



THE EQUITY

125th Year, Issue No. 5

Wednesday, January 30, 2008

88 cents

McCrank hangs on to warden post

Incumbent fends off fellow mayors to keep county position

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • Mike McCrank was selected MRC Pontiac warden for another two years Monday, but it was close.

The bi-annual election among Pontiac mayors to select their leader who represents them and the county took place at the first mayors' council meeting of 2008.

Among the 17 votes from mayors present — Portage du Fort mayor Gerald Manwell was absent — nine voted for McCrank, giving him the exact amount required to be declared winner.



MRC Pontiac Warden Mike McCrank

With the win, McCrank fended off a strong effort by Allumettes Island mayor Brian Adam and Mansfield mayor Rick Romain, who both entered the fray. Only McCrank's tally for the secret ballot was announced; other results were not revealed.

McCrank, 51, has been warden for eight years. In the four previous warden selection process, he twice faced competition and was twice acclaimed. "The candidates were strong," said McCrank. "I knew it would be difficult."

Before the vote, each nominated mayor was given two minutes to appeal to the other mayors present.

McCrank addressed what he called "questions" about his availability because of his permanent job in Hull.

He said he had reorganized his work schedule to become available all day Mondays and Tuesdays, plus Wednesdays until 2 p.m. to be in his office at the MRC facility in Campbell's Bay.

McCrank also pointed to his experience in the position and addressed a number of files he has been working on that required further attention.

McCrank said he was not surprised two other mayors were interested in the position.

The mayors' council had been considering making the warden position a full-time post and McCrank had previously stated he would not be willing to quit his regular job to work as full-time warden.

Adam, 63, the deputy warden for the last two years, had made his intentions clear to run for the position of warden.

Please see **WARDEN** on page two

It's that time of year again



Amanda Dupuis, THE EQUITY

The 33rd annual community curling bonspiel kicked off Thursday at the curling rink in Shawville. This year there are 72 teams registered in the tournament, which runs until Feb. 3. From the left: organizers Doris Hanna, Phyllis Wilson, Stu Stark, Eason Russell, Laird Murray, Darleen Murphy and Bob Cowley.

First rock thrown for bonspiel

AMANDA DUPUIS
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • The annual community curling bonspiel kicked off Thursday night in Shawville.

"It was started 33 years ago because (the club) needed the money, and it flew, so they kept it going," said Phyllis Wilson, one of the organizers.

"This community bonspiel is what keeps our club going," said Wilson. "It's the club's largest fundraiser of the year."

This year's bonspiel will see 72 teams (roughly 288 people) vying for a shot at the grand prize — a toilet seat.

The overall winning team will have its name engraved on a plaque on the

inside of the seat and each member of the team will receive a mini version of the trophy.

Some of the senior members of the club aren't too sure who came up with the idea of using a toilet seat as a prize, but the idea seems to have stuck.

Wilson said her favourite part of the bonspiel is seeing teams return year after year to have fun and support the curling club. There are a handful of teams who have been entering since day one, she said.

Each team wishing to play in the bonspiel must pay a \$48 registration fee and each person on the team must bring a prize valued at \$10 to \$15.

"Every person brings a prize, so every person takes home a prize," explained Wilson.

Shawville resident Laird Murray, who has been the club's chairperson for about 10 years, begins organizing the community bonspiel just after Christmas.

"Laird is so organized himself," said Wilson. "He's Mr. Bonspiel as far as I'm concerned."

Teams are divided into twelve different divisions grouped by colours and each team's skill level is considered when they're placed in the division.

"We're running out of colours," noted Wilson.

Teams will play three games each over the course of one week.

The most difficult part the organizers face is making sure all divisions are even in terms of talent and that each team is slotted into a time they're available to play.

"We try to accommodate as many people as we can," said Wilson. "We work around them as much as we can."

Over three decades, not much has changed in the way the bonspiel is played, noted Wilson, except for one aspect.

"When we first started out it was strictly a fun-spiel. Now, it's getting a little competitive."



Amanda Dupuis, THE EQUITY

An all-day fundraiser, including a car rally and a hockey tournament, was held Saturday in support of the arena in Fort Coulonge. The event was organized by the co-operative that will take ownership of the arena next month. Shown here: Pierre Aubrey (left), vice president of the co-operative and Debbie Laporte (right), president.

Group prepares for Coulonge arena takeover

AMANDA DUPUIS
Equity Reporter

FORT COULONGE • The arena in Fort Coulonge was buzzing with activity over the weekend as the local co-operative slated to take the building over held its first annual fundraiser.

"It's been a real success," said co-operative president Debbie Laporte. "A lot of people showed up to support us."

Events over the weekend included a hockey tournament with nine different teams and a car rally scavenger hunt with 23 cars.

Gilles Gervais, the chairman of the fundraiser event, said the turnout was unbelievable.

"There was a fantastic turnout," said Gervais, who explained Friday night events do not usually draw a large crowd but over 100 people showed up.

Gervais said he wanted to organize a hockey tournament in support of the arena because it is one of the few amenities for people in the area to use.

"It's the only thing we have in town," said Gervais, "especially for the kids,

but for adults too."

Gervais said he spent about two months organizing the fundraiser and was pleased with the turnout.

"It's something we want to repeat year after year," added Laporte.

Laporte said proceeds from the fundraiser are in support of various arena renovations.

"Our first priority is the roof. After we have upgraded the roof, then we will fix the inside of the arena," said Laporte.

The co-operative needs to raise approximately \$650,000 in order to pay for the required upgrades to the roof system, said Laporte; money that will come from fundraising as well as financial aid.

Please see **ARENA** on page two

Break-ins easiest crime to prevent: police

Some care, planning goes long way to keeping out burglars

AMANDA DUPUIS
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Crimes against property, such as break-ins and vandalism, account for more than half of all reported crimes in the MRC des Collines.

"We have about 1,000 crimes against properties in a year (but) it's the easiest crime to prevent," said Const. Martin Fournel, a spokesperson with the public security sector of the police.

More often than not, especially in rural areas, people seem to have the mentality that theft will always happen to somebody else.

But that's not the case, said Const. Fournel, and people should be prepared.

"House owners have a responsibility to protect their valuables," said Const. Fournel. "Often, people say, 'Oh it's up to the police to do that,'" he said. "Yes, it is, but you have to be careful."

Cottage break-ins occur often in Pontiac, especially during the winter months when thieves know there is no one in the cottage.

The most common way for thieves to gain access to a property is through the front door. And more often than not, they do so in broad daylight.

According to police, most robberies occur between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Const. Fournel said this is because many robbers know people are usually at work during the day. What they do, he said, is walk up to the front door and knock.

"We're seeing this a lot," said Const. Fournel. "They're just coming to check to see if there's somebody in the house."

In most cases, said Const. Fournel, theft is not a random act. Robbers select their targets based on opportunity.

"They're going to go where it's easy, where there is opportunity for them," said Const. Fournel. "Their goal is to not get caught."

"You need to think like them," he said. "They know it's a cottage."

Const. Fournel said the best thing for both home and cottage owners to do would be to not leave valuables in plain sight or to take them with you when you leave.

"You have to make their life difficult," said Const. Fournel.

Another aspect cottage owners often overlook is the tool shed. It's not hard for a robber to break into a shed and steal items left behind in winter months such as tools, lawn mowers and fishing equipment.

"If (the cottage) is not open, like in the winter, plow the laneway or snow blow it to make it look like someone's there," said Const. Fournel.

Police also advise installing a reliable alarm system and quality locks on all windows and doors. In addition, they suggest installing adequate outdoor lighting or consider investing in a video surveillance system.

"It doesn't cost much," said Const. Fournel.

Erect advisory signs on your property warning intruders of the cameras.

"Have a sign there," said Const. Fournel. "(Thieves) are not going to go check it out. They're not going to take the chance and get caught."

The most popular objects stolen, from both cottages and homes, are those easily liquidated such as money, jewellery, audio-video equipment, computers and tools.

"Their goal is not to hurt people, it's to get a profit by what they're selling," said Const. Fournel.

Please see **CRIME** on page two

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MRC briefs

Bertrand to be named MRC director-general

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • Barring a disaster in negotiations, Rémi Bertrand will be the new director-general of the MRC Pontiac.

The mayors unanimously chose to remove the interim tag from Bertrand's title immediately though the terms of his hiring still had to be negotiated.

That will be handled by the administration committee of mayors.

Bertrand was thrust into the director-general position less than two months after being hired to be the MRC's interim director-general under André Cordeau.

Late last fall, Cordeau resigned and then abruptly left Pontiac to return to Montreal despite committing to assisting with a three-month transitional period leaving Bertrand with the position.

Despite his inexperience — this is Bertrand's first

foray in the public sector — the mayors expressed great pleasure at Bertrand's work so far.

"I think he knows every member around this table supports him," said Campbell's Bay Mayor Jean-Louis Auger.

"I'd like to get the word 'interim' taken out of his title as soon as possible," added Allumettes Island mayor Brian Adam, who brought up the issue at the meeting. Bertrand was visibly

pleased with the words of his employers.

"It's a vote of confidence and I see most heads nodding in agreement and that's enough for me," he said before accepting the position.

The director-general is the highest staff position in the MRC Pontiac.

He is responsible for many of the ongoing files and looks after forestry, land use, economic development, tourism and finance.

Road sign request

The mayors will send a request to the Ministry of Transport to have Shawville and Fort Coulonge listed on road signs on the new Boulevard des Allumettes, which was recently completed in Hull.

The route connects Pontiac to old Gatineau through what was formerly called Boulevard de l'Outaouais.

Currently, a sign west on the route announces a distance from "Pontiac", though

Thorne Mayor Ross Vowles said the distance leads drivers only as far as Luskville.

Luskville is a part of the Municipality of Pontiac but not the MRC Pontiac.

Mayors unanimously felt it was important to have towns from the MRC represented on the sign.

SQ shuffle

The Pontiac detachment of the Surete du Quebec police have made another shuffle in their department.

Sgt. Sylvain Arts, the head of investigations, will depart this week for another job and be replaced by Sgt. Jasmin Beiletete.

Sgt. Arts had worked in Pontiac since 1992 with a stop in Hull, but he was offered a promotion to work with a police force in the Eastern Townships and accepted the position recently.

Sgt. Beiletete, from Buckingham, has been with the Pontiac detachment

since 2000.

Lieu. Alain Langevin, himself only having been named to his position before Christmas, presented the change to Pontiac mayors Monday.

"We're not able to keep all our good people, but at least we're able to keep some," said Lieu. Langevin.

"It was a real pleasure to work here," said Sgt. Arts.

"I like the population and I hope everything will continue well."

More of my favourite Pontiac experiences so far



AMANDA DUPUIS
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • I've had many great experiences at THE EQUITY to date, though I must admit, before I started the job, I never thought I'd be taking on some of the feats I've accomplished.

Some of the most memo-

orable encounters I have ventured into while working here will remain imprinted in my memory for the rest of my life.

Here is a list of the rest of my top five "proudest" moments so far — those which I never thought I'd be undertaking.

5) Meeting country

music legend Johnny Cash's youngest brother, Tommy Cash in July 2007.

It's not often you get the opportunity to meet a celebrity.

So when Tommy Cash agreed to perform at the Quyon Country Jamfest last summer it caused many peo-

ple to get excited.

I've heard a few Johnny Cash songs before but I knew nothing about his biography. So when I read claims Tommy was the youngest brother of Johnny I didn't know if they were true or not.

I asked my brother's friend, who is a big country music fan, and was told that yes, Tommy is really Johnny's brother.

This had me excited because I'd be interviewing a real-life celebrity!

After Cash's performance at Jamfest I went up to ask him a few questions and I also got him to sign a photo of himself as memorabilia of that moment.

That photo, framed lovingly, is now perched atop my desk as a great reminder of that awesome moment.

4) The Big Media Food Drive in December 2007.

In early December our publisher asked us how we'd like to participate in a food

drive in support of the local food bank, Bouffe Pontiac.

We'd be standing on the street corner from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and we'd be asking for donations in the form of food or money.

Although I was a little hesitant to participate because it meant waking up before the crack of dawn, I realized it was for a good cause so I agreed to participate.

It wasn't nearly as bad as I thought it was going to be, and although my fingers and toes lost feeling well before the second hour was up, it was such a satisfying feeling to know I was doing something good for someone else, especially so close to the holiday season.

When I found out the food drive raised over \$4,000 I was so pleased. We were able to feed a lot of needy families for Christmas.

And what an ego-booster it was, to know I played a small part in that conquest.

3) Uranium field trip in October 2007.

When I was told I'd be taking a hike deep into the Pontiac woods with a bunch of uranium prospectors, I didn't know what to think.

Knowing uranium mining is a controversial issue in Pontiac made me a little excited — I'd be up close and personal and behind the scenes with the people responsible for the uproar.

Foraging into the wilderness was actually a lot more fun than I was expecting it to be, despite the threat of rain

above our heads that day.

Knowing little about uranium only added to the fun because I was compelled to learn a lot of facts about it before departing on the trip so I would know what to ask when I got there.

It was so interesting to see the process behind uranium mining, and considering I honestly thought uranium was something you'd find only in a movie, it was exciting to think it could possibly be in our own backyard.

