

Down twenty, no problem | page 7

THE EQUITY

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Wednesday, December 12, 2007

88 cents

Area Francophones more likely to learn second language

One in 15 Pontiac Francophones doesn't speak English; majority of Anglophones don't speak French

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • According to the language and immigration statistics released from the 2006 Canadian census last week, Francophones in Pontiac are far more likely to learn a second language than the area's Anglophones.

Despite slightly more than two in five Pontiacers listing French as their mother tongue, only one out of 15 Francophones cited French as their only spoken language, meaning most are learning English.

Meanwhile, only about 15 per cent of Anglophones reported speaking more than one language, leaving the large majority as only English speakers.

The statistics show that despite about 41 per cent of Pontiacers being French, the area is still predominantly Anglophone.

Comparisons with language results from the 2001 census were unavailable by press time.

After some investigation, a spokesperson with Stats Canada said the comparative statistics from the last census for Pontiac on language and immigration were mistakenly omitted from the publicly available portion of their website.

The spokesperson said the problem would be corrected, but it had not been by press time.

In an e-mail to THE EQUITY, the director of Imperatif Français, a French language rights group based in Gatineau, said a refusal by Anglophones to learn French in Québec deprives Francophones from their basic right to work and be informed in their native language.

Immigration to Pontiac has decreased to a point where there is almost none, the latest census results also revealed.

Between 2001 and 2006, an estimated 15 immigrants settled in Pontiac.

Forty arrived between 1991 and 2001 and 235 arrived before 1991.

There are an estimated 295 immigrants in Pontiac county. Just 20 people reported speaking neither French nor English at home.

About 95 Pontiacers were reported to be non-Canadian residents.

Those numbers are in stark contrast to the rest of Québec where the number of foreign-born people increased by 20 per cent between 2001 and 2006.

The latest release is the fourth series of data from the 2006 Census, following previous information about population, age and sex, families and marital status.

Data about aboriginal peoples will be released on Jan. 15 and subsequent releases in March, April and May will also reveal information about the labour force, education, income and housing, among other topics.

Other trends revealed by the newest census figures include:

- One in five Canadians was born outside of Canada, the highest since 1931. Australia is the only country with a higher rate.

- About one-fifth of Canadians spoke French at home.

- About four in five Quebecers spoke French at home, a number that dropped slightly since 2001.

- Thirty-six per cent of Francophones in Québec are bilingual, while 84 per cent of Francophones in the rest of Canada are bilingual.

- Sixty-nine per cent of anglophones in Québec are bilingual, compared with only 7.5 per cent in the rest of Canada.

Why hello there



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY
Santa Claus gives a little wave to the camera during the Quyon Parade of Lights Saturday night.

Quyon welcomes Santa Claus

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • It may have been a crisp night in Quyon Saturday, but Santa Claus didn't seem to mind.

As boisterous as ever, the jolly man in red bellowed his 'Ho ho ho's along Clarendon Street in Quyon as hundreds of people lined the route awaiting his call.

Santa excitedly waved left and right, even calling some children by name — how does he know? — before arriving at the Lions Hall to address each child individually and hand out gifts of chocolate goodness.

It was the fourth year for the Quyon Parade of Lights, replacing the previous parade that took place during the day.

The 16 floats were fewer than last year but it didn't seem to quell interest as the streets were busy for the hour-long parade.

Before spending time with the children Santa addressed those gathered at the hall, announcing the winners for the best floats.

The winner was Windy Top Farms, which had a number of people waving happily from a series of wagons.

The second place float was Hillside and third place went to Bélair Express.

Santa even tested his stand-up comedy routine Saturday night.

When the Hillside float winners were not in the hall to accept their award, Mr. Kringle cracked that, "I guess they're still on the side of a hill someplace" and when setting up for the children to visit him, he joked his assistant was, "The ugliest elf in the whole world".

Failed comedy or not, Santa was still Santa, readily accepting hugs and even more readily doling out good cheer.

Quyon Lions President Paul Desjardins said despite the reduced number of floats, the parade would likely happen again next year.

"We're happy to see so many people come out," he said.

Media food drive an 'impressive' success

AMANDA DUPUIS
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Pontiacers showed their true colours during the big media food drive Dec. 6.

Thanks to your generous food and monetary donations, \$4,367.24 and more than 40 bags of non-perishable food items were collected, as well as some children's toys and books.

"We were really, really, really pleased with the amount of money raised," said Ellen Boucher, the director of Bouffe

Pontiac.

"I think everyone was impressed," she said. "For a non-profit organization, for us to sit around the table and look at the amount of money (raised), it was impressive for us."

The food drive, which took place from 6 to 10 a.m., was made possible thanks to many local businesses in the area: THE EQUITY, the SADC, the Sûreté du Québec, the wildlife protection service, Transports Québec, CHIP FM and the Pontiac Journal.

Please see FOOD, page two

Man sought in Shawville robbery

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • Police are seeking a man in an assault and robbery that occurred at the National Bank in Shawville the night of Wednesday, Dec. 5.

The man, whom police have described as approximately 5'6", 180-pounds, was wearing dark blue pants, black gloves and a black ski mask.

At about 11:15 p.m., he ran towards the victim who was carrying a \$3,800 deposit from her job at J&J's Esso Gas on Hwy. 148 in Clarendon, pushing her into the wall near the bank's deposit slot. He snatched the money and fled on foot.

"It happened in a second. I heard someone running behind me," said Lori Murdock.

Murdock said she was physically unharmed besides some slight bruising to her shoulder, where she was pushed into the wall.

"He ran away really fast," she noted.

The Sûreté du Québec Campbell's Bay detachment said they have two investigators on the case and have been conducting regular patrols of the area, at the primary intersection in Shawville, between 10 p.m. and 12 a.m. in the days following the incident.

Police also said the public's help would be important in catching the criminal and encouraged any information about the crime to be relayed to the detachment at 819-648-2141.

In a statement issued by the Sûreté du Québec, residents were reminded to be prudent in their bank habits.

Never be alone when making deposits and avoid routine: vary the time when deposits are made to prevent predictability.

Pontiac Liberal candidate named to agricultural posts

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor

PONTIAC • The federal Liberal candidate for Pontiac riding has been named to a pair of agricultural posts within the opposition government.

Cindy Duncan McMillan, of Farrelton, Que., will co-chair an "Opportunity in Agriculture" taskforce alongside federal agriculture critic Wayne Easter.

She has also been appointed Liberal leader Stéphane Dion's special advisor on agricultural affairs in Québec.

The appointments were announced last week by Dion in a statement.

The taskforce will attempt to boost the current difficulties being faced by pork and beef farmers across Canada.

"We're going to try to get some quick action out to help the livestock industry," said Duncan McMillan Monday.

Duncan McMillan, herself a beef and vegetable farmer, discussed the problems currently facing beef and pork farmers, saying the current situation is, "worse than BSE".

Farmers have struggled with what Duncan McMillan dubbed a "revenue crisis", caused by the soaring Canadian dollar, which has reduced the value of beef to Americans.

The rising costs of feed have also produced greater expenses for farmers.

The result has been farmers losing money on each head of cattle sold and Duncan McMillan hopes to be able to help improve the situation.

"As past president of the Quebec Farmers Association and former member of the Union des producteurs agricoles' general council, Ms. Duncan McMillan will bring a wealth of experience to this position and will work hard to ensure that agriculture in Québec, as well as the rest of the country, remains viable and competitive," said Dion in the statement.

Duncan McMillan, a mother of three, upset Ottawa lawyer Richard Mahoney to win the Pontiac federal Liberal nomination last April.

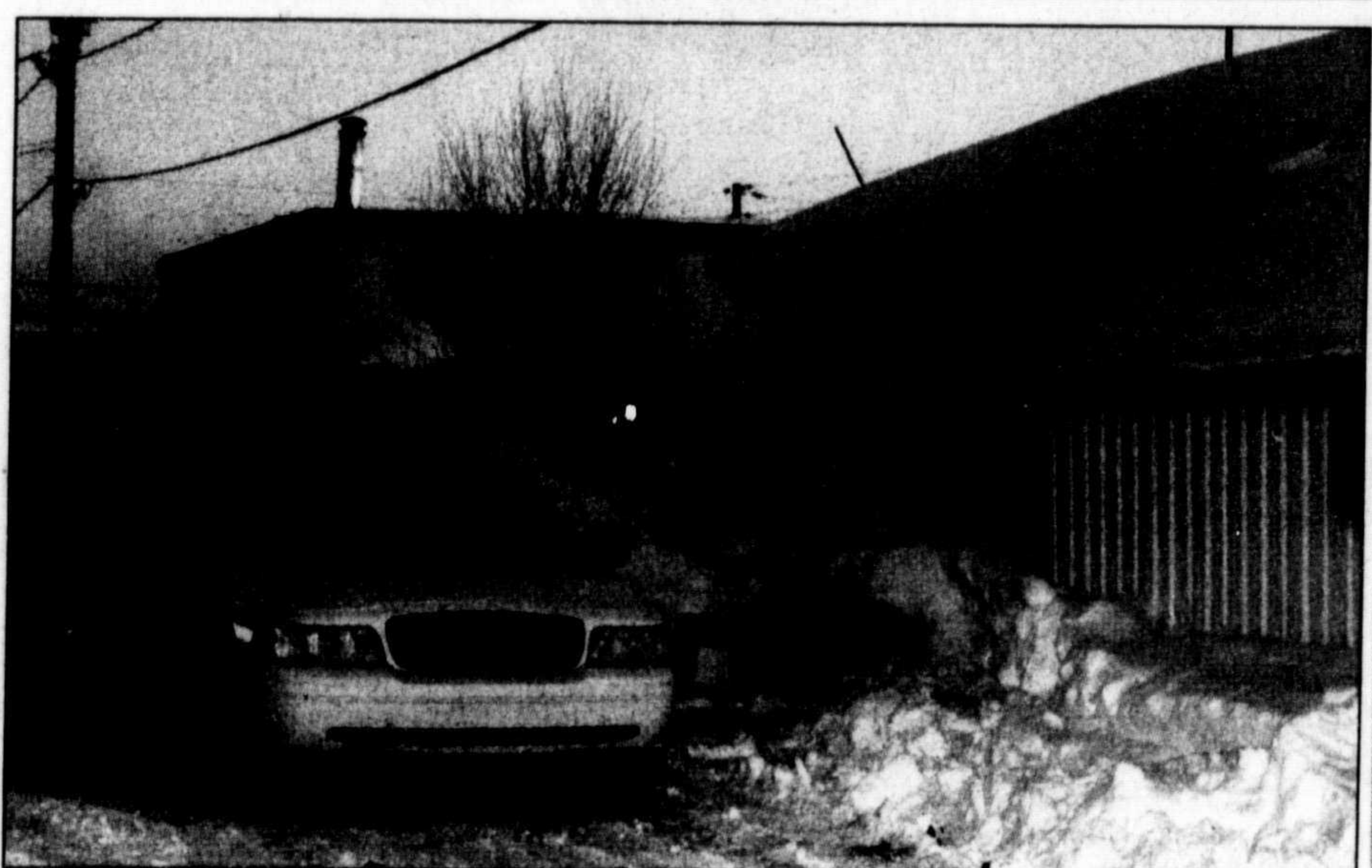
The day after the announcement of Duncan McMillan's appointment, federal agriculture minister Gerry Ritz denounced the striking of the Liberal committee in a statement, criticizing Dion for taking "six months to assemble a 'task force' made up of an agriculture critic who never served as agriculture minister and a rookie Liberal candidate".

"While Opposition talks, this Government will continue to deliver real action for Canadian farm families across the country," said Ritz.

Duncan McMillan dismissed the criticism.

"If they're doing such a good job of putting farmers first, why does it hurt so bad?", asked Duncan McMillan. "I'm prepared to compare agricultural credentials with Mr. Hitz."

Please see AGRICULTURE, page two



Amanda Dupuis, THE EQUITY
Police cruisers were outside Smitty's restaurant in Shawville Monday afternoon.

Restaurant owner arrested, cigarettes seized

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • A restaurant owner in Shawville has been arrested and charged with the illegal distribution of cigarettes.

Owner of Smitty's Restaurant, Bob Smith was one of two men arrested Monday afternoon and his 2007 Dodge Ram seized, along with three full boxes of cigarettes, containing approximately 150 cartons of cigarettes.

Both men were charged with the possession, selling and transportation of illegal cigarettes.

"He was using the truck to sell the cigarettes," said Const. Melanie Larouche, police spokesperson.

Cigarettes were seized from both the truck and the restaurant.

Located on Hwy. 148 in Shawville, Smitty's is a popular restaurant destination for local people.

The seizure and police activity occurred at the restaurant's rear Monday afternoon, avoiding the public's glare.

An unmarked police car and a police cruiser were on site.

The Dodge Ram was transported to the Campbell's Bay detachment of the Sûreté du Québec where it was to remain until yesterday morning.

According to police, the file will be transferred to Revenue Québec, which will decide the amount of the fine levied to both men.

According to Health Canada, 135,895 illegal cartons of cigarettes were seized in 2005 by Canadian border patrol.



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AGRICULTURE: Political issue

Continued from page one

Duncan McMillan said her also recently announced special advisor on agricultural affairs post came about when Dion sought the farmer's assistance ahead of a farm tour in Drummondville recently.

She had since acted as an informal consultant to Dion about agricultural issues and the position was made formal with the announce-

"I'm always pleased to explain an agricultural file," she said.

Duncan McMillan faces the task of trying to unseat current Pontiac Member of Parliament Lawrence Cannon, the federal minister of transport, infrastructure and communities.

Most recently, Dion has



Cindy Duncan McMillan

indicated an election could be forced upon the Conservative minority government next spring. Duncan McMillan said she has been spending as much of her time as possible meeting people in the riding and attending as many events as possible.

resources of Mr. Cannon, I don't have the staff of Mr. Cannon and I surely don't have the assistants to attend the events for Mr. Cannon. So instead I attend all the events myself," she said, noting she has been relying on her family to help cover on the farm at times recently because of her recent and upcoming political commitments.

"I want to get people talking about agriculture."



The First Bryson Girl Guides instruct seniors on the basics of a penguin having tea Sunday night.

Seniors eat, laugh, witness penguin having tea

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Editor

BRYSON • About 100 senior citizens in Bryson have now seen a penguin having tea.

The group witnessed the phenomenon when the First Bryson brownies, girl guides and pathfinders visited the seniors to sing Christmas carols and other songs as part of the annual Bryson

Lions Club seniors supper.

After singing a series of more traditional Christmas tunes, the group of about 20 girls and their leaders introduced the seniors to the silly song that included flapping flippers, necks extended and tongues sticking out.

The seniors in attendance were encouraged to participate, some doing so quite

enthusiastically.

The 32nd annual seniors supper is a staple on the calendar for many in Bryson.

