

Get some facts on St. Pat's, see page 3

THE EQUITY

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88 cents

Still no word on fate of Danford dump

"I went on to something else": Pontiac MNA Charlotte L'Écuyer

LEAH IVERSON

Equity Reporter

ALLEYN AND CAWOOD • The decision to approve or deny the Danford Lake landfill site is at a standstill, leaving the Pontiac still without a concrete solution to the ongoing waste management problem.

Despite previously stating at the Jan. 26 MRC mayor's council meeting that the landfill would probably be approved by the province within a week, Pontiac's Member of National Assembly, Charlotte

L'Écuyer told THE EQUITY Friday that she is unsure of the current situation.

"I don't know where it stands right now, there's no new information," she said.

"I went on to something else." At the Jan. 26 meeting, L'Écuyer mentioned that the landfill's promoter was in discussions with Line Beauchamp, Quebec's Minister of Environment.

Since then however, there has been no word on the progress.

In the dark on the landfill issue is Alleyn and Cawood mayor Joseph Squitti, who is patiently waiting to hear the decision.

"I haven't heard anything, but you can't rush it," he said, adding, "The MRC is trying to get an answer because even with the extension, there has to be something done."

"It would be nice to know something." The Pontiac has been given a nine-month extension by the province to close all trench landfills.

Hundreds hit the icy river for third annual fishing derby

LEAH IVERSON

Equity Reporter

CHICHESTER • When organizer Ben Gaudette showed up in the wee hours of the morning Saturday to prep for the ice fishing derby in Chichester, he was surprised to see some eager fishermen had beaten him to the punch.

The enthusiastic guests proved to be an early indication of the day's success, which included more than 300 guests who gathered on the Ottawa river for a day of fishing fun.

"I got here at 6 a.m. and some people were already here, even though the event didn't start until 8," said Gaudette. "We nearly tripled our participation from last year, with over 300 guests and 228 entered in the derby."

Gaudette, a Chichester resident,

started the derby three years ago as a way to give back to the Chichester-Sheenboro Fire Department.

Last year's event raised roughly \$800, with the numbers climbing each year since its inception.

"We have fundraisers throughout the year like the Halloween Party and Poker Run, and thanks to Ben, we have this one as well," said Donald Gagnon, mayor of Chichester and local firefighter. "He's been a great support and all the money raised goes towards equipment and updates to the fire hall."

Rather than holding the event at different local lakes like prior years, this year's derby was held at the municipal dock, which acted as a convenient location for anglers.

"This is a great location because peo-

ple can easily walk right down and be right on the river," said Gaudette, noting that for safety reasons, cars were not permitted to drive on the ice.

Even the weather cooperated, providing warm temperatures and sunny skies to further lift the attendees' spirits.

"It's the perfect weather," said Gaudette, while scanning the crowd during the event. "It's been a great day."

The optimism was also shared by many of those who came away with prizes and money for the top catches.

At eight pounds, six ounces, Jeff Godin landed the biggest pike which won him a gas auger, with John Adam taking home a chainsaw for the biggest pickerel at one pound, eight ounces.

The second and third place winners in both categories received cash prizes. The second place winners were: Gerry Dayment's pike, which was five pounds, 13 ounces and Jean-Paul Chartrand's pickerel, which was 14 ounces. Third place: Jeff Godin landed a four pound, six ounce pike, while Janice Chartrand had a 13 ounce pickerel.

Tom Turner walked away \$1,100 richer after winning the 50/50 draw, and Lee Turcotte became the new owner of an ice fishing hut.

Gaudette was pleased to see people of all ages at the derby, and plans to organize special activities for kids at next year's event.

"The next derby will have something special for children 16 years and under," he said.

"We want to keep the ice fishing tradition going and get everyone involved."



Leah Iverson, THE EQUITY

From left: Nicholas Gaudette, Gabriel Gaudette, Andrew Gaudette, Nathan Gaudette (back) and Sebastien Gaudette stand proudly around Andrew's catch of the day during the third annual ice fishing derby in Chichester Saturday.

Hitting the ice... literally



Leah Iverson, THE EQUITY

Top, tiny hockey players from the Pontiac Timbits and Aylmer Canadiens teams take a tumble during their first game Friday at the Shawville Pontiac Timbits Jamboree in Shawville. The tournament included hundreds of spectators, and more than 100 young players. Above, a Pontiac Timbits player tries to snatch the puck from under an Aylmer Canadiens player during the annual Shawville Pontiac Timbits Jamboree Friday at the Shawville arena.

Tiny Timbits players take to ice

LEAH IVERSON

Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • No amount of slips and tumbles could keep the mini hockey players from getting back up on the ice during the second annual Shawville Pontiac Timbits' Jamboree Friday at the Shawville arena.

The tournament drew more than 250 people, 105 of which were the four-to-eight-year-olds playing their hearts out, while flashing never fading smiles throughout the day.

Without keeping scores, the teams from Shawville, Fort Coulonge, Low, Aylmer, and Masson played three times throughout the day, with the only rules to follow being having fun

and sharing the love for hockey.

"The tournament offers so many positive items, such as the smiles, fun, leadership, mentoring and everyone just enjoying their day," said organizer Kristina Misener. "That's what hockey is all about."

The idea behind the Timbits tournament is not about winning but instead on learning about hockey, while socializing with other kids at the same time. To date, Tim Hortons has sponsored more than 200,000 children in sports teams across Canada and the U.S.

Helping make the day go as smoothly as possible were the young ambassadors from Shawville Minor

Hockey, who volunteered to help with the teams throughout the day.

"They become mentors to the younger players, helping tie skates, giving water and assisting coaches on the ice," said Misener, adding, "I saw them giving praise to the players during each shift for a job well done. They are a great bunch of young individuals that will become great leaders."

This year's ambassadors were: Kyle Misener, Austin Duggan, Joshua Stringl, Chey Larocque, Jeremy Poulin, Katie Young, Bryce Atkinson, Carter MacDonell, Zach Elliott, Jack Evans, Briggs Richardson, Curtis Huckabone and Chad Desnoyers.

'Commuter train survey now online

PONTIAC • The Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC) of Renfrew and Pontiac Counties have partnered in an endeavour to promote the establishment of commuter rail service between the Ottawa Valley and Pontiac with the City of Ottawa/Gatineau. This service will support the proactive diversification of the area's traditionally resource-based economy, encourage new business and manufacturing opportunities and job creation, as well as contribute to the healthy sustainable development of Ottawa Valley and Pontiac communities. Currently, both corporations are

in the preliminary phases of this project.

Partial funding secured through the Eastern Ontario Development Program has allowed the partnership to commission a feasibility study with the RailFuture Group Inc., to assess if, when and how the project should proceed towards implementation. Other similar parallel initiatives and/or considerations are currently underway elsewhere within rural communities in Eastern Ontario.

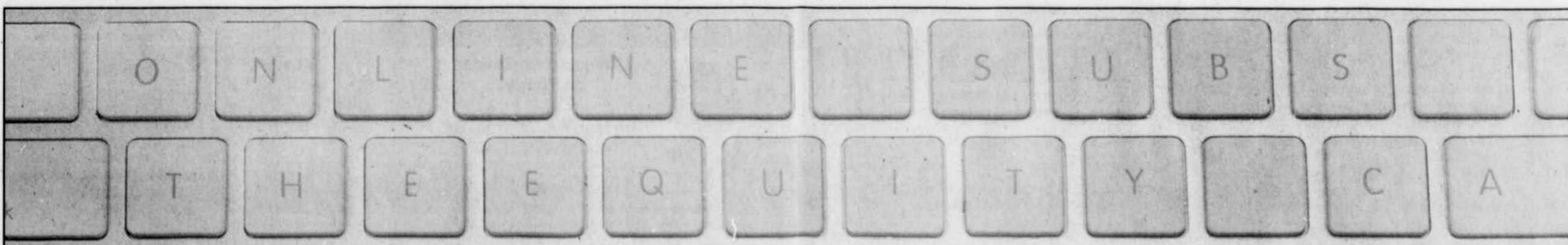
Public support is paramount for this endeavour to move forward. In an effort to assess the current needs, prefer-

ences and support for such a transportation system in the Ottawa Valley, a public survey has been made available online, in both official languages.

Renfrew and Pontiac County residents play a key role in the decision-making process for the advancement of this project and are strongly encouraged to participate in this initial survey process.

The survey can be found via links from the CFDC websites www.rcfdc.org or www.commercepontiac.ca.

Results of the survey will be made available to the public in April 2009.



Novice 'A' Lions win ART Gatineau tourney

WILBUR MCLEAN

PONTIAC • The Novice 'A' Pontiac Lions took home the championship trophy from the 26th annual ART Gatineau tournament with a thrilling 4-3 overtime win over the Gatineau Chevaliers Sunday.

Connor Romain and Tyler Marion were the goal scoring stars for the Lions, picking up two goals each.

Jacob Stewart was nifty with his passing, earning three assists in the win. Other assists went to Marion, Jean-Luc Fortin, Alexandre Romain and Connor Romain. Cedrik Durocher was stellar in goal, putting aside many of the Chevaliers' attacks.

The tournament contained 26 Novice 'A' teams, making it one of the largest in the area and the Lions' victory that much more prestigious. Saturday, the Lions won their first game of the playoffs, 5-2 against the Gatineau Braves.

Marion was magical for the Lions, scoring a hat trick. C. Romain and Fortin also scored once each. Troy Romain, Marion and Connor Walsh had one assist each in victory.

Novice 'B' Lions star struck
The Novice 'B' Pontiac Lions made a friend in Ottawa Senators player Jesse Winchester on the weekend.

Winchester had many words of encouragement for Pontiac's young hockey players, who were at Scotiabank Place participating in the Future Sens program.

Winchester spoke to the players immediately after the team completed an exhibition game Saturday afternoon. The Winchester visit was a surprise to the kids, who had many Sens hats and shirts autographed by the NHL player.

More than 200 people watched two Pontiac teams play on the same ice as their

Ottawa Senators heroes.

The players also received an autographed photo of Winchester and an Ottawa Senators practice jersey after the game.

Afterward, the players took in the Sens 6-3 win over the Sabres.

Midget 'CC' triumph

The Midget 'CC' Pontiac Lions played their second playoff game on the weekend and were triumphant, 5-3 over the Gatineau A's.

Spencer Pirie led the way with the scoring, notching two goals and earning two assists for the Lions at home in Fort Coulonge.

Matthew Alexander, Colton Keon and Jean-Michel Normandeau all scored one goal each in the winning effort.

Nick Francoeur and Ross Cote had two assists apiece. Alexander, Trevor Bourque, Kris Kelly and Jon Labine also added to the cause with one assist each.

The Lions conclude their playoff schedule this week with four games.

Midget 'A' win in overtime

The Midget 'A' Pontiac Lions won an exciting game in overtime on the weekend, over the Aylmer Iceberg.

Trailing 3-1, the Lions rallied for two late goals to tie the game and then a an unassisted goal by Steven Day in overtime launched the team to a 4-3 win.

Other goal scorers for Pontiac were Hayden Moore, Maxime Malette and Taylor Orr.

Joel Boisvert had two assists while Jamie Denault and Casey Henderson had one each.

Novice 'C' nearly upend undefeated team

The Novice 'C' Pontiac Lions had upset on the mind as they lost a close, competitive battle to the undefeated Buckingham Castors in the team's first playoff game.

Despite the lofty record of their opposition, the Lions were determined and showed all the signs of a vastly improved club in losing 3-0 to the league leaders. There were many close

calls for the favoured team, who were lucky to leave with the win on the backs of their goaltender.

The Lions buzzed around the Castors' net all night and twice the puck was inches away from crossing the goalline. Grayson Klages-Lang and Justice Reasbeck-Raymond were twice thwarted on breakaways, while Jeremy Dery, Emily Desnoyers and Michael McCann all had breakaway opportunities fall through the cracks themselves.

The Castors' goals came late in the first period and two more notched in the second frame.

The Lions' second playoff game is Saturday in Masson. The Lions also played in a tournament in Gatineau on the weekend.

Friday night against Deux Montagnes, the Lions won a thrilling shootout, 2-1.

Desnoyers scored on one of her patented end-to-end rushes unassisted. Jean-Pascale Parise was golden in goal, as he

unearthed many saves for the Lions, including stopping all three opponent shooters in the shootout.

Desnoyers scored the only goal of the shootout, slipping one into the net on the first shot of the shootout.

In the team's second game on Saturday, the Lions narrowly lost 3-2 to the Gatineau Remparts.

The Lions struck first with a goal scored by Klages-Lang, assisted by Reasbeck-Raymond and Haley Alexander. After conceding

two goals, the Lions tied the contest on a goal by Cole Sheppard with assists by Desnoyers and McCann.

The Remparts took the lead and despite best efforts of the Pontiac club, they were unable to muster a tying goal and were eliminated from the tournament.

Peewee 'A' fall to Hull

The Peewee 'A' Pontiac Lions were defeated 4-1 last weekend by the Hull Cityoyens. Clancey Keon was the lone goal scorer for the Lions.



The Novice 'A' Pontiac Lions were victorious in the championship game of the 26-team ART Gatineau tournament. Top row, from left: coaches Todd Romain, Jacques Pilon, Wayne Walsh and Tim Romain. Middle row, from left: Zakary Bechamp, Connor Walsh, Tyler Marion, Connor Romain, Jacob Stewart, Alexandre Romain and Jean-Luc Fortin. Bottom row, from left: Troy Romain, Jake Pilon, Cedrik Durocher and Vance Olmsted.

OVERTIME | LUKE MURPHY

Trade deadline winners and losers



On the heels of the 2009 NHL Trade Deadline, I feel it's my responsibility to give you my opinion on which teams won, which teams lost, and give you my overall grade on the impact of the top deals.

When evaluating trades, now that the CBA and salary caps are involved, you must diagnose trades for not just the skill of the player, but also their contract implications. Well, I'm not a GM, so I'm not paying attention to contracts in my assessment. I'm looking for what team will excel this year only, because of the moves they made.

In my opinion, the biggest winner at the trade deadline was the Calgary Flames. The Flames picked up the biggest name, in centre Olli Jokinen. Jokinen has size, grit, talent and speed. He's scored more than 30 goals the last four seasons, and has 23 this year. The Flames also picked up puck-moving defenseman Jordan Leopold from Colorado. Both these players are solid, and will help the Flames immediately. Calgary GM Darryl Sutter understands his window to win is open right now and addressed his needs for a Cup run.

The Pittsburgh Penguins acquired rugged, veteran goal-scoring winger Bill Guerin from the Islanders. I like this move. The Pens needed a tough winger, and someone who'll go to the traffic areas. Guerin will also be asked to help provide a calming influence in the dressing room and lead by example on the ice. But in a better move, the Pens traded for Chris Kunitz earlier in the week. I like Kunitz a lot, and he's a main reason why the Ducks won the Cup in 2007. He'll blend nicely in Pittsburgh.

The Edmonton Oilers picked up Ales Kotalik from Buffalo, and Patrick

O'Sullivan from Los Angeles. I like both these moves. Kotalik is a tough winger who'll bring grit and is someone who'll go to the net hard, and O'Sullivan is another impact forward. This should help the Oilers with their playoff push.

The San Jose Sharks and Boston Bruins, right now, are the cream of the crop in the Western and Eastern Conferences respectively. Both teams needed very little for a playoff push, but both teams, in my opinion, only got better from the trade deadline.

The Sharks acquired Travis Moen and Kent Huskins from Anaheim, and Boston got veterans Mark Recchi and Steve Montador. Moen and Huskins both have Stanley Cup rings (Anaheim). Both men are tough, and will add character and leadership. This is a championship move.

The Bruins needed to inject some level of experience to a talented yet unproven team. Recchi has won two Stanley Cups and has been a rental player before. Montador will slide in as a fifth or sixth defenseman for the Bruins and won't look out of place. The team that surprised me the most was the Montreal Canadiens. They did nothing to improve their team on deadline day. And in my opinion, this is a team that needs help. This team is sitting on the fence, in fifth place but only four points out of ninth. I'm very surprised Bob Gainey didn't make a move, and I won't be surprised if, come playoff time, the Habs are on the outside looking in.

The Sens traded longtime Senator and fan favourite Antoine Vermette to Columbus for Pascal Leclaire and a second round draft pick.

