

THE EQUITY

Who got married, who got engaged... see who in THE EQUITY'S Brides 2006

123rd Year, Issue No. 6

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87 cents

Snowmobilers granted greater access to PPJ

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
CAMPBELL'S BAY • The Pontiac MRC council of mayors voted to recommend municipalities to close the PPJ Cyclopark to snowmobiles between the hours of 2 and 6 a.m.

The motion was made at the January monthly meeting to create a unified closing and opening time for the Pontiac's main snowmobile access route.

Previously municipalities along the PPJ had varied closing and opening times, making it difficult for a snowmobiler to travel from one end of the MRC to the other without having to worry about a trail being closed or not.

"One (snowmobile) club asked us to close it from 2 and 6 a.m. because the police can't

enforce the times if they are different all over the place," said Warden Mike McCrank. "With a unified time, we can give notice to officers of when and where."

The majority of mayors opted for a later closing time.

"For two years there cannot be any lawsuits about the track," said Shawville Mayor Albert Armstrong. "New machines will be coming out to reduce noise. We were approached too, to open it later than 2 a.m. The main reason is to promote tourism."

He said snowmobilers trying to travel from Waltham to Quyon are strapped for time and therefore spend less time in the area.

"It's not a very good way to promote tourism," said Armstrong. "We don't shut traf-

fic on the highway down. I'd like to see it open all the time."

Waltham Mayor Paul Ryan agreed, saying that 12 people recently attended his municipality's monthly meeting complaining about the noise caused by truck jake brakes.

"I've not had one complaint about skidoos," said Ryan. "There is more noise in Waltham from trucks than snowmobiles. I will never change our times."

Bryson Mayor Al Davis, who volunteers with a snowmobile club grooming the trail, emphasized the importance of new requirements on machines that will reduce noise.

"They can't have after-market pipes on snowmobiles and can only have four-stroke motors, not two, which is a lot quieter," he

said, adding that closing the trail at midnight would be too early. "If you leave Fred's (in Chapeau) at 11 p.m. and go to Quyon, you'll never get there."

Other mayors still felt more comfortable with an earlier closing time.

"Quebec asked us to close it at 10 p.m. and nothing happened," said Bristol Mayor Jack Graham.

"We close it at 12 a.m. to prevent possible lawsuits over noise."

Graham also pointed out that municipalities can choose to close their PPJ gates whenever they choose, as the motion is simply a recommendation.

The hours of operation will be adopted by individual municipalities if they so choose.

Cannon named minister of transport

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • Newly elected Pontiac MP Lawrence Cannon was named the minister of transport, infrastructure and communities by the Conservative government on Monday.

Cannon, along with 26 other cabinet members and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, were sworn in at a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

The appointment follows through on a promise Harper made on a visit to Buckingham during the election campaign when he pledged to the Pontiac's voters to elect Cannon because, "I need Lawrence Cannon in my cabinet."

Cannon will be charged with overseeing a diverse department created "to better link urban, interprovincial and international infrastructure development," according to a statement released by the office of the Prime Minister.

The position is a logical one for Cannon, who is the former president of the Transport Society of the Outaouais and also spent time as the president of the Urban Transport Association of Quebec.

Many pundits had pointed to Cannon being appointed to the high-ranking position of Deputy Prime Minister, but Harper removed the position altogether, one of a few cuts made from Prime Minister Paul Martin's 39-person cabinet.

Cannon did not return a phone message from THE EQUITY before press time.

"We haven't had a chance to look at all the features of the department, but we will do so in the coming days," Cannon told the CBC on Monday evening.

"There has been a strong push to look at all these issues recently."

One of the Conservatives campaign promises included a funding program to improve highways.

Hwy. 148 in the Pontiac, which is constantly in need of repair, would seem a logical beneficiary of such a program.

Carnival commemorates Original 6 hockey teams

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
FORT COULONGE • Hockey and family fun was the order of the weekend during the Fort Coulonge and Mansfield winter carnival.

An annual event, the carnival ran smoothly despite bad weather and low turnout.

"It was not the best," said Original 6 Hockey League President Eldon Denaault of the carnival's turnout over the weekend. "We didn't get enough of a response from the community."

Weather was a main factor, organizers predicted, as freezing rain and high winds kept carnival-goers inside.

"We cancelled the drag races Sunday," said Denaault of snowmobile races scheduled for the day.

The races changed location three times because of wet conditions. Ice drag races are rescheduled for Saturday at Marais on the Ottawa River.

"But as far as competitions and hockey, it went fairly well," said Denaault.

Chainsaw competitions and snowmobile drag races took place on Saturday, while a carnival parade and hockey games took place on Sunday. The Mega Dollar Bruins' float won first place, the Draveur Red Wings second and the Metro Canadiens won third.

A highlight of the carnival was the attendance of former NHLer Gary Doak.

Carnival organizers attempted to have a representative of each Original 6 hockey team stay for the weekend, and Doak, representing the Boston Bruins made the date.

"It's my first time up here," said the Goderich, ON native. "I'm from a small town, but not this small."

Doak was #25 for the Bruins and helped them win the Stanley Cup in 1970. He now plays on the Bruins' alumni team.

He kicked off the carnival Friday afternoon at a welcome gathering at the Spruceholme Inn in Fort Coulonge, mingling with fans, admitting that the Stanley Cup win was the most exciting time for him.

"Nothing can compare," said Doak. "But it is important for kids to go and get an education — there are so many opportunities for kids."

To spread that message, he was also on hand at the spaghetti supper Saturday night to sign autographs, but only 12 minor hockey players showed up.

"Gary Doak had a great time in the community," said organizer Skip Brown. "But we didn't have many minor hockey players see him. They really missed out on a great opportunity."



An ATV-pulled Boston Bruins float, carrying a Fort Coulonge-Mansfield carnival princess, makes its way to Baume Street during the Original 6 carnival parade Sunday morning in Fort Coulonge. The carnival, which ran over the weekend, featured former Boston Bruin Gary Doak and other winter activities.

This isn't the first time Brown has seen low participation in Original 6 events, and he says bad economy in the area is a major factor.

"People embrace the Original 6 hockey program in other communities, but in this community it is a struggle to get players to come out and for people to keep current with the league," said Brown.

Another event Brown thought could have been better attended was the Roadhouse show who played St. Peter's Parish Hall Saturday night.

In the hockey skills competition, the fastest skater was named Shawn Mousseau of the Mega Dollar Bruins, who registered at 15 seconds for one lap around the rink at a speed of 27 kilometres per hour. In the target shoot, Darcy Mitchell of the Proprio Rangers totalled three targets in a "shoot off". Marc Duval of the

Proprio Rangers was the top goaltender with five saves after sudden death and Eldon Boisvert of the Francoeur Leafs scored four times.

Louis-Philippe Carle of the Bowers Black Hawks registered 131 kilometres per hour in the hardest slapshot competition edging out Stéphane Mousseau of Mega Dollar Bruins at 127 kilometres per hour.

Following the closing ceremonies Sunday, an Original 6 Hockey League all star game featured the best players in the east and west sides of the league. The east-side team won 10-5.

Martin Danis of the Francoeur Leafs was named Most Valuable Player.

"We will run it next year," said Brown, citing a long list of people he wanted to thank for helping out this year. "It's an initiative we'd like

to keep alive."

Original 6 heritage

Plans are currently in the works to find out if a museum dedicated to the Original 6 teams and Canadian Aboriginal People in hockey is viable in the region.

"The Original 6 is an overlooked aspect of Canadian heritage," said Brown.

The concept is to have the museum attached to indoor rinks that would function for 10 to 12 months a year.

"A federal museum dedicated to the Original 6 would be a tourist attraction," said Brown. "We also want to pay homage to the aboriginals who helped build the Original 6."

Brown and other organizers will be taking the idea to various levels of government.

The complex could also host a national training program for kids, said Brown.

Orr Farm wins bonspiel

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
SHAWVILLE • The Orr Farm rink of the black division won the Shawville Curling Club's 31st annual community bonspiel Sunday.

The rink, comprised of skip Laird Murray, third Barry Orr, second Greg McCredie and lead Derek Potvin, was awarded the coveted toilet seat trophy for their 62 points plus 24. The plus was what granted them the win, as a team came in a close second place with 62 points overall. The winner was determined by the rink with the most points.

"We just got out and played the game," said Murray, whose rink won the toilet seat at the bonspiel's 25th anniversary in 2000. "We were fortunate, we got a couple of good breaks."

Murray, who is also a part of the bonspiel committee, has been curling in the bonspiel with the same rink for the past eight years.

The last game of the bonspiel wound up at about 7 p.m. Sunday and the rink was filled with donated prizes — enough for each player — and participating teams picked their prizes in order of who won the most points.

"The bonspiel went extremely well," said bonspiel committee past-president Stu Starks. "We had a good turnout of 72 teams."

The bonspiel is said to be one of the largest one-rink bonspiels in North America.

"There were some very close games and some very good curling," said Starks.

Money raised from the 11-day bonspiel will go towards curling club expenses.

Last year some of the money was set aside to buy a big screen television for the club's lounge and a side storage building in the back lot.

Last year's bonspiel winner, Greg Hayes of Hayes Funeral Home, handed the toilet seat to the Murray rink.



The Orr Farm rink won the 31st edition of the Community Bonspiel Sunday. From the left: 2005 winner Greg Hayes hands over the Toilet Seat Trophy to winners Laird Murray, Greg McCredie and Derek Potvin. Missing from photo: Barry Orr.

<p>Bristol - 180 acre farm with new house and several large and serviceable out-buildings. Private setting with good cedar and maple bush. Worth a visit, \$230,000.</p>	<p>Portage - Well maintained 3 bedroom home with many upgrades (roof, septic, windows) on a large lot with no backyard neighbours. A bargain at only \$49,900.</p>	<p>Ladysmith - Large 4 bedroom 2 storey house, with loft attic. Approximately 2000 sq ft. New furnace, hardwood floors throughout, only \$74,900.</p>	<p>Otter Lake - 2 storey home, 2+1 bedrooms on 2.5 acre lot. Partially finished basement with wood-stove. Large garage. Private yard with lots of trees. \$72,500.</p>	<p>Luskville - Revenue potential! Mostly renovated 2 bedroom bungalow on a large fenced lot. 2 bdrm apt. in basement. Only 10 minutes from Aylmer. \$150,000.</p>	<p>Thorne - Construction in 2001. 2 bedroom bungalow with large garage on 1 acre lot. Enjoy your privacy and the Quyon River. Only 10 minutes from Shawville. \$79,900.</p>
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Québec 

Island carnival attracts winter lovers

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor
CHAPEAU • Islanders got out of the winter blues and into some snowy fun during the annual Chapeau Winter Carnival over the weekend.

"It was a huge success," said Chapeau Agricultural Society President Edith Lair. Many activities took place at the Chapeau fairgrounds over the weekend, including sleigh rides provided by

Edward O'Brien, dog sled rides, men's and women's hockey games, a magic show with Darell McCorriston and a snowmobile poker run, which was won by Guy Sallafranque of Allumettes Island.

The magic show was a great, great show," said Lair. "It was a last minute edition that was a huge success with the kids."

Sunday afternoon Harrington Hall was filled with children watching McCorriston's every move. The funds raised from the winter carnival will go towards the Chapeau Fair which runs in August.

"We raise money all year but this is one of our bigger fundraisers," said Lair of the carnival which has been running for a number of years.

Other fundraisers throughout the year include card parties and wagon trains.

Lair said the most popular event of the carnival was the dinner and dance.

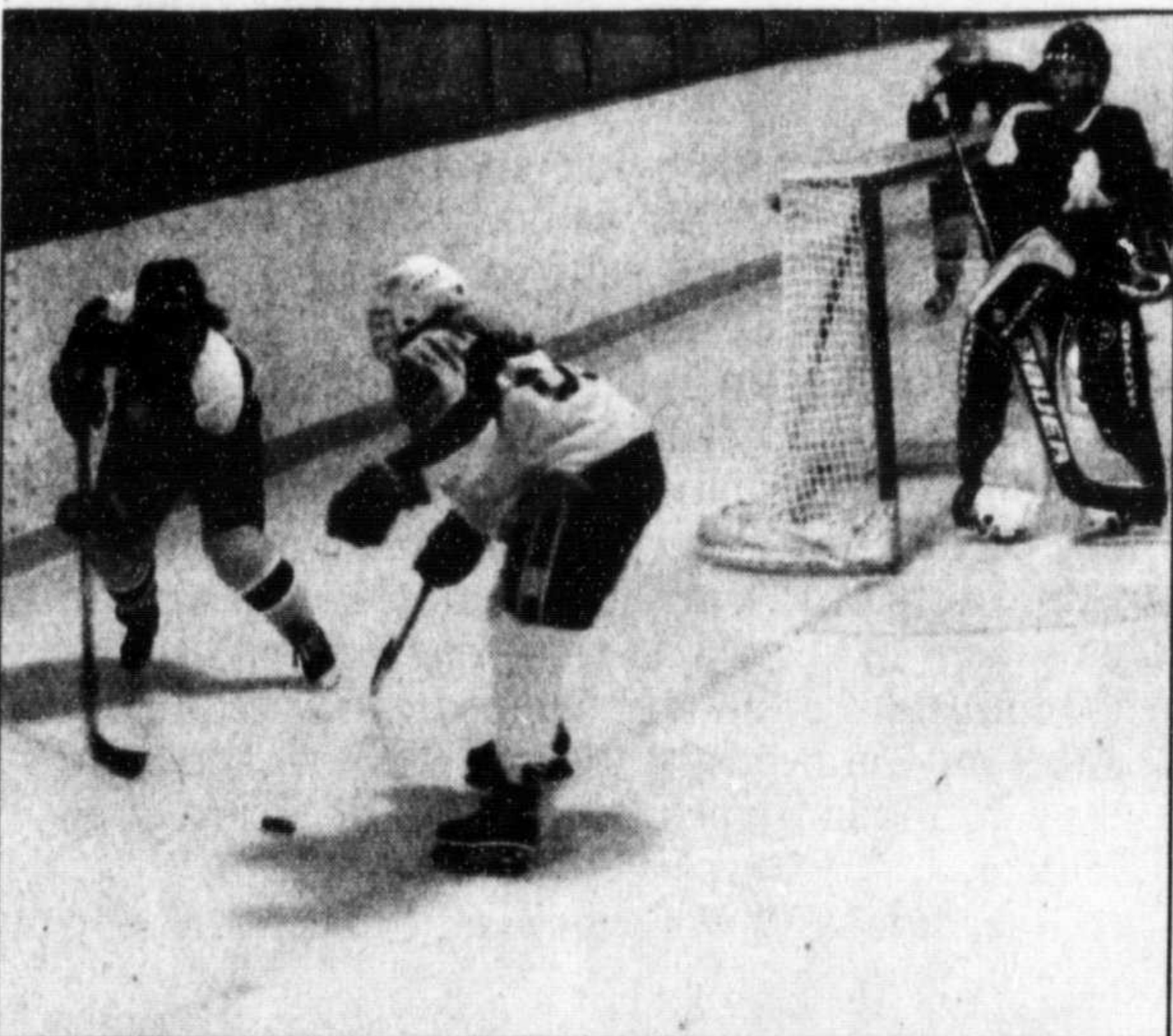
"We had music from the '50s and '60s and it was a sell-out," she said.

The Saturday evening event featured the Star Men (Chris Gardner and friends). As well, the local band contest for the teen dance Friday night was also very popular.

"It was a big new part to an old event," said Lair of having three local bands with members all under the age of 15 play for the teen dance.

The carnival queen, Brittany Gagnon of Chichester, was crowned Friday night for selling the most carnival buttons — a total of \$800.

