckingham/Masson-Angers, 1.

Secteur Gatineau ouest (à l'ouest du boul. de l'Hôpital) 1 Secteur Gatineau centre (entre boul. de l'Hôpital et boul. Labrosse), 1.

Secteur Gatineau est (à l'est du boul. Labrosse), 1. Secteur Hull sud (au sud de Saint-Raymond), 1. Secteur Hull nord (au nord de Saint-Raymond), 1.

MRC La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, 1.

MRC Les Collines-de-l'Outaouais, 1. MRC de Papineau, 1.

MRC de Pontiac, 1. Total, 11.

Puisque la concertation liée à la sélection et aux futures opérations des bureaux coordonnateurs sera d'une importance primordiale, la région recommande également au gouvernement de régionaliser le choix des bureaux coordonnateurs et d'impliquer la CRÉO dans cette démarche ainsi que dans les prochaines étapes du processus de consolidation du réseau de services de garde éducatifs à l'enfance en milieu familial en Outaouais.

La CRÉO espère que cet avis, qui fait l'objet d'un consensus régional auprès de tous les partenaires concernés, sera pris en considération par le gouvernement.

Une ligne 1-866 pour aider les investisseurs

GATINEAU • La députée de Pontiac et présidente du caucus libéral, madame Charlotte L'Écuyer, ainsi que les députés de l'Outaouais sont heureux de présenter une initiative significative pour les investisseurs de la région, laquelle a été rendue publique le 13 janvier dernier par le ministre du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation, Claude Béchard. Il s'agit de l'entrée en opération de la ligne 1 866 PROJET9, un nouveau service d'accompagnement personnalisé pour les projets d'investissement au Québec.

Un simple appel à la ligne 1 866 PROJET9 peut mener à l'attribution d'un chargé de projet, un interlocuteur privilégié dont le mandat est de soutenir et d'accompagner le promoteur d'un projet d'investissement.

Il s'agit d'un service simple pour faciliter l'investissement privé non seulement dans notre région, mais à la grande du Québec, a déclaré madame L'Écuyer.

Le service 1 866 PROJET9, ainsi que la venue de chargés de projet s'inscrivent dans le cadre de la Stratégie gouvernementale de développement

économique L'Avantage québécois.

Cette Stratégie vise à créer et à favoriser la prospérité, qui se traduit par une augmentation réelle de la richesse des Québécois, de même que par l'amélioration de leur qualité de vie.

Avec cette Stratégie, notre gouvernement a voulu faciliter la vie des entrepreneurs.

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fin de ses démarches auprès des différents ministères. Ainsi, le chargé de projet permettra aux entrepreneurs de se diriger du premier coup vers les bonnes ressources, évitant ainsi des pertes de temps et des coûts inutiles.

Il sera une ressource clé qui contribuera de façon significative au succès d'un projet d'investissement, a ajouté la députée.

On peut composer le 1 866 PROJET9 et pour plus d'information, on peut visiter le www.avantagequebec.com.

Bilan positif du magasin-partage en alimentation de Noël 2005

PONTIAC • Au cours des mois de novembre et décembre 2005, la population du Pontiac a été invitée à collaborer au premier Magasin-Partage en Alimentation de Noël (MPAN) 2005 au Pontiac. L'objectif était d'offrir une belle période des Fêtes à des centaines de personnes vivant une situation de précarité financière et alimentaire. Les 15 et 16 décembre 2005, le MPAN a donc accueilli plus de 87 ménages pontinois, ce qui représente plus de 280 personnes, dont environ 120 enfants de moins de 18 ans. Au nom de toutes/tous qui se sont impliqués de près ou de loin dans l'organisation du MPAN, nous vous remercions chaleureusement. Le MPAN a permis à des centaines de personnes de choisir les aliments en convenue à leurs goûts alimentaires. Ce n'est pas rien quand on reconnaît que le fait d'être privé de choisir les aliments qu'on aime est la chose la plus difficile à vivre dans une situation d'insécurité alimentaire. Grâce à la participation de plusieurs personnes, dont le comité organisateur du MPAN composé de cinq membres, la quarantaine de bénévoles, ainsi que toutes les donatrices/donateurs, organisations et entreprises qui ont généreusement offert des dons en nourriture ou financiers, les participantes du MPAN ont pu vivre une période des Fêtes avec dignité et à des centaines d'enfants de recevoir des cadeaux pour Noël!

2 824,08 \$ de denrées périssables et 429,31\$ ont été consacrés aux dépenses liées au fonctionnement, soit un total global de 3 253,39\$. Malgré un déficit monétaire de 350,57\$, nous croyons sincèrement que cette activité vaut plus que son pesant d'or! Pour la modeste somme de 2\$ par personne, chaque ménage avait droit à une dinde entière, 5 livres de pommes de terre, 2 livres de carottes, une douzaine d'œufs, 4 litres de lait, une douzaine de cémentines, au moins deux pains, ainsi que des denrées non périssables dont la quantité était déterminée en fonction de la taille du ménage. Selon notre sondage fait maison, 100% des participantes étaient satisfaites du prix à payer pour leurs achats (97 répondantEs). Voilà le bilan du MPAN 2005! Nous

espérons pouvoir répéter l'expérience à Noël 2006!

Merci à tous/toutes les bénévoles, donateurs/donatrices, à Pontiac Dairy d'avoir accepté de nous offrir les meilleurs prix pour l'achat d'aliments périssables et de nous avoir livré la nourriture à temps, ainsi qu'à la municipalité de l'Île-du-Grand-Calumet de nous avoir permis d'utiliser leur salle municipale pendant une semaine complète! Merci à tous/toutes de nous avoir permis de réaliser ce beau et grand projet pour nos concitoyens et concitoyennes du Pontiac qui vivaient une situation difficile durant ce temps des Fêtes.

Le projet Bouffe-Pontiac, sous la responsabilité de Marie J. Loisel, s'activera prochainement à mettre sur pied un Magasin-Partage en

Alimentation permanent d'ici le printemps 2006 afin de passer de l'aide à l'entraide alimentaire. Vous pouvez continuer à donner généreusement, le projet Bouffe-Pontiac accepte des dons financiers, matériels et en nourriture tout au long de l'année pour soutenir toute personne dans le besoin dans le cadre de son volet d'entraide alimentaire.

Pour toute information, contactez : Marie J. Loisel, responsable du projet Bouffe-Pontiac (819) 647-2253 / bouffePontiac@yahoo.fr.

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Pontiac Forest Products Producers' Board presents five-year report

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • Positive progression despite massive industry setbacks summed up the Pontiac Forest Products Producers' Board's (PFPBP) last five years.

The board presented its five-year report regarding the application of the Pontiac Wood Producers Joint Plan and its regulations to the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec Feb. 17 at St. Paul's Anglican Church hall in Shawville. A few of its board members also attended.

"It's a normal process to have the results of our activities," said board director-general Nicolas Brodeur.

Board president Doug Gauthier, who explained the Régie acts for wood producers much like the wheat board does for agricultural producers, said the Régie will review their plan and make recommendations.

In the last five years, the allowable annual cut volume has been evaluated up to

356,780 cubic metres. The average annual amount cut was 255,585 cubic metres, which is under the allowed volume. The average volume cut was 70 per cent, with the highest year being in 2004 with 81 per cent allowed volume cut.

Sales have dropped in the saw log and quality products level due to low prices, high energy and transportation costs, lack of subsidies for management, rise of firewood demand and the closing of Pontiac's two major sawmills.

Although historically Pontiac wood producers depend mainly on the production of pulp and paper, in between 2001 and 2003, priorities were transferred into sawmills. Pulp and paper in Pontiac may also be greatly affected in the future as the Smurfit-Stone mill is currently up for sale.

Deliveries declined in the last five years, also mostly due to mill closures. The closing of Tembec Davidson and PFC caused the loss of

hundreds of jobs and created a need for a major modification of product selling possibilities.

The average price increased 19 per cent for poplar, 15 per cent for hard wood and 21 per cent for soft wood in the past five years, due mainly to a court decision giving producers price increases for past years and years to come.

