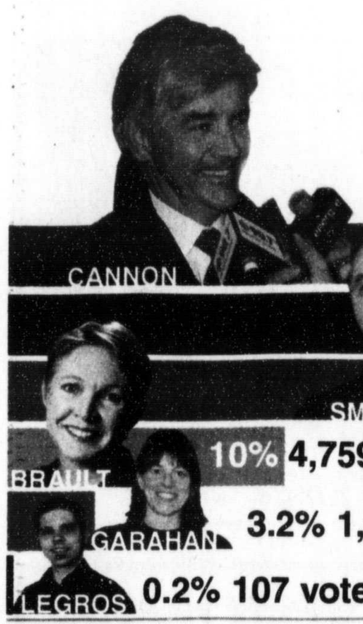
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THE EQUITY

123rd Year, Issue No. 4 | Wednesday, January 25, 2006 | 87 cents



33.6% 16,067 votes

28.9% 13,790 votes

24.2% 11,539 votes

10% 4,759 votes

3.2% 1,512 votes

0.2% 107 votes

These Midgets don't fall short of Rouyn-Noranda Championships | page 8

SEAT SWITCH



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Above: The handful of Pontiacers who made the trip to Camp Fortune in Chelsea to support Lawrence Cannon pose with the victorious Conservative MP. From the left: Sean Marks of Luskville, Neil Woodman of Shawville, Boyd Barber of Shawville, Jerry Ryan of Bryson, new Pontiac MP Lawrence Cannon, John Maheral of Calumet Island, Lou Stafford of Campbell's Bay and Carl Mousseau of Mansfield. When Liberal Robert Bertrand won the Pontiac riding in 1993, Mousseau was pictured on the cover of THE EQUITY holding Bertrand's hand upright in victory. Mousseau is now a Conservative. Right: Lawrence Cannon answers questions from the media upon his arrival at Camp Fortune in Chelsea on Monday night. Cannon received 33.63 per cent of the vote in the Pontiac, defeating the Bloc's 28.87 per cent and the Liberals' 24.15 per cent.

Police piece together Luskville death

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

LUSKVILLE • Police are in the process of figuring out the circumstances surrounding a 49-year-old man that was found dead in Breckenridge on the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 18.

John Jenkins' body was discovered on the rocks beneath the balcony behind his home at 34 Cote McKay, which sits on the edge of the Ottawa River.

The initial results of an autopsy confirmed that internal bleeding caused by the fall from his 20-foot high balcony is what killed Jenkins.

"Right now it's heading to be accidental," said MRC des Collines police spokesperson, Const. Martin Fournel. However, the investigation is still ongoing and the possibility of foul play has not been ruled out altogether.

"We're still trying to put the pieces of the puzzle together."

Police received a call at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 18 from one of Jenkins' neighbours.

"(The neighbour) heard a lady screaming. He said it sounded like a domestic dispute," said Const. Fournel.

The screaming woman was a 17-year-old, believed to be Jenkins' girlfriend, who had been in Jenkins' home that morning. Police found her on the scene near the body and transported her to hospital with non life-threatening back injuries.

Her injuries were a result of her jumping from the balcony.

The youth, still in hospital, was deemed an "important witness," and police are hoping to interview her this week.

Further complicating matters was the sighting by neighbours of a barefoot 32-year-old man running along the Ottawa River screaming for help the same morning, as Const. Fournel reported.

That man was taken into custody, also as an "important witness," according to Fournel, who confirmed that the man was also present in the home of Jenkins that same morning.

After a night of questioning, the man was released from police custody the following morning.

"All three of them jumped from the balcony, but not from the same place," said Const. Fournel.

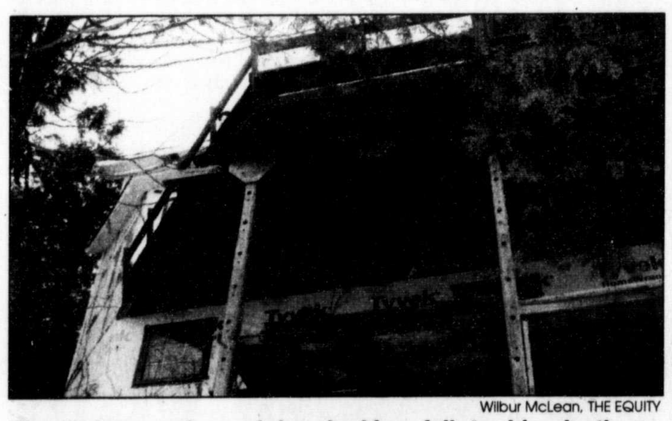
Police are still unsure why the three of them decided to jump from the balcony in the first place. No further witnesses or suspects are being sought in the case, nor are charges expected to be laid.

Six hours before the 9:30 a.m. 911 call, police had been summoned to the same residence for a separate incident. While police would not state the nature of the call, Const. Fournel did indicate that it was "minor" and not related to a domestic dispute nor Jenkins' death.

Const. Fournel said the case's investigators expect the case to be closed in the coming days, and further details will be released at that time. The day after the incident, police admitted to being puzzled by the circumstances surrounding Jenkins' death.

Initially, police said they were searching for another man and were investigating possible drug-trafficking links.

Reports in the *Ottawa Citizen*, the cover of the *Ottawa Sun* and on local newscasts gave some brief notoriety to the area, a quiet suburb consisting of extravagant homes owned primarily by cottagers and retirees.



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

The balcony where John Jenkins fell to his death on Wednesday, Jan. 18 is located about 20 feet, or about six metres, from the ground with rocks below.

McCrank re-elected as Pontiac warden



MIKE MCCRANK

CAMPBELL'S BAY • Warden Mike McCrank was re-elected by Pontiac MRC's council of mayors at Monday's monthly meeting.

The election was open to only the council of mayors, who opted to continue electing wardens this way as opposed to universal suffrage. The secret ballot revealed a unanimous vote for McCrank's return.

McCrank, who is also the mayor of the Municipality of Litchfield, returns to his position for a two-year mandate.

Calumet Island Mayor Paul-Émile Maleau was also elected as deputy warden for a two-year mandate. Maleau received 10 votes over seven for Fort Coulonge Mayor Raymond Durocher.

Cannon wins Pontiac riding

BQ places 2nd, Liberals 3rd

WILBUR MCLEAN and LEAH MILLER
Equity Staff

PONTIAC • Pontiac riding voters came out election day and thwarted the pollsters' predictions of a tight two-way race by handing over their seat to Conservative Lawrence Cannon in a clear victory.

Cannon, who was elected in the traditional Liberal riding, won a 2,277-vote victory over second-place finisher Bloc Québécois.

With all polls reporting as of press time yesterday, Cannon had 16,067 votes to BQ candidate Christine Émond-Lapointe's 13,790. Incumbent Liberal candidate David Smith was a distant third with 11,539.

Over 200 supporters awaited Cannon's arrival at Camp Fortune in Chelsea, anticipating his victorious entrance on Monday evening.

The crowd had erupted into cheers when CTV coverage playing on a projection screen depicted Cannon as the winner in the riding at about 10:30 p.m.

Half-an-hour later Cannon appeared, family in tow, greeted by chants of "Lawrence! Lawrence!"

"This feels good. It's a fantastic evening," said Cannon amidst throngs of press.

"I'm very pleased, not only for myself, but for what's occurred throughout the province of Quebec."

The small but devoted contingent of Pontiacers at Camp Fortune were pleased with the result.

"They told us we didn't have a snowball's chance in hell, that we were splitting the federalist vote," said Conservative supporter Lou Stafford, of Campbell's Bay.

"Well I guess we have a snowball in hell now."

Cannon still refused to comment on the possibility of a cabinet position, which Conservative leader Stephen Harper promised him in visits to the Pontiac.

"I'm willing to serve in any capacity," said Cannon.

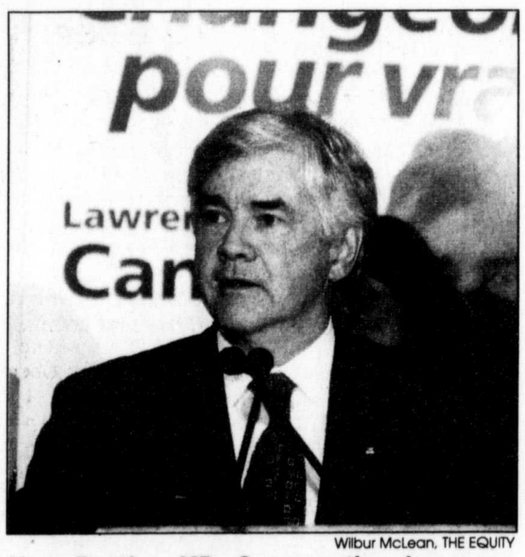
"But you'll have to ask that question of Mr. Harper."

When asked about his first steps now that he's been elected, Cannon made a broad revelation about the federal party's plans.

"We're looking for an accountability package first thing," said Cannon.

Incumbent Liberal David Smith was openly disappointed by his loss yesterday morning.

"I would have preferred the people of the Pontiac to give me their support, but I respect the results — it's a democracy," said Smith.



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

New Pontiac MP, Conservative Lawrence Cannon, delivers his victory speech at Camp Fortune in Chelsea on Monday night. Over 200 supporters and approximately 25 members of the press were present at the ski lodge for Cannon's win.

He said he would have liked to continue his work on projects in agriculture and forestry that he had moved forward in the past 17 months.

"I would have liked to continue on them, but I respect the people's decision."

Smith said going into election day, he was expecting a three-way race.

"There were false allegations in the beginning and they were repetitive," said Smith of his investigation by the federal ethics commissioner.

Smith's computer company Abotech was accused of having improper dealings with the federal government before Smith became MP.

"Certain people do politics that way," he said.

Smith said he enjoyed being out in the riding for two years, meeting with people.

"I am convinced that in the Shawville area, they hadn't seen a representative of parliament so often," he said. "But I guess that was not what people wanted."

Smith plans to take a few days off to spend with his wife and two children before moving onto his "professional life".

Céline Brault upped the NDP's numbers in this election, grabbing 4,759 votes, which was 2,598 more than Gretchen Schwarz won in 2004, who was the first NDP candidate to get more than 2,000 votes since John Trent got a high of 6,207 in 1988.

"We're proud of the results," said Brault. "People told us that ours was the voice that needed to be heard."

Brault was evasive when asked whether she intended to run for the Pontiac NDP in the next federal election.

"Running in the future merits careful thought and consideration."

The Green Party's support in the Pontiac was down slightly, from 4.18 per cent to 3.16 per cent, though candidate Moe Garahan sees things as a process for the Greens.

"We're building a strong foundation," said Garahan, who noted she has meetings planned with organizations throughout the Pontiac that had expressed interest in the Greens.

"As soon as we get proportional representation we'll see the real Green interest," Garahan believes.

New start

Voter turnout in the riding of Pontiac rose to 61.7 per cent, which was an increase from last year's 49.2 per cent turnout. The turnout was on average with the provincial (63.3 per cent) and national turnout of 64.9 per cent.

Nationally, with only 20 of 66,171 polls remaining at press time, the Conservatives had 124 seats, to the Liberals' 103. The BQ captured 51 seats.

Conservative Stephen Harper didn't quite make the 155 seats needed to lead a fory majority, which means he will have to work together with at least one opposition party for support in the 308-seat House of Commons.

The NDP took 29 seats, which was a gain from the 2004 election. All four major party leaders won their ridings.

National popular vote was won 36 per cent by Tories, 30 per cent for the Liberals, 17 per cent for the NDP and 10 per cent for the Bloc.

Former Prime Minister Paul Martin will work through a transition period in the Liberal Party before stepping down.

Poll by poll results were not available by press time.

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Murray retains seat in Shawville by-election

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Incumbent councillor, Sandra Murray, retained her position in seat 5 of Shawville council after the municipality's by-election on Sunday.

Murray garnered 421 ballots, pulling in 72 per cent of the vote.

Her lone opponent, Aileen Sheppard, received 161 votes, or 27 per cent.

Seven ballots were deemed spoiled.

"I'm very pleased with the results," said Murray, who held a seat on council from 1984 to 1991 and again from 1997 to the present.

"I'm relieved it's over."

In total, 589 electors voted in the by-election, producing a 44 per cent turnout.

The by-election was necessitated after Murray was initially acclaimed to the seat on Oct. 14 but was not sworn in before the one-month deadline.

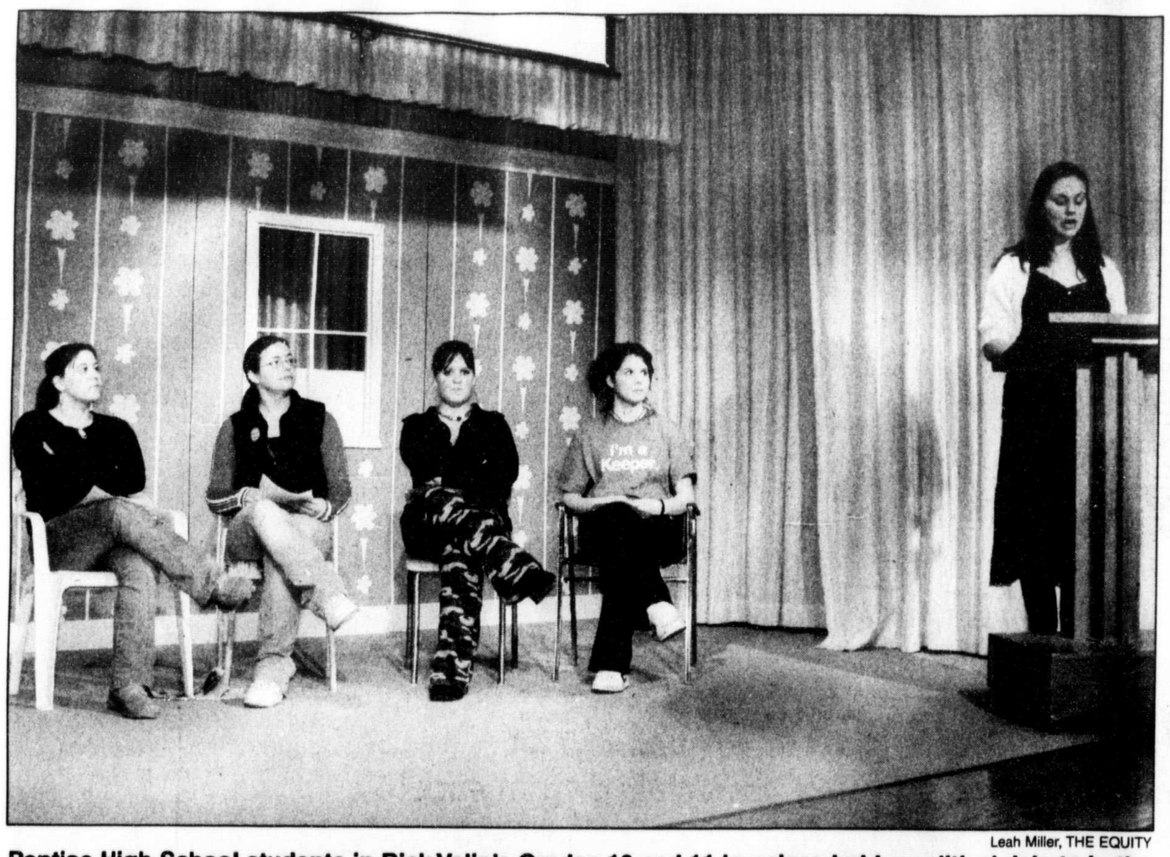
On Nov. 14, the seat re-opened for nominations and Murray was forced to re-enter her name, and she was joined by Sheppard.

Murray's plans include "work(ing) with the rest of council on street improvements, water works and the beautification of the town," she told THE EQUITY.

While the exact costs of the by-election are not yet known, the municipality had budgeted for $8,000 in expenses, according to Denise Dowe, the Returning Officer.

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PHS students echo adults, elect Conservatives



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Pontiac High School students in Rick Valin's Grades 10 and 11 law class held a political debate in the school theatre Friday. The class broke up into five groups, representing five political parties that ran in the federal election in Pontiac riding. From the left: Rebecca Huckabone as Conservative, Gwen Neelin as NDP, Brittany Leblanc as Green, Jessica Zacharias as Bloc and Erin Dittburner representing the Liberal Party.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Rebecca Huckabone makes her point in a class political debate as a Conservative Party representative.

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • Election fever was everywhere this week in the Pontiac, including the classrooms and hallways of Pontiac High School.

In a simulated federal election, PHS students chose parties, learned about current candidates and party platforms, participated in a political debate and in the end, elected the Conservative Party.

"I want my opinion to matter," said Amanda Amyotte, a Grade 11 student, on why she voted.

Of 455 students who were present Monday, 248 voted resulting in a 54.5 per cent voter participation.

Conservative Party candidate Lawrence Cannon won 46.7 per cent of the vote. The Green Party won the second most votes, with 18 per cent. NDP won 12.5 per cent, Liberal won 10 per cent, Bloc Québécois won 3.6 per cent, Marxist Leninist won one per cent and 8.4 per cent of votes were spoiled.

Aiming to teach students about democracy, teacher Rick Valin had his Grades 10 and 11 law class run a mock election at the school. After returning from holidays, students broke into various political groups by choice — students represented the Bloc Québécois, the Conservative Party, the Green Party, the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party of Canada — and were instructed to study their party's policies.

Some students in the class chose political parties based on policy.

"They're really into environmental stuff and I'm really for that," said Courtney Harris on why she chose to work with the Green Party. "Also they are for abortion and I think that is really important."

Aided by the federal Student Vote program, the school received ballots, polling stations and learning materials to help the students campaign and hold an election.

Students plastered the hallways of the school with handmade political party signs, encouraging students to exercise their right to vote in the mock election.

"This is the first time we've held a formal election at the school," said Valin. "Before we only worked on it in class."

Friday, the law class held a 20-minute political debate, but few students outside the class came to listen. Valin asked students if this was surprising to them.

"Is this proportionate of your age group?"

Yes, the students answered.

Party representatives were asked questions about the sponsorship scandal, health care and education, and responded as real candidates would in an all-candidates debate.

Liberal representative Erin Dittburner was comfortable skirting around issues in the debate.

"Our response to the scandal is to spin around it," said Dittburner before the debate Friday. "I'll talk about the more positive things like defense, education and health care."

Gwen Neelin, who was representing the NDP, said she agreed with the party's policies anyhow and had no problem representing Céline Brault. "They are generally more open-minded and more left-wing."

Monday students volunteered to man polling stations, with voting times running before classes, between first and advisory periods and again before fourth period. Three separate polling stations were set up for special education and welding students, Grades 7 and 8 students and for Grades 9 to 11.

Other students planned to vote because of issues they felt were important were being addressed by some parties.

"I think health care and taxes are important," said Derek Ralston, a Grade 10 student.

Most students acknowledge that their peers didn't care to vote, but were appreciative that politics are part of certain classes.

"I have had kids I don't even teach come up to me to talk about it," said Valin. "It's encouraging."