Sunday wound up the carnival fun with a Lions Club pancake breakfast at Harrington Hall and a kids costume open skate in the sports complex.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

A game of ladies hockey heats up in the Chapeau sports complex during the island's weekend winter carnival.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

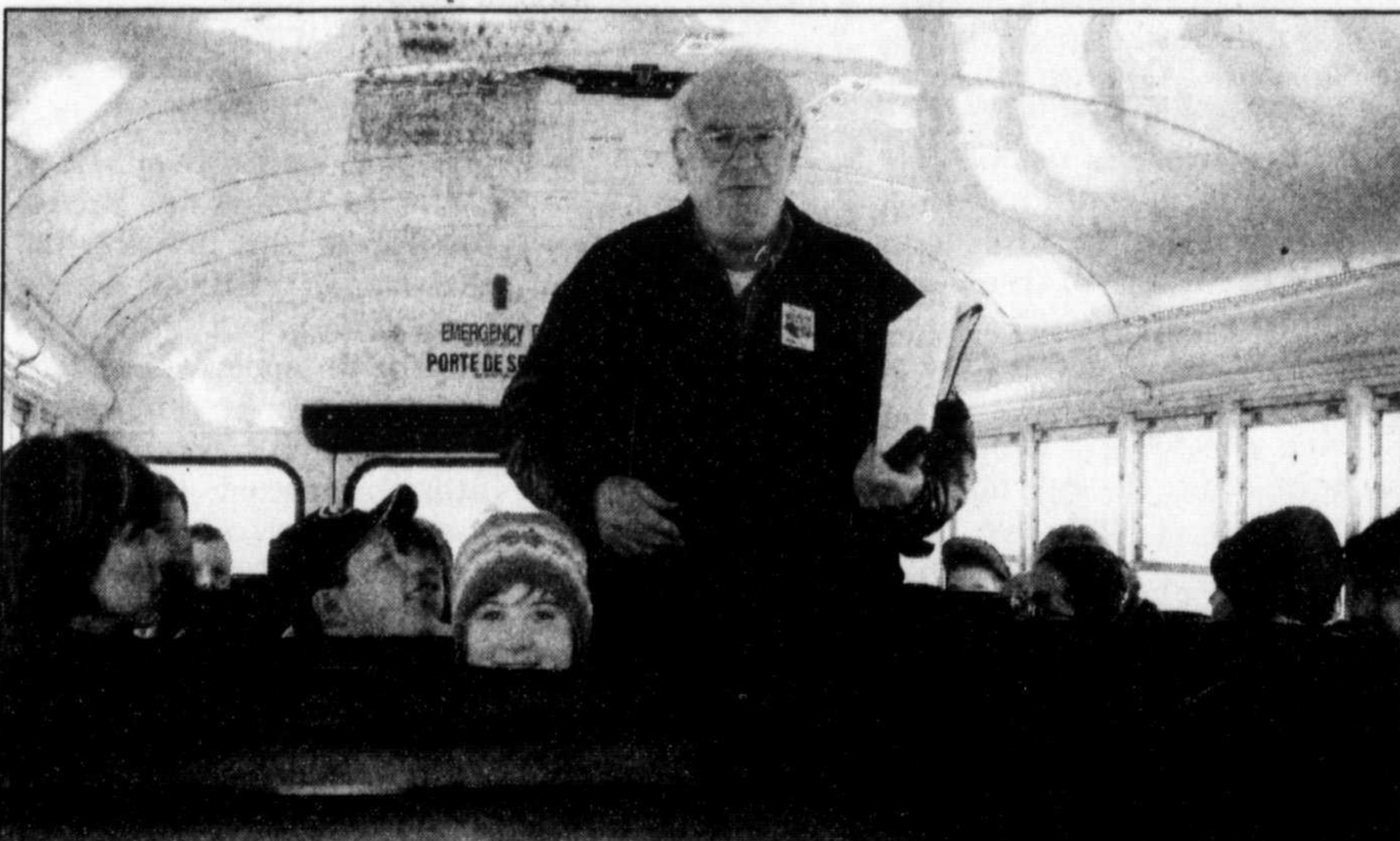
A horse-drawn sleigh driven by Edward O'Brien makes its rounds at the Chapeau fairgrounds Sunday morning.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Dog sled rides were also a popular activity during the Chapeau winter carnival. Proceeds made from the carnival will go towards the Chapeau Fair which runs in August.

School bus safety emphasized in Pontiac



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

School bus driver Gary McKnight goes over safety rules and regulations for students of Debra Greer-Ellison's sixth grade class at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School last week Thursday. The lesson was part of the annual school bus transportation safety campaign.

institution. Drivers reviewed rules and regulations and promoted safety while riding school buses.

"Sometimes the kids take shortcuts like everybody does and that's when accidents happen," said Gary McKnight, a school bus driver from Quyon with 30 years of experience.

The Ministry of Transportation tracks accidents involving buses and, according to Outaouais Ministry of Transportation Communication Director, Michel Marcotte, "the number of incidents (in the Outaouais) is relatively low and, luckily, none had fatal consequences."

In 2004 to 2005, there were a total of 63 incidents.

Two involved serious injury, though neither of those took place in the Pontiac.

Six incidents resulted in minor injury while the remaining 55 involved material damage only.

"It's the safest form of transportation in the world but we're still trying to prevent accidents," said McKnight.

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • In an attempt to promote school bus safety, the Western Quebec School Board has begun its 18th annual School Bus Transportation Safety Campaign.

Drivers may have noticed the campaign's increased awareness this year, with signs posted along Hwy. 148.

Organizers say they are

putting forth greater effort into the 2006 campaign.

The program operates between Jan. 30 and Feb. 10.

"This year we put more of an emphasis on it," said Hervé LaSalle, manager of transportation for WQSB.

"We want to remind motorists, children on the buses and bus drivers to be safe," said LaSalle.

Elementary-aged school children will participate in a

contest where they compete for school-wide awards of the best artistic depiction of transportation safety.

Three winners will be named at each school, divided up by age group, and those selected will then compete on a board-wide level.

Prizes include a bicycle, mp3 player and backpacks. School bus drivers also held safety sessions on their buses with classes at each

Danford Lake carnival 'a fun event for everyone'

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter
DANFORD LAKE • Danford

Lake's annual winter carnival took place on the weekend of Jan. 28, and

attendees were welcomed with lots of old-fashioned fun.

The event, which has been going on "forever," according to Danford Lake Recreation Association Secretary, Lana Merrifield, featured a tea boiling competition, axe-throwing, sleigh rides, and a backhoe rodeo.

"It's a fun event for everyone" said Brenda Chaussé of the R.A.

Another feature of this year's carnival was Dr. Kaboom, a children's entertainer imported from Ottawa for the event.

Kaboom and his sidekick, Shaggy, enthralled the children and adults alike for three hours on Saturday with juggling, tricks and magic at Bethany Hall.

Saturday evening's events also included a performance by the Andi G

Band at Corrigan's Hotel and a midnight box social.

Literacy liberates!
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Cost: \$10.00
Info.: 647-3112
e-mail: walc@nfc.ca

Mickey Creek Golf Club
Vinton, QC 648-2900
Friday and Saturday Supper Buffet
February 10 and 11
5:30 - 9:00 p.m.
\$10.00 person + tax
Reservations Recommended

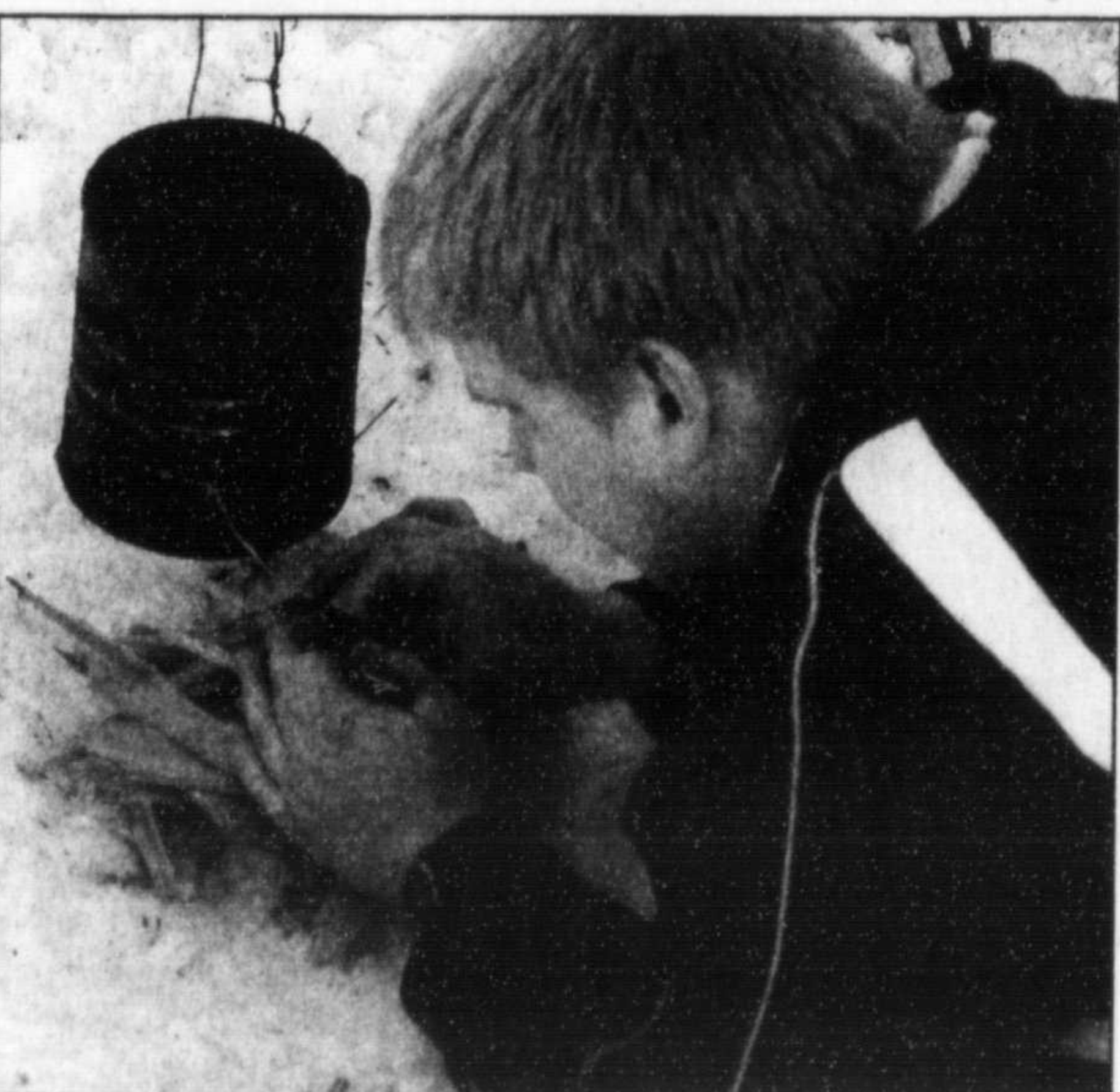
Information Day
Sponsored by Pontiac Women's Institute
Wednesday, February 15
Shawville United Church Hall
9:30 Registration \$7.00 (Includes lunch)
10:00 CLSC - Services available and access
11:00 Introduction to computers - Scott Lemay
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Field Production Manager - Jared Hamilton
Co-owner of Mountainview Turf
2:00 Flower Design Demonstration - Dorothy Morrison
Everyone Welcome

Alpha Course
You are invited to the Introductory Evening
Thursday, February 16, 2006
"Christianity - Boring, irrelevant, untrue?"
Bethel Pentecostal Church
Shawville, Quebec
Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Video: 7:00 p.m.
To register, please contact:
Gord or Lorraine Cave at 647-2314

Hursty's Bar & Grill
368 Main St., Shawville, Que.
Wine & Dine Your Valentine
Saturday, February 11th from 5:00 p.m.
Featuring Garden Salad, succulent Chicken Breast stuffed with Broccoli and Cheddar Cheese mashed potatoes, vegetable and roll, homemade cherry cheesecake, coffee and tea \$11.95
Reservations appreciated 647-2546

YOU ARE ONLY OLD IF YOU ACT OLD!
I AM NOT SAYING MY FATHER WAS ACTING HIS AGE, BUT WHEN HE AND KAREN WERE IN PEURTO VALLARTA, MEXICO IN DECEMBER 2005, HE CREATED QUITE A SPLASH. HERE IS A PICTURE OF DOC PARA-SAILING OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN BEHIND A SPEED BOAT. ROCK ON DAD!
Happy 81st from Mick and Mary Armitage.

Enjoy an intimate dinner at **Café 349**
Sat., Feb. 11 - 7:00 p.m.
Five Course Table d'Hôte
Lounge Music by Touch of Class featuring Simon Clarke
Valentine's Sunday Brunch
Feb. 12 - 11 am to 2 p.m.
Order Chocolate covered Strawberries for someone special
647-6424
www.cafe349.com



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Erik Lacharity of Danford Lake does his best to get his fire started as he competes in the tea boiling competition at the Danford Lake Winter Carnival.



Family and friends travelled to Miramichi, New Brunswick, for the October 8th, 2005 wedding of Jeff Bean and Deborah Riordon. The party started two days earlier and culminated with an eight minute ceremony, followed by a lot of great food and entertainment that lasted until the wee hours of the morning. Many locals were part of the wedding party: Sean Marks, Jeff Walsh, Rob Carmichael, Chad Yach and Shari-Lynn McNulty. Thanks to everyone for making it such a memorable day.

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OUR OPINION

Pontiac prospects

Pontiac MP Lawrence Cannon was sworn in Monday as the minister of transport, infrastructure and communities. Now we have a true spokesperson for the Pontiac.

The appointment, although it was not the hoped-for spot of Deputy Prime Minister, is still an important one. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has left the position open. It's not the first time this has happened, as Joe Clark also left the position unfilled during his short-lived government.

Cannon is one of five Quebec representatives Harper appointed. The cabinet is a western-dominated, 26-member cabinet compared to the 39 that Paul Martin named in 2004.

The prominent cabinet post will keep Cannon on top of issues that affect us in the Pontiac directly. Now we can make sure Cannon builds us a decent and updated transportation system, possibly one with links that will take workers to where the current job base is in Ottawa. Hwy. 148 should be one of Cannon's main priorities. As soon as there is a drivable road for people to access our region, economic benefits will be automatic. It's as simple as someone taking a day trip through our picturesque county, falling in love with an area and deciding to move or retire here. That won't happen if people's bones are rattled when they pass the four lanes in Luskville. Pontiacers are already at the starting gate with projects that could move forward with a nudge in the right direction. Bristol has beautiful riverfront property waiting to be developed and entrepreneurs have ideas for museums that can be built to attract

tourists.

Although roads are a provincial mandate, he can encourage project ideas and move funding in the right direction. A project that is in federal jurisdiction is the creation of an inter-provincial bridge, an initiative that is being proposed in the Gatineau-Ottawa area that if built on the west side, could greatly increase traffic into our region.

His experience is valid. While a councillor for the City of Gatineau, he became chairman of the Outaouais Urban Transit Corporation (STO) in 2001. He already knows the ins and outs of a transportation system in our region and can bring it to work for the riding.

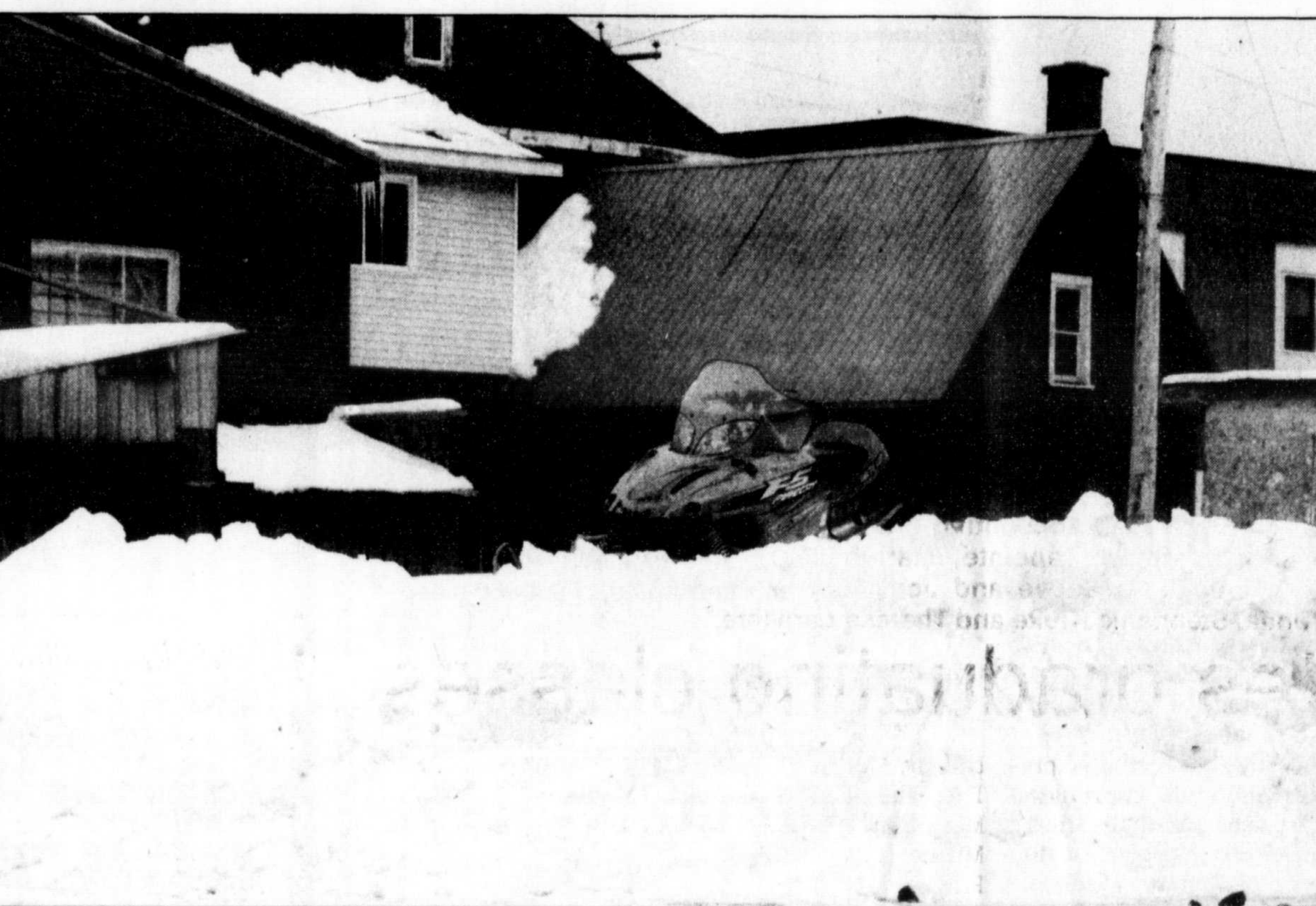
The good news is that he will still have time for his constituents, and not get lost in the duties of a deputy PM. Our MP needs to constantly be available to his constituents in order to keep up positive relationships.