The joint plan has allowed producers to negotiate conditions of sales since 1960.

The board said in its presentation that it achieved its objectives, saying improvements of marketing conditions for producers helped motivate them.

The board set up a permanent office in Shawville and bought new technology tools to keep them in contact with producers. Despite the board's success, Gauthier said the industry still needs to be taken more seriously.

"The MRC has spent a lot of money on the bike trail and the river, but we need second and third transformation of wood," said

Gauthier. "We are totally neglected by our local representatives."

The PFPBP is considering approaching the MRC in the future to round up support.

"We have a better relationship with the MRC now," said Gauthier. "But before we were the thorn in their side."

He said the PFPBP is finally in a good position now that its new director-general of LaChute and the MRC's new forestry technician Martin Ladouceur of Gatineau are from the area and have a better understanding of Pontiac's situation.

In the meantime, Brodeur and Ladouceur are working to intermunicipal bylaws on stemmings, making them easier to understand for wood lot owners.

The regulations hold producers to use certain techniques and follow requirements when cutting.

"The regulations are too complex by definition," said Brodeur.

Brodeur is also hoping to

create regional cutting guidelines. Currently, depending on in what municipality you cut, there may or may not be additional regulations to those imposed by the MRC.

He said the MRC should be encouraging smaller wood producers, as their income is more likely to stay in the region as opposed to large saw mill companies who will not keep as much money in the area.

"We don't get a profit from the big mills," said Brodeur.

The next five years will be devoted to keeping rights for producers in municipal regulations, informing producers of sound forestry practices, modifying the market situation, staying on top of new open markets that could become available to producers, setting up support programs for producers and putting pressure on the government on behalf of producers.

The PFPBP represents wood producers from the Municipality of Pontiac to Rapides des Joachims.

Pontiac Station



Hope Cadieux
647-5452

It's Monday, Feb. 27 and I just received a recorded message from Hydro Quebec on the phone. I wasn't offered the option of hearing it in English or over it again, so I wasn't able to catch the whole thing. However, it appears that there will be work going on in this "sector" on March 2 and we are advised to unplug our electronic appliances i.e. computers. If the work isn't finished by the end of the day, it will continue on March 3.

I'm not sure how long the power will be out or how big an area this sector covers but some of you may wish to call them for more information (1-800-790-2424). This is the number for reporting power outages and finding out when the power will be on again, so I'm not positive that it's the right one. I found it in the Télébec directory. I looked first in the Pontiac Big Print Phone book but was unable to find Hydro-Québec anywhere. It would be useful to have this number listed right up front in the "Help" section since we all need it from time to time.

Last Thursday, Feb. 23, Erin Collins played a role in a theatrical production by

the Algonquin College Theatre Company and a large contingent of her extended family turned out to see her. In addition to parents Alex and Janet Collins, there were grandfather Keith Collins and his wife Barb of Manotick, Uncle Burrit and Auntie Eleanor Collins of Manotick, Auntie Flora Cadieux Macnab of Ottawa and myself.

The three-act play was "Summer Brave" by William Inge. The story takes place in a rural area in Kansas during the 1950s. A handsome and spontaneous young man in an undershirt (think "James Dean") enters the scene and stirs up the emotions of the women involved - a romantic young widow, an unmarried schoolteacher, a pretty daughter engaged to a dull man, a tomboy younger sister. Erin played the role of the teacher's friend who had the distinction of having been to New York City. The play was highly entertaining. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and are very much looking forward to the next one, Erin.

This is the second time we have turned out en masse to see Erin. Last year the Company put on "Ten Lost Years," a series of vignettes about the Great Depression. Erin played a major role in a number of the sketches and was responsible for the

props. About the props was an apparatus that made a very credible-sounding train-rolling-down-the-track when the crank was turned, a sound very evocative of the times.

"Ten Lost Years" was a much more serious play. Both those in the audience who had lived through the Depression, and those who had only heard about it second-hand, found it very moving to see all these young people dressed in 1930s style recounting their stories. It must also have been a very educational experience for the actors involved. One young lady told me that she had talked to her grandmother about her experiences during the Depression. There's nothing like a first-hand account to give a person a feel for the era.

Dear Hermonie, I'm so sorry that you will no longer be writing for THE EQUITY. You were the first to comment on all sorts of things and recount anecdotes in your column. It was indeed as you would say like "a letter from home." It was your column that inspired me to become a correspondent and, as I'm sure you can see from the current set of social notes, we have all followed your advice. I'm sure you will continue to be busy in your retirement and keep in touch nonetheless.

Ministry encourages forestry sector jobs

PONTIAC • MNA Charlotte L'Écuyer recently announced, on behalf of Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Claude Béchar, a financial contribution of \$130,111 to the Pontiac MRC.

The funding will be going towards expanding companies that will help alleviate

jobs lost in the Outaouais forestry sector.

The financial assistance is allocated within the framework of the new Mesure de soutien au développement d'entreprises des communautés forestières measure, announced in the 2005-2006 budget speech man-

aged by the ministry.

The Local Development Centre (CLD), will manage the funds.

In order to receive part of this assistance, companies will be required to present how they will create long-lasting forestry employment opportunities in the Outaouais.

Campbell's Bay

Iris Smith
648-5821
The Red Hat Society of

Campbell's Bay visited the Campbell Centre on Monday evening to entertain the residents with songs, poems and witty acts that the seniors really enjoyed. This program was to have been the week before but because of the weather was cancelled and rescheduled on Monday evening.

On Monday my brother, Carman Hodgins of Schenectady, New York and my sister, Norma Stewart of Shawville, came for a visit and started my birthday celebrations.

I am indeed sorry to hear of Hermonie Sharpe's retirement as a society note writer for Caldwell. Everyone enjoyed her column each week and looked forward to her news. Most of all we wish her the best of health in her retirement.

The Campbell's Bay Golden Age club had its eulchen on Tuesday evening at the clubroom with a good crowd in attendance. Ladies High was a tie between Rita McGuire and Isabelle Macroix. They split the prize. Second was won by Georgette Robitaille. Mens high was won by

Boyd Ebert. Second was won by Ed Gutoskie. The door prize was won by Rose Gutoskie. The 50-50 was won by Boyd Ebert. Refreshments were by Carol and Jean Guy Mainville.

Friday afternoon June Burman and Anna Brown arrived with lunch and a birthday cake to celebrate my birthday early. We had an enjoyable time and a great visit.

The World's Day of Prayer service this year was written by the women of South Africa and this theme is Good Day. This World Day of Prayer was organized by the women of Canada and The United States. In 1922 it became an International World Day of Prayer and Christians around the world celebrate this day on the First Friday of March.

All churches in our community participate. This year's service is on March 3 at 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church. We hope to see you there.

Saturday my niece, Donna Stewart and my sister Norma of Shawville came and I was taken out for my birthday.

On Sunday over 20 family members gathered at the Rideau Carleton Raceway to have brunch to celebrate my birthday which is really today. We enjoyed the meal

and the birthday cake that followed. Meanwhile winners on the board where the winners are usually announced was my name flashing and saying Happy Birthday, Iris Smith. Next I went into the casino and tried a few games on the slots just to say I had done it. Then we went to my granddaughter's house and had a short visit with Ryan and Trina and the rest of the gang, then on home. Quite a day.

If you happened to be watching TV this past week you would have seen Yera (Smith) Thomas who was the late Percy Smith's sister being handed a bouquet of Roses at the birthday party held at the Glebe Centre for her 108th birthday. CTV was covering the story. She is the oldest resident in Ottawa.

Friday Evening we went to the Mickey Creek Golf Club for a delicious Chinese Buffet. Many residents from town attended and enjoyed the meal. I will be enjoying my calories for the next few weeks.

Happy birthday to Scott Crawford, Breana Bakke, a granddaughter to Helen and Bill Ranger, Shannon Lawn, Rene Bisson and Eileen (Brown) Perry in New Brunswick.

Anniversary wishes to Phyllis and Arnold Sloan who celebrate their special day on Feb 27.