For no cost, seniors are invited to indulge in a home-made turkey dinner with all the trimmings, dessert, a visit from Santa Claus and the singing by the girl guides. "They just love it, they get all dressed up for it," said

Sheila Racine, Lion chairperson.

Music for the event was performed by Victor Godin and Gail Sparing. The emcee was Ed Gutoskie.

Each attendee also left with a goodie bag of treats courtesy of the Lions.

The Lionettes were also instrumental in the organization of the event.

FOOD: Drive helps locals in need

Continued from page one

Thirty-eight volunteers were stationed at intersections in Shawville and Campbell's Bay before the sun rose to collect donations from morning commuters.

The intersection of Main and Centre streets in Shawville saw the most number of people making donations.

"We were amazed. I think all the volunteers who were there that morning, braving the cold, were really amazed at the generosity of the people," said Boucher.

The money will be used to purchase perishable food items for Bouffe Pontiac's Christmas sharing store, which runs Dec. 10 to 12 in Campbell's Bay.

The money will buy items such as potatoes, carrots,

milk, oranges, eggs, bread, and of course, turkeys.

Bouffe Pontiac needs to purchase approximately 60 turkeys on top of the 10-15 they'll be receiving from the Ottawa Food Bank, according to Boucher.

The food drive's monetary contribution will enable Bouffe Pontiac to pay off the entire bill of the Christmas sharing store, meaning they won't have to dip into their own pockets to fund the rest of the year.

"For the organization, because we're non-profit, we have a small budget to operate on. If we don't raise enough money, we have to pull out of our own pockets," said Boucher.

She explained since the money from the food drive would offset the cost of the Christmas sharing store,

the rest of the organization's operating budget could be used for other activities during the year.

There are already more than 100 families registered for the Christmas sharing store.

For a cost of \$2, participants will be given a shopping cart and can choose items they want, depending

on the number of people in their family.

Boucher said every family who participates in the sharing store will receive perishable food items thanks to the money raised from the food drive.

"Because it was so successful, we're planning on doing it again next year," she said.

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to discuss the
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This is a complex consisting of 18 ground floor units. If you have any ideas, input or questions regarding this project please attend on:
Wednesday, December 12 at 4:00 p.m., Shawville Curling Club Shawville, Quebec
For more information call 819-647-2670
We will be taking bookings that evening.

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OPINION

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OUR OPINION | Does anybody care about Schreiber?

The top news story on our televisions and in urban media for a few weeks now has been about Karlheinz Schreiber and the hundreds of thousands of dollars he supposedly gave to Brian Mulroney while the beleaguered lawyer was prime minister in the 1980s and 1990s.

Various people are telling us what a disaster this is, the scope of the inquiry required and making accusations every which way.

But does anybody care? The events in question occurred 15 years ago. Mulroney is long gone from the public eye of politics. The \$300,000 he's been accused of stealing is nothing compared with the millions of dollars of taxpayers' money that will be required for an inquiry.

THE EQUITY has not heard a single Pontiacer discussing this issue, despite its prominence in the news.

This may very well be a case of political posturing that has extended itself to the news media without much attention being paid to the fact that regular Canadians do not really care.

It happens sometimes. Politicians discuss an issue ad nauseum. Media take those discussions and assume that because it is being talked about incessantly, it is important. They run with it, leaving out the consideration that perhaps the Canadians following politics and watching the news do not hold the event in much significance.

The cry is essentially that money was stolen. But to pour millions more of our tax dollars into this issue is also criminal. Let it die. Let's move on.

There are far more important issues facing Canadians currently. We should keep working on our present and futures rather than worrying about accusations in the past.

Thank you

THE EQUITY would like to extend a hearty thank you to our readers for their generosity during last week's food drive. Yes, it was early and yes, it was cold but we were continuously impressed by how willing people were to give to a genuinely good, local cause.

The team of about 10 at the corner of Main and Centre streets in Shawville included THE EQUITY staff, along with staff from the Campbell's Bay Community Learning Centre and CEDEC.

We were pleased to hear the results of the food drive were so overwhelmingly positive and also quite happy that our location was the most fruitful. We outdid those other media outlets in Pontiac.

Located between both banks in Shawville likely helped our cause. A number of people said they didn't have change but were on their way to the bank. While that may typically have been a line to get out of giving, the large majority of them came back and did give us some money... often a \$20 bill.

Another highlight was the school bus driver who stopped to let us on board and made a donation.

We're looking forward to our participation again next year.

Thank you again, Pontiac.

WM

Smoky tree



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM | Slow food? Why not slow gifts?

This year's columns have covered a wide range of topics, but always, at the heart of my writing are advocating support of local businesses and regional initiatives. Here at the Environmental Forum, subjects have included sustainable tourism through to the support of slow food initiatives (food grown and consumed within a 100-kilometre radius).

Two weeks ago, I wrote a column on the meaning of Christmas. It struck a chord with several of you, who have commented by phone and e-mail that you want to celebrate the day in a far less commercial manner. One of the major challenges many of us face at this time is the competitiveness and consumerism associated with gift-giving.

This year, to help relieve stress and support local entrepreneurs, why not give slow gifts?

Slow gifts?

What is a slow gift? It is something that has been made by a local artist or artisan in our region. It is something that could have been grown down the road at your neighbour's farm or on a producer's farm in the region.

In other words, just like the term slow food, it signifies a product which has been envisioned and created within a 100-kilometre radius or so.

Why go slow?

Lots of reasons! Here are just a few:

1. Your dollars support a local entrepreneur.
2. Your action helps to keep jobs here, in the Pontiac or our Ottawa Valley region.
3. You will connect with and communicate with your neighbours here in your own community, and learn more about what's going on.
4. "Think and act locally" can merely be a motherhood statement unless we follow-through and support local initiatives.

What products exist?

What Pontiac products are available for Christmas gift-giving? Here is a short list to get you growing into increased awareness of who is doing what, right here in the Pontiac region. Hint: When I list websites, go to them and click on "links" so you can jump to more Pontiac-area producers.

Shop talk

Many artists live in the Pontiac but it's challenging to drive about and visit their home studios. Solution? Visit our local galleries. Look at the work of papermakers and potters such as Valerie Bridgeman or silk painter Dale Shutt at Café 349 on Main Street in Shawville (www.cafe349.com). Owner Ruth Hahn is hosting a show of local artists' and writers' works. Don't even think of visiting Ruth's café without stopping for lunch, a coffee, or, why not plan a group dinner as a kind of gift, where everyone goes Dutch but gets a chance to visit one

another, while supporting a local entrepreneur?

Just down the street at 303 Main, Shawville, find Suzanne Godin's exceptional Studio L'Artisan, a tastefully designed gallery where local artists' and craftspeople's works are beautifully displayed. Here find everything from Vinton artist Stephan Scrak's whimsical Quebec village scenes through to photographs and cards produced by Beachburg, Ontario's Mertina Blaskie.

Creators

Elke Bzdurreck of Quyon and Fort Coulonge is not only a noted local artist and illustrator whose art is available for purchase. She also grows organic herbs throughout the summer at her Quyon-area farm and is a supplier to Bryson Farms. Stressed out? Try her popular "Rescue Tea." Contact Elke via her website at www.elkebzd.com/ - also find her tea at Café 349.

Hemlock Hills, the Beckers of Otter Lake, are producing a range of products including maple syrup, as well as a line of body creams and scrubs, handmade soaps, massage oils and more.

Sylvain Drapeau and Caroline Desrosiers operate Escapade Eskimo (www.escapadeeskimo.com) on 200 acres of land near Otter Lake. They love dogs - so they created a dog sledding business where several packages are offered, including romantic-sounding La grande course, an 8-kilometre moonlight tour. Or, opt for an overnight stay with the package L'expédition, two days and one night where you'll overnight at La forêt d'aigle (Eagle Forest www.cgfa.ca) near Maniwaki. (Some of you will remember me reviewing the superb aerial trek at La forêt d'aigle, where you can "hike" through the canopy of the forest along a suspended track, another superb gift idea for active families.)

Artisans

Many local artisans and artists live in the Pontiac, and what better time than at Christmas to call them and find out how they can make something unique for someone special on your list. Although it is probably too late to have something designed and made before Christmas, why not give the creator a call, describe what you would like, and put a card with a drawing of what's planned under the tree? Be creative!

Custom woodworker Chuck Lalonde made a mirror and matching bench of ash wood for Eric and me, highlighted with cherry insets. This Christmas, we asked him for another, coordinating item. Contact Quyon-area resident Chuck Lalonde at www.amerbrook.ca

Touchwood/Toucher du Bois is the business of Tom Fishel (819-647-6759). Exactly as you'd expect with a company name like that, he is another woodworker who welcomes custom commissions. This creator takes "slow gifts" to another level: Fishel told me he is particularly proud that all of his wood comes from

local sources.

Blacksmithing isn't just for horseshoes. Blacksmiths traditionally made utilitarian hardware such as door handles, hooks, benches and all sorts of things. Enter Harry Foster, who transforms utilitarian into beautiful: go to <http://rustydogforge.hypermart.net/index.html> to see a range of household items and jewellery made either by Harry or his son, John.

Pontiac's got it!

So, what are you waiting for? Don't simply talk the motherhood talk. Walk the walk, right into a local studio or shop, and support local initiatives, local visioning. We have the products. We have the outfitters. What's stopping you from buying slow gifts - now?

Katharine Fletcher is author of several guides to the National Capital Region. Contact her at chesley@allstream.net.

December CWL meeting

CHAPEAU A frosty winter evening and a beautifully decorated Harrington Hall was the scene of our Dec. 4 meeting and Christmas party.

President Joan Sallafrank welcomed members and guests and led the opening prayers.

Correspondence included several thank you notes. We received a reply from our M.P. Lawrence Cannon expressing recognition of the White Ribbon signatures and assuring us of his concern in the bills dealing with this issue.

The Craft/Bake Sale and Luncheon held on Nov. 18 was well attended and a financial success.

The Monday night card parties have been well attended. Thank you to every one who contributed in any way to their success.

A special card party will be held next month (Jan. 20, 2008) with proceeds going to the education of our Peruvian child.

Membership fees will be collected during the next month.

The C.W.L. will sponsor a Friday night (free skating) at the arena during the next month.

Christmas cards are in the mail to our senior members.

The "Money Tree" donations received at our Christmas party will be given to our choir.

Following the closing prayers, games and refreshments were enjoyed.

Our wish to you at this time: May your share many special moments this Christmas Season. Peace to your hearts and love to your home.

Submitted by Jane Carroll, communications officer for the St. Alphonsus CWL.

YOUR OPINION

Another story

Dear Editor,

I hate to bring up the problem with "official" bilingualism policy in this great country of Canada, but one cannot order an English joke book being offered in the 2007 Sears Christmas catalogue, if I live in Quebec. It's there in plain English (excuse the expression) on page 22, section e. The Sears catalogue states "English Only, not available in Quebec". At least Sears still calls it their "Christmas Catalogue"... but that's another story.

Merry Christmas from a sad Canadian...

Mick Armitage
 Ottawa

Reintroducing the loggerhead shrike to the Pontiac

Dear Editor,

I am a member of The Birders of the Outaouais (COO - Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais). Although I am not one of the most active members, I try to attend a few activities each year. Recently I had the opportunity to hear the president of the club, Mr. Gérard Desjardins, describe the encouraging results so far of their attempt to reintroduce the loggerhead shrike to the wild. It is an endangered bird listed in Annex 1 of the *Threatened Species Act of Canada (2002)* and one of seven threatened animal species according to the Québec Act. As a bird that previously nested in this area, it was last sighted in the Outaouais in 1985 and in Québec in 1996. Its disappearance remains a mystery to this day. Very encouragingly, four as-yet-unconfirmed sightings were reported in Québec in 2007.

The story began 10 years ago when a generous and far-seeing woman from the Municipality of Pontiac bequeathed a large part of her more-than-400-acre property for the purpose of creating a protected area. A collaborative effort between McGill University, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Nature Conservancy of Canada and COO was set up to ensure its management. The project to reintroduce the loggerhead shrike to the wild in the Pontiac began in 2004. From the broods of captive couples living on the McDonald campus of McGill University, fledglings are released from two aviaries on the Outaouais property. After a ten-day adaptation period and with the help of COO volunteers, 61 young birds have been released since the summer of 2004, of which 30 were released this past year. Their long migration south then begins and COO and their partners intend to study its course with the help of telemetry and motorized paragliders.

In only four years, with the help of volunteers from COO and the university, a lot has been learned about this small, grey, robin-sized predator that sports a large black mask, a hooked bill and a pale chest. The preferred loggerhead shrike habitat is short-grass pasture - cattle-grazing fields are perfect - that allows easy sighting of its prey. In its own unique fashion, the shrike impales its victims on the long thorns of hawthorn tree to hold them in place for eating. An additional benefit of this field study has been a better understanding of the local ecosystem.

What awaits this little bird on its long journey to its wintering grounds in the United States? Like any other migrating species, the loggerhead shrike faces a gauntlet of obstacles that kills more and more birds each year. The main causes of avian mortality include transmission towers (for cellular phones or electricity delivery), electric wires, buildings, cars and... cats! Very simple solutions exist to prevent collisions, such as turning off the lights of buildings at night, especially during migration periods. What is often lacking, however, is the will to act to protect our winged friends.

I chose to talk to you about the loggerhead shrike because its story is typical of why I chose to become more politically active and join the Green Party of Canada, the only Party that prioritizes the environment. Over the past 30 years, most of my donations have been directed to charities or groups dedicated to the preservation of nature, such as COO. Indeed, these organizations play an essential role in the survival of our wonderful biodiversity. But this is no longer sufficient. Every day, 250 to 300 living species disappear. Increasingly, the positive results of local conservation efforts are neutralized by climate change, the behaviour of our consumer society and ill-planned policies. It is both encouraging and profoundly sad to see more citizens fighting

to successfully preserve an animal, a plant, an insect, a wetland or a unique forest, while at the world level we hurtle toward a period of extinctions such as the earth has not seen since the disappearance of the dinosaurs.

For years our politicians have acted like mere administrators, not leaders and societal visionaries. We must change the parameters that are used to assess the quality of results in politics. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the stock exchange indices will not provide a better world for our children. However "prosperous" it might appear by these superficial indicators, a world bereft of birdsong would be a poor one indeed. We need to re-establish the links of harmony between humanity and our Mother Earth - this marvellous paradise of which the loggerhead shrike is definitively a part.

André Sylvestre
 Green Party of Canada candidate
 Pontiac riding

L'industrie forestière

Cher éditeur,

Le gouvernement du Canada reconnaît que la situation des travailleurs et des travailleuses de l'industrie forestière est particulièrement précaire.

Notre gouvernement suit la situation de très près et accompagne les entreprises en difficulté dans les démarches nécessaires au maintien de diverses usines. Nous travaillerons également avec les entreprises afin d'évaluer des programmes pouvant atténuer les effets sur les groupes concernés.