Vermette is a versatile player who had a career-high 24 goals and 53 points last season, but wasn't living up to expectations this season (as are most of the Sens). Leclaire should bring

to the Senators something they haven't had, a reliable, credible, proven number one goalie. I'm a little concerned about Leclaire coming back from ankle surgery, but if he can get back to the form he's shown he's capable of, this is a great move for the Sens. Next season we'll know for sure.

The Senators also resigned defenseman Filip Kuba to a three-year contract. Although Bryan Murray is very high on Kuba, I just don't see it. I don't feel the same way. I

don't understand what everyone sees in this guy, but hopefully I'll be proven wrong. I wouldn't have resigned the defenseman.

I wished Bryan would have moved some money, or get rid of some of the overpaid, underachieving stars. But maybe he tried and no one was biting.

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@the-equity.ca

Happy 80th Birthday
to
Nancy (Jay) Mayhew
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From Edith Linden and Roger and families
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Saturday, March 14th - 4-8 pm
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\$21.95 per couple plus taxes
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Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21
Friday, March 20th
6:00 pm Mario Gervais and Michel Belanger, Fiddle and Guitar Players.
7:00 pm Jacques Robitaille and Jean Sebastian Forget (Singers, Guitar, Banjo, Accordion performers).
7:45 pm Karaoke Performances by: Bruce and Star, Paula Romain, Isabelle Lance, Al Derouin, Jessica Cormier, Cindy Belland and Heather Stewart
9:00 pm **Band: Whitewater**
Open Mic & Karaoke within band breaks
Saturday, March 21st
11:00 am - 2:00 pm Huge Auction with Auctioneer Revel (RT) Stewart from Cobden, ON
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Paulette Gauthier and Friends
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Performances by The Hachey Sisters Hospital Foundation Speaker Memorial Dedication by Mr. & Mrs. George Lamothe of Calumet Island
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Open Mic & Karaoke
6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Performances by Annette Gravelle and Georges Gosselin
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Open Mic and Karaoke
9:00 pm **Band: Second Generation**
Open Mic & Karaoke within band breaks
Cold Buffet will be served from 11pm on both nights
All Proceeds will be given towards the Pontiac Community Hospital Foundation dialysis fund in Shawville
Many door prizes will be drawn on both days
Don't miss this special event, filled with a variety of live entertainment from performers who will be donating their time to make this event for a "great cause" successful.
Hope to see you here and God Bless !!

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When Irish eyes are smiling in Pontiac

CAROLE ST-AUBIN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • St. Patrick's Day is fast approaching, as Pontiacers get ready to celebrate in their traditional way.

Though it was originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a celebration of the Irish and Irish culture. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He was born

in the latter half of the 4th century A.D., and as legend has it, was kidnapped by pirates who landed in south Wales along with many other boys who were then sold into slavery in Ireland.

It was while he was imprisoned that he dreamt of seeing God who told him to escape.

He did manage to escape to Britain, and later joined a French monastery where he spent about 12 years in training.

It was once he became a bishop that he again dreamed of God, who dictated he go back to Ireland to teach them about him.

For 20 years he travelled throughout Ireland establishing monasteries, schools and churches that were instrumental in helping him successfully convert the Irish.

The day of his death, March 17, 461 A.D. has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

Wearing green is a symbol of Ireland, the Emerald Isle, and the shamrock was said

to be used by St. Patrick to explain the holy trinity to those he sought to convert to Catholicism.

Though festivities throughout the world include parades, concerts, outdoor theatre productions and fireworks shows, here the St. Patrick's Day celebrations include a fun-filled day of continuous traditional Irish music and dance, from the upper to the lower reaches of the Pontiac.

"St. Patrick's Day is our biggest day of the year," said Nick Matechuck, owner of Gavan's hotel in Quyon.

With Irish descendants having settled mainly in Chichester, Sheenboro, Vinton, and Quyon, the celebrations have also become a traditional part of Pontiac's culture.

"Everyone is Irish that day," according to Billy Brennan from Chichester, who is looking forward to the lineup of music, food, and dance.

A Mother's Love Is A Blessing

One of Billy Brennan from Chichester's favourite songs to sing at St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

An Irish boy was leaving
Leaving his native home
Crossing the broad Atlantic
Once more he wished to roam
And as he was leaving his mother
While standing on the Quay
He threw his arms around her waist
And this to her did say.

Chorus:

"A mother's love is a blessing
No matter where you roam
Keep her while she's living
You'll miss her when she's gone
Love her as in childhood
When feeble, old, and grey
For you'll never miss a mother's love
'Til she's buried beneath the clay"

And as the years grow onward
I'll settle down in life
And I'll choose a nice young colleen
And take her for my wife
And as the kids grow older
They'll play around my knee
And I'll teach them the very same lesson
That my mother taught to me

Stay in Bed Irish Stew

Submitted by: Frances Leach of Quyon.

In roasting pan put the following:

- 6 potatoes, chopped in cubes
 - 1 medium turnip, chopped
 - 2 medium onions, chopped
 - 1 pkg. of stewing beef
 - 6-8 carrots, chopped
 - 2 cans tomato soup (optional - a wee bit of Guinness)
 - 1 can peas
 - 2 cans of water
 - salt, pepper, garlic
- Stir and mix all of the above and cook covered at 275 F for 5 1/2 hours.

THEN GO BACK TO BED!

(Optional) For last 15 minutes cover with mixed biscuit mix. This forms a dumpling topping. Cook at about 350 for 15 minutes or until biscuit browns and rises.
Perhaps if you would like to make it a little more Irish, replace one can of water with Guinness.

Pembroke 'A' office all but closed

JAMIE DOGGART
Equity Reporter

PEMBROKE • Ottawa and Pembroke said goodbye to an aspect of their news coverage last week when CTV made cuts to Ottawa's 'A' channel station.

The 'A' channel immediately cut its evening newscasts, as well as the evening newscast on the weekend.

In the wake of the tough economy and poor advertising revenues, CTV Globemedia announced that it would cut costs in a money saving endeavour, which resulted in a loss of 118 jobs across the country.

According to Richard Grey, the Ottawa station's vice-president and general manager, the 'A' channels

have been a money losing venture for the company since they were bought in 2007.

The Pembroke 'A' channel station was an aspect of Ottawa Valley news coverage. The office would often cover local stories from around the region, including events from smaller areas, unlike the larger news stations. The local news would be included in 'A' channel Ottawa's newscasts.

Pontiac MRC Warden Mike McCrank described the station as bringing to light the news of the region to the rest of the world.

"It's a sad day for us," McCrank said.

"The station is an important loss."

The station let go nearly half of their 75 employees, including 10 of the 12 who worked at the Pembroke office. Only a single videographer and a sales representative remain.

Although the Pembroke station has had many different names and owners, it has remained in service for 50 years.

"After the crisis, hopefully the station will re-expand their news gathering facilities," McCrank said.

The CRTC turned down an application from networks last fall to institute carrier fees. According to Grey, those fees would have made it possible for local stations to compete with the larger and American broadcasters

A party for Patty



Rod McCann (centre) and fellow band members from the Barley Matters group perform Irish-inspired melodies Saturday during an Irish party at Lakeside Hotel in Portage du Fort.

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Saturday, March 14
with
John Henry
at 8:30 p.m.
Lots of song selection - Come join the fun!

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BAIE INN
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St. Paddy's Party
Friday, March 13th
at 9:00 pm

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UPSTREAM DAVE
Saturday, March 14
7:30 p.m.
Come early, get a good seat!

2006 F250 Crew Cab XLT 4x4 6.0 L diesel, auto, air, power group, loaded, 60,000 kms. \$28,495	2005 F250 Crew Cab XLT 4x4 6.0 L diesel, auto, air, power group, loaded, 48,000 kms. \$28,495	2001 F150 Supercab Sport 4x2 Auto, air, 4.6 L V8, 155,000 kms. \$7,995	2006 F150 Supercrew XLT 4x4 4.6 L V8, auto, air, power group, tow package, 65,000 kms. \$21,995	2006 F150 Supercab XLT 4x4 4.6 L V8, auto, air, power group, 48,000 kms. \$19,995	2005 Focus Wagon SE Auto, air, CD, cruise, tilt, 55,000 kms. \$11,995	2008 Escape XLT 4x4 Heated leather seats, 3.0 L V6, power group, CD, moonroof, 22,000 kms. \$23,495	2003 Explorer Eddie Bauer 4x4 Leather heated seats, 7 passenger, full loaded. Only 64,000 kms. \$12,995
2008 Taurus Limited FWD 3.5 L V6, heated leather seats, moonroof, loaded, 17,000 kms. \$23,995	2006 Focus SE Auto, air, CD, 45,000 kms. \$10,995	2005 Ranger Supercab 4x2 Auto, 3.0 L V6, 43,000 kms, one owner. \$9,995	2008 Lincoln Towncar Heated seats, A/C, 4.6 L V8, loaded, 16,000 kms. \$29,995	2008 Taurus X Limited AWD Heated leather seats, reverse sensing, fully loaded, 30,000 kms. \$26,995	2008 Fusion SEL (4 to choose from) 2.3 L, 4 cylinder, heated leather seats, 17" alum., 21,000 kms. \$17,995	2008 Focus SE Auto, air, power group, cruise, tilt, 23,000 kms. \$13,995	2007 Focus ZX5 Auto, air, power group, moonroof, 48,000 kms. \$13,495
2005 Focus S Auto, 55,000 kms. \$8,495	2008 Taurus Limited AWD Leather heated seats, power group, loaded, 19,000 kms. \$25,995	2006 F150 Reg. Cab 4x2 Auto, air, 54,000 kms, with cap. \$14,995	2000 F250 Reg. Cab 7.3 L diesel, standard, air, power group, 215,000 kms. \$12,495	2001 Mazda B3000 Supercab 4x2 Standard, air, 3.0 L V6, cruise, tilt, 148,000 kms, new snow tires. \$6,495	2006 Escape XLT FWD 3.0 L V6, power group, auto, 44,000 kms. \$14,995	2006 Escape XLT AWD 3.0 L V6, leather seats, auto, air, loaded, 48,000 kms. \$16,995	2006 Focus SE Power group, air, auto, heated seats, 48,000 kms. \$10,495
2000 Chrysler Cirrus Auto, air, 4 cyl., 136,000 kms. \$3,995	2008 Fusion SEL V6 (3 to choose from) 3.0 L V6, auto, air, 17" alum., heated seats, 20,000 kms. \$18,995	2001 F150 Reg Cab XLT 4x4 Auto, air, power group, 187,000 kms., Quebec safetied. \$8,495	2003 Suzuki Aerio Auto, air, 4 cylinder, 95,000 kms. \$6,295	2000 Chev Malibu Auto, air, V6, 146,000 kms. \$11,995	2005 Focus Wagon ZXW Auto, air, power group, heated seats, loaded, 49,000 kms. \$11,995	2005 Focus Sedan SE Auto, air, power locks, 29,000 kms. \$10,495	2001 Toyota Corolla Auto, air, 108,000 kms, runs well. \$3,495
2000 Dodge Dakota Supercab 4x4 Auto, air, 145,000 kms, hard tonneau cover, runs good. \$1,995	Chev Express Cargo Van Auto, runs well, 305,000 kms, good work van. \$1,995	1992 Chev Cheyenne Supercab Runs well, 4x2 \$995	2008 Taurus Limited FWD Heated leather seats, power group, loaded, 24,000 kms. \$23,500	2008 Escape XLT Heated leather seats, moonroof, 3.0 L V6, power group, 21,000 kms. \$23,995	2008 Fusion SEL (3 to choose from) 3.0 L V6, heated leather seats, 17" alum., 20,000 kms. \$18,995	2008 Fusion SEL (4 to choose from) 4 cylinder, heated leather seats, 17" alum., 17,000 kms. \$17,995	2005 Escape XLT 4x4 3.0 L V6, auto, air, power group, 75,000 kms, one owner. \$17,995

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SHAWVILLE FORD



OPINION

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Submissions > DEADLINE MONDAY 5 p.m.

Publishers
Heather Alberti Dickson
Ross Dickson
heather@theequity.ca

Editor
Wilbur McLean
wilbur@theequity.ca

Reporter
Leah Iverson
leah@theequity.ca

Reporter
Carole St-Aubin
carole@theequity.ca

Ad Manager
Katherine Hynes
kath@theequity.ca

Classifieds / circulation
Janey MacDougall
janey@theequity.ca

Digital Darkroom
Dave Moore
dave@theequity.ca

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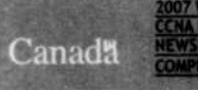
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OUR OPINION | Crumbling media conglomerates hurt Canadians

Last week's announcement that Ottawa's 'A' channel was making major cutbacks was perhaps the first direct blow to media coverage for Pontiacers, but it does not mean we have not been affected by the crumbling media world in Canada.

The Pembroke office had its staff reduced from 12 to two. This is important for us here because that location covered the Ottawa Valley, including much of the major news in Pontiac. It was not unusual for our own EQUITY staff to be at the same Pontiac events as reporters from 'A'.

Of course, the cuts by 'A' are just a sliver of what has happened in recent months.

CanWest appears to be in dire straits. The company, which owns Global Television among other television stations, has applied for bankruptcy protection and is making massive attempts to sell-off some of its entities.

Sun Media, which owns 43 daily newspapers (including the *Ottawa Sun* and *Pembroke Daily Observer*) and about 200 community newspapers cut 600 jobs in December, many from newsroom staff.

That's not all. Last February, the *Halifax Daily News* closed its doors permanently. Last spring, TorStar, which most prominently owns the *Toronto Star*, cut 160 jobs. Last month they cut 60 more jobs from three daily newspapers in southern Ontario and last week cut 60 more from printing and sales staff. Transcontinental Media, which owns a variety of media outlets, cut 1,500 jobs last month.

One only need hold a daily newspaper in one's hand to feel how much thinner it is than normal to understand that advertising revenue has fallen significantly.

The problem with these cuts is that it limits Canadians' access to local news and diverse coverage.

To compensate for reduced staff, these conglomerates will rely more greatly on regionalized and national news coverage. It's easier for one reporter to show up at an event and cover it for a number of newspapers or television stations rather than just one.

It also makes it a lot more difficult for Canadians to know what is happening when there are fewer points of view being presented, as is increasingly the case.

Anyone who follows a particular issue closely in the media understands how different one outlet's reporting and interpretation of facts can differ from another's.

Certainly, they both qualify as news but it's important to be presented with a number of different vantage points of the same issue to ensure fairness, balance and objectivity.

Many pundits have declared this media freefall the death of traditional news outlets, believing even after the recession is over television broadcasters and, more prominently, newspapers will essentially be dead.

The increasingly common belief is that these outlets will be replaced by more modern news sources that come almost completely online. It is also believed that user-driven news coverage will become the norm: the passerby who witnesses a fire and records it on his or her cell phone camera will become an on-the-spot journalist.

It may be too soon to say what the media landscape will look like in this country in a few years.

However, right now it does appear grim.

-WM

Beyond the branches

Leah Iverson, THE EQUITY



Proposed Navigable Waters Protection Act erode public navigation rights

The federal government is introducing what many Canadian environmental organizations believe is a series of harmful amendments to Canada's Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA). Concerns centre around negative impacts proposed changes will make upon public rights as they relate to recreational and business use of waterways - as well as the environment.

What is the NWPA?

According to Ecojustice, Canada's leading non-profit organization of lawyers and scientists devoted to protecting the environment, the NWPA exists "to protect the longstanding public right of navigation under Canadian law. Weakening the federal approval process in the NWPA would reduce Canadians' right to navigate and freely access clean, unobstructed waterways."

Ecojustice continues, saying that although our public right of navigation is protected in Canadian common law, the NWPA serves to emphasize and define this right - as well as confirming the federal government's responsibility to protect our right of navigation. (For more information go to www.ecojustice.ca).

What is a navigable waterway?

Ecojustice explains, "Navigable Waters include any body of water capable, in its natural state, of being navigated by floating vessels of any description for the purpose of transportation, recreation or commerce; it also includes a canal and any other body of water created or altered for public use, as well as any waterway where the public right of navigation exists by dedication of the waterway for public purposes, or by the public having acquired the right to navigate through long use."

More about the Act?

Go to the Fisheries and Oceans site for further information on the Act: www.marinfo.gc.ca/en/Services/ppen_loi.asp

What is the "public trust" re: Canadian waterways?

Ecojustice explains, "Broadly speaking, the public trust doctrine articulates the government's responsibility to preserve the collective

interest of the people of Canada in the quality/availability of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations."