Home Improvement Section is coming...call Katherine to place your ad in the April issue, 647-2204

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March '06							April '06						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
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29	30	31					29	30					

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> 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. etc

Fri., March 3 - World Day of Prayer St. Paul's Anglican Church, Main St., Shawville at 2 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Fri., March 3 - 7:30 p.m. World Day of Prayer Services St. Mary's Church, Quyon. All welcome. bml

Fri., March 3 - From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Gently Used Clothing Sale at St. George's Anglican Church, 66 Leslie, Campbell's Bay. Tons of new items, all great quality. Winter coats, jeans, blouses, pants, shirts, shoes and more in men's, women's and kids' sizes. All for 50 cents each! bml

March 4 & 5 - Norway Bay 10th Annual Car Races on Ice. Front and rear drive, Pro and stock spiked tire division (year 2). Entry fee \$40 per car. For details call Michael 647-6512. xm1

Sat., March 4 - Joe Teevens and Pontiac Four, River Club Portage 3 - 7 p.m. xm1

Wed., March 8 - Poor Man's Lunch, Oddfellows Hall, Alfred St., Shawville 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 kinds of soup, assortment of pies, all for \$6. bml

Fri., March 10 - PHS Murder Mystery 6:30 p.m. PHS Gym. Come out and enjoy dinner and a murder. Tickets \$25 available from PHS Main Office until Tues., March 7. Proceeds to PHS Music Dept. bml

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Single bed headboards, double bed headboard and footboard, clothes dryer in good condition, electric organ, other items. Make an offer 647-3640. 2bm8

Early bird special! Price packages available, many sizes! 25' x 32' \$7,750., 25' x 40' \$8,550., 30' x 40' \$10,500., 32' x 50' \$13,400., 40' x 60' \$19,000. Call 1-800-504-7749, www.pioneerbuildings.ca. qm1

30" electric stove self cleaning, fridge, 3.5 to 4 ft wide freezer, Baldwin electric organ. All in good condition 648-5477 after 5:30 p.m. 2bm8

Phone disconnected? Cheap phone reconnection. New customers get free voicemail! Tembo Telecom prepaid phone service. Friendly service and no deposit required. Toll free 1-877-468-3626; www.tembo.ca. qm1

Pool table. Solid maple, 1" slate, with accessories. Never used. Cost \$4,800. Sell \$2,300. The Furniture Guy 514-745-6536. qm1

Washer, good working condition \$75, side by side fridge freezer with ice and water \$600 647-2481. 2xm1

MISCELLANEOUS

20 week-old ready to lay brown pullets for sale. Available Tuesday, April 4th. Order early - limited quantities. Call M & R Feeds Pembroke at 732-2843. 2bm8

Canada trailer, 6' x 10' 3.5 ton tandem dump trailer, 1 year old, like new \$5,300 or best offer 648-5262. 2bm1

Brand New PCI Employee's approved! Get a fully loaded MDG Computer with Intel P4 3ghz with 99 cents/day. Includes everything you need: 512MB RAM, 17" LCD flat panel, Windows XP & much more. Plus free 256MB MP3 player & free photo printer for first 500 callers (*call for details / conditions). 1-800-236-2504. qm1

Disconnected telephone? Reconnect now! Quebec Teleconnect special! Free activation. Monthly rate \$49.95. Free long distance when activated. No customer refused. Call Quebec Teleconnect at 1-866-443-4408. qm1

Sawmills from only \$3,495.00- Convert your logs to valuable lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.norwoodindustries.com - Free information: 1-800-566-6899 Ext. 400 OT. qm1

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Pool tables starting at \$1,395. All made in Quebec! - 40 models. Snickers, Shuffleboards, Games tables, Poker chips, etc. The biggest manufacturer in Canada: www.canadabiliard.com. 450-963-5060. qm1

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Campbell's Bay - Bachelor and 2 bedroom apartment, utilities included \$225 or \$460 per month 647-2967. etc.

Campbell's Bay - 2 bedroom apartment heat and hydro included. Bachelor apartment, heat and hydro included. Call 648-2362. etc

Cottage for rent summer months June to Sept. Book early! Jill McBane 458-2366. etc

Shared accommodation. Female non-smoker preferred. Brand new condo in Hull near Champlain Bridge. 20 min. to downtown Ottawa. Available May 1st \$425 plus utilities (app. \$50) per month. Call 647-2457. 2xm1

Shawville - 2 bedroom apartment for rent Elizabeth Court, Shaw Street, Shawville, Quebec. 648-2222. etc.

Shawville - 2 bedroom apartment for rent 647-3256. etc

Shawville Lions Hall available for all occasions. Air conditioned. Call Jerry Callaghan 647-5691. 0-1-M1

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Campbell's Bay - 2 storey house, 4 bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, add on sun porch, hardwood floors, new roof, new windows, new doors, new chimney, paved driveway, 2 car garage, large lot \$52,000. 819-648-2419. 3bm8

HELP WANTED

Full-time and part-time experienced hairstylists required for busy salon in Shawville. Call ahead for interview, CV and references required, to Studio Jenn 647-3168. 2bm1

Experienced workers needed with building and carpentry skills. Also require workers with experience in equipment maintenance and repair. Full-time or part-time work available immediately. Seasonal employment with potential for year-round work. Call Barclay Dick & Son Farm Supply, Douglas 613-649-2620 or 2440. 2bm1

2nd year, 3rd year, Journeyman Welders required for oilfield fabrication shop, Nisku, Alberta. Journeyman shop rate \$27./hour + bonus. Fax 780-955-2780. Phone 780-955-17433. Email: safety@mastco.ab.ca. qm1

\$\$\$ Attention chocolate\$\$\$ Here's a great opportunity to make extra income by selling chocolate bars and new products. Managers wanted. Fundraising services available. Call now: 1-800-383-3589. qm1

A job at home on your computer. Up to \$493.51 weekly; Code A1. www.MyHomePCJob.com.n 1m1

HELP WANTED

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Cheaper than a bald man's haircut - Telephone Reconnect! Only \$49.95/month and low connection! Excellent service, everyone approved! Phone Factory Reconnect. Toll free 1-877-336-2274; www.phonefactory.ca. qm1

A career teaching English internationally begins with professional training. A 5-day certificate course will be held in Montreal at University Centre April 19-23. (Open House February 28) & University of Ottawa March 15-19 (Open House March 2). To register for an open house call 1-888-246-6512. www.INT.Collegeoflinguistics.com. qm1

Olymel, Red Deer, Alberta's largest employer is now hiring Food Processing Workers. Starting salary \$10.55/hr plus premiums and earn as much as \$17.45/hr; extended health & dental after 3 months; free bus service within the city; no experience required. Please send your resume to: OLY-MEL Human Resources 7550 - 40th Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6R7. Fax: 403-309-7547 apply@olydel.com, www.olydel.com. qm1

Journeymen carpenters-Vancouver Island projects - concrete / framing for institutional, multi-residential projects. Email resumes to patti@knappett.com or fax 250-475-6444. Knappett Projects Inc., 501 Kelvin Road, Victoria, BC, V8Z 1C4. qm1

Full-time/part-time kitchen and bar staff required for 2006 season at Mickey Creek Golf Club, Vinton, Quebec. Call for appointment 648-2900, resumé required. 2xm8

Mechanic with basic skills. Apply Box Q, THE EQUITY, 133 Centre St., Shawville, QC J0X 2Y0 bml

SERVICES

Installation and repairs, servicing of furnaces. 40 years experience. Joe Konrad 647-2391. etc