Zion Hospital Auxiliary



Amanda Dupuis, THE EQUITY

The Zion Hospital Auxiliary recently purchased a scale for the Pontiac Community Hospital in Shawville to weigh overweight/obese patients for a cost of \$1,682.31. It will also be available for all of the nursing unit's use. Last year, the auxiliary purchased a vital sign monitor and two IV poles for the general care unit at the hospital for a cost of \$3,331. The auxiliary also purchases Christmas gifts each year for long-term patients. From the left: auxiliary members Marshallene Campbell and Margaret Wall.

WARDEN: Three vied for spot

Continued from page one

He distributed copies of his resume to his colleagues and early during Monday's meeting he handed out biographical profiles to the local media present.

The longtime former Pembroke city councillor had brought an air of professionalism and esteem to the MRC Pontiac mayors' meetings since his election in 2005 but said he was not disappointed at McCrank's selection.

"No, not at all, I'm quite satisfied with the outcome," he said, noting his selection

as deputy warden in 2007 despite being one of the most inexperienced mayors gave him the vote of confidence he needed to pursue the position.

"I have been really immersed in the files. I know the warden's job is sufficiently demanding as is the deputy warden job."

In his appeal to the mayors, Romain stated he had, "Nothing against (McCrank) personally, he's done a good job, but sometimes change can be good."

Romain pointed to his flu-

ent bilingualism as a benefit, as it would allow him to easily communicate with officials from other MRCs and the province.

The warden will be paid \$28,560 per year; the pro warden will receive \$12,240 annually.

Fort Coulonge mayor Raymond Durocher was also nominated for the position of warden but turned it down immediately.

Adam was acclaimed back into his deputy warden post after both Romain and Durocher turned down nomi-

nations with Durocher stating, "It's important to have continuance".

The warden is the voice of the mayors at the provincial and regional levels. He sits on the regional body for elected officials, attends meeting with provincial representatives and conducts more ceremonial business, such as wreath-layings during Remembrance Day events.

"I think a lot of people don't know what it is I do, but it's a lot of work," said McCrank.

THEFT: Prevention easy

Continued from page one

In order to make it easier for police to find items should they become stolen, they suggest creating a list of all valuable items in the home, along with a description and the item's serial number, and to store it in a safe place. In the event of a robbery, the list will be helpful to police officers.

"Every year, we find some equipment. We know for sure it's stolen, but even when we check the serial numbers (there's no record)," said Const. Fournel.

"With the serial number, we can put the stolen item's number in the police

system. It's as simple as that."

Another preventative measure is to have your driver's licence number engraved in an obvious place on all valuable possessions.

This works the same way as recording the item's serial number, said Const. Fournel, because, "it's an easy way to check to see if (the item) is stolen."

According to Const. Fournel, generally, pawnshops are not supposed to accept items with an engraved number, so this will prevent your valuables from being liquidated that way.

Do not feel hesitant to contact police should you ever fall victim to theft. If you do not report the crime, police will not know about it and therefore cannot work towards preventing it in the future.

"If people don't give us a call, (thieves) are going to break in to who knows how many more houses before they get caught," said Const. Fournel.

Const. Fournel explained it is important to report all suspicious activity to the police.

"Prevention is not only one thing, it's a bunch of small actions," said Const. Fournel.

ARENA: Takeover not final

Continued from page one

In an agreement between the municipalities of Mansfield et Pontefract and Fort Coulonge, the co-operative will take over ownership of the arena within the first few weeks of February.

According to Laporte, all of the documents are ready and are waiting to be signed by the mayor of Fort Coulonge and the director general.

"We are waiting on one last council resolution," said Laporte.

"We have no idea what day (it will be finalized)."

Laporte said the co-operative is meeting with council in the second or third week of February.

The co-operative has been working to take over the arena for three years now, said Laporte, and the process has been complicated.

"It was a lot of work," said Laporte.

They took the idea of forming a co-operative from the arena in La Pêche, said Laporte, which is run in a similar manner.

The co-operative then held meetings to gauge the

interest in forming a committee and sold membership cards to raise money.

Two hundred and eighty five people purchased membership cards in support of the co-operative.

The co-operative will also receive yearly financial aid from Fort Coulonge and Mansfield et Pontefract.

The co-operative executive currently consists of: Laporte, president; Pierre Aubrey, vice president; Claire Sauriol, secretary-treasurer; Kathy Belec, secretary and Garry Levesque, employee member.

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Coalition against uranium mining holds first meeting

AMANDA DUPUIS

Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • Just over 20 people attended an information meeting Saturday for the Western Quebec Coalition Against Mining Uranium (WQ-CAMU). Those interested, some of whom live in Pontiac and some of whom own cottages in the area, gathered at Au Grand Bois lodge in La Pêche, Québec. The meeting was intended

to gauge people's interest in forming a coalition. "I think there's definitely a lot of interest (in forming a coalition)," said the WQ-CAMU's co-ordinator, Michael Patenaude. "I'd say there's interest, but it's not officially formed yet." Patenaude, an Ottawa resident, owns a cottage in the area and became aware of the uranium mining claims on land near his cot-

tage. He wants locals to become aware of the possible negative impacts uranium mining could bring. "My concern is that Pontiac is the most vulnerable for (uranium) mining along the watershed of the Ottawa River," said Patenaude. The cumulative effect of uranium mining could eventually affect cities located

further down the Ottawa River such as Aylmer, Gatineau and Ottawa, to name a few. "As somebody who lives down the river, I don't want this," said Patenaude. "My main concern is that people are potentially going to want (a uranium mine)," said Patenaude. "But I think people need to be aware of the other side of the story." He said residents might not understand the health

implications that could result if a mine were to open in the region. In addition, Patenaude said his main fear is people in the community would tolerate the construction of a uranium mine if it meant creating jobs. "The mining industry is promising jobs," said Patenaude, however the jobs would most likely not benefit Pontiacers. "The best jobs are going to

go to people away from here," said Patenaude, because the companies would already have people trained and most likely wouldn't have the time or money to train new people. Topics of discussion at the meeting included facts about uranium, issues and opportunities for the coalition, ideas for action and a mission statement. Attendees agreed to meet again in the next few weeks.

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Municipality of Pontiac to analyze water tables

AMANDA DUPUIS

Equity Reporter
MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC • The Municipality of Pontiac plans on approaching three engineering firms with invitations to tender for a hydrogeological study, which will run from Terry Fox Road to Braun Road. According to Municipality of Pontiac Mayor Eddie McCann, the study would determine the volume of water in the area. "The study is related to the water tables," McCann. "We wanted to get a handle on all those issues." McCann said the study would enable the municipality to know how much water is in the area should they decide to go ahead with con-

struction. "We want to be as informed as possible for any future growth in these areas," said McCann. **Draft bylaws** Council voted at the meeting to create a draft by-law concerning the speed limit on certain municipal roads. "We're concentrating on built-up areas in the municipality," said McCann. Council wants to lower the speed limit from the existing 70 kilometres per hour to 50 km/h in the areas where residential development has occurred. "We're asking the Ministry of Transportation to approve the reduction," said McCann. He said it was not known how long it would take for

the change to occur but he estimated anywhere from four to six months. The roads that would be affected by the change, according to the council meeting minutes, are: Cedarvale, Marquis, Crègeur, Omkar, Davis, Panorama, Dubois, Pères-Dominicains, Lavigne, Soulière, Tremblay, Lelièvre, Terry-Fox, Maple, Cochrane, River and De la Montagne. Council also voted at the meeting to create another draft by-law concerning the storage and installation of large propane tanks in the municipality. McCann said large propane tanks are a security and safety issue. "If there's a fire, we want

the fire department to be aware if there is an excessive amount of propane in the area," said McCann. "It's a safety issue. We're trying to be as proactive as possible." McCann said the by-law would apply to 100-pound tanks of propane, such as those used to heat a house or a pool, not for smaller ones such as those used for outdoor barbecues. The new draft by-law says those in possession of tanks 100 lbs. or more must register with the fire department. As well, large tanks cannot be stored near exit ways, outdoors, under staircases, or less than 1.5 metres from an exit.

The municipality received a \$430 fine for its municipal dump in December of 2005 for garbage left out of the trench. It was resolved at the meeting to pay the sum to the Ministry of Environment in order to close the file. According to McCann, the file remained open for such an extensive period of time because it was never acted on, and, "it's better to pay it and move on." **Delegation of councillors** It was resolved at the meeting to delegate councillors to various departments in the municipality. They are as follows: Administration: Jean Amyotte, Lawrence Tracey and Brian Middlemiss.

• Public Works: Tracey, Jim Coyle and Garry Dagenais.
• Tolerance roads and special projects: Raymond Gougeon, Coyle and Dagenais.
• Public Security: Amyotte and Coyle.
• Public Health: Harold McKenny.
• Urban Renewal: Middlemiss, Amyotte and McKenny.
• Recreation and Culture: Dagenais, Middlemiss and Gougeon.
• Environment: Tracey, Coyle and Gougeon.
• Municipal Properties: McKenny.
• Port Authority: Coyle and McCann.
• Acting Mayor: Amyotte.

Fort Coulonge keeps taxes at par with cost of living

AMANDA DUPUIS

Equity Reporter
FORT COULONGE • When the Municipality of Fort Coulonge planned out its budget for 2008, council remained conscious of the needs of residents. "I think the goal was to have a budget that will respond to the residents' pre-occupations," said Raymond Durocher, mayor. "The objective is to keep up with the general upkeep of the town. You have to understand that we're limited in our employees," he said, "and we're talking about big projects (in the budget). We can't exceed the demands. We have to remain conscious that you can only ask so much from everyone."

The mill rate increased approximately two per cent this year, to \$1.38 per \$100 from \$1.35 per \$100 in 2007. "When the rate goes up, there's always factors," said Durocher. "Every penny we spent on the upkeep of the municipality, we have to cover it in the taxes, minus the grants." Durocher said residents should not be surprised by the increase. "You're never pleased to announce there's going to be a tax raise to the mill rate and services," he said, "(but) when it's hard for the municipality, it's hard for everyone else." Despite the slight increase, Durocher said he

is pleased with the ability to have generally kept taxes in the municipality below the region's cost of living. In the past 10 years, he said, the mill rate went up an average of one per cent per year, which is below the cost of living. "Since I've been elected I've kept the budget below the cost of living. To keep the budget low is a hard thing to do. We know the economy is difficult," said Durocher. The majority of the funds from the new budget are going towards residential services such as roadwork, lighting, signs, animal control, snow removal, garbage and recycling and the fire department. "The fact of the matter is,

all of the services are going up," said Durocher. "These are the services people are asking for, and if they're asking for them they will have to pay for them." Garbage removal services are a big issue for the municipality, said Durocher, because by 2009 it must find a new way to dispose of the trash. "The big dumps are closing," Durocher said, so they must find a way to share their services with the nearby Municipality of Mansfield and Pontefract. In addition, Durocher said the Municipality of Fort Coulonge is considering a door-to-door program for recycling. Animal control fees almost

doubled for this year, up to approximately \$10,000 from \$5,000 in 2007. Durocher said the increase is due to a full-time officer being hired to patrol the streets for stray animals, since residents were concerned about the number of strays last year. "It was a big problem but not anymore," said Durocher. As well, the amount of money budgeted for the fire department increased to approximately \$51,000, from \$30,000 in 2007. Durocher said the money is there in preparation for the required training members of the fire department must complete. **Goals for 2008**

The municipality's main focus for 2008 will be on the construction of a water treatment facility, which is happening in two phases — the construction of the treatment plant and the upgrading of the water mains in the village. Durocher said in order to cover the cost of the work, residents will pay slightly more on their water and sewage taxes for the year. "The reason (the taxes) are going up is because we want to do some of the work without going into a borrowing by-law," said Durocher. The water tax is up \$23 this year, to \$187 from \$167. The sewage tax is up \$11 this year, to \$233 from \$222 in the year 2007.

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Surprise!
Mishka (left) and James Lavallée were married Dec. 23 at their home in Bryson. The pair did not tell anyone about the wedding, surprising both of their families. To return the favour, a surprise wedding celebration was held Saturday at the O'Brien Theatre in Renfrew. The couple, who are both stationed at CFB Petawawa with the Canadian Forces are due to be sent to Afghanistan next month and wanted to get married before they left.

Local volunteer honoured

Calumet Island man recognized for contributions to health sector

PONTIAC • The Pontiac Health Centre is honoured to inform the population that Mr. Eugène Pigeon of Île du Grand Calumet was a recipient at a ceremony given in Gatineau to recognize excellence in the health and social service field. This event, which is a very special occasion, emphasizes all the achievements that significantly improves the services and the care offered to the people of the Outaouais region. The ceremony was held in Gatineau at Maison de la Culture on Jan. 12, of this year and Mr. Pigeon was given a prize • Prix Merci •, destined to thank the outstanding volunteers working in our area. Mr. Pigeon has distinguished

himself for his volunteer work at the Pontiac Health Centre for more than 15 years. He is a very dedicated and involved volunteer. In the last few years, he got involved in different sectors of our establishments, especially at the hospital and in our long term care facilities. He is known throughout our community and is a pioneer in volunteering in palliative care. He is always available, has good active listening skills, has a lot of initiative, likes to help out and he is very devoted. The Pontiac Health Centre would like to thank Mr. Pigeon on behalf of the administration, the board of directors, its employees and the population for his

terrific dedication and volunteer work.

