

Chutes Coulonge's Festival of Lights draws the crowds, see page 2

THE EQUITY

www.theequity.ca

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H1N1

End of the line for vaccinations

CAROLE ST-AUBIN

Equity Editor

PONTIAC • The long lineups are coming to an end as the last sweep of mass vaccinations are winding down in Pontiac.

With two last clinics scheduled for the area, no coupons will be necessary.

Anyone who still wishes to receive the vaccination and is unable to make it to the scheduled clinics are being asked to contact the Centre de santé et services sociaux du Pontiac (CSSSP) at 1-800-567-9625 to leave their names, addresses as well as the time and day that is most suitable for them to receive their vaccination.

Appointment dates would then be set up according to number of calls received.

Statistics show that more than 9,000 Pontiac residents, including school-aged children and health and social workers, have been vaccinated to date.

Bryson, Dec. 9, Bryson CLSC
420 Terry Fox St.
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Allumette Island, Dec. 9, Chapeau CLSC
72 St. Patrick St.
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Quyon, Dec. 10, Lions Hall
1 Ferry Rd.
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The dates and times of seasonal flu clinics has not yet been determined, according to a spokesperson for the CSSSP.

The organization is currently in discussion with the Quebec Ministry of Health regarding the distribution of seasonal flu vaccinations. It is expected more information will be released at the beginning of January, 2010.



Carole St-Aubin, THE EQUITY

The long line-ups are coming to an end soon as Pontiac's H1N1 vaccination campaign winds down from its frantic pace.

Food drive Dec. 10

HEATHER DICKSON

Equity Publisher

PONTIAC • Don't forget about the food drive that takes place tomorrow with volunteers collecting food items and money from the three locations in Pontiac.

This year volunteers will be stationed from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Campbell's Bay at the intersection of Hwy. 148 and Hwy. 301 North and in Shawville at the intersection of Main and Centre Street.

All the money and food collected goes directly towards Bouffe Pontiac, helping Pontiacers in need especially during this time of year. The food bank can surely use your help.

Head-on causes minor injuries

CAROLE ST-AUBIN

Equity Editor

QUYON • A head-on collision occurred at the intersection of Hwy. 148 and Clarendon Street in Quyon on Saturday, at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Apparently a Gatineau woman fell asleep at the wheel of her Jeep TJ, and collided with a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction.

According to police, there was also a child aboard the Jeep when she collided with a woman from Clarendon driving a Ford Focus.

The drivers of both vehicles were treated for minor injuries, according to a spokesperson from the MRC des Collines.



Submitted by Jean Lapointe

Large crowds waited and enjoyed Isabelle Boulay's visit to Annette and Jean-Guy Larivière's home in Fort Coulonge during the filming of *La Petite Seduction*.

A golden moment

CAROLE ST-AUBIN

Equity Editor

FORT COULONGE • The months of preparation for French Singer Isabelle Boulay's visit reached its culminating point on Friday as hundreds of people lined the streets in anticipation for the launch of the three-day event.

Getting caught up in the spirit of the event, Fort Coulonge and Mansfield residents and business owners contributed to the festive air by decorating their houses, store-fronts and shops with lights, garlands, wreaths and bows.

Upon hearing that their villages had been chosen to host the filming of the popular television program *La Petite Seduction*, hosted by Dany Turcotte, a program that takes celebrity guests on a special trip to highlight little-known areas of the province that hold a special attraction, volunteers have been busy working behind the scenes in order to make this a trek Boulay, Turcotte and the entire Radio-Canada film crew would never forget.

Though the launch of the events were postponed by up to three hours due to the Québec Ministry of Transport last minute orders to barricade the Marchand bridge as a safety precaution, following an inspection of the bridge by the Ministry, people braved the cold winds and lined the street for hours, not wanting to miss the grand entrance into the village in a horse-drawn carriage.

Soon chants of "Isabelle, Isabelle," filled the air as people could no longer contain their excitement.

Greeted on the steps of Annette and Jean-Guy Larivière's home, the two were welcomed by a little girl, Heidi Newberry, bearing a gift for Boulay.

The songstress donned the red cape, was serenaded with Christmas songs, greeted with opened arms by Mayor Raymond Durocher, who expressed his sincere wishes of warmth and welcome, before she went on the planned route taking them through the village with stops along Principale Street with carollers and people adorned with festive garbs bearing gifts

along the way.

All the while the film crew recorded their footage for the television program that will air on Radio-Canada at 8 p.m. on Dec. 14, with a repeat showing on Dec. 20.

The next leg of the visit took the guests and film crew to the Chutes Coulonge to take part in the annual Festival of Lights, where the trail was lit with lanterns and again the duo were serenaded with songs of the season.

Filed over a three-day period, the cheerful ambiance continued when Boulay and Turcotte were invited to the Bryson Heritage home.

Once there in a classroom set-up, children wearing period costumes invite Boulay to help them decorate for the holidays.

In another segment shot at the Cinéma Lynn, a nostalgic projection filled the screen until it suddenly transformed into a stage scene depicting the local history, traditions and festivities enjoyed by local people.

Please see MOMENT page fourteen



Visiting in Fort Coulonge this week was the cast and crew of the *La Petite Seduction*, a popular CBC-Radio Canada show. Joining host, Dany Turcotte, centre, was the equally popular French singing star, Isabelle Boulay, far left. Welcoming the pair was Fort Coulonge's Mayor Raymond Durocher, right.

Submitted by Jean Lapointe

Santa a hit in the Bay

HEATHER DICKSON

Equity Publisher

CAMPBELL'S BAY • Santa was a lucky elf on Saturday. He got a warm break from the North Pole to meet lots of warm-hearted people in the annual Santa parade.

Great temperatures and lots of entries preceded Santa as he rode on top of the fire truck from the collection point at the St. Joseph's Manor to the R.A. Hall down at the waterfront.

"We had more entries this year with a total of 26," said one of the organizers Lois Smith. "And it was a warm, sunny day for the viewers who lined the streets and jammed the R.A. Centre to spend some time with Santa."

"We gave out 100 bags of candy to the kids who all gave Santa their wish list," said Smith.

Please see SANTA, page two



Heather Dickson, THE EQUITY

Zach Pilon enjoyed participating in the Campbell's Bay Santa Claus parade on Saturday. To see more photos check out our website www.theequity.ca.

Still at odds with 911

CAROLE ST-AUBIN

Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • A meeting was held in Shawville between Mayors Albert Armstrong, Jack Lang, members of the Shawville-Clarendon fire department, and Executive Director Jean-François Ducharme and other representatives of the Groupe CLR communications company on Dec. 2, to discuss the blunders and mishaps both municipalities have experienced since the communication company took over the dispatch of Pontiac's 911 emergency services in September.

During the meeting, it was agreed that the breach in communication needed to be addressed immediately and that the time delays in contacting the fire department and other emergency services had to diminish.

"We went over the 911 protocols that CLR abides by and we made it clear that the changes we required had to take effect as soon as possible. We told them that even a day was too much time," said Armstrong.

Please see 911 page two

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From the Front 911

Continued from page one
Armstrong and Lang both indicated that the details of the faxes that are sent following an emergency call were never accurate and often arrived more than 10 minutes after a call had been received.

The mayors also brought a recent call into focus where the 'jaws of life' had been required in the Bristol area, involved a dispatcher sending the emergency crew to the required location via a longer route than necessary.

"I felt the meeting was a repetition of the Nov. 12 meeting, but the company wanted to see our set-up and they had questions in regards to the problems we encountered with the service," said Lang.

According to Armstrong, there were no arguments

from the CLR representatives when they reiterated to the facts that were presented by telling those gathered that the company was taking the matter seriously and working towards a solution that would eliminate future mishaps by having at least one fluently bilingual employee present at all times to deal with calls from Pontiac, and that there were changes that would be in place by February 2010 which would include a system upgrade with a global positioning system (GPS).

"The language is a huge barrier, our confidence in the service has been gravely affected but the company is concerned and want to do everything they possibly can to restore that confidence. However, we won't just sit around and wait for

a fatality to occur before we consider other options," said Lang.

Adding that CLR was made aware that one of the options Pontiac municipalities might consider is the option of going with another host company that could provide dispatching services if their needs and the problems they've already encountered weren't met and solved in a timely and efficient manner.

The MRC des Collines, which has its own emergency dispatching service is willing to consider offering their service to neighbouring municipalities, is a possible solution the municipalities of Pontiac might opt to choose if the Groupe CLR company does not deliver what they are promising to rectify, according to Lang.

Chute Coulonge's Festival of Lights a huge success

ANDREA CRANFIELD
Equity Reporter

MANSFIELD • More than 1,100 people showed up to the annual Festival of Lights at Chutes Coulonge this year making it the largest since its inception four years ago when only 425 people turned out. It takes place on the first weekend of every December and the lights shine bright for three days.

Christine Mitchell, festival director and founder, said that this year was a huge success and they received a lot of positive feedback from festival-goers.

"We always get a lot of really encouraging comments," Mitchell said. "The biggest comment we get is that people enjoy it so much that they want to have it on more than just one weekend."

She said the point of the event is to have it at a specific time however, and if it happens more than once, then that one weekend isn't going to be as successful.

The festival takes place at the edge of the waterfalls in Chute Coulonge and the Festival of Lights is the only time it's open to the public all winter. So people travel from as far away as Gatineau, Deep River and Eganville to enjoy the festivities.

There was a real sense of community as everyone stood around drinking hot chocolate, eating hot dogs and roasting marshmallows

by the huge bonfire. The movie *Log Drive Movie* was being shown and Christmas music filled the air. There was a vendors market where artisans were selling a vast array of treats including jewelry, pottery, paintings, jams and jellies, baked goods, crafts and cider.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for the community to get together and promote local togetherness," Mitchell said. "The festival promotes tourism which is invaluable to the community. It really shows how a community can come together for the common good."

Greg Hayley, a resident of Clarendon, was a first-time visitor to the event and said that he had a great time and was really impressed by how well the festival was run.

"I was overwhelmed by the amazing attraction of lights combined with the natural beauty of the water and nature," Hayley said. "It was awesome!"

This year was the first time that hydro-electricity was used instead of generators which enabled the festival to cover more ground and light up more pathways. Mitchell said people definitely enjoyed the larger space.

"It's so much easier without the generators," Mitchell said. "We didn't have to worry about whether they were working or if they were going to go out on us or not. It allowed us to cover more ground without the worry like

we had in previous years." French singer Isabelle Boulay showed up to the event on Friday evening. She was in the area filming for the television show *La Petite Seduction*. The filming took place throughout Mansfield and Fort Coulonge and Mitchell said that because of the festival, it was a good location to shoot.

It snowed on Friday and Sunday evenings, which made for a beautiful scene as the snowflakes danced off the reflections of the lights but Saturday night remained clear.

There are already plans underway for next year's event and Mitchell said there will be even more lights but she is keeping the rest of the plans a secret for now.

"It's a lot of work to get ready for the event," Mitchell said. "You have to install the lights, you have to facilitate the event, you have to make sure all of the safety and security issues are taken care of. You have to contact the vendors and take care of the advertising. You need to start preparing quite a bit of time in advance."

Greg Hayley said he enjoyed the festival so much that he will definitely be a repeat visitor and is already looking forward to what next year will bring.

"This festival is one-of-a-kind and I will certainly advise all of my family and friends to visit the Chutes," Hayley said.

Happy 45th Wedding Anniversary
Brent & Claire Barr
December 12th, 2009
Love,
Blake, Brad and Families



Farmers and Friends Christmas Party
Sat., Dec. 12 - 8:30 p.m.
Shawville Lions Hall
\$8/person - \$15/couple
Lunch - Door Prizes - Silent Auction - D.J.
Tickets available at the door.
Come celebrate the season while helping friends in need. Proceeds to local Oncology Unit - Cancer Patients. "Supporting our community"

Christmas Trees For Sale
Shawville Lions' Club will be selling fresh trees in the barn at the Fair Grounds 9 am - 3 pm every Saturday in December while quantities last. Get your tree early for the best selection.
Trees also available at: **J & J Grocery.**



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Russett-Havelin 60th Wedding Anniversary
To all family and friends of Fred & Chris (Maude), we would like you to join us as we celebrate this milestone with our parents on their very special day.



Date of Celebration: January 9, 2010
Location: Aylmer United Church (downstairs)
Across from Tim Hortons
Time: 2 pm - 5 pm
Refreshments will be served.
Best Wishes Only

SANTA

Continued from page one

Besides the candy, visitors to the R.A. centre were also treated to juice, chips and hot dogs. The juice was donated by McDonald's in Renfrew, and Bonichoix donated the hot dogs and buns.

"Lots of people filled the hall. Every table was occupied. It was full," said Smith.

"We had lots of people come a long distance so that their kids could see Santa," added Smith.

The R.A. Hall had been decorated by Beverly Lepack and the windows had been painted with Christmas scenes with animated characters by Lise Crawford.

"Everyone enjoyed the day, all in all it was a very pleasant event. We were very pleased with the beautiful day and the little dusting of snow the night before just made it perfect," said Smith.

Winners
First prize - Roxanne Burman-Shea's entry of the 'Gingerbread man'

Second Prize - Lions Club with 'Red Neck Christmas'

Third prize - Municipality of Campbell's Bay with their Vancouver 2010 Olympics

Best Horse Entry - Gary Moorhead.

A draw for an afghan and set of Christmas mugs was won by Wendy Moore. The parade winners gen-

erously gave back their winnings of \$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third to the 'Help Kelsey Lepack' campaign. Donations collected along the parade route that day for Kelsey amounted to \$978.60 and will be donated to her family.

Kelsey, a seven year old girl from Campbell's Bay, is undergoing treatments at CHEO for an aggressive form of Burkitt's Lymphoma. Other fund raising activities are being organized to help this little girl.

"Everyone was very generous. We were all happy to donate the money back to such a good cause," said Smith.

The angels are calling

CAROLE ST-AUBIN
Equity Reporter

Shawville • With the holiday season just around the corner, people are busy bustling about to do their last minute shopping and looking for that special gift for everyone on their list.

But for some the holiday season serves to remind them of what they can't have, either by emphasizing the frustration and disappointment of not being able to provide their family members with any gifts at all, or where kids are concerned, it's the angst of having to contend with the showing off or boasting about the great gifts that their peers have received.