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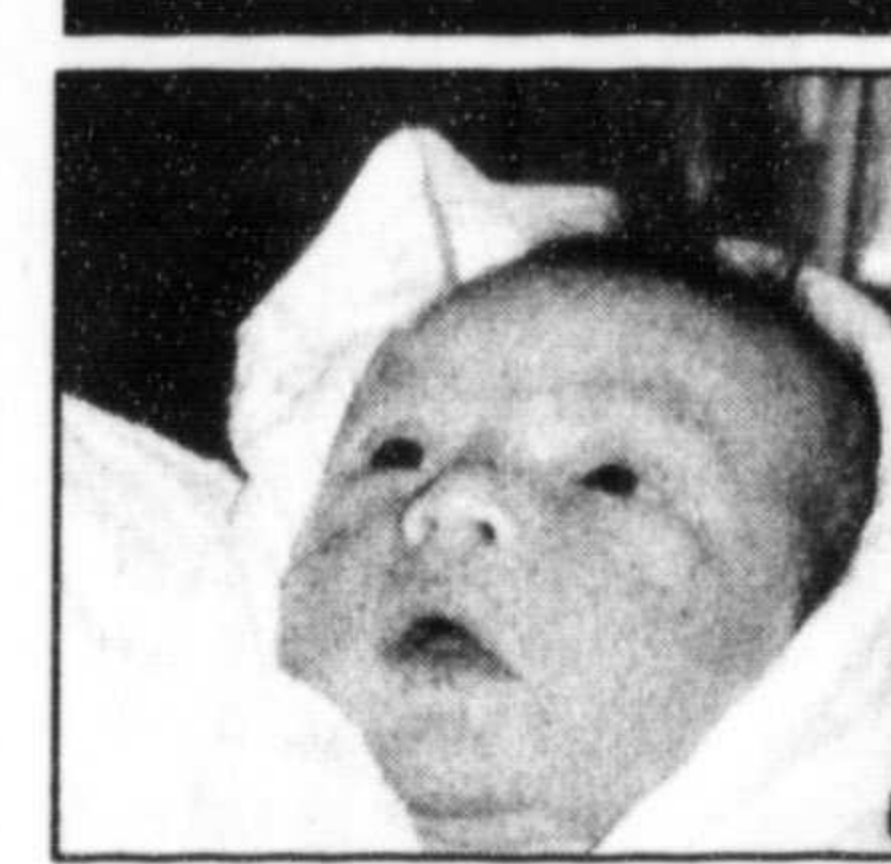
BIRTH



Dresselt - Heidi Ardern and Sebastien Dresselt are overjoyed to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful baby boy, Cassidy Amadeus. Born on January 27, 2006. Weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz and 21.6 inches long. Proud grandparents are Bruce and Louise Ardern and Anne Dresselt and Gerry Dresselt and Marie Gauthier. A little nephew for Chris Dresselt. And a cousin for Chelsea Whalen-Dresselt. Excited new aunts and uncles are Shandy, Shamus, Levi, Clover and Dulcie Ardern and Shelley Dubeau. A very special thank you to all the doctors, nurses and staff at the Shawville Hospital for their expertise and wonderful care. And a big thank you to our family and friends for their kindness and support.

Sylvester - Jill and Scott Sylvester, of Guelph, Ontario, welcomed a new little son, Lee Charley, into their family on February 11, 2006. Lee's delighted grandparents are Dorothy and Russell Amey of Guelph and Joyce (the late Charley) Sylvester of Bristol Mines.

BIRTH



Barré - First-time parents Raymond and Tammy Barré would like to announce the birth of their son Lucas Don Barré, born February 22, 2006. First-time grandparents André and Noella Barré and third-time grandparents Lars and Shirley Bretzloff. Would like to thank Dr. Talko and the nursing staff at the Shawville Hospital for all their help. Best wishes from both families.

THANKS

Greer-Woolsey - I would like to thank the people who stopped to help my daughter Tara when she fell on the street and broke her leg. Also to the ambulance drivers Kevin and Dominic who came so quickly. God bless. Tara and her mom Gail

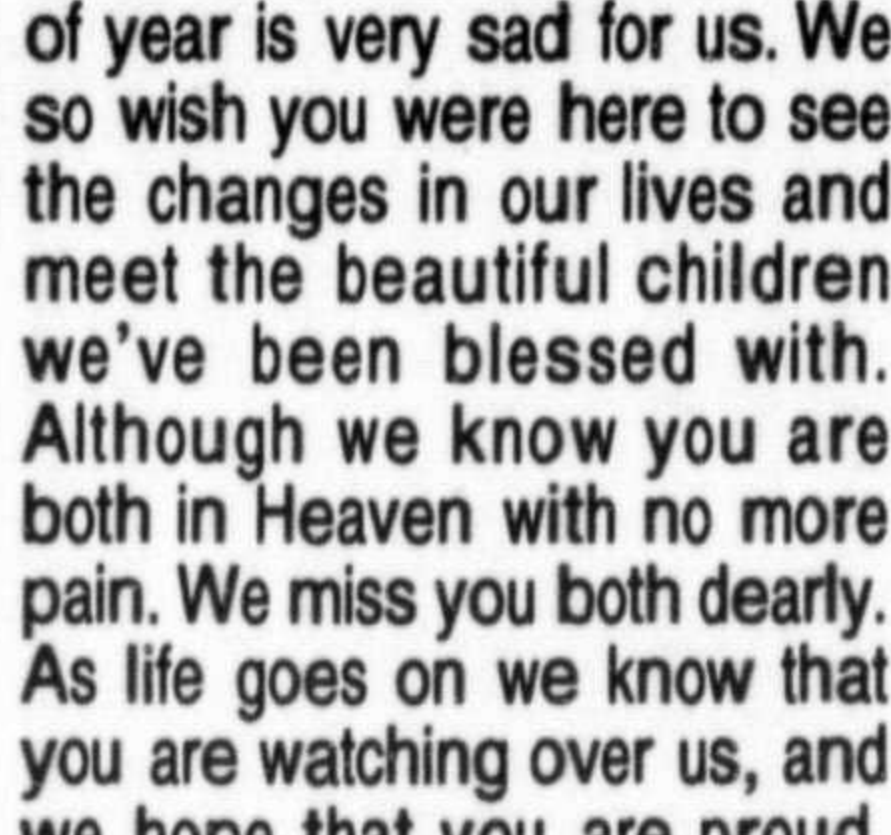
Ostrom - I would like to thank everyone who came to my 75th birthday party. To Brian Stanton for the use of the sports bar. To all my sisters and brothers in-law, my brother and sister-in-law, June. To my grandchildren and their family, to all my nieces and nephews and my dear friends Betty, Wayne Telford, to Brent, Paquerette, Steve, Carl, Brian, Eldon Ostrom for the afternoon entertainment. To Sheldon my grandson who touched everyone's heart with his singing. My brother-in-law who was master of ceremonies, my sister Anita for the beautiful cake, to Allen Sheppard for decorating the place so beautifully. To Tiney Blaskie for taking the pictures, to Bowers who catered the delicious meal. Special thank you to my nephew Larry Lepine for all the videos he made for my family and for all the cards, gifts, money and phone calls I received. Last but not least to my family, Eldon, Grace, Barry and Murray for the beautiful picture, seventy-five years of love and memories and for all the work that was put into organizing the party. Memories I will never forget. Mom, Madeline Ostrom

Que le bon Sacre Coeur de Jesus soi louer adorer et glorifier au travers le monde entier, pendant des siècles et des siècles, Amen. Dite cette prière pendant six jours et vous serait accorder votre grace. A.M.

MEMORIAM

Blaskie - In loving memory of loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather Peter who passed away Feb. 6, 1996 and a dearly loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Emma who was called to eternal rest March 27, 1999. Dear Mom and Dad this time of year is very sad for us. We so wish you were here to see the changes in our lives and meet the beautiful children we've been blessed with. Although we know you are both in Heaven with no more pain. We miss you both dearly. As life goes on we know that you are watching over us, and we hope that you are proud. We'll treasure our memories forever and forever you'll be in our hearts. Love always, Your family

Conway (née Walsh), Helen - June 16, 1924-February 23, 2006 Peacefully passed away in hospital in Grand Mère, Quebec, beloved wife of John Conway for over 50 years. Daughter of the late Christina Hines and Garrett Walsh. Loving mother of Brian, Robert, William, Kevin, Ann, Lorraine and the late Desmond. Survived by devoted sister Eileen Stone of Cobden, Ontario and sister-in-laws Constance of Shawville and Claire of Ottawa. Predeceased by brothers, Lloyd, Robert and Lydon. Remembered by grandchildren Rachel, Fiona, Michael, Nicholas, Ian, Sara, Simon and David and many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.



