

Seven fire week in the Pontiac, see page 3

THE EQUITY

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88 cents

Cannon reloads

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor

PONTIAC • With a triumphant double fist pump, Lawrence Cannon entered the Knights of Columbus Hall in La Pêche Tuesday evening, amid supporters chanting "Lawrence, Lawrence".

The electorate in Pontiac riding chanted Cannon's name at the ballot box and elected him to a second term as its member of Parliament.

Representing the Conservative Party, Cannon won with 14,013 votes, 32.62 per cent of the share in the riding, defeating second place finisher Cindy Duncan-McMillan who earned 24.03 per cent (10,396 votes) and Bloc Québécois candidate Marius Tremblay, who picked up 22.37 per cent (9,556 votes).

A far more low-key election night gathering than his 2006 victory welcomed Cannon's entrance at about 11:10 p.m., approximately 25 minutes after his victory was declared on French language television station, RDI.

Cannon made the rounds, exchanging handshakes, hugs and kisses with the approximately 60 supporters who were on hand before being whisked away for television interviews and finally delivering a prepared speech to those in attendance.

"Whatever role I play in the next gov-

ernment, I assure you my priority is this riding," said Cannon, while his supporters waved placards sporting his name and image.

"I want to give the same services in this riding as those available in large urban centres."

Cannon, who served as the minister of transport in Stephen Harper's government for the last 32 months until Parliament's dissolution in September, made good on his standing as the favourite for Pontiac heading into the election campaign.

Pontiac was considered a key riding across the country considering how close the results were in 2006.

There were missteps along the way for Cannon this time around, most notably the mishap early in the campaign involving a Cannon assistant who told an Aboriginal protester in Maniwaki, "If you behave and you're sober and there's no problems and if you don't do a sit down and whatever, I don't care," in regards to a request to meet with Cannon.

The confrontation was broadcast on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network and picked up among media outlets nationally.

The gaffe did not appear to play a role at the ballot box, however.

The 3,600 vote victory was more than the 2,400 votes Cannon won his

first mandate by in 2006, but still produced a competitive election battle in the riding.

Thanks to a strong showing by NDP candidate Céline Brault, Cannon's vote percentage actually decreased from 2006, when 33.68 per cent of voters marked his name on their ballot.

Meanwhile, Liberal Duncan-McMillan improved her party's standing from their low point in the 2006 campaign, when incumbent David Smith produced the worst performance ever by a Liberal in the riding.

"I guess it's not my time. I have no regrets. I feel like I did my very best so I am holding my head high," said Duncan-McMillan, who was at Kaffé 1817 in Wakefield on election night. About 40 supporters were on hand.

Even as the results showed Cannon's lead growing as the night wore on, Duncan-McMillan's smile never faded and she still laughed and chatted with friends and supporters.

"This time, (Cannon) really had to fight to hold his seat. He really had to campaign."

Duncan-McMillan, a beef farmer from Farrelton, emphasized her local agricultural and community ties in the campaign and had been active since her nomination for the Liberal candidacy almost a year-and-a-half ago.

She managed to close the number of



votes between the Conservatives and Liberals by more than 900 votes from the 2006 election.

After Tuesday night's result came clear, Duncan-McMillan stated a desire to maintain her Liberal candidacy.

"I would like to finish the job," she said.

This election was the first time since the existence of the Bloc Québécois the party did not finish second place in Pontiac.

A small group of about 20 supporters gathered at La La Bistro in Buckingham on election night where Tremblay did not appear until 11:30 p.m., about 45 minutes after Cannon was named the victor.

He made a brief speech, saying he was very satisfied with the party's result and that he remained optimistic despite feeling somewhat deceived.

He congratulated Cannon and stated surprise that the race was not closer.

In La Pêche, Cannon spoke extensively with reporters just before midnight.

He said his immediate priorities in the next few days, he said with a smile, "I think I'm going to take a little bit of a rest".

He then stated a desire to continue work with ongoing local projects, specifically noting the extension of Hwy. 5 north of Gatineau. He responded to a question about a possible cabinet minister position in the new government by saying, "You know I can't answer that. That's up to the prime minister."

The local Pontiac contingent at Cannon's election night celebration was far smaller than the approximately 15 local people who

were on hand at Camp Fortune in Chelsea in 2006.

Lou Stafford of Campbell's Bay and Jerry Ryan of Bryson were staunch supporters of Cannon's campaign again this year and both were volunteers.

"It's hunting season," explained Stafford, noting that many Pontiacers who were big Cannon supporters were off moose hunting.

Stafford said he was confident headed into the election that Cannon would be re-elected.

"Nothing is a sure thing in politics but I was more confident this time than the last time."

With files from Leah Iverson and Carole St-Aubin



From top, Lawrence Cannon, centre, celebrates his election victory with Lou Stafford of Campbell's Bay, left, and Jerry Ryan of Bryson in La Pêche Tuesday night; Third place finisher Marius Tremblay of the Bloc Québécois made a short address to supporters in Buckingham after the results were announced; Liberal Cindy Duncan-McMillan watches television coverage with a supporter as election night continued in Wakefield.

Pontiac riding federal election results



Lawrence Cannon, Conservative - 32.62% (14,013 votes)



Cindy Duncan-McMillan, Liberal - 24.20% (10,396 votes)



Marius Tremblay, Bloc Québécois - 22.24% (9,556 votes)



Céline Brault, NDP - 15.49% (6,655 votes)



André Sylvestre, Green - 5.16% (2,218 votes)

No photo available

Benoit Legros, Marxist-Leninist - 0.28% (120 votes)

Drinking that sweet, sweet cider

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor

BRISTOL • Coronation Hall Cider Mill held its grand opening in Bristol village Saturday, welcoming hundreds of guests to its new operation devoted to apples and the sweet cider they produce.

The Graham family operation will produce and sell apples on site with many of the apples used originating from the orchard of family member Greg Graham of Bristol.

"The support and the excitement of friends and neighbours has been great," said Shawn Graham.

The Graham family converted an old dance hall to the current mill, which includes a store to sell products made at the mill.

"This place was the centre of the community then and we'd like to make it the centre of the community again," said Shawn Graham. The original Coronation Hall sign from

the dance hall is even being used.

Among the products for sale are cider, pies, cookies and other apple-related treats. The family is hoping to receive permits to be able to sell hard (alcoholic) cider in the future.

"There's a big demand for hard cider," said Shawn Graham.

Shawn Graham said the process of opening the mill was a big learning experience.

"We're still trying to see what kinds of apples produce what types of cider," said Shawn Graham. "If a certain type of apple is in season, we'll press that."

The family's aim initially is to keep the business local, selling primarily to visitors and during cottage season targeting Pontiac's seasonal residents, according to Shawn Graham.

"We'll be open a lot more in the summer," said Shawn Graham.

Currently, the mill is open five days per week with the longest hours on



Nine-year-old Brianna Tremblay of Ottawa churns away at a traditional apple cider machine Saturday, hoping to earn herself some juice.

Saturdays. "It's something different for this area," said Greg Graham.

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Sharp improvement continues at Sieur de Coulonge: Report

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor
PONTIAC • École Secondaire Sieur de Coulonge continued its four year trend of academic improvement and is now the fifth best high school in that regard in the Outaouais, according to a recently released report.

Marked improvement in exam marks for French, history and physical sciences pushed the Mansfield school into the top-third of high schools in the province, according to the most recent edition of the Report Card on Quebec High Schools, released by the Fraser Institute recently.

Shawville's Pontiac High School maintained similar results to the 2007 report card and is the eighth-ranked school of the 19 high schools in the region.

Chapeau's Dr. Wilbert Keon also improved and is now the 10th best school in the Outaouais based on academic

demics.

The steady improvement shown by ESSC is no mistake according to the school's vice principal, France Lagarde.

She said a grant received to upgrade the school's science labs have paid dividends to students and help explain the improvement in science test scores.

She also said the school reacted to its poor French test scores by introducing course in French grammar that previously didn't exist.

"We worked very, very hard in French," she said.

"We saw that grammar was a weak area so we added an extra period just to focus on that."

The school of approximately 390 students has also experienced a sweeping change in its teaching staff in recent years, with many younger teachers replacing more experienced staff that have since retired.

"We have a new group of teachers and they have really gone out of their way to get involved," commended Lagarde.

ESSC also graduated 82.2 per cent of eligible students in 2007, a marked increase from the 70 per cent it achieved the year before.

After years of rapid improvement in the rankings at PHS that eventually saw the school named one of the three most improved in the province last year, Pontiac has levelled off in the past two years of rankings.

After an average ranking of sixth in the region over the last five years, this year the school ranked eighth in the Outaouais.

PHS improved in history, dropped in physical science and stayed level in math, French and English.

The school's graduation rate also fell from between 70 and 78 per cent over the last four years to 65.7 per cent

this year.

"I welcome any report like this because it provides more information about our school," said PHS Principal Eldon Keon.

He said the levelling off of the school's ranking does not bother him because, "It's easier to show improvement when you're starting at the bottom", but added that he and the staff were still looking for ways to get better.

"There are always improvements to be made," he said. "Nobody here is resting on their laurels."

Keon is in his first year as principal of PHS and he follows the extremely successful tenure of Mike Dubeau, who boosted the school from one of the worst in Québec to a school that was, at one point, in the top 10 of English language high schools in Québec.

"It's nice for a new principal coming in to have everybody on the same page," said

Keon.

Dr. Wilbert Keon school, with 111 students, experienced an improvement in this year's ranking thanks to increases in history and physical science marks, as well as a boost in the school's graduation rate from 66.6 per cent in 2006 to 74.1 per cent in the most recent rankings.

The school's ranking was its highest since 2004.

The new rankings are the first time since 2003 ESSC was ranked the highest of the three Pontiac high schools.

This year, ESSC is ranked in the top third of the 474 Québec high schools that were included in the report.

ESSC is also one of the least affluent schools in the Outaouais, in terms of annual income by its students' parents.

With an average annual income of \$46,300, ESSC was well ahead of other schools in the Outaouais with similar levels of income.

The three schools with a lower average annual income were ranked 12th, 16th and 19th of the 19 regional schools included, well behind ESSC's fifth place ranking.

The average annual income for PHS was listed at \$52,700 while Dr. Keon was listed at \$60,700.

The rankings produced by the Fraser Institute annually examine publicly available information from the Québec Ministry of Education.

Released annually, the report card ranks every school in the province for which data is available according to a number of indicators, including test scores of Grade 11 students in a number of subjects and graduation rates, while taking into account differences in results by gender and socio-economic conditions of the area.

Information for this year's rankings was culled from the 2006-2007 school year.



2008 4-H President Kalie Dufault accepts the Katie Gagnon Memorial Award from fellow member Jordan Barber Saturday at the 4-H banquet.

4-H wraps up year with banquet

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor
SHAWVILLE • The Shawville 4-H Club concluded its year with an awards banquet held Saturday evening at the R.A. Hall in Shawville.

Dozens of awards were presented in beef, dairy, junior, steer, homemaker and horse categories from the winners that were named at Friday and Saturday of the Shawville Fair.

This year's 4-H President Kalie Dufault won the Katie Leigh Gagnon Memorial Award, the most coveted among the 35 4-H members.

It is awarded to the member who best exemplifies the essence of 4-H in a particular year and is named for the active 4-H member who died in a car accident a few years ago and is still recalled by some current 4-H members.

Dufault was also named this year's most outstanding member according to votes made by fellow members.

Abraham Laferrière was named the most outstanding first year member.

The evening began with an all-you-can-eat buffet catered by Billy T's in Clarendon.

"You can't believe how much these kids eat," laughed Wendy Stewart, one of the 4-H leaders.

Within the next couple of weeks, 4-H will elect its executive for next year.

The 2008 executive consisted of Dufault, president; Tim Dumouchel, vice president; Travis Kluge/Brandon Crawford, secretary; Jennifer Dale, treasurer; Jocelyn Closs and Jennifer Dale, senior directors; Jordan Barber and Kluge, junior directors; Kyle Dufault, press reporter; Closs, steer president and Kalie Dufault, steer secretary.

Mixed feelings about new dress code at ESSC

CAROLE ST-AUBIN

Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • A bit of controversy is stirring over the new dress code at École Secondaire Sieur de Coulonge. Though ESSC Administration says it has been well received, some parents and students do not agree.

The dress code has been in effect since the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, it hasn't been enforced in a primitive way, according to Vice Principal France Lagarde.

It has been received in overall good spirits with the exception of one recent incident, said Lagarde, adding that when the students feel the need to express themselves the teachers usually give them the opportunity to

do so, but they are told that they need to follow certain protocols.

"On October 2, we were informed that the students were going to strike and leave the school. Approximately 100 students then protested during lunch break and when the bell rang 12 students refused to go back to class," Lagarde told THE EQUITY.

Those students consequently faced a one-day suspension, she added.

While parents like the concept of a dress code, the question of price becomes an issue.

This is especially true for single parent Karen Presley who has two children attending ESSC this year.

"The clothes are expensive, the quality is poor, and

the price was never mentioned in the survey," said Presley, adding that frequent washing has caused fading and shrinking of the garments.

The school has opened an on-site store for parents who wish to purchase additional pieces of clothing for their children throughout the school year, it is opened every other day.

Parent Kelly Côté said that for \$240 she purchased seven items: the gym outfit, one zippered sweater, and four polo shirts.

Of the seven items, the only piece to actually display the school logo was the gym shirt.

The concept of the students sporting a consistent look is a bit off balance because of the different

colours of clothing, according to Côté, whose daughter dislikes the dress code.

"I don't really like it, because I can't express myself with the clothes I wear," said Jade Côté, a secondary two student.

When asked why she didn't participate in the recent strike, she replied, "because I didn't want to get in trouble." The ESSC students themselves originally instigated the concept of adhering to a dress code, and in a survey done before Christmas last year, more than 63 per cent of the students said they would conform to a school dress code.

The survey was then mailed out to the parents.

Of the 448 surveys sent, 41 percent were returned to the school. Because of fami-

lies with more than one child attending at that time, this represented 56 per cent of the student body, according to Lagarde.

This resulted in 68 per cent of the parents voting in favour of the dress code, 25 per cent against it, and seven per cent of the parents remained undecided.

The school's governing board then voted upon the proposed dress code, before it was put into place for beginning of this school year.

The code consists of a white or navy, long or short sleeve polo, with optional navy blue v-neck sweater that may be worn over the white polo.

No hooded sweatshirts or logos are allowed, but for the bottom half of their attire, the students can wear what-

ever they choose.

"Though we have been noticing that fewer students are actually wearing jeans," said Lagarde.

The garment required for gym is a plain grey t-shirt with navy blue shorts or long pants.

"The first day was just phenomenal, school spirit was high, there was a great wow factor," said Lagarde.

"Out of the 395 students, there are about 20-25 students who don't conform to the dress code on a daily basis. It is usually for a couple of different reasons. Either they have been short-sighted and didn't order enough, or they haven't received it from the supplier yet. But there are a few who are just contesting," Lagarde added.

Hats off to cancer research at Otter Lake bar



Friends at Le P'tit Bar in Otter Lake show their support for Angus Cameron's fundraising efforts in support of cancer research. Pictured left to right are, Rachelle Lapointe, Rick Wiles, Gus Cameron, Joanne Cameron, John Elliot and Pat Durkin.

CAROLE ST-AUBIN

Equity Reporter
OTTER LAKE • More than 230 hats were sold in a month to raise money for cancer research at Le P'tit Bar in Otter Lake.

Angus Cameron who is in the middle of a battle with cancer, has been a hat collector for over 25 years,

picking them up wherever he went.

He came up with the fundraising idea, bringing in more than 300 baseball caps from his own collection to begin selling them with the support of the bar's co-owner, Rachelle Lapointe.