What NWPA changes are proposed?

Changes affect how Canadians can use rivers, streams and lakes for recreation or business. The website www.ispeakforcanadianrivers.ca, explains: "The Conservative government's proposed amendments to the NWPA threaten the longstanding public right to navigation, including the right to recreational navigation. If the Budget Implementation Act is passed, these changes will grant the Transport Minister (Minister John Baird) an unprecedented discretion to define 'classes' of projects on waterways that do not require government approval or environmental assessment (EA). Furthermore, this discretion would not be checked or balanced by any public consultation, transparent disclosure or Parliamentary review."

More specific concerns

The ispeakforcanadianrivers.ca website continues, explaining several public rights are at risk if proposed changes to NWPA are accepted. These two examples affect us in Pontiac most: "Whitewater kayaking: Important sites may be considered to be not navigable and thus not protected due to the high number of 'obstacles' along the waterway. River paddling: Canoeists and kayakers may face increasing obstacles in their riverways such as culverts and small-scale hydroelectric dams. Seasonal and remote wilderness waterways may no longer be protected."

Ecojustice also explains that the present NWPA, "requires approval for any 'work', defined ... as bridges, booms, dams, wharfs, docks, piers, tunnels, pipes, telegraph or power cables and other similar projects that may interfere with navigation."

Proposed changes to the Act would redefine what constitutes a "work." Ecojustice cautions that the federal Minister of Transport would have sole authority to decide whether projects would interfere (or not) with navigation. Therefore, if the Act is changed as proposed, the Minister would have total authority to authorize such works without any approval process and without either public

consultation or environmental assessments.

For more information, go to www.ispeakforcanadianrivers.ca

Action

Canoeist, artist, and activist Becky Mason (daughter of the late Bill Mason, one of Canada's leading environmentalists and canoeists), urges us to act by writing to government representatives to express concerns about proposed changes to NWPA.

Minister John Baird is Minister of Transportation: bairdj@parl.gc.ca; Minister of Environment, Jim Prentice: Prentice.J@parl.gc.ca; Minister of Transportation: Opposition.transportation.critic:Volpej@parl.gc.ca. Go to www.ispeakforcanadianrivers.ca to sign an online petition. For more information regarding where to send e-letters, contact Becky Mason: redcnoe@istar.ca.

Pontiac Eco Trade Fair:

Shawville Meeting 7 p.m. March 13. This Friday, March 13, organizers for summer's Saturday, May 23 Pontiac Eco Trade Fair are meeting at 7 p.m. at the CEDEC office, 357 Main St. Your presence is welcomed. Eco Trade Fair Organizer Venetia Crawford told me, "The Eco Trade Fair committee is looking for more displays of environmentally sound activities that are already available: in the Pontiac and need promotion, or ideas that could be cultivated. Many businesses already promote 'green' technology. Do you know of some? This fair is an opportunity to showcase new or hidden skills and services that are locally available." For details about the fair and/or the 7 p.m., March 13 meeting, contact Venetia Crawford at: venetiacrawford@yahoo.ca or 819-647-5685.

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance ecojournalist and author. Contact her at fletcher.katharine@gmail.com.



ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Katharine Fletcher

On the ice - Shawville Curling Club news

SHAWVILLE • The second half of the 2008-09 Shawville Curling Club season is well in progress with the Community Bonselpiel leading the way. Thanks to Bonselpiel co-chairmen Laird Murray and Stu Stark and their committee for once again organizing and implementing a successful community event. The committee hosted 66 teams over the 11 day event with Team Bruce Hodgins being victorious.

Updating the club trophy winners to date. The winners of the mixed trophy, the Shawville Ford Trophy were Joe Morris (skip), Gloria Green, Wilbur McLean and Nathan Rioux. The final was played on Feb. 17.

The Ladies' Club Shield, one of the oldest and most sought after

ladies trophies, was won by Gloria Green (skip), Nancy York, Ann Bureau and Jess Cox.

Currently the men and women are curling for the Pat and Pattie Lid Pins, respectively. Weekend Bonselpiel action has continued throughout February with successful bonselpiels for the Farmers' Bonselpiel organized by Phyllis Wilson and Ian MacKechnie, the Heart Institute Bonselpiel organized by Rick Allen and the CHEO bonselpiel organized by Ron Tubman. The executive of the Shawville Curling Club sincerely thank the organizers for their time and effort in supporting such worthy causes. The upcoming bonselpiel is the Fish and Games bonselpiel.

Submitted by Mavis Hanna

YOUR OPINION

Merger of beef packers will lead to higher prices

Dear Editor,

The decision by the federal Competition Bureau to facilitate a merger between Lakeside (Tyson) and XL Foods will lead to higher meat prices at the retail level and lower prices at the farm gate.

NFU Manitoba Coordinator Fred Tait also adds the merger now leaves only two companies - Cargill and XL - in control of virtually the entire beef packing capacity in Canada. "Cattle farmers are already struggling with record low prices," he said. "This will only make the situation worse."

Tait said with only two companies controlling the market, there will neither be competition nor regulation in the marketplace, and that will lead to predictable outcomes which are bad for producers and consumers.

"The Competition Bureau has become a joke," he said. "It is more appropriate to call it the Consolidation Bureau. This decision allows XL to attain a 48 per cent market share of the beef packing industry in Canada, as well as acquiring auction markets, cattle finance companies and cattle insurance companies. It already had control over virtually all the largest auction markets in Saskatchewan, and this merger strengthens its

captive supply of cattle going into its plants." Tait said the cattle marketing system has become a full-fledged "command and control" operation that will operate solely for the benefit of the two big companies.

"The current Canadian government has long expressed the opinion that we should deregulate the market and replace regulation with competition. But it now appears they have abandoned competition altogether. Farmers are left exposed and under the thumbs of these two companies that will dictate the market."

Tait added that in 2005, the federal Competition Bureau allowed Cargill to buy out Better Beef, which was a large Ontario beef packing company. The result of that merger is that cattle prices in Ontario are the lowest in the country. "Now western farmers can expect to see the same thing, and consumers can expect to see higher retail prices." Locally, the Renfrew County NFU Beef Committee helped the National NFU Executive in trying to stop the merger. But now we see that our efforts have failed.

Dave Mackay, President
Renfrew County Local National Farmers Union

The community is the place for me

THE EQUITY is pleased to welcome Algonquin College journalism student Jamie Doggart, who has just begun her six-week internship with THE EQUITY. She will be living in Pontiac throughout her time with us. Please welcome her to the community.

When I graduated from Carleton University in Ottawa last year, I never would have seen myself sitting in the newsroom of a community paper. I had always wanted to write but it had never worked out in the past and with some reluctance, I had decided to let it go.

Then I discovered a program at Algonquin college that I could complete in a year, thanks to my degree, and it had an internship. Here was my chance to write again! My desire to write and excitement at the idea of an internship flared up immediately and so I applied.

When my classmates began dreaming of internships, they all had stars in their eyes to work at large dailies or media conglomerates like CanWest or *The Globe and Mail*. Some thought of broadcasting or glossy magazines but across the board, they all wanted something big. Except for me.

I wanted to go somewhere a little bit slower, where people take the time to get to know each other and not stare through you like you're just a face in the crowd. I wanted to go somewhere and be a part of the community, even though I'll only be here for a short while.

When I heard about THE EQUITY and the Pontiac region. I thought that this was the place

for me.

Small towns have always been sort of foreign to me - even a little bit scary. Growing up around Toronto and then moving to Ottawa for school, I'd never been in a town smaller than 90,000 people. I'd never even seen a cow up close before.

I only had vague impressions of small towns and those were based almost entirely on what you see in the movies. Straw hats and pieces of hay come to mind.

With that thought I packed up my city life and prepared for the move that was to take me away from everything I knew. My first reaction was to pack things to keep myself entertained and so my knitting was the first thing into the box (yes, I knit even though I'm only 23. It's a guilty pleasure).

When I arrived in Shawville Sunday evening the day before the start of my internship, I was a little shocked to find just how small small towns can be. Sure, it was a little sleepy compared to what I was used to but the people I met were friendly and that was what mattered.

I didn't know what to expect when I arrived here but it certainly wasn't the warm hospitality and open overtures of friendship I received.

I'm looking forward to getting to know the locals and the region much better during my stay here. I want to make the most of my out-of-city experience.



Jamie Doggart

It's springtime in my mind

My coworkers had a good chuckle at my expense recently, which convinced them I am a true winterer and further scared me about Quebec weather.

You see, I am apparently the only person in Pontiac who spent the weekend de-winterizing my apartment in preparation for spring. I put away my thick blankets and folded my sweaters away in a box so they are out of sight.

My last step was returning the winter boots and jackets I borrowed from our publisher Heather. She kindly lent them to me before a frightfully frigid weekend where I spent covering, you guessed it, outdoor events.

I placed them neatly on her office chair before she arrived to work, and continued on with my day.

When I heard her giggling, I would never have guessed the returned winter wear had caused the laughter.

Heather asked if I was getting an early start at spring and told some staff how I returned the clothes, which had them all breaking out in laughter.

Apparently, winter is not over.

You see where I grew up, the month of March marks the official start of spring.

With the average start of March temperature at 10C, it's perfect weather to start baseball practice and break out the capri pants and skirts.

But much like Dorothy said to Toto in the Wizard of Oz, I thought to myself, Leah, you're not in Vancouver anymore.

Although the temperature here is far from warm, I was blind to the truth and oblivious to the fact that springtime is not around the corner.

To further prove my point, every spring I go blonde to offset my newly acquired tan.

With my hair appointment a week away, the combination of blonde hair and pale, hasn't-seen-the-light-of-day skin, will likely have me looking more like Casper than a sun goddess.

I guess I've just been spoiled by the west coast weather that I assume the rest of Canada is on the same climate pattern as Vancouver.

But when I see my fellow staffers shaking their heads with mischievous grins, I can almost make out what they are thinking. I think it goes something like, "This girl has no idea what she's in for". The sad part is, they are absolutely right.

Thankfully, you can always layer T-shirts.



Leah Iverson

Family heirlooms

I have no valuable Ming vases, gold or jewel collections to leave future generations, no, my empire it seems is built pretty much of books and movies.

Though I'm not so sure future generations will think them of any value, it seems they will inherit them nevertheless. This all came about when contemplating what to do with some objects that have been taking up space but are no longer being used, namely, an entertainment unit full of dusty VHS movies.

We still have a VCR mind you, and it is still in good working order, but we never seem to pull those antiques out for viewing anymore.

Though they have been viewed hundreds of times over, I still can't bring myself to discard of them. They're a collection of classic Disney cartoons after all!

(So much for my courageous efforts to de-clutter my life.)

The only reasonable thing to do is to put them away in storage.

I have no idea how my grandchildren will be viewing their entertainment, or exactly what they will view as entertainment, let alone any great-grandchildren I might have, so are they really worth saving at all?

Perhaps I should set up one last Disney moviefest to help me decide.

Disney began releasing the classics in the 1980s, and I remember the slogans urging me to buy each one, "We have opened the vault," or "Once they're gone, they're gone," except, they're still sitting in my entertainment unit 20 years later with a quiet resolve to stay put.

Vinton

Diane Boisvert
648-5296
Happy belated birthday to Shirley Pepin March 7, Jerry Pepin March 8.

Happy birthday to Fern Quinn and Dorothy Black March 11, Carolyn Kluge and Serge Jolin March 12, Brady McCrank March 14, Emile Mayhew, Raymond Shea and Travis Corriveau March 17.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all the Irish folk.

The blue box service for Litchfield has been cancelled for a while. Please bring your recyclables to the landfill and place them in the appropriate bins.

Everyone should have received their land tax bills by now. The taxes always go up and you should really take notice where your tax dollars are going. It has come to my attention that we no longer have anyone in the area who can or are permitted to empty our septic tanks. There is no proper place for the waste to be disposed. Now we are having to hire people from Ontario to empty our septic tanks at double and more of the price we were paying. How can anybody on a fixed income pay \$400 to get their septic pumped out? It's going to hit the fan this year for sure. Wait until people realize what a predicament we are in

We live in the country and have no place to dump our septic, soon no place to dump our garbage and this recycling program is questionable. We all have to get together, not just the councillors, mayors or politicians but each and everyone of us to find solutions. We need to act now and voice our opinions, give suggestions and help wherever we can.

Don't miss the bus. Karl's tour is Saturday, March 14. Today, March 11 is the deadline to register your seat and pay in advance. You can contact me at 648-5296 or pay at the Baie Inn. There will be a light lunch served at the Baie Inn when we return. We also have a designated driver to take you safely home.

Kiki is anticipating the arrival of spring so she can meander off into the fields and scare up some game. Min will be happy to have her out of the house because she said that Kiki has got cabin fever and is starting to drive everybody crazy.

Anna and Emile Mayhew and their son, Steve came to visit me on Sunday. I made them lunch and then we played Martea. The girls gave a shel-lacking to the boys and we enjoyed spending the afternoon together. It sure is nice having company stopping in.

My sister Lynn from Chilliwack, B.C. will be arriving this Friday and staying to visit for a week.



Carole St-Aubin

126 years of news from the Pontiac

THE WAY WE WERE

Compiled by Heather Albert-Dickson Publisher

25 Years Ago

March 7, 1984

MARC CHRETIEN ELECTED PRESIDENT: On March 1, at a regular meeting of the C.B.B.A., Dr. Marc Chretien of the Centre Dentaire du Pontiac was elected president of the association for the upcoming year.

SNOW: Old timers will say to us nay but it did seem to many here that the snowfall last week was the heaviest in living memory! Some folks got out and shoveled and shoveled and shoveled, and others just stayed in their houses and watched the white stuff pile up, knowing it would eventually melt away. And so it did!

50 Years Ago

March 12, 1959

OUR LADY WARDEN FIRST IN QUEBEC: In a one-ballot election at the quarterly meeting of the Pontiac County Council, held at the Court House in Campbell's Bay, Mrs. Elsie Gibbons was named

Warden of the County, replacing the former mayor of Clarendon, Earl Fulford who lost out in a close race for the mayoralty in the January elections.

Nominated by Edwin Vennasse of Chapeau, and seconded by Thomas McGuire of Allumette Island, Mrs. Gibbons was one of the four nominees for the wardenship. The others were Lee Hodgins, Omer Dufault and Thomas O'Brien. On the balloting, Mrs. Gibbons received eight votes. Nearest contender was Thomas O'Brien with seven votes.

PONTIACS TAKE UOV LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP 3 GAMES TO 1: Cecil McTiernan, with an Irish twinkle in his eye, and sweat streaming down his happy face, accept the Pontiac Printshop shield in Pembroke last Saturday night amid the cheers of fans and the popping of flash bulbs. It was hard fast hockey all the way and a real thriller to watch as the Rockets and the Pontiacs battled out the last game of the finals. Richardson started off the scoring and before he was finished had netted two

and got two assists to lead in the Shawville scoring. Ray Young got the tying and the winning goals, while Laird Murray and Bob Findlay got singles.

75 Years Ago

March 8, 1934

LOCAL NEWS: Almost total damage was caused to the stable and store room building on the property of Mr. G. A. Howard early Saturday morning, when the roof crashed in from the weight of snow which had lodged on the west side. Strong under studing in the interior of the stable prevented injury to three horses and two cows which occupied the stalls at the time. Mr. Howard has workmen engaged removing the debris and will likely rebuild during the summer months.

Senator R.B. Horner, spent Friday night in town enroute to visit his father, Mr. Wm. Horner, at North Clarendon, and while here was a spectator at the Aylmer Shawville hockey game and later took part in the after dinner speaking

at the Curling Club, where the Ottawa Curlers were being entertained.

Believe it or not, but on Wednesday of last week Robt. E. (little Bob) Hodgins sent to this office a wooden pole of 61 measured inches in length, which he claims is the exact depth of the snow in the centre of his bush at Hodgins P.O., Thorne. If this be the case we can well imagine how very necessary it was that our friend Bob should stick to the straight, narrow and well-trodden paths during this old-fashioned winter.

Ice conditions on the Ottawa River this winter and on the myriad lakes and ponds in the district, have been the most extraordinary witnessed in the generation from a standpoint of thickness of ice and solidity from November straight through the season. In cleared stretches of river, ice averages three solid feet through, and on ordinary parts of the surface the mass of snow, slush, shell and solid ice ranges up to five feet.