Corrigall - In loving memory of a dear husband, father, Jim who passed away Feb. 22, 2002. Remembrance is a golden chain Death tries to break but all in vain To have, to love, and then to part is the greatest sorrow of one's heart. Time may wipe out many things But this they wipe out never, The memory of those happy days When we were all together. Sadly remembered by Ruby, Brian, Pat, Kathy and grandchildren

Astro Club, the psychic network of Canada. Call 1-900-830-6767 for only \$2.85/min. Answers to your questions about love, work and money. 18+ qm1

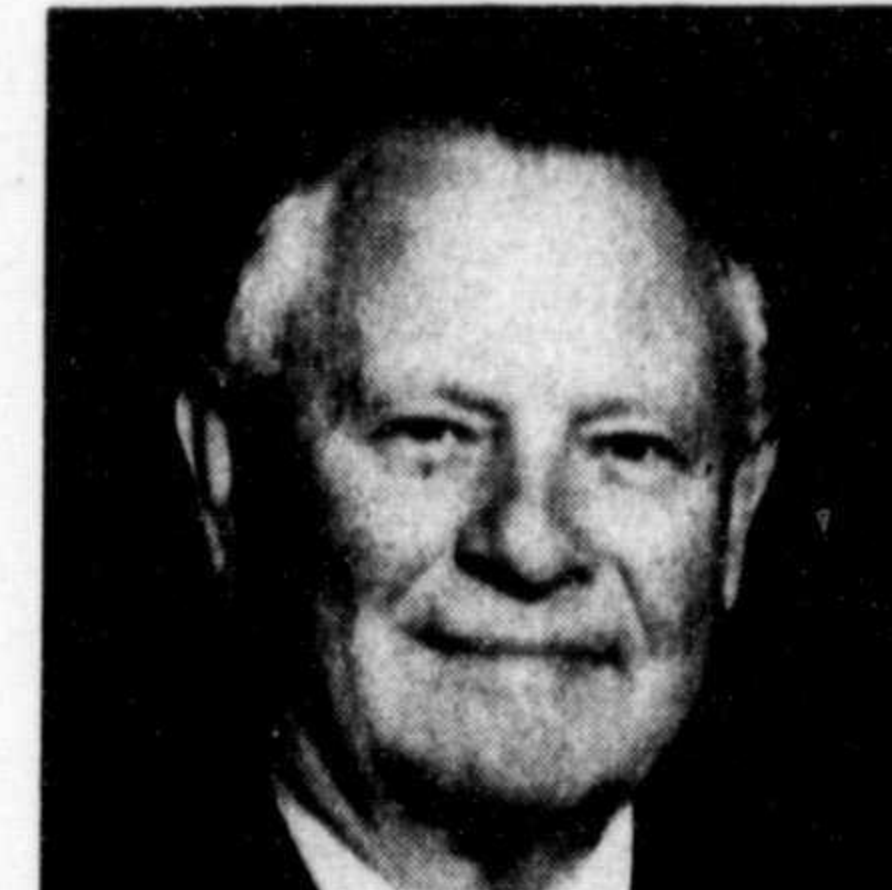
Canada's top psychics...Are You Ready to Believe in Psychics Again? Call Now, You Won't Be Disappointed! 1-900-451-7070. \$2.95/min. 18+ qm1

MEMORIAM

Campeau - In loving memory of dear father and grandfather who passed away March 4th, 2003.

Wonderful memories woven in gold This is a picture we tenderly hold Drop in our hearts a memory is kept To love, cherish and never forget Always in our hearts Anne and family

Cunningham, Edward John - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather who passed away on Feb. 28, 2004. Deep in our thoughts a memory is kept; Of one we loved and will never forget. Forever loved Mary, Susan, Bill, Sarah and John



Rebertz - In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather Dalton who passed away February 27, 1996. Have you ever had a heartache, Or felt that awful pain Or shed those bitter tears, That drop like falling rain. If you've never had that feeling We pray that you never do, For when we lose a loved one, You lose a part of you. So dear God, take a message To Dalton in Heaven above, Tell him how much we miss him And give him all our love. Sadly missed and always loved by wife Mina and all our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Trudeau, Emile - Suddenly in hospital on February 22nd, 2006 at the age of 83 years. Beloved husband of Laurena (Bébé), Loving father to Jean-Guy (Hélène), Jacqueline (Doug), Pauline (Bruce), Darlene, Hélène (Art), Emmett (Lise), Marlene, Nicole (Jim), Paul-Emile (Sylvie), Claude (Anne) and Michel. Proud grandfather of 26 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Leaves behind brothers, Gerard, Rolly, Duck, and sisters, Rose, Evelyn, Elizabeth and Geraldine. Predeceased by son Frank. Many thanks to the staff at the Pontiac Community Hospital and the Ottawa Civic Hospital for their care. Friends called at the W.J. Hayes & Sons Funeral Home, 1040 Clarendon St., Quyon, Quebec on Monday, February 27th from 2 to 4 & 7 to 9 p.m. A Memorial service was held at St. Mary's Church, Quyon, Quebec on Tuesday, February 28th, 2006 at 11 a.m. Interment of ashes at parish cemetery in the spring.

Conway (née Walsh), Helen - June 16, 1924-February 23, 2006 Peacefully passed away in hospital in Grand Mère, Quebec, beloved wife of John Conway for over 50 years. Daughter of the late Christina Hines and Garrett Walsh. Loving mother of Brian, Robert, William, Kevin, Ann, Lorraine and the late Desmond. Survived by devoted sister Eileen Stone of Cobden, Ontario and sister-in-laws Constance of Shawville and Claire of Ottawa. Predeceased by brothers, Lloyd, Robert and Lydon. Remembered by grandchildren Rachel, Fiona, Michael, Nicholas, Ian, Sara, Simon and David and many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

DEATH

Trudeau, Emile - Suddenly in hospital on February 22nd, 2006 at the age of 83 years. Beloved husband of Laurena (Bébé), Loving father to Jean-Guy (Hélène), Jacqueline (Doug), Pauline (Bruce), Darlene, Hélène (Art), Emmett (Lise), Marlene, Nicole (Jim), Paul-Emile (Sylvie), Claude (Anne) and Michel. Proud grandfather of 26 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Leaves behind brothers, Gerard, Rolly, Duck, and sisters, Rose, Evelyn, Elizabeth and Geraldine. Predeceased by son Frank. Many thanks to the staff at the Pontiac Community Hospital and the Ottawa Civic Hospital for their care. Friends called at the W.J. Hayes & Sons Funeral Home, 1040 Clarendon St., Quyon, Quebec on Monday, February 27th from 2 to 4 & 7 to 9 p.m. A Memorial service was held at St. Mary's Church, Quyon, Quebec on Tuesday, February 28th, 2006 at 11 a.m. Interment of ashes at parish cemetery in the spring.

Happy birthday to Jacques Regimbald, Jr. of Otter Lake on March 1, Joey Ranger of Campbell's Bay and Raymond Dagenais of Otter Lake celebrates March 4 and Julie Coady of Shawville who celebrates March 5.

I hope many of you who read my column last week will come out and support the coalition against this proposed "mega dump." We have to stand with our neighbors of Cantley and lend our voices to theirs and be heard.

Saturday night a "Mardi Gras" party was held in Venosta. Proud king and queen were Paul Moyer and Marie Kelly of Venosta. Each won for best costume as was determined by the crowd. Skaliwig played to the enjoyment and delight of everyone.

A big hi to my friend Brenda Picard who I saw Saturday night at Mardi Gras.

Thanks to Willard and Millie Lance of Otter Lake for the wonderful get well card and tickets inside.

We're getting near to the time when maple syrup season will start again. What's your favorite way of enjoying this sweet treat? Candy, syrup and bread or baking with it. I have to say my favorite is syrup and pancakes.

Corrigan's Hotel in Danford now has a full menu kitchen in operation. The food is great. Come on out and treat yourselves.