Le secteur de la fabrication et de la transformation du Canada est un élément clé de notre économie. C'est pourquoi il existe un solide programme du gouvernement du Canada pour aider les entreprises à faire face aux défis structurels et de conjoncture du secteur de la forêt.

Développement économique Canada en particulier appuie les entreprises à l'aide de programmes de soutien, de démarrage, de commercialisation, d'équipements, de qualification et d'adaptation de la main d'œuvre.

Les réductions d'impôt général annoncées par notre gouvernement apporteront aussi un allègement fiscal de 8,2 milliards de dollars aux entreprises de fabrication et de transformation.

Outre cet allègement fiscal généralisé, le secteur de la fabrication et de la transformation bénéficie d'une mesure temporaire que nous avons adoptée dans le cadre du dernier budget, et qui permet d'amortir leurs investissements dans l'outillage et l'équipement en deux ans. Nous souhaitons que les fabricants recourent à cet avantage fiscal pour moderniser leur équipement et leur technologie, afin d'être plus productifs et plus concurrentiels.

Le secteur bénéficiera également de mesures annoncées dans le budget de 2007 qui, sur une base permanente, haussent le taux de déduction pour amortissement applicable aux ordinateurs et aux bâtiments servant à la fabrication, pour mieux tenir compte de la durée de vie utile de ces biens.

Par ailleurs, le gouvernement du Canada salue le plan du gouvernement du Québec pour venir en aide au secteur manufacturier et invite la collaboration des provinces pour réduire le taux combiné fédéral-provincial d'imposition des sociétés et le ramener à 25 per centum, pour faire du Canada un pays de choix en matière d'investissement.

Nous avons réglé le bois d'œuvre et nous ne laisserons pas tomber les employés du secteur de la foresterie.

Lawrence Cannon
 Ministre des Transports, de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités
 Député de Pontiac

Drive cautiously this winter

You'd think since Canadians spend about six to seven months out of a year submerged in ridiculous amounts of snow we'd get used to driving in the stuff.

Apparently this isn't the case. I've recently seen some people making bad choices before going out on the roads, doing things like speeding, tailgating, passing in limited visibility areas and even "forgetting" to clear snow off their vehicle before leaving.

Just the other night I had someone attempt to pass me while we were going up a hill... in the middle of a snowstorm.

I've seen countless cars on the roads whose drivers haven't taken the time to clear off more than a peephole of snow on their windshield.

Be considerate of other drivers and clear off all of the snow and ice from your entire car, not just enough to see out of the windshield.

Not only will you get better visibility but you'll also prevent sheets of snow and ice from flying off and hitting vehicles behind you.

Driving in cold weather is not the same as driving in the summer.

It seems many of us have forgotten how important it is to slow down and use precaution when going out on the roads in the snow.

It's going to take longer than usual to get to your destination, so leave a little bit earlier than normal so you won't be rushing.

Speeding or tailgating other vehicles is not going to get you to your destination any faster and it could even cause an accident.



Thumbs up
 to everyone who gave so generously during the big media food drive last week. Your efforts produced over \$4,000 in donations to help locals.



Thumbs down
 to the small percentage of you who avoided all eye contact and drove past the food drive hastily, even right through a red light. Shame.

124 years of news from the Pontiac

THE WAY WE WERE

Compiled by Heather Alberti-Dickson Publisher

25 Years Ago

December 15, 1982
BROUSSEAU DEFUSES TAXPAYERS' REVOLT AT CALUMET ISLAND: Following the emergency spending of some \$18,000 on new council offices at Calumet Island, a number of rate payers became angry at the municipal council and about 35 of them attended the regular Dec. 6 meeting. With this number of unhappy constituents in the hall it became impossible to conduct the meeting so the mayor adjourned the meeting until the next evening. The adjourned meeting proved a test to the new young mayor, Lucien Brousseau, who emerged on top of the situation and was able to conclude the business at hand.

HELP FOR RAMONA: Mr. Clarence Wilson on behalf of the Rotary Club of Shawville, donated a specially made table to Ramona Kluge of Otter Lake. Ramona is a quadriplegic without the use of her arms and legs. She makes use of her mouth to write and turn the pages of books. In previous years, Ramona has also received a special cassette recorder and a stand for books from the Rotary Club.

50 Years Ago

December 19, 1957
WALTER KILGOUR OUTLINES PURPOSE OF QUEBEC FARM ASSOCIATION: Keen interest in an action organization for English speaking farmers was expressed last Thursday

evening when representatives from Zion, Yarm, Wyman, Shawville, Bristol, Austin and Pontiac's Agronomist Mr. Neil Drummond met in Shawville High School to hear Mr. Walter Kilgour outline the purposes of the Quebec Farmers Association. "This organization is for English speaking farmers" said Mr. Kilgour. It is completely supported by farmers and works with the Quebec Farm Radio Forum. It is affiliated with a national organization the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

75 Years Ago

December 22, 1932
LOCAL NEWS: To our numerous readers, patrons and friends, we extend our best wishes at this joyous season. - THE EQUITY staff

Shawville Skating Rink will be open for public skating on the afternoons of the Christmas and New Years' holidays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 at 2:30. Admission 15 cents. The rink will be closed both evenings.

The district experienced the coldest snap of the season on Friday and Saturday of the past week, with thermometer readings in some sections of the village were made when the mercury had dropped to 24 degrees Fahrenheit below the zero mark.

100 Years Ago

December 19, 1907
LOCAL NEWS: Miss Nellie Wilson has resigned the

position of teacher at Starks Corners owing to a painful abscess on her jaw.

A heavy snowfall on Saturday night put the wheels out of business again, and people are in hopes they have seen the last of bare roads till the winter season is over.

The new rector or St. Paul's, the Rev. Mr. Coffin, arrived here with his wife and family on Friday. The rev. gentleman took the services at St. Paul's on Sunday and also at Yarm school-house.

The rink managers - Messrs. Richardson and Hodgins - gave a free evening's skating to the young people, the event marking the opening of the skating season here. The enjoyment, however, was of short duration, owing to the heavy snowfall which set in. Despite cold weather and very unfavorable travelling conditions, owing to the absence of snow, the mass meeting and convention held here last Thursday by the Liberal-Conservative Association of the county, was a well-attended, most harmonious and successful event. The large number of electors who congregated together, many having to drive long distances to reach here, furnished material evidence of the fact that the old party in Pontiac is by no means the dead thing that some delusively imagine, but is, on the contrary, an organization very much alive to the political conditions of our country, and determined as ever to make its voice heard, with no uncertain sound, when occasion arises to pronounce judgement at the polls - that time supreme when the people themselves not the adminis-

tration of the day - are the masters of the situation, and have the power to say who shall or who shall not direct the affairs of this Dominion.

AD: Christmas 1907- The Christmas Season - think what it means for your children - for yourself - for the world - remember its associations and its memories. Cultivate the Christmas spirit and its joys - even with the feeling that "times are hard" have a generous and grateful spirit. We never advocate extravagance, never try to induce people to buy what they neither require, nor cannot afford; but at this festive season for a very small outlay you can bring joy and happiness to these "boys and girls." Our assortment of holiday goods is immense. Hundreds of useful and inexpensive articles on sale. Never before had we anything to equal this year's display. See our 5 and 10 cent window. Our 15, 20 and 25 cent lines are excellent. In this ad, we cannot enumerate the score of good things in our store. So we extend a cordial invitation to come and see us. Meet your friends here, have a smile for everybody; come out to town at least once before Christmas, and even though you don't come or we may not see you let me with all my heart extend to you, my friends and customers in Shawville, Clarendon, Bristol, Litchfield, Thorne and elsewhere, my best wishes for a very Joyous and Happy Christmas and New Year. - W.A. Hodgins

Featured Dinner for the Month of December

Café 349
 349 Main St.
 Evening Hours: Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 5 until 8 pm for Dinner 8 until 9 pm for Dessert and Coffee

Appetizer: Spinach Salad with Cranberries and Roasted Almonds
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Stephan Scrak
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Literacy council opens doors, books

WILBUR MCLEAN
 Equity Editor
SHAWVILLE • The Western Quebec Literacy Council held an open house Saturday, welcoming the public to their abode in Shawville.

The literacy council and its network of volunteers work hard to promote reading and other educational skills in the region. Their emphasis is on teaching illiterate adults how to read but are also well-versed in a variety of areas and are equipped to assist someone looking to complete their high school education.

Saturday was a chance for them to show off their office, located in Shawville on Hwy. 148, and about 35 people appeared at the event which doubled as the group's Christmas party.

"It's a wonderful group of people. The people are so amazing, so dedicated," said Norma DesRosiers of Lusville, who serves as the group's secretary and a tutor. DesRosiers said she first signed up to help the group five years ago after seeing their booth at the Shawville

Fair. "I thought 'What a wonderful idea,'" she said. The avid reader - she estimates completing about a book per day - had recently retired and decided the council would be a good way to stay involved.

"I can really get behind this group," she said. The group's executive director, Marilee Delombard, said the council had considered holding an open house in 2006 but only had the time to organize one for this year. "We wanted to let people know they can come and look at the material we have," she said.

The group is still seeking more students to utilize their services and has been using word-of-mouth and advertising to promote themselves. The office was dressed up for the event, with a group of students decorating and Jennifer Weese preparing the food. Weese has volunteered with the council for three years now.

She became interested because her grandmother is



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Above: Norma DesRosiers of Lusville looks at the selection of the book exchange, part of the open house held by the Western Quebec Literacy Council Saturday.

illiterate and Weese had to write letters to her using very simple words. "I thought this was a way to get involved and help people who can't read," she said. She also tutored other students while in both high school and university. "I just enjoy it," she said.

Birth of Christ re-enacted

WILBUR MCLEAN
 Equity Editor
CLARENDON • Sometimes people need a reminder. That is one of the purposes of the annual Road to Bethlehem living nativity organized, which was put on for the fourth consecutive year Sunday evening.

Taking place at Clarendon's Rolling Acres farm, visitors were treated to a re-enactment of the Christmas story, complete with costumes, angels singing, live animals and an encounter with the Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus himself in the manger.

"We want people to take a moment and remember what it's really about," said Mary Hamilton, one of the organizers. Each year, the group has added one scene to the story. This year, attendees were greeted in the parking lot by Isaiah the prophet predicting the arrival of Jesus.

From there, the group was led by two people heading to Bethlehem for the census where angels overhead sang



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

A pair of shepherds describe the angels they saw overhead during the "Road to Bethlehem" living nativity presented by the Grace Community Bible Church on Rolling Acres Farm in Clarendon Sunday evening.

to us below and a pair of shepherds told us of what the angels said to them earlier.

We arrived at the inn though not before being interrupted by two soldiers.

A star high above, the innkeeper informed us of the lack of vacancies and we were told in the barn were a young couple to whom a child had just been born. The event, put on each year by the Grace Community Bible Church along with some friends and

neighbours of Rolling Acres' Hamilton family, was again an endearing portrayal of the birth of Christ by local people, performed admirably. Hamilton estimated that about 40 people were involved in the event in some way.

Even for non church members, the Road to Bethlehem is a must-see for anybody who celebrates Christmas. The Grace Community Bible Church has about 40 members.

Christmas Trees For Sale

Shawville Lions' Club will be selling fresh trees in the barn at the Fair Grounds 9 am - 3 pm every Saturday in December while quantities last. Get your tree early for the best selection.

Trees also available at:
Pirie's Gas Bar
and J & J Grocery.

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Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
 Richard, Carolyn, Pam, Jodi and Sue

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 and Friday, Dec. 14 - 9 am - 6 pm

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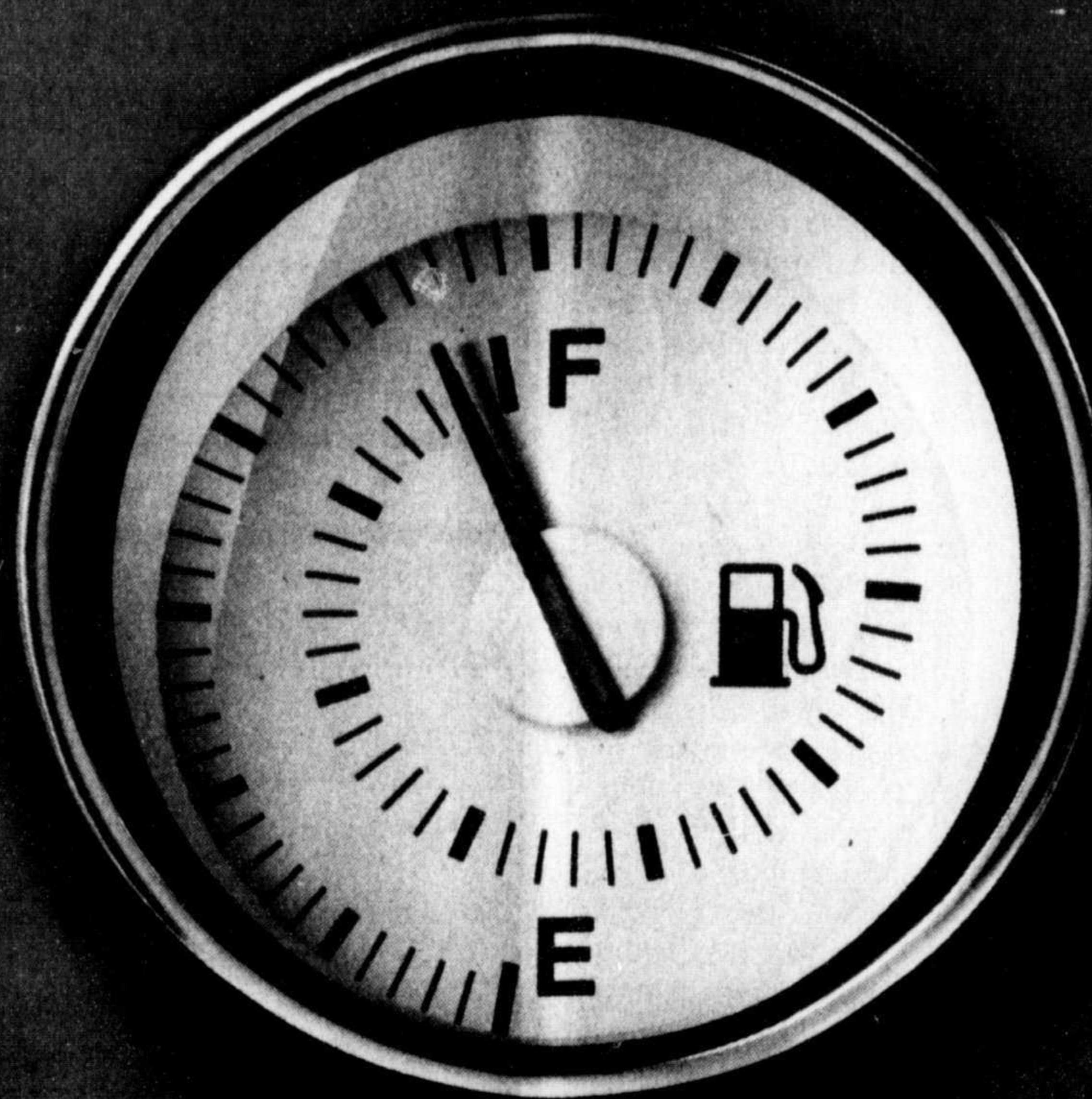
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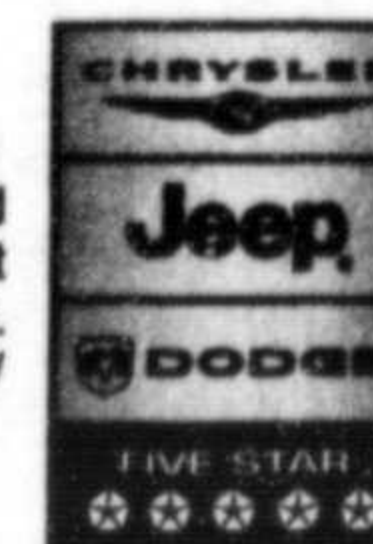
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PHS boys complete amazing 20-point comeback

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • Down 20 points in the fourth quarter, the chances of the Pontiac High School cadet boys basketball team winning their first game of the season were all but dead on Tuesday, Dec. 4 in the PHS gym.