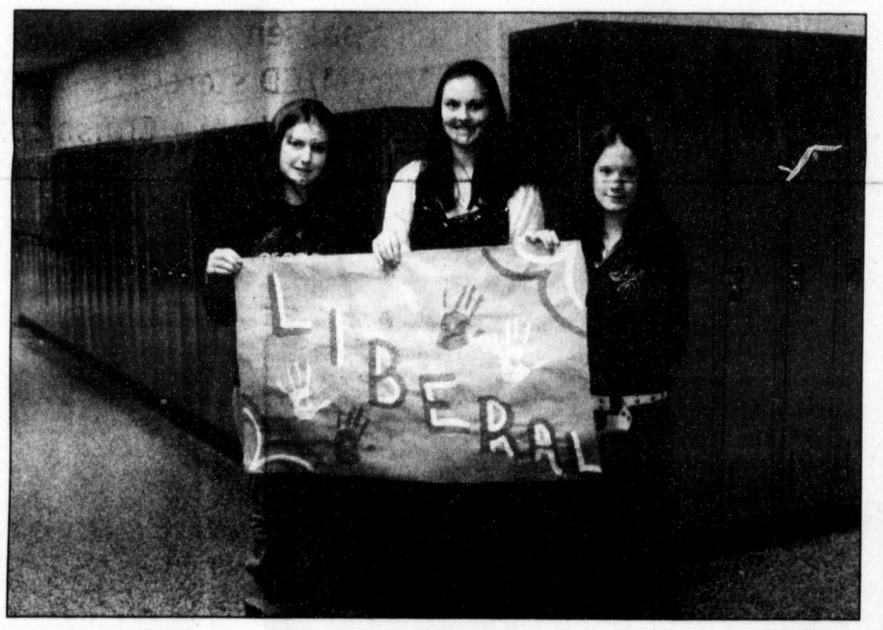
Although only five parties were represented by students, the school could vote for all six current Pontiac riding candidates.

Nationally, students across the country held elections from Jan. 16 to 20. More than 3,000 schools participated.

The Student Vote initiative aims to nurture a habit of civic participation among students under the voting age. In less than two years, the program reached over 700,000 students across the country. This year the program recorded its highest-ever participation rate in its history.

A total of 455,566 ballots were cast.

"I am delighted to see that so many young Canadians were able to participate, many for the first time, in learning about elections and the voting process," stated Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Chief Election Officer of Student Vote in a press release. "This is an invaluable experience for their first election, at any level of government."



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Samantha Twolan, Erin Dittburner and Heather Smith of the school's Liberal Party test out their handmade Liberal sign.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Courtney Harris paints a poster for the Green Party that later hung in the school encouraging students to vote in the high school's youth vote Monday.

Dangerous WTO process results in the "least worst" outcome

PONTIAC • Renfrew County Farmers and Canadian farmers should be happy, at least for now, that Minister of Agriculture Andy Mitchell and Parliamentary Secretary Wayne Ester were able to fend off attacks against orderly marketing agencies at World Trade Organization talks in Hong Kong. The two along with trade negotiators and farm leaders, prevented calamity for farmers, at least in the short term" said National Farmers Union President Stewart Wells. Wells, along with NFU Womens' President Colleen Ross e-mailed a report to Renfrew County NFU President Kyle Dickson from Hong Kong.

Wells said that "There was tremendous pressure on Canadian officials to surrender the Canadian Wheat Board supply management. The WTO talks continue to pose a tremendous threat to our marketing agencies. We've come out of these meetings without significant casualties. But that may not be the case if talks continue," said Wells.

Ross called the Hong Kong talks a failure, but noted that the outcomes for Canadian farmers could have been worse. "In terms of helping developing nation farmers, there's not much here.

The promise of the Doha development agenda, if it ever was real, is largely dead. Canadian farmers gained little or nothing in Hong Kong. But, at least we seem to have come out of this round of talks with farmers' marketing agencies intact," said Ross.

Wells noted the good work of many of the farm leaders, including those from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and Canada's supply management agencies. He was extremely critical, however, of some politicians and lobby groups. "MP's David Anderson and Ted Menzies and the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) all worked tirelessly against the interests of farmers. CAFTA, whose members include Cagill and the Canola Growers, promoted an anti-farmer corporate agenda," said Wells.

Wells concluded "this deal is focused on trade, not on increasing farmers' incomes or their well-being. Meanwhile the trade agenda is shaping everything from Canadian seed policy to our farm support programs. And foreign nations are pushing to strip Canadian farmers of their marketing agencies. This is a bad process for farmers. While we avoided the worst this week in Hong Kong, we can't count on similar outcomes in the future. We must work vigorously to protect farmers' marketing agencies.

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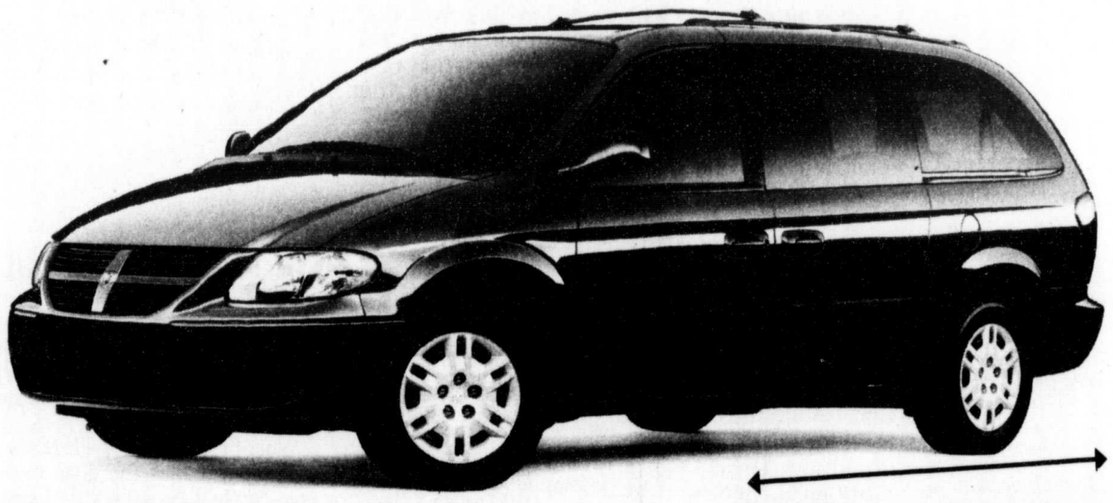
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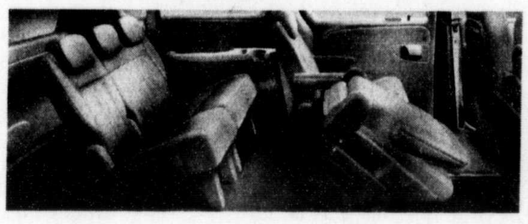
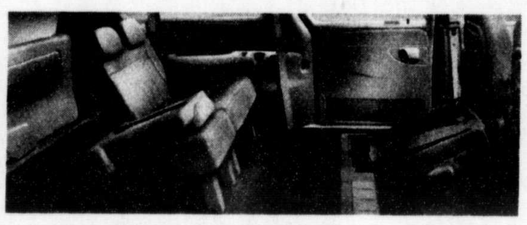
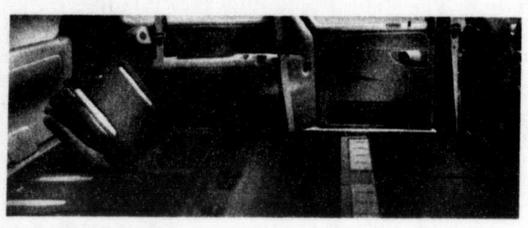
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OUR OPINION

A fresh start

The people of the Pontiac have spoken.

After one of the longest election campaigns we have witnessed in a long time (the 55-day campaign was the longest since Joe Clark's Conservative government fell in 1979, resulting in a 66-day campaign that ended with the re-election of Pierre Trudeau's Liberals), Pontiacers have wisely elected Conservative Party of Canada candidate Lawrence Cannon to represent us as our member of parliament.

Cannon was a wise choice because of his potential as a future senior cabinet minister. Just last week, Stephen Harper declared his Pontiac riding candidate would likely be a cabinet minister in his government. Hopefully this means good news for us, and it may ensure the Pontiac riding will be at the forefront of funding, new programs and other benefits.

Our job as his constituents is to hold him to it, and make sure we're not forgotten while he's busy advising the Prime Minister and other ministers on political matters.

Cannon owes us now, promising so much for tourism, agriculture, economy and a healthy environment. We did our part, now it's his turn to live up to those campaign clinchers.

And we are watching.

The importance of this particular election was shown by the vast numbers of those who made the effort to vote.

By the time the advance polls were completed, figures stated that 1,561,945 electors voted at the advance polls, which is an increase from the 1,248,469 electors who voted in advance during the 38th general election in 2004.

The high numbers showed the election stirred up those who don't normally vote, to make sure their point was made. Here in the Pontiac, 5,612 of the riding's 77,457 total number of eligible voters on official lists hit the advance polls.

That said, Monday's election day also had high participation, as 47,774 people in the Pontiac riding cast ballots, a 61.7 per cent participation rate.

This marks the second time in 25 years that Canadians will be lead by a minority government.

The mood seems positive, as a change in government might do us good, might get those projects finalized and get Pontiac moving forward.

We haven't been without Liberals leading the way for 13 years, when Progressive Conservative Barry Moore was defeated in 1993.

The Conservative government will now have to prove they are all that they said they would be and are capable of managing this great country we call Canada.

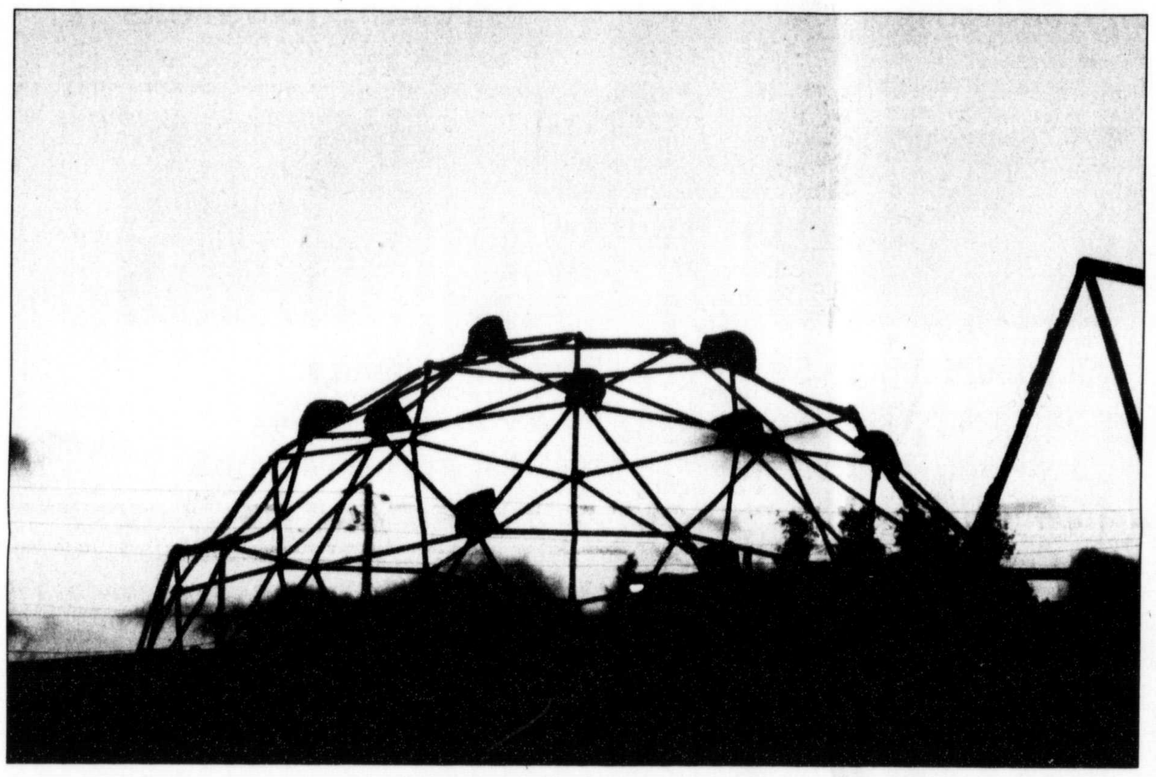
This government will have to turn around one that couldn't keep scandal out of its way and show that accountability, openness and transparency are all things that a government can be.

But for the moment, we can welcome Mr. Cannon into our home, into the place we'll be proud to have him represent responsibly.

LM

Sky dome

Leah Miller, THE EQUITY



ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Notes from Pontiac's green files: readers write

There is a lot happening in the Pontiac that possesses more than a tinge of green. Here are some thoughts concerning issues ... as well as some notes about an upcoming workshop to add to your calendar.

Conservative agenda

First of all, congratulations to everyone who ran for election; and, to all who voted, I say thank-you. Secondly, hearty congratulations to Lawrence Cannon, who swept the Pontiac and who likely will become a cabinet minister, if not deputy prime minister or the Conservative's Quebec lieutenant. Regardless of what position Mr. Cannon may be given by Canada's Prime Minister elect, Stephen Harper, change is a breath of fresh air blowing across our region.

With respect to environmental issues, it will be interesting to see what agenda the Conservatives follow, both nationally and regionally. The Liberals – as well as all other parties – pointed fingers at Harper, saying he would kill Canada's participation in the Kyoto Accord, as if this was a bad thing, de facto.

But is it? Considering that the US never signed the Kyoto Protocol, and because the surging economic/industrial twin engines of India and China are not signees either, the Kyoto Protocol is mortally wounded. Hopefully the Conservatives will help encourage world leaders to embrace more politically workable efforts to clean up the environment.

From a regional point of view, particularly because Cannon has held office in Quebec (under Liberal premier Robert Bourassa in Quebec City, as well as serving as a councillor in Gatineau) I believe Pontiac has won a strong voice for change. Speaking this morning to *CBC Morning* radio host Lucy van Oldenbarneveld, Cannon said the Pontiac is "Quebec's best-kept secret." He suggested that Pontiac needs economic support – and he's correct. Let's hope he and the Conservatives keep sustainable green issues firmly in mind while encouraging such development.

EQUITY readers' concerns

I am delighted to hear from readers who have legitimate environmental concerns. This column is a forum, so what follows are pressing environmental issues which you are writing to me about. Thanks, and let us all maintain the dialogue.

Danford Lake landfill

One green issue that should be of immense concern to all Pontiac residents is the proposed development of a regional landfill at Danford Lake, in the Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood. Quyon residents firmly rejected the landfill that Denis Rouleau and his company LDC proposed for the North Onslow dump.

Reader Doug Brandy connected me by e-mail to Bob Wilson, who speaks for the Citizens' Coalition Against the Proposed Danford Lake Landfill Project. Wilson wrote to me, noting, "The proposed Danford mega-landfill project has many similarities to the landfill proposed for north of Quyon in 2003 except in scale and location. The Danford landfill would cover 500 acres, contain seven million tons of garbage, be 22 storeys high, be located on the shores of the beautiful Picanoc River and dump the leachate directly into the Picanoc. An estimated 22,000 trucks per year would pass through the village of Danford."

Although Municipality of Pontiac residents opposed Rouleau's Quyon landfill, we always maintained we were keen to be part of the garbage solution. I think I speak for opponents to the proposed large landfill concept in Quyon fairly, when I say that we were not at all opposed to cleaning up our messy, in-trench dump. Moreover, we were not totally NIMBY: we were interested in the developer proposing a solution for our own municipality's trash, and expressed interest in having a recycling depot. However, our dual concepts of "keep it simple" and "small is beautiful," did not fly with the developer, because small-scale solutions that are on a human (and therefore, palatable) scale were deemed uneconomical.



Katharine Fletcher

To the citizens and politicians of the Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood, I say, "stop the landfill." I believe we need governments at all levels to recognize the inherent worth of Pontiac's natural assets: its clean rivers, lakes, air, forests and, hopefully, groundwater. We need to embrace not only workable recycling initiatives, but also the two other "Rs": reducing and reusing. We need to "encourage" manufacturers, with legislation, to adopt a cradle to the grave responsibility for products they produce.

How will the Conservatives encourage us all to put an end to the culture of waste we consumers buy into? How will Cannon help citizens of municipalities such as Alleyn and Cawood forge a brighter future that doesn't include dollars from taking other people's garbage?

We Pontiacers are keen to hear some sustainable, green economic engines start up, right here in our beautiful countryside.

Eco Farm Day Conference 2006 - Cornwall, Ontario

Reader Rob Wallbridge of Songberry Organic Farm in Bristol e-mailed me to report the annual all-day organic farming conference. Held on Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Ramada Inn, Cornwall Ontario, this year's theme is "Agriculture for Health and Nutrition."

Wallbridge sent me the press release, which states the conference is "hosted by the Ottawa Chapter of the Canadian Organic Growers (COG), (and) is the leading occasion in Eastern Ontario to develop skills in organic farming. Tailored to farmers and gardeners who are interested in growing food organically, Eco Farm Day will feature a full slate of workshops, guest speakers, a large exhibition trade show and much more."

Workshops throughout the day discuss a variety of organic farming techniques and crops in the areas of field crops, market gardening, livestock and general interest subjects.

Who is attending? Over 200 conference delegates include members from West Quebec, so don't think that you won't find Pontiac organic producers such as Wallbridge there.

There is a cost: registration for adults is $45 in advance or $55 at the door (but you can obtain a $10 reduction if you join COG). Kids 12 and under are $10.

For information: Faith Phillips at 613-525-4114, phillipskf@hotmail.com or www.cog.ca/Ottawa.

There is growing concern about the food we eat and how it is produced. Our Pontiac farmers are increasingly interested in organic methods, but we all need more information on its practicality and sustainability.

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance writer who writes from her farmhouse north of Quyon, Quebec. Contact her with your green concerns, issues or comments at chesley@allstream.net.

YOUR OPINION

A plea for firefighters

Dear Editor,

Every now and then it seems there is a shortage of people who have their applications in to be part of the Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department as a firefighter. At this time there is an opening and there are no applications to choose from.

With the new rules and regulations there is a lot of initial training involved. But the chief has made the sessions evenings and weekends realizing everyone has a job that has to take priority. When the busy time of training is finished it will go back to normal and be a lot less time consuming. You have to have the training to be a volunteer firefighter.

There is no better way to contribute and give something back to your commuity than to have a chance to save somebody's lifelong possessions or save a life being a firefighter.

We, the Municipalities of Shawville and Clarendon, feel we have a well-oiled machine as a department with excellent leadership from all of the officers, and we have a new firehall and well-maintained equipment to work with. The reason for this plea is that the training is starting now and everyone can take it together.

Anyone thinking about joining, that lives in either municipality, should contact Chief Lee Laframboise and he will explain it to you.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

James Hodgins
Shawville Fire Commissioner

One freaked out cat

Dear Editor,

While getting my pot-bellied pig, Pigwig, home was quite an experience, the story of my stress with animals does not end.

When I went to load Dotty, a male year-old cat that the dogs found on my property last fall as a kitten and remains slightly wild, but has turned out beautiful looking, refused to enter the cat carrier and disappeared.

More stress, I turned three rooms upside down and could not located Dotty.

However, it was time to load Pigwig for the journey home for winter.

Placing three separate dishes of food and litter, I closed up.

Returning to ensure Dotty had food and water, I found he had easten from the dish in the kitchen, so that eliminated two rooms.

But, where was the cat? So I got an extension ladder that reached to the roof where an addition had been added years ago and found Dotty.

Dotty was down about eight feet between wall studs and paneling that had not been closed in at the top. Unfortunately, the paneling was behind the kitchen sink and pipes. I was in a dilemma. The cat would starve over the winter and he would not come out of hiding in spite of my pleas.

A call to the mayor of Portage du Fort, Gerry Manwell, was promising but unproductive as no trap was available in town. The Pontiac Animal Control was out of business and I was desperate. This was costing me a lot of gas money.