I was told an old saying this weekend. "The water is cold, cold, from the tap, the weather is going to get real mild." My grandfather told me this many years ago. Let's see if it happens.

Surprise visitors to the gas bar in Kaz where Robyn works were Jacques Regimbald, Jr. Roger Bonneau and Guy Beaudoin.

Saturday night a beach party was held at Corrigan's Hotel. While at work today Robyn heard one woman say she couldn't wait to wiggle her toes in the sand along the beach.

This Friday night will be the last night for the regular dart season at W.T.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Avis de vente Canada Province de Québec District de Pontiac Cour du Québec No: 555-02-00058-049 Le Sous-Ministre du Revenu du Québec Demanderesse C. Serge St-Pierre Dérégistrier Le 15 mars 2006 à 10:00 heures, au 8, ch. Adrien Renaud, Pontiac (Breckenridge) District de Hull, seront vendus par autorité de justice, les biens et effets de la partie défenderesse, saisis en cette cause, consistant en : 1 Jeep Grand Cherokee 1996 Imm. 634 GHN (QC), 1 Mercedes Benz 1991, Imm. 945 HBN (QC), 1 véhicule tout-terrain Honda 1995 Imm. VA 54805 avec remorque, 2 ordinateurs, 1 compresseur à air 20 gallons, divers outils et autres effets, le tout avec accessoires.

Argent comptant et/ou chèque visé Gatineau, ce 24 février 2006 Donald J. Brayley, Huissier de justice (District de Hull)

1-4, rue de la Baie, Gatineau, (Québec) J8T 3H3, téléc: 819-568-0061 téléc: 819-246-6983 0-1-M1

NOTICE

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If you saw the picture in THE EQUITY we can make you a full colour 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 prints for \$10 plus tax, at The Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0 819-647-2204. etc

Danford Lake

Stephanie Milford 467-1091 Happy birthday to our leap year baby, Jason Sequin. Remember you are only seven years old as you only celebrate every four years!

Is anyone interested in winning \$5,000? Gerry Lafleur's fifth annual ice fishing derby will be held on March 5 on Farm Lake. Following the derby a meal will be served and prizes handed out at the Little Bar. For more info call 453-2102.

Happy birthday to Jacques Regimbald, Jr. of Otter Lake on March 1, Joey Ranger of Campbell's Bay and Raymond Dagenais of Otter Lake celebrates March 4 and Julie Coady of Shawville who celebrates March 5.

The deer where my dad is working are unbelievable. For anyone who loves deer. This is the place to be. Dad says it's nothing to see 50 to 100 deer a day. The deer have been following the skidder. After the cedar trees have been limbed the deer eat all the boughs off. The fawns are the cutest though. They look at dad with teary big eyes and sniff. Dad can get about 10 feet from them and then they run. But as you know, where there are deer there are wolves. The wolf I am told is reddish-blond in colour and seems to be the leader of the pack. The deer stay together normally but when they start walking single file the wolves are on the chase. One day dad said the deer were walk-running in single file and then the saw he wolf. Dad stepped out real quick beside the trail and scared the wolf. One day I plan on going to have lunch where Dad works and get some pictures.

A friend of mine, Garry Lafleur reports the same things. Says it's nothing to see 40 to 50 deer every night on his way home from work on the Wolf Lake Road.

I want to thank my Mom for all the help she has given me since my surgery. There are so many things I can't do right now and so many things I feel like doing but I

Otter Lake

Elizabeth Hahn 453-7326
On Tuesday, Feb. 21 the Otter Lake Golden Age Club held its weekly euchre game. Lucky winner of the 50/50 draw was Gilberte Bussiere. Ladies high score was won by Rosette Fleury and second by Denise Dubois. Mens high score was won by Sam St. Pierre and second by

Paul Balskie. Delicious refreshments were provided by Maureen Racine and June Francoeur. Happy birthday wishes to Denise Dubois.
Natalie Hahn of Waterloo was home from her studies at Wilfrid Laurier University because it was Reading Week. She visited with her family in Pembroke and grandma Elizabeth Hahn, great-grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Mayhew on Monday

and Tuesday.
Happy birthday wishes to my daughter Pam Thoms in Kanata who has a birthday on March 3. Best wishes from mom and all the rest of the family.
Happy belated birthday wishes go out to Justine Rebertz who turned 14 on Feb. 28. Lots of love from Memère and Pépère Rebertz. Also birthday wishes to our sister Cheriva Schrankler on Feb. 27. Best wishes from Erma, Mervin, Millie and

Willard.
Garnet Mayhew of Osgoode visited with his dad, Edgar Mayhew and stepmother on Sunday.
Did you notice the earthquake on Friday evening around 8:40 pm. I sure did. I heard a loud bang. I thought it was an accident on the road, then my dishes started to rattle. I knew then it was an earthquake. The rumbling lasted about 30 to 40 seconds. I heard it was a 4.5 magnitude.

Sheenboro

Myrtle Sullivan 689-2236
Get well wishes to Stan Bresseau who is in the hospital. I always enjoyed playing cards with Stan. He was always a gentleman and never got upset with those of us who were not accomplished card players. Hope you are soon well Stan.
Welcome back to Larry and Nancy Gleason and Anita and Bill Sawyer who just returned from a holiday in Florida. I'm sure they had a great time.
Happy Birthday to Peter Gleason. The family had a celebration for him at his sister Lorna's on Saturday night.

Gail Sullivan and family were home visiting her parents Mike and Norma Sullivan on the weekend.
Andy and Kerry McDonald attended a euchre tournament at Jennifer Gagnon's on Saturday night in Aylmer. I heard Robert Poirier was the big winner. Congratulations Robert.
The school children in our area are now on their March break. Dr. Wilbert Keon School students had a fun filled time with all kinds of activities and dress up days and ended with a trip to Mount Pakenham. I hope they all have a great week off.
I had a nice card from Dominic D'Arcy who is touring Europe. He said to say hello to all his friends in Sheen.

I attended the music session at George's Regal Beagle on Wednesday evening with my Wednesday. We haven't gone for awhile and I was quite impressed with the big sign "Fiddler's Cove" made by Dave Rogers. He does a great job with his carvings. It was nice seeing Mary and Harry Seanson again and Margaret and Don Howard from Eganville.
Jerry and Colleen Sullivan were up for the weekend and they visited Mrs. Spence and all the family here. Betty had our whole gang for supper and we had a great time.
My son Jimmy and his wife Ellie were home for the weekend. It was nice to see them as they haven't been up for awhile.
Penny Perrault spent Friday night visiting her

friends Grace and Joyce Bryson. I'm sure Grace had lots of stories to tell and they would have a great time.
Steven McDonald, Willie Lepine, Carl Ranger, Joey Lepine, Donny Lepine and Tom Marcotte had a great trip up to Temiskamang last weekend. We certainly have had the weather for skidding.
Happy birthday to Darcy McKinnon who celebrates his 89th on Feb. 25.

National Agriculture Week
is coming...
Call Katherine to place your advertisement now.
Deadline is March 10th.
647-2204

Quyon

Jill McBane 458-2366
Charlie Muldoon stopped in for a visit with a reminder that on March 11 is the St. Patrick's Day post-parade party at the Civic Centre Salon in Ottawa. Gail Gavan will be the MC introducing the house band, Mountain Tay, The Reel Thing and Alex Lamoureux. Debbie McCann, Matt MacRae, Robin Averill, Chris Last and the Sue Fay Healey Dancers. So get out your green and plan on a great party.
Get well wishes are sent to Jeff Campbell, Kerry-Lyn O'Connell and Andrew Hickey.
On behalf of the Quyon readers I would like to wish Hermonie Sharpe a great retirement. You sure put a lot of time into writing for THE EQUITY and we will surely miss your column. Happy retirement Hermonie.
Correction: In last week's EQUITY it was Billy Young not Betty Young who played cards at MacKechies.
Congratulations to Lisa and Rob Hickey on the birth of their baby boy, Curtis who was born on Valentine's Day.