Although it would appear that Cannon's prospects of being declared the country's deputy prime minister sounded great during his campaign, and the label was sure to encourage federalists to shift their vote for an MP with such a prominent position, this news of his new portfolio is beneficial to us.

Never before has this riding been led by a cabinet member. Once Liberal Tom Lefebvre, who was elected in 1965 and served six terms, was appointed to the Senate in 1984. This opens an important page of history for us, one that will hopefully draw us closer to a brighter economic future.

LM

Park job



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

YOUR OPINION

First step has been taken

Dear Editor,

The election is over, and hopefully when this letter is printed, we will have a federal cabinet minister representing Pontiac.

I would like to thank all those federalist voters who voted with their heads and elected the Conservative candidate. To those who voted for the other federalist parties, I hope that the new member will try to keep your voices in mind during the coming months. To those who voted Bloc ... well my thoughts to you can't be printed.

Speaking of the Bloc, the racist separatists showed their colours yet again. Duceppe, demanding more French language across Canada, stated that he does not agree with bilingualism in Quebec. He tried fear mongering when the Conservatives were gaining ground, saying Quebec would be ruled by Calgary and Toronto. The majority of Quebecers (58 per cent) didn't agree with or believe that tripe. The results spoke for themselves.

In the Jan. 18 issue of THE EQUITY leading up to the election, the candidates were interviewed. Christine Édmond Lapointe, claimed she had the experience and capability to represent the people of this riding at the federal level. I beg to differ. While I cannot speak for everyone, no separatist candidate at any level could ever represent my interests. I vehemently resent the implication and am sure that many other federalist voters in the riding would agree. For the first time in 27 years we have a prime minister not born in Quebec. I am certain that Mr. Harper will be sensitive to the unique needs of Quebec while dealing with the regional concerns of the rest of Canada, hopefully making the entire country stronger and more prosperous.

The first step has been taken. We should all work together to keep the steps going in the right direction.

Terry Elliott
 Clarendon

New recycling depots in Shawville

Dear Editor,

The Blue Box program is working well in Shawville. The new list with all the items that can be recycled is very informative. Three items not included in the Blue Box program are batteries, computers and paint cans. These contain many toxic substances that are leached from the landfill into the water table and finally enter the food chain via plants and animals. Some of these substances are mercury, cadmium, lead, zinc, nickel, and arsenic. Batteries and computers can be taken by you, the local residents, to the local Shawville dump where they are sorted and picked up by CFER, a Gatineau company that does recycling.

If you do not wish to go to the dump yourself, the corner store Renaissance Variety at the stop lights has agreed to be a depot for household batteries. A member of PEP, Pontiac Environment Protection, will deliver the batteries to the dump for pick up by CFER. Jason Yereck at Renaissance Variety restores old computers for sale in his store. The parts he cannot use, he distributes to the proper places for recycling.

Canadian Tire will pay for old car batteries, but only if you are buying a new one.

You can take paint cans with or without paint to the Clarendon dump on the 8th Line.

Watch for more tips on how we can protect our environment. Plans for more complete lists of recycling are in the works.

Venetia Crawford
 Shawville



25 Years Ago

February 11, 1981

FAIR BOARD EXECUTIVE ELECTED: The Shawville Fair Board and District of Pontiac Fair Board met in the Shawville Agricultural Hall on Wednesday to elect their executives and name the various committee directors and chairmen for the 1981 edition of the Shawville Fair. Nellis Stewart was re-elected president and Ken Kilgour, 1st vice president, John Langford was elected to the position of 2nd vice president. Everett McDowell was re-hired as secretary-treasurer. Elwood Eady and Dawson MacMillan were chosen as associate directors. Technical advisor to the Shawville Fair Board for 1981 are Doug MacMillan and George Pirie. Other committee directors were: Lee Hodgins, George Knox, Pat Corrigal, Harry Dale, Allan Ludlow, George Coles, Elwyn Lang, John Tracy, Ralph Bretzlaff, Eleanor Rennick, John Langford, David Rusenstrom, Francis McDermott, Heather Dickson, George Coles, John Grant, Elwood Eady, Clive Smart and Brian Drummond.

ANTI UPA PETITION:

Thirty-two Pontiac farmers signed a petition last Thursday expressing their dissatisfaction with the UPA, the Agricultural Producers Union. The petition was drafted at a meeting held at the Vinton Parish Hall for the many local farmers who do not wish to pay dues to the UPA.

1156 WOULD CHOOSE TO JOIN ONTARIO: Of the 1,844 replies received thus far to the Opinion Poll on the future of Pontiac County, 1,156 people chose Ontario, 564 chose a Federal District, and 124 chose to stay in Quebec. The Opinion Poll is being used as a means to discover how much support there would be for a movement to remove Pontiac County from the Province of Quebec. Alternatives proposed by the organizers of the Opinion Poll were to try to make Pontiac County a part of Ontario, based on the long-standing close relationship with the other half of the Ottawa Valley, or to make Pontiac part of a proposed Federal District to ensure the continued bilingual nature of this County.

50 Years Ago

February 9, 1956

SEEK TO HARNESS COULONGE CHUTE FOR ELECTRIC POWER: A group of local and district citizens will meet with Quebec Hydraulic Resources Minister J S Bourque to go into the matter of development of electrical energy at Coulonge Chute on the Coulonge River, about four and a half miles from Fort Coulonge.

FIRE DESTROYS HOME OF CECIL McARA: Fire of unknown origin Sunday destroyed a frame bungalow owned by Cecile McARA and occupied by the McARA family. The blaze broke out in an unused room, it was reported and spread quickly, forcing the family out before there was time to remove personal belongings and furnishing. The Quyon Fire Department raced the six miles but on their arrival the building was completely enveloped in flames. They kept the flames from spreading to the McARA farm buildings.

75 Years Ago

February 5, 1931

LOCAL NEWS: The J M L'Argue and the Hodgins Lumber Co saw mills began operations last week with a good supply of logs of divers kinds on hand and still coming. Surprising how the supply hangs out in a district supposedly cleared of timber years ago.

Another of the Great Northern "snowy" owl was shot by Clarence Carson on Saturday morning and like the one previously mentioned a few weeks ago, the wing measurement is 5 feet 3 inches. A local authority on bird lore - who by the way has published some what of the nocturnal predatory of the owl say these huge birds come down from the North every 25 years.

BORN: At Campbell's Bay on Jan 28th to Mr and Mrs David Lunam, a son David Henry.

DEATHS: We join with other friends in this community in extending sympathy to Mrs Cynthia Draper in the death of her sister Mrs J S C Elliott, which occurred on Jan. 27.

THE EQUITY regrets to report the death on Saturday evening last, at his

residence in town of Mr Andrew McKnight, following a brief illness from pneumonia.

100 Years Ago

February 8, 1906

LOCAL NEWS: Councillor Fred Thomas was elected mayor of the township of Clarendon at Monday's meeting.

The appearance of wheeled rigs on our streets last week, in consequence of the protracted thaw was rather more common than runners, and the unseasonable change had certainly a demoralizing effect upon business, which at the beginning of January was very satisfactory.

On Monday evening a team of horses belonging to Mr Thos Moran were drowned on the Quebec side of the Ottawa opposite Sandy Hook. With a sleigh loaded with wood the animals broke through the ice and before assistance could arrive were under the surface. The next day grappling irons were used and the harness and sleigh recovered. The horses were valuable, having cost over \$300 a short time ago.

Thursday night last was the coldest that has been this season, there was no doubt of that; but we are a little in doubt as to just how far Old Probs succeeded in jamming the mercury down. Our own thermometer having been blown up by the "Devil" a few years ago, we had of necessity to seek information elsewhere. The fire one accosted - a frank-faced, good-looking chap with a curly head - avowed that when he reached the big store door, he noticed the instrument there indicated 28 below. The name man we struck said: "Damned cold, eh, John? 26 below this morning." Then we sought Jimmie, who remarked that while he had not taken time to inspect the glass, he was convinced of the unusual severity of the cold by the fact that his mustache was laden with icicles when he reached the shop door at 8 a.m. Then we heard from Dr Klock, who keeps the daddy of 'em all. The doctor said it was just 28, and of course that settled it. But after all what is there to make a fuss about, when we read of the mercury falling to 80 below in the Yukon, and horses having their lungs actually frozen within their bodies! 28 below? Pooh!

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Shamanic tradition: Morrisseau's art a first at National Gallery

Do not miss the exhibit entitled Norval Morrisseau - Shaman Artist now showing at the National Gallery of Canada (Feb. 3 to April 30). This is an historic show: it marks the first time the National Gallery has shown an individual First Nation's artist's work - a fact that astonished me considering it is 2006.



Katharine Fletcher

powerful demi-god of the water. A large cat-like animal with horns and a crested back, it was said to live deep underwater. Because it had the power to create dangerous whirlpools by whirling its tail, offerings of tobacco and gifts were placed on the shore to ensure a safe passage through the waterways.

I first heard of Misshepeshu from Jim Coffey, owner-operator of Esprit Rafting in Davidson in 1998 while researching *Quebec Off the Beaten Path*. Coffey had spun tales of this fearful spirit, and so it made sense to me that he and his white-water rafting guides wore Misshepeshu-inspired necklaces as lucky totems while they hurtled through the rapids.

At the National Gallery I was astonished and delighted to realize Morrisseau had created the original of Coffey's Misshepeshu print. And now I wonder whether the cat-like spirit gave Chat's Falls its name.

Powerful symbols
 Morrisseau's early art depicts many such powerful symbols, beings which were originally inspired by his grandfather's stories of Anishnaabe legends. Later, the artist journeyed on personal quests to places such as Agawa Canyon where he examined pictographs drawn by ancient peoples on the rock face.

Here at the National Gallery exhibit we follow his lead into a world peopled by shamans, wild creatures, and mythological beings. We also meet Indian Jesus Christ and a native Virgin Mary. Images that rocked the Toronto-centric Canadian art world back in the 1960s. But more than brown Christ and Virgin figures would intrigue that art world.

Last Friday, I met Tom Hill (former director of the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brampton, Ontario). He led a gallery talk,

interpreting the symbolism of Morrisseau's work, life, and the politics surrounding his paintings to over 50 intrigued visitors. Hill explained how Morrisseau's painting, *The Gift*, affected the artist's Toronto-based promoter, gallery owner Jack Pollock - and the perceptive world of art patrons. "The painting depicts an Ojibwa and his son accepting Christianity from a Jesuit. But the dots on the three (people) are smallpox. Pollock thought it was too controversial to show, but Norval insisted. As soon as she saw it, collector Helen Brand bought it and decided to collect Morrisseau's Woodland Movement works."

Exhibit curator Greg A. Hill (no relation to Tom) also addresses Morrisseau's use of symbols and use of "x-ray style" whereby the "innards" of his subjects are also symbolically depicted. In his essay in the exhibition catalogue, Hill writes, "Morrisseau's mission was to share the traditions of his people to strengthen their pride and to show non-Aboriginals what he considered to be the most valuable aspects of his Anishnaabe culture."

Bold politics
 Morrisseau's art remains politically provocative and reminds us to honour our past and culture. The Indian Act of 1884 banned Potlaches, West Coast gatherings where spirituality, dancing, gift-sharing and feasting were celebrated among clans. Practitioners of potlatch and other customs could be jailed. Writes Hill, "While the Act underwent major revisions in 1951 and minor revisions since, the paternalistic nature of the legislation persists."

After Tom Hill's gallery talk I asked him why Morrisseau's artworks remain so politically controversial. "It is because of the Indian Act. On the reserves, we were encouraged to do crafts because we could sell them and perhaps get off welfare. But art? That's different. Art is intellectual. It was actively discouraged."

The government designed the Act to deliver a mortal blow to Indian culture, whether it was a West Coast potlatch or Anishnaabe spirit quest. Through residential schools, Christianity, and other European-based initiatives, the government aimed to eradicate native peoples' culture, power base, spirituality and sense of self. Happily, thanks to people such as Morrisseau, this attempt has failed. Morrisseau and others have given all of us a gift: an opportunity to recognize the intricacy and multi-layered ingenuity of a culture that could easily have been forever lost.

Contact: www.national.gallery.ca; tel: 613-990-1985 or toll-free 1-888-318-ARTS.

Katharine Fletcher is a Quyon-based writer, editor and published author. Contact her at chesley@all-stream.net

Correction

A photo titled "Risky rescue" on page one of the Feb. 1 issue failed to mention that the Otter Lake Fire Department extracted the women trapped in her vehicle.

Letters to the Editor

THE EQUITY welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. The editor reserves the right to edit letters to meet space requirements, for clarity, or to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. E-mail letters are accepted at news@theequity.ca and must bear the complete name, address and daytime phone number of the writer. The address and phone number will not be printed. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the editorial policies of THE EQUITY.

Oh, what fun it is to ride

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Riding behind six huskies pulling him on a sled, Sylvain Drapeau gives a simple instruction.

"Haw!" he declares, and the dogs veer right, looking more like they're having fun, not pulling two people and a sled behind them.

Drapeau and his wife, Caroline Desrosiers, own 13 huskies in all and two years ago began a business, Escapade Eskimo, offering groups rides in a sled being pulled by the animals.

"It's a young team," said Drapeau, as he continuously

is forced to untangle the dogs as they try to play with each other while in their reins.

Drapeau and Desrosiers have owned huskies for four years, and decided it could be fun and profitable to turn them into an enterprise.

"It's to give people a chance to do the ride."

On Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Shawville Village Inn, the route is a short one, about 400 metres in an oval.

With a simple command — "En Avant!" — the six dogs lurch forward suddenly.

Standing on a platform

attached to the sled, Drapeau issues the next command, "Haw!"

"Sometimes they get bored of doing the same circle over and over again, so they try to go off somewhere else. I have to make them go the right way."

Drapeau explains that the commands are similar to those given to horses, but his job can be considered more difficult because he does not use reins in conjunction with commands.

"If they don't listen to me, then they'll go everywhere. I only have my voice," said

Drapeau.

Despite their well-trained dogs, Drapeau and Desrosiers have no interest in racing them.

In famous races like the Iditarod in Alaska, huskies are cross-bred with greyhounds.

The two types are mixed because of the husky's endurance and ability to withstand cold, along with the greyhound's speed.

"This is just for fun," said Drapeau.

Training the dogs is an arduous process.