But then, something happened.

A three-pointer here, a quick steal there and the team soon had a beacon of hope.

That beacon evolved into a flood of light as the team rallied to win the game against the Érablière Jaguars, 52-50, in a remarkable comeback.

Through most of the contest, the Panthers appeared a step behind the Jaguars, with both teams seeking their first win of the season.

The undersized Pontiac team were forced to rely on their quickness due to a lack of size.

During the fourth quarter with chances looking slim, the bench forlorn and fans quiet, head coach Dave Holmes employed a full court press in an attempt to ignite the squad.

The tactic worked, forcing a number of turnovers and Jordan Murdock, the team's most accomplished player began piling up the points, eventually finishing with 26.

As a couple of three-pointers hit and more turnovers gained, the fans grew hopeful cheering loudly on each basket scored, hoping the team had enough time to finish the comeback.

With two minutes remaining, PHS took a one-point lead over the Jaguars. With 12 seconds left Brett MacKechnie hit a key free throw to put the team up by two, a lead which they held. Following the game, a joy-

ous Murdock said he never gave up despite the mountainous deficit.

"You gotta be positive, being negative ain't gonna get you nowhere," he said.

The team's first two games of the season were one-sided losses, but Murdock said he worked to keep spirits high.

"I tried to keep the team going," he said.

MacKechnie added nine points in the win.

Ross Côté contributed eight.

The boys next game is Friday on the road at Des Lacs, a team with a 4-1 record so far this season.

Girls win big again

The PHS girls continued their dominance over league opponents with a strong 43-26 win over Érablière, their second win of the season over the Jaguars.

The Panthers were up quickly, leading by 16 before their opponents scored their first basket.

PHS scored on seven of its first eight possessions in the contest.

Despite the lead being reduced to eight by halftime, the game's result never really looked to be in doubt.

Deanna Valin scored 23 points in the win and was crucial defensively in pressuring Érablière into a slew of turnovers in their own backcourt.

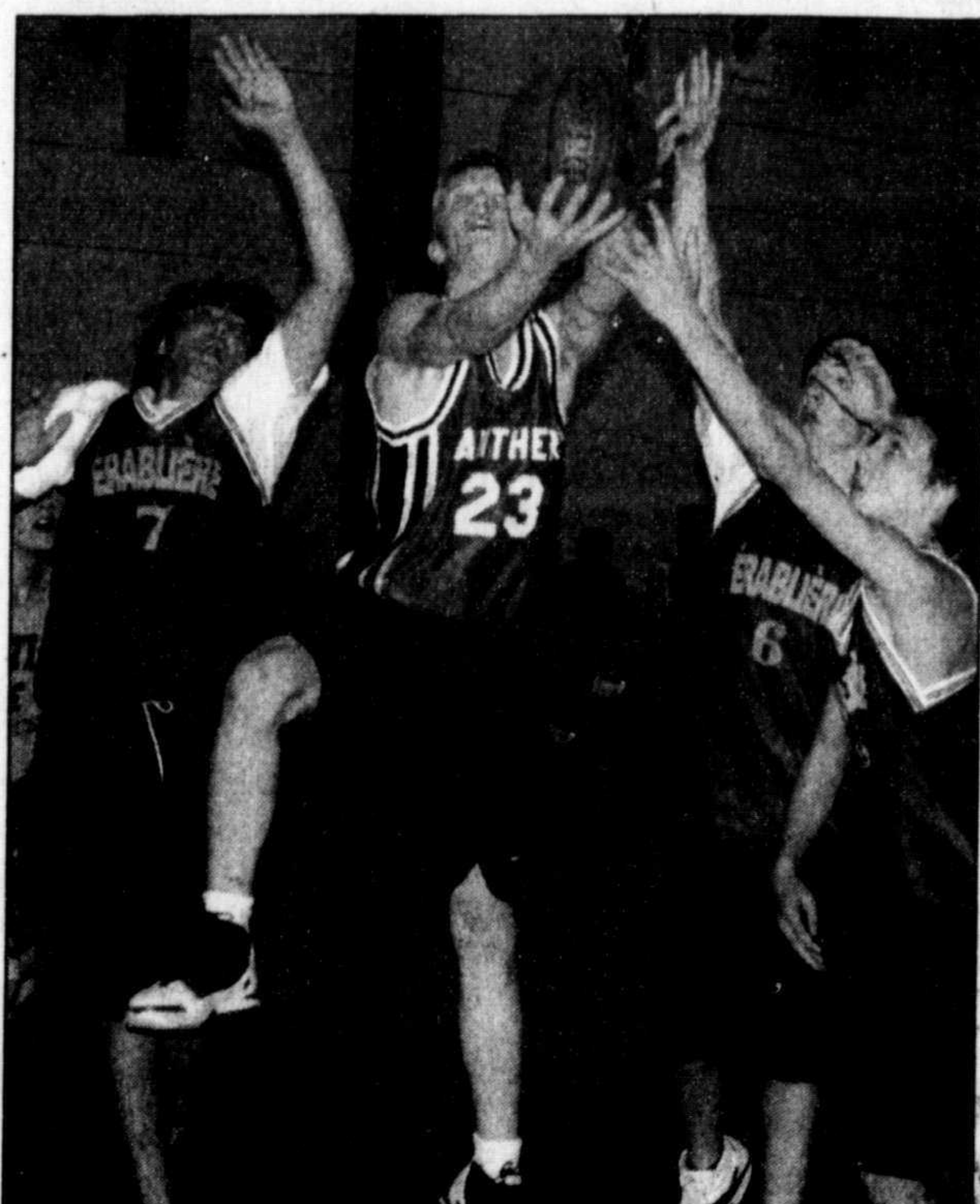
The girls played two other games recently, suffering their first loss of the season in one of them.

The team travelled to De L'Île in a battle of unbeaten teams Nov. 29, losing 41-22.

De L'Île has won its six games by an average of 47 points so far this season.

PHS made up for that loss with a road win Thursday, defeating Mont Bleu 55-22.

Valin again led the scoring with 19 points. Hailey



Above, Jordan Murdock of Pontiac High School gets vertical to lay in two of his 26 points last week. Below, Deanna Valin of Pontiac High School keeps separation from an Érablière defender in game one of the basketball doubleheader.



Murray had 12 points and Shelby Pasqua added six. The girls' record stands at 5-1 so far this season, second place in the six team division. Their season is now on hiatus until the new year.

Pontiac Jr. B
Meet the Players Night
OPEN BAR
during and after the game (upstairs in the Lions Hall)
Friday, December 14th
SHAWVILLE vs CARLETON PLACE
8:00 p.m.
Christmas Bake Sale in the lobby before and during the game

Your **GIANT TIGER** flyer will now be in the new **EQUITY EXTRA** on Friday

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LIVE MUSIC by Hyrd Gunz
Don't forget - Friday, December 21st
Music by Helium
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Johnny & the gang

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December 24 - 8:00 - noon
December 25 & 26 - CLOSED
December 27 - 28 - 8 am - 4 pm
December 29 - 9 am - 12 noon
January 1 - CLOSED
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Junior 'B' goalie out for up to six weeks

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • An appendectomy has forced the Pontiac Junior 'B's starting goalie Michel Racicot out of the lineup for up to six weeks.

The surgery to move his appendix was performed last week and now has the Junior 'B's looking at options for the goalie position.

Less than a month ago Racicot was installed as the permanent starter under new head coach, Dan Saumier.

Chapeau rookie Ryan Therens was named the permanent backup and David Goulet, who had been brought in earlier in the season to add depth to the position was released.

Saumier said he was hopeful to have Racicot return by the middle of January, allowing him a few games before the playoffs begin in February.

"(General Manager) Chris (Young) is searching for a new goalie," said Saumier.

In 15 games played this season, Racicot posted a 7-6-1 record and a 4.63 goals against average.

His .830 save percentage was the best of the three goalies used by the Pontiacs this year.

The team has already contacted Goulet about a possible return to the team's lineup.

Saumier said he spoke with him last week but the team had not yet heard a response.

"We tried to convince him to come back. He'd be a good backup for us," said Saumier.

Another option includes a goalie that was with the team in training camp but had been cut.

In the meantime, Therens will have a chance to prove himself as the starting tender.

So far this season he's posted a 2-2-1 record and a 3.91 goals against average.

He started the weekend's contests and played well despite the team losing one game and tying the other.

"He played well this weekend," said Saumier.

Last week consisted of two road games, Friday at Perth and Saturday at Ottawa West.

The team lost 4-3 to the Bluewings but managed a 4-4 tie against the Golden Knights.

Perth killed the Pontiacs on the powerplay, executing on three of seven chances to seal victory.

The home side was up 3-0 before the Pontiacs potted two of their own in the second period to make the game competitive.

Defenceman David Lazenby scored a powerplay goal and Shawville's Shane Powell potted his 12th of the year to close the gap.

With the Pontiacs pressing for a goal, Perth iced the game with another power play goal late in the third period.

Fred McDougall's 19th with 1:07 remaining was a moot point as the Pontiacs were unable to tie the game.

Saturday night's tilt was a part of Ottawa West's Junior 'B' Alumni Night which had a number of festivities, closing out with the game between the Pontiacs and the Knights.

Penalties killed the Junior 'B's chances in this game, as they were short-handed on eight separate occasions, compared to just three powerplay opportunities.

"The game was very close but we had some bad penalties on Saturday night," said Saumier.

A goalie from the Midget 'BB' team in Aylmer was brought in to serve as backup to Therens for the contest.

Goals by Kevin Cuddihy, Jesse Cere and McDougall buoyed a strong second period for the Pontiacs who were unable to hold on to their 3-2 advantage in the final frame.

Down 4-3 late, Captain Ryan Rees scored with 3:32 remaining on the powerplay to tie the game.

Coches looks forward to contest
This week, the Pontiacs host Carleton Place on Friday night at 8 p.m. The Kings have run away

with the Valley division regular season title.

They currently have a 10-point lead over Perth and Stittsville.

Despite that, Saumier sounded excited at the prospect of taking on the top team in the division.

"It'll be a good game. We'll have a good weekend," vowed Saumier.

Sunday the Pontiacs travel to Renfrew to take on the disappointing Timberwolves who have just 14 points through 26 games.

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PHS, Gracefield victorious in Pontiac Cup

AMANDA DUPUIS
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Pontiac High School (PHS) and Gracefield were the two victorious teams in the Pontiac Cup volleyball tournament, which was held Dec. 5 at PHS in Shawville.

A total of four schools participated in the tournament: École Secondaire Sieur de Coulonge, Gracefield, PHS and Dr. Wilbert Keon Secondary School.

During the tournament, which started at 11:30, each team had the opportunity to play against their three opponents before the two top teams played against each other in the final.

In the six girls' matches, École Secondaire Sieur de

Coulonge won one set; Gracefield won two sets; PHS won six sets and Dr. Wilbert Keon Secondary School won three sets.

In the championship, PHS took on Dr. Wilbert Keon High School, where PHS won both sets with scores of 25 to 12 and 25 to 14.

This is the third year in a row PHS has won the tournament.

"We've been practicing since the second day of school," said team captain Mallory Peck. "It's pretty emotional but there's no way better than to win."

John Petty, the coach of the PHS girls' volleyball team, said he and the girls were relieved the tournament was over and they

came out victorious.

"We had very high expectations from the girls," said Petty. "I'm very proud of the volleyball tradition (at PHS)."

Many of the girls on the team are in their last year of high school so they won't be playing again next year.

"It's awesome winning in my senior year. I'm glad that it's over," said team captain Kendra Kearns.

"We gave it our best. We couldn't have had a better coach," added Stephanie Smart, another team captain.

"It's pretty emotional for me because I have about five or six Grade 11's who I won't be able to coach again (next year)," said Petty.

Petty said the team credits three reasons for their victo-

ry: the leadership of its captains, its 93 per cent success rate on serves and its focus on commitment, communication and caring.

In the six boys' matches, École Secondaire Sieur de Coulonge won three sets; Gracefield won four sets; PHS won two sets and Dr. Wilbert Keon Secondary School won three sets.

In the championship, Gracefield took on Dr. Wilbert Keon Secondary School, where Gracefield won both sets with scores of 25 to 17 and 25 to 19.

This is the third year Gracefield has entered the tournament and the team was back this year as defending champions.

"It's a very nice tourna-

ment," said Yves Belisle, the team's coach.

"It's an occasion to go out and meet other people from other schools. This year, some of our players have made friends from the other schools."

Belisle said the team had been practicing for the tournament since September and were lucky because there were no injuries.

The one challenge the team did face, however, was a lack of motivation.

"They're proud when they win but it's when they lose that's the most difficult," said Belisle.

This is the 26th year the Pontiac Cup volleyball tournament has been played in the area.

Benjamin girls gain promotion in volleyball tournament

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • The Pontiac High School benjam girls volleyball team are moving on up after winning their division in a tournament on the weekend.

Pontiac High School was the site for the year's second volleyball tournament among Outaouais high schools.

Nine schools: four benjamin (grades seven and eight) and five juvenile (grades ten and eleven) participated.

After winning seven of their eight sets played, the PHS benjamin girls won their division and next tournament will be placed in a more difficult pool.

In the round robin portion of the tournament, the benjamin girls swept aside Carrefour 3, 25-11 and 25-9, defeated Nouvelle Frontières 25-10 and 25-19 and split with Hadley 2, 13-25 and 25-5.

The championship final was a hard-fought sweep for PHS over Hadley 2, winning 25-21 and then holding on to win the second set 25-23.

"We practice hard and we practice a lot," said Shawn MacDonell, the team's coach.