Ladysmith

Debbie Thrun 647-3927
Well, here we are into the first day of March already. It has been quite a different winter with the temperatures going up and down. Now, I wonder what the lamb or lion has in store for us this month?

Reception Centre.
We're sorry to hear that Dennis Dufault had the misfortune of breaking his arm. We wish him a speedy recovery.
On Monday, Feb. 20 I received a call from a nice lady, Min St. Pierre. She was telling me that she had been visiting her son Louis and his wife, Marlene St. Pierre in Nepean that weekend. She told me that on Friday, Feb. 17 her son, Louis, was looking out his window. You will never guess what he saw. A robin on his lawn. Nobody believed him. So they all looked and sure enough it was a robin. Then on Sunday they saw it again. She told me she had never seen a robin so early in the season. She knew that I liked to write about the birds so this is why she wanted me to hear about this. Surely this can't be a sign of an early spring. But with the weather and temperature changes so fast these days all we can do is what and see.
Well, our next special occasion is St. Patrick's Day on March 17 which is not that far away. So now is a good time to think about getting your green outfits ready for the upcoming parties.
With the crust on the snow the wolves are able to run on top while the deer punch through. We have found two deer killed in our back field. Special congratulations

goes out to Amanda (Early) and Wayne Cameron of Bryson the arrival of their new baby boy, born Feb. 20, Dakota David, a brother for Ely-May and Ema-Jean.
Get well wishes go out to Hawley Wickens who is a patient in Shawville Hospital. All your friends are thinking about you.
We have deer coming to the house looking in the window. They have eaten most of our cedar shrubs but I guess it saves pruning them. I tried to shoot them away but they just stand and look at me. So they are also very tame too.
As I write this, it's Saturday morning and we're again having snow, snow, snow. What else is new, we're having another snowstorm? It's less dangerous than freezing rain. But, before long we'll be complaining about the heat. In my opinion if we didn't have

the weather to complain about we'd just be complaining about something else.
On Friday evening at about 8 p.m. we had an earthquake. It rattled the windows and set the dogs to barking. We haven't experienced one here for some time.
The Pre-lent Stunch put on by the St. George Anglican Church was held at the T.C.R.A. on Sunday. A great variety of delicious food was enjoyed by a large crowd. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all present.
Ron Girarde, Dan Thruette and Dennis Thrun attended the Eganville Snowmobile races on Saturday. Despite a snowy, blustery day they witnessed some great racing, especially interesting is the new vintage class of racing consisting of old snowmobiles.

Belated birthday congratulations to Phillip Atkinson who celebrated Feb. 23.
The other day while out and about, Dennis discovered a freshly killed deer in our field. It was nearly all eaten but mostly by ravens and eagles.
Special belated anniversary congratulations to Wayne and Annette born of Johnson's Lake who celebrated their 41st on Feb. 19.
Last week Karl Kappas left on a winter vacation to Florida with 16 of his relatives. They were going to spend most of their time there playing golf. They will be staying in different areas of Florida until some time in March. Wishing them all a safe and enjoyable vacation.
The snowmobile trails are excellent according to all reports. The trail to Danford Lake and beyond is really beautiful. The grooming has been very good this winter.
Special birthday congratulations to Minnie Krose who celebrates March 7. She is a resident at the Pontiac

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RENFREW COUNTY & DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT
Employment Opportunities

The Renfrew County and District Health Unit invites applications for the following positions:

HEALTH PROMOTER (Full-time)
Competition # HP 06-01
The Health Promoter shall work with Health Unit staff and community partners to plan, develop, implement and evaluate health promotion, prevention and protection activities as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Four year Baccalaureate degree with emphasis on health promotion, or a related health discipline, etc.;
- Experience utilizing health promotion strategies in community settings;
- Well-developed interpersonal, oral and written communication skills;
- Experience with social marketing strategies and media relations;
- Excellent presentation skills;
- Computer skills;
- Valid driver's license and own transportation;
- Acceptable criminal reference check required;
- Health Promotion experience would be an asset.

Location: Pembroke

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COMMUNITY DIETITIAN (Full-time)
Competition # CD 05-10
Qualifications:

- A Baccalaureate degree in foods and nutrition or an equivalent program from a recognized university;
- Completion of an accredited dietetic internship or equivalent experience;
- Member of the College of Dietitians of Ontario;
- Well-developed interpersonal, oral and written communication skills;
- Excellent presentation skills;
- Computer skills;
- Valid driver's license and own transportation;
- Acceptable criminal reference check required;
- Experience in community health an asset.

Location: Pembroke

CONSIGNMENT SALE at Walsh's Auction Barn, Osceola
Saturday, March 4, 11 am

Horses, New Saddles and Tack, 1986 Chev 4x4 pickup Truck with Arctic Snowplow, Landmark 10/28 Snowblower, Chain Saws, New Tools, etc.

Auctioneer:
Gerald Walsh 646-7729

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J0X 2G0

INVITATION TO TENDER

The Municipality of Pontiac is selling its 1994 Ford garbage truck and is therefore requesting bids. The base price is set at \$20,000.00. Anyone interested may contact the municipal inspector, Mr. Robert Létourneau at 455-2401. Tenders must be received in a sealed envelope before March 14, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the following address:
Municipality of Pontiac
2024 Route 148
Pontiac, QC
J0X 2G0

The municipality does not commit to accepting the highest nor any of the bids received.
SYLVAIN BERTRAND
Director general and Secretary-treasurer

GALETTA LIVESTOCK SALES
HERD DISPERSAL — P & T FARMS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29th, 2:00 p.m.
50 Crossbred Cows / bred Charolais or Limo
Cows pregnancy checked

VACCINATED SALES — 12 p.m. start
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8th
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22nd
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th
Cattle must be castrated, dehorned and vaccinated.
Regular Sale to Follow

Horses sell the first Wednesday of each month

HORSE TACK & EQUIPMENT CONSIGNMENT SALE
SATURDAY, APRIL 15th, 2006
Consign early — call Ben at 613-623-9455
It's worth the journey to talk to Ernie!
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COMMUNITY NUTRITIONIST (Full-time)
Competition # CN 04-06
The Community Nutritionist provides nutrition expertise and participates in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of nutrition-related components of Mandatory Health Programs and Services under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. This includes working independently and with teams, facilitating community development, promoting the development of policies relevant to healthy eating issues within the community and presenting nutrition education and healthy eating promotion through the lifespan, in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders, in a variety of community settings.

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in community or public health nutrition from a recognized university or Master's degree in human nutrition with community nutrition courses or field work experience in community nutrition or public health nutrition;
- Current registration with the College of Dietitians of Ontario;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- Demonstrated analytical, organizational, program planning and evaluation, leadership and educational skills;
- Ability to use computer technology including MS Word, Internet and E-mail;
- Valid driver's license and own transportation;
- Acceptable criminal reference check required;
- Previous experience in public health or community nutrition is an asset.

Location: Pembroke

COMMUNITY DIETITIAN (Full-time)
Competition # CD 05-10
Qualifications:

- A Baccalaureate degree in foods and nutrition or an equivalent program from a recognized university;
- Completion of an accredited dietetic internship or equivalent experience;
- Member of the College of Dietitians of Ontario;
- Well-developed interpersonal, oral and written communication skills;
- Excellent presentation skills;
- Computer skills;
- Valid driver's license and own transportation;
- Acceptable criminal reference check required;
- Experience in community health an asset.

Location: Pembroke

Closing Date: March 15, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.
Please forward resume indicating Competition # to:
Renfrew County and District Health Unit
7 International Drive
Pembroke, Ontario K8A 6W5
Fax (613) 735-3067

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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133 Centre St., Shawville

Skate wins



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Members of the Shawville Figure Skating Club have been making a name for themselves at competitions across the region recently. Masson hosted a competition Feb. 17 and Audrey-Anne Rivest won silver in elements and fifth in solo, Casandra Presseau-Pleschke won gold in elements and silver in solo, Emily Simms won silver in solo and fourth in elements and Breanna Hodgins placed fourth in individual elements. Alisa Bertrand, Gwendolyn Simms, Melissa Lafleur, Justin Bertrand and Laura Bertrand competed in Prescott Jan. 28. Justin placed fourth in elements while Laura won silver in elements. Lafleur, Rivest and Presseau-Pleschke also competed in Gatineau Jan. 20. After their home invitational this past weekend, skaters are off to compete in Gloucester in April. Front row, from the left: Melissa Lafleur, Casandra Presseau-Pleschke, Audrey-Anne Rivest and Gwendolyn Simms. Back row, from the left: Justin Bertrand, Alisa Bertrand, Laura Bertrand, Emily Simms and Gwendolyn Simms.