100 Years Ago

March 11, 1909

LOCAL NEWS: A sleigh load of our young townspeople, chaperoned by Mrs. Amy, visited Renfrew on Wednesday evening last, and experienced the delights of a skate in Renfrew's big, up-to-date rink.

One evening last week the home of Mr. Sam Young, of Morehead section was destroyed by fire while Mr. and Mrs. Young were at Campbell's Bay. The children were in bed when the fire broke out, and the eldest girl had barely time to dress them and get them out of the house, before the latter was a mass of flames. Very few of the contents, including a sewing machine were saved. The building was insured for a small amount. Preparations for the customary grand St. Patrick's Day concert at Vinton on the evening of the 17th are in progress.

125 Years Ago

March 6, 1884

LOCAL NEWS: A young man named Robert Workman of North Clarendon, came down the river with one horse, the other having died from injuries received while working on the Dumoine. It seems the young man was sent into the woods with his

team to draw some firewood for the shanty. The road was very narrow, the horses "crowded" and fell, one on the other. The first to fall died from the injuries received. The dead animal was a valuable one.

The Philharmonic Club of Bristol, conducted by Prof. N.H. Lewis, gave a concert in Quyon on Tuesday the 26th ult, which was well attended.

Now is the time when the observant man sits on the molasses-stained counter of the grocery store and tells of all the "sure signs of spring" he has seen. One man tells us that on Sunday he saw the sparrows gathering material for their nests. Another man says that he is beginning to feel that beautiful spring-time feeling of laziness — that sentimental mood of reverie — creeping over his entire frame. Still another tells us that he has a dog and cat that are beginning to discard their last year's coat of fur. Then too, the industrious hen is commencing to "bear" the prices in the egg marking by cackling forth her spring notes.

The ice harvest is now being reaped. Last week's storm is said to be the severest of the winter.

According to the calendar, we are now in the first month of spring, but the weather does not feel much like it.

Luskville woman celebrates Silver Dart in children's book

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor
PONTIAC • One local woman is hoping kids' knowledge will take flight.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first powered flight in Canada, Linda Brand of Luskville wrote a children's book educating the younger generation of the historical moment in Canada.

Brand hopes the book will spark an interest in flight in children.

"They're the future and they have to feel proud about aviation," she said.

The book, entitled *The Fantastic Flight of the Silver Dart*, was written by Brand and supported by Brand's employer, The Canadian Aviation Museum. François Gauvreau illustrated.

Brand runs much of the children's programming for the Ottawa-based museum.

The book celebrates the Silver Dart and explains the series of events that eventually led to Canada's first plane taking flight in Nova Scotia.

She said the idea for the book came to her during a difficult moment.

"My mom had four can-

cers and one operation took eight hours at the hospital," she said.

"I was waiting and opened my laptop and had the Silver Dart as the screensaver and I just started writing rhymes. When I brought it back to work they said it was great."

So far, 3,500 copies of the book have been printed though the goal is to have it available across the country for all Canadian children to have access.

On Wednesday, March 4, Brand was at the Shawville-Clarendon library for an interactive reading of the book.

The children in attendance seemed enthralled, and Brand especially engaged them by encouraging them to locate a flight-loving mouse that appeared somewhere on every page of the book.

After the reading, Brand dressed up child volunteers in gear appropriate to the pilots of different eras and types of planes, producing many laughs from those in attendance.

The presentation was filled with useful information, including the tidbit that

Canada is the third largest manufacturer of airplanes in the world and that pilots used to wear scarves because oil from the engine would fly in their faces.

The Silver Dart was built under the guidance of

Alexander Graham Bell, who is most famous for receiving the first U.S. patent for a telephone.

It had a wingspan of 49-feet and a maximum speed of 40 miles-per-hour. The Silver Dart flew four times

before being wrecked on its fifth flight.

Shawville was the first stop in what Brand hopes will be a series of presentations in libraries and schools around Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec.



Brand is originally from Montreal but moved to Luskville in 2000 where she lives with her Shawville-born husband.

She said she has already begun working on her second book.



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Linda Brand of Luskville reads her recently released book, *The Fantastic Flight of the Silver Dart* to an enthusiastic group of children at the Shawville-Clarendon library on Wednesday, March 4.

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<p>ALLEYN-ET-CAWOOD, BRISTOL, BRYSON, CAMPBELL'S BAY, CHICHESTER CLARENDON, FORT-COULONGE, L'LE-DU-GRAND-CALLUMET, L'ISLE-AUX-ALLUMETTES, LITCHFIELD, MANSFIELD-ET-PONTEFRAC, OTTER LAKE, PORTAGE-DU-FORT, RAPIDES-DES-JOACHIMS, SHAWVILLE, SHEENBORO, THORNE, WALTHAM: Upgrade the facilities of three arenas (Fort-Coulonge, L'Isle-aux-Allumettes and Shawville)</p> <p>BLUE SEA: Build a tennis court to promote community health</p> <p>BOILEAU: Build a soccer field in the municipal park</p> <p>BOIS-FRANC: Implement the waste management plan</p> <p>BOUCHETTE: Improve the municipal playground</p> <p>CANTLEY: Refurbish the Parc Mont-Joël barn</p> <p>CHELSEA: Develop multipurpose trails in various residential areas</p> <p>CHÉNÉVILLE: Purchase an indoor/outdoor audiovisual system</p> <p>DENHOLM: Create a park in the village centre</p> <p>DUHAMEL: Fit out "Coin du conte" pavilion and "Allée des mots"</p> <p>FASSETT: Renovate the community room.</p> <p>GATINEAU: Set up a fleet of free-use bikes and upgrade the cycling infrastructure</p> <p>GRACEFIELD: Support the community</p> <p>GRAND-REMOUS: Restore indoor skating rink walls</p> <p>KAZABAZUA: Install community centre air-conditioning</p> <p>LAC-DES-PLAGES: Refurbish our community room</p> <p>LAC-SAINT-MARIE: Fit out a community centre room to be used for recreational, cultural and sports purposes</p> <p>LAC-SIMON: Purchase an indoor/outdoor audiovisual system</p> <p>L'ANGE-GARDIEN: Acquire household composters</p> <p>LOCHABER: Improve the roadside rest area</p>	<p>LOCHABER-PARTIE-OUEST: Improve the tennis court</p> <p>MANIWAKI: Develop a network of bicycle paths</p> <p>MAYO: Develop a sewer system</p> <p>MESSINES: Construct a sports complex, the first phase of which will include skateboarding and baseball facilities</p> <p>MONTEBELLO: Install better lighting to facilitate recreational activities</p> <p>MONTPELLIER: Build a soccer field</p> <p>MULGRAVE-ET-DERRY: Install welcome signs at municipal entrances</p> <p>NAMUR: Create a municipal Web site</p> <p>NOTRE-DAME-DE-BONSECOURS: Renovate the community room</p> <p>NOTRE-DAME-DE-LA-PAIX: Create a children's park</p> <p>PAPINEAUVILLE: Create a children's park</p> <p>PLAISANCE: Refurbish signs at the municipality's main entrances</p> <p>PONTIAC: Upgrade parks and green spaces</p> <p>RIPON: Replace interpretative panels</p> <p>SAINT-ANDRÉ-AVELLIN: Acquire a generator to supply all residents with drinking water at any time</p> <p>SAINT-ÉMILE-DE-SUFFOLK: Launch the "What's Your Favorite Book?" project</p> <p>SAINTE-THÉRÈSE-DE-LA-GATINEAU: Acquire a play structure for children at École Laval</p> <p>SAINT-SIXTE: Rebuild the outdoor skating rink</p> <p>THURSO: Fit out a rest area at the municipal dock</p> <p>VAL-DES-BOIS: Rebuild the municipal skating rink</p> <p>VAL-DES-MONTS: Build a soccer field</p>
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Rural Address exhibit an art hit

CAROLE ST-AUBIN
Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • More than 30 people attended Peter Wood's Rural Address exhibit opening at the Impressions art gallery in Shawville on Friday.

The Montreal-born artist who grew up in London, Ont., received his degree from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 2000.

A youth worker currently working at Shawville's Maison des Jeunes location, Wood has been living in Pontiac for about one year.

Rural Address marks a first Pontiac exhibit for Wood, who has previously exhibited in Montreal, London, and Nova Scotia, where he also owned a gallery.

The inspiration for the show came while cycling in a 20 km radius from his home in Thorne, Wood was stirred

by the sadness and tragedy of the abandoned buildings he saw.

He perceived them as a testament of fortitude of the survivors who endured the harsh conditions of cold and bitter winters, poor and overworked soil conditions, and even poverty.

In a collection of 12 paintings of abandoned Pontiac buildings, Wood portrays the survival and ability to flourish of the people who built them, while attempting to capture the quality of each of the home he has researched and studied.

When asked what she thought of the exhibit, artist Tina Michaud, who said she was attending in support and appreciation of the local arts said "I think the pieces are simply wonderful."

Painted in full or three-quarter profile, the buildings

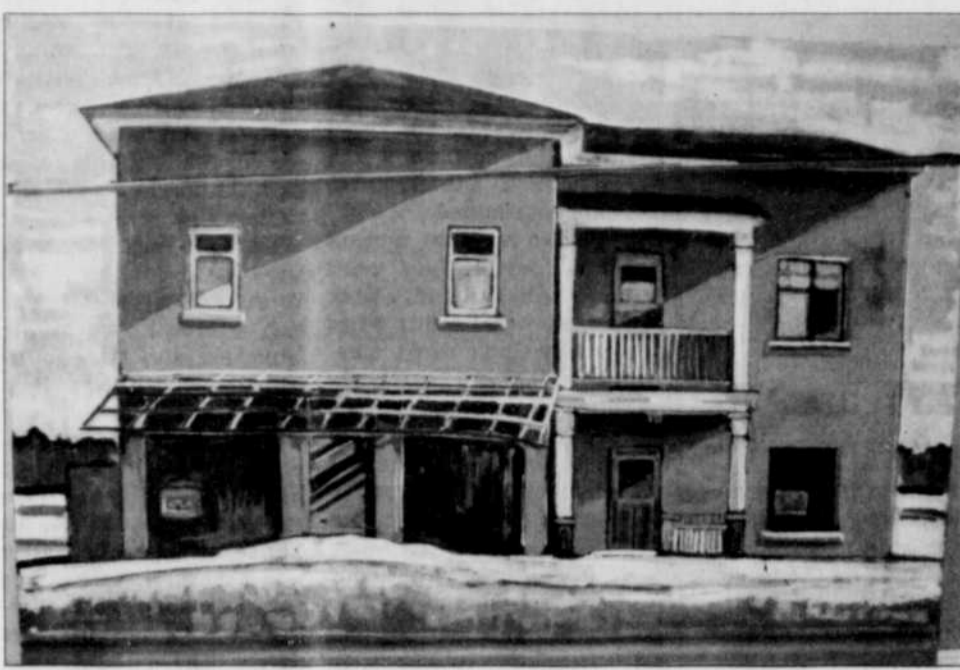
are painted in stark winter scenes to emphasize their austerity.

"I painted the hydro lines in some of the paintings of the buildings as they stand today because I thought it was important to portray them not only as a having a place in history but as still having a place in (present) time," said Wood.

In aspiration that his paintings will encourage the need to remain optimistic and free from indigent thoughts, he would like to see the buildings restored one day in hopes of a continuum.

Wood has valued his collection to equal the amount of the Cohen's store property in Ladysmith which is currently for sale, in hope of purchasing the building.

The Rural Address exhibit runs until March 30.



Carole St-Aubin, THE EQUITY

Cohen's store in Ladysmith is the subject of this canvas as part of Peter Wood's Rural Address exhibit running until March 30 at the Impressions art gallery in Shawville.



Carole St-Aubin, THE EQUITY

Peter Wood stands alongside one of his paintings in his Rural Address exhibit at the Impressions art gallery in Shawville on Friday. Pictured in the 60 x 48 oil canvas are unused tobacco kilns at Wood's farm on the 12th line in Clarendon.

Otter Lake municipal councillor resigns

CAROLE ST-AUBIN
Equity Reporter
OTTER LAKE • With only eight months remaining in his second term, Otter Lake councillor Daniel Ladouceur has handed in his resignation.

Following a March 2 council meeting, where the recent hiring of two municipal labourer positions was discussed, Ladouceur handed in his resignation.

Acting pro-mayor, Vicky Dubeau said, "the reason stated for resigning in

Ladouceur's letter to the council was that working shifts made it difficult for him to attend all the meetings."

A fact that was later confirmed by Ladouceur, who added he no longer had the time to devote to the position the way he wanted to.

"If it's under a year, we are not obliged to immediately fill the position," said Dubeau.

According to Ladouceur, then 27, he was the youngest councillor in

Quebec at the time he was elected to serve his first two-year term on council in 2003.

Ladouceur sat on the water, lights, and public security committees.

"I had been wanting to resign for some time now but didn't want the municipality to have to assume the expense of another election," said Ladouceur whose seat will be open for re-election in fall 2009, when province-wide municipal elections will be held.

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Avis important notice
de Vankleek Hill Livestock Exchange
Aux producteurs laitiers
Vous voulez vendre ou acheter des taures, vaches-laitières gestantes ou non-gestantes. Prenez note qu'à chaque 1er mercredi de chaque mois il y aura vente spécial à 14h30. Nous annoncerons tous les renseignements recueillis par le producteur-vendeur. Toutes vaches ou taures vendues gestantes seront vérifiées par la vétérinaire de l'encan Dr. McLeod (sur place), et seront vendues garanties-gestantes. Prendre note : La réception se fera entre 10h et 12h30. S.V.P. respecter cette heure de réception, si vous voulez une vérification par le vétérinaire. **Soyez présent. Merci.**
Diary Owners
To those who would like to buy and sell heifers and cows - in or out of calf. Please take note that every 1st Wednesday of each month there will be a special sale at 2:30 p.m. We will announce any specific details about the animal in the ring as requested by the owner. All cows and heifers in calf will be verified here by Dr. McLeod to guarantee those sold are pregnant. Please take note that all reception for this special sale must be in between 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Please try to respect this time if you want the veterinarian to check your animal. **Please be here. Thank you.**
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Beef Owners
To those who would like to buy and sell beef animals (calves, heifers, cows, bulls and cows in calf). Please take note that every last Wednesday of each month there will be a special sale at 7:00 p.m. All cows and heifers in calf will be verified here by Dr. McLeod to guarantee those sold are pregnant. **Please be here. Thank you.**
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2009 tax incentives to look out for

CAROLE ST-AUBIN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • It's that time of the year once again, time to gather your receipts, income statements and reports to head off to the accountant or bookkeeper's for the dreaded yearly rituals of tax time.

With new tax rules and changes that apply every year, it becomes difficult to keep up and know what one might be eligible for.

The Equity recently spoke to tax specialists from H & R Block and Smith, Porter, Hétu about some of the main changes Pontiac residents should look into, or ask about specifically:

- A child tax credit allowing families to benefit from a \$2,038 credit for each child who was under the age of 18 at the end of 2008.

- A non-refundable credit worth up to \$500 that can be applied to enrollment fees or sports equipment for children under the age of 16 who participate in eligible sports or physical activities.

- Registered education saving plans (RESPs) rules have changed. Parents can now contribute up to \$50,000 towards a child's post-secondary education in a child's lifetime with no annual limits.

- The maximum annual

RESP contribution qualifying for a 20 per cent Canada Education Savings Grant will be increased to \$2,500, and many students who are currently pursuing post-secondary education on a part-time basis will be able to draw from their RESP.

- A tax credit for recent graduates working in remote resource regions, for up to 40 per cent of wages earned with a maximum credit of \$3,000 per year, to a cumulative amount of \$8,000 is available if a student becomes eligible employed in the 24 months following the date of a successfully completed training program leading to a recognized diploma.

- A public transit credit which include payments for electronic payment cards and weekly passes where an individual purchases passes for up to four consecutive weeks is also available.

- First time home buyers will now be allowed to withdraw up to \$25,000 from a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) to purchase or build their home without paying taxes on the withdrawal, through the home buyer's plan (HBP).

- First time home buyers acquiring their home after Jan. 27, 2009 will also be eligible for a new non-

refundable \$5,000 tax credit, which will mean about \$750 in savings.

- The deductible portion of the cost of food and beverages consumed by long-haul truck drivers during the eligible periods of travel is now up to 80 per cent over five years.