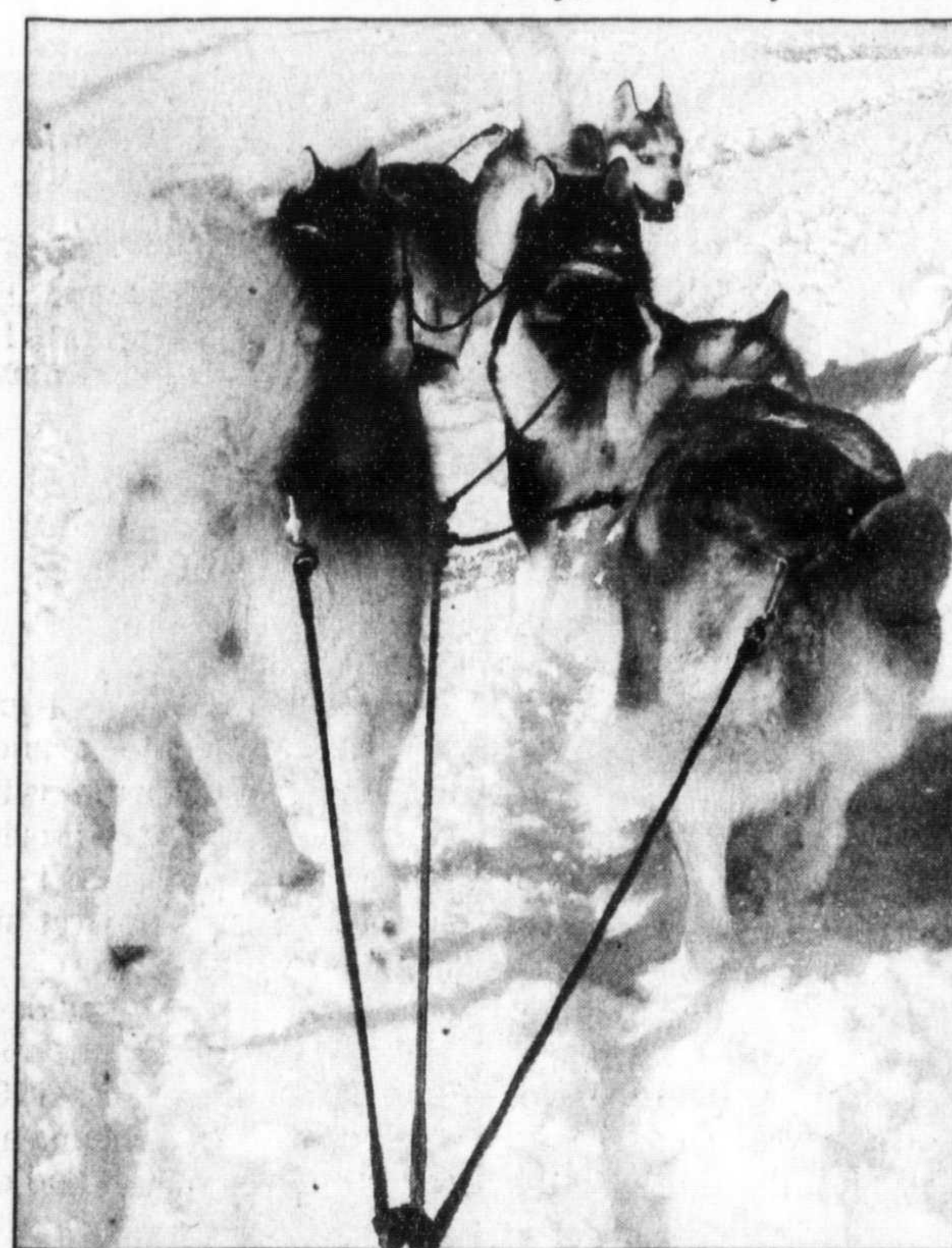
The husband and wife team begins teaching them the basics at four months but it's not until the dogs are about three years old that they're considered to be strong sled dogs.

"It's hard (to train them) at first, but it's easier (in the long run) when they're young because they get along better," said Drapeau.

"If you bring them into the team as adults they may not get along as well."

Riders enjoyed the adventure.

"Yeah, it's a lot of fun," said Peter Nyman, head coach of the visiting Florida Hurricanes hockey team who participated in the Shawville Midget Hockey Tournament last week.



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

A slew of eight husky dogs pull along the sled around the track at Shawville Village Inn. Owner Sylvain Drapeau and wife, Caroline Desrosiers, own 13 huskies in all, and train them to become recreational sled dogs.

His entire team received the opportunity to ride the dog sled.

"I've never done it before, and the kids seem to like it."

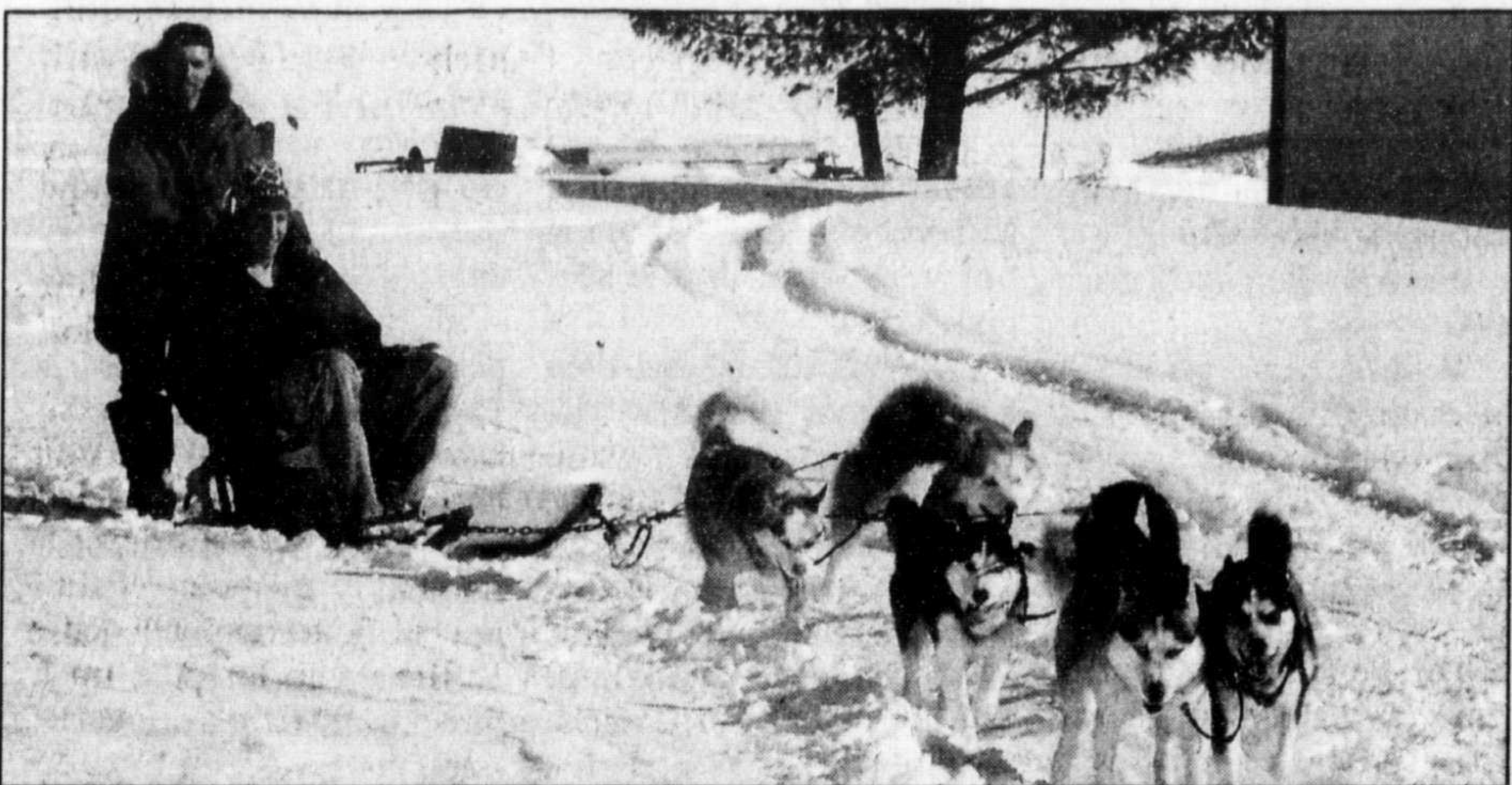
Drapeau said the demand for his dogs is largely dictated by the weather.

"Right now, it's been

kind of warm," said Drapeau.

"But the entire month of February we are booked every weekend."

Interested sled-riders are encouraged to visit the Escapade Eskimo website at www.escapade-eskimo.com to learn more about the service.



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Coming around the final turn, Sylvain Drapeau prepares to give his huskies the command to stop. The dogs are trained from as young as four months old and develop a rapport with each other while still puppies.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Secretarial Studies grads included Susie Bolduc, Sherry Henderson, Melissa Hewitson, Shannon Johnston, Marion Mayhew, Enjolie Provost, Mandy Renaud, Megan Roy and Janet Wiggins. Missing from photo: Tammy Ladouceur, Scott McCagg and Valerie Robitaille.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Accounting and Secretarial Studies classes from the Pontiac Business Centre of the Western Quebec School board graduated Saturday night at the Bristol Town Hall. Accounting grads included Vera-Lyn Campbell, Melinda Lafleur, Matthew Lapointe, Marjolaine Lepine, Nick Murdock, Amanda Pritchard, Chris Sauve and Jody Villeneuve. Missing from photo: Mavis Hanna, Stephanie Kluge and Theresa Lariviere.

Business Centre celebrates graduating classes

BRISTOL • The graduating classes of Pontiac Business Centre's Accounting and Secretarial Studies celebrated at a dinner and dance Saturday night.

Held at the Bristol Town Hall, 23 graduates received certificates from the

Western Quebec School Board.

Amanda Pritchard and Nick Murdock received the Western Quebec Continuing Education award in the form of a watch for having the highest standing in Accounting.

Enjolie Provost received the award in Secretarial Studies.

Marjolaine Lepine of Accounting and Megan Roy of Secretarial Studies received the prize for most faithful attendance. The Joyce Newberry

Memorial plaque was presented to Marjolaine Lepine and Sherry Henderson for their distinction.

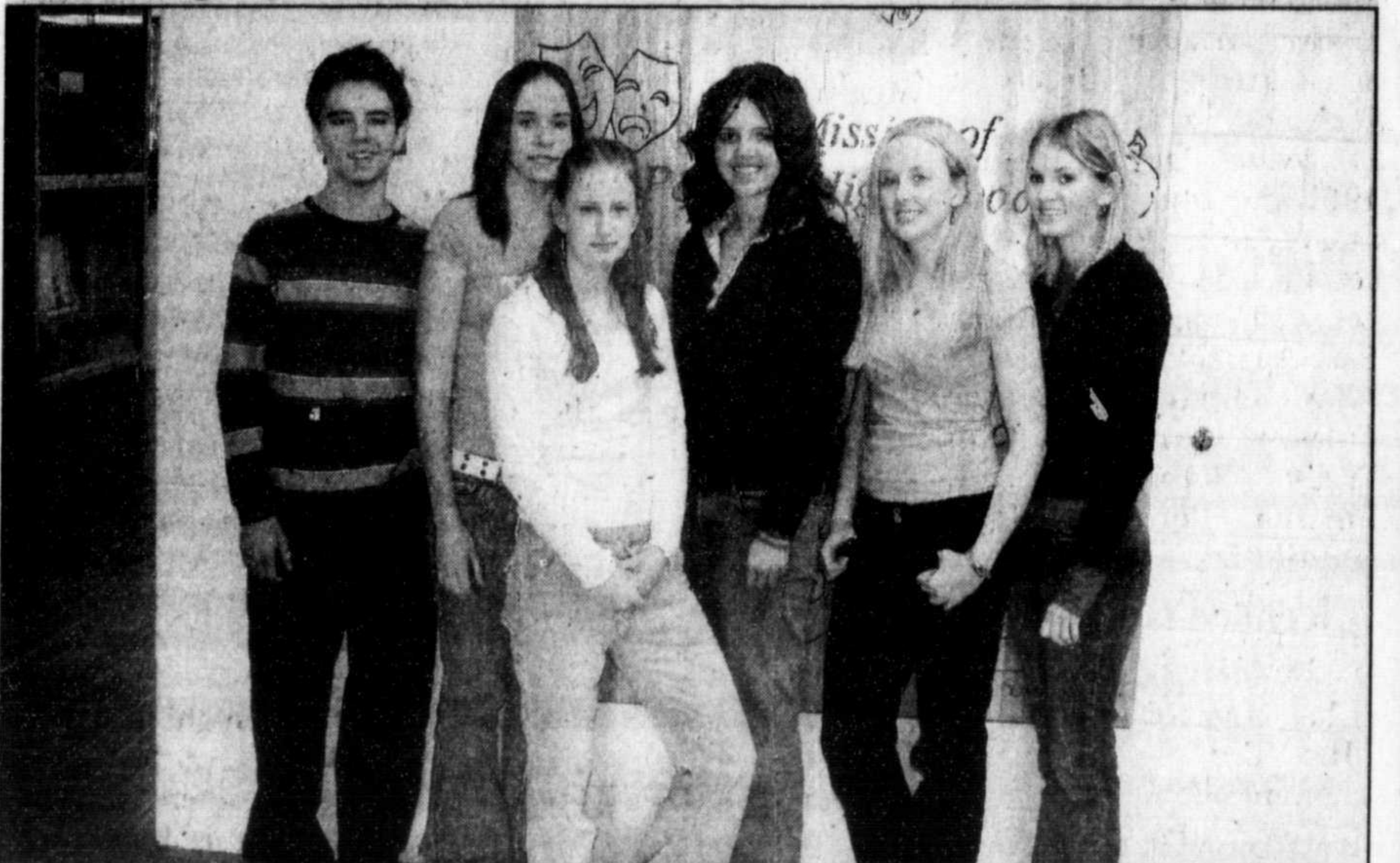
Accounting graduates included Vera-Lyn Campbell, Mavis Hanna, Stephanie Kluge, Melinda

Lafleur, Matthew Lapointe, Theresa Lariviere, Marjolaine Lepine, Nick Murdock, Amanda Pritchard, Chris Sauve and Jody Villeneuve.

Secretarial Studies graduates included Susie Bolduc, Sherry

Henderson, Melissa Hewitson, Shannon Johnston, Tammy Ladouceur, Marion Mayhew, Scott McCagg, Enjolie Provost, Mandy Renaud, Valerie Robitaille, Megan Roy and Janet Wiggins.

Winning speakers



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Senior winners, from the left: Joey Derouin, Grade 9, honourable mention; Courtney Tracey, Grade 9, honourable mention; Katie Dolan, Grade 10, honourable mention; Kyle Beck, Grade 10, second place; Morgan Welburn, Grade 11, first place; Katie Robinson, Grade 11, third place. Welburn received a \$100 cheque for her win. Prizes were sponsored by Pontiac Refrigeration and Appliance Services.



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Pontiac High School students competed in a public speaking competition, and the winners from each class participated in a school-wide contest. Junior winners from the left: Ty Harrison, Grade 7, honourable mention; Josh Greenshields, Grade 7, honourable mention; Tyler Toupin, Grade 7, second place; Jessica Chevrier, Grade 8, third place; Brooke Welburn, Grade 7, first place. Welburn received a \$50 cheque for her win.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Square dancers take advantage of the dance floor at the Otter Lake RA during the third annual St. Valentine's dinner and dance hosted by the Otter Lake Golden Age Club. The event raised over \$500 for the heart institute.

Cupid's arrow hits Otter Lake

LEAH MILLER

Equity Editor

OTTER LAKE • While square dancing and socializing with old friends, the Otter Lake Golden Age Club raised money for good cause.

A total of \$520 was raised for the Heart Institute from the club's third annual St. Valentine's Dinner and Dance held Saturday night at the Otter Lake RA.

"Every year we help a different charity," said club secretary-treasurer Pierrette Graveline.

Of that total, close to \$300 was collected over the past year from donations of euche winnings each week.

The roast beef dinner was open to guests over the age

of 50 only.

"We set 243 and it was packed," said Graveline, adding the club had to turn away people that night because the dinner was so full.

Two representatives of the institute were scheduled to accept the cheque that evening, but due to inclement weather couldn't make it.

Richard and Denise Dubois provided the music while square dancing was called.

"We thought Otter Lake should be known for an event like Oktoberfest is in Ladysmith," said Graveline. "We decided to stick with our own age group and that's

how it started. It grew from there."

Danse Valentine Day Adult Dance

Samedi le 11 février 2006 Saturday, February 11 9:00 p.m.

Centre R.A. Centre, Campbell's Bay, QC

Musique/Music: STREAMER (Local town band)

Levée de fonds pour le parc Lunam/ Proceeds: Lunam Park

Goûter léger/Light Lunch 10,00\$ billet/ticket

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Open Tuesday at 4:00 pm February 14

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647-5303

Bryson Fire Department

First annual

Valentine's Dance

February 11, 2006 at 8:00 p.m.

at Forest Inn, Bryson

Draw for 27" colour TV (must be present to win)

\$10 single \$15 couple

FREE LOADERS ROCK AT DANFORD LAKE

FEB. 11, '06 - 9 PM

Auberge du Village Shawville Village Inn

921 Route 148, Shawville, QC (819) 647-6464

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 11 - Celebrate Valentine's with your Sweetheart

Mar. 4 - Hip of Beef Buffet to celebrate our 4th Year!

High Tea Tuesdays 2-4 pm (reservations required)

Fondue Fridays (reservations required)

Cooking Classes - call for information

Kids' Birthday Parties

Full Menu available for Take Out

Catering - to suit your budget

Recipes For Romance R. V. I.

Norway Bay, Quebec

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Saturday, February 11, 2006 and Tuesday, February 14, 2006 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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Pontiacs head into playoffs with pair of wins

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • The Shawville Pontiacs Junior 'B' Hockey Club will storm the playoffs riding a wave of momentum after dumping the last place Arnprior Packers in the back-to-back games on the weekend by scores of 4-2 and 8-5.

With the grinding regular schedule at a halt, the season that matters now begins, as the Pontiacs, winners of seven of their last nine, began a best-of-seven series against the Renfrew Timberwolves on Tuesday evening.

The Pontiacs finished the season with a 17-21-1 record, fifth place in the six-team Valley division.

One scheduled game against Perth was postponed two weeks ago and will not be made up as its result would have no bearing on playoff positioning.

Pontiacs	4
Arnprior	2

On Friday, the Pontiacs entered the weekend knowing they still had a chance to move up into fourth place if Stittsville lost both of their remaining games and Shawville won out.