A telephone call to Renfrew Animal Control was also unproductive, as they would not loan their only trap, but were considerate

Finally, a call to M & R Feeds in Renfrew solved the problem. They offered to assist with the loan of a trap as I buy my pig feed there. As the cage was brand new, I felt it better to purchase the trap for cats, skunks and raccoons to have at the camp and maybe for rabbits who eat camper's gardens.

Next day, I removed all the food in the kitchen, placing one dish inside the trap, this was about 10 a.m.

For lunch, I had one of Bill Schwarts' great hamburgers with May's homemade chili sauce and a cup of tea at the Corral Bar in Charteris.

About one o'clock I returned to check on Dotty, no cat in the trap. Meanwhile it is pouring rain, the cabin is too damp,so I sat in the truck checking once and again at 3:30 p.m. No cat in the trap.

Home I went with no Dotty again and returned next day near noon, to ensure his appetite had induced him to enter the trap.

My prayers were answered, there was Dotty. Evidently, he had made quite a fuss to get out.

Happy, at last the ordeal was over. I put on one of Gail Gavan's CDs and sang along to sooth this very frightened and confused cat on the way home.

That night, Dotty is on my bed, lying on me, wanting to play the toe game, like nothing ever happened.

Patience, is all I can say, what it cost me to retrieve one cat. I wonder if Noah had this many problems with his animals.

Evelyn J. Kavanagh
Portage du Fort

Pontiac Archives tale spinners

Dear Editor,

Are you interested in learning about life in Pontiac County? Would you like the opportunity to learn about the history of your town from the people who lived it? At our last meeting of the Pontiac Archives, in order to encourage more people to use our vast quantity of local historical information, we decided to invite everyone who is interested in telling tales of the past to form a club where everyone will have the chance to participate in a friendly atmosphere. We will sit around a table, drink a pot of tea and share our memories. Each month we will have a different topic. The first topic will be "School Days."

Our volunteers have been making collections of newspaper clippings and other documents related to different topics. Pearl McCleary and Gwen Armstrong have prepared many binders full of interesting information about Pontiac schools. We encourage you to come to the Archives on regular days, Tuesday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to get inspiration and facts to support your stories. Our first gathering will be on Friday, Feb. 3, 2006 at 2 p.m. at the Pontiac Archives in Shawville. Hope to see you there.

Venetia Crawford
Shawville

Undecided voter

Dear Editor,

I have enjoyed your election coverage to date. I am however disappointed that the Green Party's (election sign with picture of local candidate) Moe Garahan was not included with the other candidates on the opinion page's photo called, "Decisions, decisions ..." Yes there are tough choices to make for all of us, and yes it is cool to vote and yes, today the election will be decided. THE EQUITY can help us by at least keeping the playing field balanced. The omission was clear, unfair and in my opinion, final.

Thank you for your great little newspaper.

Have a great day!

TC Ramsay
Norway Bay

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE By Esther Colpitts

Through the eyes of a child

"I love your lights Gramma," my four-year-old granddaughter said, looking at the huge trees in the park across from where I live.

To Emily I have the best lights of all. It doesn't matter that the town actually placed them on the trees. She isn't asking how it was done. She's just filled with the wonder of so much beauty.

Wonder. It's a feeling of awe, when you're faced with someone or something far greater and more powerful than you. Little ones express it so easily. They know they are small. They accept their inabilities and the strength of the grown-ups around them. When they feel a need, they look to their earthly parents to meet it. It does not occur to them to do anything else. Children believe. They trust. And trust brings peace.

We can do the same with our Heavenly Father. Most of the important things we face are out of our control, if we would admit it, and only God is big enough to meet those needs.

Faith enables me to recapture child-like feelings of awe and wonder. In trusting I find peace. Then, when I look at the night sky, I feel the wonder I heard in Emily's voice. My response?

"I love your lights God!"

Letters to the Editor

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

Correction

Incorrect information was given in the story "Campbell's Bay to implement recycling" on page 3 of the Jan. 18 issue.

Recycling operator Brian Schock, who operates a program in Litchfield, will discuss costs of the service with the municipality at its February meeting.

123 years of news from the Pontiac

THE WAY WE WERE

Compiled by Heather Alberti-Dickson Publisher

25 Years Ago

January 28, 1981

HOKUM'S TO CLOSE: A softening of the hardwood market seems to be the main reason for a recent decision to close Ben Hokum's Quebec sawmill. The mill located on the Seventh Line of Clarendon near Shawville, opened in 1973. Construction was assisted by a federal grant from the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. The sawmill's most important product has been hardwood supplied from local woodlots.

THERE ARE PRECEDENTS TO CHANGING BOUNDARIES - LARIVIERE: Jean Guy Lariviere, MNA for Pontiac Temiscamingue, expects that the Pontiac-Ontario movement will awaken a lot of people in Quebec City and across Canada to the fact that there are serious economic and social problems affecting this county. He stated that the movement should not do any harm, but rather a lot of good points may come out of it.

50 Years Ago

January 26, 1956

FEDERAL AND MINING CIRCLES EYES ON PONTIAC COUNTY: Paul F MacDonald of Montreal, assistant general manager of the Montreal and Canadian Stock Exchanges, was guest speaker at the general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of Campbell's Bay, held at the Moyle Hotel, Campbell's Bay on Friday evening. Mr MacDonald spoke on the nature of the operations carried on at these stock exchanges. He noted that the Montreal Stock Exchange was the third largest in the world by the number of its transactions and the fourth largest by the value of the stocks traded. He also stated that financial and mining circles of both Toronto and Montreal had their eyes fixed on the County of Pontiac as an important mining area. Recent discoveries of radioactive and base metals, together with the impending iron development at Bristol have caused a reappraisal of this County's mineral resources and extensive serial scintillometer and gravitometer surveys are being carried out.

TWO-CAR CRASH SERIOUSLY INJURES ONE: An Ottawa man has been charged with criminal negligence in connection with a traffic accident near here on Sunday night which sent a Campbell's Bay resident to hospital. Patrick Dolan of Ottawa has been charged with criminal negligence in connection with the accident. Dolan was released on bail of $500. He was the driver of a car in which Farren Gravelle, 28, of Campbell's Bay, was a passenger when the vehicle was involved in a two-car collision on Highway No. 8 at a point one mile east of Campbell's Bay. Gravelle was described as being in very serious condition.

75 Years Ago

January 22, 1931

LOCAL NEWS: Campbell's Bay and Shawville battled to a 1-1 tie at Campbell's Bay on Wednesday night of last week. No overtime was played on account of the extremely cold weather. Several of the players had their ears and toes frost bitten.

At Shawville rink on Friday night, Coulonge again surprised the locals by overtaking a one goal lead, to win out by the close score of 2 to 1.

There was quite a representation gathering of the dairymen of this district at the demonstration, held under the auspices of the Quebec Ayrshire Extension Service at the farm of George Dagg & Son on the 13th instant. Some interesting points were brought out which were further elucidated with the aid of moving pictures at the night meeting in the Theatre.

DEATH OF A CHILD: Orval Floyd, infant son of Mr and Mrs George Finan, of Lower Litchfield, Que., died on December 30, 1930 of general disability caused from pneumonia. Great sympathy was shown on the first of January for the parents and family who had labored so tenderly over the little sufferer whose struggle for life was a desperate one.

100 Years Ago

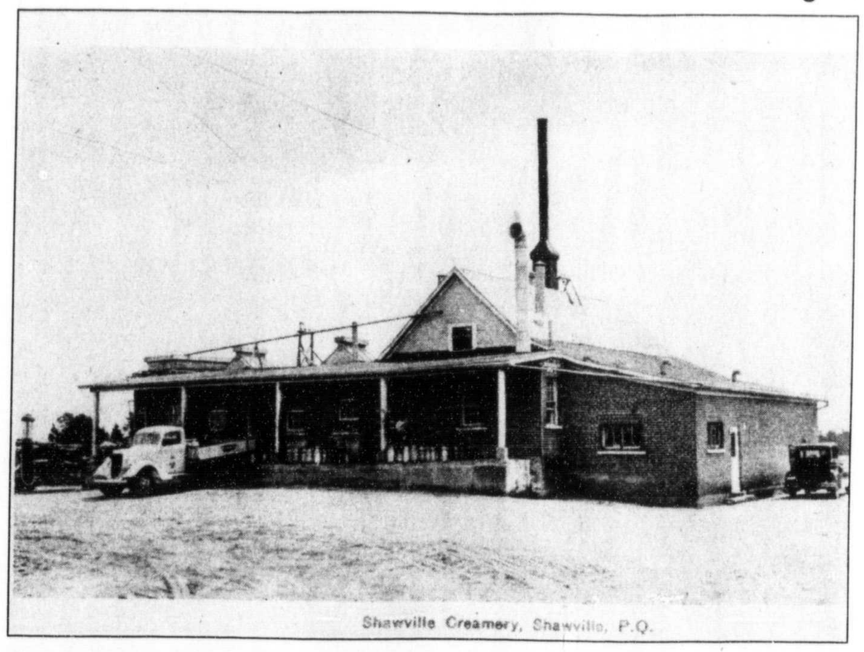
January 25, 1906

LOCAL NEWS: The second edition of the January thaw set in on Saturday night and before letting up, rather seriously threatened our sleighing.

Parties requiring straw ticks filled are requested to have them ready on Monday in order to have them filled on Tuesday. Price - 1 tick 15c, 2 ticks 25c.

Numerous flashes of lightning were noticed by our citizens between seven and nine o'clock on Saturday night. At Coulonge the visitation seems to have been more severe, as the Roman Catholic church was struck and considerably damaged at the front part of the building. Fire also started, but it was extinguished before making any great headway.

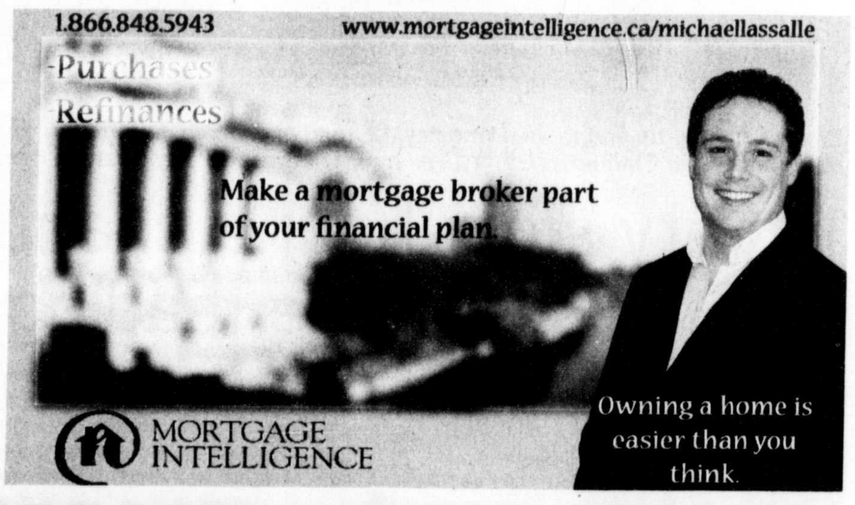
Mr Grien, of Buffalo, manager of the company, who is now operating the Brown Mica mine in Cawood township, under the name of the Cawood Mica Co., visited the property within the past ten days, and we learn he expressed himself as highly pleased with the prospect and the way the mineral was being turned out. While here



Shawville Creamery, Shawville, P.Q.

the manager wiped off several old scores against the company, thus tending to inspire a renewal of confidence in the concern.

The ladies of Quyon village, have taken it into their heads to play hockey - and have already given some brilliant evidences of their ability to chase the elusive puck. We certainly admire their enterprising spirit.





Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

A huge group of volunteers stand proudly in front of a massive buffet display of tender venison, moose and even beaver meat before 160 people, who attended the annual Bryson Lions Wildlife Supper Saturday night, dug in.

Bear balls, anyone?

Pontiac hunters share bounty at Bryson Lions wildlife supper

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

BRYSON • Although the weather has been cool for months and the orange vests and camouflage suits have long been put away, the bounty of Pontiac's hunting season was brought out for the Bryson Lions Club annual Wildlife Supper and Old Time Dance.

Each year since 1971, Pontiacers bring out a sampling of their best catches for a unique Bryson tradition held at the Lions Hall — the wildlife supper.

Delicious, tender and great smelling meats of all varieties attracted people from across the Ottawa Valley and beyond.

"We wouldn't get the same variety of food anywhere else," said Pat and Rosemary Gutoskie of Peterborough. "We're very touched by the kindness and sense of community here that you don't get in a bigger town."

At $15 a plate, the menu included wild game such as caribou, bear, moose, venison, goose and beaver, as well as fish such as trout, bass and pike. Endless dishes of homemade favourites included salad, potatoes, beans, fried rice, macaroni, ham, Swiss steak, chili and Pontiac's famous sea pie, the most popular dish of the evening, made of pork, venison, moose and seasonings. For dessert, homemade cookies and cakes were served.

"We've got goose breast for the men and bear balls for the women," laughed Lion Ed Gutoskie.

The 35-year-old tradition served 160 plates.

"Many people called ahead saying they couldn't come because of the roads," said Gutoskie. "We could feed double that since we are always well-received."

Last year 160 meals were also served, but their record year was set in 2004 when 268 were served.

"Next year we may sell advance tickets," said Lion Rose Gutoskie.

Money raised from the supper will go towards community projects the Lions Club will support this year.

In addition to the club's annual summer picnic, the Lions hold jamborees and dances throughout the year.

The Bryson Lions Club was chartered in 1951 and there are a few founding members still working actively with the club.

The wildlife supper originally began with a fish bake. Founding members used to prepare dishes of food and take them to Shawville to be cooked, before being brought back and served.

In 1964, club president Glen Saunders purchased an oven from Horner's Bakery in Shawville.

"My father brought it up a long time ago," said Lion Ivan Saunders of his father.

"The year he was president he dismantled it, brought it up and rebuilt it with Francis Coyne."

The stove fills a large room of its own in the hall. It is made of stone and is fed by a wood fire. Inside sand and brick keep the temperature even for cooking dishes for long periods of time. The oven needed a full day to pre-heat.

"Seven pots of beans and sea pie went in at 10 a.m.," said Lion Cletus Newberry.

Close to 40 volunteers — both members and non-members — contributed their time to make the supper a success, as cooking and preparation began Thursday once the meat was donated by friends and members of the club.

"We start Thursday morning with the beaver, we preboil it to get the fats out and keep it in the fridge until it's cooked today," said Ed at the supper.

Friday is spent processing the different types of meats and choosing dishes. Saturday the dishes are put in the oven.

"We don't know what we're going to cook until the meat is donated and then we make the menu," said Rose. "We use our own recipes."

The dishes were well-appreciated, even from a professional point of view.

"It's excellent," said Elke Beeb, who runs her own catering business out of Bristol. "It's a good change."

Any left overs were shared with families in the community.

To cap off the evening the Brysonnaires played and called square and round dancing. The supper kicked off the club's weekly Saturday night dances that will run until May 14.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Volunteers dish out the goods to hungry visitors.

Atkinsons Bar
Hwy. 148, Shawville, QC 647-2526

Live Entertainment Line-up

January 27	- Andi G. Band
February 3	- 3rd Wave
February 4	- Foundation
February 10	- Foundation
February 17	- Tequila Mockingbird
February 24	- Joe Lance Band
February 25	- Juke Box

Come early ... get a good seat

Rafter's Sports Bar
Hwy. 148, Bryson
Live Entertainment by:
No Fixed Address
Friday, January 27th

Our Future Begins Here
Notre avenir commence ici
170, rue Principale, Gatineau, Québec J9H 6K1
Tél: (819) 684-2336 • Tél: 1-800-363-9111

Are you aware English Language Education is available in Quebec?

The Western Québec School Board provides English-language education to eligible students in the Outaouais and Abitibi-Temiscaminque regions. Committed to academic excellence and the development of life-long learners, Western Québec provides quality education in 19 elementary schools, 13 high schools and 5 adult education and vocational training centres.

Our schools offer a diverse range of programs, including pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten and French Immersion (urban core of Gatineau), Work Skills training, Homework Assistance and Extracurricular activities.

Contact the school board, 1-800-363-9111, or the school nearest you for further information.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2006
Kindergarten, Elementary & Secondary Students *NEW* to Western Québec School Board

KINDERGARTEN & ELEMENTARY

Dr. S.E. McDowell
89 Centre Street, Shawville
819.647.3800
February 6th to 10th – 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Onslow
850 rue Clarendon, Quyon
819.458.2375
February 6th to 9th – 8:30 am to 11:30 am

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 11

Dr. Wilbert Keon
104, rue Notre-Dame, Chapeau
819.689.2488
Open registration beginning February 13th
(Please call to make an appointment)

St. John's/John Paul II
10 rue Leslie, Campbell's Bay
819.648.2149
Open registration beginning February 13th
(Please call to make an appointment)

SECONDARY

Pontiac High
455 Maple Street, Shawville
819.647.2244
Open registration beginning February 13th
(Please call to make an appointment)



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Parents of students *NEW* to the elementary school system may register their child(ren) at their catchment area school listed above.

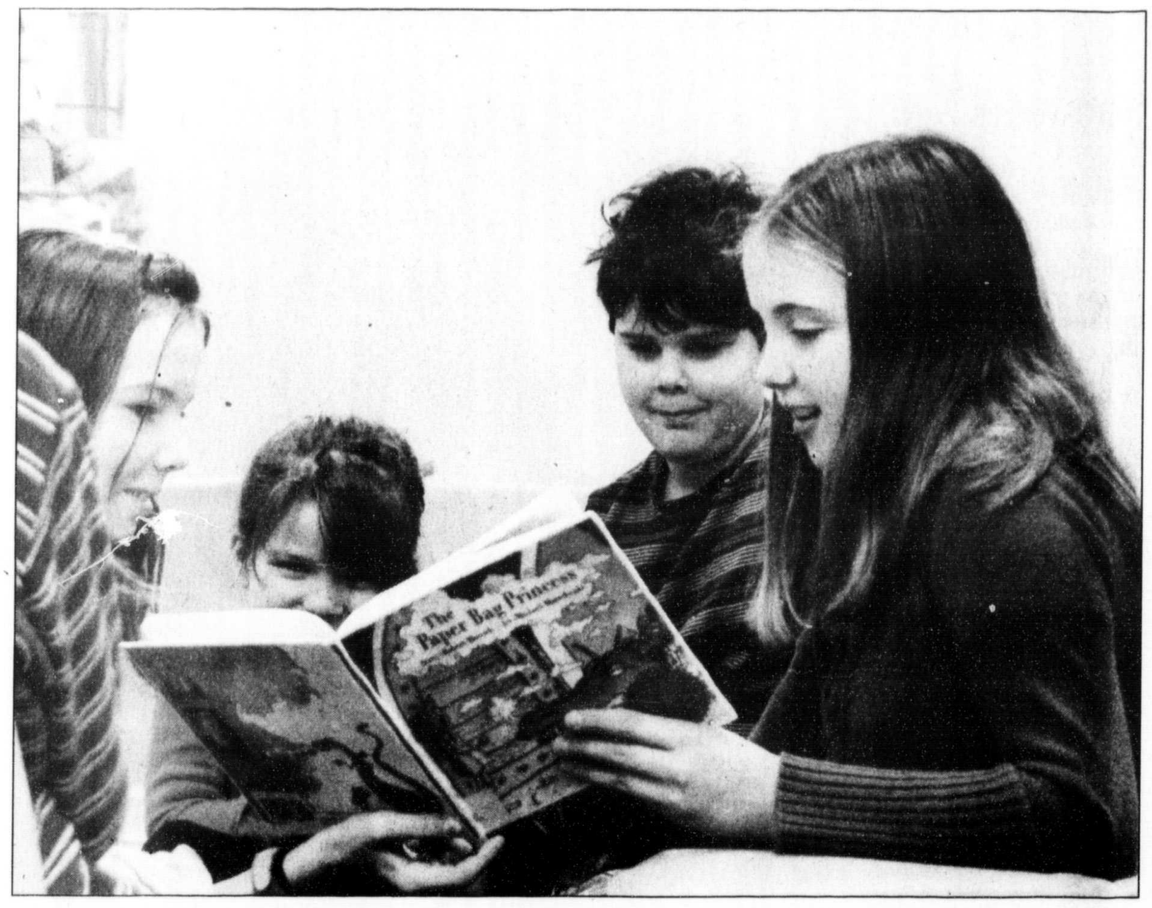
High School registrants at Dr. Wilbert Keon , John Paul II & Pontiac High School will register at the school of their choice.