- Pension income splitting allowing pensioners to split up to half of their eligible pension income with a spouse or common-law partner.

- A phased retirement program in effect since 2008 which enables employers more flexibility in offering employees the opportunity to receive up to 60 per cent of their distinctive pension benefits, while still being able to accrue further benefits.

- The age limit for making RRSP contributions is now raised from 69 to 71.

Some of these changes, credits, and benefits could make a significant impact for tax payers in 2009.

Tax reductions for pension splitting of up to \$7,800 per couple were noted last year, according to an email correspondence with chartered accountant, Peter Smith.

These incentives do come with a timeline, and the opportunity to take advantage of them could end in 2009, Smith claimed.

Campbell's Bay

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

Visiting last week with Gladys Walsh, were her son Joe of Barrie and his daughter, Ashley and her friend, Emily who were on the school break in Quebec.

Jean Cuthbertson visited Audrey and Brent Belsher in Renfrew last weekend.

I had an eye appointment in Ottawa last Monday and later Jo-Anne and I visited with Elwyn Smith who is a patient at the QueensWay Carleton Hospital. It was nice to be able to see him. He had knee surgery and then a trip to the Heart Institute for a stint.

The Golden Age Club held its euchre on Tuesday evening at the clubroom. Ladies high was won by Vera Mayor. Second was won by Rose Gutoskie. Mens High was a tie between Kervyn Burman and Tom Hearty. Second was a tie as well between Richard Gratton and Lucien Dumouchel. The door prize was won by Dawson Moorehead. The 50-50 was won by Gwen Black. Lunch followed the euchre.

I wish a speedy recovery to Patrick Sullivan who flew in from Myrtle Beach to be operated on at the Shawville Hospital. Pat retired after many years of living at Fort McMurray, Alberta and he and his wife Lorraine are spending the winter in Myrtle Beach with his sister and brother-in-law, Faye and Lou Stafford.

Get well wishes to Joyce Leach of Otter Lake who is recovering after gall bladder surgery at Shawville.

Get well wishes to Ronnie Kluge of Ottawa who is recovering after heart surgery at the Heart Institute.

Dan and Irene Gravelle of Gatineau visited on Saturday with Florence Wadge.

I took part in the World Day of Prayer Service at the United Church in South Mountain on Friday evening. Churches participating were the Anglican, and the Catholic. Sherri Martin was in charge of the service. The topic was Papua, New Guinea and she carried it out wonderfully to include the decorations and food. We learned a lot about the people of this country and their habits.

My grand-daughter,

wishes came and will come true!

The birds were singing here this morning like crazy. Isn't that a great sign that spring is in the air? The next thing we'll see is the trees starting to bud and the snow will be going. Not to mention the maple syrup producers are starting to make their delicious treat again. You can't beat maple syrup and pancakes. Can you? We used to make our own but we haven't in a few years.

As I have told you in the past we have a parrot and her name is Baby. We also have a cat and his name is Romeo. Romeo is very gentle and loves everyone and now we've just found out, he loves everything. My brother Karl takes Baby out of her cage on his hand and Romeo in the other arm. Romeo takes the palm of his paw and ever so gently slaps Baby. Baby in turn gets fed up and flaps her wings in his face and slaps him back. Then the whole thing starts over again. It's hilarious to see the two of them going on together.

This weekend was the annual fishing and hunting show in the Promenades in Gatineau. There was a monster crowd I'm told. This show always draws a large crowd and for the outdoors enthusiasts this is a great place to be.

that Montreal has been celebrating St. Patrick's Day since 1759 by Irish soldiers in the Montreal Garrison following the British conquest of New France.

In the province of Newfoundland and Labrador the date was observed as a public holiday until 1992, although the provincial government itself continues to observe it as a paid holiday for government employees.

In the province of Manitoba the Irish Association of Manitoba runs an annual three day festival of music and culture based around St. Patrick's Day.

In Toronto from 1919 to 1927 the Toronto Maple Leafs were known as the Toronto St. Patrick's and wore green jerseys. In 1999 when the Leafs played on Hockey Night in Canada (national broadcast of the NHL) on St. Patrick's Day, the Leafs wore the green St. Pats retro jersey. There is a large parade in the city's downtown core that attracts over 100,000 spectators.

When I was researching Canadian celebrations of St. Patrick's Day, I was surprised to discover that some lobbying groups, notably Guinness, have been lobbying to make Saint Patrick's Day a national holiday in Canada. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

The Shawville Figure Skating Club will be having its end of year Revue on the theme "A Night at the Movies" on Friday, March 20 at 7 p.m. at the Shawville Arena. Tickets may be purchased by skating parents.

Did you know what Canadian city has the longest running Saint Patrick's Day parade in Canada? If you guessed Montreal, you are correct. The St. Patrick's Day parade has occurred in Montreal since 1824. Another piece of trivia is

Danford Lake

Stephanie Milford
467-1091 St. Paddy's Day is just around the corner!

Have you got your green and shamrocks out and ready to go? A lot of pubs and bars are gearing up for a good time and green beer! I know, I know, green beer but we just have to take a minute and think that all it is, is green food coloring.

Isn't the nice mild temperatures nice for a change? The lakes, streams, creeks and rivers are starting to give way a little. It's not safe to be on them now without at least five inches of clear ice for a ski-doo and four inches of clear ice for a person to be on the ice the news said tonight. Stay away. The ice will soon be all gone and you can go out in your boats and fish!

Happy belated birthday wishes to Raymond Dagenais and Joey Ranger Mar 4, Alphonsine Beaudoin, Jean Beaugard and Jean-Paul Beaudoin celebrate Mar 10 and 11, Gisele Sauve and Elizabeth Kluge Mar 16 and Hughie "O'Desmond" Desmond celebrates Mar 18. I hope you all had and will have a great day and that all your birthday

wishes came and will come true!

that Montreal has been celebrating St. Patrick's Day since 1759 by Irish soldiers in the Montreal Garrison following the British conquest of New France.

Shawville

Lyse Lacourse
647-5932
lysie_wheezy@hotmail.com

Celebrating wedding anniversaries this upcoming week are Kevin and Brenda Mallette, and Rick and Lisa Plouffe.

There will be a Poor Man's Lunch at the Oddfellows Hall on March 11 at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The homemade food is always delicious and served with a smile.

Some people celebrating their birthdays this week are: Andrew Rowat, Neil McCagg, John Reasbeck, Matthew Hobbs, Jane MacDougall, Ginger Beimers, Nancy Mayhew, Susan Stanley, Adele Lafleur, Jennifer Judd, Randy Pitt, Cathy MacFarlane, and Cody Hodgins.

There will be a book signing at Café 349 on Saturday, March 14 at 12 p.m. by Shawville resident Lynette Harris, who just recently published a book in memory of her mother, "I Always Wanted to Please My Mother".

Celebrating birthdays this week are my nephew Addison Mar 10, Robert my husband on Wednesday, Mar 11 and my niece Dawn who turns 25 on Mar 14. Have a great day from all of us!

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Bikers donate



Submitted by Bill Wilson

At the Jan. 20 dinner meeting of the Low and District Lions Club, a cheque for \$200 was presented to Low Lions President Wayne Brennan by the Northern Old Bastards Vintage Motorcycle Club member Bill Wilson. The donation was in support of the Lions Club's "No Child Without Project", which ensures every child has access to a MedicAlert bracelet who needs one. The Northern Old Bastards is a young club in Pontiac with far-reaching membership.

Sheenboro

Myrtle Sullivan
689-2236

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day the Sheenboro way.

St. Patrick's dance will be held in the Sheenboro Hall on Saturday, March 14 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Music by Wayne Venne, Louis Schryer and Arnold Gardener. Door prizes and lunch will be provided.

The Young at Heart will be having Irish Stew on Wednesday, March 18 at Harrington Hall. Hall opens at 4:30 p.m. and dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. All members welcome.

Young at Heart are also hosting Monday night cards at Harrington Hall. All proceeds are going to Harrington Hall. Everyone welcome.

MAITC: is gearing up for Heritage Day 2009 to be held at Demers Centre Fire Hall on Sunday, Aug. 2. The Historical Committee is planning to write a book on "History of Allumette Island". A section of the book will be dedicated to the families who have settled on Allumette Island. If you are interested in participating, please contact Helen Davis at 819-689-5271.

St. Patrick's Day at Harrington Hall: Breakfast and show, (see our poster in the church) on March 15.

Belated birthday wishes to my twin great-grandsons, Liam and Jake Holtzauer. They were five on Feb. 20. I hear they raised the roof at Cosmic Adventure along with a dozen school friends and

their twin cousins Simone and Garrett Clyde and best girl buddy Avery. Another day of celebration took place at Grama and Poppy Clyde's place a day or so later. Granny Sullivan wants to see you boys next time you're up at the farm. Maybe on your March break?

I was sorry to hear of the passing of Jerry Lavigne. Jerry was the owner/operator of Lavigne Truck Lines. He and his wife Elisabeth came up to visit a number of times and we always had a lovely time. My condolences to Liz, her two sons and daughter.

Happy birthday to my grandson Jason Hynes over in Scotland. Jason celebrates March 10. He left me a voice message on the phone a week or so ago and I could hardly understand his Scottish brogue. Jason, you know there are family weddings in June and August. How about you and your brogue get over here, and of course bring your lovely wife, Fiona, and those darling little girls. I can't wait to see them again.

Happy birthday wishes to Katia Oullette, a lovely three-year-old great-granddaughter of mine. Her mom and dad are hosting a family birthday for her today in Ottawa.

The Chichester Fire Department fishing derby was March 7. There was lots of fish and lots of prize winners. Donat and Carl Ranger sold \$2,200 worth of tickets for the 50/50 draw. The lucky winners split the prize, \$1,100 each. Winning prizes were chain saws, gas augers, cash prizes of \$200 and

\$100 and more. Ben Gaudette donated a fish hut valued at over \$1,000 and a lucky fisherman towed that away. With prizes like that, hell I'm going next year!

Stop the press, winners names just arrived: Biggest pike 8.5 lbs Jeff Godin, second prize Jerry Dayment, third prize Jeff Godin. Biggest pickerel - John Adam, second prize Jean Paul Chartrand, third prize Janis Chartrand. The hut was won by Lee Turcott.

I was pleased to hear that my good friend (for over 70 years) Donald Retty is home recovering after surgery in Gatineau. Glad to have you back Don. You have had us in stitches often over the years and now you're in stitches. Well they say what goes around, comes around.

My prayers go out to Mrs. Mary Spence who resides at Pinewood Seniors' home who had not been feeling good of late. Mary is 98.

Welcome back from Mexico goes out to Carol Anne and Jean Louis. They had a wonderful vacation.

Happy birthday wishes go out to another set of twins in the name of Donna Gagnon and Doris Ranger. Their age was not released for publication but it's safe to say they will never see 30 again (or is that 20?) They celebrate March 10 along with Donna's hubby Donald. Party on girls!

An Irish quotation: "St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time—a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic." by Adrienne Cook.

Le développement socio-économique du Pontiac vous tient à coeur ?

Invitation

The Pontiac's socio-economic development is important to you?

The CLD Pontiac invites you to a presentation of the corporation's 2008 accomplishments at its Annual General Meeting.

Entrepreneurship, development touristique et culturel, soutien communautaire et développement du loisir seront présentés.

Entrepreneurship, tourism and cultural development, community support, and recreational development are on the agenda.

Soyez au rendez-vous ! Join us!

Assemblée générale annuelle CLD du Pontiac
18 mars / March 2009
19 h - 7:00 p.m.
École Jean-Paul II
Campbell's Bay

Pour développer notre avenir - Developing Our Future

ST. PADDY'S DAY PARTY

Sunday, March 15
1:30 pm

Gavan's Hotel
Quyon, Quebec 819-458-2354

Your hostess for the day
Gail Gavan

proudly presents

- Canadian Fiddle Champ - Louis Schryer
- Chris Last
- Paddy G and Mennie Man
- Mike Ryan
- Daley Family

House Band: Louis Schryer
Dean Howard
Cal Cummings & Friends
plus other entertainers

See you there for some great Irish Fun!

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Food Available

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Fun at the ranch during Family Day

LEAH IVERSON
Equity Reporter

MANSFIELD • Mansfield area children were likely tucked out Sunday evening after a full weekend of activities at the ranch during Mansfield Family Day.

Suzie Martineau and family decided to host the two-day event at her home at R.S. Ranch as a way to give local families an engaging weekend of enjoyment that wouldn't put strain on their pocketbooks.

"Some people with big families can't afford to pay for a weekend out," said Martineau, who is a mother of five. "We wanted to give back and have something fun for the kids," she added.

Throughout the two days, kids took turns taking pony rides and exploring the countryside on a sleigh ride, a first for many of the guests.

"We offer sleigh rides for large groups, so many smaller families have never

had the chance to do it," she said, noting that children under five got free admission.

"It's also a chance for them to learn more about what all goes on at a ranch."

In between the entertainment, visitors warmed up with hot chocolate and snacked on hot dogs roasted by the fire.

Martineau moved from Thorne to Mansfield last summer, and said the event also gave her family a chance to interact with new neighbours.

"We used to host events in Norway Bay, but since we moved here in July we've only had our friends over," she said.

"This is a way for us to get to know everyone and let them know what we offer."

Martineau has a list of activities planned in the coming months, including excursions to Sheenboro, a wagon-train ride and a sleep over in the forest.



Locals of all ages hop aboard the sleigh ride Saturday during Family Day in Mansfield. The two-day event also included pony rides, hot chocolate and a wiener roast.

Otter Lake

Elizabeth Hahn
453-7326
Sincere condolences to wife Pauline Labbé St-Aubin and daughters Cindy (husband Jim Connell) and Michèle, mother Annette, brothers and sisters for the loss of Victor St-Aubin. He fought a courageous battle with cancer. Vic was a proud and hard working man. He will be sadly missed by many friends. I drove to Pembroke Saturday to attend a hockey tournament to watch my two great-grandchildren Travis and Julia

Proulx play with age group 10 and seven year-olds. Congratulations to Travis who scored three hat tricks in the last three games he played. Travis scored 10 goals in this tournament. Great plays Travis. I also had a nice visit with Pat, Dolores, Kelly and Craig. Recent visitors with Mrs. Hilda Richard Mayhew were Mae Guyea of Renfrew and her two friends also of Renfrew. Belated birthday wishes to my niece Erica Loesche in B.C. on March 7. Best wishes from your Otter Lake relatives. Nice to hear that Earl Richard is home from hospital after hip surgery. He is doing fine.

Golden Age Club euchre results for March 3: First prize, Sandy Robinson and Medard Allard. Second prize Annie Schreider and Bob Billings. 50/50 winner: Laurier Francoeur. Door prize: Aline Sincennes. Dessert was provided by Mabel Peck and Luise Schulz. Celebrating birthdays were Len Ahern Mar. 1 and Gerry Walsh Mar. 2. Dart league results for March 5: First prize: Barbara Lintell and Ronald Beaudoin. Second prize: Olivette Mason and Jean-Paul Lafleur. 50/50 winner: Gilberte Bussiere. Door prize winner: Henry Longpré.

Caldwell

Hermonie Sharpe
647-3459
Visiting us March 2 was my daughter, Connie of Golden Lake and on March 4 we had Tom Thompson and Barbara Brown of Ottawa. Tom was our neighbour for many years and owned the property now belonging to Dan Tremblay.

at our bird feeder along with countless other varieties. I hope you didn't forget to turn your clock ahead this past weekend.

We turned our clock ahead at night and go to bed on the fast time and then you don't find it so hard to adjust to the new time. The ice and snow seem to be disappearing which is good and there isn't too much flooding. I wish someone would take over Cluff's Septic Service and no doubt we could have it taken to Hull with a lot less expense as there is a sewage plant

there, so we are told. The government will have to look into the problems we have in the country. And, as they want us to stay in our own home we will have to get help along this line.

Six weeks ago this past Friday my hearing aid was mailed in Hull to come to Shawville and still no word about its whereabouts.

Visiting us Saturday were Emile and Cathie Côté of Quyon. Visiting us Sunday were Peter and Barbara Haughton of Haughton's Bay and Neil and Margaret Sharpe of Shawville.

Waltham

Helen Perry
689-2652
jacobg42@hotmail.com

It was nice meeting and chatting with Sheila and Michael Duff, while out shopping last week. They had their little granddaughter Georgia with them and she is so sweet!