Among the team's best performers were Bria Hearty, who served 10 aces throughout the tournament and Heidi Peck who was very successful as a point finisher.

MacDonell added that he was pleased with the team's play but there was much for his next to work on ahead of their next tournament Jan. 20 with tougher competition.

Volleyball in Outaouais schools is played in a format similar to European soccer, whereby the best team in each division moves up to a higher quality division while the lowest team moves down to a division with lower quality teams.

Juvenile girls win some, lose some

The Panthers' juvenile girls team experienced mixed results in their tournament on Sunday, playing in one of the highest levels of volleyball among Outaouais high schools.

The girls split with

Nouvelle Frontières, 25-16 and 21-25, easily swept

aside D'Arcy McGee 25-12 and 25-6 and lost a pair of

sets to Carrefour, 19-25 and 19-25.



The Pontiac High School benjamin girls volleyball team set up a play during the PHS-hosted volleyball tournament Sunday. Stellar play by the local girls won the tournament for them.

Atom 'A' Lions win weekend games

AMANDA DUPUIS
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • The Pontiac Lions Atom 'A' minor hockey team won both of their games over the weekend.

The Lions beat the Gatineau Draveurs 2-0 Saturday, where Lions goalie Dean Horner got the shutout.

Goals were scored by Nicholas Graveline and Clancey Keon. Assists were had by Carter Pirie, Keon and Graveline.

Despite the opposing team scoring the first goal of the game, the Lions came out victorious with one goal scored by Graveline and two goals scored by Bradley Pearson. The one assist of the game went to Bryce Atkinson.

Pontiac Draveurs play in weekend tournament

The Pontiac Draveurs Atom 'B' minor hockey team played its third hockey tournament in La Pêche last week.

The first game of the tournament, which took place Dec. 5, saw the Draveurs

win 4-3 against their opponent, the Maniwaki Forestiers.

Goals were scored by Danny Pasch, Marc Antoine Bélair, Jacob Dyelle and Matthew Graham.

Assists were had by Magalie Boisvert, Curtis Huckabone, Bélair, Pasch, Cedric Cahill and Julien Lépine.

The Draveurs won 6-5 against the Gatineau Titans during the second game, which was played Dec. 7 in Masham.

Pasch scored three goals, Bélair scored two and Graham scored one. Assists were had by Cahill, Maxime Graveline, Pasch, Boisvert and Kayla Mousseau.

The Draveurs lost 3-2 in the third game, which was played against the Collines Coyotes.

Pasch scored both goals in the game, making him the recipient of the first star of the first three games.

The Draveurs won 2-1 in the fourth game of the tournament, which was also the semi-final round.

Cahill and Pasch scored the two goals, which were both unassisted.

Graveline was the recipient of the first star of the game.

The Draveurs went on to lose 1-0 in the championship against the Aylmer Falcons.

Riley Gagnon took the first star of the game.

Bantam 'A' victory

The Pontiac Lions Bantam 'A' minor hockey team won 3-2 in Saturday's game against the Gatineau Voyageurs.

Goals were scored by Eric Dagenais, Maxime Robert, Brandon Alexander and Daniel Leblanc.

Assists were had by Nicholas Durocher, Owen Teevens and Brandon Nugent.

Midget 'A' winners

The Pontiac Lions Midget 'A' minor hockey team took on the Maniwaki Forestiers Saturday with a 7-2 win.

Jacob Bourgeois and Travis Stewart scored two goals Michael Baker, Matthew Alexander and

David Hobbs each scored one.

Assists were had by Bourgeois, Stewart, Trevor Bourque, Scott Levesque, Kurt Fraser and Hobbs.

The Lions also won 4-1 Sunday against the Stittsville Redmen, who they played for the first time.

Hobbs scored two goals while Stewart and Jeremy Campbell each scored one. Hobbs, Stewart, Baker and Alexander continued assists.

Novice 'A' continues to roll

The Pontiac Lions Novice 'A' minor hockey team continued its winning streak Saturday with an 11-3 victory over Loups des Collines.

Xavier Plouffe scored four goals of the night and Ryan Nugent scored three, giving him his first hat trick of the season.

Connor Romain and Tyler Marion scored an additional two goals each.

Austin Duggan picked up five assists, Patrick St-Cyr picked up two and Jonathan Arthurs, Chevy Laroque, Plouffe, Romain and Marion picked up one.

As well, the Lions beat out the Voiliers d'Aylmer 11-4 last week.

Plouffe scored four goals; Duggan, Marion and Romain scored two and Laroque scored one.

Assists went to Nugent, Duggan, Romain, Dany Lamoureux, Nicholas Lemaire, Michel O'Reilly and Maxime Coté.

The team sits at the top of both league divisions, with a 6-0-1 record.

Rough weekend for Novice 'B'

The Pontiac Lions Novice 'B' minor hockey team lost both of their games over the weekend.

Despite the team putting forth great effort, the Lions lost 5-0 Saturday against Fort Coulonge and 10-0 Sunday in Maniwaki.

Magh affiliates Roy Duggan and Ben Barr were on hand to assist the Lions.

The Lions send out get well wishes to player James Murray, who has been out sick for the past couple weeks. The team hopes he can return soon.

OVERTIME | LUKE MURPHY

The life of an addict



I don't usually talk about sentimental, emotional stories — but this one caught my eye. Many of you probably don't know who Rod Beck is, and if you don't follow baseball, then I guarantee you've never heard his name.

The tragic death of Major League Baseball pitcher Beck is the story of how the pressure of being a professional athlete can lead to a life of drugs and alcohol, which can tear apart a family, and eventually lead to death.

Rod Beck was a genuine man, a constant donor to charities, and his former teammate, Tim Wakefield, put it best: "Rod had a huge

heart, and was so humble. He was so full of life."

When Rod Beck called his personal assistant, Tina Buchanan, at 11:57 a.m. on June 23, he told her he wasn't feeling well. Buchanan showed up fifteen minutes later and found him dead. When police arrived they found an assortment of drugs stashed throughout the apartment.

That's the life of an addict — not a successful, professional baseball player. But this addict was once a legendary reliever — who made a career through intimidation with a shoulder-length, wavy mullet, and a long, straggly mustache. When he stared down on a batter from the mound, their knees wobbled with fear.

After being drafted out of high school by the Oakland

A's, Beck married his high school sweetheart, Stacey, and by age 20 he began his career in the minor leagues.

The couple lived a good life for a long time. Beck, later traded to the Giants, was called up in 1991, and he was soon named as the team's closer, going on to make millions of dollars during his seven seasons in San Francisco.

But by the end of 2003, his wife, Stacey, spotted the danger signs: staying up late, sleeping in, complaining of a constant cold, and becoming more distant emotionally. A friend told her it was cocaine, and that's when Stacey confronted her husband of 15 years. He admitted to using, and said he wouldn't do it anymore — he had it under control.

Stacey gave him an ulti-

matum. Beck called baseball officials and told them he had an addiction and needed treatment. Beck's team, the San Diego Padres, were in full support, and Beck packed his bags for a 30-day rehabilitation program, his absence explained as a personal matter.

He lived at home in Phoenix with Stacey and his two daughters, away from the game. Their family was back together again — the way it should be. But after Beck's return to baseball, teammates noticed Beck on the back of the team plane drinking beers. What can you say to a grown man who knew the risks?

With a 6.38 ERA, the Padres released Beck in August. Without baseball, Beck returned to his ways, unable to avoid his disease, his addiction — the start of

the end.

It's hard to believe that a MLB pitcher, an All-Star closer making millions of dollars, a family man with two beautiful little girls, life in the palm of his hands and everything to live for, could be enticed by life's evil temptations.

But that's what drugs will do. They make good people do bad things.

I believe the best way to end this article is by a quote from Rod Beck's wife — on Rod's addiction to drugs. "It stole a son, it stole a father — the girls, they don't have their dad. It stole my best friend."

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

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Call for Proposals

Homelessness Partnership Initiative, Outreach Communities

The Government of Canada is accepting funding applications from organizations in Outaouais interested in obtaining financial assistance to meet the needs of homeless or at-risk individuals.

Submissions must be received no later than: 4:00 p.m. on December 31, 2007.

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Please make any inquiries with respect to this Call for Proposals to the above-mentioned individuals.

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I would encourage you to do your part by submitting nominations. You will help recognize the generous acts performed by volunteers and organizations for the greater good of their community.

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L'Écuyer annonce un investissement de 305 000\$ chez Smurfit-Stone

PORTAGE-DU-FORT • La députée de Pontiac, madame Charlotte L'Écuyer, a annoncé aujourd'hui, au nom du ministre de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale, monsieur Sam Hamad, l'octroi

d'une contribution financière de 305 496 \$ à l'entreprise les Emballages Smurfit-Stone Canada Inc. Cette aide s'inscrit dans le cadre de la stratégie gouvernementale d'aide aux travailleurs et aux entre-

prises du secteur forestier. Cette somme, étalée sur trois ans, a pour but de favoriser des retraites anticipées dans le cadre de la mesure Aménagement et réduction du temps de travail tout en permettant de

sauvegarder des emplois dans la région », a déclaré la députée L'Écuyer. Touchée par la force de la concurrence et le taux de change, l'entreprise, dont la principale activité est la production de pâte com-

merciale kraft blanche à base de feuillus, a dû procéder à la restructuration de ses effectifs afin de limiter les mises à pied. La réduction du nombre d'employés par le recours aux retraites anticipées

permettra de maintenir en emploi 17 jeunes travailleurs qualifiés ayant un emploi précaire. Quant aux employés plus âgés, ils pourront bénéficier de mesures avantageuses pouvant les

inciter à prendre leur retraite. Le financement de cette mesure chez les Emballages Smurfit-Stone Canada Inc. devrait non seulement sauvegarder des emplois de qualité, mais

aussi assurer l'entreprise d'une relève qualifiée. Voilà un résultat concret du Plan de soutien à l'intention du secteur forestier, instauré par notre gouvernement », a conclu madame L'Écuyer.

Demeurant les grands oubliés de la crise

Les producteurs forestiers prennent la route vers Québec

SHAWVILLE • Le 10 décembre, quelques dizaines de propriétaires forestiers de l'Outaouais iront rejoindre leurs confrères des autres régions dans le cadre d'une manifestation organisée par la Fédération des producteurs de bois du Québec et l'Union des producteurs

agricoles à l'aube du Sommet sur l'avenir du secteur forestier québécois qui se tient à Québec. Près de 800 propriétaires forestiers en provenance de toutes les régions du Québec manifesteront, sur la Colline du parlement, lundi le 10 décembre à 11h30 afin de

demander au ministre des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, M. Claude Béchard, des mesures concrètes et efficaces pour les soutenir en cette période de crise forestière. Pour le président de l'Office, M. Douglas Gauthier, c'est à contrecœur

que les producteurs prennent la route : « Qu'on doive encore, en 2007, sortir dans la rue pour se faire entendre, ajoute à la détresse de nos membres. Si nous passons à cette étape ce matin, c'est par désespoir tout simplement », mentionne Gauthier qui espère des mesures d'aide pour la forêt privée d'ici la période des Fêtes, afin qu'elle se déroule dans un contexte plus facile pour les familles de la région qui vivent de la forêt.

Le président de l'Office demeure perplexe devant le manque d'écoute et de considération de la part du gouvernement à l'endroit des propriétaires forestiers. Depuis le début de l'année, de multiples interventions ont été faites auprès des représentants élus à l'Assemblée nationale afin de les sensibiliser à la situation dramatique vécue en forêt privée. D'ici la fin de l'année, les propriétaires forestiers de la région du Pontiac auront assumé des pertes financières d'au-delà de 1.5 M \$.

Nous avons été plus que patients depuis le début de l'année », de déplorer M. Gauthier. L'absence de mesures pour la forêt privée en ces temps de crise n'a rien pour rassurer un grand nombre de producteurs qui subissent d'importantes pertes financières. Nous manifestons pour faire débloquent l'impass dans laquelle nous sommes. Rappelons que depuis plusieurs mois, les propriétaires forestiers demandent des mesures d'aide en temps

de crise. La Fédération des producteurs de bois du Québec demande au ministre Béchard qu'il s'assure que le bois de la forêt privée trouve preneur sur les marchés à l'aide des mécanismes prévus dans la Loi sur les forêts. Elle réclame aussi un financement plus important du Programme de mise en valeur des forêts privées afin que les propriétaires forestiers participent davantage à la relance du secteur

forestier québécois. Pour l'Office des Producteurs de Bois du Pontiac il ne faut pas oublier que le manque à gagner de ses membres a des répercussions sur l'ensemble de la région. Tout cela se traduit par des emplois perdus en forêt, dans le transport du bois, en usine, ou dans nos commerces. Il faut des mesures pour aider les producteurs. Il en va de notre avenir et de celui des communautés rurales », a ajouté M. Gauthier.

Stéphane Dion nomme une conseillère spéciale pour les affaires agricoles au Québec

OTTAWA • Le chef libéral Stéphane Dion a annoncé la création du nouveau groupe de travail libéral sur les perspectives en agriculture, qui étudiera les difficultés avec lesquelles sont aux prises les agriculteurs Canadiens. L'agriculture est un moteur de la productivité et de la prospérité au Canada. Pourtant, nos agriculteurs connaissent de sérieuses difficultés en raison de la hausse des coûts de production et de la valeur élevée du dollar, a déclaré Dion. Grâce à la création de ce groupe de travail, nous serons plus en mesure de donner aux familles d'agriculteurs les moyens de prospérer. Et cette prospérité repose en grande partie sur la préservation de la gestion de l'offre et la résolution de la crise qui frappe la filière de l'élevage.

Le groupe de travail sur les perspectives en agriculture sera coprésidé par le porte-parole libéral chargé de l'agriculture, Wayne Easter, et la candidate libérale dans Pontiac, Cindy Duncan McMillan, qui vient d'être nommée conseillère spéciale de M. Dion pour les affaires agricoles au Québec. À titre d'ancienne présidente de la Quebec Farmers' Association et d'ancien membre du conseil général de l'Union des producteurs agricoles, Mme Duncan McMillan va mettre sa longue expérience à contribution. Elle va travailler fort

pour que l'agriculture au Québec, ainsi qu'ailleurs au pays, demeure viable et concurrentielle », a dit Dion. M. Easter a félicité Mme Duncan McMillan pour sa nomination et il a promis qu'ensemble, ils discuteraient avec les agriculteurs canadiens et continueraient de défendre fermement la gestion de l'offre, comme l'a toujours fait le Parti libéral au Canada. Étant elle-même éleveuse de bétail, Mme Duncan McMillan comprend très bien les défis et les possibilités qui se présentent à l'industrie agricole, a conclu Easter. Je me réjouis à l'idée de collaborer avec elle au cours des prochains mois.