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



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Emma Tubman, 13, and Kristen Woosley, 12, read to children during Saturday morning story hour held at the Shawville-Clarendon Library. The hour features two stories and a themed craft free to children.

Library story hour a chance for kids to explore reading

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • A place for your kids to get cozy and curl up with friends and a good book is closer than you'd think.

Story hour at the Shawville-Clarendon Library takes place Saturday mornings and is free to children of all ages.

Two volunteers from Pontiac High School, Emma Tubman and Kristen Woolsey, spend their Saturday mornings reading to young children.

"I think they like it," said Tubman. "I love it, I love working with kids."

The kids seemed to like it, too, as they crowded around the girls as close as they could to make sure they could see the pictures in the book.

"I just like the fact of entertaining them," said Tubman.

Each week a different theme is chosen, and two books are picked to be read. Then, a craft is planned for the children that ties into the theme.

Saturday was Robert Munsch Day. *Paper Bag Princess* was read and kids made paper bag princes and princesses to go along with the story.

Story hour was originally run by librarians when the library opened June 2004.

"The first summer we opened we ran one almost every Saturday," said librarian Jennifer Davies. "Last fall we had about 14 kids one time and were getting an average of 10 to 14 kids after Halloween."

But she said, the popularity dropped and the library was about to cancel running the weekend program.

"We have to plan a craft and buy supplies," said Davies. "They give up their time for this free service. It's really frustrating."

Other library events such as literacy day and internet safety sessions have also been not well-attended.

But story hour was brought to life once more when Woolsey and Tubman offered to read for it.

"We both like kids and we're here all the time," said Woolsey.

Parents don't need a library card for kids to participate, but are recommended to stick around for the hour.

The benefits of getting a child reading are enormous, and story hour is a great way for kids to get hooked.

"If you see a child start reading as a young child, they will stick with it," said Davies. "If they see it and are exposed to it, they will continue."

This upcoming Saturday is Jillian Jiggs Day. Story hour starts at 10 a.m. sharp.

Autistic child meets array of country stars

Latest encounter with living legend George Jones

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

BRYSON • Sheldon Ostrom has been face to face with fame more than a few times. A child who was diagnosed early in his life with autism, Sheldon's life is focused on country music.

"As soon as he hears a singer, he studies them," said Sheldon's father Eldon. "He has a terrific memory of just country music."

One spectrum of autism is the impaired ability to interact socially, to understand and to have restrictive and repetitive activities and interests. For 15-year-old Sheldon, it is to memorize dates and names in the country music world.

This has come in handy when he gets to meet and greet famous country music stars when their tour stops in the Ottawa area.

"Being autistic, he doesn't hold a favourite," said Eldon. "He figures these people are equal to him and he studies the statistics on all of them."

Most recently, Sheldon was granted access to meet George Jones, the country singer who dubbed such hits as *Why Baby Why* in 1955 and *If Drinkin' Don't Kill Me (Her Memory Will)* in 1981.

"He told him, 'You are George Jones and you are a living legend'," said Eldon. "Then he told him all about his life from memory including the years his hits were released, his birth date, his major awards, the date he was inducted into the country music hall of fame, the date of his living legend award, his number one hits, the number of albums he has released throughout his career and his record labels."

Sheldon was able to impress Jones with a long list of the singer's own accomplishments.

"George was so amazed and replied to Sheldon, 'Son, you know more about my life than I do'," said Eldon. Then Jones reached into his suit pocket and gave Sheldon his guitar pick.

Jones hasn't been the only country artist to be impressed with Sheldon's memorization skills.

Sheldon has also met Tim McGraw, Alan Jackson, Charlie Major, Jo Dee Messina, Emerson Drive, Terri Clark and Charley Pride, to name a few. Sheldon's bedroom is covered with photos and memorabilia of stars he has met and concerts he has been to.

"The first one he met was Tim McGraw when he was seven," said Eldon.

Each one he met was very kind, Eldon said.

"When it comes to children with disabilities these entertainers are very loving and obliging," said Eldon. "He is a very lucky boy."

Sheldon's passion for country music came from his parents, who constantly left the radio on. As a young boy, his parents found that he would grow upset when the music wasn't on, and his passion grew from there.

"We started getting phone calls from friends wanting to find out facts about songs on the radio," said Sheldon's mother Grace. "He could win radio contests, too."

But Sheldon isn't the only one in the Ostrom family of Bryson who holds a healthy obsession. Sheldon's younger brother Kenny loves the Toronto Maple Leafs, but has yet to meet any players face to face.

"We have fun," said Kenny of Sheldon as a big brother.

A part of Sheldon's personality is that he likes his day to run according to schedule. This can prove troubling sometimes as it did one day after seeing Brad Paisley play at the casino in Hull a few years ago.

"He met Brad Paisley two years ago and on the way home the timing belt went in the car near Quyon after the concert," said Eldon.

Immediately Sheldon knew something wasn't right and became upset, wanting to go home.

"We were in total darkness and Sheldon was just frantic," said Eldon.

Eldon was able to flag down the next passing car, and Quyon country music entertainer Gail Gavan approached the car. She had been coming home from the same concert.

"She called the tow truck for us," said Eldon. "It was the middle of the night."

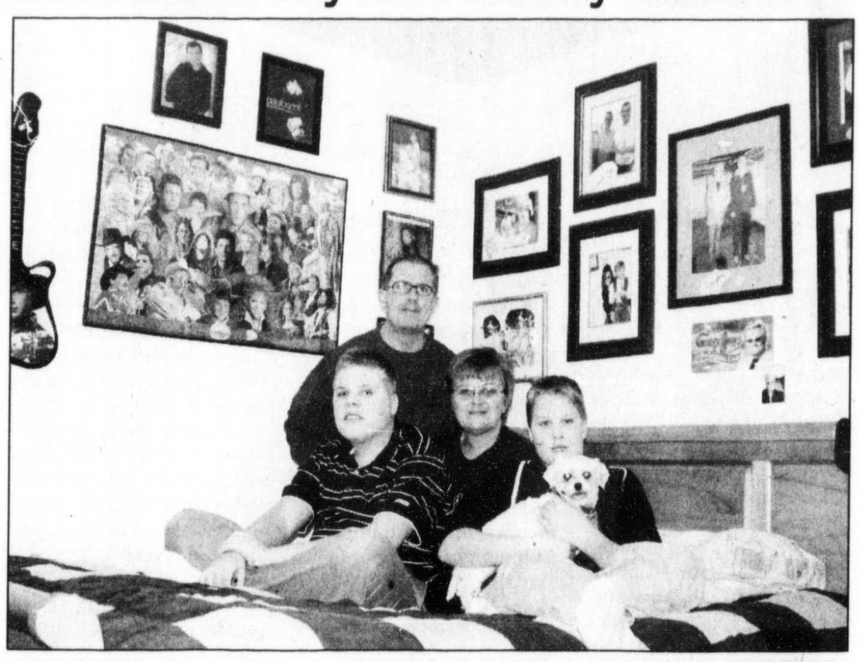
Meanwhile, Sheldon was still upset. In order to keep Sheldon calm, Gavan began to sing the *Log Drivers' Song*.

"I will never forget it," said Eldon. "It was as if a country music entertainer saved us."

And so he will continue to study his favourite country artists — when he's not studying at Pontiac High School —and hopefully will meet a few more along the way.

Sheldon's next meet and greet may be with Brad Paisley in April.

"He doesn't ride a bike, doesn't play sports, he just likes country music," said Eldon.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

The Ostrom family sits in Sheldon's room covered with country music memorabilia, most of it autographed or framed with a photo of Sheldon and a star. Sheldon has met over 10 famous country music singers when they have stopped to play a show in Ottawa over the years. From the left: Kenny, Eldon, Grace, Sheldon and Katie the dog.

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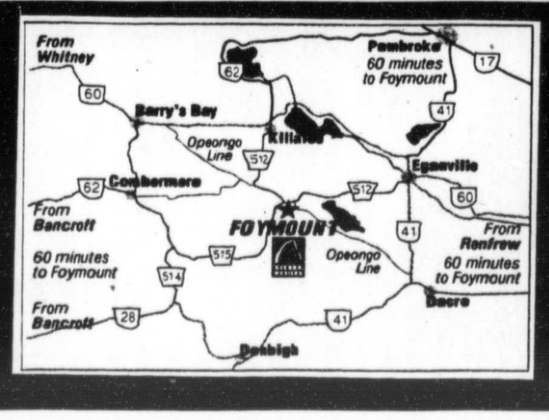
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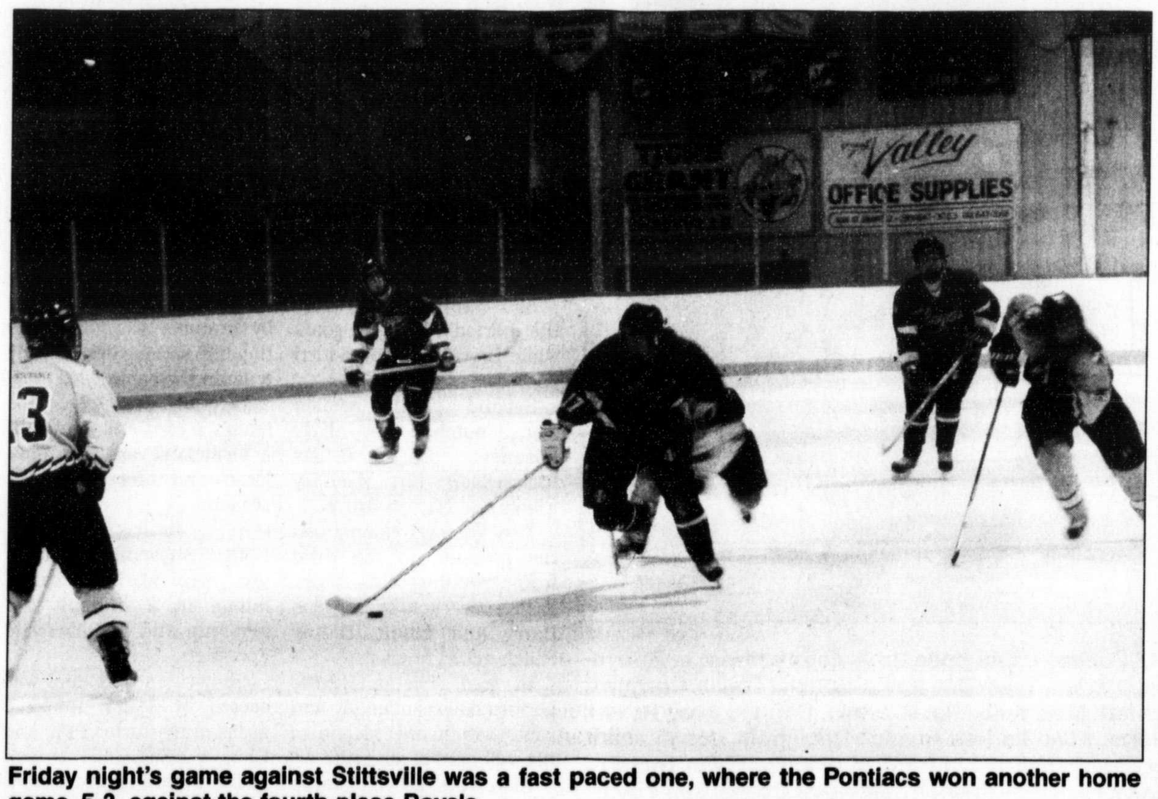
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SPORTS

Pontiacs in splitsville with Stittsville



Friday night's game against Stittsville was a fast paced one, where the Pontiacs won another home game, 5-3, against the fourth-place Royals.

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • With the regular season winding down and the team's eyes gazing at the pending playoffs, the Shawville Pontiacs' Junior 'B' team split a pair of weekend games with the Stittsville Royals.

Friday's home match-up led to a 5-3 victory that was clinched in the dying seconds by a Cody Coughlin empty-netter.

Pontiacs	**5**
Stittsville	**3**

The win also temporarily lifted the Pontiacs into a tie for fourth in the Valley division of the Eastern Ontario Junior 'B' Hockey League.

However, Sunday's 4-2 loss at Stittsville dropped the team back into fifth spot, where they appear destined to remain with only three games left in the season.

Friday's game was a strong effort from the Pontiacs.

The Pontiacs took an early lead thanks to a Jordan MacDougall goal at 4:10 of the first period, and never trailed in the contest.

"(Jordan's) our go-to guy," said Head Coach Pierre Legacé.

"He's the rock of the team."

Tied at one after the opening frame, the team scored two goals in the second period, with Coughlin and Yancey Thusky providing the goals.

With the team looking to put the game away with a definitive fourth goal, the Royals came storming back by notching two goals in two minutes late in the second.

Tied at three following two frames, David Fenn, newcomer and goal-scoring fiend, posted his fifth goal in seven games for the Pontiacs, putting the home side up by one.

Stittsville	**4**
Pontiacs	**2**

The Royals pressed for a tying goal but had their hopes crushed by Coughlin's empty-netter.

On Sunday against the same Stittsville team, the Pontiacs succumbed yet again on the road, where their record now stands at 4-13-1 for the season.

Legacé doesn't think the team's record on the road is indicative of their play away from home, however.

"It's not that we don't play well away," said the coach.

"When you play at home, the team that's in front of the home fans has the advantage."

In the case of Stittsville, Legacé believes the team ran into a hot goaltender in the form of Jean-Francois Perron, a former Shawville player.

"It's often the case that when you play against the team you used to play for, that you have more motivation," said Legacé.

The Pontiacs were up in this game, by a score of 2-1, but three unanswered Stittsville goals produced the defeat.

Captain MacDougall proved he's over his injury woes, providing both of the Pontiacs' goals.

Coughlin, Bryan Kealey and Kevin Cuddihy all had assists in the loss.

The team plays only one game this weekend, a road contest at the Perth Bluewings on Sunday.

Perth sit in first place in the Valley division and hold a stellar 13-2-3 record at home, making victory a tall task for the Pontiacs.

Four Pontiacs all-stars

The league has named its all-stars for the season and a number of Pontiacs players will skate their way onto the ice for the Feb. 4 game.

Defencemen Matt Collins and Bryan Kealey will be joined by forwards MacDougall and Fenn as part of the Valley division team, which will take on the Metro division team.

Three Pontiacs' rookies will also play in the Prospects game on the same day.

Defenceman Cody Legacé will suit up along with forwards Marc Maurice and Coughlin.

The festivities will be hosted by the South Ottawa Canadiens.

Auberge du Village
Shawville Village Inn
921 Route 148, Shawville, QC
(819) 647-6464

UPCOMING EVENTS

Escapade Eskimo Dog Sled Rides
January 28 - 12 - 2 p.m.
and
January 29 - 12 - 4 p.m.
Enjoy a memorable dog sledding experience
www.escapade-eskimo.com



Feb. 11 - Valentine's Dinner (reservations recommended)
High Tea Tuesdays 2-4 pm (reservations required)
Fondue Fridays (reservations required)
Cooking Classes - call for information

Don't forget our full menu is available for ***Take Out***

3rd Annual
Fundraiser Hockey Game
for CHEO



PONTIAC STARS vs Chevy WEST



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Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

A team member from École Poupoure Team 2 takes a penalty shot on the goalie from École Poupoure Team 1 as part of Québec en Forme's recreational soccer tournament for fifth and sixth graders in the Pontiac on Thursday, Jan. 19.

Quebec en Forme helps students shoot for goals

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

FORT COULONGE • Some young people were getting their kicks at Poupoure Elementary School on Thursday, Jan. 19.

Fifth and sixth graders from across the Pontiac participated in an indoor soccer tournament, with students from Notre Dame du Sacré coeur in Chapeau, Dr. Wilbert Keon in Chapeau and Poupoure in Fort Coulonge all taking part.

Quebec en Forme, the organization that works to encourage youth to be physically active, had conducted after-school workshops focusing on soccer for eight weeks.

The four-on-four plus goalie tournament was the culmination of the practices and development of fundamental skills.

"There's a real learning experience with this and other after-school programs," said Pontiac Quebec en Forme co-ordinator, Patrice Roy.

> "I like playing soccer, it's a lot of fun."
> **—Samuel Martineau**
> 12-year-old from École Poupoure

The tournament was originally scheduled to take place in December, but poor weather caused it to be reset for last week.

Students from Dr. S.E. McDowell elementary school in Shawville, Notre Dame de la Joie in Luskville, St. Mary's Elementary School in Quyon and Onslow Elementary School in Quyon took part in a similar tournament at McDowell on the same evening.

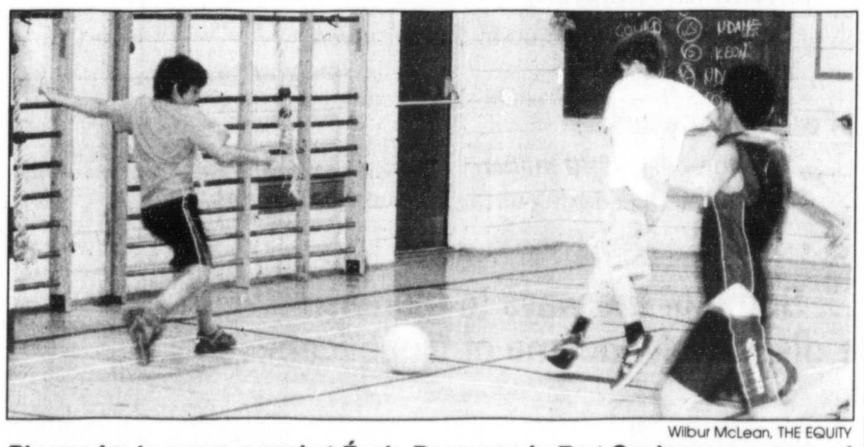
For the students, it's been an enjoyable time.

"I like it. I like playing soccer, it's a lot of fun," said Samuel Martineau, 12, of Poupoure.

Quebec en Forme has been working with schools throughout the Pontiac to develop their after-school programs.

While soccer is the current focus, schools will soon turn their attention to cooperative games and students will go through a similar cycle of eight weeks of practice followed by a tournament.

Other sports are expected to follow in a similar fashion.



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Players try to score a goal at École Poupoure in Fort Coulonge as some of the Pontiac's fifth and sixth graders participated in a soccer tournament. Teams from three schools were in Fort Coulonge while others participated in venues across the Pontiac.

Family Literacy Day activities run from A to Z

January 27 devoted to encouraging reading

PONTIAC • On Jan. 27, families and communities across Canada will participate in ABC Canada Family Literacy Day™. Now in its eighth year, this national initiative, created by ABC Canada Literacy Foundation and supported by founding sponsor Honda Canada, promotes the importance of developing literacy skills, including reading, writing and math, as a family.