"We are asking for a minimum donation of two dollars

per hat, but no one has ever just given the two dollars so far," said Lapointe.

The family of Ottawa Senators' General Manager and Shawville native Bryan Murray, has donated four Senators hats to the fundraiser.

Those hats sold very quickly, fetching donations

of \$20 each.

Though Cameron didn't have a favourite one, other noteworthy hats sold from his collection were a Bruce Springsteen and a Chicago Bulls hat, both of which also sold for \$20.

A show of support that was memorable for Cameron was when a Luskville teacher who said he planned to use the hats in a school project, bought the entire ceiling of hats for \$50.

When the bar owner had finished hanging another bunch of hats, the teacher did the same thing again for \$50.

"My goal is to reach \$1,000 for the Queensway Carleton Hospital's Intensive Care Unit where I went for treatments," said Cameron.

To help keep the fundraiser going, another local man has promised to bring 150 hats from his own collection to add to Cameron's remaining hats, Lapointe said, adding that they will keep on selling them for as long as they can.

When asked if he thought he might even pass that

amount, he simply answered "I hope so."

Cameron, who currently lives in Ottawa but has a summer home in Otter Lake, endured a tracheotomy procedure about four years ago.

But his battle with cancer did not end there. Though the throat cancer is now under control, it was recently discovered that he had a rare type of lung cancer requiring another surgical procedure that he underwent about a month-and-a-half ago. He then began chemotherapy treatments

that had to be put on hold after only two treatments, because their effect on his kidneys.

His wife Joanne, a nurse and winner of the 'employee of the year' title at the Carleton Hospital last month, was due to retire in January 2009, but took an early retirement to care for her husband. The Camerons are pleased with the support they've received in the community in such a short amount of time, and were glad to announce they had tallied more than \$700 as of early October.

Shawville

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Our deepest condolences to the Smith family who lost Fern this passed week.

Congratulations to the Graham family on the wonderful opening of their apple cider, apples and small tea room at Confederation Hall in

Bristol. The official opening took place on Sat., Oct. 11 at 2 p.m. The parking lot was full. There were free samples of apple cider and free apples and they were extremely delicious.

There was also an accompanying fun day at Pine Lodge which was really well attended.

October 14 was voting day. There will be a Christmas Bazaar Tea at St. Edward's Church on Nov. 15. Have a great week.



To Fran,
that adorable
red haired girl:
**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**
With love from your
much younger sister,
Mary.

The family of
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and your young'uns

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SMALL BUSINESS WEEK 2008

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BUSINESS FAIR**

Date Jeudi 23 octobre 2008
Thursday, October 23rd, 2008

Heure 8h30 à 16h
Time 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Endroit Pine Lodge, Bristol
Place

Coût 10.00\$
Coût 10.00\$

Horaires de la journée / Day's Schedule

8h30	Ouverture du salon et déjeuner continental / Fair Opening and Continental Breakfast
9h00	Comptabilité de tous les jours (Fr) et/ou Every day Accounting (Eng)
10h00	Thief and Fraud Prevention (Eng)
11h00	Alliances d'affaires pour le Pontiac (Fr)
12h00	Dîner / Lunch L'honneur de Rick Currie's Humour (Eng)
13h30	Prévention du vol et des fraudes (Fr)
14h30	Business Alliances for Pontiac (Eng)
16h00	Clôture du Salon / Fair Closing

Chambre de commerce du Pontiac
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Seven fires tear through Pontiac

Cows victims of barn blaze

CAROLE ST-AUBIN
WILBUR MCLEAN

CLARENDON • Two barns on the property of Ronald and Ruth Strutt in Clarendon burned to the ground Tuesday afternoon.

Some dairy cows died in the fire that destroyed a barn filled with hay and was burning through three surrounding silos on the property, located at 470 5th Concession.

There were no known injuries to humans.

The fire began at approximately 2 p.m. and firefighters from the Shawville-Clarendon fire department arrived on scene about half-an-hour later, along with two police cruisers.

By that time, the fire was raging and firefighters attempted to prevent the fire from spreading to the Strutts nearby house and workshop.

High winds made it extremely difficult for fire crews to contain the fire. Of

particular concern were torches and other flammable equipment in the workshop.

The house and workshop were still not safe from the flames in the early evening Tuesday.

For a while, the hefty winds impeded the work of firefighters who had to change positions in order to avoid the heavy smoke lofting across the property.

Ruth Strutt was very emotional, but expressed concern about the bawling calves that were saved from one of the buildings as they tried to round them up.

Many neighbours and community members gathered at the property. About 100 people were either in the field on the Strutt's property or in their vehicle on the 5th Concession.

"We were working on our barn and came out to get a load of cement when we saw the hay loft on fire," said neighbour Doris Beck, who was visibly upset at the scene.



The roof of a barn on the Strutt property in Clarendon was bright orange with fire just before collapsing Tuesday afternoon. Strong winds made the fire more difficult to fight and smoke became a problem during firefighters' battle.

Neighbour Tina Caldwell was also bothered by the fire.

"We went out to vote and saw the smoke and flames from the highway," she said.

Chimney fire put out quickly

The Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department was called to another fire Tuesday at about 5 p.m. at 579 King Street in Shawville.

A small chimney fire had broken out at the home and some of the firefighters who had been at the fire on 5th Concession transferred there, though the fire was

quickly put out.

Within half-an-hour, the fire was out and firefighters were using fans to clear smoke from the home.

Fire halts production at Hobbs mill



The fire at the Hobbs Mill in Shawville raged early Sunday morning, as seen in an image captured from a video taken by resident Gregory Peckett.

LEAH IVERSON

SHAWVILLE • H.I. Hobbs and Sons Mill in Shawville is open for business but unable to produce seed after the mill caught fire last Sunday, causing extensive damage to the building.

Firefighters got the call just after 3 a.m. on Sunday morning and ended up battling the blaze more than a day later.

Extra help was called for immediately, with firefighters from Bristol and Campbell's Bay - Litchfield lending a hand.

There were approximately 30 firefighters at the scene, with the last out-of-town truck leaving at 7 p.m. Monday night.

"We spent about 30 hours

on site," said Shawville-Clarendon firefighter Tim McCann. "It was a very difficult fire to fight. The way the feed mill is built with the vertical building there was smoldering in some of the inner boxes in the mill we couldn't get to, so we had to stay."

McCann said the knowledge gained from the firefighter training really helped the fire crew properly tackle the blaze.

"The training we took has made such a difference," he said, adding, "We all went into that fire knowing what we were dealing with a lot better."

Both King Street and Main Street were blocked near the mill for two days.

As for the mill, it is still open on a minimal basis but

production is at a stand-still as staff are unable to make or mix any feed.

The mill previously caught fire in 1999 and staff installed a sprinkler system shortly after.

The cause of the fire is currently unknown.

A spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec said the fire is currently being investigated and whether the fire is criminal is not yet known.

Kitchen fire

Firefighters were called to a home on Shaw Street in the early hours last Saturday after a kitchen caught fire.

"It was put out by two fire extinguishers," said McCann. There was some smoke and heat damage to the home.

Nobody was injured.

Pontiac out of service due to Luskville fire



While Pontiac slept, this barn in Luskville burned on Wednesday, Oct. 8, causing Pontiac to go without phone service or Internet access for a while.

LEAH IVERSON

LUSKVILLE • It was just before midnight last Wednesday and while much of Pontiac was fast asleep in their beds, Luskville resident Julie Charbonneau was awoken by a loud knock on the door. As she opened the door, she was alarmed by a group of panicked motorists shouting 'fire' and pleading to her to use the house phone.

"They came in screaming for me to call the police to tell them there's a barn on fire," said Charbonneau. "The house phone wasn't working and we were all trying to call the police with our cell phones, with the reception cutting in and out."

While the group desperately tried to find phone service, across the street the fire was quickly spreading, burning any telephone lines in its

path.

When Luskville firefighters arrived on scene, the flames at the intersection of Chemin de la Montagne and Hwy. 148 had already filled the sky.

"The barn was fully engulfed by the time we got here just after 11:30 p.m.," said Luskville firefighter Brian Middlemiss while on scene just after 10 a.m. last Thursday. "It looked like a red October. We've been here all night and it's taken 18 guys (firemen) to put out the fire."

While firefighters were busy putting out the blaze, the rest of Pontiac was waking up to discover the technical problems. The burned telephone lines affected all residential and business lines, as well as shut down all Internet access.

"All our systems were down from around 11:35 p.m. on Wednesday until roughly 9 a.m. the next morning," said Linda Laliberté, general manager at the Royal Bank in Shawville. "Anyone trying to use the bank machines throughout the night would not have been able to, but everything was up and running by the next working

day."

When Télébec got word the fire was affecting phone lines, the staff attempted to contact local radio stations to give residents a heads up.

"We were first notified about the fire at around 6 a.m. and we tried to reach the radio stations to tell people we were working on the problem but we couldn't reach them because the phones were

down," said Josée Plouffe, communications and public affairs manager at Télébec.

"We sent out technicians from Expertech to the fire. Bell technicians were also near the site so they worked to fix the problem."

While phone and Internet resumed just after 9 a.m. on Thursday, the traffic flow near the fire remained slow throughout the day.

A fiery fall

The last two months have been busy for Pontiac firefighters. The following is a list of fires that have occurred during that time.

- **Barn fire in Clarendon, Oct. 14** - Barns and silos on the property of Ronald and Ruth Strutt burned down in the afternoon, killing some dairy cows.
- **Residential fire in Shawville, Oct. 14** - A home on King St. caught fire, but was put out minutes later.
- **Feed Mill fire in Shawville, Oct. 12** - Hobbs Mill goes up in flames
- **Kitchen fire in Shawville, Oct. 11** - A small kitchen fire was quickly extinguished on Shaw St. in Shawville.
- **Residential fire in Otter Lake, Oct. 10** - The Martineau Avenue home was vacant at the time. The home was completely destroyed.
- **Residential fire in Fort Coulonge, Oct. 10** - An abandoned home on Bord de l'eau Rd. caught fire.
- **Barn fire in Luskville, Oct. 8** - A barn caught fire, destroying neighbouring telephone lines, which left Pontiac temporarily without phone or Internet service.
- **House fire in Mansfield, Oct. 5** - A fire started in the backyard patio of a home. Police suspected criminal activity.
- **Fatal residential fire in Sheen, Sept. 27** - House fire in Sheen took the life of 69-year-old mother of two Norma Perrault. Police suspect a cigarette to be the cause.
- **Garage fire in Nichabean, Mid-Sept.** - The garage portion of a building on Chemin de l'église caught fire.
- **Residential fire in Chichester, Aug. 26** - The home of Shelly and Brian Douglas went up in flames. The fire ruined all the contents inside.
- **Fred's Hotel in Chapeau fire, Aug. 26** - The famous Fred's Hotel built in 1840 burnt to the ground.
- **Family homestead in Bristol fire, Aug. 19** - The home was a regular gathering place for the Bell Family.
- **Two businesses on fire in Fort Coulonge, Aug. 17** - Two businesses on Rue Principale caught fire and suffered heavy damage.
- **Barn fire in Calumet Island, Aug. 14** - A barn caught fire. Police suspect criminal activity.

Blazes strike Coulonge, Otter Lake

CAROLE ST-AUBIN

PONTIAC • Early Friday morning fires in the villages of Otter Lake and Fort Coulonge have added to a growing list of recent fires that Pontiac's volunteer fire fighters have had to deal with.

In Otter Lake, the Martineau Avenue home was vacant at the time of the fire, but owner Juliette St-Pierre said her sons stayed there when they visited from Toronto.

St-Pierre, who saw the flame when she woke up in her neighbouring house at about 12:30 a.m. to take some medication, said she immediately called 911.

Fire fighters were on the scene to keep the fire from spreading to nearby cars in St-Pierre's impound lot between the two houses, and remained on site to contend with hot spots until about 10 a.m.

The home was completely destroyed.

When Fort Coulonge fire fighters arrived at the scene of an abandoned house Bord de l'eau road in Fort Coulonge at 4 a.m. that same morning, the fire was well advanced, according to Fire Chief, Gaétan Fortin.

"We had the fire under control within one hour, but the house had sawdust insulation in its walls, so we remained at the scene until approximately 9 a.m. because it created many hot spots," said Fortin.

Plan to have your group or business Christmas or New Year's Party with us. No muss, no fuss, no cleanup, just relax! The Valley's best party with the best music is at the Renfrew Wing on Saturday, Dec. 27th

Louis Schryer, Gail Gavan, Mick Armitage Band, Adrienne Taylor & Half Cutt - See 'coming events' in this week's Equity or 613-226-9178 for all information. mickarmitageband.com

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Growing old is mandatory ... Growing up is optional!

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OPINION

The Voice of the Pontiac since 1883

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OUR OPINION | Reflecting on the election in Pontiac

For the third time in four years, Pontiacers headed to the polls and for the second straight election, Conservative Lawrence Cannon had his hand raised in victory.

Pontiacers now know what to expect from Lawrence Cannon. Rest assured, he will be a cabinet minister once again and he will likely be Stephen Harper's Quebec lieutenant again. His influence nationally may grow even larger with the Conservative minority a stronger one now than the one formed in 2006. In fact, it wouldn't be surprising to see Cannon earn himself a more high profile cabinet position, though the ministry of transport portfolio suited him well considering his experience with public transit in Gatineau.

Cannon was intelligent during his campaign, never promising to be more physically present in the riding, which was perhaps the largest complaint against him in Pontiac. Doing so would be an empty promise. With his high profile, Cannon will never be an MP who will regularly show up to community dinners or fundraisers. Judging by the election results, it seems Pontiacers are comfortable with that fact.

Cannon is a smart man who has surrounded himself with smart people throughout the riding, including here in Pontiac county. While he himself may be inaccessible compared to his predecessors locally, Cannon is well-armed with a network of people who are hired to serve the electorate.

As for the other local candidates, Liberal Cindy Duncan-McMillan did well to recover from the poor showing by the Liberals in 2006. While Cannon's victory was a clear one, Duncan-McMillan made a respectable showing and passed the Bloc Québécois in the process.

The first time politician would be smart to give the nomination a second shot, as she has surely learned a lot during this process and her devotion to community and local issues could serve her well in a future election.

NDP candidate Céline Brault performed exceptionally for the second consecutive election. She finished a strong fourth and again made huge strides for her party in the riding by largely focusing on the area in and around her Chelsea home.

What's remarkable is that Brault did so well despite being employed full-time as a teacher throughout the election campaign. One marvels to think what she would be capable of if given the opportunity to campaign on a full-time basis.

The Bloc Québécois went a different route with their candidate this time around by nominating an opera and symphony composer, Marius Tremblay.

His third place showing will likely be considered a disappointment considering some thought the Bloc could give Cannon a strong run for their money in Pontiac in this election. Since their existence, the Bloc have nominated a different candidate in Pontiac in every single election. Don't expect that trend to change. Consider it unlikely Tremblay will return as the local candidate. This is the 12th time in 40 general elections that there has been a minority government.

Green candidate André Sylvestre did well to increase his party's vote tally by more than 700. Another candidate who worked full-time during the campaign period — Sylvestre is a physician — he did well to expound some of the messages of the Green Party and likely benefitted from the party's growing national profile.

WM

Tree in the headlights

Carole St-Aubin, THE EQUITY



ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM | Ottawa River Waterway: A dream unravels

Tourism often rears its head as a solution to vanquish regional unemployment.

Of course, there is no single solution to economic prosperity.

Supporters of the Ottawa River Waterway will be disappointed to hear the project appears to have been abandoned.

What's the story?