Though Christmas has become extremely commercialized, the feelings of opening up one's heart in generosity to give a gift which will be well received, and knowing that it will make someone happy is one that is most rewarding.

Organizers of the United Church's angel tree campaign are appealing to that generosity in hopes that the wishes of children from families that are experiencing

financial difficulties can be met at Christmas.

"There has been an increase in the number of families that needed the service Pontiac-wide last year. We had more than 40 families with 100 kids on the list," said Rev. Paula Mullin, one of the organizers from the United Church.

Last year gifts were distributed to families in need in the Shawville, Clarendon, Bryson, Portage du Fort, Quyon, Campbell's Bay and Fort Coulonge areas, according to Mullin, who also stated that a list of beneficiaries from previous years was kept, and that organizers usually contact to determine whether their circumstances have changed, or to verify whether they still require help in providing gifts for their children.

"But if people know of anyone who can benefit from the service, they may call us on their behalf," added Mullin.

The angel trees, adorned with angel cut-outs labeled for girls and boys from babies to age 17 can be found at the following Shawville locations, Sears

Depot, Villa Day Spa, Stedmans, and Giant Tigre.

Once an angel or angels are picked, a gift of any price range for the appropriate ages and sexes that have been chosen can be brought back to the location from which they were selected, then volunteers get together to sort and wrap them.

"We are hoping to raise the awareness that there are many families in our community that are needy and that there is a lot of pressure on them to fill those needs at Christmas. It can be a very sad time for families, especially for kids who hear the chatter at school knowing they're in a situation where they might not receive anything for Christmas," said Mullin when asked about the Church group's involvement in the angel tree campaign.

Anyone wishing to make a donation can simply go to the above-mentioned locations to choose their angels, and if anyone wishes to volunteer in the wrapping and delivering of presents they can do so by simply calling Mullins at 819-647-2624.



The Chutes Coulonge was a spectacular sight with an array of lights focused on the falls. Many visitors enjoyed the Festival of Lights which was held this past weekend.

Rotary club hands out awards, inducts new members

HEATHER DICKSON
Equity Publisher

SHAWVILLE • Every Monday evening there is a regular gathering of dedicated community members at Cafe 349, but this past Monday was a special night for Rotary Club members.

On Monday, Nov. 30 Rotary Club members and their guests gathered to pay special homage to five extraordinary community people plus welcome two new members to their club.

The prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship Award is presented to out-standing community members for their contributions to Rotary. The award was presented by District Governor Arnold Lawrence of Petawawa.

This year's recipients were: Joan Conrod, Bryan Murray, Rotarian John Brusenbauch, Rotarian Robert Campbell and Rotarian Richard Meisner.

Joan Conrod, a non-Rotarian, was honoured by the club for her contributions with the dramatic productions of the Pontiac Community Players. In ten years, the Pontiac Community Players raised over \$80,000 for local orga-

nizations and charities, including the Shawville Rotary Club.

"I am proud and thrilled to be a 'fellow'," said Conrod following her acceptance of the Paul Harris Fellow award. "But I take this on behalf of all those that have performed on stage and behind the scenes. They are all equally deserving," said Conrod.

Bryan Murray, General Manager of the Ottawa Senators, was the second non-Rotarian to be awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship award.

"Many know of Shawville and its location because of Bryan Murray. Bryan has remained extremely loyal to his hometown and to his family and has been selected for the Paul Harris Award," said president John Quinsey.

Rotarians Brusenbauch, Campbell and Meisner were also awarded with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award for their outstanding contributions and dedication to the local club.

The Paul Harris Fellowship is Rotary's recognition of individual Rotarians who sustain the Rotary Foundation's good

work by making a minimum donation to it of \$1,000.

The Rotary Foundation is a registered charity that supports the efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through international humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs. It is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

Every Paul Harris Fellow receives a pin, medallion and a certificate when he or she becomes a Fellow. This identifies the Paul Harris Fellow as an advocate of the Foundation's goals of world peace and international understanding.

New members
Shawville Rotary Club's membership grew to 21 following the induction by Assistant District Governor Marie DeNoble Evans of two members. Joining the club are Albert Armstrong and Debra Stephens.

Rotary Club is an organization international service club located all over the world. It is a secular orga-

nization open to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, gender or political preference. There are more than 38,250 clubs and over 1.2 million members worldwide. The members of Rotary Clubs are known as Rotarians. The stated purpose of the organization is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Members usually meet weekly for breakfast, lunch or dinner, which is a social event as well as an opportunity to organize work on their service goals.

The first Rotary Club was formed in downtown Chicago by attorney Paul P. Harris on Feb. 23, 1905. Harris held the first meeting with three friends, Silvester Schiele, coal merchant, Gustave E. Loehr, mines engineer and Hiram E. Shorey, tailor.

Shawville's Rotary Club was established on May 6, 1947. This year's president is John Quinsey, vice-president is Donald Page, secretary is Robert Binder and treasurer is Eason Russell.



Two new members were inducted to the Shawville Rotary Club on Monday, Nov. 30 at a special dinner and awards evening at Cafe 349. New members are Albert Armstrong and Debra Stephens. Photographed here are from the left Armstrong, Asst. District Governor Marie DeNoble Evans, Stephens and President John Quinsey.



Paul Harris Fellow awards were presented to Rotarian Richard Meisner, Joan Conrod, Rotarian Robert Campbell and Rotarian John Brusenbauch. Missing for the photo was Paul Harris Fellow recipient Bryan Murray.

Road to Bethlehem

Date: Sunday, December 13, 2009
Time: 4:30 pm to 7 pm
Presentation will run every half hour.



Join us as we investigate the birth of Christ. We will encounter Isaiah, a choir of angels, shepherds tending their sheep, soldiers along the road, an inn keeper, a census taker, Simeon, as well as Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. The presentation runs approximately 20 minutes and is an outdoor event. Dress warm.

Highlights:
• 6th Annual Living Nativity Program
• Discover the true meaning of Christmas
• Live animals, shepherds and soldiers
• Enjoy Hot Apple Cider and cookies at the "INN"

Presented by:
Grace Community Bible Church & Friends
Contact person:
Mary Hamilton
Tel. 819-647-3542
E-mail: lmhamilton@295.ca

Hosted at: **Rolling Acres Farms**
C260 Heath Road
Shawville, Quebec
Directions to the farm: At Shawville on the corner of Highway 148 & Bean's Gas Station, turn south onto HEATH ROAD. Follow the road south for 3 1/2 miles. 1st on right after railway track.

126 years of news from the Pontiac

THE WAY WE WERE

Compiled by Heather Alberti-Dickson Publisher

25 Years Ago

December 5, 1984

MRC BUDGET NEARS HALF MILLION: All across Quebec, the 28th of November, is budget day for the MRCs. In Pontiac the mayors met in Litchfield to consider this coming year's budget prepared by the secretary-treasurer Jacques Ledoux. Total expenses for 1985 are expected to be slightly over four hundred and eighty-nine thousand dollars. Of this two hundred and fifty-one thousand dollars will be raised through local taxation, the rest will come from government sources.

QUEBEC YOUNG FARMERS: Quebec Young Farmers held their annual banquet at the Shawville Community Centre last Friday, Nov. 30 with a crowd of about 100 people in attendance. Seated at the head table were Stephen Hamilton, president, and Master of Ceremonies for the evening; 4-H Hostess Cathy Stanley; David Thompson, Senior Director; Andrew Tracy, Junior Director; James Howard, Fieldman, Paul Bertrand, Director; and Linda Beland, provincial coordinator and guest

speaker.

50 Years Ago

December 10, 1959 MISSING FROM OUR FILES

75 Years Ago

December 13, 1934

LOCAL NEWS: Mr. Joseph Belanger of Campbell's Bay was awarded third prize on his exhibit of red clover seed at the International Livestock and Grain show in Chicago.

Ten tons of dressed poultry were graded and packed at the poultry fair held at the Exhibition Hall on Thursday last under the auspices of Clarendon Farmers Club. Charles Belec, of Fort Coulonge, MP for Pontiac County was called to Jacksonborough, 25 miles west of Cochrane, Ont to assist in the search for his son, Wilfrid Belec, who was drowned in the Frederick House River, on Wednesday, Dec. 5 Mr. Belec was accompanied by another son, Rene, a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The victim

of the drowning was riding with three companions on a tractor when it broke through the ice. Mr. Belec went down with the tractor in about 25 feet of water.

The store, house and out-buildings of Omer Plouffe at Otter Lake were destroyed by fire on Sunday afternoon last. When the blaze was first discovered it had gained such headway it was impossible to save the buildings and the neighbours salvaged as much of the stock and furniture as possible. The total loss is estimated at around \$6,000.

100 Years Ago

December 9, 1909

LOCAL NEWS: There will be a grand celebration in St. Elizabeth's Church, Vinton on Sunday, Dec. 19 at 10 o'clock when the Rev. Thomas Francis Joseph Sloan will celebrate his First Holy Mass.

It has been reported that Mr. Jas. H. McKay of Wyman, who two years ago suffered the loss of his sight by the bursting of a glass of a steam gauge, has received the amount of his permanent disability claim from the I.O.F. — \$500. The

remaining \$500 of his insurance will be paid at his death, and he is also absolved from all assessments that would otherwise occur during his life. The I.O.F. has its advantages, of which this case is an example.

Two highly esteemed young people of Yarm section, joined hearts and hands in wedlock's bonds on Wednesday last, in the persons of Miss Eva, eldest daughter of Mr. Thos. A. Elliott, and Mr. Hursty Hodgins, eldest son of Mr. Henry B. Hodgins.

Intelligence reached town on Monday morning of the death of Mr. J. J. Muldoon, ex-mayor of S. Onslow, a gentleman well known throughout the county, and one remarkable from the fact that he was the weightiest man in the Ottawa Valley, prior to the beginning of the illness which ended in his death. Although Canadian born, the late Mr. Muldoon was a typical Irishman, of genial disposition. He was a Roman Catholic and an ardent Liberal.

125 Years Ago

December 11, 1884

MISSING FROM OUR FILE

90th anniversary celebration

CAMPBELL'S BAY • On Sept. 26, 2009 St. John the Evangelist Parish of Campbell's Bay celebrated its 90th anniversary of the founding of the parish.

The day began with a mass at 4 p.m. with Father Basil Tanguay as celebrant with three former parish

priests in attendance. A joyous celebration following with fellowship, singing and the history of the founding of the parish. The church was packed with present and former parishioners many travelling a distance to be present.

After mass Father

Tanguay presented three parishioners with a special papal blessing from Rome to Bernadette McGee, Cecile Menard and Denis Lepine for their many years of devoted service to St. John's Parish.

The scene then shifted to the Campbell's Bay, R.A. Centre where a wonderful

roast beef supper was served to approximately 200 people. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all in attendance. The proceeds from the day will go towards the renovations to the church.

Thanks to all who helped in any way to the success of this special birthday party.



Pictured left to right: Rev. Murray Tardiff, Bernadette McGee, Denis Lepine, Cecile Ménard, Rev. Basil Tanguay, P.P., Rev. Joseph Legree and Rev. John McElligott.

Otter Lake

Elizabeth Hahn 819-453-7326 Sincere sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of Muriel Faye Richard (née Sparling) beloved wife of Mearl Richard of Renfrew, formerly Otter lake. She was

63 years old, dear mom of Tammy, Melinda and Marc, grandma to Dustin and Joselyn.

Cottagers and townspeople please be aware of a thief or thieves who on Nov. 19 or 20 stole an erected black garage 12 feet wide, 20- feet long

and eight feet high from a lake residence in the Otter Lake area. Please report any findings or information to the police in Campbell's Bay.

Golden Age Club euchre results for Dec 1: First prize: Denise Dubois and Bill Lintell. Second: Red Anderson and Perry Robinson. 50/50 winner: Medard Allard. Door prize: Viola

Gauthier. Dessert was provided by Velma Lafleur and Marie Pilon. Birthday celebrations: Pierrette Graveline, Paul Blaskie and Red Anderson.

Dart league results for Dec 3: First prize: Velma Lafleur and Carl Kappes. Second: Pat Bisson and Paul Blaskie. 50/50 winner: Denise Dubois. Door prize: Michael Robillard.

Christmas lights turned on at Veteran's Parks

HEATHER DICKSON Equity Publisher

SHAWVILLE • Warm hearts, friendly smiles, hot chocolate and cheery Christmas wishes on a cool, breezy Friday evening greeted participants to the annual tree lighting ceremony.

For the 11th year the neighbours bordering the Memorial Park in Shawville along with the help of town foreman Denzil Yach have hosted a tree lighting event for all to enjoy.

The event begins promptly at 7 p.m. with Christmas carols led by neighbour Anne Rogers. Carols included Dreaming of a White Christmas, Silent Night, Deck the Halls and Jingle Bells, all of which helped to get participants in the Christmas spirit.

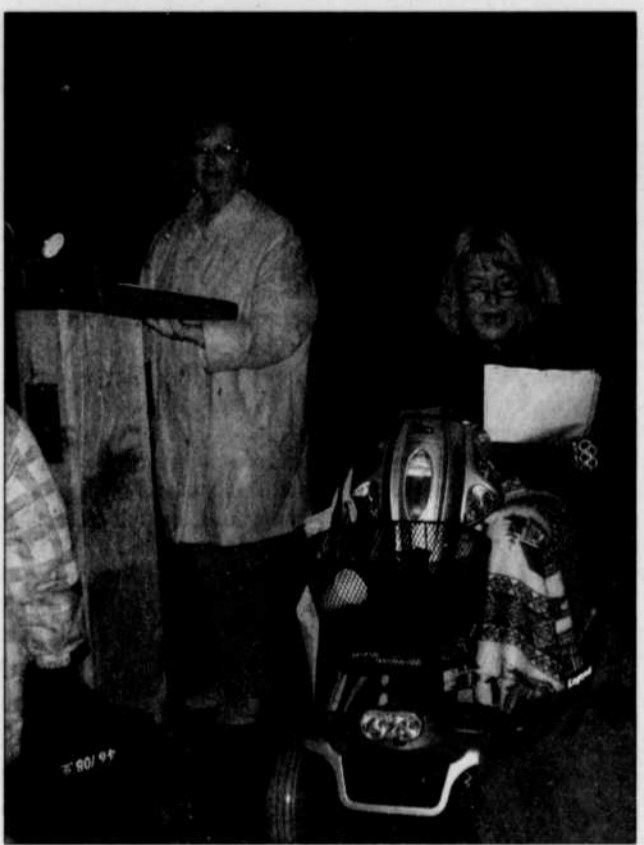
Mayor Albert Armstrong, also a neighbour of the

Veteran's Park, welcomed everyone to the event and wished everyone a merry Christmas.