On Saturday a surprise birthday party was held in honour of Betty Grieve at the Waltham Town Hall. Family and friends gathered to shower Betty with love and best wishes. It sure was a surprise as Betty's daughter, Mary-Beth Goyette and grandchildren Alex and Cassie, from Yellowknife were at the hall. Everyone had a wonderful time socializing and we all enjoyed a tasty buffet supper. This was followed by a couple of games of euchre. I am sure that Betty will have great memories of her special birthday party for many years to come!

On Saturday Laurette Spencer held a family day. Her children and grandchildren enjoyed outdoor activities and the weather co-operated for this event. Everyone enjoyed a lovely meal together at the end of the day.

On Sunday morning, His Excellency Bishop Michael Mulhall concelebrated mass here in Waltham with Fr. Guillemette. After mass, Lise Gauthier, President of Our Lady's Helping Hands, welcomed Bishop Mulhall. She presented him with a small

gift on behalf of the parish. Afterwards Bishop Mulhall enjoyed a lovely breakfast with some of our parishioners at the Waltham Station.

A birthday brunch was held on Sunday in honour of little Tanner Fleury who celebrated his fourth birthday. We hope that you had an awesome day Tanner! Cynthia and Terry Belaire spent a wonderful weekend in Ottawa with Natasha Belaire, Justin Clouthier and granddaughters Savannah and Chloe. On Saturday night, they celebrated Justin's 30th birthday. Happy birthday Justin!

Special birthday wishes and love are extended to Marie Campbell who is celebrating her birthday on March 14.

May you have a lovely day Marie!

Birthday wishes are extended to our godson Patrick Pilon of Ottawa, who will be celebrating his 30th birthday March 15. Have a good one Patrick!

Patrick Morin is celebrating his birthday on St. Patrick's Day March 17. All the best Patrick and may you have the luck of the Irish on your special day and always.

An Irish Blessing
May your day be touched
By a bit of Irish luck,
Brightened by a song in
your heart,

And warmed by the
smiles Of the people you
love.

Happy St. Patrick's Day
everyone!

Bryson

Anna Stewart
648-2351

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden death on Thursday, March 5 of Jim's third brother, Weston Stewart, in Florida. Weston was the husband of Bernice of Cartier. Weston and Bernice spent a great amount of time with us and our family. He will be so missed by his daughters Laurie (Jean Deschamps) of Dowling, Billy Joe (Donnie) of Sudbury, Sherrie (Yvan Landriault) of Dowling and Kim (Jason) of Cartier. The loves of his lives, his eight grandchildren and of course his wife Bernice who took great care of him over the years in which he suffered from ill health. He also leaves his brothers Jim (Anna), Melvin (Monique) of Matagami, and Allan of Calumet Island, his two sisters Diane of Ottawa and Joyce (Keith) of Ottawa and many nieces and nephews which he loved dearly. Also predeceased by his two brothers Denzil of Cardinal and Leness of Portage. A service will be held here at a later date. Rest in peace Weston, we, your family will miss you very much!

Sherry and Chinkler Lepine along with Sherry's brother Jamie and Sylvie, Jacob and Caley Stewart spent two weeks' vacation in Florida. One week at Disney World and one

more week at a condo in Bradenton, Florida. They did a lot of things and had a wonderful time. Too bad they had to return to their Uncle Weston's death.

Maple syrup time again. I wonder if it will be a great year. Jim sure loves to get in the bush. He said it's being close to nature!

Rev. Angus and Mrs. MacDonald dropped in for a visit Sunday afternoon.

Brenda Patrick has been a God send to us over these last few days. Also her husband Normand and Paquerette and Brent Ostrom. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Congratulations to the Pontiac Novice A team. They won their tournament in Gatineau. Their last game was played against Chevalier team from Gatineau. The score after over time was 3 to 2 for the Pontiac Lions. The play offs will begin next Saturday. Their first game will be played in Fort Coulonge. Good Luck!

Happy birthday to Tracey Haurault of Bryson who celebrates March 11. Birthday greetings and lots of love from your mother.

Winners of last week's Golden Age euchre are: Door: Larry Lamadine, 50/50: George Huckabone, Men's first: Jim Stewart, Men's second: Don Evans, Ladies first: Joan Sicard, Giselle Evans and Georgette Piche, Ladies second: Veronique Perrier.

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**INVITATION TO TENDER
WESTERN QUÉBEC SCHOOL BOARD**

PROJECT : Replacement of Windows, Phase 4
Pontiac High School, 455 Maple St. Shawville, Quebec, J0X 2Y0

WESTERN QUÉBEC SCHOOL BOARD, 15, rue Katimavik, Gatineau, (Québec) J9J 0E9

Project Reference : 09-018

ARCHITECTS :
FORTIN, CORRIVEAU, SALVAIL, architecture + design
15, rue Connaught, Gatineau (Secteur Hull) (Québec) J8Y 4C8
Téléphone : (819) 776-3143 Fax: (819) 776-1452

Document Requests:
Starting on March 6, 2009, upon a payment of a 40\$ fee (cash or certified cheque only payable to the Western Quebec School Board), anyone may acquire the bid documents, plans and specifications as well as other documents associated with the project, at 15 Connaught, Gatineau, Quebec, J8Z 3H3, according to the following schedule: Monday to Thursdays - from 9 AM to 12 noon and from 1 PM to 5 PM; Fridays from 9 AM to 1:30 PM. The fee is refundable if the bidder returns the documents in good condition within five days following the bid opening dates. The documents may also be sent by mail, subject to the same conditions.

The Western Quebec School Board is inviting the public to submit sealed envelope tenders for the provision of services in connection with the replacement of the windows - Phase 4 - in the context of the project at Pontiac High School.

All bids must be received at the School board's head office by **March 26th, 2009 at 3 PM E.S.T.** for public opening at the same location, on the same day and at the same time. All bids that are received thereafter shall be automatically rejected.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security equal to 10% of the bid amount, excluding all applicable taxes, the security shall be payable by certified cheque, by irrevocable letter of guarantee or in the form of a tender bond issued by a financial institution that is an insurer holding a licensed insurance under the Act respecting insurance (R.S.Q., c. A-32), authorizing the financial institution to issue guarantee insurance, a trust company having a license issued under the Act respecting trust companies and saving companies (R.S.Q., c. S-29.01), a financial services cooperative to which the Act respecting financial services cooperatives (R.S.Q., C-67.3) applies or a bank as defined by the Bank Act (S.C. 1991, c. 46), failing which the bid shall be automatically rejected.

This public call for tenders is subject to the Agreements on the Opening of Public Procurements to all suppliers in Quebec, Ontario, and New Brunswick.

Where appropriate, only contractors holding the proper license required under the Buildings Act (R.S.Q. c.B-1.1) shall be considered. Contractor bidders shall be responsible for subcontractors selected, both in terms of their solvency and of the content of their bids.

The School Board reserves the right not to accept any of the bids received.

For further information you may contact Ms. Monique Parent at (819) 776-3143 ext. 26 (Fortin Corriveau Salvail architecture + design) or at www.seao.ca.

Note: There will be a non-mandatory visit to Pontiac High School, at 9AM on March 13th, 2009. Please meet at the main entrance.

Colin O'Shea
Assistant Director General

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**INVITATION TO TENDER
WESTERN QUÉBEC SCHOOL BOARD**

PROJECT : Replacement of Windows, Phase 2
Philemon Wright High School, 80 boulevard Daniel Johnson, Gatineau, Quebec, J8Z 1S3

WESTERN QUÉBEC SCHOOL BOARD, 15, rue Katimavik, Gatineau, (Québec) J9J 0E9

Project Reference : 09-019

ARCHITECTS :
FORTIN, CORRIVEAU, SALVAIL, architecture + design
15, rue Connaught, Gatineau (Secteur Hull) (Québec) J8Y 4C8
Téléphone : (819) 776-3143 Fax: (819) 776-1452

Document Requests:
Starting on March 6, 2009, upon a payment of a 40\$ fee (cash or certified cheque only payable to the Western Quebec School Board), anyone may acquire the bid documents, plans and specifications as well as other documents associated with the project, at 15 Connaught, Gatineau, Quebec, J8Z 3H3, according to the following schedule: Monday to Thursdays - from 9 AM to 12 noon and from 1 PM to 5 PM; Fridays from 9 AM to 1:30 PM. The fee is refundable if the bidder returns the documents in good condition within five days following the bid opening dates. The documents may also be sent by mail, subject to the same conditions.

The Western Quebec School Board is inviting the public to submit sealed envelope tenders for the provision of services in connection with the replacement of the windows in the context of the project at Philemon Wright High School in Gatineau.

All bids must be received at the School board's head office by **March 26th, 2009 at 3 PM E.S.T.** for public opening at the same location, on the same day and at the same time. All bids that are received thereafter shall be automatically rejected.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security equal to 10% of the bid amount, excluding all applicable taxes, the security shall be payable by certified cheque, by irrevocable letter of guarantee or in the form of a tender bond issued by a financial institution that is an insurer holding a licensed insurance under the Act respecting insurance (R.S.Q., c. A-32), authorizing the financial institution to issue guarantee insurance, a trust company having a license issued under the Act respecting trust companies and saving companies (R.S.Q., c. S-29.01), a financial services cooperative to which the Act respecting financial services cooperatives (R.S.Q., C-67.3) applies or a bank as defined by the Bank Act (S.C. 1991, c. 46), failing which the bid shall be automatically rejected.

This public call for tenders is subject to the Agreements on the Opening of Public Procurements to all suppliers in Canada.

Where appropriate, only contractors holding the proper license required under the Buildings Act (R.S.Q. c.B-1.1) shall be considered. Contractor bidders shall be responsible for subcontractors selected, both in terms of their solvency and of the content of their bids.

The School Board reserves the right not to accept any of the bids received.

For further information you may contact Ms. Monique Parent at (819) 776-3143 ext. 26 (Fortin Corriveau Salvail architecture + design) or at www.seao.ca.

Note: There will be a non-mandatory visit to Philemon Wright High School, at 11 AM on March 13th, 2009. Please meet at the main entrance.

Colin O'Shea
Assistant Director General

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**INVITATION TO TENDER
WESTERN QUÉBEC SCHOOL BOARD**

PROJECT : New Floor Finish for Hallways
South Hull, 86 promenade Crescent, Gatineau, Québec, J9H 1T6

WESTERN QUÉBEC SCHOOL BOARD, 15, rue Katimavik, Gatineau, (Québec) J9J 0E9

Project Reference: 09-020

ARCHITECTS :
FORTIN, CORRIVEAU, SALVAIL, architecture + design
15, rue Connaught, Gatineau (Secteur Hull) (Québec) J8Y 4C8
Téléphone : (819) 776-3143 Fax: (819) 776-1452

Document Request:
Starting on March 6, 2009, upon a payment of a 40\$ fee (cash or certified cheque only payable to the Western Quebec School Board), anyone may acquire the bid documents, plans and specifications as well as other documents associated with the project, at 15 Connaught, Gatineau, Quebec, J8Z 3H3, according to the following schedule: Monday to Thursdays - from 9 AM to 12 noon and from 1 PM to 5 PM; Fridays from 9 AM to 1:30 PM. The fee is refundable if the bidder returns the documents in good condition within five days following the bid opening dates. The documents may also be sent by mail, subject to the same conditions.

The Western Quebec School Board is inviting the public to submit sealed envelope tenders for the provision of services in connection with the replacement of the hallway floor finish in the context of its project at South Hull School.

All bids must be received at the School board's head office by **March 26th, 2009 at 3 PM E.S.T.** for public opening at the same location, on the same day and at the same time. All bids that are received thereafter shall be automatically rejected.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security equal to 10% of the bid amount, excluding all applicable taxes, the security shall be payable by certified cheque, by irrevocable letter of guarantee or in the form of a tender bond issued by a financial institution that is an insurer holding a licensed insurance under the Act respecting insurance (R.S.Q., c. A-32), authorizing the financial institution to issue guarantee insurance, a trust company having a license issued under the Act respecting trust companies and saving companies (R.S.Q., c. S-29.01), a financial services cooperative to which the Act respecting financial services cooperatives (R.S.Q., C-67.3) applies or a bank as defined by the Bank Act (S.C. 1991, c. 46), failing which the bid shall be automatically rejected.

This public call for tenders is subject to the Agreements on the Opening of Public Procurements to all suppliers in Quebec, Ontario, and New Brunswick.

Where appropriate, only contractors holding the proper license required under the Buildings Act (R.S.Q. c.B-1.1) shall be considered. Contractor bidders shall be responsible for subcontractors selected, both in terms of their solvency and of the content of their bids.

The School Board reserves the right not to accept any of the bids received.

For further information you may contact Ms. Monique Parent at (819) 776-3143 ext. 26 (Fortin Corriveau Salvail architecture + design) or at www.seao.ca.

Note: There will be a non-mandatory visit to South Hull School, at 9AM on March 16th, 2009. Please meet at the main entrance.

Colin O'Shea
Assistant Director General

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**INVITATION TO TENDER
WESTERN QUÉBEC SCHOOL BOARD**

PROJECT : PARTIAL REPLACEMENT OF THE WINDOWS & EXTERIOR WALL
Buckingham School, 615 Georges Street, Gatineau, Québec, J8L 2E1

WESTERN QUÉBEC SCHOOL BOARD, 15, rue Katimavik, Gatineau, (Québec) J9J 0E9

Project Reference: 09-021

ARCHITECTS :
FORTIN, CORRIVEAU, SALVAIL, architecture + design
15, rue Connaught, Gatineau (Secteur Hull) (Québec) J8Y 4C8
Téléphone : (819) 776-3143 Fax: (819) 776-1452

Document Requests:
Starting on March 6, 2009, upon a payment of a 40\$ fee (cash or certified cheque only payable to the Western Quebec School Board), anyone may acquire the bid documents, plans and specifications as well as other documents associated with the project, at 15 Connaught, Gatineau, Quebec, J8Z 3H3, according to the following schedule: Monday to Thursdays - from 9 AM to 12 noon and from 1 PM to 5 PM; Fridays from 9 AM to 1:30 PM. The fee is refundable if the bidder returns the documents in good condition within five days following the bid opening dates. The documents may also be sent by mail, subject to the same conditions.

The Western Quebec School Board is inviting the public to submit sealed envelope tenders for the provision of services in connection with the partial replacement of the windows and exterior wall in the context of the project at Buckingham School in Gatineau.

All bids must be received at the School board's head office by **March 26th, 2009 at 3 PM E.S.T.** for public opening at the same location, on the same day and at the same time. All bids that are received thereafter shall be automatically rejected.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security equal to 10% of the bid amount, excluding all applicable taxes, the security shall be payable by certified cheque, by irrevocable letter of guarantee or in the form of a tender bond issued by a financial institution that is an insurer holding a licensed insurance under the Act respecting insurance (R.S.Q., c. A-32), authorizing the financial institution to issue guarantee insurance, a trust company having a license issued under the Act respecting trust companies and saving companies (R.S.Q., c. S-29.01), a financial services cooperative to which the Act respecting financial services cooperatives (R.S.Q., C-67.3) applies or a bank as defined by the Bank Act (S.C. 1991, c. 46), failing which the bid shall be automatically rejected.

This public call for tenders is subject to the Agreements on the Opening of Public Procurements to all suppliers in Quebec, Ontario, and New Brunswick.

Where appropriate, only contractors holding the proper license required under the Buildings Act (R.S.Q. c.B-1.1) shall be considered. Contractor bidders shall be responsible for subcontractors selected, both in terms of their solvency and of the content of their bids.

The School Board reserves the right not to accept any of the bids received.

For further information you may contact Ms. Monique Parent at (819) 776-3143 ext. 26 (Fortin Corriveau Salvail architecture + design) or at www.seao.ca.

Note: There will be a non-mandatory visit to Buckingham School, at 1PM on March 13th, 2009. Please meet at the main entrance.

Colin O'Shea
Assistant Director General

Un premier versement de 618 583 \$ provenant du transfert des revenus de la taxe fédérale sur l'essence et de la contribution du gouvernement du Québec est remis à Chelsea

CHELSEA • Le député de Pontiac et ministre des Affaires étrangères, l'honorable Lawrence Cannon, au nom de John Baird, ministre des Transports et de l'Infrastructure du Canada, ainsi que la députée de Gatineau et adjointe parlementaire au premier ministre, madame Stéphanie Vallée, au nom de la vice-première ministre et ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire, madame Nathalie Normandeau, sont heureux d'annoncer que la Municipalité de Chelsea bénéficiera d'un montant de 618 583 \$, consenti dans le cadre de l'entente fédérale-provinciale relative au transfert d'une partie des revenus de la taxe fédérale sur l'essence et de la contribution du gouvernement du Québec.