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Rendez-vous of "l'Agroalimentaire de l'Outaouais"

GATINEAU • The Direction régionale de l'Outaouais-Laurentides, Outaouais sector, of the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ) is launching the program for the 12th annual Rendez-vous agroalimentaire de l'Outaouais. A slate of 14 activities, ranging from theme days, evenings and conference brunches, will be held from Jan. 16 to March 2, 2008. The event is intended for farm producers, food processors and anyone interested in the agri-food sector.

The Rendez-vous agroalimentaire de l'Outaouais features high-quality content aimed at contributing to the achievement of regional agri-food development goals. The areas covered are maple syrup, beef cattle, horticulture products, organic products, field crop, and sheep production, regional product marketing, and farm transfer and agri-business start-up. All these activities are organized by MAPAQ advisers in collaboration with the members of the Table de concertation agroalimentaire

de l'Outaouais and with the financial support of the Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais and the Agriconseils Outaouais network. In addition, this year, Desjardins Centres financiers aux entreprises, the Outaouais's local development centres, Papineau and Pontiac Community Futures Development Corporations, and La Financière agricole du Québec are financial backers of the event. For further details about the Rendez-vous agroali-

mentaire de l'Outaouais 2008, please call 819-449-3400 or 1-800-266-5217 or visit the following web site: www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/outaouais.

Otter Lake
Pierre and Pierrette Graveline.
The club would like to welcome new members Viola and Denis Gauthier and Aurore Schwartz. Dart league results for Jan 24 Ladies high score: Pat Bisson. Ladies high average: Olivette Mason. Men's high score: Jean-Paul Lafleur. Men's high average: Arthur Graveline. Door prize winner: Theresa Blaskie. 50/50 winner: Janet Lafleur.

Otter Lake
Elizabeth Hahn
453-7326
Results of the Golden Age Club euchre for Jan 22: Ladies first prize Rita Beaudoin, second Beverley Dubeau. Men's first: Martin Blaskie, second: René Graveline, Door prize winner: Felix Kluke. 50/50 winner: Helene Quenneville. Dessert was provided by Rejean St.

OPINION

The Voice of the
Pontiac since 1883

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ADVERTISING
DEADLINE
MONDAY 5 p.m.

Publications Mail
Agreement
No. 40010387

PAP Registration No.
08560

Return undeliverable
Canadian addresses to:
Pontiac Printshop Ltd.
133 Centre St.
Shawville, QC
J0X 2Y0
819-647-2204
819-647-2206 Fax
www.theequity.ca

Subscription rates
(tax included)
Pontiac - \$29.34
Quebec - \$40.63
Canada - \$37.80
U.S. - \$53.55

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OUR OPINION | Mayors make right choice with McCrank

The mayors of MRC Pontiac made the right choice in again selecting Mike McCrank as warden for the county.

The vote to select their leaders and MRC political representative took place Monday at the bi-monthly mayors' council meeting.

The fact the vote was close was no surprise, considering the heapload of experience, drive and dedication brought to the vote by deputy warden and Allumettes Island Mayor Brian Adam and the only fluently bilingual candidate, the young, fiery Mansfield Mayor Rick Romain.

In the end, though, the mayors made the right selection. There are endless changes being made at the top of the county's headquarters in Campbell's Bay right now.

Rémi Bertrand is in the midst of learning a new job that he was thrust into rather unexpectedly late last year. He's doing well but needs more time to be completely comfortable.

On the economically-driven Local Development Centre (CLD) side, Isabelle de Bruyn has done well in caretaking the position of director-general (also abandoned by former MRC and CLD director-general André Cordeau) and would be an excellent candidate for the full-time job.

However, she is due for a year off within the next couple of months for maternity leave and again the person who will lead the CLD will be new.

With all of these recent and upcoming changes, it was important the mayors had some continuity at the top of the Pontiac chain of command. Selecting

McCrank, though by a slim margin, does exactly that.

Adam would have been an excellent administrator and THE EQUITY suspects he would have demanded more professionalism and focus from the often wayward group of 18 mayors, a needed improvement with this bunch whose meetings tend to drag on needlessly.

THE EQUITY would have also been interested to see how Romain, with his often unique thoughts, could have handled the role.

However, McCrank has been dealing with many of the important files at the MRC for years. In his eight years there are not many changes he has not undergone or difficulties he has endured.

Despite addressing concerns about his availability, THE EQUITY has always found McCrank to be extremely accessible and refreshingly honest for a person in his position. He never avoids a question and gives an honest opinion whenever asked, two traits many politicians would do well to learn from.

Also, it is far better for Bertrand to have an experienced person by his side to speed up his learning curve rather than having two of the most important people in Pontiac learning at the same time.

Neither Adam nor Romain would have necessarily been a poor selection for the warden post.

Yet considering the large amount of change currently happening at the MRC Pontiac, McCrank was the most logical selection.

Kudos to the mayors for recognizing that.

WM

Frozen field

Amanda Dupuis, THE EQUITY



ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM | Pine grosbeaks visit feeding stations

The bird feeders around my home are attracting the usual suspects this year, along with up to six pine grosbeaks. I'm not alone: they are visiting my neighbour Joan Foran's bird feeding stations, too.

Unlike pine siskins, common redpolls, goldfinches, hairy and downy woodpeckers, mourning doves, nuthatches, chickadees and blue jays, pine grosbeaks are a far more unusual species.

They are the largest of our North American finches, having the typically short and stubby beak which is so well designed for crushing seed pits and cutting buds from trees.

Grosbeak cousins

Two other species of grosbeaks live here. Evening grosbeaks are far more commonly seen in the Pontiac. However, this year, just like me, my neighbour Joan Foran has seen none of these gold, black and white birds, perhaps they're all at Laura and Blair Prior's home further down the Steele Line! I miss seeing evening grosbeaks, which travel in relatively large flocks of up to a dozen or more individuals.

In spring, watch for the returning migrant, the rose-breasted grosbeak. The male has a white breast with a magenta (bright pink) V, and a predominantly black back. Although the pine grosbeak's song is variously described as "weak" and "warbling" by various sources, the rose-breasted grosbeak has a melodious, rich call which gives us a striking melody in our Pontiac forests. Unlike the pine and evening grosbeaks, rose-breasted grosbeaks do not overwinter here.

Pine grosbeak: identifying features



Katharine Fletcher

How to identify pine grosbeaks? First, males and females are completely different colours. Although the male's wings are black with some white, its colourful body looks as though it has been dipped in red raspberry juice. Because of its relatively large size (20-25 cm in length - the size of a robin), this round-headed, long-tailed bird is easy to identify.

Females also have blunt, heavy-looking rounded heads and a stocky shape. As well, their wings are black with white wing bars. However, females have no red on their bodies. They are a dull grey colour, with a faint blush of iridescent orange around their head, neck and rump. In other words, they are subtly beautiful.

For the past few weeks, one male and up to five females have visited my feeder, dining on black sunflower seeds. Like the mourning doves, which they often accompany, they often seem to prefer feeding on the surface of the snow rather than on the feeding station itself.

The pine grosbeaks gather at the tops of the sumac trees behind my house, rather resembling parrots as they climb through the branches, eating the hairy red sumac seeds. While the females flock to the feeder, often the male seems to serve as their scout, perched on the highest part of the sumac keeping watch.

Foraging (gathering food)

As mentioned above, their thick beaks are well designed for cracking nuts and snipping off buds or little bunches of the sumac seeds. The informative Cornell University website (www.birds.cornell.edu) notes that pine grosbeaks "Eat fruits by biting through and discarding the pulp and crushing the seed. Insects caught by clumsy flycatching. Eats sunflower seeds at feeders in parts of range (rarely comes to feeders in other parts

of range)."

Range

Pinicola enucleator is the Latin name for this bird, which literally translates to "Pine-dwelling seed-remover." It well describes the pine grosbeak's habitat because it spends the summer in the northern boreal forest, preferring coniferous spruce woods for shelter, food and nesting habitat.

The map found in David Allen Sibley's *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, depicts a wide range for this species extending from Alaska through to Newfoundland and extending during summer even into Texas. Sibley notes that there is a "subtle regional variation in size" as well as "regional variation in flight calls and song." "Pacific male has dark and extensive red on underparts; Interior west male has duller red, with much gray mottling on the breast and entirely gray flanks, as well as little or no dark spotting on the back; Taiga male has pinkish-red of intermediate extent."

So, which version overwinters in Pontiac? The Taiga variation of the species.

Cool factoid

The Pine Grosbeak was depicted on the 1986 series of Canadian \$1000 bills. - I would guess that just like me, you've not seen many of these bills, so I'm taking the Internet's advice on this...

Grey or gray?

Note: keen-eyed readers will note two spellings of the colour "grey." Being Canadian, I spell it "grey," which is the usual English (and Canadian) spelling of the word. Sibley's bird identification book, however, is published in the USA and so he uses the American spelling, "gray."

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

YOUR OPINION

The problem with uranium

Dear Editor,

In recent weeks Katharine Fletcher's columns in THE EQUITY have featured interviews with Venetia Crawford and Michael Patenaude concerning the proposed uranium mining in the Pontiac region as well as the connected issue of nuclear power generation.

I decided to attend the Wakefield event announced in last week's paper because I wanted to hear from an expert who has spent decades researching, collecting, and sharing data about uranium and the uses of nuclear energy. Like many who are concerned about both the electricity needed by emerging economies in developing nations and the possible catastrophic consequences of global warming, I was considering nuclear power to be an interim solution to the problem of how to generate sufficient energy without increasing greenhouse gases. Even though I was well aware of the terrible consequences of malfunctioning nuclear power plants: Three Mile Island (1979) and Chernobyl (1986), I guess I had been swayed by those who describe nuclear energy as "clean." It seemed to be our only option. So it was with great interest that I listened to Jim Harding speak about the many inconsistencies in the arguments in favour of nuclear power as an energy source. Dr. Harding quoted the report of the UN's Brundtland Commission: "Sustainable Development -- Our Common Future," which asserts that nuclear energy has not only failed to meet earlier expectations; but in fact, is only generating 1/3 of what was projected. Today nuclear power only produces three to five per cent of global primary energy (which translates into 15 per cent of electricity) and costs have skyrocketed. Decommissioning — or shutting down a power plant permanently — is more expensive than previously anticipated and nuclear plants themselves not only cost in the tens of millions to set up initially, but they only operate for 20 to 30 years before needing to be shut down. They are simply not cost effective at all. And they are not "clean" either. The many thousands of tons of radioactive waste remains deadly for over 770,000 years! The problem of nuclear waste disposal is still unsolved and none of the proposed possible solutions sounds even remotely credible. I had assumed that we had no choices, and that sustainable energy sources were simply not effective, but I learned that even if a minute portion of government investment (our tax dollars) in nuclear power were to be used for research and development into alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal, we would have plenty of electricity for everyone in the world and no radioactive waste to deal with. For example, in Germany 16 per cent of all

electricity is generated from wind. This is more than Canada gets from nuclear at the current time! Isn't it strange that G.W. Bush and Stephen Harper have actually cut funding for research grants to these sustainable energy sources? Bush has even recently invested \$15 billion into nuclear plants! So nuclear power generation is too expensive and too dangerous, while truly clean renewable energy has yet to be given a fair chance in North America.

Just as I believe that we are sufficiently capable of developing sustainable energy solutions, I also believe that people in the Pontiac are capable of overcoming our economic challenges with environmentally responsible solutions. We don't want to risk our environment, which is the only thing of real value that we have, in hopes of a few hazardous, low-paying, short-term jobs in a uranium mine. We don't want to turn our region into another Elliot Lake. Also, Canada does not even need uranium! We are currently exporting 85 per cent of what is mined here and have sufficient supplies for our own uses for 185 years. This should be plenty of time to set up renewable energy power plants.

There is a great deal of misperception due to the PR put out by the mining companies, who are looking for only one thing: money. Just like nuclear power plants, uranium mines produce incredible amounts of radioactive wastes which remain deadly for hundreds of thousands of years. The amount of uranium mine tailings (waste) in the U.S. alone is sufficient to cover a four-lane highway coast to coast to a depth of 30 cm! Although we have been reassured by mining companies who are scouting out uranium in Pontiac, there has truly never been any successful storage of uranium mine tailings anywhere. With the risks inherent in uranium mining — to miners, to the surrounding environment and its inhabitants, and to the always-present water source near the mine which flows elsewhere taking its pollution with it, does it really make sense to give up everything we have for a few short term low end jobs?

Pontiacers can find solutions to the problem of unemployment without resorting to self destruction. It's time for a public dialogue around uranium mining and nuclear energy generation. Let's separate the mining companies' PR from the truth so we know what we are talking about. After hearing from someone who has spent most of his life informing himself about uranium, I'm convinced that anyone who supports uranium mining and nuclear power generation is either misinformed or has a financial or political interest in it. Stay tuned.

Gretchen Schwarz,
Shawville

Open letter from Charlotte L'Écuyer, Pontiac members: Investments on roads including Highway 148

Dear Editor:

Following many concerns addressed to my office regarding investments on roads and Highway 148 in our riding, here are a few facts: Firstly, I can assure you that Hwy. 148 is one of my priorities for the riding and I will continue to work towards getting our share of moneys allocated for the region.

Since 2003, in our riding, \$18.9 million has been invested on network road. Of this amount \$13.4 million was for Hwy. 148 which represents more than 70 per cent of the total amount. For 2008-2009, projects of over \$6.4 million are projected for the road network, however, these amounts are subject to availability of funds and have to be confirmed by the government in the next few months.