The Pontiacs were puffed by their power play success, as the team managed a rare feat, scoring thrice with a man advantage.

For the season, Shawville's power play executed only 9.1 per cent of the time.

Arnprior had won two consecutive games going in to the weekend, their longest winning streak of the season, and looked to continue the run early as they put themselves up 1-0 in the first period with a power play goal.

The Pontiacs answered back in the second frame, however, with two goals

scored while a man up. First, Ryan Rees scored, and he was followed four minutes later by Cody Coughlin.

Jordan MacDougall assisted on both goals, while Bryan Kealey and David Fenn each helped with one.

Pontiacs	8
Arnprior	5

Tied at two heading into the final period, the Pontiacs knew that a strong effort would be required to come out with the win in their final regular season home game.

Jorge Ehlers responded, scoring the team's third power play goal of the game only 1:52 into the period.

Much later with the Packers pressing for a goal, Kevin Cuddihy notched the unassisted clincher to give the Pontiacs the 4-2 victory. Sunday's 8-5 victory over Arnprior was notable for MacDougall's hat trick in his final regular season game in a Pontiacs uniform.

Despite the pair of wins, Stittsville tied one of their weekend contests, guaranteeing Shawville a fifth-place finish.

Renfrew awaits
Head Coach Pierre Legacé said his team was indifferent as to who their opponent would be for the first round of the playoffs.

"We didn't really care the way we've been playing," said Legacé.

"We're very confident about what we can bring," Legacé said his strategy will not change for the playoffs, since "everything we wanted to implement we did when we first came in."

So what does he expect from Renfrew?

"They've got great forwards but we can match that," said Legacé.

"They're also well

coached." Game one was scheduled for Tuesday night. Game two is in Shawville on Friday at 8 p.m.

MacDougall MVP
To cap off what has been a tremendous four-year career, MacDougall was named the league's MVP at the league banquet last week.

While this year MacDougall missed eight of the Pontiacs' 39 games because of injuries and a suspension, the forward still racked up 26 goals and 12 assists.

Likely, the award was given to him not for his play in this particular season, but for his fantastic scoring ability overall for the past four years.

MacDougall was unavailable for comment before press time.

However, his coach, Pierre Legacé, had kind words for his captain.

"He's a thrill to watch and a great kid to coach," said Legacé.

"It's really too bad, a guy like Jordan is the type of player I'd love to be able to count on next year if I'm coaching here next year."

Matt Collins, defender for the Pontiacs was also awarded the defenseman of the year in the Valley division. He is currently away on vacation.



Provided by Cathy Young

Pontiacs forward Jordan MacDougall was awarded the league MVP honour at the Eastern Ontario Junior 'B' Hockey League banquet on Saturday. MacDougall had 26 goals and 12 assists in 31 games played this year.

Team	W	L	T	OTL	P
Perth	25	8	3	3	56
Renfrew	20	18	0	2	42
Carleton Place*	19	17	2	2	42
Stittsville	16	18	4	2	38
Shawville	17	21	1	0	35
Arnprior	5	33	2	0	12

*Carleton Place was deducted five points for illegally using a suspended player.
 First round playoff matchups (best-of-seven):
 Perth (1) vs. Arnprior (6)
 Renfrew (2) vs. Shawville (5)
 Carleton Place (3) vs. Stittsville (4)
 Second round
 Three winners move on. Top remaining seed is given a bye and lower two seeds play each other in a best-of-seven series.

Shawville Pontiacs vs. Renfrew Timberwolves

Fact Sheet

Season series: Renfrew won four games to two
 Last meeting: Renfrew 5, Pontiacs 2 on Jan. 15

Last 10 games:

Leading scorer:
 Best goalie (GAA):
 Top rookie:
 Penalties:
 Power play success rate:
 Penalty killing:
 Home record:
 Away record:

Shawville
 7-3-0
 Jordan MacDougall (26 g, 12 a)
 Adam Loback (3.29)
 Marc Maurice (10 g, 20 a)
 40.8 minutes per game
 9.1 per cent
 83.3 per cent
 12-8-0
 5-13-1

Renfrew
 7-3-0
 Kurtis Godin (23 g, 29 a)
 Shane Henderson (3.38)
 Luke Mohs (7 g, 6 a)
 28.3 minutes per game
 9.6 per cent
 84.6 per cent
 12-8-0
 8-12-0

Pontiac Stars win for CHEO

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
SHAWVILLE • In the spirit of both a good cause and the game of hockey, the Pontiac Stars brought home the win Saturday night during a CHEO fundraiser hockey game.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

In the charity game's third year, the local Pontiac Stars team took on Chevy West from Ottawa. Pontiac won the game 2-1 in a shoot-out.

Although the game was high-calibre and winning was top priority, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario came out on top.

The fundraiser game, through admission and draws, raised a total of \$1,175.

"We raised more than last year," game organizer Mark Stanton of Shawville.

Last year the event raised \$800.

"We had more people at the game this year but less private donations."

Stanton will run other smaller fundraisers over the next few months until Y101 radio holds its radiothon for CHEO in June.

"I don't give the money to CHEO right away, I do a bit

Chevy West took on the Pontiac Stars in a hockey game held Saturday night at the arena in Shawville. The third annual fundraiser raised over \$1,100 in donations that will be given to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

Stanton plays regularly in a local recreation league. Both teams had players aged 21 to 36.

"They move pretty quick," said Stanton. "It gets intense and nobody wants to lose — there were a couple of players who didn't make it and they would have won if they did."

At the end of the third period the teams were tied 7-7, leading into one round of five players each in the shoot-out.

"It was really good," said Stanton of the game. "Every year we get more interest."

Stanton said he will be looking into running the event again next year.

Original 6 Hockey League

Team	W	L	T	OTL	P	GF	GA
Rangers	4	2	0	0	8	27	19
Canadiens	4	2	0	0	8	24	23
Leafs	3	3	0	1	7	29	29
Bruins	3	2	0	0	6	30	28
Black Hawks	2	4	0	0	4	20	25
Red Wings	2	4	0	0	4	23	29

Sunday, January 29

Metro Canadiens 8, Mega Dollar Bruins 4
 Canadiens: Dan Dube, 4 goals, 1 assist; Marc Bourque, 2g, 1a
 Bruins: Justin Presley, 1 goal, 2 assists; Stephane Mousseau, 1g, 1a
 Shots on Goal: Canadiens 25, Bruins 15
Proprio Rangers 4, Draveur Red Wings 3
 Rangers: Louis Soucie, 3 goals; Fern Mousseau, 1 goal
 Red Wings: Michel Danis, 2 goals; Sylvain LeGuerrier, 1 goal
 Shots on Goal: Red Wings 25, Rangers 24
Francoeur Leafs 5, Bowers Black Hawks 4
 Leafs: Martin Danis, 2 goals, 2 assists; Eldon Boisvert, 1g, 2a
 Black Hawks: Martin Dube, 2 goals; Louis-Phillipe Carle, 1g
 Shots on Goal: Hawks 22, Leafs 18

Allen rink off to slow start at provincial curling championships

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
SEPT-ÎLES • Shawville's Allen rink, representing the Outaouais at the Provincial Men's Curling Championship in Sept-Îles this week, have had a rough start in their first two games.

Teams from across Quebec arrived Sunday to practice a few hours on the sheets before attending the team meeting. Shawville is represented by skip Steve Allen, third Gary Harris, second Ricky Lee Allen and lead Dave Draper.

Monday the Allen rink played the Gagné rink from Longue Pointe, made up of

skip François Gagné, third Jean-Pierre Venne, second Daniel Grégoire, lead Martin Brosseau and fifth Christian Bouchard.

Gagné	8
Ricky Lee Allen	7

The game started with Gagné winning the first point in the first end. But the Allen rink put the pressure on, scoring four points in the next three ends. The fifth end, where the Gagné rink won three points, was the bump in the road the Allen rink just couldn't get over, ending their first provincial game losing 8-7

later 10 ends.

Later that afternoon facing the Tardif rink of Rimouski, made up of skip George Tardif, third Alain Leblond, second Bernard St-Laurent and lead Dominique Gilbert, the Allen boys got the head start winning the first point in the first end.

Tardif	8
Ricky Lee Allen	6

The Tardif rink then took over the scoring, winning six points in the next four ends. The Allen boys did their best to catch up, winning five more points by the 10th end, but couldn't squeak past the

8-6 loss.

Yesterday the Allen rink played the Crête rink from Jacques Cartier and the Reid rink from Kénogami.

Today the Allen rink takes on the Cheal rink from Lennoxville/North Hatley and the home team Laflamme rink from Sept-Îles.

A total of 20 teams are vying for the McIntyre trophy, including last year's champion Jean-Michel Ménard rink from Victoria. The Allen rink will take on the defending champions Friday morning.

Live updates are online at www.curling-quebec.com/

Campbell hat trick leads Bantam 'B's to victory

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • The Bantam 'B' Shawville Pontiacs continued the torrid pace they've set all season with a 5-1 victory over the Gatineau Voyageurs on Saturday.

Led by Jeremy Campbell's hat trick, the team improved their record on the year to 15 wins and just a single loss. In that span, the Pontiacs have scored 85 goals while giving up only 20.

On Saturday, Logan Greer and Jacob Bourgeois also scored one goal apiece while Greer also had a pair of assists, as did Ryan Miller, Matthew Hickey and Kris Kelly. Ross Cote also had an assist.

Peewee B

The Peewee 'B' Shawville Pontiacs had a long stretch last week, playing three games in four nights. The team managed to do well for themselves, however, finishing the weekend with a win, a loss and a tie.

On Thursday, the team hosted the Fort Coulonge Draveurs and came out on top, 5-3. Branden Alexander led the way for the Pontiacs, scoring the team's first three goals. He also added an assist later. Jesse McCagg also had a goal and an assist, while Zach Trudeau scored one. Steven Williams

posted an assist in the contest as well.

Saturday the team was back at it in Gatineau against the Harfangs. Things didn't go quite as well for the team on this particular day as they fell in defeat 6-3. Alexander scored two more goals and an assist. Cody Hobbs scored once, McCagg had two assists, Chase Meilleur and Riley Rooney also had an assist each.

To cap the weekend, the Pontiacs played a home match against the Gatineau Titans. A late third period goal by Alexander tied the game up at 3-3, which was the final score. Amazingly, Alexander also scored the Pontiacs' other two goals, giving him his second hat trick of the weekend. In all, he had 10 points (8 goals, 2 assists) over the three games.

Brett Yach and Zach Trudeau both picked up an assist for the Pontiacs. The team's record is 7-8-4 for the year.

Novice A

Two tight, competitive games marked the Shawville Pontiacs Novice 'A' team, as the squad dropped their Saturday contest 4-3 to the LaPêche Coyotes and tied 3-3 on Sunday against the Aylmer Volliers.

On Saturday, Simon-Richard Corriveau scored

twice and Carter Pirie added one goal, giving the team a chance to win the game. Matthew Curley had one assist.

Corriveau also scored twice in Sunday's game. Mikael Lalonde had a goal and an assist in the contest. Nicolas Greenshields and Clancey Keon had one assist apiece.

The team stands at 4-6-2 this season.

Bantam BB

The Maniwaki Forestiers split their weekend pair of games. The team fell hard on Saturday, losing to the Gatineau Ambassadeurs 7-2. Nicolas Francoeur and Spencer Pirie scored a goal each in the second period for the Forestiers. Kurt Fraser and Dominic Crytes picked up an assist apiece.

The team recovered well for Sunday's game, scoring three times in the final period to propel themselves to a 4-2 victory over the Aylmer Mariners. Travis Stewart scored the game-winning goal for the Forestiers. Francoeur, Jason Bedard and Maxime-James Morin each had one goal apiece.

Dylon Wisotzki had two assists in the win, while Pirie, Stewart and David Hobbs each had a helper in the contest.

The team takes a strong 17-6-2 league record into

this weekend's Gatineau tournament.

Peewee A

The Fort Coulonge Draveurs picked up one point from their weekend matchups. On Saturday the team drew with the Aylmer Tigres 3-3. Kyle Harris scored all three goals for the Draveurs. Owen Teevens had two assists and Cameron Huckabee added one of his own.

Sunday, the team found themselves on the losing end of a 3-0 scoreline against the Gatineau Barons.

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Shawville Young Farmers
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, February 9, 2006
8:00 p.m.
River View Inn, Norway Bay
Information:
Scott Stephens 647-6378

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BRYAN MURRAY

SMALL TOWN MAN



BIG CITY COACH

Shawville's favourite son discusses life as the Sens' boss

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Bryan Murray understands the difference between coaching in Canada and much of the United States.

"Sometimes I'd be in a mall and have a fan recognize me and tell me they play hockey and want to play in the NHL," said Murray, the head coach of the Ottawa Senators, in an interview with THE EQUITY.

"They'll usually be in their 30s and play in a men's recreational league."

Murray, 63, smiles when he thinks about these hapless lackeys.

"I let them down gently. I'll ask where they play, and tell them 'Our scouts are very good and we don't miss many people and your league isn't on our radar for potential players.'"

While Murray said he recalls many instances of such approaches while coaching and acting as general manager in Florida and Anaheim, it's never once happened to him in Canada.

"People here have a better understanding of what it takes," said Murray, in his first season as coach of the Senators, his hometown team. Murray was born and raised in Shawville.

"They know it's not that easy."

Coming home

Murray's tenure with the Senators has acted as a homecoming of sorts.

Living a mere hour away from his many friends, his mother, Rhoda, and eight siblings — brother Terry is an assistant coach with the Philadelphia Flyers and is the only other of the 10 brothers and sisters who doesn't still live in Shawville — Murray has been able to make trips home when need be.

In mid-January, he was able to attend the funeral of a family friend by virtue of his proximity.

"You have to keep your roots," said Murray.

"Especially if you're from a small town."

Murray estimates he's been back to Shawville "six or seven times" since the start of the hockey season, and both he and his family appreciate his greater presence at home.

"Everybody's glad that he's back around at home," said Bill Murray, brother, and owner of Murray's Sporting Goods in Shawville.

Even during his tour of duty around the NHL, which included head coaching stints in Washington, Detroit, Florida and Anaheim, Murray often returned home for summers and spent a fair amount of

time at his cottage in Otter Lake with family.

"I wanted my girls to know my hometown," said Murray, of his two daughters, 35-year-old Heidi and 21-year-old Britney.

"If you're lucky enough to be from an area like here, you want to come back."

And come back he has. Though it's taken quite a while.

In the 1970s, a young Murray had returned from MacDonald College near Montreal ready to settle into life in Shawville.

He taught gym at the high school and had gone into business with his brothers.

"I probably would have been satisfied to stay here," said Murray.

"At that stage I was ready to settle in Shawville."

A few phone calls changed that, as the Western Hockey League's Regina Pats wanted Murray to coach for them.

"I promised my wife I'd only go for a year," said Murray.

That was 1979.

Twenty-five years later, Murray returned home as head coach of the Ottawa Senators on June 6, 2004.

Some promise.

Acting as a *caveat emptor* for Murray's joyous entry into the Senators organization has been the focus and attention placed on him and his team.

"I was actually a Maple Leaf fan when I was a kid. But as you grow up, you get smarter and drop that sort of thing."

—Bryan Murray
Head Coach, Ottawa Senators

Ottawa is no Florida nor Anaheim, two places where newspapers regularly bury hockey stories in the back of the sports pages.

In those cities, the media and public often didn't understand the sport.