Bas de vignette Des élèves qui ont beaucoup de talent

Sieur-de-Coulonge - Le théâtre à l'honneur

MANIWAKI • Depuis quelques années déjà, les élèves de troisième et quatrième secondaires de l'école secondaire Sieur-de-Coulonge, de Sieur-de-Coulonge, montent sur scène pour démontrer leurs talents artistiques. À cette école, le théâtre occupe une place bien spéciale dans le cœur des jeunes. Ils ont la chance

de vivre des expériences enrichissantes en présentant des pièces variées, conçues tant pour les élèves du primaire que pour ceux et celles du secondaire. De nombreuses pièces, telles que Les Filles de Caleb, Le Grand Jour, La plus belle journée de notre vie, Dracula, Motel Bienvenue et Filles,

Fanfreuche, Les Voisins et Terra Nostra, ont été présentées au cours des trois dernières années. Les élèves viennent tout juste de terminer leur dernière production théâtrale : Alice au pays des horreurs. La prochaine pièce, Grease, sera présentée au mois d'avril. Bravo les jeunes!

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 1226 A, Route 148
 Campbell's Bay, Québec J0X 1K0
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 Télécopieur : 1-819-648-2174
 Sans Frais : 1-877-648-2223
 Courriel : transporaction@personainternet.com

Heures d'ouverture du Temps des Fêtes
 Ouvert le 21 décembre 2007 jusqu'à 16h.
 Fermé le 24-25-26 décembre 2007.
 Ouvert le 27 et 28 décembre 2007 aux heures habituelles.
 Fermé le 31 décembre 2007, 1 et 2 janvier 2008.
 Ouverture régulière à partir du 3 janvier 2008.

Le transport sera disponible pendant les journées de fermeture mais vous devez réserver au moins 48 heures ouvrables à l'avance. Si vous appelez pendant la période de fermeture, laissez un message et nous communiquerons avec vous.

Le conseil d'administration et le personnel offre à sa clientèle, ses bénévoles, ses partenaires et à toute la population de la MRC Pontiac et de la municipalité de Pontiac ses meilleurs vœux de Joyeux Noël et Heureuse Année!

Business hours during Christmas Holidays
 Open December 21st until 4 p.m.
 Closed December 24th-25th-26th, 2007
 Open December 27th and 28th, 2007 at usual hours
 Closed December 31st, 2007, January 1st and 2nd, 2008
 Returning to regular business hours beginning Jan. 3rd, 2008

Transportation will be available during the holidays, but you must reserve at least 48 business hours in advance. If you should call during closed hours, leave a message and we will call you back.

The Board of Directors and the personnel would like to wish to its clientele, the volunteers, the partners and all the population of the Pontiac MRC and the Municipality of Pontiac a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

DON'T DELAY
2007 Birth Announcements
 for the January 9, 2008 edition of
THE EQUITY

THE EQUITY is planning a special birth announcement spread, featuring photos of babies born in 2007 with announcements, for the issue of Jan. 9, 2008.
Advertisement: Includes a one column (1 1/2" wide) photo and 50 word write-up. Additional words welcome at 15¢ (plus taxes) per word.
Cost: Photo in colour \$39.49 + \$2.37 GST + \$3.14 QST = \$45.00.
Photo in black and white: \$30.72 + \$1.84 GST + \$2.44 QST = \$35.00.
Payment: All announcements must be prepaid. cheques payable to Pontiac Printshop Ltd.
Information: Photos may be of any size, reduction or enlargement will be made to adjust the size to 1 1/2". Photos may be picked up after January 9, 2008, or enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and it will be returned.
Deadline: Dec. 28, 2007.

SAMPLE



Owen Ross Barton
 Dickson/Barton - A beautiful baby boy, Owen Ross Barton, was born on July 13th, 2005 at the Ottawa Civic Hospital to Leslie Dickson and Jason Barton. Proud grandparents are Heather Dickson and Greg Hayley of Shawville, Ross Dickson and Diana Bracegirdle of Perth and Austin and Geraldine Barton of Nepean. Owen's wonderful smile and contagious laugh make us so happy every day.

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

Business directory

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NOTAIRES - NOTARIES

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Gagné Isabelle Patry Lafamme & Associés
 Notaires & conseillers juridiques
 Notaries & legal counsels

Me Mireille Alary
 malary@gpi.qc.ca

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 E-mail: david837@videotron.ca

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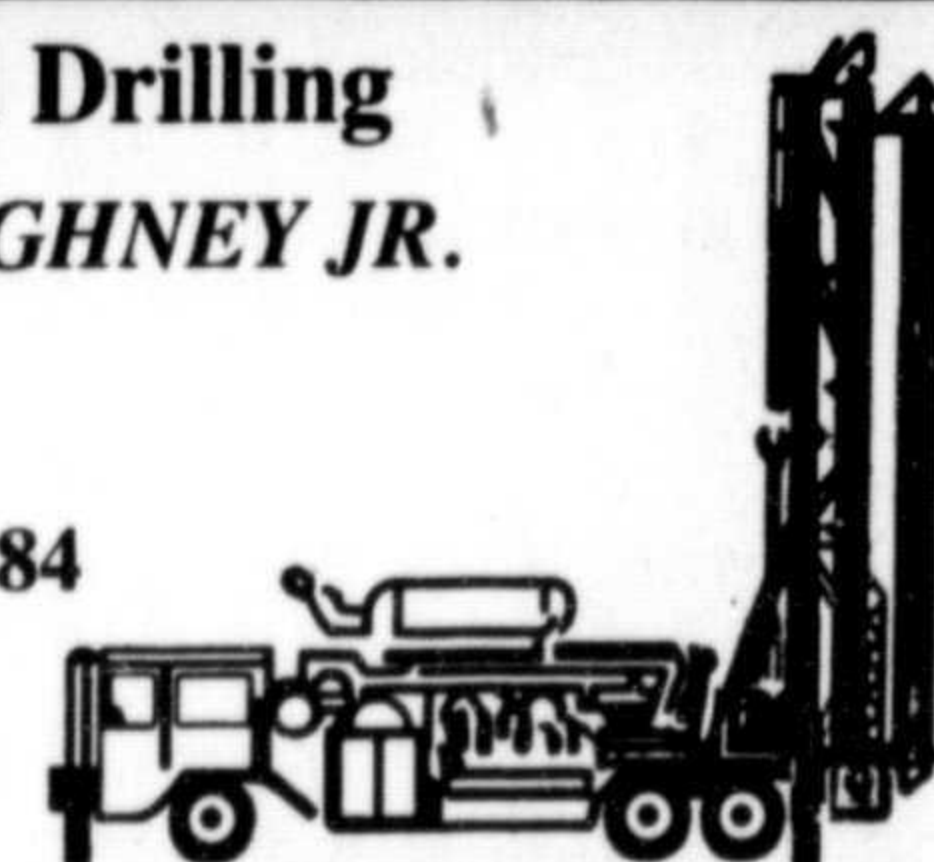
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NOTAIRE - NOTARY

JEAN-PIERRE PIGEON

C.P. 549
 37, rue Patterson
 Campbell's Bay
 Québec J0X 1K0
 (819) 648-2525, 5151
 Fax: (819) 648-5751

Manoir Mansfield
 289(3), rue Principale
 Route 148
 Fort-Coulonge
 Québec J0X 1V0
 (819) 683-3434
 Fax: (819) 683-3515

Calendar grid for December and January 2007/2008.

CLASSIFIEDS

819-647-2206 Fax prepress@theequity.ca E-mail ads news@theequity.ca E-mail news and letters www.theequity.ca Website

Submissions > DEADLINE MONDAY 5 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

Attn: Hockey and Ringette Players - Stan Keon's Christmas Break Power Skating/Conditioning Co-Ed Program, 5 sessions, \$70.00, Cobden Astrolabe Arena. For Further Information Visit: www.astrolabehockeyschool.com or call 613-646-2484. 4bd12

Fri., Dec. 14 & Sun., Dec. 16 - Fri., Supper 6 p.m. includes 6-handed euchre tournament after. Sunday supper 6 p.m. includes 4-handed euchre tournament after. Cost: Either party \$8. Come out for an evening, or two, of fun at the Odd Fellow's Hall, Alfred St., Call Louie Johnson 819-648-2875 or Gloria Green 819-647-3427. xd12

Dec. 15 - 9 p.m. Farmers & Friends Christmas Party, \$8 per person or 2/\$15, Shawville's Lions Club, Music by 'Streamers' and light lunch served. See you then! 4xd12

Sat., Dec. 15 - From 2 to 4 p.m. A Christmas Tea for Family & Friends of the Residents of Pontiac Respite (St. Joseph's Manor). Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship and music. bd12

Sat., Dec. 15 - The Shawville Figure Skating Club is holding a Christmas Bake Sale from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Shawville Arena. bd12

Sat., Dec. 15 - Come and have supper with our Federal Liberal Candidate, Cindy Duncan McMillan, 7 pm, St. Joseph's Municipal Hall, Allumettes Island, Tickets only \$10 and available at the door. xd12

Dec. 15 & 16 - Christmas comes early in Portage. Dec. 15, 16 Customer Appreciation Days at The River Club Rivière. "We love our patrons." 3bd12

Dec. 16, Dec. 20 - The Wesleyan Standard Church will be presenting "The Love of God At Christmas" A musical/drama presentation guaranteed to lift your Christmas Spirits. We will be presenting Dec. 16 9:30 am at the Wesleyan Standard on Main Street, then again at 11:00 am at the Shawville Wesleyan on James Street. Our final presentation will be at 7:00 pm Dec. 20th at the Wesleyan Standard Church on Main. A fellowship "Tea" will follow this presentation. More information call 819-647-2535.

Sun., Dec. 16 - At 12:30 noon Annual Quyon and District Lions Christmas Dinner for adults and seniors. This dinner is put on for people who may be alone or may be with someone but for whatever reason may not be able to prepare for themselves a good old fashioned Christmas dinner. We have been putting on this dinner for over 20 years and hope to see those who have come in the past, come again this year and bring a friend. This invitation is extended to people in the Bristol, North and South Onslow, Quyon and Beechgrove area. If you need transportation call Laurie at 819-458-2424 by 9:30 a.m. Dec. 16. bd12

Sun., Dec. 16 - 4 p.m. Special Carol Service in St. Andrew's United Church, Campbell's Bay featuring the Shawville United Church Choir. Lunch to follow. Everyone welcome. bd12

COMING EVENTS

Sun., Dec. 16 - Breakfast with Santa. Shawville Lions Hall. 8:15 a.m. - 11 a.m. Everyone welcome. 2xd12

Sun., Dec. 16 - Christmas Musical. This Very Night - presented by Whitewater Wesleyan Community Church, Cobden, ON. 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Corner of Foresters Falls & Cedar Haven roads. Everyone welcome. Info 613-646-2020. 2bd12

Dec. 18 - P.H.S. talent show. Fundraiser for Snow Suit Fund. \$8 advance and \$10 at door. Held in P.H.S. Gym at 7 p.m. Desserts provided at intermission. bd12

Fri., Dec. 28 - At 7:00 p.m. Shawville Figure Skating Club Presents 'Winterfest 2007.' Tickets can be purchased from any member of the Figure Skating Club and the cost is \$5.00. 2bd19

Christmas Eve Services in the Parish of Northern Pontiac: Dec. 24 at noon at St. George's Church, 66 Leslie St., Campbell's Bay; 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church, 24 Harisson Rd., Danford Lake; 9 p.m. at St. George's Church, 16 Yach Road, Thorne and 10:30 p.m. at St. James Church, 205 Martineau, Otter Lake. All are most welcome! For information please call 819-648-2949. 2bd19

Fri., Sat., Sun., Aug. 1, 2, 3, 2008 - Riverside Jam in Carleton Place, ON. Buy tickets and book your campsites now by calling Mick Armitage at 613-226-9178. www.riversidejam.com. Earlybird pricing now in effect. xd12

MISCELLANEOUS

Furniture at huge savings as well as TV and appliances. At Utronki Appliance & TV. Renfrew 613-432-5318. We sell the best for less. etc

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Classified Ads Work! If you have something to sell, want to buy or need to promote - classified ads are the way to go! Call Marnie at the Quebec Community Newspapers Association for more information. 514-453-6300. Visit: www.cqna.org. qd12

Eleanor's Cookbook, Volume 1 and 2 are available at The Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec. Stop in and pick up your copy. They make great Christmas gifts! xtc

Pies, pies, pies, Di's Pies Apple, apple raspberry, raisin, meat, turkey pot, cherry, butterscotch, lemon, strawberry, rhubarb, Christmas cookies, jams and jellies. Call Diane at 819-648-5296. xtdc19

Fish tank - 25 to 30 gallon with all accessories. Call 819-647-3092. xtc

Handcrafted solid oak furniture (3) bedroom sets, 1 wall unit 819-689-1011. bd12

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Couch, loveseat and chair tan in colour. Paid \$2,400 asking \$1,000 or best offer. Phone 819-458-2098. xd12

All steel buildings. US steel shipment just arrived. Save up to 30%! 25'x40', 30'x50', 32'x50', 40'x60', 50'x100'. Many others. Call now! Pioneer 1-800-504-7749. Since 1980, www.pioneer-buildings.com. qd12

Books - History of Shawville-Clarendon Fire Department "Interesting and informative - a nice gift." \$10. Available at the Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville, QC. 2xd19

Dry firewood for sale; 30 cords dry hardwood \$45 per cord; 40 cords dry softwood \$30 cord, pick up. 819-647-2166. 2bd12

Pentium III desktop computer needs to be cleaned. Vantage electric guitar with hard shell case and amp. Call 613-680-1477 after 4 p.m. xtc.

Amazing new product \$Energiserv vending \$ Toonies only = highest profits! Huge income potential! Protected territories! For free brochure & samples call 1-800-661-1832. www.energiservvending.com. qd12

Local Rainbow Trout available at Giant Tiger, Café 349, Northfork Country Kitchen www.cedarcreekfarm.ca. xd12

Pool table. Solid maple, 1' slate, with accessories. Never used. Cost \$4,800. Sell \$2,300. Delivery Possible inc.: 514-745-6536. qd12

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Campbell's Bay - 2 bedroom or 3 bedroom apartments 819-648-2362. etc

Bryson - 3 bedroom house on the Ottawa River, new stove, new fridge, no pets. 819-648-2222. etc

Furnished cottage on the Ottawa River, electric heat, satellite T.V. modern kitchen, easy access, close to snowmobile trails, ice fishing, etc. \$250.00/wk. 819-647-3432 (references). 4bd19

900 Sq. ft. available Oct. 1st at Shawville Plaza. Rented now by Petro Pontiac, oil heat. Contact Robert McCord or Jim Hodgins. etc.

Shawville - 2 bedroom apartment for rent 647-3256. etc

Shawville - 1 bedroom apartment, appliances included, available Dec. 1. 819-647-3898 or 819-647-6522. etc.