Furthermore and for your information, over \$3.8M has been allocated for municipal road infrastructures (PAARM) since 2003 in the riding, plus another \$3.5M allocated annually to 14 municipalities for roads that were transferred to them (Réforme Ryan).

In conclusion, our government has announced investments of \$7.9 billion in the province for road infrastructure for the next four years. This is the highest level of investment for conservation and road improvement on roads; it's a first in Québec. By 2011, more than \$12 billion will have been invested in road infrastructures since 2003, an average of \$1.5 billion per year compared to the previous government, from 1994 to 2002, which invested an average of \$700 million per year on our road infrastructures.

Charlotte L'Écuyer, MNA
Member for Pontiac

Lettre ouverte de Charlotte L'Écuyer, Députée de Pontiac : Investissement sur les routes incluant la Route 148

Cher Éditeur,

Suite à plusieurs demandes et inquiétudes des élus et de la population concernant les investissements sur les routes ainsi que la Route 148 de notre circonscription, voici quelques renseignements :

Tout d'abord, je tiens à vous assurer que la Route 148 est une de mes priorités pour la circonscription, d'ailleurs dont je continue le travail entrepris afin d'obtenir notre juste part des montants attribués pour la région.

Depuis 2003, dans notre circonscription, 18,9 M\$ ont été investis sur le réseau routier. De ce montant, 13,4 M\$ était pour la Rte. 148 ce qui représente plus de 70 per centum du montant total. Pour l'année 2008-2009, des projets de plus de 6,4 M\$ sont prévus au réseau routier, et ce, toujours selon la disponibilité des fonds à être confirmés par le gouvernement prochainement.

De plus et pour information, plus de 3,8 M\$ ont été attribués aux infrastructures routières municipales (PAARM) depuis 2003 dans le comté, à cela s'ajoute 3,5 M\$ attribués annuellement à 14 municipalités, dans le cadre du Programme d'aide à l'entretien du réseau routier local (Réforme Ryan).

En conclusion, notre gouvernement a annoncé pour les quatre prochaines années des investissements pour un total de 7,9 G\$ dans la province pour le réseau routier; une première au Québec. En 2011, plus de 12 G\$ auront été investis, pour le redressement du réseau routier, soit une moyenne de 1,5 G\$ par année, par comparaison, de 1994 à 2002, sous le précédent gouvernement, la moyenne annuelle sur le réseau routier a été de 700 M\$.

Charlotte L'Écuyer, MAN
Députée de Pontiac

Cannon's review of past year's accomplishments

Dear Editor

THE EQUITY article of Jan. 16 regarding Mr. Cannon's accomplishments for the past year makes for interesting reading.

In the article, Cannon identifies "unimpeded access" to Ottawa as an issue. He states "We have to be able to, as a country, cut our trade barriers between the provinces. Pontiac is an hour away from one million people in Ottawa and we need unimpeded access to that." What is he going to do to make Ottawa more accessible to those in the Pontiac?

The Pontiac Bridge Committee, along with over 3,000 people, 11 MRC municipalities, a dozen local businesses, strongly believe a bridge near Quyon would provide quick and year-round access to and from the Ottawa area. What's more, a bridge would enable businesses to transport their goods, livestock, products or materials to and from the Pontiac, thus lowering delivery times and operating costs.

Finally, a bridge would go a long way to open up the Pontiac to economic development and growth. It would help attract entrepreneurs to invest in new or existing businesses which would create jobs and generate tax revenues for the local municipalities. Tourism in the Pontiac would also benefit from such a fixed structure.

Given the narrow distance of 300 meters between Quyon and the Ontario side, and the existence of bedrock on both sides of the Ottawa River, the cost of building a bridge would be substantially cheaper here than at any other point along the river.

Surely, a bridge is worthy of serious consideration by all concerned about the future prosperity of the Pontiac. More information on the bridge initiative can be found at <http://www.ottawavalleybridge.ca>

Bob Dawson, Chair, Pontiac Bridge Committee
Pontiac Bay (Quyon)

Has another year really gone by?

The unity of those years gone by
Gives us cause to pause and wonder why
Some memories follow us a few steps
back, if

The others — do they just lie down and die?

Something must be there if only to feel
the breeze —
Like the wind blowing through the trees.
Memories too can grow old and stiff,
Often more so than your hips and knees.

The raven's back and with him a new
mate
But if you can hear it in his croak - a little
late;
And if he could, he'd probably ask himself
"Why didn't they just date?"

As we were too some would say
The finest china's only made from clay
It's dusted and then replaced upon the
shelf
To wait its next admiring glance some
other day.

Another year — what receives the new
sun's beams?
Need another shelf — or that's the way it
seems.
And not just held together by the dates
The rest remain buried deep within
another year's dreams.

Larry Smiley, January, 2008

Corrections

Incorrect information appeared in the article "Local projects sought for funding" on page three of the Jan. 16 issue of THE EQUITY.

• The Rural Pact committee wishes to keep the money in large amounts for major projects, rather than splitting the money into small parts. Also, the MRC mayors council makes the final decision regarding projects, not the CLD.
THE EQUITY regrets the errors.

Incorrect information was provided in the story, "Local projects sought for funding" in the Jan. 16 edition of THE EQUITY.

• The Rural Pact projects will ultimately be selected by the MRC Pontiac mayors' council, not the CLD.
Also, Isabelle de Bruyn was incorrectly quoted. She wants the money to not be divided into small portions, rather kept in large amounts.
THE EQUITY regrets the errors.

Incorrect information appeared in the story, "Animal rescue receives donations from Ottawa" in the Jan. 23 edition of THE EQUITY.

• Residents wishing to contribute to Pontiac Animal Rescue may leave their cans and bottles out for pick-up every Tuesday morning, the day of garbage pick-up in Shawville. The day for pick-up was incorrectly stated in last week's story.
THE EQUITY regrets the error.

125 years of news from the Pontiac

THE WAY WE WERE
Compiled by Heather Alberti-Dickson Publisher

25 Years Ago

February 2, 1983
ST CHARLES BORROMEO CHURCH OPENING: On Sunday, Jan. 30, 1983, just one year after fire destroyed Otter Lake's St. Charles Borromeo Church, members of the congregation and visiting dignitaries filled the new church to overflowing for a 3 p.m. service to celebrate its official opening. Bishop Windle and Father Bob Borne conducted a service of blessing.
SHAWVILLE COMMUNITY BONSPIEL: Shawville Mayor Allan Black officially opened the 8th annual Shawville Community Bonspiel Monday night. Present for the official opening were Bruce Rothwell, treasurer; Ian MacKechnie, match committee; Bob Tracy, chairman of the bonspiel; Doris Hanna, scorekeeper; Allan Black mayor; and Yvon Rousell, O'keefe area representative, Art MacIntyre, president of the curling club and Edgar Elliott who is on the match committee.

50 Years Ago

February 6, 1958
SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO HE PUBLISHED IT, TODAY, AGED 100 HE READS IT: Mr. Henry Thomas Smith, 1883 co-founder (with the late John Cowan) of THE EQUITY celebrated his 100th birthday at his home in Ottawa on Tuesday. Born at Fitzroy, ON, on Feb. 4, 1858 Mr. Smith learned the printing trade and was employed along with John Cowan, by the Pontiac Advance, a Liberal paper, published in

Bryson. In 1883, the two men founded THE EQUITY at Bryson, and later moved it to Shawville. Financing of the new paper was partly obtained from the Conservative adherents in Pontiac County, and during ownership of the paper by its founders it reflected the view of the Conservative Party. Mr. Smith relinquished his interest in THE EQUITY and went to Ottawa in 1889 where he was employed in the Federal Civil Service.

BENEFIT HOCKEY GAME: Seems like yesterday they were the Shawville Senior Hockey team but they now call themselves old timers and have agreed to hit the ice Feb. 12 in a benefit game against the High School Team. The benefit is for the Scouting program and is being donated free for the evening by Ebert Richardson who will also star on the ice, making this not only a married men's team but one for grandfathers too. Probably the only granddad on the team. Ebert will be supported by such past greats as "Red Top" Dale, "Turk" Thompson, "Doc" Armitage, "Selly" Langford, "Web" Palmer, "Mick" Hodgins, Bill Pirie, Bill Orr and Irwin Watson. As the team is limited to married men, only two each of the McCredies (Hewitt and Ronnie) and the Hobbs' ("Wimp" and "Sab") will be playing.

75 Years Ago

February 2, 1933
LOCAL NEWS: The home of Moses Chevrier, at Quyon, was destroyed by fire a 7:30 o'clock on Wednesday evening. The fire is believed

to have been caused by overheated stovepipes, started while the owners were visiting friends and had a good hold before it was detected. The building, of frame construction, was valued at \$1,000.

Another fire said to have been caused by overheated stovepipes, did some damage to the interior of a house owned by J. Moreau, in Quyon village.

MONTHLY MEETING OF WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY: The regular monthly meeting of the Shawville W.M.S. was held in the Sunday School room of the Church on Thursday evening. Attendance was 98. Following the devotional service, business matters were discussed. Then followed a musical program, consisting of piano duets by Miss Doris Hodgins and Mrs. Edgar Hodgins and also by Mrs. J. Argue and Mrs. Harland Rowat. A vocal duet was rendered by Mrs. A.D. McCredie and Mrs. L. Workman.

100 Years Ago

February 6, 1908
LOCAL NEWS: A few more snow storms such as the 1st of February gave us will place the winter of 1908 in the column with those which are remembered chiefly as the years of "the deep snow." Most people, we imagine, would be content if history did not repeat itself this year.

Rink Manager Richardson has certainly had a vexatious trying time of it during the snow period we are passing through.

The past three Saturday nights — on which occasions good crowds usually assem-

ble — have been blanks at the rink on account of snow. Open-air rinks are certainly a very treacherous proposition for any person to grapple with, and those who do so require more than ordinary pluck and patience.

What many regard as the coldest dip for many years past, was that which our citizens experienced on Wednesday night and Thursday morning last when the mercury fell to below 40 degrees, and remained far below the zero point till the day was well advanced. Friday night witnessed another depression which although much less intense, entitled the weather to be in the "very cold" class. Again on Monday night of this week the mercury dropped to 34 below. The wave was generally throughout the Ottawa Valley.

Saturday's snowstorm demoralized the railway service pretty badly throughout the Ottawa Valley, especially the eastern section. The Pontiac express, which leaves Waltham in the morning, succeeded in covering the greater part of the road, fairly on time, but approaching the lower section, huge drifts were encountered which made further progress almost impossible, so that Aylmer was not reached till about 8 o'clock. The mixed train, coming west from Ottawa, got stalled before reaching Aylmer and had to be cancelled, as well as the evening express coming west. The village has now a snowplow for use on the sidewalks.

A fine Clydesdale stallion arrived here by train on Tuesday for Mr. Thomas McDowell. The animal was purchased in Russell County.

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Seeking unknown classmate



This photo is the Grade 6 class of Myrtle Hodgins taken in June 1960 on the steps of the northwest wing of Shawville High School, which is now Dr. S.E. McDowell elementary school. The class included front row, from the left: Brenda Rusenstrom, Mildred Langdon, Dixie Deneschuk, Edith Smart, Shirley Davis, Barbara Eades; second row: Gail Barber, Heather Richardson, Della Yach, Connie Grant and Helen Hodgins; third row: Creighton Dale, Warren Hummel, Doug Bean, Miles Barber, Tommy Russell, Garry Allen, Byron Barr; Top row, Unknown, Keith Hodgins, Carson Russell, Jim Tanner, Kenny Finan, Keith Greer. The photo was submitted by Garry Allen, who hopes to find out the identity of the unknown individual in the back row. He can be reached at 613-836-3512 or garrrett.allen@sympatico.ca.

Community Learning Centre celebrates Family Literacy Day

AMANDA DUPUIS
Equity Reporter
CAMPBELL'S BAY • In a unique and innovative effort to promote Family Literacy Day, the Community Learning Centre (CLC) in Campbell's Bay organized a video conference between five English-language schools across the province of Quebec.
"The whole idea is to engage kids in literacy," said Bonnie Richardson, co-ordinator of the CLC.
"It's to show them that everything is based on a story. The intent is to create a broad awareness of what literacy entails."
Family Literacy Day was Jan. 26 this year.
The CLC, which is located in St. John's Elementary School, planned a reader's theatre for Teacher Kim VanLier's Grade 3/4 class.
The 16 students per-

formed a short play to the Robert Munsch book *Mortimer*.
"Reader's theatre has been done before," said Richardson, "but as far as doing it through video conferencing... it's a unique event."
The 100 students who attend St. John's were able to sit in the audience to watch the performance as well as those from the other schools.
Despite a few technical difficulties, most of the schools participating were able to connect.
"It's come alive for them," said VanLier.
After watching the other schools' performances, students were divided into groups and were asked to create a report on what their favourite presentation was and why, as well as explain what they learned from par-



A video conference between five schools throughout Quebec was held Friday at the Community Learning Centre in Campbell's Bay. Sixteen students from Kim VanLier's Grade 3/4 class performed a reader's theatre play to the Robert Munsch book *Mortimer* in celebration of Family Literacy Day, which was Jan. 26.

Richardson. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these kids."