Il s'agit d'un premier versement pour Chelsea qui recevra, au total, la somme de 1 030 971 \$ d'ici la fin de l'année 2009, pour la réalisation d'importants travaux d'infrastructures. La Municipalité de Chelsea utilisera ces fonds pour la construction d'un réseau de collecte des eaux usées à Farm Point. La relance économique du Canada est au cœur des préoccupations de notre gouvernement, a déclaré le ministre Cannon.

Dans le Plan d'action économique du Canada, nous avons annoncé des fonds de près de 12 milliards de dollars sur deux ans pour favoriser les investissements en infrastructure. Le versement des fonds est assuré par la Société de financement des infrastructures locales du Québec (SOFIL). De plus, le Plan d'action économique du Canada prévoit l'accélération et l'accroissement des récents investissements fédéraux historiques dans l'infrastructure, en injectant près de 12 milliards de dollars

prospérité des collectivités partout au Québec et au Canada.

L'aide financière consentie aujourd'hui démontre bien notre volonté de contribuer au mieux-être des citoyens et citoyennes. Ainsi, la Municipalité de Chelsea peut désormais compter sur des versements déjà déterminés, ce qui facilitera la planification des travaux d'infrastructures à réaliser. Ces investissements s'inscrivent dans le Plan québécois des infrastructures, qui prévoit plus de 41,8 milliards de dollars pour la période de 2008-2013, dont 3,15 milliards de dollars serviront au maintien et à la mise aux normes des infrastructures municipales.

La réfection et la modernisation des infrastructures constituent une priorité pour le gouvernement du Québec, a ajouté la députée Stéphanie Vallée.

L'entente fédérale-provinciale relative au transfert d'une partie des revenus de la taxe fédérale sur l'essence conclue entre le Québec et le Canada en 2005 a pour but d'assurer le financement du renouvellement des infrastructures municipales et locales dans une perspective de développement durable, notamment en matière d'eau potable, d'eaux usées, de voirie locale et de transport en commun.

Entre 2005 et 2010, le Québec recevra 1,151 milliard de dollars du Fonds de la taxe sur l'essence auquel s'ajoute une contribution du gouvernement du Québec de 475,7 millions de dollars. Le versement des fonds est assuré par la Société de financement des infrastructures locales du Québec (SOFIL). De plus, le Plan d'action économique du Canada prévoit l'accélération et l'accroissement des récents investissements fédéraux historiques dans l'infrastructure, en injectant près de 12 milliards de dollars

sur deux ans en guise de nouveau financement de stimulation de l'infrastructure.

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C.P. 249
Shawville (Québec)
J0X 2Y0

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MARS : mois de la nutrition

MARCH: NUTRITION

Trucs de la semaine

- ✓ Soyez réaliste! Vos gènes jouent un rôle important dans la forme de votre corps. Évitez donc de vouloir être quelqu'un que vous ne pouvez être. Se sentir bien dans sa peau commence par accepter son apparence. Rappelez-vous qu'un corps en santé peut se présenter sous plusieurs formes et plusieurs tailles.
- ✓ Les effets des diètes amaigrissantes sévères ne durent pas à long terme. La plupart des gens reprennent le poids perdu au départ et même un peu plus. Au lieu de suivre une diète, choisissez plutôt de changer votre style de vie et prenez l'habitude de manger sainement et de demeurer actif.

Weekly Tips

- ✓ Be realistic about your body size and shape. Your genes have a lot to do with the way you look so avoid trying to be someone you were never meant to be. Feeling good about yourself starts with accepting how you look. Remember, healthy bodies come in all shapes and sizes!
- ✓ Strict weight control diets don't work in the long run. Most people who lose weight typically gain it back along with a few extra pounds. Instead of dieting adopt long lasting healthy habits such as eating well and keeping active.

Presented by:

Source: www.dietitians.ca

ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE de TRANSPORACTION PONTIAC INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of TRANSPORACTION PONTIAC INC.

à être tenue mercredi le 25 mars 2009, à 10h30 au siège social de TransporAction Pontiac, 1226A, rte. 148, Campbell's Bay, QC J0X 1K0.

Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at the head office situated at 1226A Hwy. 148, Campbell's Bay, QC J0X 1K0.

ORDRE DU JOUR PROPOSÉ

1. Ouverture de la rencontre et vérification du quorum
2. Lecture et adoption de l'ordre du jour
3. Lecture et adoption du procès-verbal de la dernière assemblée générale annuelle
4. Lecture et adoption des états financiers
5. Lecture et adoption du rapport d'activités
6. Élection des administrateurs
7. Nomination du vérificateur
8. Période de questions des membres
9. Levée de l'assemblée générale

PROPOSÉ AGENDA

1. Call to order and verification of quorum
2. Reading and adoption of agenda
3. Reading and adoption of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
4. Reading and adoption of financial statements
5. Reading and adoption of activity report
6. Election of Board members
7. Nomination of auditor
8. Question period for the members
9. Adjournment of the Annual General Assembly

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Leah Iverson, THE EQUITY
David Cardinal-Martineau, 10 ans, est guidé par Carol Maloney pendant une journée familiale organisée sur une ferme à Mansfield samedi dernier.

Campagne annuelle dans MRC Pontiac pour le coeur

GATINEAU • La Fondation des maladies du coeur du Québec lance sa campagne annuelle de porte-à-porte dans MRC Pontiac qui se tiendra du samedi 14 mars au dimanche 5 avril 2009. Grâce à vos dons, la Fondation contribue activement à l'avancement de la recherche sur les maladies cardiovasculaires, à la prévention ainsi qu'à la promotion de la santé du coeur.

Nous tenons à encourager tous les bénévoles de la MRC Pontiac. La Fondation remercie les Caisses Desjardins, les médias, ainsi que nos futurs collaborateurs. Vous pouvez faire un don à la Fondation des maladies du coeur du Québec en visitant le www.fmcoeur.qc.ca ou en composant le 1 800 473-INFO (4636). Merci de donner pour le coeur!

Rencontre avec un star



Photo soumise par Donna Young

Les joueurs Novice 'B' des Lions de Pontiac ont reçu une belle surprise en fin de semaine quand ils ont été accueillis par un joueur des Sénateurs d'Ottawa Jesse Winchester, suite à leur parti d'exhibition à la Place Banque Scotia. Rangée du haut, de gauche à droite: Entraîneur assistant Wade Ellison, Winchester et entraîneur-chef Dan Duggan. De gauche à droite: Evan Atkinson, Nicholas Emmerson, Patrick Rivet, Rori Richardson, William Hayes, James Murray, Mackie Ellison, Roy Duggan, Ben Barr, Stephen Young et Jaden Stewart.

Le gouvernement du Canada accorde 1,9 million de dollars à la Compagnie de chemin de fer de l'Outaouais pour la réfection du tronçon Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield

GATINEAU • Le ministre d'État de Développement économique Canada, l'honorable Denis Lebel, et le ministre des Affaires étrangères et député de Pontiac, l'honorable Lawrence Cannon, ont annoncé l'octroi d'une contribution non remboursable de 1 940 000 \$ à la Compagnie de chemin de fer de l'Outaouais.

Les fonds consentis permettront de financer les travaux nécessaires à la réfection du tronçon ferroviaire Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield.

Ce projet, qui exigera un investissement total de 5,8 millions de dollars, est réalisé en partenariat avec le gouvernement du Québec, les municipalités intéressées, la conférence régionale des élus et Tourisme Outaouais.

Un glissement de terrain, en mai 2008, a forcé l'arrêt complet du train à vapeur, le seul du genre qui était en service au Canada depuis 1992.

Sa célèbre locomotive 909, construite en Suède il y a plus de cent ans, est considérée comme un symbole distinctif et une marque de commerce dans l'Outaouais.

« Nous nous devons d'appuyer cette attraction touristique. À lui seul, le train à vapeur figure dans 40 per centum de tous les forfaits vendus par Tourisme Outaouais. Il attire annuellement dans la région plus de 55 000 per-

sonnes et génère des retombées de 10 millions de dollars. À cela, il faut ajouter 80 emplois directs, sans compter les emplois indirects, par exemple, dans les commerces de Wakefield », a indiqué le ministre Lebel.

« Depuis le glissement de terrain, les acteurs économiques régionaux se sont entendus pour dire qu'il fallait à la fois trouver un consensus solide et mettre sur pied un montage financier complet.

Il convenait en effet de remplir ces deux conditions pour assurer la remise en activité du train le plus rapidement possible.

Le petit train de Wakefield, comme on l'appelle dans la région, constitue un équipement touristique important en Outaouais et, pour mieux traverser cette période difficile, il est essentiel de renforcer l'économie régionale », a précisé le ministre Cannon.

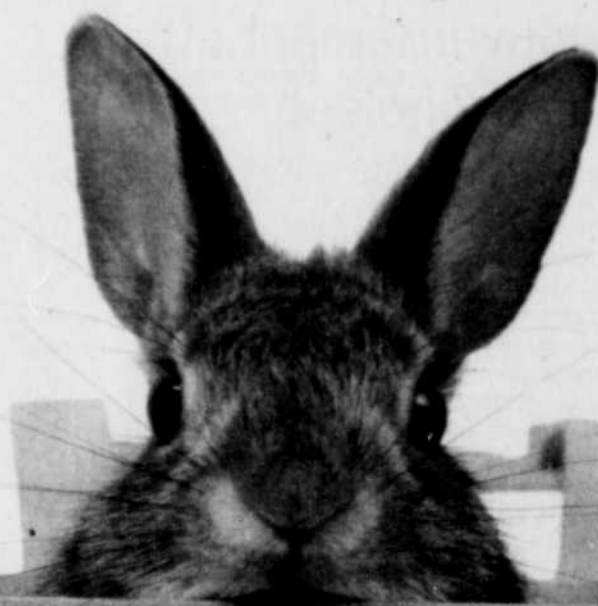
L'aide financière versée à la Compagnie de chemin de fer de l'Outaouais provient de l'initiative Équipements économiques et touristiques moteurs du programme Diversification des collectivités qui vise notamment à aider les régions et les collectivités dévitalisées à se doter d'équipement et à favoriser la croissance économique à court et moyen termes.

Le secteur du tourisme constitue un créneau por-

teur pour l'Outaouais, au même titre que la haute technologie et la transformation des produits agroalimentaires et des produits de la forêt. C'est dans ces créneaux

Développement économique Canada a choisi de concentrer ses actions en matière de développement, lesquelles touchent à la fois la zone urbaine et la ceinture rurale de l'Outaouais.

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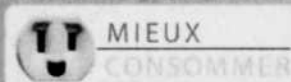
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BLUE SEA: Pour une communauté en santé: aménagement d'un terrain de tennis

BOILEAU: Aménagement d'un terrain de soccer dans le parc municipal

BOIS-FRANC: Mise en œuvre du plan de gestion des matières résiduelles

BOUCHETTE: Amélioration du terrain de jeux municipal

CANTLEY: Revitalisation de la Grange, dans le parc du Mont-Joël

CHELSEA: Aménagement de sentiers multifonctionnels dans différents secteurs résidentiels

CHÉNEVILLE: Acquisition d'un système audiovisuel intérieur et extérieur

DENHOLM: Aménagement d'un parc au centre du village

DUHAMEL: Aménagement au pavillon Coin du conte et à l'Allée des mots

FASSETT: Rénovation de la salle communautaire

GATINEAU: Établissement d'un parc de vélos en libre-service et amélioration de l'infrastructure cyclable

GRACEFIELD: Entraide au sein de la communauté

GRAND-REMOUS: Amélioration des bandes de la patinoire intérieure

KAZABAZUA: Climatisation du centre communautaire

LAC-DES-PLAGES: Revitalisons notre salle communautaire!

LAC-SAINTE-MARIE: Aménagement d'un local au centre communautaire pour les loisirs, la culture et les sports

LAC-SIMON: Acquisition d'un système audiovisuel intérieur et extérieur

L'ANGE-GARDIEN: Acquisition de composteurs domestiques

LO: HABER: Amélioration de la halte routière

LOCHABER-PARTIE-OUEST: Amélioration du terrain de tennis

MANIWAKI: Aménagement d'un réseau de pistes cyclables

MAYO: Mise sur pied d'un réseau d'égout

MESSINES: Construction d'un complexe sportif: aménagement d'installations pour la planche à roulettes et le baseball

MONTEBELLO: Mieux éclairer pour mieux jouer

MONTPELLIER: Aménagement d'un terrain de soccer

MULGRAVE-ET-DERRY: Panneaux d'accueil aux entrées de la municipalité

NAMUR: Création d'un site Web pour la municipalité

NOTRE-DAME-DE-BONSECOURS: Rénovation de la salle communautaire

NOTRE-DAME-DE-LA-PAIX: Aménagement d'un parc pour enfants

PAPINEAUVILLE: Aménagement d'un parc pour enfants

PLAISANCE: Revitalisation des panneaux aux entrées principales de la municipalité

PONTIAC: Aménagement des parcs et espaces verts

RIPON: Réfection des panneaux d'interprétation

SAINT-ANDRÉ-AVELLIN: Acquisition d'une génératrice: de l'eau potable pour tous, en tout temps!

SAINT-ÉMILE-DE-SUFFOLK: Quel bouquin préférez-vous?

SAINTE-THÉRÈSE-DE-LA-GATINEAU: Acquisition d'un module de jeux à l'école Laval

SAINT-SIXTE: Réfection de la patinoire extérieure

THURSO: Aménagement d'une aire de repos au quai municipal

VAL-DES-BOIS: Réaménagement de la patinoire municipale

VAL-DES-MONTS: Aménagement d'un terrain de soccer

Remplissez le questionnaire en visitant le.courantcollectif.com/35.

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Hydro Québec

Travaux sur la route 148 à la Municipalité de Pontiac

BRECKENRIDGE • Le ministre des Transports du Québec informe la population que le pont temporaire, érigé dans le cadre des travaux de remplacement du pont enjambant le ruisseau Breckenridge, sera démolé. Ces travaux débuteront le 9 mars prochain et se termineront vers le 13 mars 2009.

L'horaire des travaux sera de 7 h à 17 h. Afin de faciliter les opérations, une voie, sur la route 148, sera fermée ponctuellement et des signaleurs dirigeront les véhicules en alternance.

Ces opérations, au coût de 3 033 612 \$, sont effectuées par Cegerco de Chicoutimi.

En terminant, le ministère des Transports vous invite à la prudence sur les routes du Québec et à planifier vos déplacements en toute sécurité en communiquant avec Québec 511 Info Transports.

Il suffit de composer 5 1 1 ou de vous rendre sur le site Web au www.quebec511.gouv.qc.ca.