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Bush lots or wood standing. We buy spruce that has been damaged by the spruce bud worm (cord or ton). Cut by fellow buncher and delimeter so limbs and tops come out of bush. Call 1-819-467-3749 - if no answer please leave a message. etc

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WANTED

Local bands (Country and Country Rock) needed to play Saturday Matinees 3 to 7 p.m. and occasional nights 9 to 2 p.m. For River Club Chapeau, QC. Please call Annette 613-432-0468. 2bd19

SERVICES

Laneway cleaned with snowblower on tracks 819-647-1948. 2xd12

Furnace repairs, sales and service, combination furnaces, wood, oil, electric or hot water. Joe Konrad 819-647-2391. etc

Snow plowing, Campbell's Bay and Lawless Lake area. Contact 819-648-2676. 2xd12

Spa Tique now has 10% off all in-stock products until Christmas. 'New' as seen on Oprah. Eyebrow Powder with 3 Stencils, Neti Pot (nasal cleanse) and Himalayan Salt Products. Gift Certificates are also available. 819-647-5099. 3bd19

Clear criminal records with the National Pardon Centre. Your peace of mind guaranteed. Remove barriers to employment, travel, more. Free consultations. 1-866-242-2411. Apply online: www.national-pardon.org. qd12

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Early Childhood Education student will provide care for your child in your home or mine. Available Dec. 15th to Jan. 6th. Call Amanda and leave message 819-647-5586. 2xd19

Roof shovelling call Pierre 819-647-5128. 3xj2

HELP WANTED

Heavy equipment Mechanic. Knowledge of using torches and welder. Must have experience. (819) 455-2229 phone, (819) 455-9778 fax. 3bd19

Heavy duty mechanic required for winter months (possible year round work). Certified preferred, will consider experienced as well. Competitive wages. Please email resume to: ddeynaka@bucchananlumber.ca or fax to 780-523-5910. qd12

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Apogen Technologies, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Qinetiq North America, provides solutions to government entities to address complex, mission critical challenges of national significance. We are currently looking for Network Administrators in the Montreal, Canada area. Candidates must have a strong background in Novell Netware along with various Microsoft products. Minimum 5 years experience is required. Bachelor's degree is a plus. U.S. citizenship is required. Successful candidates must submit to and obtain a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Background Investigation prior to employment. For additional information and to apply directly to this position, please visit our website at www.apogen.com. Additional positions are also available in Atlanta, GA; Calexico, CA; El Paso, TX; and Key West, FL. Equal opportunity employer. M/F/D/V. qd12

PUBLIC NOTICE

Municipalité de Bristol Aux contribuables de la susdite municipalité Lundi, le 17 décembre, 2007 à 20:00 heures il y aura une session spéciale du conseil municipal à l'hôtel de Ville pour "L'Adoption du budget pour l'année 2008". Tous contribuables sont invités à cette réunion spéciale. Keith Emmerson, Sec. trés. 0-2-D12

Municipality of Bristol To the Ratepayers of the aforesaid municipality Monday, December 17, 2007 at 8:00 p.m., a special council meeting will be held at the Townhall for the "Adoption of the 2008 Budget". All interested ratepayers are invited to attend this special meeting. Keith Emmerson, Secretary Treasurer 0-2-D12

Municipalité de Thome Avis Public Il y aura une session spéciale du conseil municipale pour présenter et adopter le budget pour 2008. Cette session aura lieu au T.C.R.A., 775, Route 366, Ladysmith, QC, mardi le 18 décembre 2007 à 19:00 heures. Donnée Ladysmith ce 3 décembre 2007 Karen Kelly Directrice générale 0-1-D12

Municipality of Thome Public Notice There will be a special sitting of the municipal council to present and adopt the budget for 2008. This sitting to be held at the T.C.R.A., 775 Route 366, Ladysmith, QC, Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at 7:00 pm. Given at Ladysmith This December 3, 2007 Karen Kelly Director General 0-1-D12

Municipality of Shawville Public Notice To the persons interested in a draft By-Law to modify the Zoning By-law number 349. PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given as follows: During a meeting held on November 23, 2007, the council adopted a draft by-law of modification number 370 and titled "MODIFICATION OF THE ZONING BY-LAW No. 349 to allow for temporary shelters and plastic garages in all zones from October 15th to May 1st." A public consultation meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2007, at the Shawville Town Hall, 350, Main Street. The purpose of the meeting is to explain the proposed amendment of the Zoning By-Law No. 349 to allow for temporary shelters and plastic garages in all zones from October 15th to May 1st. Mr. James Hodgins, president of the Planning Advisory Committee will explain the draft of the By-Law and will hear the persons and the organizations that wish to be heard. The draft by-law may be consulted at the Town Hall during office hours from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. The draft includes a provision susceptible to approval by referendum. Given at Shawville this 5th day of December 2007. Denise Dowe, Secretary-Treasurer. 0-1-D12

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Miniature Christmas village set up

AMANDA DUPUIS
Equity Reporter

QUYON • Two hundred and fifty miniature houses and a countless number of miniature farm animals, snowmen and villagers are set up and ready for visitors.

Dr. Pascal Croteau, who works at the Pontiac Community Hospital in Shawville, has set up the Christmas village for the fourth year in a row.

The miniature village is located at the Tim Horton Children's Foundation Camp des Voyageurs in Quyon.

Dr. Croteau has been collecting the tiny, detailed figurines since he was a child, when his family used to set a village up at his house.

"It's a family thing, my mother, my uncle, my grandmother and even my great grandmother were doing it," said Dr. Croteau.

He received his first figurine from his great-grandmother about 40 years ago but said he has only been seriously collecting them for the last 15 years.

Dr. Croteau has added pieces to his collection that have come from as far away as Costa Rica and Las Vegas but most of them are from Ottawa and areas in Quebec.

"He owns over 300 (figurines)," said Adèle Diorio, the senior food services manager of Camp des Voyageurs.

"Anytime he goes on a trip, he collects them. People know he collects them," so they'll buy him some, she said.

Dr. Croteau said he hopes to eventually visit cities in Europe and expand the collection.

"It would be nice to have more multi-cultural things from different countries," said Dr. Croteau, for example an Arabic theme, which he plans on purchasing next year.

Dr. Croteau approached

Camp des Voyageurs four years ago and asked if they'd be interested in providing the space to set up the miniature village.

"I don't have much place (at home) but I was still getting more houses," said Dr. Croteau.

"I asked the camp if they were willing to do the Christmas village. The first year, it was 15 feet by 15 feet and this year it's the biggest we've ever done," he said. "It's close to 300 square feet."

Another reason Dr. Croteau wanted to display the Christmas village at the camp was because he knew there were plenty of school groups that visited and he thought they would like it.

"He had all this in his house. He wanted to keep it somewhere the kids could enjoy it," said Diorio.

The village was available for public viewing from Dec. 10 until today at 6 p.m.

"(People) just love it and they want to come back again and again," said Manon Lafontaine of Camp des Voyageurs.

"They always ask if it will be up again next year."

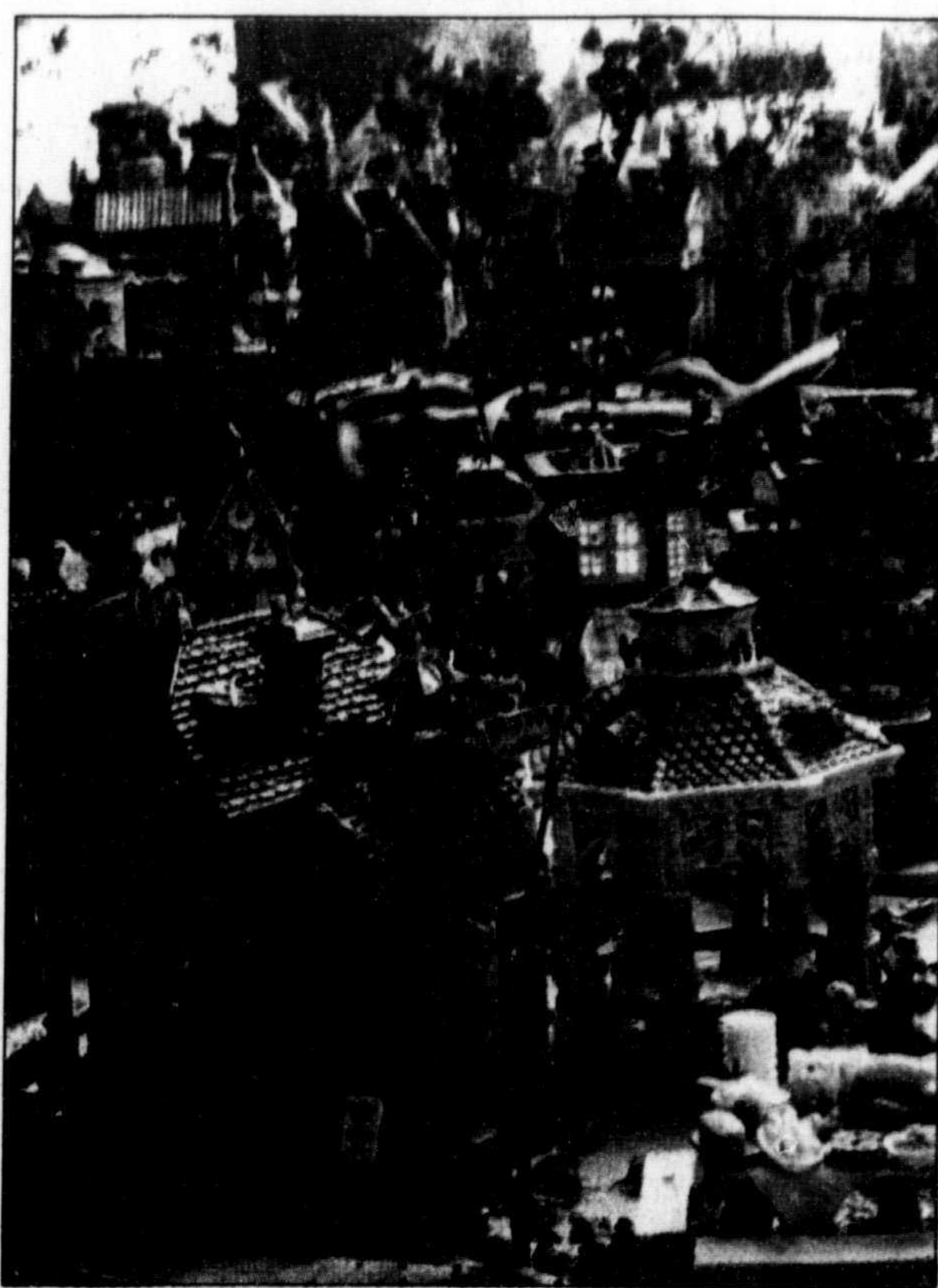
It takes Dr. Croteau about one week to set up the miniature village, working as long as it takes to get it done.

He started during the last week in November and said he and his helpers worked until 3 a.m. a few of those days to get it completed.

"There are a few things left to fix," said Dr. Croteau. "I would say it's about 97 per cent done."

This year's village is set up in order of seasons, with spring figurines first, followed by summer, fall and winter.

"(The village) was quite smaller before, but when he noticed that he had this room, he just keeps



Amanda Dupuis, THE EQUITY
The Tim Horton Children's Foundation Camp des Voyageurs in Quyon had its annual miniature Christmas village open house Dec. 10 to 12.

adding more," said Lafontaine.

Next year, according to Diorio, Dr. Croteau plans on adding a waterfall — a real one — as well as an airport.

And, of the hundreds of figurines Dr. Croteau owns, there is one missing; one he has been searching for 20-something years.

"We could never find a hospital," said Dr. Croteau.

"I had a few people looking on the Internet (for one). There is a doctor's office and a pharmacy, but not a hospital."

So if you ever come across a hospital, let him know.

About the Tim Horton Children's Foundation
The Tim Horton Children's

Foundation was originally established in 1974 by Ron Joyce, co-founder of the Tim Horton's chain. He wanted to honour his friend, hockey player Tim Horton, who always had a love for children and a desire to help those less fortunate.

The Tim Horton Children's Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to providing an enriched and memorable camp experience for economically disadvantaged children and youth. Camp des Voyageurs, the fourth children's camp, was built in Quyon in 1994. Each year, almost 100 camps enjoy the beach, water-skiing, tubing, canoeing and high and low rope courses.

Vinton

Diane Boisvert
648-5296

This summer Rat, Min, family and friends worked nearly every weekend to build their camp. During construction the girls complained that they needed an outhouse.

Rat said okay then I'll take the one from him. Min protested. She told him not to take it but to build a new one. Rat wouldn't listen. He grabbed it anyway and took it to the camp. Sometimes you men should listen to your wives. Last week after the big snow fall some friends were visiting the Belangers with their children. The little ones were bored so Rat went to the back of Min's woodwork shop to get a sleigh. He plum forgot about removing the outhouse and you guessed it. He fell into the hole. He went right down and couldn't get out on his own. So the kids had to pull him out. Moral of the story is that no matter what Rat does, or

how hard he tries, he's always up to his neck in doo doo!

Stefan Scrack has his art work on display at Gigi's Restaurant on Hwy. 148 in Campbell's Bay for the month of December. On Saturday, Dec. 15 he will be at Gigi's demonstrating his unusual style of painting. Feel free to drop in and you can also try one of Julie's special meals.

Get well wishes to Charlotte Sloan who has been a patient in Pontiac Hospital.

The Vibert Pavilion held their Christmas Party on Dec. 9. Santa was there and gave all the residents a beautiful gift. The party room had been cheerfully decorated by Maureen Gagnon and Isabell Kluge. A lovely turkey supper was enjoyed by everyone. Special guests were Lois and Bob Smith, Lisa Dagenais and Jim Belanger, Mayor Jean Louis and Dauphney Auger, Billy and Bev Stewart, Raymond and Marie Claire Pilot and Suzanne and Philippe Pilot.

Quyon

Jill McBane
458-2366

Happy 45th anniversary to

Ken and Muriel Foster with love from Robert and Susan, Virginia, Ashley, Sara, Mary, Linda and Gilbert Mankala and Sandra and Joey.

The Quyon United Christmas Tour took place Monday evening. Many thanks to Linda and Rolly Bernier, Anne Ireland, Sarah and Kirk Richardson and Lee and Mary Hamilton for being hosts.

Each home was special and unique. The winner of the basket at the Bernier home was Katherine

Fletcher; the pine arrangement at Tim Horton's was Ken Hutchinson's the wall hanging at Ireland's was Sandra Nugent and the ceramic gift at the Richardson home was won by Sarah Hobbs.

It was another fantastic year. The weather was great and thanks to all those who participated.

All proceeds go towards the Quyon Pastoral Charge.

The Lusville Community Choir would like to invite all to attend their fund-raising concert on Sunday, Dec. 16 at St. Dominique Church in Lusville.