Ottawa River: Ancient trade route

First Nations' peoples used the Ottawa River as a trade route linking the Atlantic (via the St. Lawrence) to the Great Lakes. Europeans followed their lead: explorers, fur traders, settlers and commercial entrepreneurs recognized the importance of this first Trans-Canada highway. Wild rapids such as at Quyon and Fitzroy Harbour's Chat's Falls impeded the route, so paddlers had to portage canoes and goods around the white-water.

Even though the Grand Canal scheme aimed to develop the Ottawa River into a commercial shipping route in the late 1800s, blasting a canal through the Canadian Shield rock at Quyon proved exorbitantly costly. Then the St. Lawrence Seaway was constructed between the years 1954 and 1959, thus ending the dreams of those who promoted the Ottawa's more northerly network as the primary link to the Great Lakes and Canada's interior.

Ottawa River Waterway

Enter the Ottawa River Waterway project as a concept in the late eighties. It would mean building six bypasses consisting of twelve boat launches (one at the in-take, one at the out-take) to allow recreational boaters to travel along the Ottawa River from Nepean/Aylmer to Lake Temiskaming — a distance of more than 500 kilometres. Promoters claimed there would be an infusion of tourism dollars and entrepreneurs spoke about building marinas, country inns and restaurants in such villages as Chateau. Construction commenced on the westernmost bypass systems and the first phase of the Ottawa River Waterway opened Aug. 21, 1993.

(www.nt.net/valerieb/files/iktem/iktem.htm). Funding came from federal, Ontario and Quebec governments. Subsequently, bypasses were built at Portage du Fort and Bryson, Chateau and Desjardinsville, Rapides de Joachims, Mattawa and Temiskaming. The final bypass at Fitzroy Harbour opened Monday, July 24, 2006 after an environmental assessment approved its construction (go to www.ceaa.gc.ca/052/details-eng.cfm?pid=17247 for assessment details).

Project costs ...

Millions of dollars were spent upon the promotion, feasibility and environmental studies for the Waterway, not to mention the construction and ongoing operation and maintenance of the bypasses.



Katharine Fletcher

nance of the bypasses.

Unfortunately, I have been unable to discover how much the entire waterway has cost taxpayers despite getting current contact names of key spokespeople from the MRC Pontiac. That's because Brian Adams, spokesperson for the Ottawa River Waterway, declined to return my three calls requesting an interview during the week of Oct. 6.

Similarly, Mayor Dale Levesque Madore of Rapides des Joachims did not reply.

According to files from *The Ottawa Citizen* and the Ottawa Riverkeeper's website (ottawariverkeeper.ca) the sixth and last bypass at Fitzroy Harbour alone cost \$2.3 million.

... and costs per boat

Boats were originally charged \$20 to negotiate each bypass, a fee which was raised in 2006 to \$50 per boat. But in 2006, another procedure was added according to Jim Gibson, owner of Pointe aux Pins lodge in Rapides de Joachims.

"In 2006 the price rose from \$35 a portage to \$50. So boats paid \$600 to negotiate all six bypasses if they wanted to do a return trip. Unfortunately, this fee was applied regardless of whether it was a 16-18 footer or 24-foot boat — and that's unfair," said Gibson. "But that year, they also forced people to reserve ahead. Now, that's ridiculous! The Waterway is supposed to be for tourists enjoying a relaxing holiday and boaters want to explore and relax. Besides, here in Swisha (Rapides de Joachims), MRC Pontiac hired someone from Chateau to do the portaging — and it takes an hour and fifteen minutes just for that individual to drive here. This inconvenienced the tourists so much."

Such changes, Gibson and others feel are directly responsible for the decline in boaters. He adds, "Three years ago we'd been seeing about 350 boats a summer in Swisha; in 2007 there were about 150; last year there were only about 30 who used it."

Considering the millions of taxpayers dollars spent on the Waterway, the public ought to expect there would be some realistic effort to keep it open. Dividing Gibson's figure of 530 boats using the bypass at Swisha and into the cost of Fitzroy Harbour's bypass (\$2.5M) alone, we get the sum of \$4,716.98 per boat. (Unscientific, I know... but it gives us an indication.) And of course, this doesn't factor in the fee boaters paid, nor the ongoing maintenance of the bypasses.

October 8, 2008: Closure of Waterway

In the Aug. 27 edition of *THE EQUITY*, editor Wilbur McLean reported that the waterway was possibly going to close (see Ottawa River Waterway shutdown being considered). On Oct. 7, I called MRC Pontiac offices to see what the status is, and spoke with Nancy Dagenais-Elliott, Assistant to the Mayor's Committees.

She said the MRC Pontiac passed two resolutions affecting the Waterway during their Mayor's Council meeting on Sept. 22/08. According to her, the MRC agreed to continue to provide funding for bypass site costs, storage and maintenance of equipment and docks. However, the MRC withdrew operational funding to the waterways for the MRC of Pontiac segment.

On Oct. 8 I spoke again with Jim Gibson who confirmed the Waterway has been closed — possibly permanently. According to him, the MRC Pontiac hopes a private buyer will step in to keep the Waterway open.

Reflects Gibson, "As a lodge owner and resident of the Pontiac who welcomes tourists to the area, I'm very disappointed. Boaters enjoyed the bypasses a lot and as a tourism feature for this region, the Waterway was and is a good idea. It's sad so much has been spent and now it seems it's closed. There should have been more promotion: people cannot use it if they don't know it exists."

He's right. It is outrageous so much public money has been spent on the Waterway only to see it possibly or probably permanently closed.

Environment of concern

Whenever a tourism project such as this stumbles and fails, repercussions reverberate throughout the region. People point to failures and say, "See? Tourism's a crock. It can't do anything to help the region economically."

However, that's not quite accurate, is it? We can't simply throw money at a project, see it built then watch it fail due to insufficient, misdirected promotion, plus no reliable infrastructure and so on. Residents on both sides of the Ottawa River desperately want, need and deserve sustainable, worthwhile jobs. This sort of unprofessional project management where a few people's pockets are lined utterly fails to serve us — and the region, fairly or well.

Local residents know the river to be not only beautiful but also ecologically significant. The Ottawa Riverkeeper and countless concerned citizens were vigilant in protecting the river from as much harmful development as possible. (The Riverkeeper has been concerned about the project's significant risks to the shoreline since 2003, and in 2006 she voiced successful opposition to the Fitzroy bypass going through Fitzroy Provincial Park, Morris Island Conservation Area and Willola Beach.)

If the Waterway project is dead, what will happen to the boat launches? Will they remain? At what cost? And, at what cost to the shoreline, which ought to be re-naturalized if boats are not going to be using the facilities?

Will the Ottawa River Waterway continue as a navigable water route to Lake Temiskaming? The jury's out...

Mayors? Waterway spokespeople? Comments?

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance environmental, nature, garden and ecotourism writer. Contact her at chesley@allstream.net.

YOUR OPINION

Open letter

Dear Editor,

Where in the name of Sam Hill did Fred Ryan come up with "facts" that he rendered in the *Pontiac Journal* of Sept. 24, 2008? I understand the average citizen off the street might not understand what an Extradition Treaty entails but I can't believe that Mr. Ryan doesn't. Can you imagine what would happen if the Canadian Government refused to extradite American citizens who are wanted by the law. Sure we can presume them to be innocent until proven guilty but that is not up to the Canadians to decide. The party being extradited will say he or she is being unjustly accused, the police and the judges are corrupt or that they will be tortured if they are sent back. Fred did you ever interview convicts already found guilty? According to them they are all products of an unjust system.

Maybe Ryan has a problem with the Americans but that does not give him the license to distort the facts. The facts being that the USA is a democratic country with all the rights and freedoms similar to our own. Referring to Collins transfer to the States as Rendition is preposterous and an insult to our American neighbours.

I can understand the histrionics of the Liberal and N.D.P. candidates (even though I believe they know better) because they are running for office. Come on Fred you know that Collins didn't get off without help from the Canadian Government. A convicted felon would be unable to return to Canada. A small fine, 200 hours of community service for absconding over \$70,000. Do you really think Stuart got that light sentence, on his own, after all the mud he threw at the American authorities? Maybe the judge liked his face but I doubt it! Some strings were pulled and you know as well as I do who pulled them. One more thing ... I am a Conservative but believe me I have no more connections to the Bush Conservatives than you do.

After all the caterwauling ... Collins will be coming "home" to the Pontiac. No matter what he has done in the past I believe he has proven himself to be a great asset to our community. Welcome home Stuart!

Lawrence Stafford
Campbell's Bay, QC

List? What list? | Carole St-Aubin

It seems there is always a concern about our names being on, or omitted from a list somewhere, at some point in our lives.

There are lists you might want to be on, say if the government was offering tax cuts, rebates or subsidies, electoral lists, or perhaps just on the invite list when your friends have a party.

There are other lists, however, that we don't enjoy being on, one of which being a nuisance to many, is the unsolicited telemarketing list.

How many times have you had people call you and offer you free products or services in exchange for listening to a sales pitch, or hosting a product demonstration?

Or from those who take a bolder approach by getting straight to the spiel, and if you listen to the entire thing like a good boy or girl, you might get rewarded with a shiny new set of steak knives.

And how about all those fabulous free trips that they give away?

I mean how random is it really that I have received at least three of those in the past summer months?

Then these people express feigned shock at my up front refusal to even discuss the matter, muttering something to the effect of not understanding why someone would turn down a free trip, and being totally oblivious as to how to address a request to be removed from their calling list.

Of course we can't mention telemarketing without mentioning the timing of said calls. Which is most likely always at a time when you're busiest getting your family fed, have to run half-way down the block to catch your Houdini dog, the escape artist, or when you're about to climb into the tub for a relaxing bath.

Missing the good ol' days of sitcoms | Leah Iverson

It was a lazy Sunday afternoon and the only thing I had on my mind was putting on a pair of sweat pants and parking myself on the couch for a day of channel surfing.

As I plunked down with a bag of potato chips (you can see how well my healthy living regime is going) I began scrolling through the channels trying to find a good old-fashioned sitcom.

The first program I landed on was *Entertainment Tonight* but I was in no mood for celebrity gossip. Unfortunately, the click of the button only led me to a series of reality shows including *I Love New York*, *Survivor* and the *Biggest Loser*.

Where's *King of Queens*? Where's my beloved *Seinfeld*? As I reluctantly settled on a sappy reality show on TLC Network I realized something — reality shows have taken over television.

Sarcastic and funny sitcoms are a thing of the past and the torrential downpour of reality shows are what's left over.

This revelation was confirmed a few months back after a phone conversation with my mom. I asked her if she wanted to make plans for the night and she responded, "Let me get my post-it and check," to which she said, "Well, I've got written down that I have *Survivor* at 8 p.m., *The Bachelor* at 9 and *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* at 10 if I can stay up. Sorry baby, I'm booked."

I laughed, thinking surely she must be joking. When I heard silence on the other end I realized my mom had chosen reality shows over me. I've called her the Reality Queen ever since.

What is this power that reality shows have to



Yes, I realize some of these people work on commission, but there comes a time when your repeated refusal and requests for removal from their lists should be heeded.

That's where the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) 'National do not call list', in effect as of Oct. 1 is supposed to come in, giving telemarketers 31 days to strike your number from their calling lists.

There are prescribed rules that telemarketers and organizations that hire telemarketers must adhere to, the newly enforced 'list' being the latest.

Exceptions to this rule would be Canadian registered charities, political parties, and political candidates.

As are the existing business relationship you might have had, whether you purchased, leased, or rented a product or service in the last 18 months from the telemarketer.

Whether it be in electronic form, or a written service contract with the organizations you have given express consent to be called by. It might also be a verbal permission you gave, within the same timeframe.

Newsletters of general circulation for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions, organizations conducting market research, surveys, or public opinion polls, are other exceptions.

Oh and sorry, your annoying brother-in-law, or pesky cousin are also exempted.

So where can you register?

Well you could call the DNCL number 1-866-580-3625 or go online at www.lnnt-dncl.gc.ca to get more information, but the phones have been swamped and the online link has been inoperable since it became official, so good luck with that!



make people choose them over sitcoms with real actors and well-written scripts, let alone want to make plans in the real world?

One reason: Reality shows provide sheer entertainment.

It has become hard to entertain the modern society and television networks need to shock, awe and go the extra mile to gain viewers.

Gone are the days when my friends and I would rush home to see the next saga of Zack and Kelly's on-again/off-again relationship on *Saved by the Bell* or see what kind of trouble Will would get into on *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*.

Nowadays, all viewers want to see is a group of regular people duke it out on a desert island or a swarm of women pulling out the claws in an effort to obtain 'true love'.

I have to admit I'm guilty of giving in to the reality addiction. You can bet I'm M.I.A. from 8 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays because I'm watching a group of malnourished women struggle to walk in stilettos on *America's Next Top Model*. I won't answer the phone for anyone.

The sitcom format has been around since the early days of television and some say it has become stale and boring.

I, for one, plan on buying complete DVD's of my favourite sitcoms of all time because I have a feeling that unless viewers stop tuning in to see how far people will go for money, love or fame, reality television will continue to rule the tube.

OUTSIDE THE BOX | BERNARD G. MORE | What the hell just happened?

Just this past week, John McCain who as we all know is running for president of the United States, accused Wall Street of "excessive greed". I found the expression very interesting. That means that all Wall Street's problems have been created by an incorrect amount of greed. They didn't get just the right amount. They got "excessively greedy". The inference here is that if Wall Street had just been greedy, we wouldn't be seeing any problems, but the fools overdid it.

The capitalist system encourages greed, just not quite so much.

The average person on the street is having excessive difficulty understanding what has just occurred. Since Sept. 17, U.S. investment banks have been disappearing faster than beer at a frat party. Why? Basically because they made a huge amount of bad loans. For some years now, if you had an irregular pulse, you could get a mortgage. If you made \$35,000 a year you could buy a house worth \$250,000. Banks would be happy to give you a loan with monthly payments that might eventually exceed your income. The idea was that real estate prices were increasing so fast that if the buyer got into trouble they could sell the house and make a profit. Once again the classic balance of supply and demand screwed up this process. The critical balance began to teeter and soon supply exceeded demand. Homeowners who got behind on their payments couldn't sell their house. Prices began to fall, if you owed \$250,000 on your house and it was now worth \$190,000, why would you keep making payments? You would hand the keys to the bank and say goodbye. Now multiply that scenario by hundreds of thousands until you reach a total of one trillion dollars worth of houses that are now worth half that or less.

Oops.

When you do something and it hurts you, you



may be a little nervous of doing it again. So now U.S. banks are not only refusing to lend money to risky borrowers, they don't even want to lend any to low risk customers, including each other. They are paralyzed by fear.

The capitalist system runs on credit. No credit, no capitalism. These credit problems were further compounded by the grouping or bundling together of these high risk mortgages along with low risk ones and selling them as investments to banks all over the world. Non-U.S. banks did not pay enough attention to the contents of these investments and so have been stung by the same lousy high risk loans. So now it's a worldwide problem.

Chicken Little has been active in the stock market now for some time. Interestingly enough, some investment advisors have been warning on this mess for several years now, but when greed clouds your vision, you may not be able to see the gray train departing. What most did not understand was how international the problem had become with the sale of these bad loans to overseas banks.

Stock market movements are motivated by only two things. They are greed and fear. It is easy to see which is ruling the roost right now. Fear has been the market's companion before and will be again, but fortunately for all, greed will at some point return as the prime motivator. So if you have lost money this time around just make sure you "take a bow next time" ... before the greed gets "excessive". Warren Buffett the world's most successful investor summed it up when he said "When everyone else is celebrating I get nervous. When everyone else is nervous I start celebrating."

More can be reached at Bernard.more@hotmail.com

125 years of news from the Pontiac

THE WAY WE WERE

Compiled by Heather Alberti-Dickson Publisher

25 Years Ago

October 19, 1983

NEW EQUIPMENT AT PCH: Using money donated over the past few years, the Pontiac Community Hospital has recently purchased a new operating table. With electric foot controls for raising, lowering and tilting, the table replaces an old operating table which the hospital had acquired many years ago.