Children eagerly gathered around Janet McCord as she read to them T'was the Night Before Christmas and a visit from Santa, bearing candy canes, provided an opportunity for the youngsters to get in their Christmas wishes.

The annual event has a strong family-friendly feel to it and it was enjoyed by all who braved the cool late November evening.

The ceremonial 10-second count down to the spectacular lighting of the lights created the collective 'wow' when the lights were flicked on. The lights in the Veteran's Park will remain lit for the duration of the holiday season for everyone to enjoy.



Heather Dickson, The Equity

Janet McCord's reading of T'was the Night Before Christmas entranced children at the lighting of the park on Friday evening, Nov. 27 in Shawville.

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Make the right choice this holiday season

ANDREA CRANFIELD Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • With Christmas fast approaching and the holiday cheer setting in many indulgences can present themselves. Eating that extra piece of turkey or having a few too many cookies won't kill you. But having that extra drink might.

Although drinking and driving is very dangerous, it still remains a huge problem in Canada.

A Transport Canada report states that more than 1,000 people die each year in Canada in alcohol-related accidents.

Steve Lalande, a Sûreté du Québec spokesperson, said that throughout December and January different operations are occurring in Quebec that aim at preventing drinking and driving and illegal substance use.

"Thirty three per cent of accidents that happen in Quebec are caused by drunk driving," Lalande said.

Police will be driving around in marked cars to let people know that they are near-by and they are watching.

"We are hoping if someone is intoxicated at a bar and sees a police officer driving around, they will get someone else to drive them home," Lalande said.

There are conferences taking place in schools for people who are just starting to

drive, warning them of the dangers of driving while impaired.

Police are also working with MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) who are lobbying for the laws to be stricter. They hope to bring the legal drinking limit from 0.8 per cent down to 0.5.

Consequences for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol can range from a \$300 fine, to the loss of your drivers license, to jail time.

There is no set amount of alcohol that someone can drink to stay under the limit as many factors affect intoxication levels.

Height, weight, body mass, gender, liquor absorption rate and contents of stomach are just a few of the mediators that influence a persons intoxication level.

"It's a very difficult process so it's hard to tell how it will affect you," Lalande said.

Lalande suggests that the best way to stay safe is to stay away from drugs and alcohol altogether.

"If you are going to operate a motor vehicle then you shouldn't be drinking or using any kind of drug," Lalande said.

He said that many accidents occur in the Pontiac region and hopes that people stay safe this year.

"There's a lot of people that are killed. There's a lot of danger on the road," Lalande said.

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OPINION

The Voice of the
Pontiac since 1883

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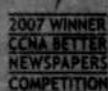
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OUR OPINION | Reality check in 2010

Pontiac County taxpayers may be hit with a stiff reality check in the new year.

Following the Pontiac MRC's approval of a \$4,844,081 budget last month it becomes quickly evident that municipal taxes will increase. The Pontiac MRC budget incorporates a \$300,000 increase in municipal share contributions to its coffers for a grand total contribution of \$1,999,686. Again it is more than evident that taxpayers will bear the brunt of the 2010 budget.

It's now apparent that Pontiac is being discovered as cottage and waterfront properties are being scooped up by city dwellers. Baby boomers on the verge of retirement are searching through Pontiac for their retirement homes. Apparently up in Allumette Island there is an outright buying war on cottages while in Norway Bay recently, a bidding war occurred on two waterfront properties. As good as this is for the seller, these transactions will be reflected eventually in the value of land in each municipality by increasing the value of nearby properties. Which again is a good source of revenue for the coffers of each municipality, as taxes are based on the mill rate and the assessed value of each taxpayer's property. But it will also eventually increase the taxes assessed on each property owner. Our land values are increasing but so will our taxes.

Increased provincial downloading of responsibi-

ties has also contributed to the increased revenue needs of the Pontiac MRC and over time increased municipal taxes were necessary.

But other tax increases are also looming. Lurking in the background are the unknown factors and tax burden of garbage, recycling and environment.

Our municipal landfill sites are scheduled to close on April 1, 2010 and we will be required to ship our household waste to Lachute.

Exact costs for Pontiac taxpayers are not yet known, but you can be sure that there will be an extra charge on your tax bill. Add to that the cost of shipping our recyclable materials. There's another unknown added cost.

Further down the road we know that septic waste will become an issue if the provincial government should ever decide to officially enforce its environmental protection program regarding holding tanks, septic fields and septic pumping on a two-year basis. Lots of issues for our councillors and mayors to be concerned with as the buck always stops at the taxpayer's wallet.

In Pontiac we have been fortunate as taxpayers, comparatively, to have paid a cheaper mill rate than our Ontario neighbours, for many years. But watch out — reality is about to catch us.

HD

Just add snow

Carole St-Aubin, THE EQUITY



This business of climate change



Katharine Fletcher

The study of climate is not only a business which employs people at Environment Canada, meteorologists at radio and television stations across our country, and others who would immediately spring to mind. Climate science is

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

taught by professors in universities and colleges; climate's effects spawn industries as diverse as clothing and insect-repellent manufacturers — and deeply affects tourism. People travel to Arizona and Florida, to southern France and Spain etc etc to avoid winter. People travel to North American and European ski resorts to experience winter.

Climate affects our daily lives and influences our choices of dream destinations.

As well, scientists are funded to do research on climate change; green industries are being proposed, funded, and tested before being incorporated into our lives. Meanwhile, 'traditional' energy industries such as those involved in oil and gas as well as coal mining intend to stay in business.

Thus, the politics of climate is a theme permeating our lives, too.

Any discussion of climate soon gets to climate change and global warming. Regardless of what you personally think about the existence of climate change, probably we could agree the issue itself has become 'an offshoot industry' of climate and weather.

The business of debate

Where lies truth? That's the never-ending question for all subjects and climate change is no exception. And as a writer, I know I can ask five people about any given topic and get five sometimes utterly different answers. Therefore, discovering 'truth' is, at best, challenging — and always fascinating.

'Truth' involves personal politics and many layers of understanding about the topic at hand. Ironically, it very often involves uneducated opinion: we all like to state what we think — but what do we actually know about a given subject, when we're asked? Now, that's an inconvenient truth — or nuance — to contemplate.

When it comes to a layered, confusing topic such as climate change, discovering truth can be bewildering.

Experts

That's why in practically every walk of life and every topic we can think of, we human beings turn to 'experts.' So, who do you consider to be an expert on climate change?

Would it be Al Gore, former Vice President

of the USA who is author of the film *An Inconvenient Truth*, and who joined the lecture circuit to promote his passionate concerns and 'facts' about climate change?

Would it be Canadian environmentalist, broadcaster, and activist Dr. David Suzuki, who considers Gore to be an international expert on climate change — and who is an expert in his own right?

Or, would it be the hacker who hacked into Britain's highly respected Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia? The security breach has embarrassed the university and damaged the reputations of renowned international scholars who are experts (and proponents of the belief) in climate change.

Climategate

Now known as 'Climategate', the security breach this late November revealed thousands of e-mails which purportedly prove some scientists were withholding or possibly even manipulating data concerning climate.

What appears on the surface to be damning is that some data which scientists may be manipulating (or wanting to alter) suggests that the world's climate is cooling.

The timing couldn't be more perfect for those who believe or who want to promote the concept that climate change doesn't exist.

Why? Because of the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change, being held this week.

Why mention this?

I mention climategate, because it is fact that a hacker broke into one of the world's most highly respected bodies of scholarly research on climate change whose details on climate research is used as a benchmark.

The security breach has allowed the public access to e-mails which reveal 'private' conversations between scientists who felt they could speak freely using this communications medium. We all can understand that e-mails are a valuable communication tool, regardless of whether we use them at all, a little, or (like me) a great deal.

So when a hacker breaks into thousands of communication threads containing information about climate change, you can bet it is news.

And it's even more newsworthy because of the Copenhagen Conference. Between Dec. 7 and Dec. 18, environment ministers, presidents and prime ministers from 192 countries will attend this United Nations conference on climate change. (Again: what an industry it is, where taxis, hotels, restaurants, and air carriers — not to mention NGOs and other organizations will make money! More than 30,000 people are attending.)

Finally, Prime Minister Stephen Harper decided it would be worthwhile attending —

a mere day after President Barack Obama announced his intention to go.

Background to Copenhagen Conference

CBC's website explains that in 1992, the vast majority of the world's nations signed on to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). While legally non-binding, the treaty provides an outline for member countries to stabilize and reduce the production of greenhouse gases.

After years of intense negotiation, the member states hammered out an agreement on how to put these principles into action. The Kyoto Protocol, formally adopted in December 1997, set firm targets to reduce emissions, but only for 37 industrialized nations.

These goals vary by country; Canada's target is a six-per-cent reduction below 1990 levels by 2012.

Copenhagen: The two-degree solution

Many climate scientists believe the world's average temperatures must not be allowed to rise more than two degrees.

Canada's solution? Prime Minister Harper's stated goal is for a 20 per cent reduction of greenhouse gases from the 2006 levels by 2020. Harper also said his government believes Canada must stay aligned with the USA.

Credibility

Canada goes into Copenhagen as the world's 'black sheep,' said a reporter on CBC radio, the morning of Dec. 7. Canada didn't achieve its Kyoto goals. Moreover, with Alberta's Tarsands being the world's most environmentally damaging examples of fossil-burning fuel production, our nation has little credibility.

Bottom line

To me, 'Climategate' is political opportunism at its worst. I believe we need to take responsible action to curb greenhouse gases. So yes, I have 'bought into' climate change as being a fact. Therefore, I seek a government which will encourage serious R&D in green, sustainable technologies. And, I also seek a government who will lead the USA, not justify itself by promoting being a follower.

As well, I think we homo sapiens are reproducing at will and hence, we are increasingly and uncontrollably consuming the earth's finite resources in unsustainable ways. Therefore, because the developing world understandably desires the lifestyle you and I take for granted, such natural resources will become increasingly finite.

Is climate change a reality? Do you believe Climategate has exposed the issue as a total sham? What do you think?

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance journalist and author. She welcomes your comments at fletcher.katharine@gmail.com

YOUR OPINION |

All working hard for well being of teens

Dear Editor,

Last week we awarded prizes for our drug letter writing contest at the Maison des Jeunes. It was a big success.

On behalf of the Youth Centre and the teens who were involved with that project I wish to say thank you. I also wish to thank everyone who called with their concern for the safety of the teens who wrote those letters. Let me assure you that the social workers, concerned members of the school board and supports throughout the community are all working very hard for the well being of our teens.

Let me reiterate that the letters are fictional, and although there are sentiments for which our community needs to be concerned, we are on the right track. When people are busy, excited about

life, when they have confidence, and understand their duty to make the world a better place, substance abuse is a non issue. When however, people are bored, have poor role models and no support system, drugs and poor behaviour will become the norm. For those business leaders, sport coaches, entrepreneurs, school teachers, social workers, community partners and everyone who is encouraging moves to keep the Pontiac fun, interesting and an evolving good place to live, please continue in your important work.

Peter Wood,
Animator/Youth Worker
Maison des Jeunes/Youth Centre
Shawville

The Maison des Jeunes 'The Garage' in Shawville youth centre director Peter Wood invited teens to participate in a letter writing campaign to encourage others to stay drug and alcohol free. Four submissions will be featured here over the next few weeks to provide our readers with a glimpse of our youths' challenges and hopes for others to stay clean. HD

Dear Editor,

I can honestly say that I don't do drugs and I am pretty sure that most of my friends don't. Some of my "used to be" friends tried to get me into pot but I am really not interested. I really don't understand why they even use it. I mean, like come on, they're 14! They don't even need to take it!

So yeah, instead of doing drugs I do sports. I play on the Shawville hockey team and when I'm not playing ice hockey I'm either at the Youth Centre or I am practicing my shot in hockey.

I am proud to be clean and I don't plan on changing that.

PHS student

AGRICULTURAL THOUGHTS | NANCY PIRIE

Pas de nourriture sans agriculture! No food without agriculture!

With the theme "Pas de nourriture sans agriculture" the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) hosted their annual general meeting in Quebec City from Dec. 1-3, 2009. The UPA is a professional farmers' union organization. Its main purpose and its actions are based on the following values: respect for the individual, solidarity, collective action, social justice, fairness and democracy.

In compliance with these values, the chief mission of the UPA is to promote, defend and develop the professional, economic, social and moral interests of Quebec's farm producers, without distinction as to race, nationality, gender, language or beliefs.

I had the opportunity of attending the UPA provincial annual general meeting last week as an observer. It was an amazing learning experience for me to see how the organization operates and to meet the people involved.

I met a vast amount of producers from all across the province of Quebec who are active in variety of areas of agriculture. What impressed me was that every area of agriculture was represented from sheep, beef, dairy, horticulture, pigs, etc. And they all work together to come to an agreement on how to best promote, support and represent agriculture.

The 155 local syndicates, 16 regional federations, 222 syndicates and 25 specialized groups, affiliated to the UPA work on issues that affect all farm producers, such as the environment, regional economic development, vocational training, taxation, labour, land-use planning, etc. The UPA is in fact the sole contact, the official voice speaking on behalf of all Québec farmers. There are regional and provincial staff that work for the UPA organizing, developing and implementing actions on behalf of the union. But what I saw first hand during the AGM was that it is the farmers from each of the regions working together to decide on what types of actions should be taken.

Motions that were passed at a local UPA meeting then continued on to a regional meeting and if passed there by the regional representatives, then it was sent to be discussed and voted upon at the

provincial AGM. It is agricultural producers working together for agricultural producers.

During the annual meeting delegates voted in an election for the president of the UPA. Mr. Christian Lacasse was elected for a second term as President of the UPA.

He was excited to be able to continue his work as president with the announcement of the new focus for the UPA "Le pouvoir de se nourrir".

On the last day of the meeting everyone had the privilege of hearing from the Quebec Minister of Agriculture Claude Béchard.

He was a very dynamic speaker and stressed that "this year we have the chance to work together to create the base of the future of agriculture." He also mentioned that "the federal and provincial governments need to work together in order to develop agriculture to its full potential."