"Reading, writing, surfing the Net, measuring ingredients for a recipe — there are many fun things a family can do together that boost literacy skills," says Christine Featherstone, President and CEO of ABC Canada

This year, schools, libraries and literacy organizations across the country are planning special events and activities to celebrate Family Literacy Day™(FLD), which ABC Canada supports with a wide selection of promotional materials. As well, ABC Canada is encouraging families to hold their own FLD parties.

Some A – Z literacy tips and activities for you and your family:

Act as a reading role model for your children by reading in your spare time. Remember, they learn by example.

Boost baby's brainpower by reading aloud. Infants love the sound of a parent's voice and the closeness of sharing.

Combine reading with your children's favourite activities or hobbies. Choose books about things that really interest them.

Donate some of your time to a literacy program in your community.

Encourage children and teens to read newspapers. It increases their understanding of current events and enhances reading proficiency. Follow a regular homework schedule with your child. Be available for at least part of the time to help and give encouragement.

Give gently used books to boost your child's library without spending a lot. Garage sales and church bazaars are wonderful family outings and great places to find books.

Have fun. Reading and learning is a delight, not a chore. Show your children that with riddles, made-up stories, songs, puzzles and counting games.

Imagination is a wonderful thing. On car trips or in your living room, your children will love to play the Imagine game. It sparks creativity and the love of storytelling.

Just reading to your child for 20 minutes a day adds up to more than 1,450 hours of learning, from infancy to the end of Grade 6.

Kitchens are great places to develop literacy skills. Cooking and baking with children can encourage both reading and math skills.

Lend life experiences when reading. Saying things such as, "This reminds me of the time we visited Grandma ... " engages the young reader.

Make everyday tasks learning experiences. Ask your children to write out a shopping list, address an envelope or help to make a calendar of weekly activities.

Nurture good literacy habits by having a quiet place in your home with reading material handy so it can be picked up and looked at anytime.

Offer to proofread homework, spell-check a paragraph, or verify math answers after your child has done the work.

Provide children and teens with a wide variety of reading materials. Magazines, comic books, instructions on how to operate a new computer game – it's all reading.

Question your children about the story to make sure they understand and to stimulate their creativity.

Rhymes and songs are fun ways to tell stories and share ideas.

Surf the Internet with your child to discover fun and educational sites.

Turn off the TV and video games – pick up a book instead.

Use it or lose it. Reading is like a muscle - it needs regular exercise or it goes flabby.

Visit the library with your children and share with them the fun of experiencing what a library has to offer, and the pride in having their very own library card.

Words are everywhere. Signs, billboards, cereal boxes – everywhere you look, there are words and ideas to stimulate a child's imagination and love of learning.

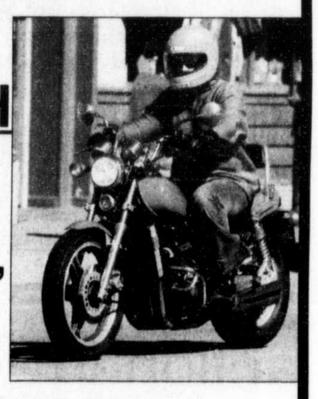
Exercise your mind doing crossword puzzles, word jumbles and word searches. Get fun and easy ones for small children and start a good habit early.

Your child can pick up early math skills without even knowing it. Skipping, jumping, sidewalk cracks and playing hopscotch - all sorts of games include counting.

Zoo outings and visits to local museums and galleries can be fun and educational. Encourage your child to read the descriptions on the cages or displays.

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Fort-Coulonge & Mansfield, Quebec
Winter Carnival 2006
Centre Récreatif Fort-Coulonge / Fort-Coulonge Recreation Centre
February 3rd, 4th and 5th

HIGHLIGHTS

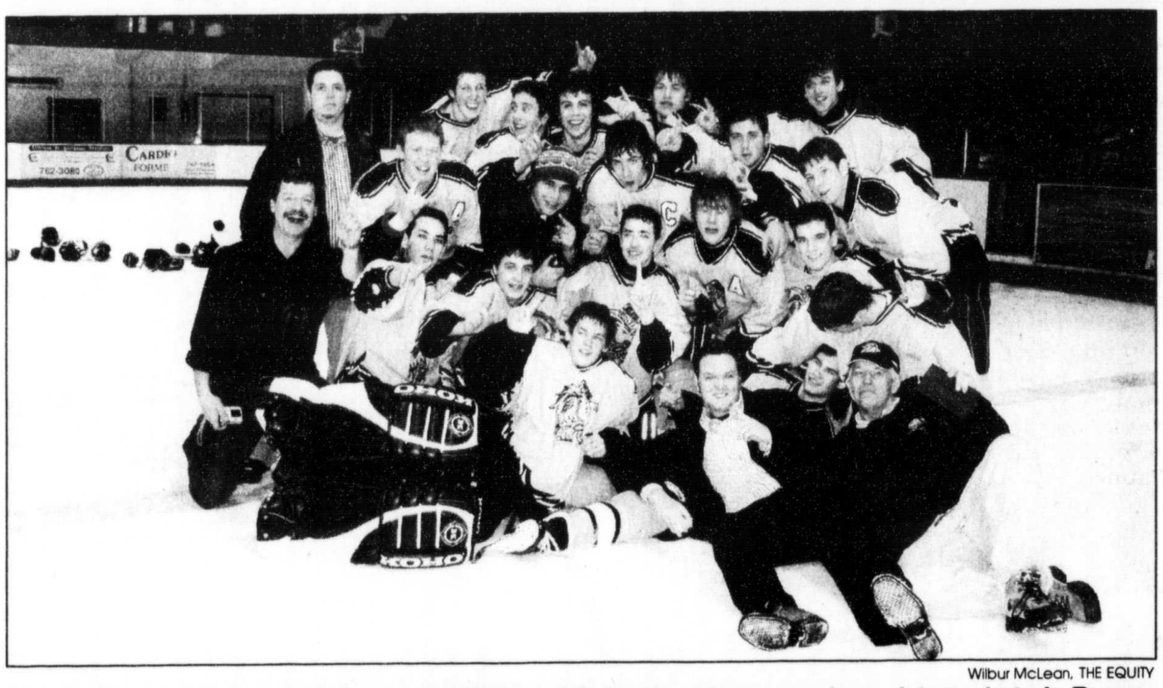
PAGEANT
Carnival Queen Pageant January 28th (Six Contestants) at Ecole Secondaire Sieur de Coulonge. theme **"A tribute to the legends of hockey"** • Tickets $10.00 includes light lunch
• contestants representing: Quyon, Shawville, Campbell's Bay, Fort-Coulonge, Mansfield, and Chapeau.
All Monies raised going to Canadian Tire JumpStart Charity in aid of Hockey Mineur Draveurs de Fort-Coulonge and Shawville and District Minor Hockey
No vehicles on Carnival Grounds - Shuttle Bus running
No admission to grounds Event admissions ONLY!

- **Father and Son(s) Hockey** Fort-Coulonge vs. Mansfield 8 pm **Friday Night** Coulonge Arena
- **Women's Hockey** Fort-Coulonge vs. Pembroke 9 pm **Friday Night** Coulonge Arena
- DJ Music Upstairs Arena 10 pm **Friday Night** . . Cash bar
- Snowmobile **Ca$h Drag$** . .Snow and Ice Ski-Doo Drag Races
- **Saturday and Sunday** February 4th and 5th races start at 10:00 am
- **Lumberjack Competition (amateur) Saturday** 2:30 pm
- **Lumberjack Show** featuring former **"Buck Saw" World Champion Jean-Pierre Mercier and his Pro Staff.** Following amateur competition
- **Draw for Stihl MS 260 Chainsaw . .all competitors and spectators in draw!**
- **Midway Games** 50/50 on entrants pot + trophies for Men, Women and Children Winners in: **"BreakAway" (Hockey Shoot)** and **"Shooting Gallery" (Target Shooting)**
- **Midway Food Court (Great Food!) all day Saturday and Sunday!**
- **Minor Hockey *ALL DAY*** in Arena
- **"Stars of the Future"** Spaghetti and Meatball Supper **$10.00 adults and $5.00 children 12 and under,** Includes fresh bread and soft drink! . . mmmmmm!. **Saturday 5-8:30 pm** St.Pierre Parish Hall.
- **Original 6 Super Stars Competition** 9:00 pm Fort-Coulonge Arena
  o Fastest Skater o Target Shoot o One-on-One o Hardest Slapshot
- The sensational Band **"Roadhouse"** at the St. Pierre Parish Hall 10 pm - 2:00 am $7.50 per person, $5.00 with the purchase of a Spaghetti dinner ticket! **Cash Bar**
- **Carnival Parade** led by the **(6) Original 6 Floats** with the pageant contestants (riding on the floats) representing the Original 6 hockey teams and joined by **"Anyone"** who wants to participate in the parade. . . .Parade will start assembly at 11:00 am and begin its procession from Ecole Secondaire Sieur de Coulonge to the Fort-Coulonge Centre Recreatif at 11:30 am . .on **Sunday Morning** . . parade will be broadcast **"LIVE"** . .on CHIP FM 101.7 from 11:30 am to 12:45 pm . . **Join the festivities** . .and **EVERYONE . .TUNE IN to CHIP FM . . .and hear the action!**
- **Ca$h Drag$ ICE Track Races start at 10:00 am**
- **Midway Games Finals (Children's, Women's and Men's Class) Sunday 2:00 pm**
- **Closing Ceremonies Sunday 4:00 pm**
- Original 6 **"All Star"** Game **8:00 pm** Fort-Coulonge Arena **East vs. West**

All Races at the Centre Récreatif Fort-Coulonge / Fort-Coulonge Recreation Centre
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SPORTS



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Players from the championship-winning Midget 'CC' Pontiac Lions pose for a victory photo in Rouyn-Noranda. Top row, in uniform, from the left: James O'Brien, Tyler Orr, Kevin Soucie, Travis Corrigan, Christian Francoeur; third row, in uniform, from the left: Mike Kelly, Pat Wawatie, Captain Joey Raven, Curtis Young, Scott Levesque; second row, in uniform, from the left: Russell Decourcie, Justin Alary, Kevin Lachapelle, Sandy Dubeau, Jacob Sincennes, Justin Murray; in front, in uniform: Ryan Therens. Dressed in street clothes are Jeremie Chretien, Head Coach Jeff Russell, Assistant Coach Tom Fraser, Trainer Pat Therens, Assistant Trainer Kyle Fraser. Missing from photo: Kathy Young, team manager.

Midget Pontiac Lions take home tourney crown

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • A thrilling weekend produced a championship banner for the Pontiac Lions Midget 'CC' team at the 33rd annual AA/BB tournament in Rouyn-Noranda.

A tense final pitting the Lions against the hometown Rouyn-Noranda Capitales in double overtime was brought to a victorious end when Mike Kelly of the Pontiacs scored from Kevin Lachapelle to lift the team to a 4-3 victory.

"Right now, I'm more relieved after that overtime game," said Head Coach Jeff Russell.

This is the second consecutive year the team has captured the tournament in Rouyn-Noranda and sets up well for the Lions participating in the annual Midget tournament in Shawville.

The team also won despite the fact that they are classifed as 'CC', and were playing one level higher at 'BB' in the tournament.

"It brought everyone together really well, especially for this week," said Russell.

The Lions finished the tournament undefeated, picking up five wins in the process.

The team's first game was a clear-cut victory over Abitibi Ouest, 5-2.

Pat Wawatie scored two goals, while Tyler Orr, Lachapelle and Jeremie Chretien each added one.

Assists were notched by Scott Levesque (2), Sandy Dubeau, Jacob Sincennes, Kevin Soucie and Joey Raven.

The Lions' next matchup pitted them against Provigo Ville Marie, whom Pontiac shut out 2-0.

Travis Corrigan and Soucie scored goals in the win, while Raven, Chretien, Soucie and Justin Murray all had assists.

In goal, Christian Francoeur picked up the shutout and was later named the goaltender of the tournament.

The team's final round-robin game found them in a tight matchup against the Kirkland Lake Gold Midgets.

Giving the team from Pontiac their sternest test of the tournament thus far, the Lions pulled out a 3-2 win.

Soucie, Alary and Sincennes all scored goals for Pontiac.

Dubeau, Soucie, Jeremie Chretien, Curtis Young and Lachapelle each had assists.

In the playoff round, it was guaranteed there would be no easy games left, and that proved true as the Lions were in tough against the Federation De Montreal l'Est.

A strong all-around effort gave the Lions the 5-4 win, however.

Raven, Chretien, Russell Decourcie, Sincennes and Soucie were the Lions' goalscorers.

Assists were picked up by Soucie (2), Young, Travis Corrigan, Murray and Dubeau.

That victory set up the Lions for their dramatic double-overtime thriller against the Capitales.

Lachapelle scored one goal in regulation to add to his game winner.

Chretien and Corrigan also scored.

Dubeau, Decourcie, Young and Mike Kelly were helpers on the goals.

Ryan Therens was the winning goaltender in net.

The team has little time to rest as they now look forward to this week's Shawville National Midget Tournament, with games today at 8 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 8 p.m, all games at the arena in Shawville.

The team consists of 15 and 16-year-olds and is comprised of players from Shawville, Fort Coulonge, Maniwaki and La Peche.

Midget action in town this week

SHAWVILLE • Action in the 31st edition of the Pontiac National Midget Hockey Tournament gets under way today at the arena in Shawville.

The tournament, which showcases Midget 'AA', 'BB' and 'CC' competition, is the second-oldest midget hockey tournament running in Canada.

Until Sunday, 22 teams from across Quebec (and one team from Florida) will compete in three divisions to win the Giant Tiger Cup or the Young's Appliances award.

A new aspect of this year's tournament is that teams will be divided into three divisions and will not compete against each other in a final match.

"It should be a lot more entertaining," said Tim Powell, tournament chair.

Last year the grand champion was "Deux Rives" from Montreal.

Each team plays at least three games over the tournament and players will receive sterling silver rings for participating, with the help of one of the tournament's major sponsors Pepsi.

The home opener game featuring home team Pontiac Lions and Ottawa Senators head coach Bryan Murray starts Friday at 8 p.m. The Lions have won the tournament once, in 1985.

Original 6 Hockey League

Standings

Team	W	L	T	OTL	P	GF	GA
Proprio Rangers	3	2	0	0	6	23	16
Mega Dollar Bruins	3	2	0	0	6	26	20
Metro Canadiens	3	2	0	0	6	16	19
Francoeur Leafs	2	2	0	1	5	24	25
Bowers Black Hawks	2	3	0	0	2	16	20
Draveur Red Wings	2	3	0	0	2	20	25

Sunday, January 22

Bowers Black Hawks 5, Proprio Rangers 3
Black Hawks: Martin Dube, 3 goals; Dean Nadeau, 1 g, 1 a
Rangers: Gilles Laprade, Fern Mousseau, Louis Soucie, 1 goal ch
Shots on Goal: Hawks 20, Rangers 18

Draveur Red Wings 3, Mega Dollar Bruins 1
Red Wings: Pat Herault, 1 goal, assist; Martin Levesque, 17 saves
Bruins: Shawn Mousseau, 1 g; Germain Bourque, 1 a
Shots on Goal: Bruins 19, Red Wings 17

Metro Canadiens 6, Francoeur Leafs 5 (Canadiens win shootout)
Canadiens: Dan Dube, 2 goals, 3 assists; Jacques Mousseau, 2 g
Leafs: Martin Danis, 2 goals, 2 assists; Roch Marion, 2 g, 2 a
Shots on Goal: Canadiens 25, Leafs 24

HOME WORK | TOM MCCANN

Instructions and mosquitoes

PONTIAC • Here are three reasons why instructions are like mosquitoes. I recently did what most people do and tried to ignore diagrammed assembly instructions.

The other day my first mistake was caused by a genetic flaw that makes it so difficult for people like myself to take the time to read a simple assembly guide before working ourselves into a frenzy because tab A won't fit into slot B as our internal compass tells us it should.

My second mistake came after attempting to unsuccessfully build some storage shelving when I tried to read the assembly instructions, by looking at the diagrams and quickly skimming the text. This only confirmed the fact that my original approach was right.

After another 30 minutes or so of increasing frustration I took a deep breath and counted to 12 because 10 hadn't helped any. After a second deep breath I took the time to sit and properly read the instructions when on the second page below the third picture I came across the information I needed.

Now it was not exactly an epiphany but more of an "I should have been told about this sooner." With this new information I was able to finish the work at hand in a much faster time frame than I had been working in.

When the work was completed I sat to appreciate my effort while sipping a cold beverage of my choice. At this point I took to ponder instructions and their place in the scheme of things. The thing that occurred to me was that they have a lot in common with mosquitoes. First I didn't consider that either is really necessary but they must have a use. Second, given a choice most people avoid both as much as possible. Third and final is that neither is as good as looking with satisfaction upon a job well done while sipping a cold beverage of your choice.

Tom is the owner of HYM and can be reached at hym@igs.net

Pontiacs Novice 'B' top Hull Aigles

And other recent minor hockey action from around the Pontiac

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • The Shawville Pontiacs Novice B squad performed strongly on the weekend, handily defeating the Hull Aigles 5-1.

After a scoreless first period, the Pontiacs came out in the second with a torrid pace, scoring three goals.

Alex Gauthier had two of the period's trio of goals while Bryce Atkinson added one.

Second period assists were notched by Kyle Misener (2), Briggs Richardson (2), Zachary Elliott and Darron Bruce.

The Pontiacs maintained the pressure in the third frame adding two more goals, one each by Thomas Barry and Elliott. Danny Pasch added an assist.

In goal, Tristan Beattie performed exceptionally and came within one second of his well-earned shutout.

Alas, a last-second goal by the Aigles ended his goalless aspirations.

The team's record on the year now stands at six wins and three losses.

Peewee 'B'

The road was a bumpy one for the Shawville Pontiacs this week, as they fell 3-1 in an away game at the home of the Hull Frontaliers.

A lone third period goal by Charlie McKenny, assisted by Branden Alexander, was the only scoring done by the team in the game.

Despite the loss, the team's record still stands at a formidable six wins, five losses and three ties on the season.

Novice 'A'

The Shawville Pontiacs lost their weekend game, falling in a difficult 5-1 matchup with the Maniwaki Forestiers.

Shawville's only goal was scored by Ayden Hodgins, assisted by Carter Pirie and Clancey Keon.

The team's record is now three wins, four losses and two ties.

Community Bonspiel starts tomorrow at Shawville rink

SHAWVILLE • The 31st annual Shawville Community Bonspiel begins tomorrow at the Shawville Curling Rink.

Running over 11 days, 72 teams in 12 divisions will vie for the coveted "Toilet Seat Trophy" in what is said to be the largest single rink bonspiel in North America. The trophy was won last year by Hayes Funeral Home.

Come cheer on your local business teams starting at 7 p.m. tomorrow.



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- An additional ***$390 million*** in their pockets thanks to the 2.43% indexing of tax brackets and credits.

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Québec

Plus de 150 000 poissons ensemencés dans la région de l'Outaouais en 2005

GATINEAU • Le Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec annonce que 153 381 poissons ont été ensemencés dans la région de l'Outaouais au cours de l'année 2005, et ce, pour le bénéfice des amateurs de pêche sportive, tout en générant des retombées économiques régionales. Ce sont essentiellement des truites qui ont été déversées dans une cinquantaine de plans d'eau facilement accessibles au public, à savoir 37 223 ombles de fontaine, 34 182 ombles moulac, 28 480 truites arc-en-ciel, 28 427 touladis et 25 069 truites brunes.