RAY SHEPPARD ALMOST RETIRES: Sheppard Motors has been an integral part of Shawville for 33 years and now under new owners the chances are that it will remain so far into the twenty-first century. This year Ray has sold the company to Eric Smith and Robert MacKechnie, two active young men. Customers of this Ford dealership will still see Ray around for many years to come as he has promised the purchases that he will be available to the firm,

especially during the summer months. Although Ray Sheppard has sold the business, his retirement is not complete, and his community work will also be carried forward. The company will change its name to Shawville Ford Inc. and will continue to serve the Pontiac as they intend to maintain the standards along with the advice and expertise of the original owner.

TEMPORARY SITE FOR SQUASH CLUB: Members of the Pontiac Squash Club have decided to build a squash court inside the annex to the octagonal building owned by the Pontiac Agricultural Society. Work should soon begin to raise the ceiling of the lower room to provide the 20 foot clearance necessary.

50 Years Ago

October 23, 1958

VINTON MAN INSTANTLY KILLED: Paddy Stafford, 62, a farmer of Vinton, 70 miles west of Ottawa, was instantly killed early Monday on Hwy. 8, five miles west of Campbell's Bay when he was struck by a car driven by Serman Fortin, 22, of Fort Coulonge. Stafford was returning to his home from visiting a friend two miles from his homestead at 2 a.m. He was on the left side of the road and was carrying a flashlight when he was struck.

TWO AREA BREAK-INS REPORTED: Two break-ins were reported from the area during the past week. Lee Hodgins' snack bar and service station was broken into on Friday night, when the thieves stole all the cigarettes and cigars on the premises and broke the juke box in a vain effort to get the cash out of it. On Sunday night the store of Adolphe Zimmerling at Otter Lake was broken into when the thieves gained entrance by way of a rear

upper window. They took 1,500 rounds of ammunition, all the cigarettes in the place, hunting knives and sweaters.

75 Years Ago

October 19, 1933

LOCAL NEWS: With representatives present from the branches at Beechgrove, Elmridge, Clarendon, Shawville, Stark's Corners and Wyman, the semi-annual meeting of Women's Institutes of Pontiac County was held in the Sunday School rooms of the United Church, Shawville on Wednesday, Oct. 11. The county president Mrs. W.J. Murray, presided and guided the deliberations of the meeting.

Great preparations are being made by the United Church and community to give a rousing welcome to the Ottawa Presbytery Young People's Union meeting this weekend in the United Church. It is

expected that counting the local Young People over 300 will be present as delegates from the many societies of the Presbytery.

100 Years Ago

October 22, 1908

LOCAL NEWS: Mr. George L. Morice an old resident of Sheen, was accidentally killed on the night of the 16th while returning from a political meeting.

Mr. R. Richardson, the well known horseman of Clarendon, suffered the misfortune of having one of his legs broken below the knee, while indulging in a friendly scuffle at Bryson Monday night.

The county experienced its periodical awakening on Monday last, when the candidates for the seat in the Federal Parliament of Canada were placed in nomination in the customary manner. The day was fine but chilly; roads excellent, and so long before the time for receiving nominations had expired, a large crowd had assembled on the streets in groups and bunches. At two o'clock Returning Officer W. Shea announced from the veranda of Dr. Gaboury's house that Mr. Gerald H. Brabazon of Portage du Fort, and Geo. F. Hodgins,

of Shawville had been duly nominated, and meantime a program of speeches had been arranged between the candidates and their friends, while the crowd thronged the street below.

Fires are reported to be raging in many parts of the country.

Mr. Albert Richardson has sold his home on Centre Street to Mrs. Richard Wilson.

125 Years Ago

October 18, 1883

LOCAL NEWS: A number of our villagers are busily engaged making improvements on their buildings this fall in order to be ready for the cold weather. Messrs T. & W.H. Clarke are fitting up their foundry very comfortably by laying new floors in their work and paintshops. Mr. T. Moran is having the addition which he added to his tailoring establishment recently, underpinned and bricked on the inside. Capt. O. Blondin is erecting a large kitchen in rear of his dwelling house.

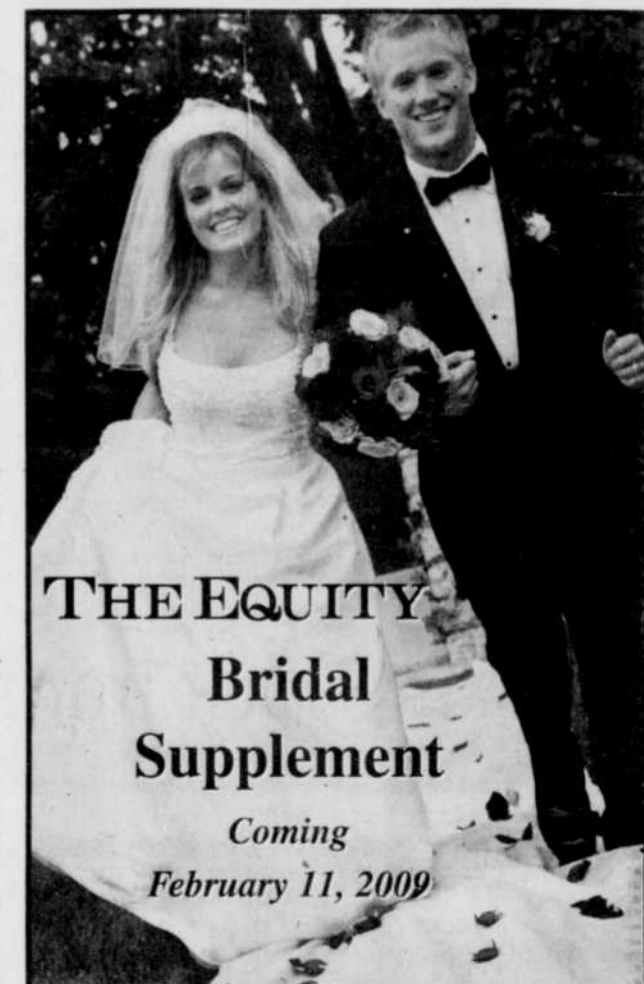
Mrs. Thomas Stitt received serious injuries in the head last Tuesday evening by being thrown from a wagon. It appears she was driving with a young man named Sommerville from

Litchfield, and was in the act of getting out at her own door, when the horses made a sudden start forward, causing the lady to fall backwards on the hard road, striking her head with such violence that it rendered her insensible. Dr. Rouleau was summoned as soon as possible. Mrs. Stitt's injuries are so severe that it will be some time before she recovers.

The government appraisers have been busy in Fort Coulonge during the past week, estimating the amount of damage done to low lying lands, through the building of the Calumet and Rocher Fendu dams. They have lots of fun splashing through marshes, with the water above

their knees, and more especially so on nice frosty mornings.

Some of our farmers have commenced fall ploughing. The exhibition of the County of Pontiac Agricultural Society No. 2 was held last Wednesday, and notwithstanding it rained nearly all day, people to the number of about 1,500 were in attendance in Chapeau. The entries were in excess of last year, but the consequence of the threatening appearance of the weather many things were left at home, thereby retarding the event's success, which under more favourable circumstances would have been a great success.



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Local talent featured at dialysis fundraiser

CAROLE ST-AUBIN

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • Great local talent was displayed at variety show on Friday night.

The Orange Lodge put on its first variety show in over 20 years to raise money for a dialysis machine for the Pontiac Hospital Centre.

On Friday evening a group of local performers gathered in the auditorium at Pontiac High School to put on a show for a crowd of about 100 people.

With something to suit everyone's taste, the featured performers took the stage.

"There is no shortage of talent here in Pontiac," said Lodge member and organizer, Gerald Mielke, adding that when radio personality Dai

Bassett heard about the fundraiser through Heritage radio, he called to volunteer as a last minute addition to the evening's entertainment list.

Kicking off the evening were fiddlers Bruce Armitage and Randy Foster, with Irvin Bean on keyboard. The trio performed a couple of songs, including one that Armitage wrote for his mother, titled Rita's Waltz.

Armitage and Foster were donating five dollars to the dialysis fund from each of their CDs sold that evening.

Next up was another familiar figure at local fundraising events, fiddler/dancer Paulette Gauthier, with seven of her students.

Chantal Martin on fiddle, and dancers Hillary and Katie Belsher, Kendal Lang,



Paulette Gauthier's dance students tap in unison for their closing number at Friday evening's Dialysis Fundraiser Variety Show.

Erica Joy Ellison, Michaela Durocher, and 16-year old Kelsie Bélanger, with whom Paulette performed a foot-

stomping reel with a touch of Riverdance number, were definite crowd-pleasers.

When asked what brought

him out there that night, Carroll Cashman of Masham said "I'm here to support the cause, and to enjoy the entertainment."

Brent Plouffe with his band Friday Night Special (Richard Vezau, Rick Cummings, David Holmes and Gretchen Schwarz) were next on stage, with their rendition of classic songs such as Roy Orbison's 'Crying', Johnny Cash's 'Folsom Prison Blues', and Hank Williams' 'Jambalaya', that were enjoyed by all.

John Marykuca of Sand Bay played a few touching fiddle pieces, followed by the rich timbre of Phillip Holmes' voice singing Momma Tried, The Gambler, and an a cappella version of O Danny Boy.

At intermission, Hazel

Martin (née Fierobin) originally of Ladysmith, who drove from Eganville for the event, said "the entertainment is awesome."

After the short pause, Dai Bassett took the stage, delighting the audience with a charismatic routine which included his popular Shawville Fair 2005 song.

Dai was followed by Yoddlin' Pete (Peter Gratton) of Sugar Loaf Mountain, Gerald Mielke on fiddle, and a few more songs by The Friday Night Special to cap the evening.

As of Tuesday morning \$1,370 had been raised from the event, and one of the event's organizers, Allison Corrigan, told THE EQUITY that they were expecting to reach \$2,000.

Serving up deliciousness



These women were serving up heaping platefuls of deliciousness Saturday at the annual Thanksgiving dinner at Bethany Hall in Danford Lake. The meal took place between 4 and 7 p.m. and more than 200 people were served. From left are Cheryl Geymonat, Lynda Robinson, Gail Presley, Anita Geymonat, Shelley Merrifield and Melva Ritchie.

Ladysmith

Debbie Thrun
647-3927

The annual Oktoberfest has come and gone once again. The weather was cold but dry. A large crowd attended the various events, and the bands offered a variety of music which was enjoyed by all. The parade and classic car show were excellent this year. Congratulations to the directors and many volunteers that make this much enjoyed event possible. Hope to see you all again next year.

Attending Oktoberfest and closing up their cottage for the season was the Martin Thumm family of Toronto.

Some of the cottagers up for Oktoberfest were Billy and Carmilita King, Peter Minitti and family, Rob Lacelle and family and Don Rened.

Deepest sympathy to the Smith family on the passing of Mrs. Harvey Smith.

On Oktoberfest weekend supper guests with us were Claudette and Marcel

Dufault and John Stewart and Della Smith, also Kip, Donna and Shawn Smith. Calling in were Martin Thumm, Raymond Renaud and Luc Lavoie.

Dennis and some friends had the honour of being judges of the Classic Car Show at Oktoberfest. They had a difficult time making a decision because the vehicles were all so beautiful.

Congratulations to Jason Wiggins and Amanda Demers who were married recently. Dennis hunts with Jason.

Get well wishes go out to my friend Della Smith who has been on the sick list.

Hunters report partridge and deer to be very scarce. The wolves are still around, we hear them howling at night.

The special Oktoberfest service at St. John's Church last Sunday was well attended. Much enjoyed were the musical guests the Ranger Family. Rev. Ted Heinz presided.

On Friday we had a lovely visit with Alec Rutledge and Yvette Lacroix.

We met and chatted with

Heather Baldwin of Montreal. She told me she has spent a lot of time in this area this summer visiting her sister Cathy Black and other relatives and friends.

Dennis attended the Orange Lodge Variety Show in Shawville Friday evening. He really enjoyed the singing, fiddling and dancing. It was all for a good cause the Dialysis Fund at the Shawville Hospital.

I hope everyone enjoyed a happy Thanksgiving holiday weekend with family and friends.

Special belated anniversary congratulations to Susan and Wayne Tubman of Shawville who celebrated Oct. 7.

Birthday congratulations to Karl Kappas who celebrated Oct. 11.

Spending Oktoberfest weekend with Freida Krose and attending the festivities were Darlene Brouillette of Grand Mere and a friend Penny Vicent of Shawinigan. Lysanne and John McIntyre of Ottawa, Kim and Karl McIntyre and Baby Kohlman of Mississauga, Toronto. Dropping in on Saturday

was Darwin Krose. He was on his way to his camp for the big hunt.

So, Freida says she had a full house for the weekend. She says she enjoys it all and that everyone is so good to pitch in and help her, even the guys. Freida's highlight of the weekend was to see and cuddle her great-grandson for the first time. She enjoys when her family and friends come home because they all have such a great time.

Going back to Oktoberfest Freida tells me that by Sunday at around 4 p.m. they had completely run out of food. There was only a little bit of sauerkraut left. The black forest cake was a huge success once again this year.

Birthday congratulations to Gen and Clifford Fieroben of Ottawa celebrating on Oct. 16.

Moose season came in on the weekend. This past week hunters were heading up north and other areas, waves of campers and trucks have been heading out for the big hunt. Have a safe and enjoyable hunt guys! Special anniversary con-

Pontiac's minor hockey associations combine

CAROLE ST-AUBIN

Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • As they did last year, the Shawville and District Hockey Association, and the Fort Coulonge Minor Hockey Association will be combining their teams for the 2008-2009 hockey season.

Registration for both Shawville area players and Fort Coulonge area players will still be done in their respective associations, but the practices and games are shared equally, according to Shawville association's treasurer, Shelley Greer.

By combining their teams, they will increase their numbers, and this in turn makes them more competitive.

"Last year was a good

year, we are now able to host a Midget CC team," added Greer.

A good sense of collaboration is shared between both associations.

"Management is still learning, and the feeling was pretty good last year. We had a few complaints from those who had to travel from Luskville to Fort Coulonge for practices and games, but it is for the benefit of the kids," said Brian Boisvert, President of the Fort Coulonge Hockey Association.

"We are now able to play at both higher and lower calibers, instead of having a few better players bump a team up to a higher class" he explained, adding that the

kids now get to thrive where they are best suited to play.

Boisvert says that their registration figures went up by about four to five per cent in recent years, bringing their numbers up to approximately 100 players in Fort Coulonge.

The Mahg one and two divisions are not united between the two associations, but the combination of their novice players brings their total to 50 players, while the atom division tallies at 40 players.

The combined pee-wee division hosts 47 players, bantam 29 players, and midget has approximately 46 registered players.

The price of registration is still set at \$325 for the 2008-

2009 seasons, and tax receipts are available from the association.

Boisvert expects this season will run as well as last year's, because the kids are able to enjoy playing and being more competitive in each individual division.

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Le Ministre Laurent Lessard honore les lauréats de l'Ordre national du mérite agricole 2008

QUÉBEC • La cérémonie de l'Ordre national du mérite agricole s'est déroulée à l'Assemblée nationale.

À cette occasion, le ministre de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation, ministre responsable des régions de la Chaudière-Appalaches et du Centre-du-Québec et député de Frontenac, M. Laurent Lessard, a honoré les gagnants de ce prestigieux concours.

La cérémonie a permis de décerner des décorations aux gagnants nationaux dont les noms ont été dévoilés lors du gala régional, le 9 septembre dernier, à Mont-Tremblant. Cette année, le territoire du concours comprenait les régions des Laurentides, de Montréal-Laval-Lanaudière et de l'Outaouais. Quarante-et-six entreprises agricoles ont participé à ce 119e concours.