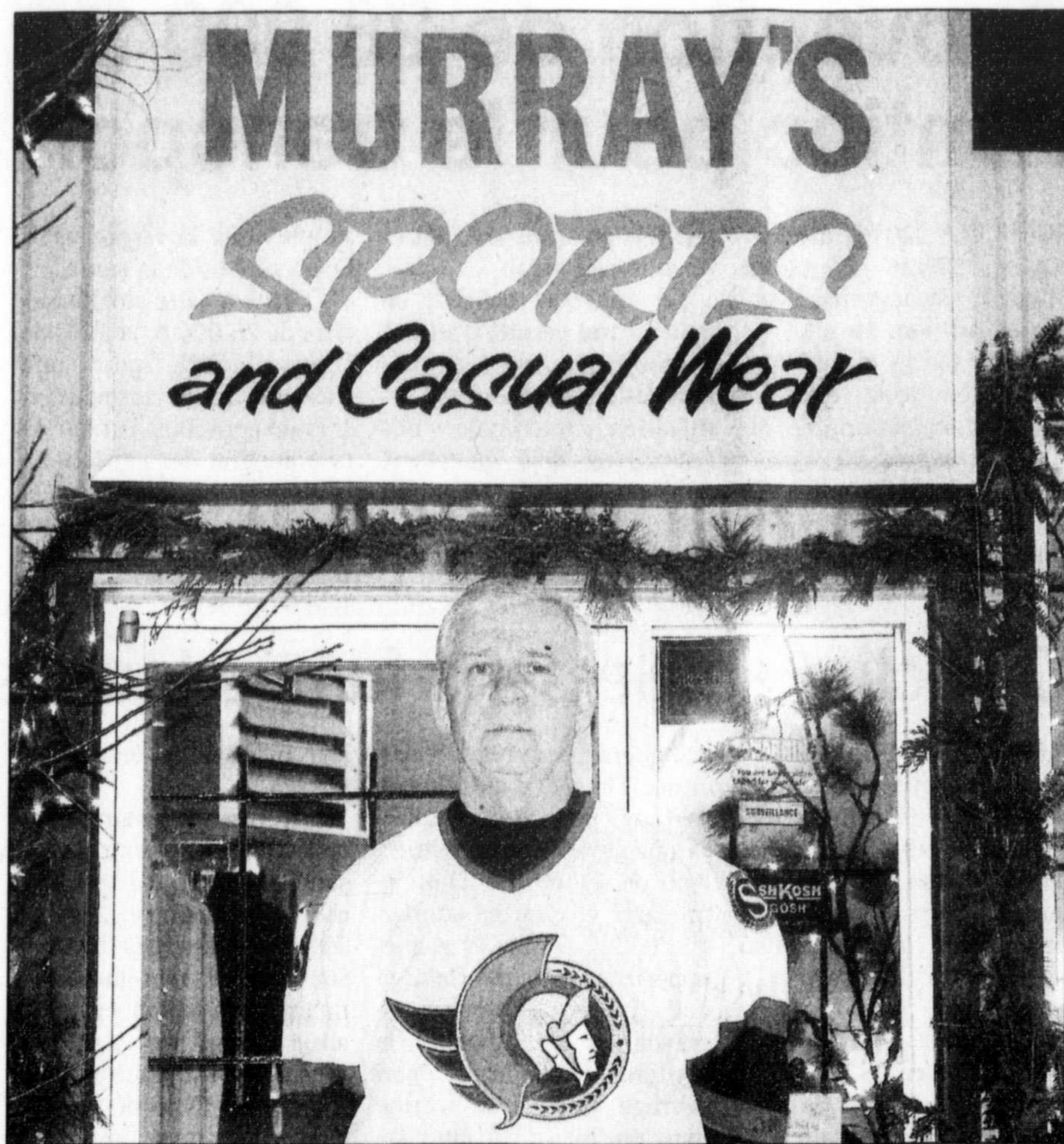
"If you won a game, they write that you played great, if you lost a game, you played bad," said Murray.

With the exception of Detroit, where hockey is also a passion, Murray was also largely able to remain anonymous in the teeming metropolises of the United States.

"There are some people who are quite interested, but there aren't many of them," said Murray.

Ottawa's a completely different story, of course.

Senators results are regularly splashed across the front pages of the major dailies, the city seemingly breathes Sens hockey and Murray is recognized in pub-



Head Coach of the Senators, Bryan Murray, stands in front of Murray Sporting Goods store in Shawville, a store he used to partly own, but is now owned solely by his brother, Bill. Murray sold his financial interests in the business 26 years ago to coach in the Western Hockey League, telling his wife he would only be gone for one year.

lic "all the time".

"It's nice in a way," said Murray.

"Men, women and children all have a connection to hockey here. There's a genuine passion for the game."

Murray also said he doesn't mind the additional criticism from the media.

"They really understand the game, they really care about it," said Murray.

"Sure, they're trying to get something out of you, but they're not trying to bury you."

High playoff hopes

Thus far in his tenure, anybody trying to bury Murray, would be fairly lonely in that attempt, considering the success he's had thus far.

Murray's Senators are currently one of the top squads in the NHL, racking up 75 points through 52 games, sitting in second place in the Eastern Conference, well within range of the conference-leading Carolina Hurricanes.

Yet the story seems to repeat itself.

The Senators have consistently been one of the best teams in the league for almost a decade, making the playoffs in eight consecutive seasons. But the problem continues, as each season results in the Sens failure to meet expectations and inevitably bowing out of their playoff run all too early.

Despite the streak of post-season qualifications, the Ottawa team is still seeking its first Stanley Cup finals appearance since the team's reiteration in 1992.

However, Murray is certain the current squad is different from those led by Jacques Martin, who coached the team for eight-and-a-half seasons up until the spring of 2004.

"We've got a better goal-tender," confirmed Murray. "Those teams didn't have the goaltending we have."

Murray places much faith in hall-of-famer to-be, Dominik Hasek, who celebrated his 41st birthday last

week. Hasek currently leads the league in goals against average (2.02) and save percentage (.928).

As if Hasek's presence isn't daunting enough for opponents, the Senators are also the highest scoring team in the league, averaging 4.01 goals per game.

"I've changed the team's style to more of an offensive, attacking style," said Murray.

"I think Ottawa had enough of the skilled offensive players [in past seasons], but now they play better, they play harder."

Even so, there is one large, King Kong-sized monkey on the backs of the Ottawa Senators, and it comes in the form of the team's Ontario brethren, the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The Senators have dominated the Leafs this season, winning all six games between the two sides so far, outscoring the blue-and-whites 36-12 in the process.

But in four of the past five seasons, the Sens have been eliminated from the playoffs by the Leafs, creating a modern rivalry matched by few in the NHL.

So what does Murray think about Toronto?

"That depends, do you mean the city or the Leafs?" jokes Murray, who quickly makes a confession.

"I was actually a Maple Leaf fan when I was a kid," said Murray, with a glint in his eye. "But as you grow up you get smarter and drop that sort of thing."

While Murray jokes now, the playoffs will be serious business, as the regular season spankings delivered by the Senators seem to set up a perfect storm line for a Leafs victory in the playoffs, an invariable laughing of the gods that has continuously occurred over the last few years.

Murray understands that while things have gone swimmingly for him thus far, times will get more difficult.

"Something will happen, a bad game or an injury," said

Murray.

"The honeymoon will be over and it will get tougher, we just have to be prepared for when it does."

"Just a game"

The Shawville Curling Rink is bustling with activity.

The popular, annual community bonspiel is in full swing and the lounge is filled with both curlers and non-curlers.

Like in almost every television of the Pontiac on this given night, the Senators game is on and dozens of pairs of eyes remain affixed on its transient images.

It doesn't take long for the group's hopes to be realized as the Senators score a goal, and the crowd emits a raucous cheer.

Despite Shawville being situated a full hour away from Ottawa, the people in this village feel every much a piece of ownership of the team as any native of the capital city.

After all, everybody here knows Bryan Murray. Murray is a proud citizen of Shawville, giving hockey tickets to the Pontiacs Junior 'B' club for a fundraiser and making an appearance at the Pontiac National Midget Hockey Tournament two weeks ago.

In 2004, he was awarded the only key to Shawville. He's as proud of the village as the village is of him. Yet he refuses to acknowledge that he's of much significance.

"I'm just one of the people from Shawville," said Murray.

"It's just a game... I'm in a game."

But for the people throughout the region tuned into watch their coach lead their team, it's not just a game.

Fists pumping, flags waving, Sens hats lifted, hockey is more than just a game and Murray is more than just a coach.

He's one of them. And now, after decades of being away, he's home.

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:

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

Seats to be filled

Seat No. 7: Boyd Brownlee
Seat No. 8: Benson Moffatt
Seat No. 9: Ronald Strutt

Nomination

Interested candidates must forward their nomination form to the Secretary of the Mutual Association and must be received on the tenth (10) day before the general meeting, being February 27, 2006 by 4:00 p.m. The candidate nomination form may be obtained at the Promutuel La Vallée office, 34 Victoria Street, Shawville.

A lunch will be served. Door prizes.

Dana Morin
Board of Directors Secretary

Issued
February 7, 2006

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Ladysmith Hotel, Ladysmith
Junction Bar and Restaurant, Campbell's Bay

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Deadline for nominations: March 31st, 2006

PHS boys basketball defeat Du Versant

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • The Pontiac High School Panthers Cadet boys' basketball team continued their dominance this season with a 55-48 victory over Du Versant on Thursday evening.

Down by as many as 10 points in the first half, an 8-0 run in the third quarter was instrumental in giving PHS a lead they would not relinquish against Du Versant.

The constant harassment of the Panthers' full-court press forced the turnovers the team had been hoping for and Du Versant's inability to find answers led to their demise.

"(The full court press) matches up well," said Head Coach Dave Holmes of his 15- and 16-year-old team.

"It gets the team in the game."

Luke Laframboise paced

PHS's victory with 16 points, while Kyle Sharpe and Chad Green each added seven.

PHS also consistently out-rebounded the undersized Du Versant, constantly allowing the Panthers' second and third opportunities offensively.

The win reaffirms the Panthers' top spot in the Regional Association of Student Sport of Outaouais league with a 7-1 record.

"Yes, I'm very confident," said Head Coach Dave Holmes, of his team's chances of winning the four-team division.

With better performances like Thursday's, the league's other three teams will have a difficult time denying Pontiac that honour.

The Panthers continue play this week with back-to-back games today and tomorrow.

The team first travels to



A Pontiac High School Panther basketball player goes up for the shot against Du Versant, Feb. 2. The Cadet boys' team went on to defeat Du Versant, 55-48.

Du Versant, who are 5-4 on the year, before returning home to play winless Le Carrefour.

Girls basketball

The Pontiac High School girls' basketball team will play tomorrow in Shawville against Mont Bleu.

The team of 16-and-17

year olds has struggled early this season, but tied their last game 45-45 against a strong Nicolas Gatineau squad.



Denise Morrissette représentante du bureau de Charlotte L'Écuyer, Paul-Émile Maleau Préfet suppléant de la MRC de Pontiac et Line Beauchamp Ministre de la culture et des communications.

La ministre Line Beauchamp en tournée dans l'Outaouais

GATINEAU • La ministre de la Culture et des Communications et ministre responsable de la région de Montréal, Mme Line Beauchamp, a annoncé le renouvellement de la participation du Ministère au programme Villes et villages d'art et de patrimoine avec la MRC de Pontiac en lui accordant une subvention de 72 000 \$.

« Le programme Villes et villages d'art et de patrimoine a déjà fait ses preuves dans la MRC de Pontiac. Le renouvellement de la participation de la MRC à ce programme confirme la pertinence d'une ressource destinée au développement culturel de la région, et ce, pour le plus grand bénéfice de la population », a déclaré la ministre Beauchamp.

Par son programme Villes et villages d'art et de patrimoine, le ministère de la Culture et des Communications soutient l'engagement et la formation d'un animateur spécialisé dans les domaines du développement culturel, de la mise en valeur et de l'animation du patrimoine, dans une perspective de tourisme culturel.

L'animateur coordonnateur, M. Benedikt Kuhn, est associé au Centre local de développement de Pontiac mandaté pour la mise en œuvre du plan d'action découlant de la politique culturelle adoptée, en septembre 2004, par les maires de la MRC de Pontiac.

M. Kuhn pourra poursuivre le travail entrepris en matière de culture, concevoir différents outils de sensibilisation et mettre en valeur les principales richesses culturelles.

En Outaouais, Villes et villages d'art et de patrimoine regroupe les MRC de Pontiac, de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau et de Papineau, ainsi que la Ville de Gatineau.

Le ministère de la Culture et des Communications est soucieux de travailler de concert avec ses partenaires afin de faire de la région un milieu de vie qui saura se démarquer par la qualité et la richesse de ses attraits culturels.

Entente de développement culturel de la MRC de Pontiac

En vertu de cette entente triennale de développement culturel entre le Ministère et la MRC, cette dernière s'engage à poursuivre ses efforts de mise en valeur des attraits culturels de son territoire.

La Ministre a profité de l'occasion pour remettre à la MRC de Pontiac une subvention de 10 000 \$ pour la deuxième année de cette entente qui couvre la période 2004-2007.

Des subventions pour le secteur des arts visuels

La ministre a profité de son passage dans la MRC de Pontiac pour annoncer le versement d'une subvention de 4 000 \$ à l'Association des artistes du Pontiac. Une partie de cette somme permettra la publication d'un dépliant promotionnel de la Tournée des ateliers des artistes du Pontiac qui se déroulera en juin prochain.

La subvention servira aussi à appuyer la tenue de l'Art dans le parc, un événement au cours duquel la population est invitée à participer à la création d'une murale avec des artistes professionnels.

Enfin, mentionnons que le Centre d'exposition L'Imagier, situé dans le secteur Aylmer de la ville de Gatineau, se voit attribuer une aide financière de 22 000 \$ qui s'ajoute à la subvention annuelle et qui totalise 80 200 \$ pour l'exercice en cours.

Subvention de 28 000 \$ à la MRC de Pontiac pour le transport collectif

QUÉBEC • La députée de Pontiac, Mme Charlotte L'Écuyer, est heureuse d'annoncer, au nom du ministre des Transports et ministre responsable de la région de la Capitale-Nationale, M. Michel Després, le versement d'une subvention de 28 000 \$ à la MRC de Pontiac dans le cadre du Programme d'aide gouverne-

mentale au transport collectif en milieu rural.

Le transport collectif en milieu rural permet d'offrir à la population de meilleurs services de transport par l'utilisation maximale des ressources déjà en place, qu'il s'agisse de transport scolaire, adapté, par taxi, interurbain, de covoiturage, de bénévolat ou de transport

adapté sous la responsabilité du réseau de la santé.

Grâce à cette aide financière de 28 000 \$, la MRC de Pontiac confie, pour une troisième année consécutive, à TransporAction Pontiac la coordination des services de transport collectif déjà offerts à partir d'un centre d'appels. À cette fin, la MRC compte augmenter les liens

intermunicipaux sur son territoire, principalement par la coordination des centres d'action bénévoles pour les services d'accompagnement et, à l'occasion, par l'utilisation des places disponibles en transport adapté et en transport scolaire, ainsi que par l'utilisation des taxis », a souligné

Mme L'Écuyer.

Dans le cadre de ce programme, le Ministère consacre une enveloppe de 10 millions de dollars sur cinq ans. Ce sont 81 MRC qui profiteront de ces subventions. Ces sommes seront utilisées pour réaliser des études de faisabilité ou absorber les frais d'exploitation de tels services de transport.

Objectif Famille sans fumée lancés en Outaouais

GATINEAU • La Direction de santé publique de l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais profite de la Semaine québécoise pour un avenir sans tabac pour lancer la 12e édition régionale du Défi J'arrête j'y gagne!. Ce concours invite tous les fumeurs à relever le défi de cesser de fumer au moins pendant les six semaines réglementaires du concours soit du 1er mars au 11 avril. Plus de 30 000\$ en prix sont réservés aux personnes qui relèveront le Défi ou qui parraineront un ex-fumeur.

Le visuel du Défi J'arrête

j'y gagne!, reprend cette année l'image d'un combat de boxe, pour bien signifier l'ampleur du défi à relever.

Pour réussir ce défi, il faut se préparer et c'est ce soutien que le Défi J'arrête j'y gagne! apporte au fumeur. Celui-ci doit d'abord s'entourer de personnes qui pourront le soutenir pendant son sevrage tabagique : une marraine ou un parrain. De plus, les participants peuvent compter sur de nombreuses ressources d'aide accessibles sur le site www.defitabac.ca, contacter le Centre d'abandon du tabagisme de leur CLSC,

leur médecin et leur pharmacien.

Des études ont montré que cette campagne annuelle de santé publique est très efficace puisqu'entre 24% et 29% des personnes inscrites sont toujours non-fumeuses un an après le Défi, ce qui se situe parmi les meilleurs taux de cessation au monde.

Le volet Objectif Famille sans fumée invite toutes les familles québécoises à s'engager à ce que personne ne fume à l'intérieur de leur domicile et leur auto entre le 1er mars et 11 avril 2006. Ce concours est une occasion pour faire réfléchir les-

familles sur l'importance de prendre position sur la question du tabagisme à l'intérieur du foyer. Offrir à sa famille un foyer où personne ne fume c'est important pour protéger leur santé. Un foyer sans fumée c'est aussi un message clair pour prévenir l'adoption du tabagisme chez les adolescents. De plus, un milieu sans fumée c'est un appui tangible à un fumeur qui tente de cesser de fumer.

Dans l'Enquête sur la santé dans les collectivités canadiennes de 2005, l'Outaouais comptait 30% de fumeurs réguliers et occasionnels. Dans l'enquête de

2001, on mentionnait également que 50% des non-fumeurs âgés de 12 ans et plus étaient exposés à la fumée secondaire à la maison.

On peut s'inscrire au Défi J'arrête j'y gagne! et à Objectif famille sans fumée avant le 1er mars au www.defitabac.ca ou en se procurant un dépliant d'inscription dans les CLSC, les pharmacies Jean Coutu, les cabinets de médecins et certains milieux de travail. Pour de plus amples informations, on peut contacter le 866 j'arrête (527-7383) ou son CLSC.

David Smith remercie chaleureusement les résidents du comté de Pontiac

MANIWAKI • Suite au scrutin du 23 janvier dernier, David Smith respecte pleinement la décision de la population du Pontiac et aimerait leur offrir ses plus amicales

salutations.