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Registration for English Language Education in Québec
The Western Quebec School Board provides English-language education to eligible students in the Outaouais, Pontiac and Abitibi-Témiscamingue regions. Committed to academic excellence and the development of life-long learners, the Western Quebec School Board provides quality education in 19 elementary schools, 12 high schools and 5 adult education and vocational training centres.
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Week of February 18th - 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
Onslow
850, rue Clarendon, Quyon 819-458-2375
Registration by Appointment Only
Week of February 18th - 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
St. John's/John Paul II
10, rue Leslie, Campbell's Bay 819-648-2149
Open registration beginning February 11th
Please call to make an appointment
KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 11
Dr. Wilbert Keon School
104, rue Notre-Dame, Chapeau 819-689-2488
Open registration beginning February 11th
Please call to make an appointment
SECONDARY
Pontiac High School
455 Maple Street, Shawville 819-647-2244
Open registration beginning February 11th
Please call to make an appointment
Parents are strongly encouraged to register during this period. Late registration may result in delays for school entry and/or providing transportation.
REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Parents of students NEW to the elementary school system may register their child/children at their catchment area school listed above.
High School registrants at Dr. Wilbert Keon and Pontiac High School will register at the school of their choice.
Please bring:
• Child's long form (full size) birth certificate,
• Proof of Canadian Citizenship of one parent,
• Proof of Quebec residency,
• List of one parent's or sibling's English elementary education in Canada OR certificate of eligibility of a parent, sibling or the child himself*
• Your child's report card from the previous two years if relevant.
*Parents will be asked to fill out forms which will allow the school to apply for the certificate of eligibility for English schooling.
If you are unable to register on these dates you must call the school for an appointment.
For further information regarding registration, please contact the school. To determine which school to register in call 819-684-1313 ext. 304 or toll free at 1-800-363-9111.

La Députée Charlotte L'Écuyer annonce un investissement de plus de 2,5 millions de dollars

AYLMER • La députée de Pontiac, Mme Charlotte L'Écuyer, a annoncé au nom de la ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport et ministre de la Famille, Mme Michelle Courchesne, l'implantation de trois nouveaux programmes d'études, Welding and Fitting, Industrial Drafting et Residential and Commercial Drafting, à la Commission scolaire Western Québec. À cet effet, le gouvernement du

Québec investira 2 536 102 \$ au Centre des carrières Western Québec.

Grâce à cette aide financière, la Commission scolaire pourra acquérir l'équipement requis et agrandir le Centre de 1 500 mètres carrés, ce qui lui permettra d'implanter ces nouveaux programmes. Soulignons que l'aide gouvernementale annoncée s'inscrit dans le cadre du Plan triennal des immobilisations

2007-2010 du ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport. Le coût total du projet est de 5 705 213 \$, dont 1 380 000 \$ pour l'acquisition d'équipement et 4 325 213 \$ pour l'aménagement des locaux. En plus des allocations du gouvernement du Québec, le projet est financé par le ministère du Patrimoine canadien pour un montant de 2 766 102 \$. Le solde sera payé par la Commission scolaire, à la

hauteur de 230 000 \$, ainsi que par le remboursement des taxes en vigueur.

En implantant ces nouveaux programmes d'études, notre gouvernement démontre qu'il est à l'écoute des préoccupations de la région. En plus de mettre à la disposition des élèves un environnement favorisant leur réussite, on pourra y offrir de la formation sur mesure pour répondre aux besoins de main-d'œuvre, a souligné

la députée de Pontiac.

Mme L'Écuyer a également profité de l'occasion pour rappeler l'investissement de 30 milliards de dollars du gouvernement du Québec dans le Plan québécois des infrastructures, au cours des cinq prochaines années. Dans le réseau de l'éducation seulement, ce plan génèrera des investissements de près de 5,6 milliards de dollars, et contribuera à préserver le patri-

moine scolaire et à en résorber le déficit d'entretien.

Pour que nos jeunes aient le goût de la réussite afin de bâtir la prospérité de demain, nous devons leur offrir un milieu de vie fonctionnel et stimulant. C'est pourquoi nous croyons qu'investir de façon responsable dans les infrastructures de la formation professionnelle est un choix porteur d'avenir, a déclaré la ministre Courchesne.

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Le Lieutenant Politique de Stephen Harper souligne le 2e anniversaire du gouvernement conservateur

GATINEAU • L'honorable Lawrence Cannon, ministre des Transports, de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités et lieutenant politique de Stephen Harper au Québec, a souligné en soirée le 2e anniversaire du gouvernement conservateur en compagnie de nombreux militants.

Deux ans, ce n'est pas très long dans l'histoire d'un pays comme le Canada. Mais en deux ans, nous avons commencé à bâtir un nouveau Canada, a lancé d'entrée de jeu le ministre Cannon.

En effet, en seulement deux ans, le gouvernement conservateur a réalisé la totalité de ses engagements, soit : faire le ménage au sein du gouvernement et réduire les impôts et les taxes de

manière historique, à commencer par la TPS - deux fois en deux ans - à un taux de 5 per centum. Les conservateurs ont également renforcé le système judiciaire, pour assurer la sécurité des communautés et des enfants, donné le choix aux parents en matières de garde des enfants et ramené l'équilibre fiscal au sein de la fédération canadienne.

Le ministre Cannon s'est dit très fier des réalisations dans le comté de Pontiac et dans toute la région outaouaise. La région a bénéficié de nombreux projets grâce au gouvernement conservateur. Nous n'avons qu'à penser au prolongement de l'autoroute 5 et l'inauguration du boulevard des Allumettières. Depuis deux ans, nous avons aidé

plusieurs municipalités à la réfection de leurs réseaux d'aqueducs ou d'égouts ou à l'amélioration de leur réseau routier. De plus, grâce au gouvernement conservateur, beaucoup de municipalités du Pontiac ont maintenant accès à Internet haute vitesse.

Sous le leadership de Stephen Harper, nous avons respecté la parole que nous avons donnée aux Québécois et Québécoises et nous avons collaboré dans le respect. Il y a deux ans, les Conservateurs reconnaissaient que les Québécois et les Québécoises forment une nation au sein d'un Canada uni. En appliquant un fédéralisme d'ouverture, qui respecte les différences comme société mais

développe les aspirations communes comme pays, le gouvernement conservateur livre la marchandise pour le Québec, a ajouté Lawrence Cannon.

Il a ajouté que : Le Bloc veut des élections. C'est normal : quand on n'a aucune responsabilité gouvernementale, aucun programme à réaliser, des élections, c'est un bon divertissement. Mais les années qui viennent, surtout au plan économique, vont exiger des décisions difficiles et des gestes énergiques. Les Québécois ne peuvent se permettre d'être représentés par des députés qui n'ont aucun pouvoir, aucun moyen d'action, aucun programme économique sérieux, aucune voix au chapitre.

Le rendez-vous de l'agroalimentaire de l'Outaouais est de retour

GATINEAU • La Direction régionale de l'Outaouais-Laurentides, secteur Outaouais du ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ) lance le programme du 12e Rendez-vous agroalimentaire de l'Outaouais.

Ainsi, 14 activités se dérouleront du 16 janvier au 2 mars 2008 et elles prendront la forme de journées, de soirées ou de brunchs-conférences. Elles s'adressent aux productrices et aux producteurs agricoles, aux transformateurs

alimentaires ainsi qu'aux personnes que le secteur agroalimentaire intéresse.

Le Rendez-vous agroalimentaire de l'Outaouais présente un contenu de grande qualité qui vise à contribuer à l'atteinte des objectifs régionaux en matière de développement du secteur agroalimentaire. Les domaines de production touchés sont notamment ceux de l'acériculture, des bovins de boucherie, de l'horticulture, de la production biologique, des grandes cultures, de la production ovine, de la mise en marché

des produits régionaux ainsi que du transfert de ferme et de l'établissement agricole.

Toutes ces activités sont organisées par les conseillers et les conseillères du MAPAQ avec la collaboration des membres de la Table de concertation agroalimentaire de l'Outaouais ainsi que le soutien financier de la Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais et du réseau Agriconseils Outaouais.

De plus, cette année, Desjardins Centres financiers aux entreprises, les centres locaux de

développement de l'Outaouais, les sociétés d'aide au développement de la collectivité de Papineau et de Pontiac ainsi que La Financière agricole du Québec sont associés à l'événement à titre de partenaires financiers.

On peut obtenir toutes les précisions nécessaires sur le Rendez-vous agroalimentaire de l'Outaouais 2008 en composant le 819 449-3400 ou le 1 800 266-5217 ou encore en consultant l'adresse Internet suivante : www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/outaouais.

Jouez dehors et ... n'ayez pas honte de rougir

GATINEAU • Du 19 janvier au 2 mars 2008 la population de l'Outaouais est invitée à jouer dehors et à participer à la 17e édition du Défi en patins de l'Outaouais - Plaisirs d'hiver.

Loisir sport Outaouais et le programme Kino-Québec de la Direction de santé publique de l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais proposent aux municipalités de la région d'enregistrer, lors d'un événement à caractère familial d'une durée maximale de cinq (5) heures, le plus haut pourcentage de résidents ayant pratiqué le patin sur glace, la glissade, le ski de fond, la marche, la raquette ou toutes autres activités en plein air.

Des prix seront remis aux municipalités gagnantes dans différentes catégories. Les municipalités doivent obligatoirement organiser une activité de patin sur glace, le choix des autres activités est facultatif. Cet événement annuel a pour objectif de promouvoir les activités physiques hivernales en famille et de faire connaître les infrastructures municipales. L'an dernier, Montpellier (999 habitants et moins) et Papineauville (1 000 habitants et plus) avaient remporté les prix des municipalités ayant enregistré le pourcentage de participation le plus élevé dans leur catégorie respective. La municipalité de Cayamant avait pour sa part connu la

plus grande augmentation de participation par rapport à l'édition 2006.

Le Défi en patins de l'Outaouais s'inscrit dans le cadre des activités de la campagne québécoise Plaisirs d'hiver de Kino-

Québec présentée à la grandeur du Québec. L'an dernier plus de 450 municipalités ont été rejointes. Il s'agit d'une excellente occasion de célébrer les activités physiques hivernales et de favoriser l'accès aux milliers

d'infrastructures municipales de plein air.

La programmation détaillée des municipalités se retrouve sur le site de la Direction de santé publique de l'Outaouais au www.santepublique-outaouais.qc.ca



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INSCRIPTION POUR SEPTEMBRE 2008

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St. John's/John Paul II

10, rue Leslie, Campbell's Bay 819-648-2149

Inscription ouverte à partir du 11 février

Veillez téléphoner pour prendre rendez-vous

MATERNELLE AU SECONDAIRE 5

Dr. Wilbert Keon School

104, rue Notre-Dame, Chapeau 819-689-2488

Inscription ouverte à partir du 11 février

Veillez téléphoner pour prendre rendez-vous

SECONDAIRE

Pontiac High School

455, rue Maple, Shawville 819-647-2244

Inscription ouverte à partir du 11 février

Veillez téléphoner pour prendre rendez-vous

Les parents sont fortement encouragés à inscrire leurs enfants pendant ces périodes. Une inscription tardive pourrait entraîner des retards dans l'admission et/ou dans la fourniture du transport.

INFORMATION

Pour les parents de **NOUVEAUX** élèves (inscrits dans aucune école de la Commission scolaire Western Québec) peuvent inscrire leur(s) enfant(s) dans le territoire d'école de leur territoire mentionné ci-dessus.

Les élèves du secondaire peuvent s'inscrire soit à l'école Dr. Wilbert Keon ou l'École secondaire Pontiac.

Documents nécessaires :

- Le certificat de naissance de l'enfant (grand format)
- Une preuve de citoyenneté canadienne d'un des parents
- Une preuve de résidence au Québec
- La preuve que le parent ou le frère ou la sœur a fréquenté l'école primaire anglaise au Canada OU un 'certificat d'admissibilité à l'instruction anglaise'
- Le bulletin scolaire ou le relevé de notes le plus récent pour l'élève au niveau primaire ou secondaire

* Les parents devront remplir les formulaires qui permettront à l'école de faire la demande du certificat d'admissibilité à l'éducation en anglais.

Si vous êtes dans l'impossibilité de vous présenter pour l'inscription lors aux dates prévues, vous devez communiquer avec l'école pour prendre un rendez-vous.

Pour de plus amples informations concernant les inscriptions, veuillez communiquer avec l'école. Pour déterminer votre territoire d'école de votre territoire, composer le 819-684-1313, poste 304 ou le 1-800-363-9111.

SPORTS

Junior 'B's come back to earth

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor
PONTIAC • The Pontiac Junior 'B's fell hard last weekend following their seven-game losing streak, losing both their games.

Losses to the Arnprior Packers Friday and Renfrew on Sunday ensure the team will play the Stittsville Royals in the first round of the Eastern Ontario Junior 'B' Hockey League playoffs.

The weekend's contests presented an opportunity for the Pontiacs to reach second place in the Valley division and a first round matchup with Renfrew, but the losses ended those chances.

The Junior 'B's lost to Arnprior 7-3 and dropped a 7-4 decision to Renfrew both at home.

With one game remaining in the regular season, the Pontiacs travel to first place Carleton Place's rink Friday evening for a game at 7:45 p.m. While the Junior 'B's currently sit with home ice

advantage for the first round of the playoffs, a loss to the Kings coupled with a pair of wins by Stittsville in their final two games could give the Royals home ice advantage for the first round.