Chaque année, des lacs et rivières de l'Outaouais sont ensemencés dans le cadre de deux programmes : le plan d'ensemencement régional et le Festival de pêche. Le plan d'ensemencement du Ministère sert à planifier des déversements de poissons sur plusieurs années, en visant soit l'amélioration immédiate de l'offre de pêche, soit la conservation d'une population de poissons en difficulté comme c'est le cas du touladi dans certains lacs. En vertu de ce plan, 128 702 truites ont été ensemencées dans 39 plans d'eau, ce qui dépasse les prévisions initiales. En effet, l'Outaouais a bénéficié en 2005 de la disponibilité d'un surplus de poissons en provenance des pisciculture gouvernementales et destinés aux plans d'ensemencement de l'ensemble des régions.

Les plans d'eau ont été sélectionnés selon divers critères dont l'accessibilité, la fréquentation et la répartition régionale. Le choix de l'espèce ensemencée, quant à lui, a été déterminé en fonction des normes ministérielles, qui visent notamment à protéger la biodiversité et l'équilibre naturel des espèces. Les déversements de poissons ont été effectués par le personnel du Ministère en région, avec la participation bénévole de plusieurs associations de chasseurs et pêcheurs.

Dans le cadre du programme Festival de pêche, 13 plans d'eau ont accueilli 24 679 truites en provenance de pisciculture gouvernementales et privées, grâce à des projets dont la réalisation et une part importante du financement proviennent d'organismes régionaux (municipalités et associations sportives). Rappelons que ce programme permet de fournir une aide financière à des projets visant à soutenir la pêche là où l'écart entre l'offre et la demande est le plus grand, soit en milieu urbain et périurbain, de même qu'à recruter de nouveaux adeptes de la pêche.

Tous les poissons ensemencés en Outaouais étaient âgés d'un an. Les ombles de fontaine mesuraient de 12 à 30 cm, les ombles moulac entre 12 et 16 cm, les truites arc-en-ciel de 15 à 35 cm, les touladis de 10 à 15 cm et les truites brunes entre 12 et 50 cm. La liste détaillée des plans d'eau ayant bénéficié de l'un ou l'autre des programmes est disponible au bureau du ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, secteur Faune Québec, à Gatineau (819-772-3434).

La pêche sportive est pratiquée par près de 49 000 personnes résidant en Outaouais, qui consacrent à cette activité des dépenses d'environ 82 millions de dollars. De plus, une enquête a révélé qu'un nombre encore plus élevé de résidents se disent intéressés par ce loisir qu'ils ne pratiquent pas encore.

L'amélioration de l'offre de pêche par l'apport de poissons ensemencés contribue non seulement à la qualité d'une activité de plein air très populaire mais également à la vitalité économique de la région.

Mise en œuvre de la Loi sur les services de garde éducatifs à l'enfance

GATINEAU • Les députés(e) de l'Outaouais, MM. Benoît Pelletier (Chapleau), Roch Cholette (Hull), Norm MacMillan (Papineau), Réjean Lafrenière (Gatineau) et Madame Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac) saluent la mise en place par la ministre de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine, madame Carole Théberge, d'un groupe de travail chargé de recommander la délimitation des territoires des bureaux coordonnateurs qui administreront les services de garde en milieu familial.

Cette annonce faite le 29 décembre dernier permettra au gouvernement de réaliser une des prémisses de la Loi sur les services de garde éducatifs à l'enfance et répond donc aux attentes du milieu à la suite de discussions avec l'Association québécoise des centres de la petite enfance (AQCPE), le Conseil québécois des centres de la petite enfance (CQCPE) et l'Association des éducatrices en milieu familial (AEMF).

« Nous avons franchi la première étape de la mise en œuvre de la Loi. En posant ce geste, nous réaffirmons notre volonté d'adapter le réseau aux réalités de demain de façon harmonieuse, avec la collaboration de l'ensemble des acteurs du système des services de gardes éducatifs, et ce, au bénéfice des enfants et des parents », a indiqué madame L'Écuyer.

Les membres qui constitueront le groupe de travail sont :

- Mme Julie Gosselin, sous-ministre associée au ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport;
- M. Roger Paquette, sous-ministre associé au ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux;
- M. André Gamache, directeur de la Conférence régionale des élus de Montréal;
- M. Jocelyn Dumas, secrétaire général associé au ministère du Conseil exécutif;
- M. Marc Forest, directeur général de la Municipalité régionale de comté de Portneuf;
- M. Pierre Lamarche, sous-ministre adjoint au ministère de Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine.

Le groupe de travail, qui a débuté ses travaux le 9 janvier 2006, est chargé de faire des propositions à la ministre relativement au nombre de bureaux coordonnateurs ainsi qu'à la démarcation des territoires qu'ils desserviront. « L'objectif est de trouver la meilleure façon de répondre aux besoins des responsables de garde en milieu familial selon des spécificités géographiques et culturelles régionales. En fait, nous voulons nous assurer que tous les enfants, tant en milieu urbain qu'en milieu rural, puissent bénéficier des mêmes services de qualité », a ajouté L'Écuyer.

Le mandat du groupe de travail sera notamment de considérer la proposition d'organisation territoriale émanant du ministère de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine en tenant compte des orientations d'accessibilité, de qualité des services et de gouvernance de la Loi sur les services de garde éducatifs à l'enfance ainsi que de recueillir les commentaires et les propositions du milieu des services de garde. Le rapport découlant de ces travaux devra être remis à la ministre au plus tard le 24 février 2006 afin de mettre les bureaux coordonnateurs en place le 1er juin 2006.

La coalition pour l'entretien et la réfection du réseau routier exige la création d'un fonds d'édié de 20 milliards de dollars

MONTREAL • La Coalition pour l'entretien et la réfection du réseau routier du Québec pose aujourd'hui un geste public par le dévoilement d'une vaste étude concluant à l'urgence pour le gouvernement du Québec de créer un fonds d'édié de 20 milliards de dollars sur 10 ans. De cette façon, il assurerait la réhabilitation et la pérennité de son réseau routier supérieur tout en dépolitisant le débat entourant la détermination des investissements en travaux routiers.

« Le gouvernement doit prendre enfin le virage de l'entretien préventif de ses routes. Pour éviter une catastrophe prévisible, le gouvernement doit en effet prendre une meilleure part des contributions des automobilistes et instaurer un mode de gestion responsable des fonds disponibles dans l'avenir. De toutes façons, il faut comprendre que, tôt ou tard, les Québécois devront investir suffisamment pour corriger la situation », déclare Monsieur Guy Chevrette, porte •parole de la Coalition.

L'étude

Pour la première fois, une étude révèle que les utilisateurs de la route versent aux gouvernements plus de 5,5 milliards $ en contributions financières de toutes sortes, soit 3,4 milliards$ au gouvernement du Québec et 2,1 milliards $ au gouvernement du Canada.

L'étude établit également que, de 2001 à 2004, la proportion des chaussées en bon état estpassée de 66% à 62%. Durant la même pérode, la proportion des structures en bon état (ponts, viaducs, ponceaux) est passeé de 60% à 57%.

L'étude relève de plus que les automobilistes des 50 plus grandes villes du monde paient en moyenne 142 $ US par année (soit environ 170 $ CAN) en frais d'entretien reliés au mauvais état des routes. Circuler sur une chaussée en mauvais état augmente aussi la consommation d'essence d'environ 35%.

L'étude démontre par ailleurs que l'entretien préventif des routes peut faire passer leur durée de vie utile d'environ 17 à 50 ans. Le coût de travaux effectués sur un kilomètre de route est de 1000 $ s'il est âgé de moins de 12 ans, de 80 000 $ s'il est âgé de 12 à 15 ans, et de 250 000 $ s'il est âgé de 15 ans et plus

Les principales recommandations

Tout d'abord, sachant que la proportion des chaussées et des structures en bon état est respectivement de 62% et 57%, la Coalition recommande au gouvernement du Québec de faire en sorte que, d'ici 10 ans, cette proportion atteigne 80% dans les deux cas.

Pour y arriver, la Coalition recommande au gouvernement du Québec de consacrer durant cette période près de 20 milliards de dollars à l'entretien et la réfection du réseau routiersupérieur, soit environ 2 milliards de dollars par année. De plus, pour garantir la disponibilité de ces fonds, la Coalition recommande de consolider une part significative des contributions financières des usagers de la route dans le Fonds de conservation et d'amélioration du réseau routier (FCARR).

La Coalition recommande enfin la création d'une Société de conservation et d'amélioration du réseau routier du Québec, chargée notamment d'administrer le FCARR, d'innover et d'améliorer les aspects techniques relatifs à l'entretien et de garantir une vision à plus longterme de la préservation de nos infrastructures routières. Une telle prévisibilité des fonds permettrait de dé politiser le débat et ainsi voir à un meilleur entretien du patrimoine public.

La Coalition

La Coalition est constituée des 17 organisations suivantes : Association canadienne du ciment, Association des constructeurs de routes et grands travaux du Québec, Association des ingé nieurs, conseils du Québec, Association des propriétaires d'autobus du Québec,

Association des propriétaires de machinerie lourde du Québec, Association nationale des camionneurs artisans inc., Association professionnelle des chauffeurs et chauffeuses de camion du Québec, Association québécoise des entrepreneurs en égouts et aqueducs, Bitume Québec, CAA Québec, Conseil canadien des distributeurs en alimentation, Conseil du patronat du Québec, Conseil québécois de l'industrie touristique, Fédération canadienne de l'entreprise indé pendante, Kéroul, Manufacturiers et exportateurs du Québec et Soleno.

L'étude a été réalisée par la firme André Légaré & Associés inc. L'étude complète et des fiches techniques thématiques sont disponibles sur demande.

Reconnaissance de l'action bénévole le Ministre Pelletier lance l'appel de candidatures pour l'obtention du prix Hommage bénévolat-Québec

Québec • Alors que la ministre de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale, Mme Michelle Courchesne, a procédé, hier, à l'occasion de la Journée internationale des bénévoles, au lancement de la 9e présentation du prix Hommage bénévolat-Québec, le ministre responsable de la région de l'Outaouais, M. Benoît Pelletier, ainsi que les députés Roch Cholette (comté de Hull), Réjean Lafrenière (comté de Gatineau), Charlotte L'Écuyer (comté de Pontiac) et Norman MacMillan (comté de Papineau) invitent la population à soumettre, dès aujourd'hui et jusqu'au 3 février, la candidature de bénévoles et d'organismes communautaires dont les actions ou les activités méritent d'être soulignées.

« L'action bénévole est un puissant moyen d'entraide et de soutien mutuel. Il est important de faire connaître et reconnaître l'importante contribution des femmes et des hommes qui, jour après jour, s'emploient généreusement à améliorer les conditions de vie de leurs pairs », a déclaré la ministre Courchesne.

« Prendre quelques minutes de notre temps pour soumettre la candidature d'une personne ou d'un organisme qui nous a particulièrement touché, est une façon unique de les remercier pour les gestes bienveillants qu'ils posent », a souligné le ministre Benoît Pelletier.

Les prix Hommage bénévolat-Québec sont remis, selon trois catégories, à 47 personnes issues de toutes les régions du Québec qui évoluent dans divers secteurs d'activités. La première catégorie, « Jeune Bénévole – Prix Claude-Masson » rend hommage à 15 jeunes de 14 à 30 ans qui se montrent très actifs bénévolement au sein de leur collectivité. La deuxième, « Bénévole en action », récompense 17 personnes de 31 ans et plus qui ont su mobiliser leur communauté de façon soutenue. La troisième catégorie, « Organisme en action », vise à reconnaître les activités novatrices de 15 organismes communautaires qui mettent en place des stratégies pour encadrer, soutenir et promouvoir l'engagement des bénévoles.

Les lauréates et les lauréats seront invités, avec une personne de leur choix, à assister à une cérémonie officielle qui se tiendra au printemps 2006 à l'Assemblée nationale du Québec. Les principaux collaborateurs pour l'organisation du prix sont la Fédération des centres d'action bénévole du Québec et le Réseau de l'action bénévole du Québec.

L'an passé, la lauréate et le lauréat de la région de l'Outaouais étaient Mme Nathalie Thibeault dans la catégorie « Jeune Bénévole – Prix Claude-Masson » et M. Jean Bosco Rwiyamirira dans la catégorie « Bénévole en action ». « Je tiens à nouveau souligner leur implication exemplaire », a déclaré le ministre responsable de la région de l'Outaouais.

Il est possible d'obtenir des formulaires de mise en candidature ou des renseignements additionnels, en communiquant avec le Secrétariat à l'action communautaire autonome du Québec en composant le 1 800 577-2844, ou en expédiant un courriel à l'adresse saca@saca.gouv.qc.ca. Des formulaires sont aussi disponibles dans les bureaux de Services Québec, dans ceux de chaque circonscription électorale et sur le site web www.benevolat.gouv.qc.ca. « Pour notre gouvernement, il nous apparait essentiel d'exprimer notre gratitude à ces femmes et ces hommes des milieux communautaires et bénévoles qui ont fait de l'engagement social une priorité », a conclu la ministre Michelle Courchesne.

PROVINCE DE QUÉBEC
MUNICIPALITÉ DE PONTIAC

Aux contribuables de la susdite municipalité
AVIS PUBLIC

EST PAR LES PRÉSENTES DONNÉ par le soussigné secrétaire-trésorier de la susdite municipalité, QUE:-

La Municipalité de Pontiac désire recevoir des offres de toute personne intéressée à acquérir les équipements suivants :

- 1983 Rétrocaveuse Case 580 avec 2 godets, bonne condition
- 1994 Rétrocaveuse JCB 214, 4 roues motrices avec 2 godets, bonne condition, besoin de réparations
- Camion à vidanges 1976 Ford diesel, vérification mécanique passée en 2005

Les offres cachetés devront parvenir à la Municipalité de Pontiac le, ou avant le 2 février 2006 à 14h00 pour y être ouvertes.

Le soumissionnaire acceptera les équipements tel quel et le paiement devra se faire sous forme de chèque visé ou mandat à l'ordre de la Municipalité de Pontiac lors de la prise de leur possession.

Une inspection (visite) des équipements pourra être effectuée au garage de Quyon situé au 24, rue Church, sur rendez-vous en communiquant avec M. Robert Létourneau ou M. Marc Lavigne au 455-2401.

DONNÉ à PONTIAC ce 9e jour de janvier deux-mille six.

Sylvain Bertrand
Secrétaire-trésorier

MUNICIPALITÉ DE PONTIAC
Bureau du Secrétaire
2024 Route 148
Pontiac, Québec

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APPEL DE CANDIDATURES

La Municipalité de Pontiac est à la recherche de candidatures potentielles pour un éventuel emploi de bureau à temps plein à 32,5 hrs./semaine, au sein de notre équipe (niveau réceptionniste ou commis).

Qualités requises :
- Débrouillardise, autonomie, sens de l'initiative, maturité.

Qualifications de base :
- Connaissance de certains logiciels informatiques (Excel, Word, etc.);

Compte tenu du fait que la municipalité procèdera à l'octroi d'un poste supplémentaire aux syndiqués en place, des ouvertures pourront se créer sous-peu pour les candidatures de l'extérieur.

Les personnes intéressé(e) peuvent donc faire parvenir leur c.v. dans les meilleurs délais à l'adresse suivante :

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Municipality of Pontiac is looking for potential candidates for a future full-time position at 32.5 hrs./week within its establishment (as a receptionist or office clerk).

Required skills:
- Resourcefullness, autonomous, show initiative, maturity;

Required qualifications:
- Knowledge of various computer softwares (Excel, Word, etc.);

Taking into account that the municipality will be adding an extra position to those who are currently syndicated, job openings may very soon be awarded to outside applicants.

Those who are interested may therefore send their resumé as soon as possible at the following address:

Municipalité de Pontiac
2024, Route 148
Pontiac, QC J0X 2G0
Attn : M. Sylvain Bertrand, D.G.

Sylvain Bertrand, Directeur général/Director general

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

To the ratepayers of the aforesaid municipality
PUBLIC NOTICE

IS HEREBY GIVEN by the undersigned Secretary-Treasurer of the aforesaid Municipality, THAT:-

The Municipality of Pontiac will receive purchase offers from anyone who is interested in purchasing the following equipment.

- 1983 Case 580 backhoe with 2 buckets, good condition
- 1994 JCB 214 backhoe, 4-wheel drive with 2 buckets, good condition, needs repairs
- 1976 Ford diesel garbage truck, safety check done in 2005

The offers must be sent to the Municipality of Pontiac in a sealed envelope, on or before the February 2, 2006, 2:00 p.m. deadline.

The bidder will accept the equipment as is and a certified cheque or money order should be made payable to the Municipality of Pontiac upon taking possession of the equipment.

An inspection (visit) of the equipment is possible at the garage in Quyon situated at 24 Church Street by appointment. Please call Mr. Robert Létourneau or Mr. Marc Lavigne at 455-2401.

GIVEN in PONTIAC this 9th day of January two thousand six.