The Federal Minister of Agriculture was noticeable missing from the meeting. The delegates and observers at the congress seemed slighted by the fact that the federal government did not feel that it was a priority to send representation.

The UPA being one of the largest agricultural producers' unions in Canada you would think the federal government would have made sure that there was a presence at this event.

I learned a lot from my experience at the UPA annual meeting and found that it has encouraged me to investigate other areas of diversification for our farm. From speaking with the vast amount of producers I found that no matter what the production we need to work together to promote the common goal, "Pas de nourriture sans agriculture."

People attending from Pontiac were myself and Bob Griffin, Denis Dubeau, and Dan Egan — Pontiac UPA representatives Chris Judd — Quebec Farmers' Association.

Pirie is a local dairy farmer and 4-H Ontario Regional Specialist. Contact her at news@theequity.ca.



INTO THE OVEN | TOBY STEWART

The ideal Pontiac municipal council — Respect

Now that our newly-elected councils and MRC have been sworn in and have gotten down to tackling 2010 budgets, business, residents who just voted for major changes would really like to see from all our politicians Aretha Franklin said it best — Respect R-esponses, E-ngagement, S-upport, P-riorities, E-xplanations, C-onsistency, T-imelessness.

I'd like to explore each of these seven public service virtues in order:

Responses

When a resident takes the trouble to bring a concern forward to any elected or appointed official, he should get back a substantive response that specifically addresses their issue, and not just a form letter, an argument, unbending defence of council's prior decision or position, or most disrespectfully — no response at all! And ideally, the response should be in writing on the record for future reference.

Engagement

When an issue is coming before council that may adversely affect some residents, don't just spring it on people after all the decisions have been made. Engage those affected by first communicating to tell them what the issue is and to ask them for their inputs and advice on narrowing down the solutions, options and costs being considered by council. Pay attention to what people say before making final decisions. And then go back to explain how and why a decision was made (presumably in the best interest of the whole community) and also to explain how council plans to mitigate any negative impacts arising from their decision so as to do the least harm to those residents who might be directly affected.

Letters to the editor

THE EQUITY encourages letters to the editor from our readers. Short letters are more likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of the editor. 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 the e-mail address news@theequity.ca and must bear the complete name, address and daytime phone number of the writer. Mailed letters are accepted at THE EQUITY, 133 Centre Street, Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0. Faxed letters are accepted at 819-647-2206. The address and phone number will not be printed. Opinions in the letters published do not necessarily reflect the opinions of THE EQUITY.



Caldwell

Hermonie Sharpe 647-3459 On Monday, Nov. 30 the Portage Golden Age Club enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner at Sonia's Restaurant and later went to the hall and enjoyed an evening of euchre as usual and also opening beautiful gifts given to each one from the club. The ladies who take care of this club deserve a great deal of credit. On Wednesday night the Bristol Wednesday night

club served us a most delicious turkey supper at the Bristol Town Hall. Each one received a gift as usual as well as many door prizes. Later we played six-hand euchre which is really challenging. We were given the yearly financial statement and now the Wednesday night euchre will be under Rita Barber as president. It was really an evening to remember. Have you had your flu shot? They must be nearly covering everyone. Birthday congratulations to Janet Graham who celebrates Dec. 13 and to my

son Peter of Barrier, BC who celebrates Dec. 15. This past Saturday night the Bristol Council with the new Mayor Brent Orr along with all the workers as well as the firefighters and volunteers enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner catered to by Riverview Inn. After dinner they enjoyed the rest of the evening dancing. Now that the euchre is closed at Stark's Corners I can tell you (if you haven't noticed it advertised in THE EQUITY) that they hold euchre every Saturday p.m. at the Legion in Quyon. You have to regis-

ter between 1 and 2 p.m. I would like to thank THE EQUITY and also Giant Tiger for their donation, for a door prize at our Thursday night Golden Age Christmas supper. If I am right, I think the Giant Tiger store opened 14 years ago. At that time I bought a table sized Christmas tree which revolves on a base (electric) and turns different colours and has worked perfectly all these years. Happy 49th birthday to Dan Tremblay on Dec. 5. Watch for deer! Two accidents over the past few weeks have left cars beyond repair. They also

me the bears are still out as well and haven't gone into hibernation nor have the deer gone to their yards. First of all I was reminding you that Christmas was just around the corner and then I thought so is the New Year. Hoping 2010 will bring us a good year. Can you believe two weeks from this Friday is the big day. Get well wishes to Yvonne Landerman. Visiting with us this past Sunday were Jim and Connie Hunter of Golden Lake and Neil and Margaret Sharpe of Shawville.

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Shawville Lions Club New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance Thursday, December 31 Shawville Lions Hall Cocktails: 7 pm - Dinner: 7:30 pm \$30.00 per person CATERED BY Cafe 349 Entertainment by: Coveralls Tickets available: Suzanne or Trevor 819-647-6085

Vinton

Diane Boisvert 648-5296 It has been a busy week for me. I've been making turkey pot and meat pies so I can fill all the orders. I have made extras so if you want your pies for Christmas get them now. I am having a bake and craft sale this Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Lions Club Hall from noon to 4. You'll have to come and see the beautiful crafts the other ladies are making. Campbell's Bay has a beautiful Christmas tree lit up on Front Street. The Ringrosses' always have this tree decorated and turned

on every year. Now Vinton has their own tree on Church Road at Cory Pilon's house. The tree is probably 30 feet high and on Sunday when I went outside I could hear Karen yelling at me but I couldn't see her. I asked her where she was and she said "look up." Here she was perched about four feet below the top of that tree and Cory was feeding her the lights. You could barely see her with all the branches. I couldn't believe she had climbed up that tree to put up the lights. When Cory had bought the house I told him that hat Stephan Scrack always

had the tree lit up and that he'd have to follow tradition. So he made a few calls and got a lot of lights donated by friends and family and then got busy putting the lights on. Karen was all scratched up and full of pine gum when she finally descended and wants everyone to enjoy the Christmas tree and would like to have some Christmas carollers come over and sing around the tree. Cory and Karen want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy new year. On behalf of everyone in Vinton I would like to thank Cory and Karen for all their hard work.

Happy birthday to Marion Paré, Mike Kavanagh Dec. 9, Rose Ranger Dec. 11, my grandson Corben Davidson who turns seven on Dec. 12 along with Roger Pilon, Ruth Hearty Dec. 13, Brian Holland and James Crawford Dec. 14, happy 50th to Randy Sloan Dec. 14, Nancy Bertrand, Jennifer McGuire, Mathieu Dubreau, Marie-Josée Corribeau, Jamie Hearty, Kathy Fenton-Graham Dec. 15. The annual Santa Claus Parade was held in Campbell's Bay Dec. 5. There were 26 entries. First prize was \$100 cash and was won by Roxanne

Shea and family. They were the Gingerbread people. Second prize of \$75 cash went to the Lions Club Red Neck Christmas float. Third prize of \$50 cash went to the Municipality of Campbell's Bay whose theme was the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games. Over 100 children got to see Santa and give him their wish list. The Lions Club gave out juice and a chip to each child. The canteen served hot dogs, chips and hot chocolate. It was run by the Lionettes. Thank you to Irene and Richard Gratton and Shirley Ann Landry and Linda Sloan for running

the canteen. A draw was held for an Afghan and Christmas box of mugs and the winner was Wendy Moore. There was a donation box set up at the R.A. for little Kelsey Lepack. Many of you know that Kelsey is the daughter of Jimmy and Valerie Lepack and is in the Sick Children's Hospital in Ottawa. The floats that won cash prizes donated their cash to the Kelsey Lepack Fund. A total of \$978 was raised that day. I know that Jimmy and Valerie would like to thank the people of Campbell's Bay and Litchfield for their support and kindness.

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Ladysmith

Debbie Thrun 647-3927 Visiting with us last weekend was Kip Smith of Eganville. Kip and Dennis visited with Alec Rutledge and Yvette Lacroix. Well done to Jerry Bimm on his great commemorative DVD on Oktoberfest Ladysmith 2009 available now. Dennis and Kip Smith visited the hunt camp last Sunday. They report it's very quiet there now. The Lutheran Church Christmas services and program this year are Dec. 23 at Zion Schwartz and Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 at St. John's Ladysmith. Both services are at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Well here we are

Christmas is just around the corner and the stores are starting to get busy. Birthday wishes to Stephanie Milford of Danford Lake celebrating on Dec. 15. The last few times I have been to Shawville I couldn't help but admire how lovely the towns looks with all the beautiful decorations plus all the store windows are so nicely decorated. Congratulations to everyone who worked at this especially the volunteers who took the time from their busy schedules. Hopefully we will receive some more snow to brighten everything up and put everyone in the Christmas spirit. The community Christmas tree across from

Bretzlaff's Store in Ladysmith is exceptionally nice this year thanks to the fire department folks. Birthday wishes to neighbour Andrew Turcotte on Dec. 5. Birthday wishes to Wayne Tubman on Dec. 5. The Christmas lights and decorations are beautiful this year on some homes and lawns. I'm sure a lot of time and effort has gone into their work. At least this year it hasn't been overly cold for everyone to do their outside decorating. As I recall this time last year we had all kinds of snow and people were snowmobiling. It's really strange how our seasons change from year to year. Birthday greetings to our

neighbour Laynard Pasch who celebrates today, Dec. 9. Birthday greetings to Grace Woods on Dec. 19. Holiday greetings to the Buff Mountain Hunt Camp gang and best wishes for the new year. Special birthday wishes to Hulda (Oma) Erfle who will be celebrating 101 years young Dec. 17. Isn't this amazing to live to that age and still be in good health. This dear lady loves to knit and cook for her family. She is a very active person, always willing to help out at different events. Every day she has her glass of red wine. You should see her flowers in the summer they are just beautiful. I guess doing all these things are what

keeps her so healthy and also having her family and friends around. Congratulations Oma. Everyone in the community loves her. Birthday wishes to Jean Martineau Dec. 21. Spending last weekend at their cottage on Grey's Lake were Diane and Garry Reynolds of Ottawa. They also attended the annual Christmas dinner at the T.C.R.A. Kenneth and Norma Yach of Arnprior are spending some time at their farm on Yach Mountain. Visiting with Freida Krose last Saturday were Darwin and Sandy Krose of Arnprior and her granddaughter Angela Krose and her husband Mike Kelly

from New Jersey. They all attended the annual Christmas dinner at the T.C.R.A. Everyone enjoyed a great home cooked meal and time of fellowship. Belated birthday greetings to Marlene Pasch who recently celebrated her birthday. Get well wishes to Neil Dunlop who is on the sick list. The annual Zion Lutheran Church Christmas supper was great as usual. Folks from far and near came to enjoy a great home cooked meal. Get well wishes to Reinhold Bretzlaff. Visitors with us on Sunday were Bill and Evelyn McLaughlin of Renfrew and John Stewart.

Quyon

Jill McBane 458-2366 Willie Dods from Bristol was the lucky winner of the 32" TV that was one of the prizes drawn at Gavan's Hotel at the PSDA's kick off party. The ticket was sold by Quyon Son Riders director Judy Peck. So congratulations Willie. Thanks Nick for the donation of this beautiful TV. Trail work was in full progress recently with the volunteers getting the pickets in and signs up. A big thank you to the workers for the work they do.

All we can do is get ready and hope for the snow. Remember the early deadline on the memberships and get yours while the price is right. Once again if you can help in any way with the trails etc. please call Gavan's Hotel and leave your number. Happy 45th wedding anniversary to Brent and Claire Barr who will be celebrating Dec. 12. Birthday wishes go out to Ali Lewis who celebrated her 23rd birthday with family and friends at Ladysmith. Ali and her friend Janice Tubman are

going to Australia to visit Ali's cousin Jennifer Kearnan-Conn. Ali is the daughter of Peggy Shepherd. Santa will be coming to Quyon this Saturday, Dec. 12. The parade of lights will take start at the Onslow School and continue down Clarendon St. and end up at the Lions Hall where the Lionettes will have hot chocolate and the children can visit with Santa. The Quyon Pastoral Charge held their sixth annual Christmas House Tour on Monday evening with special thanks to

Audrey and Joey Fraser, Bill and Sue Hamilton and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Daley for participating in the tour this year. This is a great fundraiser for the church and we appreciate everyone's participation whether it be donating food, buying a ticket, or being a host. It is most appreciated. Birthday wishes go out to Gary and Brent Young who both celebrate Dec. 10 and to Dancia Provost who celebrates her first birthday Dec. 15. Liana and Josh Dagenais hosted a surprise engagement party for Jordan MacDougall and Tara

Ramsey on Saturday evening. Rene Chamberot celebrated his 74th birthday Sunday. Angela Coyle had the girls over on Friday night for her annual sisters and daughters Christmas event. Vikki, Kelly, Joanne and Bev Stanley, Joan and Wendy Desabrais, Bonnie and Julie Cote, Dorna Davis, Pam Coyle and Angela made up the girls with Pauline Declare taking up an honorary sister position. Sister Ginger McKenny was missed. Lots of laughs were had by all.

Bright Wishes

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Waltham

Helen Perry 689-2652 jacobg42@hotmail.com Warm birthday wishes are extended to Anita Gagnon, who is celebrating her birthday today. May you have a wonderful birthday Anita! Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Gail Perry, in the recent loss of her dearly loved aunt Aline Gagnon (née Allard), also sister-in-law to Grace Allard of Chapeau. She was the beloved wife of the late Basil Gagnon. Our

thoughts and prayers are also with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, family and friends. On Saturday afternoon, Poppa Larry and I, Rhonda, Mark, Jacob and Isabella attended a birthday party in honour of our sweet little Mikaela, who celebrated her third birthday. The theme of the party was butterflies and also a butterfly birthday cake was served. On Saturday evening, the annual Seniors Christmas Supper was held at the

Waltham Town Hall. This traditional Waltham event was very well attended, as neighbours and friends chatted, reminisced and renewed the bonds of friendship. Everyone enjoyed a tasty turkey supper with all the trimmings. It was hosted by the members of the Waltham Recreation Association and assisted by many of the local youth, who served tables and helped with the clean up. Residents who celebrated a milestone birthday this past year received a plaque. Laurette

Spencer and Leo Godin celebrated their 85th. Lysane and Ted Bechamp, were presented a plaque in honor of their 45th wedding anniversary this past year. Congratulations are extended to all the recipients. On Sunday morning, music students of Maureen Belland, from Chapeau and Waltham participated in the 10:30 a.m. mass at St. Jean Baptiste Church in Pembroke. It was beautiful to see all the music students on the altar strum-

ming their guitars and singing the hymns. Fr. Garry Cain celebrated mass and expressed deep appreciation to Maureen and all her students. Afterwards, the children enjoyed hot dogs and drinks followed by a swim at the Kinsmen Pool. On Sunday evening, Rhonda, Mark, Jacob and Isabella attended a birthday supper in honour of Jacob and Bella's cousin Sarah Mulvihill's 13th birthday. It was held at Julie and Glen Mulvihill's in Pembroke.