En outre, une nouvelle mention a été ajoutée cette année pour mettre en valeur une entreprise qui s'est distinguée dans le domaine agrotouristique.

Devant un auditoire de près de 150 personnes, le

ministre a souligné l'immense travail accompli avec passion et dynamisme par les productrices et les producteurs agricoles qui ont été récompensés.

« Malgré la grande diversité de vos exploitations, vous avez des points communs : d'abord, votre goût du dépassement et votre ténacité à la tâche qui exigent d'innombrables heures de travail; ensuite, votre passion, qui alimente un enthousiasme que vous communiquez à vos proches et souvent à la génération qui suit et qui formera un jour la relève », a déclaré le ministre Laurent Lessard.

Il n'a pas manqué non plus d'exprimer la reconnaissance des Québécoises et des Québécois pour la qualité et la diversité des produits alimentaires de chez nous dont il faut encourager la consommation.

Gagnants nationaux

Les entreprises et les personnes qui ont remporté les grands honneurs en 2008 dans leur catégorie sont les suivantes :

Gagnant de la médaille d'or

Agritabex
Saint-Thomas (Montréal-Laval-Lanaudière)
Production horticulture maraîchère

Mme Mitzi Peirs et M. Jean-Pierre Labyt
Dans la catégorie or se sont également distinguées Mme Marie Provost, de L'Herboristerie la Clef des champs inc. (deuxième rang national), et Mme Danielle Landreville, de l'exploitation agricole Danielle Landreville (troisième rang national).

Première médaille d'argent

Intermuel inc.
Mirabel (Laurentides)
Production apicole

Mme Viviane Macle et M. Christian Macle
Dans la catégorie argent, des médailles ont été remises à Mmes Susan et Lindsay Hamilton et à MM. Bill et Jared Hamilton, des entreprises Les Gazonniers Mountainview Ltée (deuxième rang national), ainsi qu'à M. Stéphane Roy, de l'entreprise Les Serres Nouvelles Cultures inc. (troisième rang national).

Première médaille de bronze
Fraisebec inc.

Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines (Laurentides)
Production horticulture fruitière

Mme Isabelle Charbonneau, M. Simon Charbonneau et M. Éric Landry

Dans la catégorie bronze, Mmes Jeannie, Jennifer et Keena Judd et MM. Christopher, Robin et Scott Judd, de la Ferme Glad Crest Farms inc. (deuxième rang national), de même que M. Daniel Bastien, de Gazonniers Bastien et Fils inc. (troisième rang national), ont reçu une médaille.

Autres prix

Le ministre a par ailleurs attribué des trophées aux récipiendaires des mentions spéciales du Ministère :

Mention de la formation agricole de la relève
Les Fermes de la Côte inc.
Saint-Esprit (Montréal-Laval-Lanaudière)

Production laitière
Mme Micheline St-Jean et M. Jean-Marc Grégoire
Mention de la relève féminine

Jean-Pierre Laverne
Chénéville (Outaouais)
Production porcine
Mme Sylvie Sabourin et

M. Jean-Pierre Laverne
Mention spéciale de l'agrotourisme
Intermuel inc.
Mirabel (Laurentides)
Production apicole

Mme Viviane Macle et M. Christian Macle

Les partenaires majeurs du concours, le Groupe Promutuel et La Coop fédérée, ont décerné leur prix respectif aux entreprises suivantes :

Mérite Promutuel de la prévention

Les Gazonniers Mountainview Ltée

Pontiac (Outaouais)

Production de gazon cultivé

Mmes Susan et Lindsay Hamilton et M. Bill et Jared Hamilton

Prix La Coop fédérée à l'agronvironnement
Agritabex

Saint-Thomas (Montréal-Laval-Lanaudière)
Production horticulture maraîchère

Mme Mitzi Peirs et M. Jean-Pierre Labyt

Les photos sont publiées dans le site du Ministère à l'adresse suivante :

www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/on

ma.

Diffusion de la cérémonie
La cérémonie de l'Ordre national du mérite agricole a été présentée en direct par la télévision de l'Assemblée nationale et sera rediffusée le 11 octobre à 20 h 30.

Le Canal de l'Assemblée nationale est accessible dans toutes les régions du Québec par l'intermédiaire des câblodistributeurs.

Veuillez consulter la grille des canaux de votre région pour le numéro auquel il correspond.

Grands Prix - TransporAction Pontiac

PONTIAC • Dans le cadre des premiers Grands Prix de la ruralité du Ministère des Affaires Municipales et des Régions (MAMR), TransporAction Pontiac a gagné le prix Excellence-Innovation lors de la soirée de remise des prix qui a eu lieu le jeudi 11 septembre à Saint-Camille, en Estrie. Ces Grands Prix visaient à récompenser les leaders du développement rural à la grandeur du Québec et le prix Excellence-Innovation visait à reconnaître les réalisations les plus novatrices dans le cadre des mesures de la

Politique nationale de la ruralité.

TransporAction Pontiac, organisme à but non lucratif situé à Campbell's Bay et voué au transport collectif et au transport adapté, s'est distingué par la constante progression et par la diversification de ses services offerts à la population pontisnoise.

Monsieur Robert Dupuis, directeur général de TransporAction Pontiac, a reçu le prix, en présence de 400 acteurs du monde rural qui participait à cette grande soirée-récompense, dont madame

Nathalie Normandeau, vice-première ministre et ministre des Affaires municipales et des régions.

M. Dupuis a notamment remercié le conseil des maires de la MRC de Pontiac pour son aide financière importante et pour son appui unanime et le Centre local de développement (CLD) du Pontiac pour son soutien indéfectible et pour la mise en candidature de TransporAction aux Grands Prix de la ruralité.

De plus, M. Dupuis a souligné l'importance du

partenariat avec le Centre de santé et des services sociaux du Pontiac (CSSSP).

Il a également démontré qu'il y a des actions innovantes dans la MRC de Pontiac et que notre MRC est, composée d'acteurs allant dans le sens d'un développement durable, cohérent et prenant en compte les besoins de la population pontisnoise.

Pour plus d'informations, voir les pièces jointes ou communiquez avec M. Robert Dupuis, de TransporAction Pontiac (648-2223).

L'Outaouais célèbre la première édition de la Journée des ressources naturelles

QUÉBEC • Le directeur général du Ministère des ressources naturelles et de la Faune, M. Jean Benoit, et la vice-présidente de la Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais, Mme Paulette Lalande, ont procédé au lancement régional de la première édition de la Journée des ressources naturelles.

Ce rendez-vous, qui se tiendra dimanche le 19 octobre, permettra aux citoyens d'en connaître davantage sur l'importance économique, sociale et environnementale des ressources naturelles, sur l'expertise québécoise, sur les métiers, sur la

relève...

« Les ressources naturelles les forêts, la faune, les mines, les forces hydrauliques – constituent, et ont toujours constitué, un immense potentiel de richesse collective pour tout le Québec et particulièrement pour notre région. Cette journée vise à nous le rappeler, a tenu à préciser M. Benoit.

La CRÉO s'est associée au Ministère afin de promouvoir la Journée des ressources naturelles.

« Il est très important, pour assurer le développement durable et harmonieux de notre belle

région, d'informer et de sensibiliser les générations actuelles et futures sur le rôle des entreprises et des organismes de la région qui génèrent des activités économiques, culturelles et touristiques liées aux ressources naturelles.

Nous sommes heureux de contribuer au succès de la Journée », a ajouté Mme Lalande.

Pour connaître la programmation régionale des activités de cette première édition, la population est invitée à consulter un tout nouveau site Web intitulé Un espace grand comme nous! à l'adresse

www.PortesOuvertes.mrnfg.ouv.qc.ca.

Ce site évolutif et interactif offre une foule de renseignements sur les ressources naturelles du Québec et sur les métiers qui y sont liés.

Le dimanche 19 octobre 2008, sortez et profitez d'une belle journée d'automne pour célébrer la Journée des ressources naturelles en famille ou encore entre amis.

Faites votre choix parmi l'une des sorties Côté nature et laissez-vous surprendre par des femmes et des hommes passionnés et passionnants!

Deux entreprises enlèvent les prévention honneurs

QUÉBEC • Lors du gala régional organisé dans le cadre du concours de l'Ordre national du mérite agricole (ONMA), que le nom des deux lauréats du Mérite Promutuel de la prévention a été dévoilé.

Fier partenaire de l'ONMA depuis maintenant dix-sept ans, le Groupe Promutuel est heureux de pouvoir contribuer à la reconnaissance des efforts investis jour après jour par les artisans de la terre.

« Cet événement nous permet de souligner l'importance du travail des exploitants agricoles. C'est donc un immense plaisir de féliciter tous les lauréats de ce prestigieux concours », a souligné M. Omer Bouchard, président du conseil d'administration du Groupe Promutuel au cours de la soirée.

La prévention a toujours fait partie des priorités de Promutuel qui est d'ailleurs un chef de file en cette matière.

À fin de reconnaître les efforts des exploitants agricoles, le Groupe a instauré, il y a quinze ans, le Mérite

Promutuel de la prévention.

Parmi toutes les entreprises inscrites au concours, deux se sont illustrées au chapitre de la prévention.

Pour la région des Laurentides, le Mérite Promutuel de la prévention a été décerné à Intermiel inc.

Cette entreprise, spécialisée dans la production de miel, s'est distinguée par son souci de propreté et de sécurité alimentaire, Intermiel inc. a mis sur pied des mesures de traçabilité de ses produits.

Pour la région de l'Outaouais, c'est l'entreprise Les Gazonniers Mountainview Ltée, spécialisée dans la production de gazon, qui a remporté les honneurs. Cette entreprise a mis de l'avant de nombreuses initiatives afin d'éviter que des accidents ne surviennent.

Elle a également formé un comité en santé et sécurité au travail qui se réunit à plusieurs occasions au cours de l'année dans le but d'assurer la sécurité des employés.

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DE LA VALEUR FONCIÈRE

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EST PAR LES PRÉSENTES DONNÉ par le soussigné, que: LE RÔLE TRIENNAL D'ÉVALUATION FONCIÈRE de la Municipalité de Pontiac sera, en 2009, en vigueur pour son deuxième exercice financier, et que toute personne peut en prendre connaissance à cet endroit, durant les heures d'affaires régulières. Conformément aux dispositions de l'article 74.1 de la Loi sur la fiscalité municipale, avis est également donné que toute personne ayant un intérêt à cet effet, peut déposer à l'égard de ce rôle, une demande de révision prévue par la section 1 du chapitre X de cette loi au motif que l'évaluateur n'a pas effectué une modification qu'il aurait dû y apporter en vertu de la loi.

Pour être recevable, une telle demande de révision doit remplir les conditions suivantes :

- être déposée au cours de l'exercice financier pendant lequel survient un événement justifiant une modification du rôle en vertu de la loi ou au cours de l'exercice suivant ;
- être déposée à l'endroit suivant ou y être envoyée par courrier recommandé :

MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais
216, chemin Old Chelsea
Chelsea, Québec J9B 1J4

- être faite sur le formulaire prescrit à cette fin et disponible à l'endroit indiqué ci-dessus;
- être accompagnée de la somme d'argent déterminée par le règlement 43-97 de la MRC des Collines de l'Outaouais et applicable à l'unité d'évaluation visée par la demande.

DONNÉ À PONTIAC le 26e JOUR DE SEPTEMBRE, EN L'AN DEUX-MILLE HUIT.

Sylvain Bertrand
Directeur général

Merci beaucoup

J'aimerais remercier tout le personnel du Centre de Santé et de Services Sociaux du Pontiac (CSSSP) pour tous les bons soins reçus lors de mes deux hospitalisations. Je ne mentionnerai aucun nom de peur d'oublier des gens, mais une mention toute spéciale au Dr. Sultan, Dr. Talko, Dr. Darwich (psychiatre) Dr. Zaroukian et Dr. Guillolette. Il a trouvé je crois, le diagnostic avec l'aide de Dr. Guillolette. J'ai un test de CT-scan de la tête pour le 7 octobre. Ensuite je dois rencontrer Dr. Darwich pour la vérification de mes médicaments. Mon mari Ron, mon fils Bobby, ma fille Kim ainsi que ma famille veulent que je revienne comme avant l'accident. Je suis reconnaissante de toute leur aide de toute leur aide afin que je puisse trouver le diagnostic qui dure depuis le 2 novembre 2006 (au travail, une chute dans le sous-sol sur le dos sur le ciment + coupure à la tête avec 2-3 points de suture + radiographie du dos mais on a oublié la radiographie de la tête). À 51 ans, je n'avais jamais eu de point de suture ou un voyage en ambulance - on a bien ri Ron Hodgins quand il a trouvé un fil d'araignée sur le bord de ma lunette. J'ai commencé à lire et ça m'a fait mal au dos. Dr. Benfey qui était à l'urgence avant une jeune étudiante - il lui a demandé de faire les points de suture - elle était très douce. J'ai demandé au Dr. Benfey s'il y avait quelque chose à faire de particulier mais il m'a répondu de ne pas utiliser de shampooing ou seulement mouiller mes cheveux - mettre un chapeau pour ne pas avoir de froid dans les points. Après son départ, André Beaumont m'a fait un bandage, j'avais l'air d'un "Cone Head" Ron, Marlene, Nancy et Jane n'arrêtaient pas de rire. Même ma sœur qui était à l'hôpital pour une mammographie. Elle se demandait ce que je faisais là - ma réponse fut "J'avais besoin d'une vacance - j'étais très fatiguée et j'avais beaucoup de travail à faire. Ma maison est assez sale qu'une truie ne pourrait pas trouver ses petits porcelets. J'aurais aimé être avec ma famille pour l'Action de Grâce, afin de manger ma tarte à la citrouille. J'aimerais remercier le bon Dieu que je puisse être présente avec ma famille car je leur ai fait une peur "bleue". J'espère que je serai contrôlée avec médicaments sous les soins du Dr. Darwich et Dr. Karen Chambers, un médecin de famille incomparable. Je l'ai rencontré depuis Dr. Phil McNeely a quitté le Canada pour les États-Unis. Nous sommes très chanceux de posséder un hôpital de haute qualité car les soins sont excellents.

Thank you

I would like to thank all the personnel of the Centre de Santé et de Services Sociaux du Pontiac (CSSSP) for the excellent care I received during my two hospitalizations. I will not mention all names in case I forget somebody that I really care for. Special mention to Dr. Sultan, Dr. Talko, Dr. Darwich, psychiatrist and Dr. Guillolette for diagnosing the problem. I had a CT-Scan of the head on October 7 and I will meet with Dr. Darwich to be sure all my medications will help. I hope he can take some away. I wanted to be home for Thanksgiving so I could entertain and have a piece of pumpkin pie but I couldn't. I believe my problem began with my fall in the basement on November 2, 2006. I haven't been the same since then. I fell on my back and cut my head and had to get stitches. The trip by ambulance was not bad. I have never been in an ambulance or ever had stitches before. When I got to the hospital, Kevin Hodgins said, hold on for a minute. You have a spider web on your glasses. I said, I hope not because I hate spiders they creep me. I began to laugh and it hurt my back. Dr. Benfey was on call at the hospital plus a nice looking student. She did a good job, very gentle and it didn't hurt. I asked Dr. Benfey if I could wash my hair, he said not to use shampoo, conditioner or hair spray, and try not to get cold when I go out. André Beaudet asked Dr. Benfey if he needed to make me a turban. He answered no, as long as her husband brings the car to the door. He didn't listen though, he made me a nice hat, I looked like a "Cone Head". Everybody was laughing at me even Annette. They tried hard not to. When I got home I looked in the mirror. I was so mad. Ron said, do you need to take a picture? I said, don't you dare or I will never talk to you again. I scared my family, but they continue to pray for me. Jesus was by my side. I am getting the best care under Dr. Darwich and Dr. Karen Chambers, my family physician. I met her after Dr. McNeely left Canada to go to work in the United States. The care I am getting is incomparable. We are very fortunate to have a hospital that takes very good care. We cannot compare our hospital to any other in the Outaouais.