Perth, assured in second position, will meet Renfrew in the playoffs while Arnprior will try to topple first place Carleton Place.

The playoffs begin next week. Friday's game was a shock for the home fans as Arnprior jumped ahead in the first period and never trailed in the game.

It was the first time in six games this season Arnprior had managed to earn even a point with the Junior 'B's.

Turning the tables on the best power play in the league, Arnprior was three-for-seven with the man advantage while the Pontiacs were scoreless in five attempts. In net, Chapeau's Ryan Therens allowed five goals on 15 shots through

two periods before being replaced by regular starter Michel Racicot.

Goal scorers for the Pontiacs were Shawville's Shane Powell, Joran Graham and Benoit Parent.

Things began better for the Pontiacs Sunday night as they jumped out to a lead on the back of Fred McDougall's 36th goal of the year and were up 3-1 after one period but Renfrew scored four straight goals leading into the final period and cruised to the win.

Returning to their efficient power play, the Pontiacs scored all of their goals with the man advantage and impressively netted on four of their five chances on the power play.

Parent scored two more goals for the Pontiacs. McDougall added another in the third period to his tally.

Former Pontiacs assistant Jason Gould had three assists for the Timberwolves.



Wilbur McLean, The Equity

The Pontiac Junior 'B's were unable to carry the momentum of a seven-game winning streak last weekend, losing games to Arnprior on Friday and Renfrew on Sunday, above.

He was traded to Renfrew before Christmas. With regular season games concluding Sunday and the Junior 'B's playing just once before then, the team will have a good chance to regroup before the playoffs begin.

Pontiacs have handled Stittsville this season, winning five of the six games between the two teams.

The Pontiacs have had little trouble penetrating the Stittsville defense and have averaged 7.5 goals per game in those six contests.

Hannas fall in playoffs at provincials

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor
PONTIAC • Jenn and Steph Hanna will not be representing Ontario at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts this year.

The Ottawa curlers with strong Pontiac ties were defeated in the playoff tiebreaker at the Ontario Scotties Tournament of Hearts Friday night, losing 9-3 to the Janet McGhee

rink from Uxbridge, Ont.

The Hannas had a good week overall, finishing round robin play with a 6-3 record. That put them in a four-way tie for second place.

The four tied teams were ranked based on their record against each other and the Hanna rink was forced into a tiebreaker to determine the final qualifier for the page playoffs.

Already trailing 5-2, Team

Hanna gave up three in the seventh which ultimately ended their chances.

The eventual winners were the Sherry Middaugh rink of Coldwater, who led through most of the week and defeated the Krista McCarville rink of Fort William 7-6 in an extra end for the championship.

McCarville had won the previous two provincial championships playing as

Krista Scharf before her marriage last year.

It was Middaugh's fourth Ontario title. Jenn and Steph Hanna were the 2005 national runners-up at the 2005 Scott Tournament of Hearts in Newfoundland and Labrador.

That year the Hannas had to play through a four-way tie for the last playoff spot, winning four straight games to make the championship

final.

Jennifer Jones of Manitoba made one of the most memorable shots in the history of the tournament with her last rock to defeat the Hannas 8-6.

Jenn and Stephanie Hanna are the granddaughter of Shawville's Doris Hanna, Ruth and Ervin Beattie, and niece to long-time former Pontiac Agricultural Society President, Mavis Hanna.

PHS girls volleyball advance once more

PONTIAC • On Sunday, Jan. 20 the Pontiac High School Benjamin girls volleyball team stepped onto the court for the 4th time this season, this time they were at Seminaire Sacre-Coeur in Grenville-sur-la-Rouge. Because of their success in the previous tournament they were facing a whole new division and a whole new set of competition.

Pontiac took their first team St. Joseph "AA" by surprise in the first set beating them 25-21. However, the St. Joseph "AA" team were not discouraged and played a much higher calibre of volleyball against the girls in the second set beating Pontiac 25-18. The girls took to the

court against the home team (Seminaire Sacre-Coeur) in their second game and split the sets losing the first by a close decision, 26-24. In the second set the girls continued to play with enthusiasm defeating a good Seminaire Sacre-Coeur team 25-17.

Up until this point the Benjamin girls had been playing with passion and excitement. What impressed me the most was that everyone was on their serving game so far. This was the first time all year that all of our players were serving consistently well. However, technique on the court was still lacking in our attack and defence. This was obviously a big disadvantage as the girls

had not been using their three hits all year and this time it was not enough to just be able to serve, because all the other teams now were far more technically advanced.

Game 3 the Pontiac girls had to decide whether they were going to bring their game up a level or whether they were going to remain a great bunch of servers for the rest of the season. Finally the girls had caught on. They were now ready to start using the three hits they are allotted. The girls had a tough task though, as game three was against the top team in the new division, Nouvelles-Frontieres, who had not been beaten all day long. The fact that Nouvelles-Frontieres

were undefeated did not bother the Pontiac girls as they went out serving well, using the three hits to open up the floor and allow for a much more technically sound game of volleyball, winning both sets 25-17 and 25-12.

Game 4 and the girls were now sitting with a record of three wins and three losses, putting them in a three way tie for first place. They needed to either win both sets or at least keep one of the games to a close finish (with in five points) to be named the sole team in first place. This would prove to be difficult as the girls were set to play D'Arcy McGee's Cadet team (slightly older girls and

one of the other teams tied for first place). The first set looked good to start but the girls faltered just enough to let D'Arcy back into the game and D'Arcy ended up winning the first set 25-23.

The girls didn't let this loss get them down though as they were playing some amazing volleyball. It was wonderful as a coach to see a team go through such a transformation. The girls were excited and they had a good reason to be, they were competing at a much higher level than they had ever needed to before.

Submitted by Pontiac High School benjamin girls volleyball coach, Shawn MacDonell.

OVERTIME | LUKE MURPHY

Oldies: For my last January bio, I had to go back



During my research, I found two Pontiac names that caught my eye. Some of you might never have heard these names — I know I didn't before my research began. But these two men made a name for themselves in the '30's and '40's, when the war raged on and the game of hockey wasn't all glitz and glamour.

Murphy Groves Chamberlain was born in Shawville, Quebec on February 14, 1915. Before his NHL career started in 1937, Chamberlain played senior hockey for the Froot Tigers in Sudbury, Ontario. During his first NHL season, with the Toronto Maple Leafs, Chamberlain scored four goals and 16 points in 43 games. He surpassed the 20-point barrier the next two seasons, and advanced to the Stanley Cup finals each year with the Leafs, only to finish second on each occasion to Chicago, Boston and New York.

In 1940-41, Chamberlain signed with the Montreal Canadiens but was sent to the New York Americans

half way through the season where he finished out the last eleven games of the year.

In 1942-43, Chamberlain signed with the Boston Bruins. He had nine goals and 33 points as the team made it to the Stanley Cup finals where they lost in four-straight games to the Detroit Red Wings.

The next season, Chamberlain rejoined the Canadians for a second tour of duty where he enjoyed the best season of his career, averaging a point per game. To cap off a great regular season, Chamberlain was part of his first NHL championship as the Canadians swept the Black Hawks in the finals.

The Canadians were unsuccessful in defending their title the following year, but in 1946, Chamberlain won another cup, as the Canadians dropped the Boston Bruins four-games-to-one. Chamberlain remained with the Habs for another three seasons, retiring after the 1948-49 campaign having appeared in 510 games, scoring 100 goals and 275 points in a 12-year NHL career.

William Mailes Cowley,

also known as "Cowboy", was born on June 12, 1912 in Bristol, Quebec.

After a few seasons of senior league play in Ottawa and Halifax, Cowley broke in to the NHL as a rookie with the St. Louis Eagles in 1933-34. After the season, the franchise folded and Art Ross, the general manager of the Bruins, selected Cowley in the dispersal draft.

Boston became Cowley's home and he excelled, leading the league in assists in 1939, 1941 and 1943, and helping to lead the Bruins to two Stanley Cups in 1939 and 1941. But because World War II tore apart a championship Bruins' lineup, Boston would not win another Cup during his career. "Cowboy" was on track to shatter the league record for scoring in 1944 when another injury ended his season two points short.

Cowley finished his career with 195 goals and 353 assists for 548 points in 549 NHL games during 13 seasons. At the time of his retirement in 1947, he was the NHL's all-time leading point scorer, and the last active player from the St. Louis Eagles roster.

Cowley's career was loaded with accomplishments. But to me, at my age and knowing the players I know, these two stand out.

The only NHL players who have scored more points per game in a season than Cowley's 1.97 in 1944 are Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux.

Cowley was the only NHL player to average a point a game over his career until Gordie Howe did it in 1950-51. After his career had ended, Cowley remained in hockey, helping find the Ottawa 67s as a part-owner in 1967. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1968. In 1998 he was ranked number 53 on The Hockey News' list of the 100 Greatest Hockey Players.

That's my two cents. What do you think? Notice: This year's Pontiac National Midget Tournament is starting this Thursday, so make sure you all go out to the Shawville arena to watch our future stars. Enjoy a great show.

Murphy is a former professional hockey player who now resides in Shawville. Contact him at news@theequity.ca

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Tues., Feb. 5 - Mardigras CWL Supper 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. St. John Evangelist Parish Centre, Campbell's Bay. Adults \$6, 12 and under \$4, toddlers free. Sausage, home fries, baked beans, pancakes, coleslaw, rolls, dessert, tea and coffee. **2xj30**

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PERSONALS

Dear Heart of Jesus. In the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it dear Jesus and place it within Your own broken heart where Your Father sees it. Then in Your merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen. Says this prayer for three days promise publication and your favour will be granted. Never known to fail. D.T.

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T H A N K S

Allen - A sincere thank you to Dr. Potvin and all the kind staff of the Pontiac Hospital ICU and Third Floor for their excellent care I received during my recent surgery. Special thanks to all my family for their love and support over the past month. To Peter and my sister Shirley, your daily visits were very much appreciated. Thanks, also, for all the visits, flowers, cards and phone calls from my dear friends. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered. **Mary Allen**

Lance, Gilbert - Nous apprécions tout le support et gentillesse que vous nous avez apportés tout au long de notre sollicitude. Nous remercions également toute l'équipe du Manoir Sacré-Coeur de Fort-Coulonge. **Thérèse et famille**

Lance, Gilbert - We are overwhelmed by your kindness and support given to us during our difficult time. And also sincere thanks to the staff of Manoir Sacré-Coeur of Fort-Coulonge. **Thérèse and family**

D E A T H S



Evoy (Tanner) Freda - In hospital in Perth, Freda Tanner Evoy (nee Lacharity) passed away peacefully with family present on Wednesday, January 23rd, 2008 at the age of 91 years young following a short illness. Beloved wife of the late Albert Tanner of Shawville, Quebec and the late Morris W. (Moe) Evoy of Perth. Cherished mother of Gerda (Al) Hearty of Perth and Roy (Mavis) Tanner of Carleton Place. Freda will be greatly missed by granddaughters Kerrie (Kevin), Krista (Michael), Sandy (Scott) and Jayne (Sean) and her great-grandchildren Ashton, Ireland, Jessica and Joshua. She will be fondly remembered by sisters-in-law Hilda and Edna Tanner, Agnes Reid and brother-in-law Andrew Miljour, her numerous nieces, nephews, all her family and her caring friends. She was predeceased by her sisters Lil Foster, Edie Sage, Stella Miljour and brother Bill Lacharity. Friends paid their respects at the Blair & Son Funeral Home, 15 Gore St. W. Perth on Friday, January 25th, 2008 from 9:30 to 10:30 A.M. Funeral service was held in the Chapel at 11:00 A.M. followed by a reception in the Blair & Son Family Centre. Spring interment will be held in Shawville Village Cemetery, Shawville, Quebec. In remembrance, contributions to the Lanark Lodge Memorial Fund or the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated. Condolences to the family at: condolences@blairandson.com

MEMORIAM



Campbell, Eric James - In loving memory of a very special father, father-in-law, and "P", who passed away January 31, 2007. Oh what we'd give to hear your voice Or hear a sweet tune played Oh how we'd love to see you on your Massey's once again The hay was piled up in the barn And the Threshing is all done The equipment is all put away but the work is nowhere done Christmas came and went, no glad tidings for you came It's hard to see the farm without you It's lonesomeness does ring But as we don a new year too your memory remains Because you know the little ones will carry on your name God only knows when we'll see you once again Oh but what a day it will be To hear your voice again! Deeply Missed and Cherished Forever! **VeraLynn, Lee, Ryan and James xoxo**

Campbell - In memory of Eric J. Campbell, January 31, 2007. Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free. I'm following the path God laid for me. He took God's hand, when he heard Him call. Then Eric turned his back and left it all. He could not stay another day. To laugh, to love, to work, to fiddle, to play. Tasks left undone must stay that way. He found peace at the close of day. If his parting has left a void Then fill it up with remembered joy. A friendship shared with a laugh, a kiss and many jokes Eric's time seemed all to brief Lift up your hearts and share with him. God wanted him now God set him free. **Missing you. Love Evelyn**