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Bryson

Anna Stewart 648-2351 Well Mervin and Jim, you did it again! Phyllis and I, being the better card players, gave you both a little critter namely a skunk! In three hands no less! Sorry! The Lionettes would like to thank everyone who donated pennies for the snow suit fund. Birthday greetings to my brother-in-law, David

Graham of Vancouver. Also, a very happy birthday to Isabelle Graveline of Bois Franc who had a birthday this past week. Alexia Desrochers spent the weekend with her grandparents Sherry and Chinker Lepine and Spencer. Last Saturday, the Campbell's Bay Legion held a very successful bake sale. All the goodies went! Laura Godin would like to

thank everyone who donated food and helped to make this a great day! Also, the Legion is selling tickets on a \$140 basket. The tickets can be bought at the Legion in Campbell's Bay. They are also holding their Christmas party at the Legion Dec. 18 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. A potluck supper will be served. Winners of last week's Golden Age euchre are as

follows: Door: Veronica Perrier, 50/50: George Huckabone, men's first: Perry Kluge, men's second: Don Evans and George Huckabone, ladies first: Rose Gutoskie, ladies second: Jeannette Romain, Anna Porter and Phyllis Smith. Sherry and I went to visit my sister on chemin de Outouais on Calumet Island on Monday. I've never seen the road as bad

as it was on that day with big pot holes and wash boards. I remember going to Campbell's Bay as a child with Dad in the horse and buggy. The horses would walk around the holes so they wouldn't brake the axles on the buggy. I'm sure if a car ran into those holes at night, they would break something or lose control of the vehicle and run into the river.

Shawville

Lyse Lacourse 647-5932 lysie_wheezy@hotmail.com Happy belated birthday to Melba Powell who cele-

brated her birthday Dec. 7. Her family and friends took her out to a scrumptious meal on Sunday. The Angel Tree Charity has now over 100 families to provide for this year. Should you be able to donate to this very worthy

Graeme Brownlee, Bill and Bonnie Beveridge, Renaud and Russell Residence, and Wood Haven B&B. Christians all over the world are now celebrating Advent. This is the liturgical period preceding Christmas and observed by

many Christians as a season of prayer, fasting, and penitence. Looking forward to seeing you Mom (Dr. Michelle Lawton-Gregory) and my sister Suzanne during the upcoming Christmas holidays.

Local business still enjoying the light of success after 60 years

CAROLE ST-AUBIN
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • A lot of electrical contractors have come and gone in 60 years, but a formula that has been tried and true for Pontiac Electric over the years, is one that François Lacourse has passed on to his son Philippe and his wife Jean who still contribute to the business' success today.

"Hiring good employees, keeping them well paid and remembering that they come first, keeping your suppliers paid, offering a quality of service as well as putting long hours into your business, are the things that my father taught me," said current owner, Philippe Lacourse, who took over the family business with his wife Jean more than 20 years ago.

"Businesses here could all survive if they followed those golden rules," added Philippe.

In 1947 at the age of 23, François Lacourse began his electrician career working with Howard Brinksworth on a government building in Ottawa.

When that job finished Brinksworth told François Lacourse there was lots of work available in the Pontiac, so the two teamed up.

One of their first jobs, François Lacourse recalls was working for Clifford Whelan who lived near Portage du Fort.

Whelan, who didn't have money to pay them, traded their services for a car with a rumble seat as payment.

The car then became their first service vehicle until the pair purchased a homemade jeep van.

When asked if it was troublesome to carry their equipment with, Philippe replied, "It was less complicated then, they didn't have as much equipment."

Materials were scarce then, it was just after the war, so they had to drive to Pembroke on the Ontario side and drove back down the Québec side of the river, stopping at all the country stores along the way to find whatever materials they could.

Some of Lacourse's earlier clients he recalls were Clifford Horner and a Mr. Palmer who also lived in the Portage du Fort area.

Two years later Lacourse met Marie Sicard from Calumet Island who was working as a pastry chef at Pine Lodge, the couple married and moved to Shawville

where they raised their two sons, Philippe and Robert, who are both electricians, and a daughter Diane.

Lacourse claims he was one of the first French Catholic businessmen to establish himself in the Shawville area when he launched his business Pontiac Electric Inc. in 1949.

According to François, Percy Belsher was one of the first men to offer him work in the area.

The Pontiac was at an early stage of development at the time, they were only beginning to install the electrical lines to all the rural areas, so François was busy with plenty of work ahead running wiring in the area's old farmhouses.

He put in long days, showing up late at night to start a job, and had a lot of men working all night and all day at the time.

François recalls some of his first employees which included Donald Horner, Rodney and Donald McDowell, Ken Cruickshank, Brian Harris, Don Hodgins, who went off to start a business of his own, and Lars Bretzlaff, to name a few.

Bretzlaff, who is still employed at Pontiac Electric Inc. has been there for more than 40 years now, according to Philippe.

"I was at the Shawville Fair once when Rodney McDowell came up to me and told me he had started off with my Dad. He said he later travelled around the world and ended up marrying an Australian girl when he was working in Australia," Philippe recounted, unable to hide a certain pride in his voice.

"One of things my father said he enjoyed most through the years was the fact that it was always different, the job was always a challenge, and he enjoyed taking on different projects," said Philippe.

Some of the bigger jobs François remembers working on include the Francon Gravel Pit, and Hokum Saw Mill in the Clarendon area, as well as the Fortin Mill in the Fort Coulonge area.

"But he did them all from cottages to saw mills, there was always plenty of work," Philippe said.

"In trying to convince me to give the job a try, my father told me that he enjoyed meeting people, and that he also enjoyed never knowing what to expect. There were times when he had emergencies to deal with

in the morning when he got to work, but I think he enjoyed the challenge in that as well," added Philippe.

When Philippe, who had previously worked with his father, and his wife Jean started working with François in 1988 the couple had just returned from

They currently employ eight people and also have an apprentice under their wing.

"I don't think Pontiac Electric will ever die, it's a well established business, and I'm sure it'll go on being successful," said Lacourse. A cornerstone in the com-

munity for the past 60 years, the Lacourses believe a business such as theirs that is built on honesty, keeping good employees and offering a quality of service can withstand the test of time to enjoy the longevity they have been so fortunate to experience.



Frank, Jean and Philippe Lacourse.

Carole St-Aubin, THE EQUITY

working in a copper mine in British Columbia for nine years.

And with two small children in tow, Jean went back to school full time to become an electrician, completing her 1,350-hours of professional studies plus an 8,000-hour apprenticeship.

"I wanted to help in every aspect that I could. I figured if I was going to work in the field, I wanted to understand it completely," she said.

She has successfully obtained her electrician certification and electrical contractor's license as well.

"But dad never just quit the business, once he was comfortable with the way we were running the business, he just sort of faded away from it," Philippe explained.

"There were no sudden changes, it was a smooth transition," said Jean. "We still do everything pretty much the same way my dad did things, it worked for him and it continues to work for us," Philippe added.

The Lacourse's service area spans both the width and breadth of the Pontiac, though they are licensed for the entire province of Quebec.

Seniors association purchases land

CAROLE ST-AUBIN
Equity Reporter

OTTER LAKE • A four-acre parcel of land has recently been purchased by the Otter Lake Seniors Habitation Association on Richard St. near the Otter Lake municipal office.

The purchase was made possible through a grant provided by the Pontiac MRC for the apartment complex, according to the association president, Victor Bisson.

Funding was also obtained from the SADC for the surveying and soil testing of the land, which Bisson expected would be done within the next couple of weeks.

When the association formed more than two-and-a-half years ago members

began the planning for an 18-unit complex housing one level, one-bedroom units each with patio doors for outside accessibility. The apartments would be located on either side of a central corridor and would be accessible by wheelchair.

"The land is ours now," said the Otter Lake Seniors Habitation Association President Victor Bisson, who along with other association members, met with representatives from the Central Mortgage Housing Corporation on Nov. 23 in an effort to secure funding for the building phase of the \$2.4M project.

When association members explained their endeavours to Marie Murphy, a counselor for affordable housing for

Central Mortgage, they were told that the Corporation generally supported developments for more than 50 units, according to Bisson.

"We were disappointed that we had to get up at 5:30 a.m. and drive to Aylmer for 7 a.m., but Mrs. Murphy asked us to prepare our business plan, which he already have, and asked us to forward it to her, so at least it's something," said Bisson.

The winter months will be spent further developing their business plan and making contacts and gaining support at various levels of government including the new municipal council, according to Bisson who says, "We haven't abandoned ship yet."

Hatching party at local bookstore

SHAWVILLE • You may be thinking of a chicken and an egg, at a hatching party, however it is a great new book series called Hand Art a book from the Chicken Socks series published by Klutz.

The new series was highlighted at The Lighthouse Bookstore at the Chicken Socks hatching party on Saturday.

The new series from Klutz's Chicken Socks introduces creativity for four-six year old children with a trace and colour handbook incorporating hand art.

Young artists learn to create bunny rabbits and sea monsters and other creatures just by tracing their own hands.

It positively introduces the literacy and artistic abilities in the children.

"The books are good quality and you can go over them and over them with all of the ideas. It comes with everything needed for the crafts except for the paper," commented Tracey Latreille owner of the bookstore.

The children were busy adding pom poms and wiggly eyes to each picture as they traced their hands, smiles were apparent as they

included their imagination. One little boy even created an invisible snow bunny to show the others.

"It is great opportunity for the children to be creative and express themselves. I am happy to have something like this to promote literacy," commented retired teacher Mary Hamilton who brought her granddaughter Rebecca to enjoy the hatching party and purchased a copy of the new book.

The Lighthouse Bookstore is located inside of the Café 349 and carries many different types of books for all ages.

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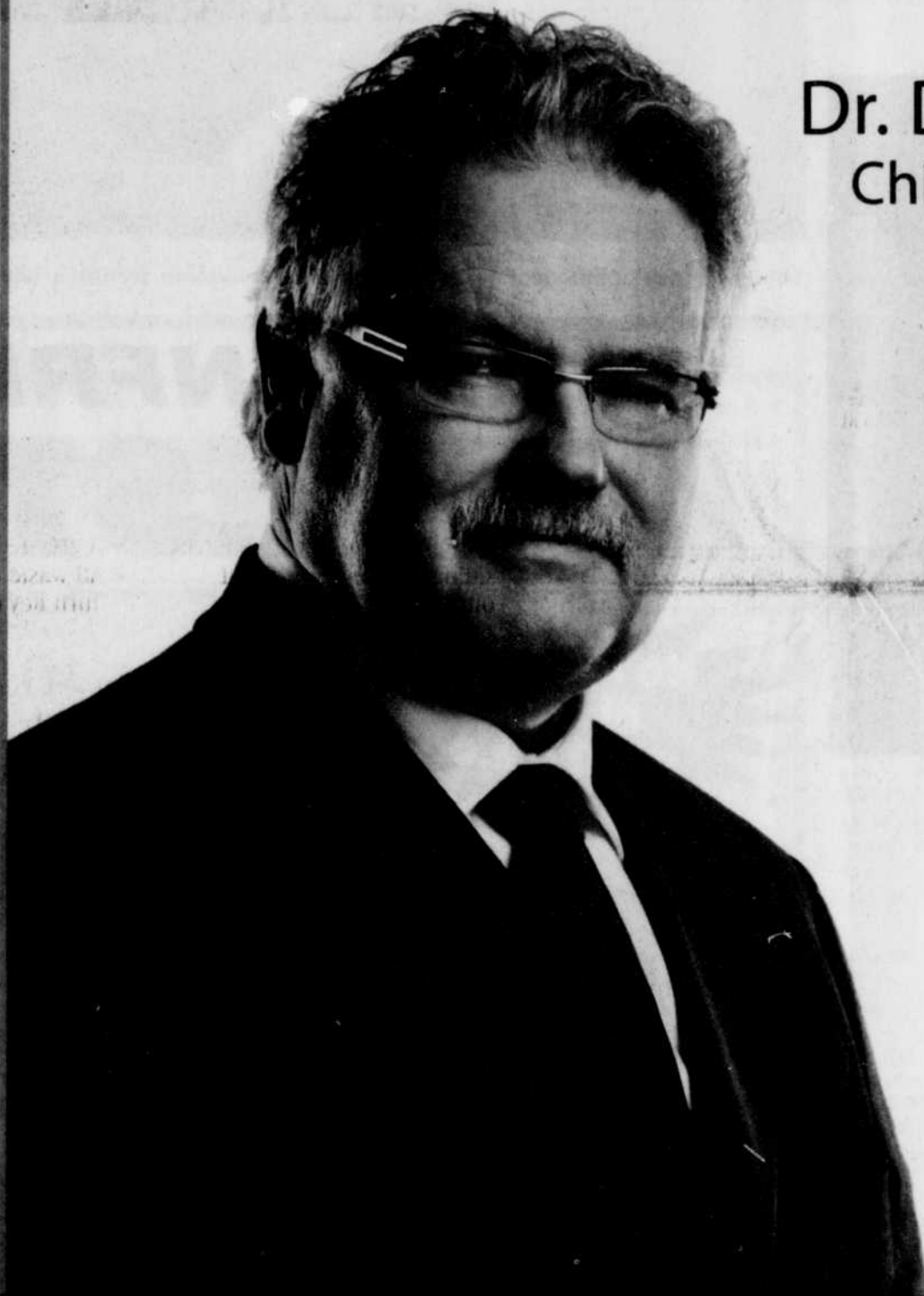
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New movie screen and piano for the Bristol Community Centre

CAROLE ST-AUBIN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Members of the community are enjoying the recent acquisitions of a movie screen that will be enjoyed during movie nights, and a piano that can be used during gatherings and events hosted at the Jack Graham Community Centre in Bristol.