Durant mon mandat, j'ai eu le privilège de représenter aux communes, des gens authentiques et droits. J'ai toujours exercé mes fonctions avec le plus

grand respect pour les citoyens de mon comté », a déclaré David Smith.

Durant mes 17 mois comme député, j'ai reçu le soutien de la population et partout où je me suis

rendu, les gens ont été accueillants et sincères.

Ce fut pour moi un réel plaisir de vous côtoyer et de servir vos intérêts. », a ajouté David Smith.

« Je profite de l'occasion pour féliciter le gagnant et les autres candidats et candidates dans notre comté et je veux dire un merci tout spécial aux gens qui m'ont supporté durant la campagne électorale. »



Denise Morrissette représentante du bureau de Charlotte L'Écuyer, Linda Baril Association des artistes du Pontiac, Line Beauchamp Ministre de la culture et des communications, André Baril Association des artistes du Pontiac et Benedikt Kuhn du CLD Pontiac.

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CREO présente son avis sur la réforme du mode de scrutin

GATINEAU • La Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais (CRÉO) a présenté un avis régional à l'avant projet de loi sur la réforme de la Loi électorale et ce, devant la Commission parlementaire spéciale qui était de passage, ce matin, à Gatineau.

Son président, Monsieur Marc Carrière, est venu dire à la Commission que la CRÉO appuie la mise en place d'un mode de scrutin mixte compensatoire, sous réserve de quelques modifications.

En tant qu'interlocuteur privilégié du gouvernement en matière de développement régional, la CRÉO est particulièrement concernée par la question du poids politique et de la capacité des régions du Québec d'exercer le pouvoir et d'influencer les décisions prises par l'Assemblée nationale du Québec. Cette préoccupation est donc au cœur des modifications qu'elle a proposées à la Commission.

« Nous espérons que la compensation régionale qu'elle comportera pourra renforcer, via une députée régionale, la nouvelle gouvernance lancée lors du Forum des Génération, en octobre 2004, et qui devrait se traduire par la décentralisation et la régionalisation des processus de décision. » de préciser Monsieur Carrière.

La CRÉO a insisté sur le fait qu'il est impératif que les régions électorales correspondent, dans un souci de cohérence et d'efficacité, aux régions administratives.

Ces dernières sont devenues des lieux d'ancrage et d'identité régionale forts qui doivent être considérés dans toutes les décisions prises par les acteurs au pouvoir.

De plus, la CRÉO a rappelé l'importance que les sièges compensatoires soient attribués à partir de listes régionales et que les électeurs, pour ce faire, puissent disposer d'un second vote sur le même bulletin.

Elle a également insisté

sur l'idée que la modification à Loi électorale doit permettre une meilleure représentation des femmes et des communautés culturelles au sein de l'Assemblée nationale.

Madame Louise Poirier, membre du conseil d'administration de la CRÉO, a appuyé la proposition gouvernementale de mettre en place des mesures financières incitatives mais, a-t-elle ajouté, « le processus de rattrapage des femmes en matière de représentation politique est lent et c'est pourquoi nous exprimons la volonté que les sièges compensatoires servent aussi à améliorer la représentation égalitaire des femmes et des hommes de l'Assemblée nationale ».

La CRÉO propose donc que les listes des partis soient établies en présentant obligatoirement en alternance les candidatures féminines et masculines de chaque parti.

Par ailleurs, sur la question de l'exercice du droit de vote, la CRÉO précise que la révision et la mise à jour d'une liste électorale permanente constitue encore un enjeu majeur en 2006.

La CRÉO a également insisté sur le fait que la révision du mandat de la Commission de la représentation électorale soulève plusieurs préoccupations. Dans un souci démocratique, il est important que le découpage reflète le mieux possible la réalité démographique, tout en conciliant l'obligation, comme société, d'occuper de façon dynamique notre territoire.

En conclusion, le président, M. Carrière, a réaffirmé l'engagement de la CRÉO envers le développement harmonieux du Québec.

Pour ce faire, la réforme du mode de scrutin doit augmenter la capacité des régions du Québec d'influencer les décisions prises au niveau national et cela passe nécessairement par une représentation politique adéquate et une imputabilité politique régionale.

Poursuite des investissements massifs sur le réseau routier du Québec : 4 625 700 \$ seront consacrés à la circonscription de Pontiac

CAMPBELL'S BAY • La députée de Pontiac, Madame Charlotte L'Écuyer, est heureuse d'annoncer, au nom de la ministre déléguée aux Transports, Mme Julie Boulet, que le gouvernement investira, cette année, une somme de 4 625 700\$ dans des travaux sur le réseau routier de la circonscription de Pontiac.

Ces investissements s'inscrivent dans le cadre du vaste plan de redressement du réseau routier que le gouvernement a amorcé l'an dernier et au terme duquel, en 2007, près de 4 milliards de dollars auront été consacrés à son amélioration. Cette année, le ministre des Transports, M. Michel Després, et la ministre

déléguée aux Transports, Mme Julie Boulet, ont annoncé que le gouvernement investira 1,3 milliard de dollars, une augmentation de 100 millions par rapport à l'an dernier, somme à laquelle s'ajoutent 148 millions de dollars, provenant des différents partenaires. Ces investissements représentent presque le double de la moyenne annuelle de 700 millions de dollars qu'investissait le précédent gouvernement du Parti Québécois de 1994 à 2002.

« Les investissements de l'année 2006-2007 ont une très grande signification pour les régions du Québec. Près des deux tiers de la somme totale, soit 820 millions de dollars, seront con-

sacrés aux routes situées en région », souligne Mme Boulet.

Pour la députée, cet engagement financier est une démonstration claire de l'importance que le gouvernement du Québec accorde au développement économique des régions. Ces investissements favoriseront l'amélioration de la sécurité et de l'efficacité des déplacements ainsi que la qualité de vie de tous les citoyens du Québec. « Cela représente un atout économique important dont les effets positifs se font sentir dans une foule d'activités socioéconomiques », a précisé la députée.

Les efforts consentis par le gouvernement du Québec portent fruits et donnent des

résultats concrets, puisque c'est la première fois depuis longtemps que nous pouvons parler d'une amélioration globale du réseau routier », a mentionné M. Després.

« En plus de générer des

retombées économiques importantes, ces investissements permettront d'améliorer la sécurité des usagers de la route, la fluidité de la circulation et la qualité de vie de tous les citoyens de la circonscrip-

tion de Pontiac », a conclu la députée.

Clarendon 50 000 \$; Litchfield 1 930 000 \$; Mansfield-et-Pontefract 900 \$; Otter Lake 700 000 \$; Pontiac 765 000 \$; Thorne 280 000 \$.



Commission scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais

AVIS AUX PARENTS

INSCRIPTION DES ÉLÈVES POUR SEPTEMBRE 2006

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE DES HAUTS-BOIS-DE-L'OUTAOUAIS SECTEUR M.R.C. DE PONTIAC

PRÉMATERNELLE 4 ANS - MATERNELLE 5 ANS PREMIÈRE ANNÉE

L'inscription des élèves qui fréquenteront une classe de prématernelle 4 ans, de maternelle 5 ans ou de première année en septembre prochain se fera dans la semaine du 13 février 2006 aux écoles suivantes:

- L'école Ste-Anne à l'Île-du-Grand-Calumet, les 13 et 14 février de 13 h à 15 h.
- L'école Ste-Anne à l'Île-du-Grand-Calumet, le 17 février de 8 h à 15 h.
- L'école l'Envolée à Campbell's Bay, le 13 février de 8 h 30 à 11 h 30.
- L'école Ste-Marie à Otter Lake, le 14 février de 8 h 30 à 11 h 30.
- L'école Poupore à Fort-Coulonge, du 13 au 17 février de 8 h 30 à 15 h.
- L'école Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur à Chapeau, le 15 février de 8 h 30 à 15 h.

CONDITIONS D'ADMISSION

- Prématernelle 4 ans : Avoir 4 ans avant le premier octobre 2006.
- Maternelle 5 ans : Avoir 5 ans avant le premier octobre 2006.
- Première année : Avoir 6 ans avant le premier octobre 2006.

DOCUMENTS À FOURNIR

Vous devez fournir le certificat de naissance (original) grand format émis par la Direction de l'état civil où apparaissent les noms et prénoms des parents et le lieu de naissance.

IL NOUS SERA IMPOSSIBLE D'ADMETTRE VOTRE ENFANT SI VOUS NE FOURNISSEZ PAS LE CERTIFICAT DE NAISSANCE.

Pour les enfants nés au Québec, seulement le certificat grand format émis par la Direction de l'état civil est accepté. Les formulaires pour les demandes de certificat de la Direction de l'état civil sont disponibles dans les C.L.S.C., au bureau du registraire général de l'état civil au numéro 1-800-567-3900 ou via le site internet : www.etatcivil.gouv.qc.ca

Pour les enfants nés en Ontario, c'est le certificat VERSION INTÉGRALE. Vous devez vous adresser au Bureau du registraire général de l'état civil au numéro 1-416-325-8305 ou via le site internet : www.cbs.gov.on.ca. Il faut aussi fournir une preuve de résidence au Québec (compte d'Hydro-Québec ou taxes municipales).

Pour les enfants nés ailleurs qu'au Québec et en Ontario : vous devez vous adresser au bureau du registraire général de l'état civil de la province ou du pays concerné. Les noms des parents ainsi que le lieu de naissance doivent apparaître sur le document. Il faut aussi fournir une preuve de résidence au Québec (compte d'Hydro-Québec ou taxes municipales).

PRIMAIRE ET SECONDAIRE

Pour les élèves déjà inscrits dans les écoles primaires ou à l'école secondaire : l'école fera parvenir une fiche de renouvellement d'inscription à faire signer par les parents.

NOUVEAUX ÉLÈVES

Pour les nouveaux élèves qui désirent s'inscrire au primaire, les parents se présentent à l'école la plus proche de leur domicile selon le même horaire que les élèves qui s'inscrivent à la maternelle.

Pour les nouveaux élèves qui désirent s'inscrire au secondaire, les parents se présentent à l'école secondaire Sieur-de-Coulonge à Fort-Coulonge les 13, 14, 15 ou 16 février 2006 de 8 h 30 à 15 h.

Marlène Thonnard
Directrice générale

Desjardins

L'INSTITUTION : La caisse populaire Desjardins de Fort-Coulonge
LA FONCTION : AGENT, AGENTE - SERVICE AUX MEMBRES - (N-3)
LE STATUT : Poste régulier à temps plein à 35 heures semaine

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La Caisse populaire Desjardins de Fort-Coulonge est située dans un marché rural. L'établissement d'une relation d'affaires durable et efficace auprès de ses 3287 membres est au cœur du projet de la Caisse. L'actif actuel est de 41,75 millions dont 29,55 millions en prêts aux particuliers et 5,9 \$ millions en prêts aux entreprises. Les épargnes quant à elles totalisent 39,4\$ millions (bilan, hors bilan). Le personnel de la caisse est composé de 8 employés non syndiqués dont un gestionnaire et un planificateur financier.

LE DÉFI :

Vous accueillerez les membres et les non membres se présentant à la caisse afin de les accompagner dans des transactions et des services de convenance. Vous conseillerez judicieusement les membres dans l'utilisation la plus efficace des automatistes et des services automatisés et les accompagnerez au besoin dans leurs opérations. Vous procéderez à la préparation, la vérification et l'enregistrement de pièces justificatives correspondant aux transactions. Finalement, vous devrez être à l'écoute des attentes et des besoins des membres afin d'améliorer la qualité du service.

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- **Formation et Expérience :**
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- **Combinaison B :** DEP du domaine de l'administration ou DES et 18 mois à 2 années d'expérience en services financiers ou service à la clientèle
- **Compétences et Connaissances :**
Les personnes retenues à l'étape de la présélection doivent s'attendre à être évaluées, notamment sur les compétences et connaissances suivantes :
 - Être d'un abord facile
 - Être orienté vers le client
 - Faire preuve de rigueur professionnelle et de minutie
 - Être orienté vers l'action
 - Avoir la maîtrise de soi
 - Démontrer une grande capacité à apprendre rapidement
 - Procédures opérationnelles relatives aux services et transactions de convenance
 - Intégration des données dans les systèmes
 - Normes de contrôle et mesures de sécurité
 - Produits et services Desjardins relatifs à la convenance

LES CONDITIONS DE TRAVAIL :

Le salaire et les conditions de travail sont ceux prévus dans le guide des conditions de travail. La semaine normale de travail est de trente-cinq (35) heures. Les personnes intéressées doivent faire parvenir leur curriculum vitae accompagné d'une copie du dernier relevé de notes obtenu ou du diplôme requis, au plus tard le 15 février 2006, à :

Anne Paquin, directrice générale
La caisse populaire Desjardins de Fort-Coulonge
175, rue Principale
Fort-Coulonge (Québec) J0X 1V0

Nous remercions toutes les personnes qui manifesteront leur intérêt. Toutefois, seulement les candidates et candidats qui seront retenus à l'étape de présélection seront contactés.

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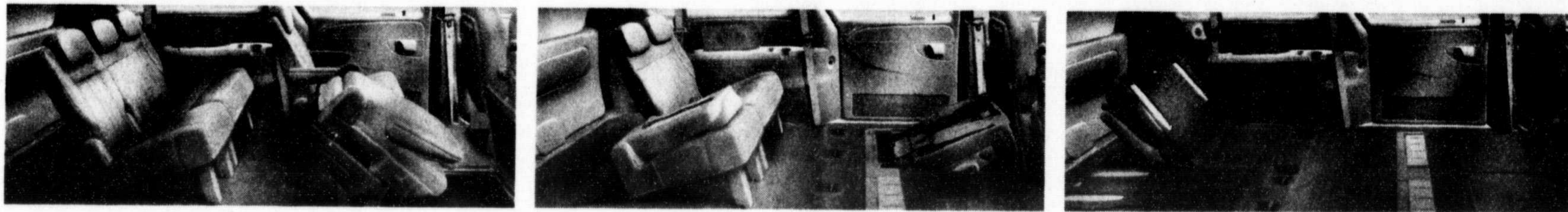
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February '06

March '06

s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	

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Sat., Feb. 11 - Poker Run Pontiac Snowmobile Drivers. Gavan's Hotel registration from 9 a.m. \$10 per person, at Gavan's, Hurst's (Shawville), Ladysmith Hotel, RVI (Norway Bay), Sonerco Gas Station (Luskville), Gauvreau Ski-doo (Masham), Francis Fuels-Brisebois (Masham), Junction Restaurant (Campbell's Bay) \$1000.00 plus in prizes. Band - dance 9 p.m. at Gavan's. **2bf8**

Feb. 11 - Unit 7's Valentine Tea, Shawville United Church Hall from 2 - 4 p.m. Adults \$6, children \$3. **2bf8**

Sat., Feb. 11 - Pontiac Wagon Train Valentine Dance, Shawville Lions Hall at 9 p.m. Music by Fast Trax. Light lunch \$8 per person. **bf8**

Sun., Feb. 12 - The Heritage Old Time Country Music Association are holding a fund raiser, a dance with special guests. Quyon Lions Hall starts at 1 p.m. Bar and food available, general admission \$9. member \$7. Everyone welcome. **2bf8**

Thur., Feb. 16 - Pancake Supper Orange Hall, Shawville 4:30 to 7 p.m. Adults \$8, under 12 years \$4. Everyone welcome. **2xf15**

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

Feb. 25, 26 - Norway Bay 10th Annual Car Races on Ice. Front and rear drive, Pro and stock spiked tire division (year 2). Entry fee \$40 per car. Rain date March 4 and 5. For details call Michael 647-6512. **2xf15**

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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. **2bf16**

A career teaching English internationally begins with professional training. A 5-day certificate course will be held in Montreal at University Centre February 15-19. (Open House Feb. 14) & University of Ottawa March 15-19 (Open House Feb. 15). To register for an open house call 1-888-2 4 6 - 6 5 1 2. www.INTLcollegeoflinguistics.com **qf8**

HELP WANTED

Person for maid service. No experience needed, will train. Salary will be discussed at time of interview. 647-1930. **xf8**

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. **qf8**

Exel Contracting Inc., an established Ottawa Commercial Landscape Construction, Grounds Maintenance and Snow Removal Company, requires for year round employment: Forepersons; Lead Hands; Labourers; Equipment Operators; Truck Drivers. Fax resume to 613-831-2794 or email exel@sympatico.ca 4xf15

\$\$\$ 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. **qf8**

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SERVICES

Magician - Darelle McCornigan. Magic, illusions and Fun for all ages. Private parties, stage shows, birthday, anniversary parties, senior, community events, Halloween and Christmas shows. 819-647-2024. **2xf8**

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

Chimney cleaning, roof shoveling, plumbing, wood cutting, driving, odd jobs, etc. Perry Hodgins 647-2939. **2bf15**

Stop smoking immediately with laser therapy. Safe, painless, effective. 1-866-U-CAN-QUIT (822-6784) or 613-732-8878. Pembroke and Armpror locations. **8xf15**