Waltham

Helen Perry
689-2652
Last Tuesday night, while my chums and I were out walking, all of a sudden on Main Street, three beautiful deer darted across the road right in front of us. They came between two houses. We were so surprised, as we watched them leap up the snow bank and disappear across the highway. Congratulations to Michel Allain, who was the lucky winner of \$810 on the 50/50 draw, which was sponsored by the Garderie Picabou in Mansfield. The draw was held in order to raise money to purchase the last air conditioner unit for the day care. On Wednesday night I called my sister Joyce to wish her bon voyage. She

was leaving the next day for a two-week vacation in beautiful Hawaii. Wow, she is so lucky!
On Thursday afternoon, I had a call from Margaret Pilon in Lakeland, Florida. She was telling me that there is a flu going around and that Andre is down with it. Apparently the weather was lovely that day.
On Saturday, Feb. 25 a winter fun day was held in Waltham. There was a fishing tournament on Mill Lake. I was told that no fish were caught. There was also face painting and games for the children, hot dogs and drinks. There was a eucure tournament. Elwood Allard took first prize. Rita Harkins won the 50/50 draw of \$287. Congratulations is wished to both of you! Afterwards, a tasty spaghetti supper was served.
Tanya and Chris Wilson and Nicholas, of Dunrobin

were weekend visitors at Susan and Charlie Ethier's. Get well wishes are extended to Lise Gauthier, who is down with a sore throat and a nasty cough. We hope that you are feeling better soon Lise.
David Peters of Whitney was a weekend visitor at Rhonda and Mark's.
Weekend visitors at Nicole and Jean Pilon's were Melanie, Michel, Evan and Ryan Pilon of Dunrobin.
Chantal, Stephane, Jonah and Caitlyn Pharand of Aylmer were weekend visitors at Carolyn and Gerry Pharand's.
Angie Bissonette of Ottawa was visiting her parents Sheila and Victor Bissonette this past weekend.
I cannot believe that the Lenten Season begins this coming Wednesday, March 1. That means that Easter is only six weeks away! Where does the time go?

Charteris

Mona Rutledge
647-6250
I would like to thank everyone who wished me a happy 50th birthday.
Belated happy birthdays go out to Terry Schwartz from mom, dad and family. Happy belated birthday to Alyssa Belanger on Feb. 20. Go you sister gal. Love from your friends. Terry's birthday is also on Feb. 20.
Happy belated birthday greetings also to Brian Trudeau Feb. 21 with love from mom and dad, Ruth Henderson Feb. 24 from mom and dad, Madeline Hines Feb. 25 with love from

Grandpa and Nan and also Leon Cartier Feb. 19 from Neldow and May.
Happy birthdays go out to Diane Desabrais and Reuben Stewart on Feb. 28 and if February had 29 days Pat Smart would be celebrating on Feb. 29. So happy birthday Pat and many more to come. Also Mary Finnigan on March 3, Jeff Allo on March 4 and Hillis Connolly on March 5.
Belated happy anniversary to my godmother and her husband Doris and Larry Morgan on Feb. 26. I hope you had a real good one.
On Wednesday, March 1 Richard and Freida Glahs will be celebrating an anniversary. So have a real good one Mr. and Mrs. Glahs.

Bryson

Heather Stewart
648-5413
A very happy birthday going out to my cousins Gerald Stewart and Reuben Stewart who celebrated on Feb. 28. Hope you both have a wonderful day!
Celebrating on March 1 is Lianne LaSalle of Bryson. I hope you have a great Birthday Girl!
Results for the Golden Age eucure held on Monday, Feb. 20 are as follows: Door: Isabelle Lacroix, 50/50: Mervin Smith, Men's first: Lucien Dumouchel, Men's second: Laurent Chevalier, Tommy Hearty, Roger Lacroix and Rolly Lepine.

Ladies first: Veronique Perrier, Annette Lepine, Gisele Evans and Phyllis Smith, Ladies second: Rita McGuire. Rumor has it that Ed Gutoski sent his pet skunk down to Jim Stewart. Is that true Dad?
A very happy birthday going out to Joey Ranger of Campbell's Bay and to Steve Bechamp of Bryson. Both are celebrating on March 4.
On Friday night I took my Mom and Dad, Jim and Anna to Renfrew to see the movie Eight Below. Let me tell ya, if you plan on seeing that movie make sure to bring a lot of tissue with you. It still brings tears to my eyes to think about it. It is based on a true story about a team of Alaskan Huskies left out in the Antarctica to survive on their own. It is a real tear

jerker.
A very happy birthday going out to Connie Belland of Campbell's Bay who celebrates on March 6.
Annette and Rolly Lepine would like to send out big birthday wishes to their good friend Debbie Wilson of Kingston on March 6.
A little blue bird called to tell me that Julie Maheral of Calumet Island is celebrating a birthday on Saturday.
Greetings going out to Aunt Monique and Uncle Melvin and the gang up in Matagami and Aunt Bernice and Uncle Weston and the gang up in Sudbury. I hope you are all keeping well!
Happy Birthday to Angela Derouin of Calumet Island who is celebrating this week! Have a good day Angela!

Vinton

Diane Boisvert
648-5296
This past week my son Alex and his wife Suzanne flew in from Thompson, Manitoba. They motored with Shelley, Corben and Tao to Hammer to visit their uncle Fred Gratton and his wife Betty. They also visited with my aunt and uncle, Betty and Rudolphe Mayhew in Capreol. They returned to Shelley's in Calabogie last Thursday to spend the rest of their vacation with Shelley, Carl and the boys. Of course the galloping grannies went over on Saturday and spent the weekend with the family. It was great being all together even if it was a short time.
Theresa and I brought the boys outside Sunday morning so they could play, get some fresh air and give mommy a break. We had them out for about an hour and a half. When we brought them in they couldn't get their clothes off fast enough so they could eat. Shelley had made them soup and a sandwich. Tao couldn't get the soup into him fast enough. So he brought the bowl to his mouth in order to eat it quicker. He had a little spillage but the majority of it went were it was supposed to.
There was an 80th birthday party for George Sloan at his home on Saturday. Despite the weather, many of his friends, neighbors and family attended. We all enjoyed a great meal and George received a beautiful plaque from the municipality presented to him by Mayor Michael McCrank along with many other gifts and best wishes.
Last week I reported that the highway between Campbell's Bay and Otter Lake was temporarily closed. I was informed by Herbie Zacharias that in fact the highways were never closed. But the visibility was indeed very bad and drifting was a problem but that their department was able to keep the roads open. Sorry about that Mr. Zacharias. I will indeed call you first and get the news straight from you.
On Friday evening there was a Chinese buffet held at Mickey Creek. The food was absolutely terrific. Wayne and Sue were quite amazed at the turn out. Maybe they'll put it on once a month (hint).
Last week while I was travelling in the morning to Lady-smith with another person, we spotted a strange looking deer. We drove past it then backed up to take another look. It was fairly small but it was furry like a beef cow. Really thick, brown fur. We had never seen a deer like that before and we've asked different people if a deer gets that furry in the winter. Most people asked us what kind of drugs we were on and one person told us that they do get furry. Is there anybody out there that can tell me for sure? I see deer nearly every day in my travels but I've never seen one so furry.
Happy birthday wishes go out to Paul Halderman and Karen Quinn on March 5, Connie Belland, Wayne Corriveau on March 6, Shirley Pepin and Jerry Pepin, Eric Bertrand and Marina Chugg on March 8. I hope everyone is enjoying the March break.

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