Cliff - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather, Mervin, who passed away January 31, 1984. Remembering you is easy, We do it every day, Missing you is the heartache That never goes away. We have learned with silent effort To hide the tears that start, We cannot hide the longing That hides within our hearts. We often sit and wonder What would you say or do, If you only knew the changes Since God parted us from you, Lovingly remembered by Wife **Aida and Family**

Deering - In loving memory of Uncle Art Jan. 22, 1994. Years quickly pass But love and memories Stay forever. **Loved always. King, Myrna and family**

McGuire - In loving memory of a dear Mom, Dad, Grandfather and Grandmother. John (Jack) January 30, 1989 and Velma Elizabeth (Murphy) January 23, 1991. May the winds of love blow softly, And whisper for you to hear, That we still love you dearly, And wish that you were here. We hold you close within our hearts, And there you will remain, To walk beside us all our lives, Until we meet again. Lovingly remembered **Allan, Wanda, Sandra and Stephanie**

Miller - In loving memory of a son, brother, and brother-in-law Esdale, who left us Jan. 31st, 1998. Our thoughts are always with you Though you have passed away And we who love you dearly Are thinking of you today. Sadly missed by mother **Josephine and family**

MEMORIAM

Routliffe - In loving memory of Rick Routliffe who passed away January 28, 2001. There is a bridge of memories, From here to Heaven above, That keeps you very close to us It's called the, "Bridge of Love". As times goes by without you, And the days turn into years, They hold a million memories And a thousand tears. To us you were so special, What more is there to say. Except to wish with all our hearts That you were here today. Love Helen, Jonathan, Marta, Ruslan, Jennifer, Stephen, Laurie, Craig, Peter and Paulette

Stewart - In loving memory of a dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Gertrude Stewart, who passed away 10 years ago, Feb. 1st, 1998. Ten years have passed We miss her so Never shall her memory fade, Thoughts of love will never go Where the place she is laid. Children Jean and George, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

MEMORIAM

Tubman-Hodgins, Patricia - Jan. 28, 1978. Jan. 28, 1978 seems so long ago, but there is not a day that goes by that I don't shed a tear of sadness... wondering how my life would have been if you were still here. I love you mom, miss you forever. **xoxo Angie (Pat), Mathieu, Nia**

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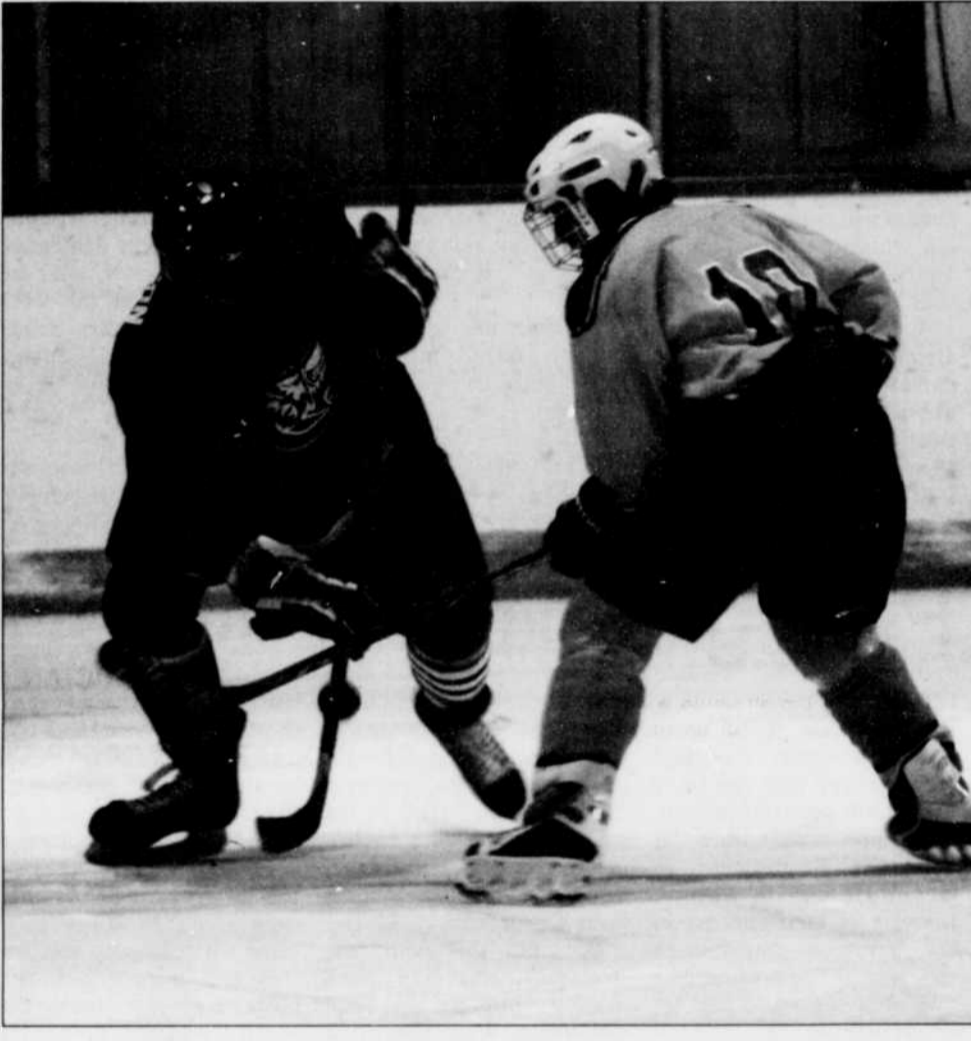
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The Pontiac Lions Midget 'B' minor hockey team took on the Loups des Collines Sunday in Shawville, winning the game 5-0.

Midget 'A' Lions prepare for tournament

AMANDA DUPUIS
 Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • The Pontiac Lions Midget 'A' minor hockey team took on the Gatineau Draveurs Saturday in Shawville, where the game ended with a 2-2 tie.

Goals were scored by David Hobbs and Jacob Bourgeau and assists were had by Logan Greer, Travis Stewart, Kurt Fraser and Trevor Bourque.

The Lions' tournament begins Thursday at 8 p.m. in Shawville.

Novice 'A'
 The Pontiac Lions Novice 'A' minor hockey team improved their season record 11-1-1 over the weekend after beating two Aylmer teams.

The Lions beat out the Aylmer Voilers 9-1 in the first game. Xavier Plouffe scored four goals and Austin Duggan scored three. Single goals were scored by Connor Romain and Chevy Larocque. Assists were had by Romain, Plouffe, Michael O'Reilly, Maxime Côté, Dany Lamoureux and Ryan Nugent.

The Lions won against the only other team to beat them this year, the Aylmer Extreme, with a final score of 6-4.

Plouffe scored five goals and Romain scored one. Assists were had by Romain, Larocque and

Lamoureux.
Midget 'B'
 The Pontiac Lions Midget 'B' minor hockey team won 3-2 Thursday against the Faucons d'Aylmer.

Jaret Lance scored two goals and Wesley Everts scored one.

Assists were had by Taylor Orr, Joel Boisvert, Ross Cote, Jamie Denault and Jason McGuire.

The Lions won 5-0 Sunday in Shawville against the Loups des Collines.

Lions Goalie Brandon Harkins received his third shutout of the season.

Goals were scored by Nathan Stafford, Jean-Michel Normandeau, Daniel Newberry, Boisvert and Everts. Assists were had by Ryan Tracy, Boisvert, Lance, Denault, Everts and Stafford.

The Lions' next home game is against the Aylmer Express Feb. 3 at 4 p.m. in Fort Coulonge.

Bantam 'A'
 Neither the Pontiac Lions Bantam 'A' minor hockey team nor their opponents, the Gatineau Barons, could get a goal in net Friday at the arena in Gatineau.

with a win of 3-0. Goals were scored by Durocher, Brandon Alexander and Maxime Malette.

Assists were had by Durocher, Brady Pirie, Taylor Orr, Steven Day and Jamie Carson.

Novice 'C'
 The Pontiac Lions Novice 'C' minor hockey team tied 3-3 against the Aylmer Express over the weekend.

James Murray scored two goals and Connor Walsh scored one.

Assists were had by Mathieu Soucie, Katie Younge, Richard Graham, Anthony Horner and Lauryn Frobel.

The Lions lost 4-0 Sunday against the Raftmen d'Aylmer.

Atom 'A'
 The Pontiac Lions Atom 'A' minor hockey team won 4-0 Saturday against the Aylmer Vikings. Ayden Hodgins scored two goals and single goals were scored by Travis Yach and Nick Graveline.

The only assist of the game went to Clancey Keon. The Lions won 3-0 Sunday against the Aylmer Rockets. Goals were scored by Graveline, Bradley Pearson and Camille Dagenais. Assists were had by Carter Pirie, Keon and Zach Elliott. Goalies Darron Bruce and Dean Hornor each got shutouts.

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Shawville

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The Shawville Community bonspiel has started and there were several games over the weekend. The tournament will end this coming weekend.

The Pontiac Midget Tournament will be held starting on Thursday, Jan. 31. Good old fashioned hockey games are always thrilling to watch.

This Saturday is Groundhog Day. The legend of Groundhog Day is based on an old Scottish couplet: "If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year." Every Feb. 2, people gather at Gobbler's Knob, a wooded knoll just outside of

Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Residents contend that the groundhog has never been wrong. The ceremony in Punxsutawney was held in secret until 1966, and only Phil's prediction was revealed to the public. Since then, Phil's fearless forecast has been a national media event. The groundhog comes out of his electrically heated burrow, looks for his shadow and utters his prediction to a Groundhog Club representative in "groundhogese." The representative then translates the prediction for the general public.

If Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow, it means spring is just around the corner.

Chelsea Smith, daughter of Eric and Debbie Smith

celebrates her 18th birthday on Feb. 1st. There are other Happy 18th birthdays this week - to Karla and Kaitlyn Hobbs on Saturday, Feb. 2nd. The twins are daughters of Bill and Kim Hobbs. Another happy 18th birthday on that same day is Erica Orr who is the daughter of Brent and Shelley Orr.

Birthdays this week are: Mae Trudeau, Brittany Black, Jamie Cameron, Sarah Barclay, Hayden Moore, Jim Russett, Dale Hiscock, Alison Havens, Alana Grace Larocque, Lois Dumouchel, Carter David Orr, Cassidy Tubman, Zachary Elliott, Sylvain Poisson, Kyle Wisotzki, Tyler Woolsey, William Schwartz, Colleen Corrigan, Terry Davies, Kevin Chan, Travis Stewart, Brittany Harris, Cory Sharpe, Cory Cockerell, Jody Wickens,

Jason Belsher, Jordan Judd, Colin Thompson, Erica Hobbs, Natalie Bérubé, Brent Corrigan, Jean Murray, Holly Storey, Mark Fenton, Sheri Deline, Maria Black, Barry Hutchison, Heather Hamm, Andrew Richard, Stephanie Cassidy, Scott Wallace, Elva Tracy, Nancy Caldwell, Barrie Murray, Melissa Prud'homme, Justen Dupelle, Richard Arulpooranam, Bill Telford, Tim Manwell, Irwin Hayes, Brian Ohimann, Alyssa Doherty, Meaghan Murray, Meg Tubman, Barbara Harris, Ruth Brock, Keven Rebertz, Sean Gaudon, Tyler Judd, Jerry Manwell, Christine Boyd, Corey Boutin, Danielle Bergeron, Tammy Plouffe Stewart, Edward Dagenais, Chris Thompson.

Wedding anniversary congratulations to the following couples: Wayne and Paula Schwartz, Hubert and Claudette Horner and Bruce and Shirley Rebertz.

Next week on Tuesday, Feb. 5, we celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Across Canada, the U.K., Ireland and Australia, on the last Tuesday before Lent - the 40-day period Christians mark in the lead-up to Easter - millions of frying pans get pulled out, placed on stoves, heated up and lined with fat to fry stacks of pancakes.

It's been known as Shrove Tuesday since medieval times in England.

Traditionally, it was a day for Christians to confess their sins and be absolved by a priest before the beginning of Lent. It was also a day to rid the house of the rich foods that you were supposed to give up during the Lenten period, foods like milk, eggs and fats.

The rich Shrove-tide pancakes were eaten as a symbol of self-indulgence before the sacrifices of the fast. The pancakes were fried in butter or fat and served flat or rolled and sprinkled with powdered sugar and topped with preserves or doused with alcohol.

The church bells that rang early on Shrove Tuesday morning summoning everyone to confession became known as Pancake Bells. They were also a reminder to use up forbidden foods before Lent. Tradition has it that in 1444, a housewife in the village of Olney, England, was in such a hurry to get to the shroving service at church that she raced out of her home still clutching a frying pan containing a pancake. Thus began the very English tradition of pancake races

across the country. Some Christian denominations still prohibit the consumption of dairy products and meat during Lent. But, for most, giving up a favourite treat for the period or eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday are the only dietary adjustments made to mark the period before Christianity's most important holiday.

In Canada, pancake breakfasts or dinners are popular fundraisers on Shrove Tuesday.

All in



The Guyon Lions Club held its first-ever Texas Hold 'Em poker tournament Saturday at the Lions Hall. More than 70 people registered for the chance to win various prizes. Richard Parker, the brains behind the event, said he wanted to organize something fun to raise money for the Lions club.

Sheenboro

Myrtle Sullivan
689-2236

We had a lovely sunny weekend and I hope this weather stays around for awhile.

I was sorry to hear Leonard Gagnon passed away. My sympathy to his family.