The newly-acquired equipment was purchased by the Bristol Community Association with funds ac-

quired during their various yearly activities including a New Years Eve Party, a carnival in February, several movie nights held for youths of all ages throughout the year, a Spring Fling event featuring local talent, and several dances held at the centre.

According to Treasurer, Sue Page, the organization also manages the local outdoor skating rink and runs the bar during wedding receptions and parties, with

15 per cent of the bar proceeds remitted to the municipality of Bristol, who lends a strong support to the association.

During their annual general meeting held on Nov. 21, board of director members elected by acclamation for the upcoming year Winifred Frie as president, Sue Page as treasurer, and Bill Smith as secretary. Stepping down from the vice-presidency, Gerard Laferrière nominated

Don Page, who accepted the position.

The association, with a membership count of 11, is always looking for new members or anyone who is willing to help them organize activities for the community.

"Our goal is to organize activities that will encourage people to get together and remain active in the community," concluded Sue Page.



Members of the Bristol Community Association proudly display the newly-acquired equipment that will be used to host events at the Jack Graham Memorial Centre in Bristol. From left to right are Don Page, Keith Smith, Sue Page, Elaine Findlay, Bill Smith, Clarence Tollman, Gerard Laferrière, and Nora Findlay.

PHS students raise money for the Snowsuit Fund

CAROLE ST-AUBIN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Pontiac High School students experienced their moment in the light as spectators filled the school gymnasium to watch them perform at the school's annual talent show on Thursday.

More than 20 students had an opportunity to shine as they took to the stage in an effort to help raise money for the Snowsuit Fund, an organization of the Maison de la Famille organization in Fort Coulonge is affiliated with in order to help families who are experiencing financial challenges to acquire snow suits for their children.

"This is a great occasion for students to show how they excel in areas other than the academic field, and I think it's important for them to

have that opportunity," said one of the event's organizers, Valerie Vézeau.

In a variety of performances the students demonstrated their musical, lyrical and dancing talents before their family, friends and peers.

Masters of ceremony Elaine Quinn Boucher and Victoria Godin, who also had a hand in helping to coordinate the event, introduced each of the evening's following performers to the audience: Kate-Lyn Belle, Jessica Miron, Lindsay Albert-Endicott, Meaghan Bridges, Sarah Berry, Michelle Tremblay, Brandon Johnson, Jessica Judd, Andria Bretzlaff, Lorianne Quinn Boucher, Amy Evans, Jamie Ramsay, Marissa Gallan, Casey Belanger, John

Beaudoin, as well as Leanne Vibert who performed a hip hop dance number.

"I was nervous before I went on," said Vibert shyly, even though she'd been performing before a crowd since she began taking dancing lessons 12 years ago.

Vibert added that dance was a great way for her to express herself and that she enjoyed participating in a fundraiser for such a good cause.

At a short intermission where cakes, cookies, pies and refreshments were provided by the PHS staff members who donated them for the event, along with a few dessert contributions from the Fort Coulonge and Shawville Mason des Jeunes groups, the show continued.

"We're here to support our

daughter Andrea, she really enjoys taking part in this show, it's her third year performing. The Snowsuit Fund is such a great cause to support," said Debbie Bretzlaff.

Following the pause for refreshments the show continued with performances by Naomi Lacourse, Amy Evans, Danae Kennedy, Bria Henry, Kelsey Bowie, Brooke Welburn and Denny Welburn.

"They're doing such a great job. These kids have a whole range of different talents, I think it's fantastic," the School Principal Eldon Keen beamed.

The students were successful in raising \$855 during the event.

\$85 from a 50/50 draw was also added to the amount with Denee Welburn winning an equal amount.



Lindsay Albert-Endicott sang a couple of songs to entertain the crowd at the PHS Talent Show on Thursday. The event was held to help raise money for the Snowsuit Fund.

New Quyon Ferry one step closer to becoming a reality

CAROLE ST-AUBIN
Equity Reporter

QUYON • With the end of another season, ferry owner and operator Don McColgan says he finally sees the light at the end tunnel in his ferry modernization plans.

The upgrade includes replacing the existing propeller ferry with a new electric system with its engines placed below deck.

"The batteries weigh 3,000 pounds a piece, we'd pull them out two at a time. There would be 12 of them on board and 12 on charge because they'd have to be changed nightly," McColgan explained.

The ferry would be much quieter, more economic to run, and would be environmentally-friendly with very little greenhouse gas emission, according to McColgan.

In a five-year process, McColgan said he had done his homework in dealing with many federal and provincial government agencies from both the Quebec and Ontario side of Ottawa River such as Quebec Environment, Transport Canada, Aboriginal Affairs, Mississippi Valley Conservation, Oceans and Fisheries in order to get the project under way.

"All our planning and preparations are done at this end, we have our greenhouse gas reduction fund in place, which is a Ministry of Transport Quebec program, we had our research done by an authorized company, we've put in significant funding of our own, we are eligible for funds from the Quebec government, and we have secured a bank loan, all of our permits have been achieved so now we sit and

wait for the next hurdle," McColgan explained.

"A motion was recently passed by the Municipality of Pontiac, with the support of the MRC des Collines and the CLD Pontiac to push for Federal funding.

At 120-feet in length, the new ferry would be much more accommodating than the present one with a capacity of up to 21 cars or 90 tonnes, which is double the current capacity, and would be suitable for vehicles up to 75-feet long.

"We could easily accommodate RVs, fifth-wheel trailers, tractor trailers and just about any farm equipment that you'd find in the area," said McColgan enthusiastically.

With GPS systems routing traffic to the ferry in the past McColgan was unable to accommodate a large portion

of these vehicles, but with the new ferry he believes it will open up a whole new market for him, and would impact Pontiac businesses with an influx of traffic into the area.

When asked if she thought a bigger ferry would mean more business for her, Joanne Marcotte, the Dépanneur Marcotte replied, "A bigger ferry wouldn't, but if it was open year-round I'd notice it."

McColgan seemed fairly confident that construction could begin as early as next spring, but predicted the ferry and new docks wouldn't be ready until the end of November 2010, and the operation of the new ferry wouldn't begin until the 2011 season, at which time McColgan said he would be celebrating.

Drug prevention program at PHS

CAROLE ST-AUBIN
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • The first year of a three-year drug prevention program in collaboration with the Rural Intervention Prevention Program (RIPP), and the English Network Resources in Community Health (ENRICH) has been launched in four rural high schools of the Western Quebec School Board (WQSB) including Pontiac High School (PHS) in Shawville, Maniwaki, Low and Chapeau, with funding from Health Canada.

"We've gotten a positive response to the program so far, it's been well received by the students who've signed up on a voluntary basis," said

PHS Principal, Eldon Keen.

The program which has been adapted to fit the rural reality is a combination of an in-school drug prevention program, a summer program available for youth groups, and safe prom activities.

During the course of the program which runs in an eight-week block, the students will undergo intake interviews, participate in small group work groups, as well as take part in drug prevention projects with parents and other youths.

These projects outline safe prom activities that will include taking quizzes, the creation of banners and writing promissory notes not to get into a car with someone

who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, according to Kathy Teasdale, Executive Director for ENRICH.

"The students have responded well to the interactive activities such as setting up kiosks and having them go from station to station to view things like the statistic graphs that mimic impaired vision that the police will bring in allowing them a hands-on experience," said Teasdale.

Adding, "We've also brought in cars that have been in an accident to show them how the 'jaws of life' had to be used in order to get the people who were involved in a drug or alcohol-related accident, out of their vehicles."

The goal is to be pro-active

and to raise an awareness among the students, showing them that they need to have a plan and that they also need a back-up plan in the event that the first one doesn't work out, according to Teasdale.

"At the end of the third year we hope to have a sustainable program in place with sufficiently trained staff members at each of the schools who will then continue to deliver the program. We would continue to be facilitators by providing them with the tools needed," said Teasdale.

"The guidance councillor will eventually take on the execution of this program as this fits in with her current duties," concluded Keen.

Québec accorde 380 000\$ au centre de technologique agricole l'Outaouais

QUÉBEC • Le ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire, monsieur Laurent Lessard, ainsi que le ministre délégué aux Transports, ministre responsable de la région de l'Outaouais et député de Papineau, monsieur Norman MacMillan, ont annoncé le versement d'une aide financière de 380 000 \$ au Centre de recherche et de développement technologique agricole de l'Outaouais pour soutenir un projet de laboratoire rural qui assurera la production de biocarburants et d'aliments pour le bétail à partir du millet perlé sué.

Plus concrètement, le projet consiste à poursuivre l'évaluation de la production du millet perlé pour la production de biocarburants et pour l'alimentation bovine. À l'es-

cal depuis trois ans, cette culture nécessite encore quelques années d'expérimentation pour assurer sa productivité, sa teneur en sucre et sa valeur alimentaire pour les troupeaux de bovins de l'Outaouais.

"Cette aide financière rendra possible la réalisation de cette belle initiative d'un milieu rural qui démontre clairement sa capacité à renouveler la ruralité et à chercher constamment de nouvelles solutions fondées sur les ressources de ses communautés. Je félicite le promoteur, le Centre de recherche et de développement technologique agricole de l'Outaouais, pour ce projet constructif et porteur pour la région", a mentionné le ministre Lessard.

L'aide financière provient

de la mesure de mise en place de laboratoires ruraux, issue de la Politique nationale de la ruralité 2007-2014, pour soutenir des projets précurseurs et porteurs de nouvelles expertises. L'aide gouvernementale complète les investissements locaux, lesquels témoignent bien de l'ancrage et de l'appropriation du projet dans le milieu.

"Je suis très fier de souligner la qualité de ce projet qui interpelle la communauté tout entière afin d'assurer son épanouissement et sa croissance économique. La région de l'Outaouais démontre ainsi qu'elle peut devenir un acteur important dans le domaine énergétique. Je souhaite ardemment que ce type de laboratoire devienne une source d'inspiration

et qu'il serve de modèle à d'autres projets d'avenir", a précisé le ministre MacMillan.

Les laboratoires ruraux sont destinés à bonifier la vie économique, sociale et culturelle des territoires ruraux du Québec en explorant et en expérimentant de nouvelles voies d'avenir. Et comme ces communautés peuvent apprendre les unes des autres, les promoteurs de ces projets échangeront les observations faites et les résultats obtenus au cours de leurs expériences.

À la suite du troisième et dernier appel de projets, le ministre Lessard et le comité des partenaires de la ruralité ont retenu neuf projets qui se partageront une enveloppe totalisant près de 3 600 000 \$.

Nouvelle proposition de la sécurité routière visant à abaisser la limite d'alcool

QUÉBEC • La table de concertation de la sécurité routière de proposer d'abaisser la limite d'alcool de 0,08 g d'alcool par 100 ml de sang à 0,05. Cette mesure vise à diminuer les accidents reliés à l'alcool au volant.

Alcotest Québec est une pionnière en matière de prévention d'alcool au volant depuis 1989 soit plus de 20 ans. Sa mission est de fournir aux consommateurs des instruments de mesure fiables destinés à la prévention de l'alcool au volant et de favoriser une bonne conduite.

La nouvelle mesure proposée aura un impact certain sur les consommateurs.

Notre expérience des dernières années nous démontre que plus souvent qu'autrement, les consommateurs ne savent pas qu'ils sont au-dessus de la limite permise. Lors d'une étude effectuée auprès de 12 000 personnes, plus de 40 pour cent des personnes testées en événement corporatif étaient au-dessus de la limite légale et de ce 40 pour cent, plus de la moitié ne s'en doutait pas! Il est impératif que les consommateurs mesurent efficacement leur taux d'alcool.

À l'occasion de la table de concertation de la sécurité routière de l'ancien ministre Bertrand Godin.

Tout comme chaque véhicule est muni d'un odémètre pour vérifier la vitesse, il est tout à fait logique d'avoir à sa disposition des appareils qui nous indiquent efficacement notre taux d'alcool.

Aucun individu ne peut savoir avec précision son taux d'alcool avec après quelques consommations. Des lors, les consommateurs prennent de mauvaises décisions puisqu'ils ont les facultés affaiblies signifiant des lors un mauvais jugement.

Travaux sur la route 148 au Municipalité du Pontiac

PONTIAC • Le ministère des Transports du Québec informe la population que des travaux de correction seront effectués, en direction est, sur la route 148, entre les chemins Stanton et Gold-Mine.

Ces opérations auront lieu demain, le 4 décembre, entre 8 h et 15 h. Une voie sera fermée et la circulation se fera en alternance avec des signaux. L'horaire prévu pourrait varier en fonction des conditions climatiques.

Ces travaux seront réalisés par Pavage Coco, de Gatineau.

Cette année encore, le nombre de chantiers routiers sera très élevé sur les routes du Québec. Le ministère des Transports vous invite donc à la plus grande prudence au volant, notamment à l'approche des zones de travaux, et vous suggère de planifier vos déplacements en toute sécurité en communiquant avec Québec 511 Info Transports. Il suffit de composer 5 1 1 ou de vous rendre sur le site Web au www.quebec511.gouv.qc.ca.

fonction des conditions climatiques.

Ces travaux seront réalisés par Pavage Coco, de Gatineau.

Cette année encore, le nombre de chantiers



Isabelle et Dany étaient très heureux d'arriver à Fort-Coulonge ce vendredi dernier.