Sylvain Bertrand
Secretary-Treasurer

Municipalité d'OTTER LAKE

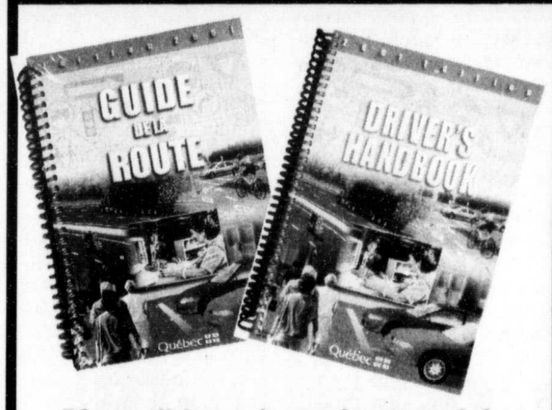
OFFRE D'EMPLOI

La Municipalité d'Otter Lake recherche une personne pour nettoyer la salle récréative et bâtiments municipaux.
Spécifiez votre salaire à l'heure que vous compter recevoir.
Les demandes doivent être reçues au bureau municipal au plus tard jeudi, le 26 janvier 2006 à 14h00.
Nous vous remercions à l'avance de votre candidature mais seule les personnes qui rencontrent nos spécifications, seront contactées.
La Directrice générale
Anita Lafleur

JOB OFFER

The Municipality of Otter Lake is seeking someone to clean the recreational hall and municipal buildings.
State hourly salary expected.
Please submit applications no later than January 26, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the municipal office situated at 15 Palmer Avenue, Otter Lake, QC J0X 2P0.
We thank all candidates for applying, however, only those who most closely meet our qualifications will be contacted.
Anita Lafleur
Director general

GUIDE DE LA ROUTE
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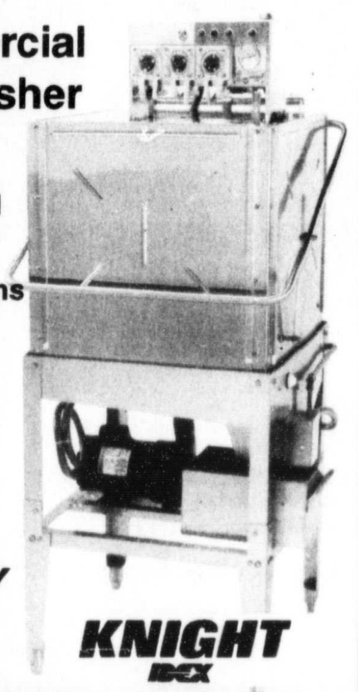


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COMING EVENTS

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

Jan. 28 - 29 – Valley Full-Throttle Race Association First Ice and Snow Races. Muskrat Lake, Cobden, ON. ISR Sanctioned through COSDRA Saturday and Sunday Pro and Amateur. Kids 120 Vintage up to Pro. Call Chris Grant (613) 646-9719 for more information. www.cosdra.com bj25

Sun., Jan. 29 – Bristol Community Association and KINO Quebec presents pleasure in ice skating for the families of Bristol and Shawville Area 1 p.m to 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Come join our fun at the Bristol Rink 647-5613. bjn25

Fri., Feb. 3 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rummage Sale Anglican Church Parish Hall, Shawville. 2bf1

Sat., Feb. 11 –Pontiac Wagon Train Valentine Dance, Shawville Lions Hall at 9 p.m. Music by Fast Trax, light lunch, $8 per person. bjn25

Sat., Feb. 11 – Valentine's Dance, Campbell's Bay R.A. 9 p.m. Band Streamer, light lunch, $10 each. Tickets 648-5175. 2bf1

Thur., Feb. 16 – Pancake Supper Orange Lodge Hall, Shawville 4:30 to 7 p.m. Adults $8 under 12 years $4. Everyone welcome. xjn25

May 28-30th – Lake George, New York 2 shows, Daniel O'Donnell and Lowe family from Branson with special guest Pam Tillis, plus sightseeing. Phone Beulah 647-3628. 2bF1

Sun., Oct. 15, 2006 – Join the Mick Armitage Band with special guest Gail Gavan on an Irish Adventure to Dublin, Ireland. Fly Air Canada from Ottawa returning Sun., Oct. 22. For info. call 613-226-9178, or www.mickarmitage-band.com 9bF1

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Great gift ideas books "Greatest Moments in Canadian Hockey," "Hockeys Hottest Players, " "Mary Cook", "Treasures of the Pontiac," "The Pork Chop" and many more interesting titles. The Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0, 647-2204. xtc

DVDs for sale $5 each. 200 to choose from 647-2941 after 6 p.m., anytime on weekends. xj25

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DEATH

Hodgins – Doris Jean (née Russell) W.A. Hodgins Home Hardware, Shawville, Quebec May 22, 1929 – January 19, 2006. With great sadness, the family of Doris Hodgins announces her passing on January 19, 2006, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Devoted wife and best friend of Milton (Mick). Dearly loved mother and mother-in-law of Anne and Steve Forbes, Ronnie, Donna and Frank Cahill, Jane and Randy Brown, and Ruth and Jeff Hodgins. The absolute best Nana to Rob Fletcher and his wife Robyn, Jennifer Riviere and her husband Ryan, Kristen and Shawn Hodgins, Matthew, Steven and Andrew Cahill, Candice and Amanda Brown, Cameron and Sarah Hodgins, and Liam Fletcher, her great grandson. Very special sister to Eleanor Beardsley and Shirley Russell. A dear sister-in-law to Nancy and Gordon Alexander. She will be fondly remembered by her nephews and their families. Doris grew up in Pine Lodge where she lived and worked with her parents Charlie and Emily (both deceased), her sisters, and her brother John (deceased). Pine Lodge was always a special place for Doris. She took great pleasure in watching her children and grandchildren enjoy their summers at the family cottages. Doris worked alongside Mick, Ronnie and Anne at the family store. She truly enjoyed working with her family, as she had done her entire life. All of her children and most of her grandchildren had the pleasure of working with Doris at the family store. At home, Doris was the special person who made every day a great day..She always put her family first. She was the most loving, caring and generous wife, mother, and nana that any family could hope for. Doris has touched the lives of everyone who knew her with her sincere kindness and generosity. She will forever be remembered as the wonderful person she was, and will live on in the hearts of all who loved her. Friends called at the W.J. Hayes & Sons Funeral Home, 134 Centre Street, Shawville, Quebec on Friday, January 20, 2006 from 2 to 5 & 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral Saturday, January 21 to Shawville United Church for Service at 11 a.m. Interment Maple Grove Cemetery. Donations to the Shawville United Church or Pontiac Community Hospital Foundation - Palliative Care would be appreciated.

BIRTH

Angus – Chris and Lisa (née Manwell) are pleased to announce the arrival of baby boy Jayden Christopher, weighing 9 lbs. 8 oz. at Ottawa General Hospital. A brother for Chealsea. Proud grandparents are Nel and Terry Angus of Shawville and Mrs. Brenda Manwell of Arnprior.

MEMORIAM

Gregory, Ernest – In memory of a dear dad, who passed January 30, 2000.
May the winds of love blow softly
And whisper so you'll hear;
We will always love and miss you
And wish that you were here.
Thea and Martin

Kucharik – In loving memory of our dear mother Celina who passed away Jan. 25, 1998 and father Mike who passed away June 25, 1966.
Though your smile is gone forever,
And your hand we cannot touch,
Still we have so many memories,
Of the ones we loved so much.
Your memory is our keepsake,
With which we'll never part,
God has you in His keeping,
We have you in our hearts.
From your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren

MEMORIAM

Riebertz – In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather William, who passed away Jan. 24, 1971.
Sunshine fades and shadows fall,
But sweet remembrance outlasts all.
Ever remembered by
Wilfred, Irma and family

Routliffe, Rick – I loving memory of a dear husband and father who passed away five years ago on January 28, 2001.
God saw you getting tired
When a cure was not to be,
So He wrapped you in His loving arms
And whispered "Come with Me".
You suffered much in silence
Your spirit did not bend.
You faced your pain with courage
Until the very end.
We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name
But all we have are memories
And your picture in a frame.
Your resting place we visit,
And put flowers there with care
But no one knows the heartache
As we turn to leave you there.
Ever remembered, ever loved
Helen, Jon and Marta, Jennifer and Steve, Laurie and Peter

Stephens – In loving memory of a dear husband Earl, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away January 29, 1997.
His memory is my keepsake,
With which I'll never part
God has him in His keeping,
I have him in my heart.
Loved and remembered
Wife Marion, Sidney, Judy, Hollis and Elaine

MEMORIAM

Watson, Violet Ruth – In loving memory of a dear wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who passed away January 29, 2005.
We do not need a special day
To bring you to our mind,
For the days we do not think of you
Are very hard to find.
If all this world were ours to give,
We'd give it, yes and more,
To see the face of Violet dear
Come smiling through the door.
Always remembered by your family

Wiggins, Roy Wesley – In loving memory of my dear husband Roy, who passed away January 29, 2005.
Edith

Young, Graham T. – In loving memory of a much loved husband, father and grandfather who passed away January 23, 2001.
His dedication to his family never faltered throughout his life.
Graham we miss and love you very much.
Always loved and remembered.
Doris and family

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Vinton



Diane Boisvert
648-5296

Last Wednesday, Jan. 18 the buses were cancelled for Pontiac County due to freezing rain. I couldn't get out of my driveway until the afternoon. First I had to empty the ashes out of the wood stove and spread them over the driveway. Then I had to allow them to cool down. Lastly I had to wait for the sand truck to pass on the side road. That morning I heard that the sand truck had slid into the ditch and had to be pulled out by the grader. Later on that day even the grader had problems staying on the road. It was a real nightmare for the road department trying to maintain the roads. Just be thankful the freezing rain didn't last for two weeks. Our hats are off to all of you who keep our roads maintained. You often work long hours while we're tucked away in our beds. I just want to say that we appreciate everything you do for us.

Speaking about people to say thank you to, I would like to talk about our postal mail delivery people, Neil and Helen Desjardins. A few weeks ago I received a letter in the mail. All it said on the envelope was "Diane and Karl", 106 Churchill Rd, Campbell's Bay. No last name. Then yesterday I received an even stranger one. It was addressed "Diane", R. R. # 4, Campbell's Bay. No last name. No civic address. But I received both letters because of Neil and Helen's knowledge of the customers on their routes. I know they deliver to hundreds of people each day so I was quite impressed that these letters got to me. I do believe that they go beyond the "call of duty" and try to make sure everyone gets their mail, no matter what. Even with the freezing rain the other day. the mail might have been late, but it came none-theless. I'm sure they could tell us a few stories about trying to deliver the mail. Thank you both for you devotion and dedication to your work. Our hats are off to you.

Don't forget that Valentine's Day is only a few weeks away. I have a few suggestions, a certificate for a day at the spa, a weekend away from the kids, somethings special from La Senza, a special home cooked meal, a homemade Valentine's card. No matter what you do, no matter how big or small, do something. You'll see how much your partner will appreciate it.

Frank Hearty was out for his morning stroll to the newspaper box last Wednesday when he took a little tumble. Thanks to Donald Hearty, who helped him back to the house. They called the ambulance to make sure Frank was okay. The doctors discovered that Frank had no broken bones and was in general, good health. Although he did pull a few muscles around his ribs, which will take time to heal. It 'doesn't break Frank's spirit. Margaret and Frank appreciated the magnificent job that the ambulance attendants did. Margaret told me they treated Frank with respect and dignity and joked with him to make him feel at ease. They also treated Margaret with respect and compassion because they knew she was worried about Frank. Margaret wanted me to thank them for their professionalism, devotion and dedication to their job. The service they provided to the Heartys was extremely caring and attentive.

Happy birthday to my sister, Lynn Leach who celebrates on Jan. 26 in Chilliwack, BC and to Merlyn Brown in Campbell's Bay, Joan Frost and Maurice Beauregard on the 27th. A special happy birthday to Chantal Larue on the 29th.

Happy anniversary wishes to Andy and Bertha Holland on the 25th, Leo and Joan O'Brien the 29th and Charles and Maureen Moore on the 31st.

Ladysmith



Debbie Thrun
647-3927

Well, the next big occasion is Valentine's Day on Feb. 14. I find it is being celebrated more with each passing year with special dinners and parties. To me it's just as special with all the bright colours as all the other occasions. The stores have their decorations out and an assortment of everything else to make Valentine's Day extra special.

Watch out for deer on the highways. They pop out of the ditch so fast you hardly have time to react.

Get well wishes go out to Barbara Cruickshank who is a patient in Shawville Hospital. All your friends are thinking about you.

On Wednesday, Jan. 18 when we woke the entire countryside looked like one big skating rink. The freezing rain during the night was bad. This weather is bad for the trees and wildlife. It looks like this is the type of winter we are going to have. Although February and March are know to have bad snowstorms.

Sending out special birthday congratulations to a friend, Claudette Dufault of Bryson on Jan. 26.

We learned with great sadness of the passing of Doris Hodgins who lost a courageous battle with cancer. Doris was a wonderful lady who will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family and friends.

Al Johnson Jr of Belleville and a gang of his snowmobiling friends are spending some time at Jack Ellacott's cottage at Johnson's Lake. The are planning a trip to Mont Laurier.

Get well wishes to Walter Pasch who is a patient in Shawville Hospital.

Supper guests with Margaret Fieroben on Sunday, Jan. 15 were Gen and Clifford Fieroben of Ottawa and their daughter Brenda and Ralph Schoenermarck and boys, Ross and Jackson of Nepean. Margaret tells me everyone had a great time.

On Friday, Jan. 13 Margaret went out for lunch with Mike and Linda Palsson of Cawood to Kojack's Restaurant. They hadn't seen each other in a while so they had a lot of catching up to do. Margaret tells me they had a most delicious meal and a lovely visit.

Eric Campbell tells me it's much warmer in the Holy Land now that he has a light bulb under his thermometer.

I've noticed that the days are starting to get longer. It was getting dark around 4:30 p.m. and now not until 5 p.m. Even the sun is getting warmer, that is, when it comes out. This month we haven't seen too much of it. So, when we do see the sun it's a real treat.

With all the cold damp weather we've been having and for those that heat with wood please be careful with fires. Creosote can build up in your chimney and cause a fire. A wood fire is so nice and cosy. So try and keep warm and take caution. A friend tells me that anyone who heats with wood should check their chimney at least once a month.

Here we are at the end of January already. Usually January seems like a long month but I found it just flew past us this year. I think it was because it wasn't overly cold all month.

What a snowstorm we woke to on Saturday morning, Jan. 21. The snow was coming down so hard we could hardly see it. But, I guess the snowmobilers will be happy. What a different winter. It's either snowstorms or freezing rain and straight rain. I'm sure most people would prefer the snow. It's a lost less dangerous driving and even walking.

We were deeply shocked to hear of the sudden passing of Marc Brouillette of Grand Mère, QC. He was married to Darlene Krose of Ladysmith. A son-in-law of Freida Krose. he had just recently retired from the Quebec Police Force. He loved to spend time in Ladysmith and attend church in St. John's Lutheran. He is survived by his wife Darlene and two daughters and a son-in-law. Kim and her husband Karl McIntyre of London and Lysanne Brouillette of Grand Mère.

Dropping in on Sunday were Winifred and Gerald Mielkie of Cawood.

New Pontiac band Free Loaders rock Rafters

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

BRYSON • A new Pontiac band called the Free Loaders played their second show in a week at Rafter's sports bar in Bryson Friday night.

The band, made up of Pat Latreille of Green Lake on bass, Shane Pryer of Green Lake on drums, Chad Hodgins of Shawville on vocals, Trevor Trudeau of Norway Bay on lead guitar and Chris Hodgins of Charteris on rhythm guitar, play a wide variety of classic rock and alternative covers.

Some of the crowd's favourites were *Blister In The Sun* by the Violent Femmes, *What I Got by Sublime*, as well as Tragically Hip and Led Zepplin tunes. Overall the band played an impressive collection of rock songs considering the band has only been together as a group for a year.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

A new Pontiac band called the Free Loaders played their second show at Rafter's Sports Bar in Bryson Friday night. The band, made up of Pat Latreille on bass, Shane Pryer on drums, Chad Hodgins on vocals, Trevor Trudeau on lead guitar and Chris Hodgins on rhythm guitar, play a wide variety of classic rock and alternative covers.

"Trevor and I have been playing together in a garage band for about 10 years," said Chad, who added the band's first name used to be the Grifter Free Loaders.

After deciding to move onto a new bass player, Chad and Trudeau recruited Chris, and last February hooked up with 16-year-old Latreille and his step-father Pryer.

The band practices two to three times a week and aims at learning two new songs from the 1960s to 1990s per week. After creating a repertoire of about 52 songs over the year, the band began playing house parties.

"We had to first figure out what sells and find songs we like playing, too," said Chad, who used to deejay. "We play anything from Johnny Cash, to Sublime to Black Sabbath and *Interstate Love Song* (by Stone Temple Pilots)."

The band also played a show in Killaloe before the drummer and bassist joined. The Jan. 13 show at Rafter's was the band's first real public gig together.

"It was packed last week," said Chad, "and this isn't a club that is normally open (every week)."

He attributed word-of-mouth to be the reason they got such good crowds both nights.

While Chad is currently learning to play guitar, their long-term goal will be to record an album.

"We want to do originals," said Chad. "We're working on a demo. That's our long-term goal."

So far, the band has one original song in the works. The band is also planning on expanding its library of popular current songs.

"We only have a few current songs — we play *Pretty Vegas* (by INXS)," said Latreille.

The band hopes to find a few more places to play in the Pontiac, but may reach out to some Ottawa clubs to get their name out.

"We've heard nothing but good input," said Chad.

So next time you're out, and you hear murmurs of 'free loaders', they're most likely not talking about someone who takes advantage of the generosity of others, but how that new band will soon put Pontiac on the map of rock and roll.

Record breaking profits for Shawville Fair

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • With the aid of Stompin' Tom Connors, 2005's Shawville Fair produced record highs in ticket sales and profits.

The Pontiac Agricultural Society, which runs the fair each year, unveiled last year's financial information at their annual general meeting at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School on Jan. 18.

"It was Stompin' Tom, absolutely," said Mavis Hanna, president of the Ag. Society.

"While we normally get good, Canadian entertainment, he's a legend in a whole different category."

The Shawville Fair is an annual festival that features competitions, displays and exhibitions in celebration of agriculture.

Annual highlights include the Miss Shawville Fair competition, the steer auction, horse shows and the truck-tractor pull.

Taking place the first week of September every year on the Shawville Fair grounds, the event attracted an all-time high 62,000 visitors in 2005, including an estimated 30,000 appearing for Stompin' Tom's performance on Sunday evening.

Gate receipts, which provide the bulk of revenue from the event, were up 17 per cent in 2005 compared with 2004, from $278,748 to $326,323.

Revenues earned from the beer garden, the fair's second biggest money-earner, were up monumentally, 41 per cent over the year before, from $147,051 to $207,948.

In total, the fair garnered $861,145 in revenue and a net profit of $225,707, an 89 per cent increase from 2004's $119,019 in net earnings.

All those figures are record highs, said Hanna, who was appointed president again for 2006 at the AGM.

"It was a perfect year."

The Ag. Society works year-round preparing for the fair, which utilized 600 volunteers in 2005.

The new board, which was elected at the meeting, will be convening in coming weeks to decide on changes for the next fair.

Ideas for entertainment will be put forth as well.

"We have a list of what went well, what went poorly and what needs to be improved and we work from there," said Hanna.

The executive of the society's 30-person board of directors remains identical, with Eason Russell maintaining his position as first vice-president, George Coles, Lynn Lang and Joan Rusenstrom returning as other vice presidents, Donald Lavellée handling the books again as treasurer and Beryl Smart retaining her secretarial role.

Terrorist ducks and free-range sleeper cells?

PONTIAC • Terrorist ducks and free-range sleeper cells? It's an odd idea to imagine, yet this appears to be the way some governments are viewing wild birds and outdoor flocks of poultry in the wave of paranoia surrounding the H5N1 strain of avian influenza. In early November, the government of Quebec imposed strict new regulations governing poultry farming in the province. Chief among them was the requirement that all poultry be kept locked indoors, sealed away from any type of potential contact with wild birds. The intention is to protect the province's poultry industry and its export markets from the threat of avian flu. But is this response the right one?

This action not only impacts a large number of small farmers who are accustomed to letting their poultry free range, it also threatens the ability of certified organic producers to continue to raise their flocks according to organic standards and according to their customer's expectations.

There are broader concerns too, about the real source of the current strain of H5N1 avian flu, the true effectiveness of this "exposure avoidance" approach to dealing with the threat, and its impact on the poultry industry, farmers, consumers, and human health worldwide. Consider the following:

The traditional Asian farms and markets that are being blamed for the current problem have been in existence for 7,000 years.

Avian flu has been present for hundreds of years, and was first noticed to cause human disease over 100 years ago. Even the H5N1strain has been present since at least 1959. The current strain of highly pathogenic H5N1 flu is believed to have started in southern China in early 2003.

This area, like many parts of Southeast Asia is home to rapidly-expanding 'modern' intensive poultry production, as well as traditional farms and live-bird markets.

Our knowledge of viruses tells us that large, intensive livestock facilities are the perfect breeding ground for the emergence of highly-pathogenic, virulent strains: they house large numbers of bird in close quarters whose immune systems have been compromised by stress, poor living conditions, and feeds medicated with hormones and antibiotics. (Current biosecurity protocols may even aid in their emergence by selecting against strains that are easier to eliminate.)

This has already been demonstrated in North American poultry barns with the IBD virus which has become more virulent in the decades following the emergence of intensive operations. It has since spread around the world, despite culls, vaccines, quarantines, and all manner of biosecurity measures. (Research has linked the immune- weakening effects of IBD to recent outbreaks of H5N1 avian flu in Hong Kong.)

In contrast, in a 2002 avian flu outbreak in Virginia, all flocks within the "Hot Zone" were tested. While several confined flocks of all breeds and ages were infected, none of the backyard flocks were infected. University tests have found lower bacterial contamination in pasture poultry: less than four per cent of that in conventional poultry.