Marie-Ange Ostrom

Avis Public - Public Notice

Avis important

La Chambre de commerce du Pontiac est à la recherche d'entreprises qui désirent devenir membres.

Pendant la semaine des PME, le 19 au 25 octobre, une trousse d'information sera envoyée à toutes les entreprises, expliquant le rôle et les avantages à devenir membres de la Chambre de commerce. Si vous avez une entreprise et vous n'avez pas reçu la trousse d'information, s'il vous plaît contacter la Chambre de commerce au 1-866-861-0509.

Cette initiative a été faite en conjonction avec la Semaine des PME et l'appui de la SADC Pontiac CFDC.

Important Notice

The Pontiac Chamber of Commerce is presently seeking businesses to join their ranks and give the Pontiac a strong voice.

During Small Business Week, October 19th – 25th, an information package will be mailed to all businesses explaining the role that the Chamber of Commerce can play and also the benefits of becoming a member. If you have a business and did not receive the information package, please contact us, the Chamber of Commerce, at 1-866-861-0509.

This initiative is done in conjunction with Small Business Week and with the help of the SADC Pontiac CFDC.

Juniors comeback falls short in OT

WILBUR MCLEAN

SHAWVILLE • Producing a spirited comeback from a three goal deficit, the Pontiac Junior 'B's eventually lost 6-5 in overtime to the Ottawa Canadians Friday night in Shawville.

The Pontiacs took out revenge for the close loss Sunday, in a 7-1 drubbing of their cross-river rivals, the Renfrew Timberwolves.

On Friday night, Ottawa's Nick Gianetto scored the game winning goal off his own rebound past the diving Pontiacs goalie, Mathieu Crousset to win the game 47 seconds into overtime.

The goal put a damper on what was a strong comeback by the Junior 'B's, who rallied from a 4-1 deficit to take a 5-4 lead, though a late goal by the Canadians sent the game into the extra frame.

A goal by Brennan McGrath with only five seconds remaining in the second period was the pivotal point in the comeback, as it sent the Pontiacs into the

second intermission with only a 4-3 deficit. Shane Powell and Tyson Allard assisted on the goal, which came after an extended period of pressure by the Junior 'B's resulting in three consecutive faceoffs in the Canadians' zone before the goal was scored.

In the third period, Powell tied the game at four by getting his stick on a shot from the point to redirect it past the Ottawa netminder. Chabot and Joran Graham were credited with assists.

With less than five minutes remaining, Justin Langlois-Beeby scored his second goal of the contest to give the Pontiacs a short-lived lead.

Ottawa responded only a minute later. Neither team could score again in regulation, sending the game to overtime.

The Pontiacs started strong in the contest with a goal by Langlois-Beeby but a lazy stretch from midway through the first period to the halfway point of the sec-

ond period produced four goals by the Canadians, as the Pontiacs showed little resolve defensively.

However, the team turned things around and did well to pressure Ottawa.

Sunday, the Pontiacs turned things around in a big way and gained their first blowout win of the year.

The Junior 'B's allowed the first goal two minutes in before pouring on the scoring in netting seven consecutive goals in earning the win.

Former Pontiacs goalie Mitch Racicot, who was traded to Renfrew in the off-season, was chased from net after conceding four goals in less than 25 minutes.

The Pontiacs were vicious on the powerplay making Renfrew pay for their frequent trips to the penalty box in converting four of 12 powerplay chances.

Seven different players scored for the Pontiacs: Yancey Thusky, Powell, Allard, Graham, Chabot, Sandy Dubeau and Dave Lazenby.



The Pontiac Junior 'B's were unable to capitalize on the power play on this opportunity Friday night against the Ottawa Canadians. The Junior 'B's lost the game 6-5 in overtime.

Ottawa's Dubeau and Shawville's Powell also had two assists each.

Up next
This week, the Pontiacs have a rare two home game week.

Friday, the Pontiacs welcome Arnprior for the first time this season.

The perennial basement dwellers have shown marked improvement this

season and their tough squad has gotten off to a good start. That game begins at 8 p.m.

Sunday the Junior 'B's host the undefeated Ottawa West Golden Knights. That game begins at 7 p.m.

EOJBHL Valley Division Standings						
G	W	L	T	OTL	PTS	
Stittsville 9	6	3	0	0	12	
C. Place 8	5	1	2	0	12	
Arnprior 9	4	5	0	0	8	
Renfrew 8	3	3	1	1	8	
Pontiacs 7	2	3	1	1	6	
Perth 9	2	5	1	1	6	

With season over, Flyers look ahead

WILBUR MCLEAN

QUYON • With their 2008 fastball season over, the Quyon Flyers have already begun looking ahead to the 2009 campaign.

Having bowed out in an exciting five-game series to the Stittsville 56ers, the Flyers watched as Stittsville unseated the five-team Greater Ottawa Fastball League champions, Ottawa Team Easton last week.

The 56ers won the finals three games to one, handily defeating Team Easton 10-2 in game four to capture the championship.

Quyon can take some solace in knowing they narrowly lost to the eventual champions.

"Yeah, from our perspective it's good to see," said Joe McCleary, Flyers catcher.

"The last thing we wanted to see was Easton walk all over Stittsville because that would have opened our eyes and made us think maybe we weren't as far along as we really are."

The Flyers had a strong second season in the top tier of men's fastball in Ottawa

area, finishing third in the nine-team league with a 12-5-2 record.

They swept the experienced team from Manotick in their first round playoff series before bowing out to Stittsville in a five game series that included three extra inning contests, leading McCleary to say Quyon's year was "definitely" a success.

McCleary said he wasn't surprised Stittsville went on to defeat Team Easton, despite Easton amassing a sparkling 25-2 playoff record during the last four seasons headed into this year's final.

"We thought from day one that Stittsville had the best bats in the league and they had a real chance," said McCleary.

In the last two seasons, the Flyers have made two significant additions to their squad.

This year, Drew Hathway became an instrumental part of the Flyers' pitching rotation and was a fixture in the five-slot of the team's batting lineup.

Last year, Joran Graham joined the team and instant-

ly became the Flyers' clean-up hitter, as well as one of their top pitchers and fielders.

Despite recent additions, McCleary said he didn't foresee the Flyers acquiring any more players this off-season.

"Those were two pretty special cases. I don't think we're going to add anybody else unless somebody pretty special comes along looking for a team," he said, noting the team now has 12 players and probably couldn't reasonably hold any more.

While their league team is set, the Flyers' tournament team should be improved for 2009 with assurances that Hathway and Graham will be more available.

"Drew made it clear he's a Flyer for life now," said McCleary.

Originally from the Toronto area, Hathway was still playing in tournaments this season for the Waterdown Hammer, one of the best intermediate fastball teams in North America.

Graham, meanwhile, made the Canadian national junior team and was away for much of the summer to

play at the world championships. The junior men's world championships aren't played again until 2011.

The commitment of two-thirds of the Flyers' regular pitching staff should buoy their attempts to qualify for the 2009 intermediate softball championships, to be held in Wisconsin.

The qualifying tournament will take place in June.

The Flyers got off to an excellent start in the league this year and threatened Team Easton's position atop the standings for a good portion of the season.

McCleary said 10 weeks of indoor sessions at Pontiac High School during the winter months helped the team improve.

"We came out of the blocks on fire and I think that helped out," said McCleary.

"We argue about a lot of things but this was one of the few times we all agreed, that we'll rent the gym again."

McCleary said he specifically cited fielding and bunting as two areas the team may work on in the gym.



The Panthers' Jesse Mahoney does his best to avoid a tackler against Hadley last week.

Fans can't lead Panthers to win

WILBUR MCLEAN

SHAWVILLE • Despite the help of dozens of extra football fans, the Pontiac High School Panthers still struggled in their home game Friday.

Grade 5 and 6 students from Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School in Shawville were guests at the game, bringing along signs, chants and plenty of raucous cheer.

Despite the extra support, the Panthers were over-matched on the field, losing 72-0 to Hadley, who improved to 4-2. The Panthers record fell to 0-6.

Pontiac's best chance to score came late in the game when they earned them-

selves a first and goal opportunity deep in Hadley territory.

However, the team was unable to punch the ball in for a score.

Using the elusive quickness and vision of their undersized running back, Hadley was successful at utilizing deceptive running plays to run up the score.

A week earlier on Saturday, Oct. 4, the Panthers achieved their best result of the season in a 30-6 defeat to Cité Étudiante Haute-Gatineau.

The Panthers' final game of the season is scheduled for Friday, on the road against Nicolas Gatineau, who currently hold a 4-2 record.

Midget Lions fall to strength of Titans

PONTIAC • They hit the ice ready to conquer but the Midget A Pontiac Lions eventually lost the battle last Saturday in Gatineau after being defeated 4-2 by the Gatineau Titans.

The Lions started out with a roar, with Nicolas Durocher scoring the first goal of the evening less than two minutes into the game.

But the Titans were fast on his trail with Philippe Poirier scoring a goal before the Lions could even celebrate.

Poirier helped secure a lead late in the first period with an

assist that led to a goal from Bruno Boies to put the Titans up by one heading into the second period.

The two teams' strong defense kept the scoreboard the same during the second period.

The next goal came midway through the final period, with the Titans advancing their score after a goal by Alex Lefebvre.

Less than 20 seconds later, Lions player Maxime Malette came barreling down the ice for a goal putting the score at 3 to 2.

Titan Derek Larose sealed the lead with the final goal of the night nearly nine minutes into the third period, with Jonathan Dubois providing the assist.

Lions battle for a win
The game was neck and neck but the Pee Wee B Pontiac Lions played hard and came out the victor last Saturday after beating the Aylmer Raftsmen 3-2 in an away game at Robinson Arena in Aylmer.

Travis Yach had an impressive night, scoring a goal and one assist for the Lions, while

Andy Boisvert and Marc Antoine Belair got the remaining two goals to put the team on top.

Helping his fellow players was Nathan White with two assists for the night. Adam Bretzlaff and Cody Laurent also showed great team support with one assist each.

Peeewe 'A' lose opener
The Peeewe 'A' Pontiac Lions played their opener Sunday against the Gatineau Titans, losing 3-1.

The Lions' only goal was scored by Travis Yach in the third period.

OVERTIME | LUKE MURPHY

The Chicago Cubs: lovable losers



They're known as the "Lovable Losers", and this season, they lived up to their name. I wouldn't normally write an article like this for THE EQUITY but being a lifelong Cubs fan myself, and actually having my hopes up this year, I couldn't resist.

I grew up idolizing Ryne Sandberg. Sandberg was the second baseman for the Chicago Cubs from 1982-1997 and had a hall of fame career. I've seen some great second basemen in my life (played alongside a few), but Sandberg, what he could do on the field and with a bat, his passion for the game and his sportsmanship, turned me into a lifelong Cubs fan.

So, for obvious reasons (the Cubs finished the 2008 season with the best record in the National League), I was optimistic that the Cubs this

year had a shot at winning their first World Series since 1908. A win would have broken their 100 year championship drought, currently the longest in any major sport. But that was not to be.

Instead, the "Lovable Losers" got swept in the first round for the second straight season, by the Los Angeles Dodgers, a team that finished the season with a record barely over .500. The first-round loss sealed a century of frustration for Cubs fans. And to make matters worse, one of my good friends is a Dodgers fan, so now I have to listen to him gloat.

The upset has not gone overlooked by Cubs fans. They're making their voices heard. This was their year. This was the year the Cubs faithful finally got their chance to win. With a starting rotation that was phenomenal, a batting lineup that was solid from top to bottom, and a defensive fielding team that was at the top

of the league, the Cubs fans finally had something to cheer about.

But with the heartbreaking loss, comes the passionate reactions. Cubs fans occupy every nook and cranny of America. They were hoping to end a century long drought of frustration. We all know sports fans can be intense, showing a passion for their team that is unchallenged. Well, Cubs fans, people who have been following the team their whole lives, are no different.

One Cubs fan was so upset with his team's failure in the playoffs that he went so far as to offer to sell his team loyalty to the highest bidder on eBay.

The 30 year-old promised he would root for the winning bidder's favorite sports team, forever. The money made from the auction would go to charity. But eBay stepped in, yanked the auction, saying that it violated company policies to sell only tangible

items.

The Cubs' fan hopes to relish his loyalty, perhaps adding a baseball mitt as a tangible item, and restart the bidding. Before the auction got terminated though, the highest bid on the loyalty was \$7,100.00.

And who made that bid? Wouldn't you know it, the bid of \$7,100.00 was offered by a Chicago White Sox fan, the Cubs' cross city rivals.

Although I'm devastated with the loss, I won't go as far as selling my loyalty. Many fans are still on board, and that's what makes the Cubs special.

Even those who see this year as a lost cause will, by the beginning of next year, be thinking about their first World Series in 101 years.

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

AUCTION SALE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2008
at 10:00 a.m. for **MIKE and DIANNE FORTIER**
1795 Lochwinnoch Road, Renfrew, Ont.
Off Hwy. 17 just east of Renfrew onto Lochwinnoch Road, approx. 3 miles from Hwy. 17, signs posted.
Ford 1510 tractor with 770B loader, 4 WD; Meteor snowblower, 3 pth, 5 ft.; Farm King finishing mower, 3 pth, 6 ft.; NEW Husqvarna commercial, 52 inch Zero-turn hydrostatic lawn mower, 175 hrs.; Coleman 5000 watt generator; oak hall table; oak china cabinet/dining desk, 60" round dining room table with 4 leaves and 6 chairs, matching buffet; "Remembrance" silverware set; Duncan file drop leaf table; blue bottle collections; antiques; 27" Samsung colour TV; Inglis washer; Crosley dryer; French Provincial wing chair; white ironstone 12 piece place setting; household furnishings; 5 HP Johnson outboard motor; 35 Evinrude outboard motor; garden items; Stihl TS360 concrete/steel cut-off saw; woodworking tools; 8" Rockwell Beaver tablesaw; 10" Ridgid tablesaw; assorted wood and mechanic tools; and miscellaneous items.
Mr. and Mrs. Fortier have sold their home, everything to sell. Everything has been well cared for.
Terms: Cash or Cheque with ID — Lunch Available
Auctioneer: Preston Cull, R.R. #1, Douglas, Ont. 613-649-2378
Owner or Auctioneer not responsible in case of accident or theft.