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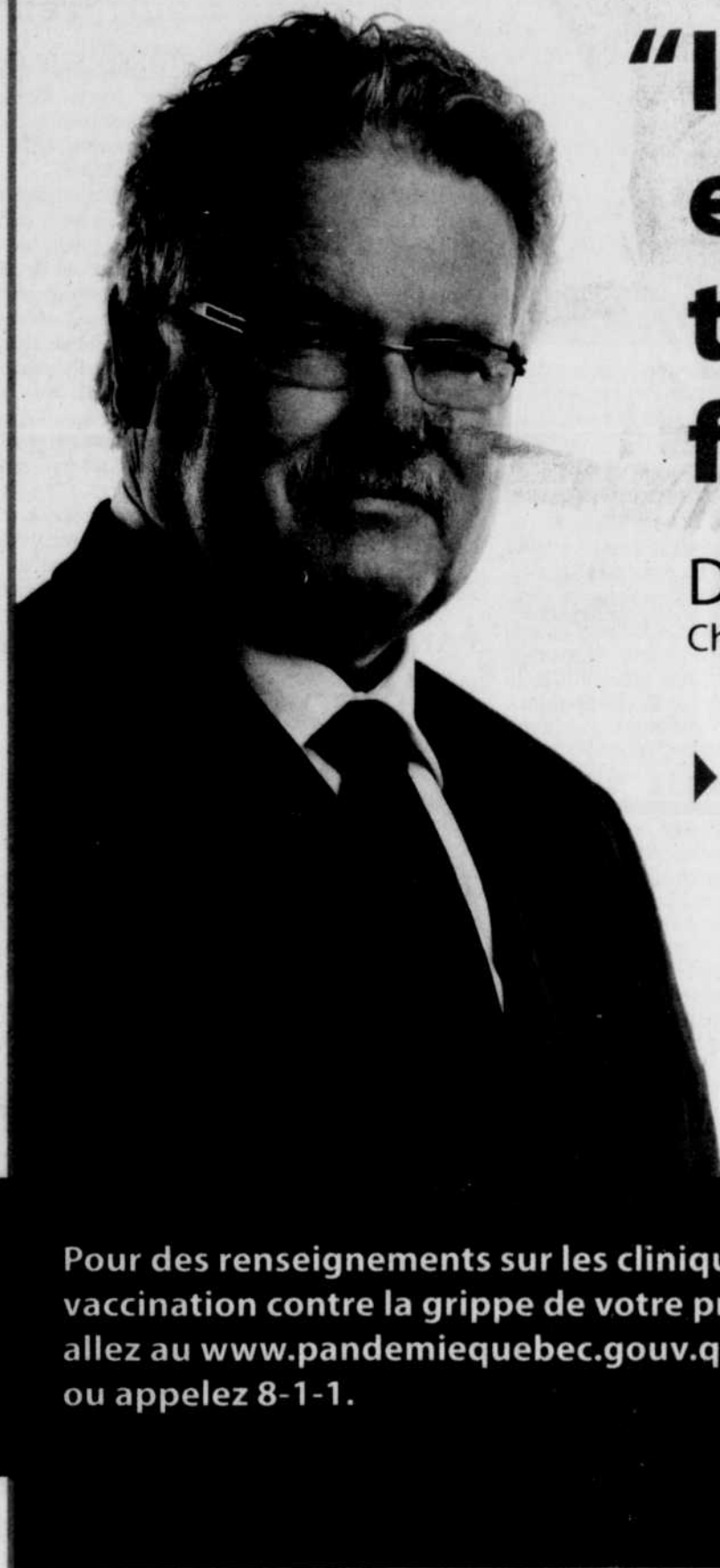
*Offre valable jusqu'au 31 décembre 2009, là où la technologie le permet. Certaines conditions s'appliquent dont un engagement de 12 mois. Des frais de réalisation anticipés s'appliquent. Calcul de l'économie basé sur un tarif de service local moyen de 31,10 \$/mois, un forfait de Services de gestion des appels à 13,45 \$/mois et un forfait Internet Haute vitesse à 39,95 \$/mois.

■ RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS ■ IMPORTANT INFORMATION ■

« J'encourage tous les Canadiens à recevoir le vaccin contre la grippe H1N1. »

Dr David Butler-Jones
Administrateur en chef de la santé publique du Canada

- ▶ La vaccination est un moyen sûr et efficace de vous protéger et de protéger vos proches contre le virus de la grippe H1N1.
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Dr. David Butler-Jones
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada

- ▶ Getting vaccinated is a safe and effective way to protect yourself and others against the H1N1 flu virus.
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For information on flu clinics throughout your province go to www.pandemiequebec.gouv.qc.ca or call 8-1-1.

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For more information about the H1N1 flu vaccine

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or call
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TTY 1-800-926-9105

December '09							January '10						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
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COMING EVENTS

Dec. 9 - 12 - At The Lighthouse Bookstore - 349 Main St., Shawville. All Bradford Collectable gifts and tree ornaments on sale for 20% off. Come on in! Limited Quantities! x09

Fri., Dec. 11 - From 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., Animal Aide Pontiac invites you to its fund raising Xmas bake sale. Santa will also be there, so bring your pets along to have their pictures taken with the jolly old man. Location, the Corner Shop (corner of Main & Centre Streets, opposite the Royal Bank), Shawville. Come out, have some fun and support animal welfare in the Pontiac. 2xd9

Sat., Dec. 12 - Resto Bar Chez Kim 819-648-2110 Potluck. Live music at 3:30. Everyone welcome. Sunday brunch cancelled until further notice. b09

Sat., Dec. 12 - Christmas in the Bay with Phillip Holmes and friends (including Adrienne Taylor). Tradition Christmas music and sing-along starting at 7 p.m. Proceeds to Snowsuits Fund. \$15 each, limited seating call Norway Bay Golf Course 819-647-2776 for tickets. b09

Sat., Dec. 12 - Local Art, Craft & Bake Sale at Lions Club Hall in Campbell's Bay between noon - 4 p.m. Featuring Dr's Pies, assorted selection, Min Belanger's woodwork and scrumptious baking, Donna Reibert's intriguing crafts and Carol Essiembre's unique paintings. eb2d9

Sun., Dec. 13 - Christmas Bingo, win Turkeys and Ham, \$10, Quyon Legion at 2 p.m. b09

Dec. 13, 2009 - The Living Nativity, every half hour from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Rolling Acres Farms, C260 Heath Rd., Shawville, Quebec. Presented by Grace Community Bible Church and friends. 2xd9

Dec. 18 - 5 - 7 pm Spaghetti Fund Raiser Supper for the Youth Center. "Pay what you can or give a recommended donation of \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family. Donations will be used to send teenagers to a Youth development Conference in Ottawa in March. Please call Peter Wood at the Youth Center in Shawville, 819-647-6432 for more information. 2bd16

Congratulations to Zackary Boyd of Brockville, Ontario on being chosen an Olympic torch bearer for Kleinburg, Ontario on Dec. 18. The Deering Family x09

Fri., Dec. 18 & Sun., Dec. 20 - Fri. at 7 p.m., & Sun., at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Pontiac Community Choir presents "Great Day!" New Hope Christian Fellowship Church, 586 Main St., Shawville, Quebec. 2xd16

Jan. 9, 2010 - Benefit Party for Ricky and Lisa Plouffe. Tickets from Trisha White 819-647-5117. xtc

MISCELLANEOUS

Royal Albert dinnerware, Forget Me Not pattern, mint condition - 41 pieces \$450 call evenings 819-453-7610. 3xd16

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Firewood 16 inch, all hardwood delivered \$85 a cord, dry or green. Please call 819-453-2207 or 819-453-7520. 3xd16

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4 - Nokian winter tires 205-70-215 M & S Extra load, comes with winter rims 10% wear used one season \$475 819-648-5953 after 10 a.m. x09

3 - 4 x 4 backhoes like new Massey Ferguson 135 P.S. loader 2100 hours \$7,500; White 65 hp 4 x 4 loader cab 2300 hours; 10 ft. plow blade; pallet forks and clam bulldozer 613-432-2424. x09

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Municipalité de Bristol Aux contribuables de la susdite municipalité Lundi, le 21 décembre, 2009 à 20:00 heures il y aura une session spéciale du conseil municipal à l'hôtel de Ville pour "L'Adoption du budget pour l'année 2010". Tous contribuables sont invités à cette réunion spéciale. Keith Emmerson, Directeur Général 0-1-D9

Municipality of Bristol To the Ratepayers of the aforesaid municipality Monday, December 21, 2009 at 8:00 p.m., a special council meeting will be held at the Townhall for the "Adoption of the 2010 budget". All interested ratepayers are invited to attend this special meeting. Keith Emmerson, Director General 1-0-D9

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T H A N K S

Bretzlaff - A special thank you to our family, friends, neighbours. To all who helped celebrate our 65th anniversary. It really was a memorable occasion. Myrtle and Hilgert

Murray - I would like to thank my family for the beautiful dinner, flowers and gifts, and for organizing the tea at the United Church to celebrate my 90th birthday. To all my dear friends who came to my tea, and for all the cards, gifts, flowers and gifts of money. I thank you so very much. It was a very special week. Rhoda Murray

MEMORIAM

Angus, Enid - In loving memory of Enid who passed away December 10, 2001. Enid, you've set an example That's shown us how to live, How to share and how to care And how to truly give. You've filled our hearts with love All our whole lives through And we're so proud and grateful To have had a Sister and Aunt As great as you. Love you always, Pat, Harry, Derek and Jarett

Angus, Enid - In loving memory of a wonderful mother, mother-in-law and nanny who passed away December 10, 2001. It's lonely here without you, We miss you more each day. For life is not the same for us Since you were called away. To us you were so special What more is there to say Except to wish with all our hearts, That you were here today. Sadly missed, never forgotten. Love Don, Lynne, Kristin and Ryan

Farrell - Jack and P.M. December 10, 1994. We still see the two of you Sitting on the beach Throwing sticks and P.M. catching frogs We will always love and miss you. The Farrell family

Kluke, Joan - In loving memory of a dear mother (Joan) and grandmother who passed away one year ago December 6, 2008. Our lives go on without you But nothing is the same. We try to hide our heartaches When someone speaks your name. Sad is our hearts that love you Silent tears that fall Living our lives without you Is the hardest part of all. Those special years will not return When we were all together But the love for you within our hearts Will stay with us forever. Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by son James and wife Laurel, and grandchildren Lauren, Kristen and Meghan

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MEMORIAM

K

Scores, scores and more scores

PONTIAC • Lots of hockey scores to report on this week and again, we'll start with little players.

Novice
The Novice A's Roy Duggan (2), Ben Barr, Jake Pilon and Evan Atkinson scored unassisted markers on the road in a 5-2 rout of the Gatineau Cougars on Sunday.

Meagan McGuire and Kaelen Ireland shared the win in the Pontiac nets.

The Novice B Lions scored a 4-2 over the Aylmer Express in Shawville Saturday.

Grayson Lang (2), Samuel Brown and Micheal McCann scored in the win. Rayden Besharah nabbed the only assist on one of Lang's points.

Jakob Therrien was the winning goal.

The Novice C Pontiac Lions played host to the Gatineau Barons on Sunday in Shawville, continuing their spirited play. Peyton Côté opened the scoring in the first period for the Lions unassisted as he streaked in from the right side and beat the Barons' goaltender with a nice shot.

Liam Gibbons added to the Lions lead in the second period, unassisted, stealing the puck from a Barons' defencemen at the blueline and skating in alone to beat the Barons' goaltender.

Riley Essiambre quickly added to the lead as he pounced on a loose puck in front of the net and quickly buried it behind the goaltender. Although the Barons found some life late in the second period and scored a goal to reduce the Lions lead, Jérémie Graveline closed the door on the Barons and made several key saves to preserve a 3-1 victory.

Pee Wee
The Pee Wee A Pontiac Lions traveled to Gatineau on Saturday to take on the Cougars. Final score was tied 1-1, and the Lions' goal was scored by Darron Bruce, assisted by Curtis Huckabone and Cory McKay.

Bantam
The Pontiac Draveurs Bantam B played in a tournament in La Pêche on the weekend. Game one saw the Draveurs lose 5-1 with Justin Graveline scoring the lone goal and was also the MVP of the game.

Game two had the Draveurs coming out with a good effort and tied the Gouverneurs CLL 2-2.

Bailey Strand and Yannick Morrisette scored for the Draveurs.

Jacob Matterman had a good game in goals and was the game MVP.

Game three was a must-win for the Draveurs to have a chance at the semi-final. With the Draveurs trailing 3-0 after 2 periods, they made a terrific comeback in the third period to upset Aylmer 4-3 with 1.7 seconds left in the game.

Nathan White got the big winner while Cody Laurent, Bailey Strand and Alex Draper staged the come back while Jarret Peck kept his team in the game. Nathan White was MVP for the game.

Unfortunately Draveurs missed the semi-finals because of a differential in goals for and against.

Meanwhile the Pontiacs' other Bantam B team, the Lions, were 4-0 winners

over the Gatineau Titans, scoring their first two goals-in-a-row of the season.

Goal scorers were Patrice Gagnon, Dan Lacroix, Alex Rosignol and Philippe Fortin.

Atom CC
The Atom Lion's Connor Romain hit the net for five goals as the Atoms beat up on Maniwaki 8-2 this Sunday in Maniwaki.

Vance Olmsted, Austin Duggan and Michael O'Reilly each added singles. Ryan Nugent (2), Olmsted, Bradley Strand, Cassidy Peck and Patrick St-Cyr each assisted with one helper throughout the game. Nicholas Brown played well in nets.

PeeWee CC
Danny Pasch nets a hat-trick in the Lions' 3-2 win over the Hull Olympiques Saturday in Shawville.

Alexis Gauthier, Nolan Peck (2), Tyler Brady, Steven Schuiteboer and Kyle Misener all chipped in with assists. Goalie Alexandre Tremblay gets the win.

Next day, Sunday, the PeeWee CC team participated in a one-day tournament in Westport, Ontario hosted by the North Leeds Minor Hockey Association.

First game ended in a win against the Clarence Creek Castors by a 7-1 score. Led by Danny Pasch with four, Alexis Gauthier, Matt Curley and Francis Gagnon popped in the singles. Assists went to Steven Schuiteboer, Zach Elliott, Alexis Gauthier, Nolan Peck, Julien Lepine and Brayden Romain.

Tremblay was in the nets for this one.

For the finals, the Gloucester Blackhawk's took advantage of the Lions for a 6-1 win, capitalizing on player suspensions received in game two.

The team played a strong game until the final period. The lone goal scorer was Danny Pasch assisted by Steven Schuiteboer. They finished the tournament as "A" finalists.

Bantam CC
The Lion CC Bantams fell to Maniwaki, 5-0.

Midget CC
On Friday the Pontiac Lions Midget CC played in the Pembroke Silver Stick Tournament and opened with a win over Ennismore, 3-0.

Goals went to Ross Cote and Brady Trudeau unassisted and then Josh Greenfields, also assisted by Ross Cote.

Tyler Ladouceur earned the shut-out. Saturday morning they played Char-Lan Rebels and lost 3-1.

The only goal went to Colton Keon assisted by Travis Stewart.