Another study showed that heritage turkey breeds had better immune function, lower death rates, and more nutrients like vitamin C than industrial turkeys.

Several studies have recognized the nutritional benefits of pastured poultry products, especially related to essential fatty acids like omega-3 and CLA.

Taking these facts into account, we can reach the following conclusions:

There is reason to suspect that the current strain of H5N1 emerged from an intensive operation and then spread in areas where large numbers of birds and large human populations are in close contact (a situation that doesn't exist in Canada).

Previous experience (with poultry and swine diseases on the small-scale and BSE and foot and mouth disease on a tragic scale) tells us that this "exposure avoidance" approach to disease control is bound to fail sooner or later. As the old adage goes, "Nature always bats last."

There is evidence to suggest that either the genetics or the environment (or both) of properly cared-for outdoor flocks confers some resistance to avian flu, as well as providing nutritional benefits to those who consume "pastured poultry" products.

These conclusions suggest that the recent measures taken by the Quebec government are probably unnecessary, will be ineffective at best, and will be very likely highly counterproductive. A more effective strategy would be to focus on avoiding the mutation of the virus to its lethal form. This strategy would include:

Researching what factors make birds (and humans) healthier and less susceptible to flu viruses – a "health-building" rather than "exposure avoidance" approach. Working with farmers of all sizes and types of operations to build the health and strengthen the immune system of their birds.

Encouraging small, genetically-diverse flocks in order to reduce the risk of mutation and to preserve genetic material for future generations – this is the same strategy nature has successfully employed for thousands of years.

Not only will these measures protect the health of our birds and our human population, they will also preserve and increase the quality and diversity of the poultry products available to consumers. This in turn will benefit farmers and rural communities by reducing the concentration of market power that would otherwise accelerate – a problem made very clear by the BSE crisis and one that is plaguing the entire farm sector.

Let's hope that the Quebec government reconsiders its position, and that all governments across Canada work with the entire farm community to create a balanced, rational approach to this and other livestock disease concerns.

Rob Wallbridge was born and raised on a family farm in Ontario and obtained a Bachelor of Arts and Science Degree from McMaster University in 1995. He currently works as an organic agricultural consultant and operates a diversified certified organic farm near Shawville, Quebec with his wife and child.

Sheenboro



Myrtle Sullivan
689-2236

I mentioned in an earlier column that my freezer failed me and I lost a good deal of meat. Well, my neighbor, Shamus Morris dropped by the other day with gifts of steaks and roasts to help replace what I lost. Thank you so much Shamus and Joanne. It's comforting to know that I have such good neighbors. My daughter, Myra, spent a day with me on the weekend helping me catch up on my house work and put away Christmas decorations for another year. Myra's son, Clinton, came by the following day, during the snow storm and brightened my day. Clinton then helped Myra stow all her Christmas decorations which is a job and a half as Myra goes all out at Christmas with both inside and outside decorations. Myra lives on the Island at St. Joseph's.

Margaret Maloney is back in the swing of things and has had oodles of company over the last week. Her daughter, Anita and husband Bill came up from Ottawa, her sister Helen McCool came over from Pembroke and was joined by her niece, Ann McCool, who resides in Florida. Margaret's son, Brian, from Blind River also paid a visit as did David Maloney and his wife.

Pembroke has been hosting a play "The Three Musketeers" over the last two weeks. Acting in the play is Kelsey Gleason from Sheen, and Mark Dougherty the son of Janie Maloney from Pembroke.

My good friend Teresa Jennings has moved from Ottawa over to Pembroke. She is now living at Miramachi Lodge and I'm sure would like lots of visitors and a good game of cards with old friends now and again.

Birthday wishes to my granddaughter, Chantal Ouellette, who celebrates on Feb.7. Chantal is the daughter of Carmeletta Sullivan Ouellette and lives in Ottawa.

Visiting with Christine, Larry and daughter Beth Turner last weekend was their daughter Gillian who is in Officer Cadet training at RMC Kingston. Gillian brought along Officer Cadet friends Cyrille Cheneveret whose home is in Terrebonne and Dan Desjardins from Gaspe. They all joined our parish choir last Sunday. Gillian is a lovely vocalist who has sung in our church choir many times before. In addition Cyrille played classical guitar. We all enjoyed their musical contribution.

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Green discussion



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Pontiac Green Party candidate Moe Garahan held a community discussion Thursday at Café 349 in Shawville to explain party policy to Pontiacers. From the left: Moe Garahan, Jennifer Sicard, Julien Lamarche, Bryndley Stanworth, Morgana Stanworth and Beth Gerow.

Caldwell



Hermonie Sharpe
647-3459

Have you ever watched the series "The Bachelor" which is on every Monday night on CTV at 10 p.m.? Well, I had a call from Claire Rennick Walsh, wife of the late Robert Walsh, both formerly of the Pontiac area. She told me that one of the actresses and a Canadian is their granddaughter, Sarah Blondin. Sarah is the daughter of Julia. We sure appreciate this call Claire and wish her all the best.

It seemed to be a night to hear from the Claires as I had another call the same night from Claire Hamilton Larson. So, I could pass the news to both ladies as they know each other.

Claire Rennick was inquiring about Winona Sharpe Fernyhough, now of Sudbury, but presently in Florida. And Claire Hamilton, as usual, was asking about all her school friends and still longs to live in Shawville.

We have lost a very dear friend, wonderful person, devoted mother and grandmother. Doris Russell Hodgins, wife of Milton (Mickey) hodgins passed away in the early morning hours on Thursday, Jan. 19 after a courageous battle with cancer. Funeral service was held from Shawville United Church. Interment in Maple Grove Cemetery. In spite of the cold blustery weather a very large crowd of family, relatives and friends gathered to say goodbye to a lovely lady. To all her family, relations and friends we send our deepest sympathy.

Just what do you think of this weather? It sure isn't healthy and what a mixed bag. The slippery conditions warn everyone to take every precaution possible and if you have creepers to put on your footwear be sure to use them. They tell me February weather is to be more winter like but it was always a blustery month. Now, this is Saturday, Jan. 21 and a real old time snow storm just like they predicted has left us plenty of snow which always pleases the snowmobilers. At this present moment the sun has come out from behind the clouds and how beautiful it all looks.

Birthday congratulations to Marilyn Telford of Ottawa who celebrates Jan. 27, Sarah Barclay wife of Tommy Sharpe of Australia on Jan. 28.

Anniversary congratulations to Bill and Nellie Jette of Shawville who celebrate their 36th on Jan. 24.

Waltham



Helen Perry
689-2652

Marie Campbell has just returned from a beautiful 10 days Caribbean Cruise. She said that it was wonderful. Unfortunately, on the last day she came down with a terrible flu. She has been trying to recuperate ever since. We hope that you feel better soon Marie!

The flu and colds have been making the rounds here in Waltham, as Anita Gagnon is also down with a cold. We hope that we will see you out soon Anita!

Get well wishes are extended to Jean Pelletier, who had the misfortune of cutting his hand on a saw the other day. We hope that you are coming along Jean and that the pain is lessening every day.

This is Wednesday morning and we have gotten freezing rain all through the night. The school buses didn't run, as the roads are treacherous out there. The children must be happy, as they have a holiday today.

On Saturday evening Jan. 22, the Penguin Snowmobile Club held their Start Up Skidoo Party at the Waltham Town Hall. There were lovely door prizes. Garry McKnight was the lucky winner, of the 20" colorTV. Willard Kluke, the president of the Club, presented past president Fr. Nil Guillemette with a lovely plaque. It was to show their appreciation, for all the hard work that Fr. Nil has done in the past 5 years. A delicious lunch was served.

On Saturday, Jan. 22 a surprise 70th birthday party was held in honor of Betty Harkins of Chapeau at the Waltham Station. Family and friends gathered to wish her well. Betty's birthday was on Jan. 17. A delicious lunch along with a beautiful birthday cake was served. We hope that you enjoy many more.

On Sunday morning Rhonda, Mark, Jacob, Isabella, Larry and I enjoyed a tasty brunch at Draveurs des Chutes.

Sunday visitors at Elizabeth Ethier's and family were Janice and Sid Tedford, of Mallory Town.

Danford Lake



Stephanie Milford
467-1091

I do hope you kept warm last Sunday night! The temperature fell to –25 degrees Celsius here. I guess we shouldn't complain so much considering all the beautiful weather we have had lately. We've been spoiled! The skidooers and snowmobilers will love all this new snow. I sure hope the snow ploughs are out and putting lots of sand on the roads. As I have said before we need more salt and sand on the roads please!

Welcome home to Ivan Brazeau who was a recent patient in Shawville Pontiac Hospital. A sweeter man you will not find.

The last weekend in January will be the winter carnival here in Danford. There will be something for everyone. Registration for the dart tournament will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the fun begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday morning breakfast will be served at Bethany Hall by the Bethany Hall Committee. They put on a delicious breakfast each year. In the afternoon there will be sleigh rides, Mr. Kaboom and friends, balloon magic, games and superb balloon twisting skills. Lumberjack games, tea boiling, axe throwing, backhoe rodeo which anyone can enter and at 9:30 p.m. the Andi G Band will entertain. At midnight a box social will be held. Sunday morning breakfast at Suzie Q's (located in Corrigan's Hotel dining room) will be served and at 11:00 a.m. the draw for the bottle of cheer will be drawn. Tickets are available from Miljour's Store and all DLRA members. This year promises only to be better. President Roger Johnson puts his all into this carnival and it shows.

Visiting with us Saturday evening were Danny and Beth Larche. Beth is teaching us to crochet socks. It is so much faster than knitting. Eventually she'll teach us how to crochet baby clothes and blankets. That's what I want to learn.

My little Cockatiel is finally starting to feel better. She got her beak in caught in the door. She had a nosebleed and what looked like two black eyes! She's back to being her old self again, she's trying to eat my earrings!

Last weekend being so cold, Robyn was at work and she said her hand froze to the gas nozzle once. It really hurt but her hand was better the next morning.

While having lunch today I happened to look outside and there was a weasel climbing the side of the door outside! A weasel of all things. Has anyone else seen one near by? I'll be looking for it in the column of the other columnists.

Finally they caught some fish! My brother Karl and Lambert Villeneuve went this week and succeeded in catching three pike. They finally broke the loosing streak!

Quyon



Jill McBane
458-2366

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Doris Hodgins who passed away last week of cancer. Doris will specially be missed at Home Hardware where she was always friendly and helpful.

The Pontiac Mallard Fish and game Club held their annual curling bonspiel this past weekend with 12 teams participating. The winning team was Trudeau's Body Shop with Mark Trudeau, Scott Dagenais, Nick Larose and Mark Ladouceur picking up the trophy. Laurie MacKechnie was the winner of the 50/50 draw and Del Bradford won the bottle of headache.

Get well wishes are sent to Shirley Trudeau who hasn't been feeling up to par.

This Friday, Jan. 27 Winefest will be held at Kathy (MacDonald) Young's on Stanton Road.

Get well wishes to Darlene Morris who had the misfortune of breaking her arm.

The Quyon rink is in full force. Every night skating is open to everyone. Beginning this Friday, Jan. 27 Kids Ball Hockey will start at 6:30. It seems every year the skating shack gets destroyed. A lot of volunteer time goes into this. Maybe if the ones destroying had to volunteer things would be different. Maybe they have too much time on their hands.

Today, Wednesday, Jan. 25 soup and sandwich is back at Quyon United Church. this will be the last Sunday for Church at Wesley United in Beechgrove and Feb. 5 back to Quyon.

Sunday, Jan. 22 Father Costello hosted his annual brunch at the Lions Hall. the camp gang did the cooking while Father made everyone welcome. Over 200 were served. Thank you Father Costello.

Otter Lake



Elizabeth Hahn
453-7326

On Tuesday, Jan. 17 the Otter Lake Golden Age held its weekly euchre game. Lucky winner of the 50/50 draw was Bob Billings. Ladies high score was won by Beverly Dubeau and second by Rosette Fleury. Mens high score was won by Rejean St. Pierre and second by Mèdard Allard. Delicious refreshments were provided by Teresa Blaskie and Jean Racine.

On Saturday, Jan. 14 Natalie Hahn of Waterloo and her friend Matt Kaiman of Richmond Hill who both attend Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo were dinner guests of Elizabeth Hahn. They also had a nice visit with great-grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Mayhew.

A speedy recovery to Anne Labelle who is in the Ottawa General Hospital Ann will be having a birthday on Jan. 27. Best wishes from your Otter Lake friends.

Bryson



Heather Stewart
648-5413

Happy birthday to my good friend Sheri Orr who on Jan. 25. Celebrating birthdays on Jan. 26 are Lucy St-Jacques of Bryson and twin sisters Monique and Michelle Beaudoin of Ottawa.

A surprise 60th birthday party was held in honor of Claudette Dufault at the home of Shirley Lance. A beautiful potluck supper was served. The evening was enjoyed by all.

Kelsey would like to wish her Nan a very happy 60th birthday! I hope you had a good day Claudette!

Results for the Golden Age euchre held on Jan. 16 are as follows: Door prize: Laurent Chevalier, 50/50: Marie-Laure Godin, Men's first: Mervin Smith, Men's second: Roger Lacroix, Ed Gutoskie and Don Evans, Ladies first: Georgette Piche, Rita McGuire and Annette Lepine, Ladies second: Jeannette Romain, Joan Sicard, Marie-Laure Godin and Anna Stewart.

Happy Birthday to Ginny Lamothe of Illinois.

Saturday night the Bryson Lions held their annual Wild Meat Supper. A nice crowd showed up for the famous dinner. The crowd was entertained by the Brysonnaires and the dance floor was crowded with many square dancers. There was also guest singers as well. The menu consisted of deer, moose, fish, bear, duck, goose, partridge and many other tasty dishes. I am not into eating wild meat, but I managed to try the garlic bear balls and the caribou roast which were pretty tasty. The Lions outdid themselves this year. A great evening was had by all. Congrats on a job very well done!

Uncle Larry Besserer and Aunt Diane Stewart of Ottawa were up for the Lions Wild Meat Supper. They never miss it and they look forward to it every year. Uncle Larry really enjoyed the bear balls. It was great seeing you both again!

On Sunday afternoon, Denise Laroche, Cindy Belland and I went to the home of Julie Ryan and the four of us spent and afternoon of making egg rolls, chicken balls and fried won tons. After a few hours of preparing and cooking, I must say, we did pretty good. We had a great afternoon. Thank you Julie!

Pontiac Station



Hope Cadieux
647-5452

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Harry Foster, who is a patient in Pontiac Community Hospital.

How nice to wake up to the sight of sunshine coming through the windows instead of the sound of ice pellets against them. What a roller-coaster of weather we have had had this last couple of weeks. For a few days, it looked like we might be in for another ice storm. One day it was so icy that Tony Evans was able to skate over to see his friend Nathan Pressman-Post on the other side of Keon Road. Another day, I went into the ditch trying to pass the grader on my way to the city (thanks to Dennis on the grader and Jack who brought the chain, I was soon out... and now know where to find the hook on the front of the car).

On Friday, Dave Ledoux, accompanied singer Amanda Rheaume to Brockville.

Today, however, is a beautiful classic winter's day, perfect for going for a walk or going to the polls.

To the campaign worker who called on election-eve to urge me to get out and vote Conservative, sorry for being a little testy on the phone. It took me by surprise. I can"t bring myself to vote conservative, much as I want to see a change as much as anyone else. It's not because of the things that Mr. Harper said 15 years ago that the Liberals have been casting up to him throughout the campaign. It's not because I fear that Mr. Harper has a hidden agenda that he'll implement once he gets in. It's not just because I fear that he'll fall in line with missile defense – surely he's gotten the idea which way the wind blows on that one by now.

It's mainly because he can't see any further than to think that what we need in this country is to "raise our standard of living." What does he mean by that (since I don't think this aim was restricted to concern for the poorest part of society)? So that we can replace all the stuff in our houses with more expensive stuff? So we can replace our vehicles with bigger ones? Or more of them? So we can fill our landfills quicker and deplete the ozone layer faster? So that we can max out our credit cards and lines of credit even further, since it's human nature to have one's grasp exceed one's reach.

However, since the former prime minister was so inconsiderate as to schedule this election for a Monday, and thereby force us here at THE EQUITY to wait a week before we can comment on it, here is my prediction. With or without my help, the Conservative candidate will win in the Pontiac, immediately followed by the Bloc and then the Liberals, NDP and Green (not necessarily in that order). The Conservatives will make up the next government with a narrow majority. They will not begin by revisiting same-sex marriage, reducing the GST or visiting President Bush. They will begin, like all other opposition parties that come to power, by discovering that things are in an even worse mess than they were led to believe. Perhaps the surplus is even larger, and all the provinces and municipalities will be clamoring at the gate looking for their piece of it. Between the provinces with their demands, the Liberals out for revenge and the Bloc stonewalling, the new government will have its work cut out for it. They'll find out it's more difficult than it looks.

Charteris



Mona Rutledge
647-6250

We are very sorry to hear about the passing away of Doris Hodgins. To Mickey Hodgins and family we send our deepest sympathy to each and every one of you.

I would like to say a big, belated happy birthday to my husband, Joseph (Joe) Brownlee, who turned 57 years old on Jan. 18.

Happy birthday also goes out to a special lady, Mae Trudeau who will be 75 years young on Jan. 28.

Get well wishes to Neldow Trudeau who is in Hull Hospital.

To Heather Stewart, please keep putting all the little tid bits in about your dad. I, for one, love to read about him and have a little laugh about the things that he does or gets into.

Campbell's Bay



Iris Smith
648-5821

If you happened to be watching CTV News this past week, you would have seen Pat McGahern, a home town boy, who was in his book store in the Glebe. They were talking about the changes that have taken place in that area over the years (almost 40).

Deepest Sympathy to the relatives and friends of the late Imelda (Berard,Normandeau) Crawford. Her funeral mass was from Ringrose Bros. Funeral Home to St John the Evangelist Church. Interment was in the Parish Cemetery

Visiting with us on Friday was Joyce Presley who dropped in for a visit, Always nice to have her.

The Golden Age Euchre was held on Tuesday evening despite the wicked weather. Ladies high was won by Gwen Black. Second was a 3 three-way tie between Maxine Fenton, Lucy Kelly and Iris Smith. They split the prize. Men's high was won by Kervyn Burman, second was won by Boyd Ebert. The door prize and the 50-50 was won by Rita McGuire. Refreshments were by Dorcas and Lorne Sparling.

A well-known lady of the area, Doris (Russell) Hodgins of Shawville passed away on Jan. 19. To her husband Mickey and family we express our sincere sympathy. W.J. Hayes and Sons were in charge of the funeral arrangements. The funeral was held at Shawville United Church on Saturday, Jan. 21. Interment was at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Donna Stewart, of Carleton Place visited with us on Saturday morning and had lunch with us. Always nice to see her and talk about days gone by.

Happy birthday to Doreen McNabb who celebrated her 85th birthday this past week. May she enjoy many more healthy birthdays.

Another lady, Pat MacDonald, our minister's wife, is celebrating today, voting day. Happy birthday, Pat.

Lise and Hal Crawford, Andy and Bertha Holland, celebrated anniversaries this past week. We hope you enjoyed your special day.

Our cousin, Gloria Tauebert of Rigaud celebrated her birthday yesterday. So happy birthday , Gloria.

Today is election day. We will know later this evening. who is the winner. We hope everyone who could vote turned out to express their wishes. Many people have not the chance in their country to vote. So we are indeed lucky to have the privilege.

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