There is going to be a reunion of all graduates from St. Mary's Teachers College on May 17. The school was started by the Sisters of St. Joseph on Oct. 1, 1940. Three of my daughters attended Teacher's College there. I hope they are able to contact all the students who attended the school as they came from near and far and it's easy to lose contact with people when they move away.

I hear Wrangler Heart's surgery went well so I'm sure we will see him out and about soon. Fred gave us an update.

The Reading Club held their meeting and Jennifer Jennings on Thursday. I hear they had a most enjoyable evening.

I had a nice visit with Joe and Leane Smith last week and enjoyed talking about old times and old friends.

The Chapeau Winter Carnival takes place next weekend with some of the activities being sleigh rides, euchre games, hockey, pancake breakfast, dances and roast beef dinner on Saturday.

January has been fairly quiet but things are starting rolling again.

I had a nice e-mail from Freddie Hungate and she is coming up from the States to attend the sleigh ride and party.

My son, Jim, and his wife Ellie were down to visit my other son, Lornie, and his wife Evelyn in Oakville this weekend.

I had a nice call from my granddaughter, Maria, and they were all out to see my grandson Emmett Sullivan's new home. I am anxious to see it.

We had a call from Paddy Kilbride from Longford, Ireland on Sunday. He sends good wishes to his friends in Sheen.

There was a birthday party for Mya and Michael Lepine at the Chapeau Arena on Sunday. All the kids had a great time skating and playing hockey. The twins turned six and their proud parents are Willie and Jen Lepine. Happy birthday Mya and Michael!

Birthdays wishes go out to Joel Poirer who has his big day on the 30th, and to Gail McDonald who also celebrates next week.

Wyatt Ranger went on a snowmobile trip with his grandfather, Donat Ranger on the weekend. I hear he caught some fish.

Birthdays wishes go out to Pat Keon and Colin Allen who both celebrated a birthday this weekend.

weekend. I hear the Adam family recruited Wayne Storm and his friend Larry from Trenton to help them out. Lynn Anne was up for

the weekend also and Jerry and Marie Paul Muldoon. My daughter Myra and her daughter Kristin attended a fashion show in Renfrew on

Sunday. Happy birthday to my great-granddaughter Selina who turned 13 this past Monday.

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REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION
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Route 148
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(819) 683-3434
Fax: (819) 683-3515

Quyon

Jill McBane 458-2366 As guests of Harry and Marjorie Allen, Buster and Anita Draper attended Parkdale United Church on Jan. 20 where Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey is the minister. "The Imani Gospel singers" made up of 14 young singers, which included director Marcia Bailey's two children from Montreal to take part in a special service of recognition of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s commitment to God's global beloved community. Joan Bailey was looking after the nursery. She and her two children were travelling after church to visit with her mother, Felicia. Buster

and Anita were so pleased to see and visit with the Bailey families. Happy 16th birthday to Matthew Alexander on Jan. 31. He will be playing at the Midget Tournament in Shawville for his birthday. Looks like a good place for a party. Hope you have a good day and good luck in the tournament. Sympathy is expressed to the family of Versil Campbell. He will be missed in the community and also in the barns during the Shawville Fair. Get well wishes to Patsy Stewart who has undergone surgery in Montreal. Happy birthday to Madison Patricia Harris who turned four on Jan. 28. She celebrated this past Sunday at a party hosted by Grandpa and Grandma Tracey in North Onslow.

Well it's great to see Nick from Gavan's with a big smile on his face. And we all know what that means. There is snow and it is cold. Apparently the river has a few open spots, not good. The trails are starting to come back again. The P.S.D.A. held a cook out barbecue at the Relay on the tracks Saturday. The winner of the remote Skidoo was Brian Sullivan from Arnprior and Terry Dolan was the winner of the 50/50 draw. The Quyon and Beechgrove Rinks are both open. Lorraine Nugent and I had a great skate on the Quyon Rink Sunday. The ice was perfect. Hats off to Minor Chevrier who has the rink in perfect condition. We are so lucky to have the facility. It would be great to skate to music. It was nice to see people out enjoying the rink.

Vinton

Diane Boisvert 648-5296 Remember your blue boxes tomorrow. Happy birthday to Tyler Morin on Jan. 30 and Timmy St-Jean on Feb. 1. Last week I decided to fix one wall in my kitchen which was in need of a new

look. Min and Karen stopped into visit just as I had the stove pulled out and things out of place. They both suggested that I should wallpaper and they each had some extra rolls they would give me. So, I started with that wall. Of course, Karen told me that once I did one wall I would probably want to keep going. She was right. The rest of the kitchen looked tired so I decided to

do the whole thing. Once that was finished I stood back and looked at everything. Now, the dining room looked completely out of place. So, I called Karen and she dug up some more wallpaper and I went on to complete the dining room. Now the entrance way looked tatted so that's my next project. When I'm in the dining room I can see the living room... and you guessed it. It looks awful. Oh what the heck, I might as well do the bedrooms too and get it all done. I should have known that a tiny renovation would turn into a total facelift. But, I will admit it was due for a total change. Besides all the work you end up finding things you forgot you had and getting rid of stuff you don't need. Superbowl this weekend so I guess there will be a lot of fans glued to their TV sets. I know that a lot of bars will be holding Superbowl parties and T's bar is no exception. Saturday evening Greg and Tina held a surprise 50th birthday party for Tina's mom, Joan Frost at T's Bar. It was a packed house both Saturday and Sunday nights. Calving season is upon us once again. So the Vinton

Vet will be doing his nightly runs at the farms. So don't be alarmed to see someone skulking about the fields with a flashlight. This weekend proved to be a good weekend for snowmobiling. Every place I was, I could see or hear the machines travelling from one point to the other. Some of the trails are rough. But before you know it winter will be over and that will be the end of that sport. It has been a weird winter and I know people are getting anxious for spring. With spring comes change and people's morale starts to pick up. Have a good week.

look. Min and Karen stopped into visit just as I had the stove pulled out and things out of place. They both suggested that I should wallpaper and they each had some extra rolls they would give me. So, I started with that wall. Of course, Karen told me that once I did one wall I would probably want to keep going. She was right. The rest of the kitchen looked tired so I decided to

Waltham

Helen Perry 689-2652 jacobg42@hotmail.com We were very saddened to hear of the passing of Leonard Gagnon, of Pembroke. He was the beloved husband of Theresa (née Ryan). He was the cherished father of Wayne (Judy) and Wanda (Gary).

Town Hall. Family and friends gathered to extend love and best wishes to Amanda and Scott. Congratulations Amanda and Scott and may you share many years of God's richest blessings. Melanie and Michel Pilon and Evan and Ryan, of Dunrobin attended Amanda Black and Scott Romain's wedding on Friday evening. A cheery hello is extended to Aunt Doris Throp who is a patient in the Pembroke Regional Hospital. We hope that you feel better soon Aunt Doris! Mike, Alex and baby Mikaela of Embrun spent this past weekend with us. We truly enjoyed Alex and Mikaela. Mike appreciated the help, as Mikaela has just started walking and she knows how to keep us busy! There is a gastro flu making the rounds here in Waltham and it is quite nasty, as Jacob was down with it on the weekend. This Monday it was nice and sunny. The temperature was -6 Celsius. I notice that the days are getting longer. It is bright out until after 5 p.m. now. They are calling for ice pellets and freezing rain tomorrow. We will have to wait and see! Birthday wishes are extended to Paul Romain, who is celebrating his birthday on Feb. 3. All the best is wished to you!

Radford Hospital Auxiliary



Amanda Dupuis, THE EQUITY

The Radford Hospital Auxiliary recently purchased a television stand, end table and storage chest for the oncology department at the Pontiac Community Hospital in Shawville for a total cost of \$778.17. The auxiliary also purchases a Christmas and Easter food platter for all the patients. Last year, the auxiliary purchased nine IV poles for EOR and ICU for a cost of \$2,128.75 as well as a vital sign monitor and two IV poles for the general care unit for a cost of \$3,331. From the left: Auxiliary members Margaret Fiobin and Alma Zimmerling.

Caldwell

Harmonie Sharpe 647-3459 At the annual meeting of the Quyon Euchre Club a new president was elected to replace our outgoing President Clarence Leach. The new president is Emile Cote, vice president Betty Verrier, treasurer Robert Verrier and directors are Clarence Leach, Jane Alexander, Ritchie Russett, Joe Daley and Lisa Daley. We were all thankful that Clarence was our leader for the past few years. We welcome Emile to his new position and wish him all the best. I had to do some apologizing this past week. Why? Well, when I had my column read to me I heard that my dog chased birds. Well, I called the paper and was so positive that I had said my dog chased squirrels and I wasn't too happy. A little later I received a call informing me that I had written birds instead of squirrels. No harm

done. You see I can write but I can't read what I write. I had a call from Mildred Thomas in Oliver, B.C. this past Tuesday. They are all well and she told me Ron Madaire is much better. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families and friends of Versil Campbell of Yarm and Lawrence Freeman Grant of Carp formerly of Shawville area who passed away this past week. My son Peter who lived in Barriere, B.C. called me Friday morning and told me the weather there is very cold. I don't know how many of you heard about the cure for macular degeneration which was discussed on Global Television this past Thursday night. This cure is very expensive and we have been advised to ask our Member of Parliament to intervene for us and to either pay or do whatever they can to help us. Please write your Member of Parliament and I surely am as I along with others would like to have this cure. Congratulations to Jamie and Roxanne Armstrong of

Shawville who are proud parents of a baby boy, a brother for Reilly and another grandson for Doreen Armstrong. First grandchild for Denise Gauthier and Harold Markwell of Standstead. Sometimes when you are out shopping you like to drop in for a meal afterwards. Well this past Saturday Charlene Graham and I went shopping and decided to drop in to Sonia's Café in Portage du Fort for a meal. It was well worth the stop. What a lovely big restaurant and the meal was really good. Another place to consider when we have our meals at the euchre games. Visiting with us on Friday was Doreen Armstrong of Clarendon. Sometimes it is hard to say

goodbye to the minister who has been in your district. This is true as everyone liked Rev. Keith and Carol Goodman who has been taking charge at the Bristol Ridge Pentecostal Church but because of health problems he has had to resign. They will be living in Belleville. Good luck and we hope you have better health. A pot luck supper was held at Mona and Keith Emmerson's on Saturday night. This past Friday night the congregation of the Bristol Presbyterian Church had a dinner at Auberge in Portage for their minister Rev. Stirling Irvine who is leaving. It is always a loss to a church when they lose their ministers, especially a man like

this who was so well liked by his congregation. Visiting us this past Saturday night was my grandson, Craig Wilson of Hull. Sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Lois Sharpe Elijah who passed away Jan. 26. Visiting us this past Sunday were Neil and Margaret Sharpe of Shawville and Jim and Connie Hunter of Golden Lake.

Campbell's Bay

Iris Smith 648-5821 iriss@personain.ternet.com The Golden Age Club held its euchre on Tuesday evening at the club room. Ladies high was won by Isabelle Lacroix. Second was won by Anna Porter. Men's high was won by Ed Gutoskie. Second was a tie between Mike Moyer and Lewis Johnson. They split the prize. The door prize was won by Tom Hearty. The 50/50 by Dawson Moorehead. A delicious lunch was served. The cake was made by Jean Cuthbertson. A spaghetti supper will be held on Feb. 12, 4 to 7 p.m. at the clubroom. Admission is \$6. Euchre to follow. Brent and Audrey Belsler of Renfrew visited with Jean Cuthbertson on Saturday. Get well wishes to Elwin Brown who had surgery on Friday in Gatineau. He is now home and recovering. The Annual Valentine's Euchre sponsored by the Pontiac Lionettes will be held on Feb. 8 at the Pontiac Lions Hall, Campbell's Bay. Everyone is welcome. Happy birthday to Kervyn Burman who celebrated his birthday at the Shanloon Chinese House in Renfrew. Many family members were able to attend on Sunday, Jan. 20 and help him celebrate. Get well wishes to Patsy

Stewart of Shawville who is recovering from surgery in Montreal. On Sunday, Jan. 27 Julia Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Lincoln and Wendy Smith (Moore) was baptized at St Andrew's United Church Campbell's Bay with Rev. Angus MacDonald officiating. Guest singers were Valerie Dake and Leanne Gilpin (Gray). Many relatives and friends attended the service and the delicious luncheon which followed at the Pontiac Lions Hall. Get well wishes to Carmen Wickens who is in Shawville Hospital. Week of Prayer is over for another year. Thursday evening the service was held at the Campbell's Bay at the Free Methodist Church. Guest speaker was Mr. Bennett from the Faith, Praise and Prayer Church on the highway. Birthday wishes go out to Jordan Lariviere, Catherine Stonely, Annette Tierney, Vince Belland, Joseph Levers, Beatrice Dubeau, Stephanie Brown, Madison Harris, Elaine Mousseau, Emily Rae Horner, Merylin Brown, Dianne Anglehart, Emma Ringrose, Anya Sullivan, Maurice Beauregard, Joan Frost, Belinda Cahill, Pauline Quinn, Bonnie Lou Black, Cecile Smith, Kyley Lowe, George Lepine, Chantal Larue, Tracy Bastien, Suzanne Pilon, Donna Dagenais and Tyler Morin. This is a special day in your life so I hope you enjoyed it with friends and family.

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