Saturday afternoon the Lions beat the Petawawa Patriots and won 2-1. Goals went to Kurt Fraser and Matthew Alexander. Colton Keon and Fraser drew assists.

In the quarter finals the Lions lost 4-0 to the Pembroke Kings.

Poor Juniors clipped in Blue Wing country

Not a good turn out for the Juniors in Perth for their only match on the weekend.

7-3 was the final score after the Juniors had a bit of a come back in the middle frame to pull within one of the Blue Wings. But the Wings pulled away for 6-3 lead at the end of that second period.

Jean-Alexandre Ibrahim scored twice in a losing cause with David Hobbs getting a single goal in the second period. Assists went to Jimmy MacMillan, Tyler Orr, Francis Guertin, Curtis Young and Hobbs with two. Billy Stone was in

between the pipes for the Pontiacs and faced over 30 shots to the Juniors' 25 on Tyler Anderson.

The Pontiacs are home for their only December appearance this Friday at 8 p.m. against the Almonte Thunder.

This Sunday it's over to Renfrew they go for a 7 p.m. start time against the Wolves.

Twenty-five into the season and despite all the losses suffered by the Juniors, they are still in play-off contention, only two points behind fourth place Almonte.



Deer hunters who were present at the Ladysmith Sportsman Club annual hunters' party and awards' night were from the left: Willie Kluge, Michelle Baldwin, Diane Anglehart, Bill Levers and Andy Bill.

Ladysmith Sportsman's club celebrates their year

HEATHER DICKSON
Equity Publisher

LADYSMITH • A packed house at the Ladysmith Hotel was just the right atmosphere to celebrate a year of hunting and fishing.

On Saturday evening, Nov. 28 members of the Ladysmith Sportsman's Club gathered to admire and award members for their various hunting and fishing catches.

"We had a really good turnout. It was a much bigger crowd than we had expected, even with fewer registra-

tions," said club secretary Debbie Hodgins.

It appears that there were fewer deer registered this year.

"They hid really well this year," said Hodgins.

Along with the awards which were handed out that evening, a highlight of the night was the 'wild meat' supper at 11 p.m.

"Everyone contributes to it. It's pot luck and we had more than 50 different dishes," said Hodgins.

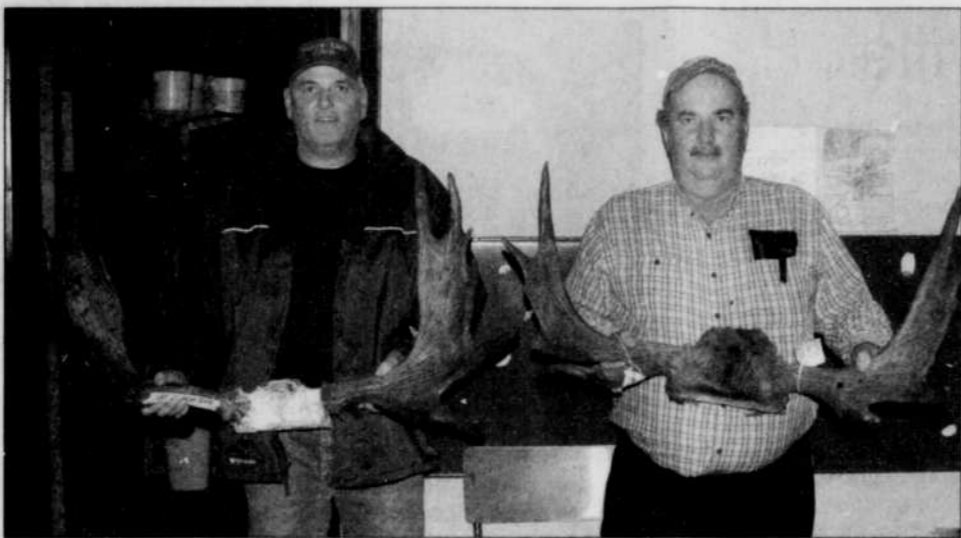
Some of the exotic dishes served were: moose pie with

a biscuit topping, meatballs of venison, moose or deer, deer and moose stew, fish balls, beans with mild meat, partridge, salads with various wild meats, macaroni casserole with moose meat and a white sauce.

"Many of the hunters don't eat supper so that they can be sure that they'll have lots of room for the wild meat snack," said Hodgins.

Forty new memberships were sold that night. Memberships are \$5 for juniors and \$10 for adults.

"We try to encourage the



Moose hunters who were present at the Ladysmith Sportsman Club annual hunters' party and awards' night were from the left: Lee Laframboise and Jacques Barnabe, for his brother Gilles.

youth to join and participate and we make sure that we have a youth category for each of the prizes," said Hodgins.

This year life-time memberships were awarded to John Lapierre, Alex Rutledge, Felix Kluge and J.C. Marinere. To qualify for a free life-time membership you have to be 70 years of age and have been a member of the club the prior year.

The entertainment for the night were 'The Sidekicks'.

Awards for Hunting and Fishing

Turkey: Men - Evert Hodgins 19 lbs 14 oz; Woman - Diane Anglehart 15 lbs 6 oz.

Moose: Cow - Evert Hodgins 35.5"; Bull - Lee Laframboise 39".

Deer: Bow - Jerry Kluge doe 130 lbs; Crossbow - Men Eddy Godin doe 145 lbs; Junior boy - Brandon Beaudoin buck 112 lbs.

Black Power: Men - Willie Kluge bush 189 lbs; Woman - Debbie Hodgins buck 155 lbs.

Rifle: Men - Marc Gravelle buck 189 lbs; Tyler Pasch doe 152 lbs; Woman - Tracy Bretzlaff buck 164 lbs; Junior Boy - Adam Bretzlaff doe 152 lbs.

Nicest Deer Rack: Willie Kluge.

Widest Deer Rack: Willie Kluge.

Non-Typical Rack: Andy Bill.

Sportsman of the Year: Men - Evert Hodgins; Woman - Tracy Bretzlaff; Junior Boy - Adam Bretzlaff.

Pike: Men - Mike the Pike 14 lbs 1 oz; Woman - Jean Kluge 11 lbs 1 oz; Junior Boy - Brandon Beaudoin 7 lbs 10 oz; Junior Girl - Ebony Hodgins Rochon 1 lb 12 oz.

Lake Trout: Men - Mike the Pike 9 lbs 9 oz; Woman - Shirley Bretzlaff 8 lbs 6 oz; Junior Boy - Danny Pasch 2 lbs 4 oz.

Rainbow Trout: Men - Shawn Kluge 3 lbs 2 oz.

Speckled Trout: Men - Andy Bill 3 lbs 1 oz; Woman - Suzanne Prudhomme 7 oz; Junior Girl - Jessica Bill 1 lb 11 oz.

Pickeral: Men - Mike the Pike 4 lbs 11 oz.

Bass: Men - Alfie Thibodeau 3 lbs 14 oz; Woman - Jean Kluge 2 lbs 2 oz; Junior Boy - Nicolas Goulet 1 lb 13 oz; Junior Girl - Ebony Hodgins Rochon 1 lb 7 oz.

Sportsman of the Year for Fishing: Men - Mike the Pike; Women - Jean Kluge; Junior Boy - Brandon Beaudoin; Junior Girl - Ebony Hodgins Rochon.

OVERTIME | LUKE MURPHY

Second chances



I truly believe in second chances. That is, if the person has truly made a commitment to change.

But you all know that I draw the line there. I certainly don't believe in third and fourth chances. If someone can't change after a second chance, then they don't deserve another opportunity.

So I was interested to see former NHL player Theo Fleury attempt a comeback in the National Hockey League. I know I'm late in writing this article, that's what happens with a weekly column, but I believe this story is worth mentioning.

Finally sober, 41-year-old Theo Fleury attempted to resume his NHL career after a six-year absence. The team that drafted Fleury in 1987, the Calgary Flames, gave the aging superstar a chance at attending an NHL training camp — his first step to rebuilding his career. It sounded like the feel good story of the year.

When he left the NHL after the 2002-03 season, Fleury was under-indefinite suspension for violating the NHL's substance abuse policy, but received news that he was cleared by the NHL to return to on-ice competition.

Fleury has been sober for four years with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous and the support of his family and he's been beating adversity his whole life.

He was considered a long shot to play in the NHL when he was drafted 166th overall by the Flames in the 1987 draft. At barely 5-foot-6, he was thought to be too small for the rigors of the league.

He went on to score 455 goals and help set up 633 others in an NHL career that lasted 15 seasons and included over 1,000 games with the Flames, Colorado Avalanche, New York Rangers and Chicago

Blackhawks. He won the Stanley Cup in his rookie season with Calgary in 1989, and played in seven NHL All-Star games. He was also a member of the Canadian team that won the Olympic gold medal in 2002.

Not bad for a long shot.

I'm sure that for you loyal readers, you're wondering why I, Luke Murphy, would be rooting for a man who had everything, and let it all slip away. And I admit that with most professional athletes, I'm a little harsher when they do something stupid, or let their ego get in the way. But with Fleury it's different.

I always root for the underdog. This is a guy who was undersized, but who played with his heart on his sleeve and his tenacity made him a home crowd favorite. A return to the NHL after such a long absence is a tall order. But Fleury made a commitment, and was able to overcome his inner demons.

Since his retirement, Fleury has played in European and in North American senior leagues, and operated a cement company in Calgary in recent years. During the off-season, to prepare for the camp, Fleury worked out with a trainer, and skated regularly with NHL players at a rink in western Calgary.

Although the storybook fairy tale didn't have a happy ending, watching the Fleury comeback was inspirational, and was entertaining for hockey fans. Fleury was released by the Flames during training camp, but he was proud of his on-ice and off-ice work during the rigorous camp. Who knows, maybe someday he'll give it another go, although time is running out.

That's my two cents. What do you think? Murphy is a former professional hockey player who now resides in Shawville contact him at news@theequity.ca.

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MOMENT: French singer Isabelle Boulay visits Fort Coulonge and Mansfield to film a segment of Radio-Canada's *La Petite Séduction*

continued from page 1

On the final day of filming, guests were invited to the public market at Bryson Heritage Home where kiosks displaying a whole array of wares from flowers and perfume to biscuits and breads,

art and jewellery offered plenty of choices.

The visit concluded at the St. Pierre church where song and words of gratitude were exchanged before Boulay and Turcotte rode off in their carriage once again.

The television program is a concept modeled after the film production *La Grande Séduction*, where residents of a tiny fishing village try to charm and seduce a local doctor into taking a full-time residency because they were

promised a new factory should they be successful in doing so.

By showcasing the area's appeal and charisma and attempting to tug on the songstress' heartstrings, residents of Fort Coulonge

and Mansfield were hoping to achieve the same triumph.

Have they been successful?

Perhaps readers will need to tune-in to Radio-Canada to find out.



Heidi Newberry along with Annette and Jean-Guy Lariviere prepared the large gift box for Isabelle Boulay prior to her arrival for the shooting of *La Petite Séduction* in Fort Coulonge on Friday.



A choir from St. Andrew's church in Fort Coulonge welcomed Isabelle Boulay on Friday.

M&R Feeds moves into Shawville

HEATHER DICKSON

Equity Publisher
SHAWVILLE • Feed and agricultural supplies will soon be available again from the same old familiar location as before.

Brent Clifford, owner of M&R Feeds of Micksburg, with satellite feed mill operations in Pembroke and Quyon, is pleased to announce the purchase of H.I. Hobbs & Sons Ltd feed mill in Shawville.

"The purchase is a perfect fit for our business. We'll be able to process feed right here in Shawville," said Clifford.

M&R Feeds works with major feed suppliers, such as Purina, Masterfeed, Shurgain, Co-op, and New Life to supply their clients with the feeds they need that are specific to their requirements.

"We are able to manufacture products to meet an individual's nutritional requirements. We will be able to roll grains, mix in additives such as supplements, protein and prepare feeds that are balanced and nutritious. We'll buy grain from local farmers

and process the feed right here," said Clifford.

"M&R Feeds will be the only enterprise that will actually custom-make feeds in Pontiac and Gatineau counties. We'll offer fair prices, good service, good products and skilled people. We plan on being a big part of the local community," said Clifford.

M&R Feeds is a well established business having started operations in Micksburg in 1981. Brent and Sophie Clifford opened up the Micksburg location with one employee — Brent. It now operates in three locations with over 20 full time staff.

The Pembroke location was opened in 1988 and Quyon in 1990. With the purchasing of the H.I. Hobbs facility manufacturing will be moved to the 'Hobbs' location when mill repairs are completed.

While repairs are ongoing, some upgraded mill equipment will also be installed at Quyon. M&R Feeds plans to continue to manufacture medication free feeds pro-

duced to CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) quality standards.

Extensive repairs are now going on at the Hobbs location following the heartbreaking fire that occurred in October 2008.

The fire which devastated the elevator fortunately left the warehouse and offices untouched.

The elevator tower will have two new distributor heads installed along with new belts, a new grain handling system and a new unloading system to be located in the mill parking lot.

All of these renovations will allow the 'Hobbs' facility to resume milling activities in the near future.

"The Hobbs family have been outstanding throughout the transfer process. It has really been a positive experience dealing with the family. They have been very reassuring and Sterling has been a big help with previous clients," said Clifford.

Clifford and his wife Sophie have three grown up children,

Tessen, Kassia and Liam. Sophie is involved in the book-keeping and payroll of the business. Eldest daughter Tess is completing her Ph.D. in child psychology, middle daughter Kassia is a crisis intervention worker at Petawawa and youngest son Liam is employed in Ottawa.

The management of M&R Feeds plans on continuing the fine traditions that clients received at Hobbs Mill.

"We plan to do our best to continue the proud tradition of providing high quality products and dependable friendly service the Hobbs family has been known for. We are making a commitment to the farmers and the community, we trust we will get their commitment in return," commented Clifford.

When operations resume at the Shawville facility, M&R Feeds intends to offer a full selection of livestock, poultry and pet feeds, crop inputs, farm related products and home, garden and pet supplies. All at the familiar facility at Hobbs Mill.



Brent Clifford outside of his newly acquired H.I. Hobbs location in Shawville.

Santa and his helpers zoom into town



Bonichoix's entry included a number of Lariviere children in Campbell's Bay Santa parade. To see more photos check out our website www.theequity.ca.



Santa enjoyed the sunny day and a break away from the cold north during the Campbell's Bay parade. To see more photos check out our website www.theequity.ca.

LOGS END

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