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SERVICES

Boarding for horses available. Indoors or out, reasonable rates, quality care. Call 647-5373 for more info. **xtc**

Roof shoveler. Any jobs that require shoveling, walkways, roofs, cottages, stairs. Pierre 647-5128. **4xf22**

THANKS

Kennedy - We would like to express our thanks to all family, friends and neighbours during the illness and passing of Bert Kennedy on January 15, 2006. The memorial donations towards St. Mary's Church reconstruction fund are appreciated. Thank you for all your masses, enrollments, and prayers in his memory. Thank you for the flowers, cards, calls and e-mails. Special thanks to Dr. Lamarche and Pontiac Community Hospital staff, Father Michael Costello, Curtis Hudson, Audrey and Mae McCann and Hayes staff, Eleanor Foran and choir members, CWL for the luncheon, Rhoda Scott, Betty Newland and Billy Kennedy for the eulogies, nephews for pallbearers, nieces for readings, Margaret, Urban and Maureen Curley, Clarence Leach, Pam Komm, Millie Daley, Mona McKecknie, Anne Clarke, all the food donations, and visits during inclement weather. We are very grateful for the caring and support all of you have given us. Viola, Marion, Doug and Families

Stevens - I want to thank my neighbours and friends for their prayers, food, cards, flowers, phone calls and visits. Thank you to the ladies of Bristol Presbyterian Church for the lovely afghan. Thanks to Joy Hodgins and Lois Findlay for the loan of their equipment. Special thanks to my family for always being there and all the care they give me daily. To my special friend, Earl, thanks for all your love and kindness. Marion Stevens

Woermke - Thank you William Armitage for stopping and helping us when our vehicle flipped on Friday night. We greatly appreciated it. Lynda and Pauline

MEMORIAM

Armstrong - Dear Helen: Time takes away the edge of grief But memory turns back every leaf. Missing you always, Love from Mother-in-law Cecilia and family

Belland, Gail - In loving memory of a loving wife and mother who passed away on February 8, 1986. The moment that you died, Our hearts split in two, The one side filled with memories, The other died with you. We often lie awake at night, When the world is fast asleep, And take a walk down memory lane, With tears upon our cheeks. Remembering you is easy, We do it every day, But missing you is a heartache, That never goes away. We hold you tightly within our hearts, And there you will remain, Life has gone on without you, But it will never be the same. For those who still have their mothers, Treat her with tender care, You will never know the emptiness, As when you turn and she is not there. We love you always, Basil, Connie, Tracy, Cindy and Ricky

Devlin, Francis - In loving memory of a dear father, grandfather, great-grandfather who passed away February 11, 2002. He is gone but not forgotten, And as dawns another year, In our lonely hours of thinking, Thoughts of him are always near. Days of sadness will come over us, Many think the wound is healed, But they little know the sorrow, That lies in the heart concealed. So terribly missed and forever loved. Your son Dillon, daughters Patsy and Shirley and their families

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MEMORIAM

Knox, Jean - In loving memory of a cherished Mom and Nana who passed away Feb. 13, 2004. Love recalls What time erases. Love preserves What childhood knew, Love reminds The heart forever, How a mother Cares for you. Lovingly remembered, The family

Richardson, Claude - In memory of a dear father and grandfather who passed away on Feb. 6, 2001. Dear Dad, this time of year is very sad for us. We wish you were here to see all the changes in our lives and meet the beautiful children we have been blessed with. We miss you dearly, but our hearts are filled with wonderful memories of our childhood and what a great dad you were. You worked hard and enjoyed the simple things in life. No matter how busy you were with work you always made time for us. We know that you are watching over us, and we hope that you are proud. Love forever, Rhonda, Scott, Chloe, Julia, Richard, Kaara, Erika, McKenna and Landon

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PERSONALS

Good lady, tall, slim, healthy, ambitious, affectionate, loyal, wishes to meet a 45 to 55 year old Catholic man, kind, loyal, compassionate, healthy, not diabetic or alcoholic, is ambitious who will take out his lady and spend some time with her. For long term relationship. Apply to Box "A", THE EQUITY, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0. **xf8**

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NOTICE

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Skate Sharpening available at Canadian Tire, Shawville. Auto Service Centre open Monday to Friday. 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Book your appointment by calling 647-3532. **otc**

Seniors tired of living alone? Come live at Lou's Seniors Home where there's always someone around to assist you 24/7. There's eight other seniors to visit with. Your meals and snacks are prepared for you. Room on main floor. Your laundry is done, you get assistance with personal hygiene, and most important, you won't be alone. If interested phone Lou at 647-6266 or drop by 583 Main Street in Shawville. **2bf8**

Pontiac artists previewed in exhibit

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor
PONTIAC • Gearing up for another Pontiac Artists' Studio Tour, a few artists have their work on display at the Santé Restaurant and Gallery in Ottawa.

The exhibit, themed Art of the Pontiac, will be on display until Mar. 27. There, works of Elke Bzdurrek, Claudette Spence, Marcio Melo, Valerie Bridgeman, Lorene Hodgins McLean, Nancy Dagenais Elliot, Joan E. Bakker, Kay Ranger, Stephan Serak, Dale Shutt and Geraldine Clasen can be seen.

The exhibit is a preview to the Pontiac Artists' Association's 17th annual Pontiac Artists' Studio Tour. "The Pontiac Artists' Studio Tour has a preview show annually, usually in a different place each year," said artist Valerie Bridgeman, who works in pottery and handmade paper collage.

Not all 17 artists who are scheduled on this year's tour are featured at the restaurant, as the exhibit was limited to wall-hung pieces. The pieces were selected by curator Paula Mitas Zoubek. While on display the pieces in the exhibit are available for purchase.

"Our hope is to inspire people from the Ottawa area to come on the tour," said Bridgeman. The exhibit's vernissage was held Jan. 16. "It was a successful vernissage, there were quite a few people there," she said, commenting that most people there were from Ottawa. She also added that the majority of tour-goers are from out of the region. "I would say 10 to 20 per cent of people who go on the tour are local," said Bridgeman. "Most people are from the other side of the river such as Deep River, Renfrew, Ottawa, and the Quebec-side cities."

AECL fundraising auction



AECL in Chalk River held its annual United Way campaign with a new twist. A number of items were put up for employees to bid against, such as reserved parking spots at Chalk River Laboratories; copies of the United Way employee collectors cookbook; barbecue aprons from the Point Lepreau Refurbishment Celebration autographed by the executive; an official 2006 Negotiations golf shirt signed by union presidents; an overnight stay and Sunday brunch at the Holiday Inn Oshawa; and a breakfast for eight, cooked and served in the successful bidder's home by Campaign Chairperson Donna Roach. From the left: Simone Donders, Aaron Liblong, Kerry Liblong, Eric Donders, Bob Donders, Helena Rummens, Donna Roach, Steve Liblong and Joanne Ball. Thanks to the continued generosity of employees donations through the auction, special events and annual canvassing, Chalk River came through with

Campbell's Bay

Iris Smith 648-5821 Birthday wishes to Dorothy Smith our cousin of Dunrobin and formerly of the Bay who celebrated a birthday today.

The Golden Age Club held its euehre on Tuesday evening at the clubroom.

Ladies high was a tie between Annette Lepine and Isabelle Lacroix. They split the prize. Second was a tie as well between Carol Mainville and Gwen Black.

Bryson

Heather Stewart 648-5413 Get well wishes going out to Basil Belland of Campbell's Bay.

A very happy anniversary to Tammy Benoit and Sean Troke.

Birthday greetings going out to one of my old friends George-Ann Evans of Portage.

My parents Jim and Anna, Sherry and Chinker, Jamie, Sylvie, Jacob and Caley and I went down to Ottawa to spend a night with my brother Shawn, Amber and Dakota. We had a wonderful time. While

Ladysmith

Debbie Thrun 647-3927 Well, Valentine's Day is only a heart beat away.

Well, Valentine's Day is only a heart beat away. Why not surprise your loved one with something special this year.

Deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Carolyn Hawn who recently passed away.

We watched Warton Willy's prediction ceremony on TV. Certainly judging by the reporters and the crowd it is a much anticipated event.

We're having a rather strange winter. On Friday we had it all, freezing rain, ordinary rain and then snow.

I'm happy to report that Aunt Violet Mielkie is feeling

fast that if the car in front has to stop suddenly you can't. It's best to keep a safe distance between cars.

On Saturday evening Lillian and Tom Vanclief attended a Valentine Dinner and Dance at the R.A. in Otter Lake.

Calling us over the weekend was our good friend Harold Mahlitz of Kitchner.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!

Sheenboro

Myrtle Sullivan 689-2236 I had numerous calls from people who missed my column last week.

I have noticed that many of the stores are now displaying Irish goods of all kinds - getting ready for St. Patrick's Day.

I mentioned in by column a few weeks back about how icy it was and how I took a wee tumble in the yard.

The book club of which my daughter is a member held its last meeting at the home of Ann Marie Vaz at Fort William.

On Sunday, Feb. 5, Dillon is a Sheener from way back and we really miss him around here.

Bonnie Morris and her husband Tony Kine have settled into their new farm out by Nicabeau.

I'm sorry to have missed a baby shower for my granddaughter Chantal in Ottawa.

Billy and Sandra Brennan held their annual sleigh ride and kitchen celi on Sunday as well. What a success, 150 people, seven teams of horses and 11 fiddlers plus numerous other musicians.

free game of the month was won by Maxine Fenton. Refreshments were by Gwen Black and Maxine Fenton.

Despite the weather on Friday morning the nearly new sale at St George's Anglican Church had a great turnout.

Claire Lunam retired from her job at THE EQUITY after 40 years of service. She will be sadly missed by all the customers whom she greeted in her special way, always with a smile and a cheery greeting.

I know I will miss Claire in the time I have been a news correspondent and her many kindnesses to me over

the years. May she enjoy her retirement to the fullest and have her health to enjoy this special time in her life.

Get well wishes to June Burman who is recovering after breaking her finger.

Happy birthday to Jean Cuthbertson who celebrates on Feb 7. Two other well known ladies in our town, Brenda Derouin the Post master, and Nicole Lacroix from Sears both had their birthdays as well.

Trina Telford and Ryan Mace have just returned from a Caribbean Cruise which they thoroughly enjoyed. Trina is our granddaughter.

One of our neighbors Crystal Meilleur had a birthday as well. We wish her success in the future. A few friends attended her birthday celebrations.

there, we had the opportunity to meet with Peter and Patsy McGrath of Metcalfe. Jamie and Sylvie were the "Card Champs."

A very happy birthday to my little cousin, Charlie Benoit. Charlee is the son of Lee Benoit and Jen Bellefeuille.

Happy birthday to Melissa Piche.

A 65th birthday party was held in Otter Lake for Robert Yerek at the Poppy Restaurant by his family, relatives, friends and neighbors. A delicious meal was served.

Birthday greetings going out to Todd Lance and Sean Troke of Bryson and to my good friend Daphne Laycock of Davidson.

Zakary, Tyler, Chantal, Leah, Brooke and I would like to send out a great big thank you to Gordie Racine for the box of candies he dropped off to us.

To all of you sweethearts out there...wishing you a very happy Valentine's Day with you better halves. Wishing you a year that's filled with lots of love.

quite a bit better since her slight heart attack. This wonderful lady is amazing at 96 years young. She's even back going to the cafeteria to eat her meals now.

Last Wednesday, Feb. 1, Dennis and I went on a shopping trip. It seemed like everyone was out enjoying the beautiful mild weather.

Special birthday congratulations to Betty Murdoch who celebrated Feb. 4. Sorry I missed you.

Visiting with Margaret Fireoben one day this past week were Grace and Bob Stewart and their son David of Ottawa.

Margaret visited with Aunt Violet Mielkie and Minnie Krose last week. They are both residents at the Pontiac Reception Centre.

Meilleur and treated the crowd to a few songs. Sandra's mother Doreen made a birthday cake for Mary Ellen McLeese who was celebrating that day.

I have a slew of birthday wishes for February. Happy birthday to Natasha Clyde on the 8th, Chantal Ouellette on the 7th, Sophia Ouellette on the 21st, Allison Clyde on the 17th, and Selina Peirera on the 3rd.

Get well wishes to Elva Bowers of Chapeau. Elva taught a number of my children in Sheen years ago and also taught high school in Chapeau.

Lyle Allord formerly of Chapeau is home from out west to visit family and friends.

I mentioned in by column a few weeks back about how icy it was and how I took a wee tumble in the yard.

Margaret Tallon and her sister Mary Keogh are back from spending a month in Peru with their brother Jim and wife.

The St. Patrick dance at the Sheen hall is scheduled for Saturday, March 11. Jim Beatty and our own local fiddlers will headline the music.

Father Shalla is back from a well earned trip to Florida where he had a good rest, and took some time to let his "homly voice" recover.

The book club of which my daughter is a member held its last meeting at the home of Ann Marie Vaz at Fort William.

On Dec. 26 at the home of Mabel and Felix Kluge a sliding party was held.

On Tuesday, Jan. 31 the Otter lake Golden age club held its weekly euehre game. lucky winner of the 50/50 draw was Bob Billings.

Best wishes to Dick Bertrand who has not been feeling the best lately. Hope you get well soon Dick.

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New fire truck



A cheque of \$18,898 was presented to the Municipality of Bristol Monday night. The money, raised over the past year during Bristol 150th anniversary events, will be going towards the municipality's new fire truck.

Pontiac Station

Hope Cadieux 647-5452 Où sont les neiges d'antan?

Where are those sunny, sparkling February days? Those bracing -30 degree temperatures?

It's quite a trick to drive down Hwy. 148 and avoid the potholes. This week I had to replace the front wheel-bearings on my car; two of them were cracked probably the result of dropping a wheel into a pot-hole.

Sure, there's plenty of snow on the ground. But who wants to put on skis, skates or snowshoes and go out into the rain?

and Grandpa Smith and all of our aunts, uncles and cousins.

Well hockey season is almost over as we will be starting the play offs real soon.

The Jr. Bs had a real good season of it. So good luck in the playoff boys. The Dodge Cup will be on April 12 to 16 for Quebec Hockey teams and will be held in Shawville.

A big happy birthday to Heather Dickson who has a birthday on Feb. 14 which is Valentine's Day.

Happy anniversary goes out to Robert and Lise Lacourse on Feb. 10 and Meagan and Norm Durocher on Feb. 13.

and Grandpa Smith and all of our aunts, uncles and cousins.

Charteris

Mona Rutledge 647-6250 Belated happy birthday to my two cousins, Josh Massia on Jan. 24.

Happy birthday to my two cousins, Josh Massia on Jan. 24. He was 23 years-old and little Alanna Grace Larocque who turned two years of age on Jan. 29.

Also birthday wishes to Caitlin Allo who will be two on Feb. 6. This is from Granny

Otter Lake

Elizabeth Hahn 453-7326 On Tuesday, Jan. 31 the Otter lake Golden age club held its weekly euehre game.

Best wishes to Dick Bertrand who has not been feeling the best lately. Hope you get well soon Dick.

Get well wishes to Simone St. Aubin who is in the Shawville Hospital.

Christmas day 2005 Mabel and Frank Kluge and their families had supper at RVI in Norway Bay.

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Vinton

Diane Boisvert 648-5296 You can't believe it's February. We want snow, not rain.

Happy birthday wishes to Paulette and Pauline Dubeau 9th, Joan Frost 10th, Christina Sloan 13th and of course my own daughter, Shelley Davidson on the 15th and son-in-law Carl Davidson on the 17th.

For Min's birthday this year Rat borrowed Min's skidder and trotted off to the bush to cut pulp. The poor man has been working feverishly and saving every cent so he can take Min on a romantic get-away down south.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Valentine's Day. Sorry to hear that Basie Belland is in hospital in Hull. We are cheering for you so get well soon.

Jennifer Desjardins had her friends and family with her at Le Pont Rouge Restaurant in Fort Coulonge on Saturday. Jennifer called it her "last supper" before she goes in to have a new kidney is put in.

A week ago last weekend, Earl McKnight, Wayne Venne, Nicholas Ethier, Timmy Dempsey, of Waltham and Earl Lepine and Tommy Marcotte, of Chapeau took a skidoo trip up to Temiscaming.

Our Michael has just returned from Iqaluit, Nunavut. He spent this past week up there on a business trip. It was -40 Celsius at night.

This is Sunday afternoon and it is dull and raining. It is almost spring-like weather. We are getting a mild winter with lots of rain.

On Saturday evening Rhonda and Mark took in the Chapeau winter carnival supper and dance. They really had a nice time.

A very happy birthday and all the best are wished to Lysanne Bechamp, who is celebrating her birthday on Feb. 11.

Special birthday wishes are also wished to Ryan Bayne, who is celebrating his 11th birthday on Feb. 11.

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Advertisement for Pembroke Honda featuring various car models like 2006 Civic, 2006 Odyssey, 2006 Accord, 2006 CR-V 4WD, 2006 Pilot 4WD, and 2006 Ridgeline. Includes financing options and contact information for Pembroke Honda.