Québec 511 Info Transports vous souhaite: « Bonne route! »

March '09							April '09						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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Sat., March 14
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Hwy. 148
Chapeau

Tues., March 17 - Pontiac Historical Society Annual Meeting, 7 p.m. at Pontiac Archives site. Members please attend. xm11

March 25 - Chippendales @ The Best Western Renfrew! The real ladies! First stop on their Ontario tour. Doors open at 8:00. Cyclones offering special dinner menu! Advance tickets on sale now \$25 at the Best Western 613-432-8109. Going fast! 2bm18

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Hay for sale, small and big square bales, first and second cut, Pembroke area 613-732-7649. 2xm18

4 x 5 first cut hay - wrapped - dry - inside; 4 x 5 wheat and straw, soybean straw, shelled corn in 1/2 ton totes, Ron Strutt 819-647-3646. 2xm18

LIVESTOCK

Charolais heifers, some calved out. Charolais cows, 2 year-old bull 613-735-4502 home, 613-732-0726 cell. 2bm11

Red Angus bulls suitable for heifers ready for cows. Average birth weight 75 pounds average weaning weight 878, average yearling weight 1140. 2 year olds by August. Herd performance tested for 35 years. Lehmann Red Angus Eganville 613-628-5466. 3xm18

Hay 4 x 5 netwrapped round bales, 1st cut haylage, first and second cut dry. Large square second cut dry. Yearling Simmental heifers (open) fullblood and purebred. Clearbrook Simmentals 613-432-6388. 2xm18

Baby chicks, turkeys, ducks, geese, available by order. Call M & R Feeds, Quyon 819-458-2023. 3bm25

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Massey Ferguson 4225, 1999 2WD CHA, 2 remotes, 18.4 x 30 tires, 55 hp \$15,500, 613-587-4441. 4bm25

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Bryson - 2 bedroom apartment 819-648-5555. otc

Bryson - 1 bedroom house, electric heat, newly renovated, furniture and appliances included. No pets, no smoking 819-648-2555. otc

Shawville - 1 and 2 bedroom apartment for rent 647-3256. otc

Shawville - One bedroom duplex apartment on Clarendon St., close to the hospital, living room and kitchen on main floor, bedroom and bathroom on second floor, private driveway, back yard, available May 1, call work 819-647-2403 or home 819-647-5446. otc

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6 unit apartment building, good revenue for more info call 819-648-2500, Denis. otc

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Between Luskville and Shawville want to rent 150 to 200 acres of pasture. Good fences. Call evenings 819-455-2265. 3bm25

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\$\$\$Gold\$\$\$ Bring us your gold/scrap gold. We have raised our buying price on gold. So come in and take advantage of the soaring gold price. Howard's Pawn Shop 819-684-1334. otc

Abracadabra turn your hidden treasures into ready cash. Buyer wants to purchase your antiques, paintings, china, crystal, silverware, jewellery, rare books, sports, movies, postcards, coins, stamps and records. 514-501-9072. qm11

PERSONALS

*Past *Present *Future * #1 Psychics! 1-877-478-4410* Credit Cards / deposit or phone 1-900-783-3800 \$3.19 min (18+). For a psychic NOW! Meet us at: www.mysticalconnections.ca. qm11

Dating Service. Long term / short term relationships, free calls! 1-877-297-9883. Exchange voice messages, voice mailboxes 1-888-534-6984. Live adult casual conversations 1 on 1, 1-866-311-9640, meet on chat lines. Local single ladies 1-877-804-5381 (18+). qm11

SERVICES



Need something moved? Light floating service, 10 ton trailer, 30 foot deck length, reasonable rates. 819-647-3636 or leave message 3bm18

Hairdresser available for in home service for seniors in Shawville 819-647-1942 ask for Jaime. xm11

We do install oil tanks, do furnace repairs, sales and service, combination furnaces, wood, oil, electric or hot water. Joe Konrad 819-647-2391. otc

\$\$\$005 loan service, by phone, no credit refused, quick and easy, payable over 6 or 12 installments. Toll Free: 1-877-776-1660. qm11

Concerned about travelling to the U.S.A.? Apply today for free pardon, waiver or border entry evaluation. A criminal record can be completely removed. Call 1-800-298-5520, www.canadian-pardons.ca. qm11

Bilingual child care provider. If you are looking for a warm-caring place for your child; please contact me to set up an interview. I look forward to meeting you and your little one(s). Bilingual - Updated First Aid & CPR - Tax Receipts- Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Maple Lane, Breckenridge, QC (Pontiac) Phone: (819) 682-1743 karineforan@hotmail.com 2xm18

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HELP WANTED

Local Construction Company looking for experienced concrete finishers, experienced laborers, and a heavy equipment mechanic. Please submit resume detailing work experience to H&H Construction, 49 Portage Road, Petawawa, ON, K8H 2W8; by fax 613-687-5294; or email to: info@handconstruction.ca (Attention: E. Jolicoeur). 3xm11

Looking for woman (over 18 years old) to work at McCann's Chips in Quyon. Call Mae at 819-458-2771. xm11

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Votre mandat sera d'assurer le rapatriement des actifs externes, la rétention des membres actuels et le développement du plein potentiel des membres issus du référencement et de la sollicitation. Vous assurerez le maintien d'une relation d'affaires personnalisée et effectuerez une offre de service intégrée en épargne spécialisée auprès des clientèles qui vous seront attirées. En outre, vous conseillerez et proposerez les meilleures stratégies à adopter afin de faire fructifier leur portefeuille d'épargne-placement. Finalement, vous maintiendrez un niveau d'expertise spécialisée dans les stratégies d'investissement et de retraite. Finalement, vous serez la personne ressource auprès du personnel de la caisse et assurerez certaines tâches de gestionnaire.

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 Date limite : 1 avril 2009

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HELP WANTED

Sortir du bois est à la recherche d'un(e) Technicien forestier/intervenant. Le détail de ce poste est disponible au: www.crep.qc.ca ou en communiquant avec Doraine au 819-648-5065. bm11

Woodland Advantage is looking for a forestry technician/counsellor. Details of the position are available at www.crep.qc.ca or call Doraine at 819-648-5065. bm11

THANKS

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask for this favour, special one "name the favour". Take it dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it, then in your merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 days and promise publication and your favour will be granted. Never known to fail. SD

Thank you to the people of the Pontiac who donated money to Donnie and Jack in their time of need. Much appreciated. Thanks again. Rosco and Doug

Chichester-Sheen Fire Department - Our fishing derby on March 7 was a tremendous success mainly because of the weather and location, over 300 people gathered on the Ottawa River this day, 228 of which entered the derby. Lots of door prizes were also drawn that day, which were all donated by local businesses and families. On that note I wish to thank everyone for their donations. A big thank you to Willie Lepine of Lepine Sales for his support not only for the fishing derby but all fundraising around this community. Last but not least I want to thank all who follow you for life. Only Pardon Services Canada has 20 years experience. Guaranteeing record removal. Call: 1-8-NOW-PARDON (1-866-972-7366). www.RemoveYourRecord.com. qm11

MEMORIAM

Carson - In loving memory of Kim, March 9th, 1997
 Lindsey March 19th, 1999
 Linda Feb. 16, 2003.
 The world changes year to year,
 And friends from day to day
 But never will the ones we love
 From memory pass away.
 Lovingly remembered always
 Maureen, Brandon, Brenda,
 Bob, Lindsay and Michelle

Findlay, Barbara - March 14, 2006.
 Three years have passed by already. There is not a day that goes by that I do not think of you in lovely memories.
 Truly Wayne

Lamothe - We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the love and support of our family and friends at the loss of our beloved Bill, a son, husband, father and brother. Thank you for the many expressions of sympathy either by telephone, cards, visits and prayers. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. Wife Cathy and family and Doris and George and family

DEATH MEMORIAM

Gibeault, Gerard Ernest Joseph - Suddenly at home in Quyon, Quebec on Thursday, March 5, 2009 in his 51st year. Beloved husband of Cheryl-Ann Desjardins. Loving father of Melissa and Jeremy. Cherished son of the late Dolores Gibeault. Dear brother of Marilyn (Sylvain), Darlene (Brendy) and the late Linda (Randy). Sadly missed by many nieces and nephews; Angie, Shannon, Jessica, Danielle, Scott, Chantal, Jessie and Joey. Devoted Godfather of LouAnn and Scott. Family and friends are invited to pay their respects at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Quyon, Quebec on Thursday, March 12, 2009 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at which time a funeral mass will take place. Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to the W.J. Hayes & Sons Funeral Homes, 819-647-2221.

Green, Dr. Gerald Robert, M.D.C.M., CCFP - In his 79th year, peacefully in Herbert, Sask. on March 7, 2009. Son of the late Walter and Isabelle Green of Shaunavon, Sask. Survived by his children Judy (Clouthier), Thomas Robert, Sandra (Anderson), Marjorie (McCorriston), Diane (Cashman) and seven grandchildren. His sister Katharine Lancaster of Texas, U.S.A. and the mother of his children, Shirley (née Hobbs). Dr. Green graduated Queen's University in 1955 as the gold medalist in surgery. He practiced medicine in Shawville Que., from 1956 to 1966 and thereafter in Ottawa, Ont. Cremation and burial in Saskatchewan.

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." - unknown

Hodgins - In loving memory of my sister Dorothy (Dagg) Hodgins, May 21, 1935 - March 14, 2000 and Brother-in-law Carson Hodgins Jan. 13, 1933 - Jan. 29, 2000. Nine years have passed since you were called away. And still we miss you every day. God took you, and Carson to Heaven above. You went, but left a special love. That fills our soul when we remember. All the times, we spent together. Sadly missed and in our hearts forever. Evelyn and Ron Deavy

Ireland - In memory of our father, Gerald who passed away on Feb. 24, 1981 and our mother Dorothy on March 4, 1996. Time changes many things But great memories will always remain. Lovingly remembered. Your family

Ireland - In loving memory of our brother Blair who passed away March 8, 2004. There is never a night or morning But we think of the brother we had. Not a day do we forget your Blair. In our thoughts you are always there. Forever loved. Your sisters Shirley, Iris, Diane and families

McGuire - In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother, Ronald who passed away March 11, 2008. You earned your rest. The Lord knew best. The ones you loved so true. Carry on the way you'd want us to. Remembered Dearly. By Your Family

McGuire, Ronnie - In loving memory of a dear Dad, Grandpa, and Great-Grandpa Ronnie McGuire, who left us one year ago, March 11, 2008. When thoughts go back As they often do, We bless the years We shared with you. No longer in our life to share, But in our hearts, You are always there. Daddies really never go away. Donald and Linda, Leanne, Trevor, Monica, Justine Teri, Darron, Meredith, Morgan

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Quyon
 Jill McBane
 458-2366
 Every once in a while I get to have a chat with Charlie Muldoon who belongs to The Irish Society that looks after the Grand Irish Party at Lansdown Park following the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He tells me that Gail Gavan will be the headliner. The parade starts at 11 a.m. March 14 and all net proceeds will go towards St. Pat's Home.

Sympathy is sent out to the families of Ken Ramsay, Jerry Gibeault, and Bruce Mohr who have all passed away. My goodness when is it all going to end. It seems like we have had so much bad news in our community lately.

Happy birthday to Dennis McLeary who celebrated Sunday and of course with a delicious meal prepared by his Mom and Dad, Sue and Bill Mcleary, which I was lucky to enjoy as

Cruickshank - In memory of Barbara Cruickshank (nee Findlay) September 7, 1938 - March 14, 2006. God saw you getting tired. When a cure was not to be. So He closed His arms around you. And whispered come to Me. You didn't deserve what you went through. And so He gave you rest. God's garden must be beautiful. Because He only takes the best. When we saw you sleeping. So peaceful and free from pain. We couldn't wish you back To suffer that again. For now you've gone across the river To the shore of ever green. And we long to see your dear face. But the river flows between. Someday, sometime, we shall see. Your face we loved so well. Someday we'll clasp your loving hand. And never say farewell. Forever loved and sadly missed. Your daughters, Bonnie and Peggy, son-in-law Rickey, and grandchildren Holly, Kyle, Colby, Danny, Matthew, Zachary

Flury, Louis - In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather who passed away March 7, 1997. When thoughts go back as they often do, We bless the years we shared with you. No longer in our life to share, But in our hearts you are always there. Love, Lianne and family

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Police urge local businesses to check for counterfeit bills

LEAH IVERSON

Equity Reporter
PONTIAC • Spokesperson Geneviève Bruneau of the Sûreté du Québec could be heading to a business near you, in a quest to lower the number of counterfeit bills circulating the region and to educate locals on prevention methods.

"March is fraud prevention month, and one of our initiatives is to stop counterfeit money from entering the Pontiac," she said, adding, "It's really important to let people know about the problem and ensure that businesses are aware of it."

Throughout the month, Bruneau will be dropping off kits to various businesses across the region to spread awareness of the issue.

The prevention kits, developed by the Bank of Canada, include a keychain with miniature replicas of each currency attached to a magnifying glass, so staff can see what areas to look

for in real money to ensure its legitimacy. Information pamphlets on both Canadian and U.S. currency are also included.

"I've ordered 50 english kits and the same in french. I'll be starting with the bigger businesses like post offices, grocery stores and gas stations," she said.

Although the number of counterfeit cases in Pontiac dropped from seven files in 2007 to three in 2008, Bruneau said it's still important to be aware and check every bill.

"It still happens at big tourist events, where people are occupied and don't always check the money," she said.

And with the common belief that job losses can lead to an increase of crime, today's economic crisis has Bruneau wondering if the numbers will get higher in the future.

"With all the business closures in the area, it may



Const. Geneviève Bruneau of the Sûreté du Québec, left, shows Julie Côté of the Otter Lake post office how to properly check bills Thursday. Throughout the entire month, Bruneau will be visiting businesses and educating workers on counterfeit bills, as part of fraud prevention month.

become a bigger problem," she said.

Bruneau is urging anyone who suspects they have received a counterfeit bill to

contact police and have it checked out, just to be safe.

"A lot of people think the old currency is fake, or have trouble spotting if U.S.

money is real or not," she said. "When you don't know, it's better to call."

For more information, visit www.surete.qc.ca

Youths show culinary skills during supper

LEAH IVERSON

Equity Reporter
SHAWVILLE • It was Saturday night, and the youth centre in Shawville was uncharacteristically calm and tranquil.

Instead of the usual bustle of energetic teenagers playing pool, surfing the internet and chatting among friends, the room was transformed into a dimly-lit dining area for the community supper.

Greeting guests at the door in their finest attire, the teens led parents and friends to their tables, which were set with fancy dinnerware.

Throughout the three-course dinner, guests enjoyed a garden salad, followed by a pineapple-glazed ham with rice pilaf and mixed vegetables and a yogurt parfait for dessert.

The dinner was to showcase the cooking skills

acquired from the collective kitchens, a new initiative that teaches groups of locals how to cook, while sharing the costs involved.

"It's cooking as a community," said Denise Laroche of Bouffe Pontiac, who developed the program.

"Small groups of people cook one meal each and at the end, each person gets to take home multiple meals. It's a great idea for families."

When Pete Wood of the youth centre got word of the program, he knew he wanted to get the kids involved.

"Denise has been coming in every few weeks and cooking meals with the youth," he said.

"We don't have enough education about healthy eating, and this teaches them about good food choices, and shows them where the knife and fork go and proper table manners," he added, noting that Café 349 provided the

dinnerware for the evening.

Since putting on her chef hat and trying her hand at cooking,

12-year-old Lindsay Albert-Endicott has already mastered a handful of meals such as bruschetta, and has come to enjoy the art of cooking along the way.

"It's been really fun, especially when I learned how to

pound the lettuce on the table before I rip it apart," said Albert-Endicott, whose brother Matt also helped prepare the meal.

"Tonight we had extra time left because everyone was helping each other and working together."

Wood said the supper gave the teens a sense of accom-

plishment to be able to cook a healthy and delicious meal for everyone to enjoy.

"One thing that really impressed me was the calm demeanour after they eat," he said.

"It's almost like a family feel. They really appreciate good food and are proud to have made it."



Leah Iverson, THE EQUITY

Matt Albert-Endicott, left, and sister Lindsay, right, serve up the meal they cooked to mom Sylvie and little brother Phillip during the community supper Saturday at the youth centre in Shawville. The small group of youths prepared the three-course dinner, with help from Denise Laroche of Bouffe Pontiac.

Police welcome communications officer

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor
PONTIAC • The Pontiac detachment of the Sûreté du Québec welcomed a new communications agent recently.

Ottawa-born, Gatineau-raised Const. Steve Lalande has replaced Const. Mélanie Larouche as the communications agent for the SQ in all of Outaouais.

In his role, he will be responsible for media and community relations. It will be his first time in such a position.

"I am very happy to be here," said Lalande recently,

A police officer for 21 years, Const. Lalande began his career with the RCMP before shifting to the SQ 19 years ago.

He began the new position on Feb. 9 working alongside Const. Larouche and has since taken over sole responsibility of the role.

Const. Larouche accepted a promotion to the SQ in Papineauville as a sergeant after about four years in the communications role.

"It wasn't that I was not happy here. I like my job here but it was a very good opportunity for me," she said.

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2009 CHEVROLET AVEO \$16,219 \$126 bi-weekly	2009 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 4x4 \$28,158 \$217 bi-weekly	2009 PONTIAC TORRENT \$22,904 \$178 bi-weekly	2006 PONTIAC G5 45,000 kms \$9,995* \$120 bi-weekly
2009 CHEVROLET AVEO \$16,219 \$126 bi-weekly	2009 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 4x4 \$28,158 \$217 bi-weekly	2009 PONTIAC TORRENT \$22,904 \$178 bi-weekly	2006 GMC SIERRA SLE 4x4 \$21,495 \$185 bi-weekly
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