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PRODUCTION SIMMENTAL SALE
For Barb Vance & Guest Consignors
Sat., Oct. 25, 2008 at 1 p.m.
Hobbs Bros. Sale Pavilion
2394 Dwyer Hill Rd., Ashton, ON
Selling Reg. 36 bred females, 15 heifer calves and 2 bulls.
Also on Oct. 18 at 1 p.m.
Dispersal for Dick Jones - Red Angus
Selling 35 lots, plus consignment of bred females, 10 commercial Simmental, 12 Gelbvieh and 10 crossbred cows.
All cows will be preg. checked.
Info: Rick 613-257-7583 cell 613-253-6669
Keith 613-257-2537

DOUBLE HOME-GAME WEEKEND

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8PM

SUN., OCT. 19
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WEST
STILL
UNDEFEATED
7PM

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MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC

To the ratepayers of the aforesaid Municipality
PUBLIC NOTICE
TABLING OF THE ASSESSMENT ROLL SUMMARY
SECOND YEAR OF THE THREE-YEAR ASSESSMENT ROLL
IS HEREBY GIVEN by the undersigned, that:
THE THREE YEAR ASSESSMENT ROLL for the Municipality of Pontiac, in 2009, will be in force for its' second fiscal year, and anyone may consult it during regular office hours.
In conformity with the provisions of article 74.1 of the Act Respecting Municipal Taxation, notice is also given that any person interested, may in view of this assessment, file an application for review, as provided in section 1 of chapter X of this law, to the effect that the evaluator has not given a modification that should have been done in virtue of the law.
To be receivable, an application for review must meet the following conditions:
- must be filed during the course of the fiscal year in which some event justifies a modification to the roll in virtue of the law or during the course of the following fiscal year;
- must be filed at the following address or sent there by registered mail:
MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais
216 chemin Old Chelsea
Chelsea (Quebec) J9B 1J4
- must fill out the required form for these purposes which is available at the above-mentioned address;
- must be accompanied by the sum of money established in the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais by-law no. 43-97 and applicable to the unit of assessment that is intended by the application for review.
GIVEN IN PONTIAC, this 26th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, TWO THOUSAND EIGHT.
Sylvain Bertrand
Director general

DON'T DELAY
2008 Birth Announcements
for the January 7, 2009 edition of
THE EQUITY

THE EQUITY is planning a special birth announcement spread, featuring photos of babies born in 2008 with announcements, for the issue of Jan. 7, 2009.

Advertisement: Includes a one column (1 1/2" wide) photo and 50 word write-up. Additional words welcome at 15¢ (plus taxes) per word.
Cost: Photo in colour \$39.49 + \$2.37 GST + \$3.14 QST = \$45.00.
Photo in black and white: \$30.72 + \$1.84 GST + \$2.44 QST = \$35.00
Payment: All announcements **must be prepaid**. cheques payable to Pontiac Printshop Ltd.
Information: Photos may be of any size, reduction or enlargement will be made to adjust the size to 1 1/2". Photos may be picked up after January 7, 2009, or, enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and it will be returned.
Deadline: Dec. 31, 2008.

Mail or drop-off to
THE EQUITY
133 Centre Street, P.O. Box 4300
Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0
Or e-mail: display@persona
Attention: Katherine Hynes
819-647-2204

SAMPLE

Tessa Barton
Dickson/Barton - Leslie, Jason, and big brother Owen Ross are thrilled to announce the birth of Tessa James "Ladybug" Barton, born February 14th, 2008 at the Maison des Naissances in Gatineau. Our wonderful midwives helped us bring her into the world as the sun was rising on her Oma's birthday. Proud grandparents are Heather Dickson and Greg Hayley (Oma & Opa) of Shawville, Ross Dickson and Diana Bracegirdle of Perth, and Austin and Geraldine Barton of Nepean. Leslie, Jason, Owen and Tessa live in Wakefield.

October '08							November '08						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

COMING EVENTS

Thurs., Oct. 16 - Harvest Supper at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall 4:30 - 7 p.m. \$12/Adult; \$6/child; \$36/Family. 2bo15

RIVER CLUB
CHAPEAU
presents

PETER WHITE
Sat., Oct. 18
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Hwy 148
Chapeau

Thurs., Oct. 23 - At 7 p.m. Women's Wellness Network presents the film River of Life with guest speaker Janet Moore. Community Learning Centre (St. John's Elementary), 26 Leslie St., Campbell's Bay. Free will donation for Breast Cancer Society. 2bo15

Sun., Oct. 25 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CWL Harvest Tea and Bake Sale St. John the Evangelist Parish Centre, Campbell's Bay. Adults \$6, children \$3. 4bo22

Senior Curling starting soon. We will soon be making up the teams for the first draw of the 2008-2009 Senior Curling Season. Senior Men Curling on Mondays - Senior mixed curling on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A great way to exercise during the winter months. Also meet friends, play cards, etc. If you have curled before, come on back. If you have never curled, come on in. We have experienced curlers that will help you get started. Afraid that it's too hard to throw rocks, over 15% of our senior curlers use the push stick. It takes very little effort to deliver the stones with the push stick. Come in and try it, no obligation. Pay by the day or check our special rates for new curlers. For more information call 647-5886. 2xo22

Sat., Oct. 25 - Tea and Bazaar, St. Andrew's Knox United Church, Bristol, 2 to 4 p.m. \$5. Everyone welcome. xo15

Sat., Nov. 1 - Halloween Bash, Lions Club Hall Quyon. 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. Featuring Simon Clarke. All proceeds to support "Weekend to End Breast Cancer." xtc

Wed., Nov. 5 - The Shawville Lionettes and The Pontiac Community Players will present a dessert cabaret "And Peace Ever After" at the RA Centre at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$12 each are available from any Lionette and Boutique Gwendoline. xo15

Sat., Dec. 27 - The best Christmas party in The Ottawa Valley is at The Renfrew Wing. Featuring Canadian Champion Fiddler, Louis Schryer, Gail Gavan, The Mick Armitage Band, Renfrew's own Hal Cutt and from Bristol Adrienne Taylor. Tickets in Shawville at 819-647-5915 or in Quyon at 819-458-2771 (Bus Available). Call 613-226-9178 to have tickets mailed or for complete information. b8d3

MISCELLANEOUS

Hot tub 2008, loaded, all options, cover, warranty, new, still in wrap. Cost \$9,000, sell \$4,900. Delivery Possible. 418-683-2436. qo15

MISCELLANEOUS

Firewood - mixed hardwood \$85 a cord delivered in Shawville and surrounding areas. 819-453-2207. 4xoc29

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Firewood, mostly poplar \$40 cord 647-5842. 4xo22

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WANTED

Band - Singer, songwriter, rhythm guitar player looking to form band, new country, country rock, between ages of 18-22. Need lead guitar, bass and drummer. Must be able to practice weekends in Bristol, have own equipment, interested in working on originals, record and play gigs in Ottawa Valley area. Contact adriennetaylor@live.com xtc

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Campbell's Bay - 3 bedroom house, newly renovated, electric heat, references required. Contact Diane at 819-648-5296. xtc

Green Lake - Cottage/four-season home for rent. Nov.-May, weekly/monthly rates. 613-249-8118. otc

Ladysmith - 3 bedroom house for rent, no pets and references required. Available Nov. 1 647-3592. xo15

Otter Lake - 2 bedroom apartment, no pets 819-453-7230. otc

Quyon - 4 bedroom house, 819-458-2869. xo15

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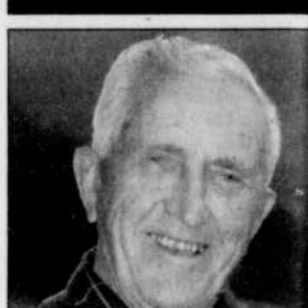


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DEATH



Howard, Keith Mahlon - Our family wish to announce with deep sadness the death of Keith Mahlon Howard on Sunday, October 12, 2008. Keith was the dear husband for 59 years of June (nee Wheeler); beloved father of Robert (Alison), Lonny (Janet), Paul (Kelly), Gordon (Tammy), Catherine (Alan), and Duncan (Joyce). Loving grandfather of Richard (Jenn), Amy (Mike), Matthew, Jennifer (Troy), Jeffrey (Katie), Carley, Brietta, Renee and great-grandfather of Aiden and Camden. Keith was born in Shawville, Quebec to Lila and Henry Howard, on April 22, 1922. He is predeceased by 2 brothers and 2 sisters; survived by sister Eva Lefty and brother Sam Howard. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Friends called at the W.J. Hayes & Sons Funeral Home, 134 Centre Street, Shawville, Quebec on Wednesday, October 15th, 2008 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral Thursday to Shawville Standard Church for Service at 10:30 a.m. Interment Austin United Cemetery, Front Rd. Clarendon, Quebec. Donations to the Pontiac Community Hospital Dialysis Fund would be appreciated.

DEATH

Smith, Fern - Suddenly on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at the age of 72 years, Annie Fern Smith (nee Hodgins) was called Home to be with her beloved son, Scott. Loving wife of 50 years to Harvey. Cherished mom to Sharon (Jim Gilmore), Diane (Dan Desabrais), late Scott (April 28, 2002), Kimberley (Jeffrey Allo), and Lawrence (Jody). Adored Grandma to Craig, Alanna, and Stacey Desabrais, and Caitlin and Kieran Allo. Special "mom" to Lorne Sparling (Dorcas). Proud Godmother to Stephen Sparling and Megan Roy-Tanner. Daughter of the late Lawrence and Annie Hodgins. Much loved sister of the late Grenville (late Nat), Lillas (late Kenneth Armitage), Mary (late Kenneth Tubman), late Phyllis (late Dalton Twolan), Byron (Elaine), Shirley (late Stan Munro), Basil (Lorraine) and Julia (Bev Cluff). Sister-in-law to Cora (late Carl Sparling), Charles (Jean), Minerva Sparling, Lida (Wilf Schwartz), Ethel (late Mervin Yach), Sherman (Gisele), and Dalton (Sharon). Survived by many nieces and nephews. Friends called at the W.J. Hayes & Sons Funeral Home, 134 Centre Street, Shawville, Quebec on Thursday, October 9, 2008 from 7 to 9 p.m. and on Friday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral Saturday to Shawville United Church for Service at 2 p.m. Interment Maple Grove Cemetery. Donations to the Shawville United Church or the Pontiac Community Hospital Dialysis Fund would be appreciated.

Desabrais, Michael - In memory of a dear father, grandfather, great-grandfather and uncle who passed away on Oct. 13, 1979.

There is no parting from those we love

No distance can divide,

For always in memories' garden

You are present by our side,

Remembering you can cause a smile

Bring laughter or a tear,

How precious are these memories

That keep you ever near.

Lovingly remembered, sadly missed by the family

Frost - In loving memory of a dear father, Cletus, who passed away Oct. 10, 2005. While you rest and sleep Your memory we will always keep. The Frost Family

Gordon - In loving memory of a dear husband, James Cecil, who passed away Oct. 11, 1997.

Deep in our hearts you will always stay,

Loved and remembered every day.

Elsie

Griffin, Gerald - August 6, 1913 - October 19, 2004. No one knows the silent heartache

Only those who have loved can tell

The grief we bear in silence

For the Father we loved so well

You lived your life for those you loved

And those you loved remember.

Sadly missed Grace and Family

Hearty, Verna - In loving memory of our wonderful mother who passed away Oct. 13, 2006.

Sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Love from your children:

Judy, Joanne, John and Michael

Hodgins - In loving memory of my dear parents, Gardine of Oct. 19, 2002. Melbourne of Oct. 12, 2005.

Our hearts still ache

As we whisper low,

God bless you Mom and Dad,

We love you so.

Forever in our hearts.

Clifford and Loretta

Lovingood, Mildred Geraldine (nee Griffin) - Peacefully, on Friday, August 8th, 2008. Family and friends are invited to attend a Graveside Service at St. Anne's Cemetery Calumet Island, Quebec on Saturday, October 18th, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. 2xo15

Smith-Wickens, Helen Grace - In loving memory of a dear mother and wife, who passed away Oct. 16, 2004. Forever remembered

Walter

PUBLIC NOTICES

Canada
Province de Québec
District de Hull
No: 550-22-010992-087
Cour du Québec
Présent:
Greffière-adjointe
Beaudry Bertrand
Partie demanderesse
vs.
Wayne Campeau
Partie défenderesse
Assignment
ORDRE est donné à Wayne Campeau de comparaître au greffe de cette cour situé au 17 Laurier, Gatineau, Québec J8X 4C1, salle 0.210 dans les 30 jours de la date de la publication du présent avis dans THE EQUITY.

Lieu: Gatineau
Date: 25 septembre 2008.
Greffière-adjointe 1-0-015

MEMORIAM

Bretzlaff, Alfred - In loving memory of a dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away October 19, 1989.

Nineteen years have passed since God called you away. But still we miss you every day.

What we wouldn't give to take one more walk.

Or just sit quietly and have a talk.

We miss you Dad, and always will.

For though you're gone, we love you still.

In our hearts, Gwen, Denver, Darrell and their families.

Desabrais, Michael - In memory of a dear father, grandfather, great-grandfather and uncle who passed away on Oct. 13, 1979.

There is no parting from those we love

No distance can divide,

For always in memories' garden

You are present by our side,

Remembering you can cause a smile

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Judy, Joanne, John and Michael

Hodgins - In loving memory of my dear parents, Gardine of Oct. 19, 2002. Melbourne of Oct. 12, 2005.

Sheenboro

Myrtle Sullivan
689-2236
I wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving. What a beautiful weekend we had. There were a lot of people home for the holiday.

Friday evening the local musicians played to a full house at Fort William. What a great way to end the season. I enjoyed meeting everyone. I had a nice chat with Dorothy McCool. She will be going home to the States with Bonnie and Lorne McGuire.

Freddie Hungate was up to her cottage for the weekend also.

Dominic D'Arcy played on

Saturday and Sunday at Fort William for those who were there for the Thanksgiving dinners.

Visiting with Frank and Janet Retty were their children Andrew with his wife Pauline and new baby Seamus, daughter Ann Marie, Jim and family and son Shawn, Mary and family.

Happy anniversary to Pat and Cindy Smith and to my son Jerry and Colleen Sullivan who celebrated anniversaries this weekend.

Roy and Penny Perrault enjoyed a lovely trip to Newfoundland. Friends Chris and Jeannie Judd and Ruth and Ron Strutt went

with them. Carol Anne Meehan and husband Greg Etve and children Evan and Elena spent Thanksgiving weekend at their cottage.

Bob and Laura Meehan had guests for the weekend at their cottage, Paul and Gabrielle Mills and family from Thorn Hill and Rob and Grace Hickson and family from Stittsville.

It was nice to see Nancy and Ron Vellenga and family and Trudy and Garth Middlestead and family up to the family home for the weekend. Happy birthday to Nancy who celebrated her birthday this weekend.

Visiting with Rosita and

Bill Ryan this weekend were Jim and Dale from Ottawa. I had a nice visit with them Friday night.

My daughter-in-law, Sharon Sullivan, along with daughters Maureen and Patty Ann and husband Ian were visiting at my daughter Myra's on Saturday night, then the whole family was at my daughter Betty's on Sunday night.

Happy 50th anniversary to Leo and Teresa Downey. I hope they have many more.

Gord Gleason was home visiting his parents Raymond and Claire Gleason.

The Percy Gleason family celebrated Thanksgiving at

Lorna's home on Sunday. Mary was home from out west and Pat and Hugh O'Neill were up at their cottage for the weekend also. I'm glad to hear Carmelita is doing well.

Visiting Donald and Angie Retty were sons Johnny and Jeff and his family.

Jim and Mary Michaud had Thanksgiving dinner for their family at their cottage on Sunday.

Peter and Kerry Smith and family were visiting parents Joe and Leanne Smith for the holiday.

Rita Roy Ladouceur and some of her family were up for the weekend. It's nice to see so many people home

enjoying our beautiful fall weekend.

Heather and Norm Lemke spent the weekend in Kitchener with Heather's brother Cam and his family. Happy birthday Cam.

My daughter Arlene and husband Dave were up to their log home for the weekend, but went to Ottawa to celebrate Thanksgiving with their children on Monday. They visited my brother Hubert on their way home and he is doing well.

It was obvious that hunting season started as there was a steady stream of traffic going up the mountain.

Visiting Raymond and Iona Morris this weekend

were her brother Sylvester McGuire and his daughter Barbara from Sudbury.

Doris and Donat Ranger had visitors from Kirtville. Doris's sister Melissa and Brian and family and Aunt Lola and cousin Louise from Temiscaming.

The resident moose at the Jennings farm is still there. She calmly stands as people stop to take pictures.

I was sorry to hear Elizabeth Miller passed away. She was the wife of the late Red Miller. My deepest sympathy to her family. We will miss seeing her up at the "Factor House" at Fort William. Elizabeth was always proud of the fact that

she was a great-granddaughter of Daniel O'Connell known in the 19th Century Ireland as The Liberator and revered there to this day. I found this interesting because when my daughters went to Ireland in 1998 their tour guide was Brian O'Connell from Almonte a descendant of Daniel O'Connell. He actually had them meet with Father Touhig (the writer) in Ireland and Father took them to the place where Daniel O'Connell was killed.

Congratulations to Judy Keon on the birth of her eighth grandchild. Judy's daughter Joy had a new baby girl.

Campbell's Bay

Iris Smith
613-989-3233
iris@magma.ca

A recent visitor with Gladys Walsh was her sister, Corinne Beckerleg of Sudbury. They visited other family members as well.

Tuesday evening the Golden Age held a Thanksgiving meal before the eucure. Vera Mayor and husband, Mike were busy

making this fabulous meal for everyone. It included turkey, ham, baked beans and all the trimmings. They had a 50-50 draw and it was won by Marielle Kluge. The eucure followed and the winner of ladies high was Isabelle Lacroix, second was won by Shirley Marion. Men's high was a tie between Boyd Ebert, Dawson Moorehead and Laurier

Dumouchel. They split the prize. Second was won by Perry Kluge. The door prize was won by Dorcas Sparling. The 50-50 by Marilyn Lortie.

Marjorie and Clifford Stevenson had a visit over from daughter, Arlie and her husband John, grandchildren Laura and Breanna and grandson, Mark of Whitby. They enjoyed having the family all together.

A change of time for the Pontiac Lionettes Halloween Party at the R.A. Hall on Oct. 25 for children 12 and under 2 to 4 p.m.

Celebrating Thanksgiving was quite an event. I started out on Thursday with a turkey dinner at South Mountain Hall for Seniors. Saturday Jo-Anne took me to Granger Park Trailer Camp for a turkey dinner. It

was enjoyable and they had 280 at each sitting and there were two sittings. This is where Kimberly, my granddaughter, and her husband Carl Havekes have their trailer and this meal is held every year as a fundraiser.

Sunday my sister, Norma Stewart, her daughter Donna and husband Rick of Carleton Place came for a visit also my daughters Jo-

Anne and Jill came to visit us at Wayne and Stacey's. We had a great time Monday we had Wayne's Mom and Dad, Glen and Linda for Thanksgiving. Quite a week.

Birthday wishes go out to Annette Lepine, Tyson Neuman, Kelly Primeau, Mario Bullis, Debbie Belanger, Anne Sammon, Philippe Pilon, Yvonne Bertrand, Marc Dubeau,

Chris Auger, Gary Belland, Kelsey Cabral, Ben Duquette, Lisa McGee and Dan Corriveau.

Florence Wadge spent Thanksgiving dinner with Lionel and Natalie Gravelle. They enjoyed a great meal.

Jean Cuthbertson joined others at the home of Steven and Amy Sharpe to celebrate their Thanksgiving. Sorry to hear of the fire at

Hobbs Mill over the weekend. It causes such damage. We hope the fire does not cripple the business for the future. Congratulations to Sterling and Marion Hobbs on their 54th wedding anniversary held earlier this week. Enjoy many more years together.

Happy Thanksgiving to all who follow my news at this time.

Hospital helpers



Dr. John Wootton, at right, representing the Pontiac Hospital Foundation accepts a cheque for \$6,000 Sept. 30 from David Harper acting on behalf of the Shawville Rotary Club. The money will go to the Pontiac Hospital Foundation's diabetes fund to raise money for a dialysis unit at the hospital.

Waltham

Helen Perry
689-2652
jacobj42@hotmail.com

I sure hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend. We sure did, as Jodi, Mike Alex, Mikaela and baby Benjamin were up from Embrun. It was the first time that we got to see Benjamin. He is a beautiful, healthy baby. Our family enjoyed a tasty turkey dinner at our house on Sunday night.

The moose hunt is on and as of yet, I haven't heard if anyone has gotten a moose.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Lorne Spotswood in the recent passing of his beloved wife Marjorie (née Harney). She was the dearly loved mother of Chris, Paula (Chris Downey) and Greg. She was the loving grandma to Meghan. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this time.

Wasn't that a beautiful Thanksgiving weekend! On Saturday afternoon I walked up to the store and enjoyed the nice weather. I met two lovely ladies from Ottawa sitting on the bench outside the store. They were Lorraine Brouillet and Francine Cyr of Ottawa. They had come up for the day to Fort Coulonge. They took in the Chutes and then they cycled up to Waltham on the Cyclo Parc. They were telling me that they thought the scenery was just beautiful around here, and they

said that it was one of the nicest areas in Quebec. I guess we should count our blessings to live in such a scenic area.

Georgette Beaubien along with the Gagnon family enjoyed a tasty brunch on Sunday with their cousin Dorion Denault and his wife Adele up the Black River.

Angie, Danny and little Olivia Bechamp of Barrhaven were Thanksgiving weekend visitors at Lyne and Ray Bechamp's.

Wendy, Dale, Shayla and Hayley Marion of Orleans were up for Thanksgiving at Diane and Earl McKnight's. Melanie, Michel, Evan and Ryan Pilon of Dunrobin; and Samuelle Pilon of Ottawa were Thanksgiving weekend visitors at Nicole and Jean Pilon's.

Janice and Sid Tedford of Mallorytown visited Elizabeth Ethier and family this past weekend.

Happy belated birthday is extended to Monita Marion, who celebrated her birthday Oct. 7. We hope that you had a wonderful day Monita! Mona Marion is celebrating her birthday on Oct. 16. Have a nice day Mon!

Andrew Pelletier is celebrating his birthday Oct. 17. Happy birthday and enjoy your day Andrew!

Special birthday wishes to Mary-Beth Goyette up in Yellowknife, who is celebrating her birthday Oct. 18. All the best Min, as we are thinking of you!

Otter Lake

Elizabeth Hahn
453-7326

Thanksgiving weekend guests with me were Patricia Russell of North Gower, Pam and Randy Thoms, Kathryn and Graham of Kanata and Murfie, Pat Hahn, Dolores Betrand of Pembroke, Kelly Hahn and Julia of Petawawa, Mrs. Hilda Mayhew. Missing from our group were some of the men who were up north to hunt and Natalie Hahn is in New Zealand on a holiday. Edgar Mayhew is still in hospital.

Get well wishes to André Lapointe who is still in the Shawville hospital. Terry Loesche is in Thailand for the winter months.

Golden Age Club eucure results for Oct. 7: First prize winners, Pierrette Graveline and Roland Mayer. Second prize, Rita Blaskie and Michel St-Aubin. Door prize winner, Aline Sincennes. 50/50 draw, Irma Peck.

Dessert was provided by Marguerite and Laurette St-Aubin.

Happy birthday wishes to Carl Kappes on Oct. 11 and Maureen Racine on Oct. 12. Dart league results for Oct. 9: First place high score winners, Olivette Mason and Len Ahern. Second place high score, June Francoeur and Ronald Beaudoin. High average: June Francoeur and Ronald Beaudoin. Door prize: Marie Pilon. 50/50 winner: Pierrette Graveline.

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Vinton

Diane Boisvert
648-5296

I sure had a busy week, travelling. Tuesday I had a doctor's appointment in Gatineau. Wednesday Theresa and I went to Renfrew and spent a couple of hours in Walmart. No, not shopping. We were developing pictures. Our children had bought us digital cameras for Christmas last year. We had a blast taking pictures but we waited until our discs were full to get them printed. Never again. We didn't realize how many options there were. We played with those machines. Do we enlarge, crop, make it brighter, etc.? It became mind boggling. I left with a headache and decided I am not going to try and process 400 pictures in one day again. Now we have to put them in albums, give some away, edit and crop some more. It's a lot of work.

Then on Thursday I had another trip to Hull. I usually take the Mountain Road but there was a detour. The big barn on Highway 148 just across from the Mountain road had burned and took out all the tele-

phone lines with it. That's why the Pontiac had no communications that morning. I had to go around and take the new road in Aylmer, the name is Allumetiere. Doesn't matter how you spell it. Anyway it has four lanes. I was on the left hand lane and passing a few big trucks. Of course while I was passing them I missed my exit to St. Raymond and was heading for Hull downtown. I don't know my way there. Then I got into those new circle turns and didn't have a clue how those things worked. So I just followed the car in front of me. I finally got out of those and turned this way and that way. Just like a homing pigeon and headed back to Aylmer to get back on Allumetiere. I had left 45 minutes early so we could have breakfast before the appointment. But, now my spare time had been gobbled up by being lost. We made it on time but I was frazzled. We had a little shopping to do in Aylmer after the appointment. We finally got to McDonalds to have a bite to eat. I went inside to get the order and while I was

ordering I heard someone call my name. It was Sherry Orr. She told me that she was living in Aylmer now and was happy to be out of "hicksville." I told her that I couldn't wait to get back to "hicksville." The young lad taking my order overheard our conversation and said to me, "I guess you want this order to go." I looked at him and said "you got that right, honey!"

Last week a lot of people missed getting their blue boxes picked up because the truck was here before 7 a.m. We usually put out our boxes in the morning so that they won't get wet. I guess they will have to put them out the night before.

Happy birthday wishes to Faye Hodgins Oct. 16, Marilyn Paquette, Erin Hearty and Maurice Dubeau also Oct. 16. Joanne Hearty, Mike McGuire Jr. and Paul Lance Oct. 17 and Faye McGuire Oct. 18.

There was a surprise 50th birthday party held for Debbie Belanger at the Lions Hall on Saturday. They told her it was a surprise birthday party for Mildred Desjardins so when she

walked in she was completely surprised. The family had the hall beautifully decorated with autumn colours. They had a projector going all afternoon showing pictures of Debbie's life. Debbie gave a nice speech thanking everyone for coming. Welcome to the 50s club Debbie.

Well, the boys are in their glory. Ten days of hunting for moose and being able to be boys. It took two weeks to get prepared and to check everything to make sure they didn't forget anything. I've never seen them forget their booze but I have seen them forget their guns. I made them a five gallon pail of soup full of vegetables and beans. That should tide them over for a couple of days. Min made them home made buns. I bet they didn't last long.

Sunday I was invited for supper at two places which was very nice.

It was such a beautiful Thanksgiving weekend with temperatures in the 20s and sunny. I actually had the weekend off but Friday and Saturday I was busy with catering and Saturday

morning five cords of wood arrived. The apples also arrived. So I started with making the apples pies. The wood can wait. I managed to make 14 pies on Sunday and then went to supper at Harry and Gail Ann's in Vinton. We met Gail's cousin Katherin and her husband Darel.

There were 14 people for supper. It was a fantastic meal and of course everyone was stuffed. We waited a while for dessert.

Meanwhile we played a new game that my cousin had shown me. We had everyone so laughing that they wore off a few extra calories.

Baby Olivia got an infection and had to be admitted to CHEO for 10 days. Cindy was able to come home Sunday with Olivia for the day but had to return to the hospital.

My house in Campbell's Bay is up for rent. Due to unfortunate circumstances my tenant has to leave.

The house is available for Nov. 1.

Anyone wanting to see the house may contact me at 819-648-5296.

Caldwell

Hermonie Sharpe
647-3459

Thanksgiving and other holidays are on a certain date. When that date doesn't fit in your schedule you change the date to suit yourself and your visitors. This is what the Donald Sharpes did this past week and it must have suited their company as they cooked for 15 family and friends. They had friends from Marathon, Kitchener and Guelph. Their family was Stephanie and Jason, and son Gabriel. Scott and Sheri and son Cameron and Taylor Sharpe and the Findlay family including mom and dad and their twin sons, wives and family. A great time was had.

On Sunday, Oct. 5 Millie Boyd and I visited our friends at the Manor. I said "did you ever try going the back road?" Her reply was yes once and I ended up at Charteris. We decided to try again. We didn't end up in Charteris but we sure saw a lot of country and travelled a good many backroads until we decided to stop and ask for directions. We came out on the Otter Lake Road and

finally came to the flashing lights at Campbell's Bay. We couldn't have picked a better day for this.

Well Chris MacCoy we found you a drive from the Manor to euehre. Thanks to Tommy Hearty a friend in need is a friend indeed.

Thanksgiving dinner guests with us on Sunday were Jim and Connie Hunter of Golden Lake and Evelyn Palmer Sharpe of Pembroke.

Thanksgiving guests with Millie Boyd were daughter Beverly and grandchildren Katie and Chris and great-grandson Cole all of Ottawa. I had an enjoyable talk with Louise and John Lateer Saturday. Everyone was well but their temperature was a few degrees lower than ours. Our deepest sympathy to Harvey Smith and his family on the loss of his beloved wife and best friend, Fern. She will be missed by all.

Anniversary congratulations to Neil and Claire Wilson who celebrated 59 years Oct. 14 and to Robert and Janie Walls of Norway Bay who celebrate that day.

Anniversary congratulations to Hugh and Norma Horner Oct. 17.

Birthday congratulations to Rita Harris of Pembroke Oct. 18, Claire Larson of Burlington, Leona Eades of Shawville and Brenda Young of Quyon Oct. 22.

What a shock and what a loss to the community as well as to the owners. I received a call Sunday morning that Hobbs Mill had taken fire during the night. The latest news I've heard is just the top part burned. I sure hope this is true.

Neil and Margaret Sharpe motored to Peterborough to meet their children and families Murray and Kim Mako and children Stephen and Erin of Holland Landing, Tom and Sarah Sharpe and son Alexander of Etobicoke. Visiting on Sunday were Neil and Margaret Sharpe of Shawville.

Congratulations to my grandson, Corey Sharpe, who is working at The Mint in Ottawa. Corey was laid off because of the closing of the plant at Haley's last fall. He sent out resumes and two jobs turned up the same day and he accepted the government one.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

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Getting your car – and your driving habits ready for wintertime

LEAH IVERSON

Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • Halloween is right around the corner and if history repeats itself, there's only one thing to follow – cold weather.

As the temperature begins to dip, residents are reaching for their sweaters and jackets to adjust their bodies to the change in climate.

But getting ready for winter doesn't end there.

There's still a bigger item to winterize and without it, many people would be left stranded.

That of course, is your vehicle.

With the new law requiring Québec residents to have

winter tires by Dec. 15, many people are getting prepared by switching their tires early.

However, getting your car – and yourself ready for the cold requires more steps.

Here are some tips on how to winterize your vehicle and keep yourself safe this winter.

Get an oil change

Oil changes are key to keeping cars running and since oil thickens as it gets cold making it hard to keep the engine lubricated, it is especially important to keep up on in the winter.

"We recommend people get a basic oil change," said André Chartrand, service manager at Lepines in Chapeau. "In the past we used a light oil for winter but now it's the same year-round."

Check your battery

If your battery is more than a few years old, it's best to get it tested to avoid getting stuck with a flat battery in the middle of a blizzard.

"It's a good idea to get your battery checked just in case," said Kevin Bertrand, who works in the service sta-

tion at Bristol Auto Body.

Check your anti-freeze

"It's important to get your anti-freeze tested to see how cold it's good for," said Bertrand, adding, "If it's good for 45 below then we'll leave it but if it's only good for below 10 celsius then we'll drain it out and put new stuff in."

Check brakes/tires

"When people come in to get winter tires, we check the brakes at the same time," said Chartrand. "It's also a good idea to check tire pressure and air filters."

Be prepared

It's always a good idea to have an emergency kit handy in the trunk to be ready for any scenario. Some items to keep in the car include jumper cables, a shovel, an ice scraper, blanket, flashlight, tire chains and a first-aid kit. It's better to be over-prepared than not enough.

Drive slow

If the roads are icy and slippery, the main thing to do is slow down and take your time on the road to ensure your safety and the safety of others.

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