Proceeds will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Waltham

Helen Perry
689-2652
jacobg42@hotmail.com

On Thursday evening we took in a spaghetti supper at Ecole Notre Dame Du Sacre Coeur. The proceeds are going to help with the extra curricular activities for the

children. On Friday evening, a surprise retirement supper was held in honor of Ella Bayne. It took place at Finnigan's Restaurant in Pembroke. Several co-workers and family and friends joined in to express their love and best wishes to Ella. At the end of the super, everyone enjoyed a beautiful cake. Ella was an employee at Superior Electric in

Pembroke for many years. Congratulations Ella and may you enjoy many years of health and happiness.

On Saturday evening, Dec. 8 the annual R.A. Christmas dinner was held at the Waltham Town Hall. The hall was tastefully decorated for the season and everyone was in the festive mood. Linda Venne president of the R. A. welcomed everyone. We

enjoyed a scrumptious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The desserts were delicious. Plaques were presented, by mayor Wayne Venne, to residents, who celebrated a milestone birthday this past year. The recipients were; Edith Pilon 80 years, Pierre Pilon 80 years, Lola Boisvert 80 years, Don Reid 75 years, and Jean Pelletier 75 years. Congratulations

and I have been down with it. Several lovely door prizes were drawn. Mayor Wayne Venne, Gary McKnight, Art Chaput and Steve Bertrand supplied the entertainment for the evening.

The evening will be a Christmas memory, of this year, that we will all hold dear to our hearts.

The flu bug is going around Waltham as Larry

and I have been down with it.

A very happy birthday is wished to Stephanie Pilon-Ryan, who is celebrating her birthday on Dec. 16. Enjoy your day Steph!

A special birthday wish and lots of hugs and kisses is wished to our sweet baby Mikaela, who is celebrating her first birthday on Dec. 19. We hope that you have fun.

CLASSIFIED

MEMORIAM

Stanley - In loving memory of a dear grandfather and great-grandfather, Fred, who left us December 3, 1970.

We knew little that morning that God was going to call your name.

In life we loved you dearly. In death we do you the same. It broke our hearts to lose you. You did not go alone.

For part of us went with you. The day God called you home. You left us peaceful memories. Your love is still our guide. And though we cannot see you,

You are always at our side. Our family chain is broken. And nothing seems the same. But as God calls us one by one. The chain will link again.

Sadly missed and forever loved.

Betty Lou, Robert, Lance and Stephan

NOTICES

Promotional items are available for your business such as caps, pens, cups, etc., etc. It's a great way to advertise your business. For more information call Katherine at the Pontiac Printshop, 133, Centre St., Shawville, Quebec, J0X 1G0, 819-647-2204. xtc

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Shawville

Lyse Lacourse
647-5932
lysie_wheezy@hotmail.com

The last couple of weeks have had record snowfalls and makes this time of year special as we will indeed have a true white Christmas.

It makes me think of animals' hibernation, a time when animals "sleep" through cold weather. This sleep is not like human sleep where loud noises can wake you up. With true hibernation, the animal can be moved around or touched and not know it. I find myself humming Christmas carols to myself, enjoying the beautiful white carpet and looking forward to the holidays. I have to admit my shoulder is a little sore from shoveling but even this chore has been a pleasure and a time to drink in nature's beauty.

This week promises a lot of Christmas geared activities such as the 12th Annual Christmas House Tour from St. Paul's Anglican Church. The homes being visited are Debbie and Bentley Hobbs, Janet Alexander, Sandra and Barrie Murray, Janet and Brian Rogers, Debbie and Peter Smith will be held on Dec. 12.

Meet the Junior Bs Players on Dec. 14. Shawville Figure Skating

Bake Sale is being held on Saturday, Dec. 15. Farmers' Christmas Party being held on Saturday. Breakfast with Santa is everyone's childhood dream being held on Dec. 16.

Winterfest 2007 presented by the Shawville Figure Skating Club which will be held on Friday, Dec. 28 at the Shawville Arena.

Dec 31 New Year's Dance at 9:00 Buffet catered by Café 349. Birthdays this week are Faye Howard,

Stuart Fulford, Richard Young, Michael Kavanagh, Shawn Rutledge, Garth Tracy, Daniel Plouffe, Travis Kluge, Ken Wilson, Jennifer Draper, Emma Tubman, Fred Shaver, Colleen Belanger, Noella Dubeau Eady, Brenda Young, Rodney Cartman, Charlie Orr, Sharon Wall, Gayle Pirie, Brenda McGuire, Vivian Bohart, Suzanne Gregory, Jennifer Steward, Elsie Sparrow, Shirley Thomas, Leona Lalonde, Geri Murray

and Nora Shock. Wedding anniversary congratulations to the following couples: John and Muriel McMunn, Allan and Donna Maheral, Scott and Sandra MacKenzie, Brent and Claire Barr, Bud and Marion Lafrance, Don and Marleen Corrigan, Dorval and Elda Wickens and John and Linda Kilgour. Please do not forget to support the Shawville Angel Tree charity for the disadvantaged in Pontiac.

Caldwell

Hermonie Sharpe
647-3459

After this week the euchre club run by the seniors will be closed until after New Year's. The Stark's Corners euchre club will be closed from Dec. 7 to April 7, 2008. The euchre which is held at the Odd Fellow's Hall every Sunday night are giving us extra games before Christmas.

On Dec. 14 a six-hand euchre tournament and sea food supper is being held. The cost of supper and euchre is \$8.

On Sunday night a Christmas supper is being held with turkey and all the trimmings. After supper there will be four hand euchre.

This past Wednesday night the Lionettes along with some of the Lions Club members served the seniors a most delicious dinner. The Christmas carols were played and sung by members of the Grace Church. As usual the meal was the very best.

We all wonder how these wonderful people can serve such a large crowd. Santa Claus also was a big attraction bringing each and everyone a gift. Thanks to the club you deserve to have a wonderful Christmas.

This past Friday night was the end of the euchre at Stark's Corners until April. Well Claire Wilson and her helpers couldn't let us go without everyone of us having not only a delicious Christmas lunch but also a gift for each of us. We all wish you a merry Christmas.

We have come to a very busy time of year. Wherever you are and whatever you are busy at remember the true meaning of Christmas and Merry Christmas to one and all.

I was pleased this past week to have a phone call from my cousin Ruth Brown McLaughlin. She and her husband, Jack, are now residents of the Ottawa area after living many years in South Porcupine. Welcome back Jack and Ruth. Your relatives in the Pontiac are looking forward to visits from you in the future.

THE EQUITY'S
PONTIAC GUIDE TOURISTIQUE
TRAVEL GUIDE 07 FREE

2008 PONTIAC TRAVEL GUIDE
Book at 2007 Prices!!
Booking and ad copy must be received before
December 31, 2007.

THE EQUITY'S
PONTIAC GUIDE TOURISTIQUE
TRAVEL GUIDE 07 FREE

Call Katherine or Steve at 819-647-2204
Fax: 819-647-2206 E-mail: prepress@theequity.ca
Pontiac Printshop Ltd.
133 Centre Street, Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0

Centre de réadaptation en dépendance

JOB OPPORTUNITY
READAPTATION WORKER -
YOUTH PROGRAM
(AGENT OU AGENTE DE RELATIONS HUMAINES)
PONTIAC TERRITORY

FULL-TIME POSITION UNTIL JULY 2008
(POSSIBILITY OF RENEWAL OF CONTRACT)

University degree in Social Work, Psychoeducation or Master in Psychology is required. Equivalent studies in other programs could be considered. Bilingual.

Applications should be received at the latest on
December 28, 2008 at 4 PM :

Centre Jellinek - Concours « ARH-Pontiac »
25, rue Saint-François, Gatineau (Québec) J9A 1B1

E-mail : emploi_jellinek@ssss.gouv.qc.ca
www.jellinek.org
Fax : 819 776-0255

Only the applicants invited for an interview will be contacted.

AVIS PUBLIC
Municipalité de Québec
Municipalité de Clarendon

Aux habitants de la Municipalité de Clarendon
Avis public est par les présentes donné par Ruth Potter secrétaire-trésorière, qu'il y a aura une session spéciale du conseil municipal au cours de laquelle le budget pour l'année 2008 sera adopté. Cette session sera tenue lundi le 17 décembre 2007 à 19h00 au Bureau Municipal. Les délibérations du conseil porteront exclusivement sur le budget.
Une session spéciale du conseil municipale sera tenue le 17 décembre à 19h30.
Donné ce 5ième jour du mois de décembre 2007.
Ruth Potter
Secrétaire-trésorière

PUBLIC NOTICE
Province of Québec
Municipality of Clarendon

To the inhabitants of the Municipality of Clarendon
Public notice is hereby given by Ruth Potter, secretary-treasurer:
There will be a special council meeting to adopt the 2008 Budget on Monday, December 17, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Clarendon Municipal Hall. This meeting will deal exclusively with the budget.
A special meeting of council will be held December 17 at 7:30 PM.
Given this 5th day of the month of December 2007.
Ruth Potter
Secretary-Treasurer

THE EQUITY
Bridal
Supplement
Coming
February 13, 2008

All advertising must be
in our office by
Friday, January 11th.
Full colour announcements: \$80.00
Black & white announcements: \$40.00
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Friday, January 11th.
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Fax: 819-647-2206
133 Centre Street, Shawville,
Quebec J0X 2Y0
E-mail: prepress@theequity.ca

Ladysmith

Debbie Thrun 647-3927
 Congratulations to Evelyn Campbell and William H. McLaughlin on their recent engagement.
 Visiting on Saturday were Kip, Donna and Shawn Smith of Eganville.
 Birthday congratulations to our neighbour, Laynard Pasch, who celebrated Dec. 9.
 The Zion Lutheran Church annual Christmas supper was held on Dec. 1. A good crowd attended and enjoyed the great food and fellowship.
 Visiting us on Sunday were Alex Rutledge and

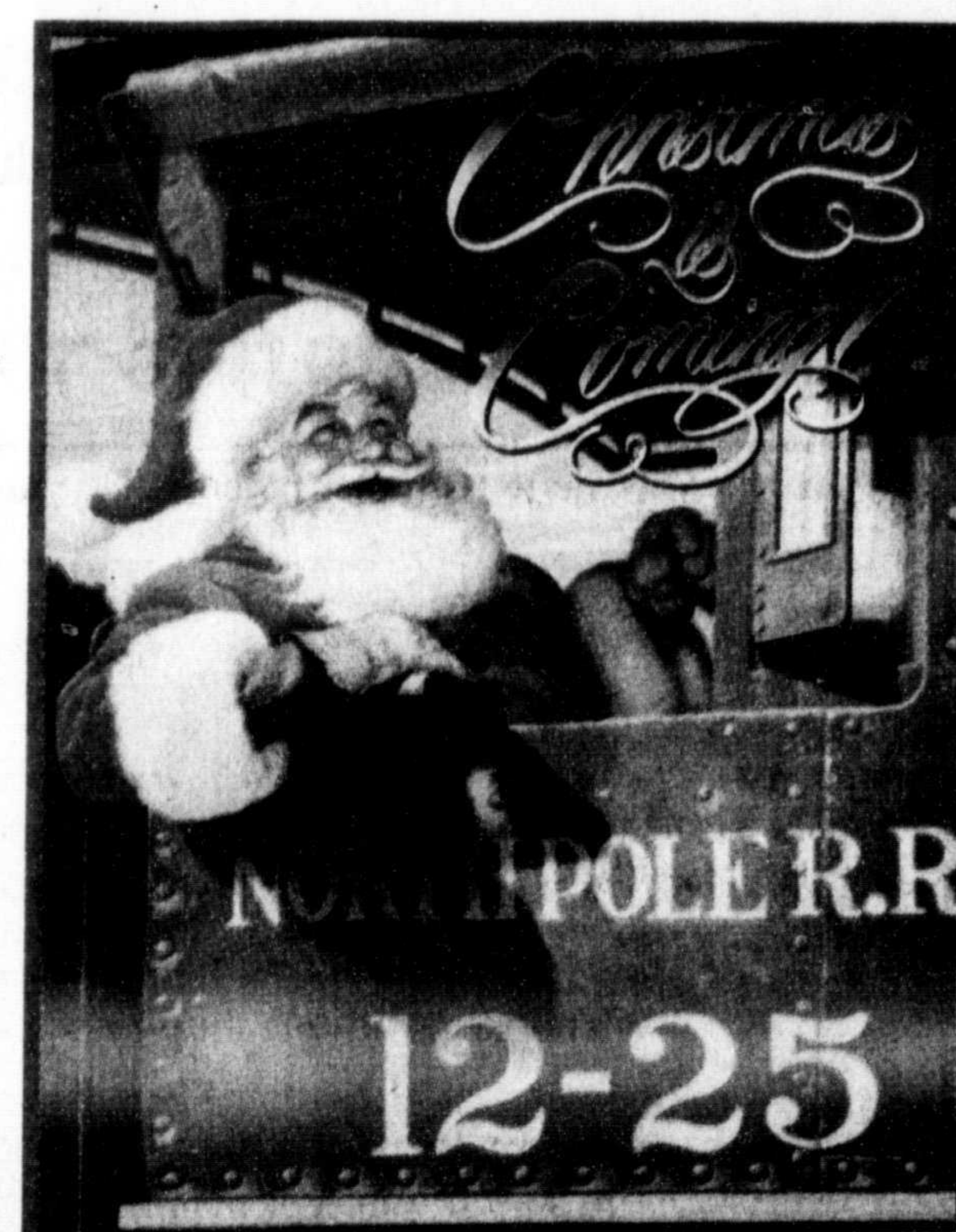
friend Yvette.
 Holiday greetings go out to the Bluff Mountain Hunt Camp gang and the Hunters Paradise Gang from "the great white hunter".
 Essie Schwartz was telling me about all the birds she has at her feeders. She says she has the usual chickadees, blue jays and four grey jays. She also has several dark eyed juncos, two red breasted nuthatches, a male and a female woodpecker and also some purple finches. Best of all she has up to 19 evening grosbeaks and 16 northern cardinals. She says it is a sight to see.
 In my travels the other day I met Ernie Schwartz. During our conversation I asked if Essie had completed her Christmas decorations.

He replied "I sure hope so she has been at it for a while." He said she has a little over 10,000 lights outside and inside. She even has lights in all the windows. He said she really enjoys decorating for all the holidays. He said the metre is going around so quickly he might have to put a magnet on it to slow it down. Essie said "Don't worry I'm paying the hydro bill." She said she "loves to have people stop and look at the decorations. Feel free to stop and say hi." Congratulations Essie you have made a beautiful job of your decorating.
 Special birthday greeting to Stephanie Milford our Danford correspondent who celebrates on Dec. 15. Have a great day.

The annual TCRA Christmas dinner was well attended and the wonderful home cooked meal was enjoyed by all present.
 Well, winter is here for sure now. Last week we received our first big snowstorm. When we woke one morning we were all snowed in.
 It looks like we are going to have an old-fashioned winter. We have more snow now than we had all last winter. But, everything looks so festive now and it should put everyone in the Christmas spirit.
 All the snow will be great for everyone who loves winter sports.
 Get well wishes to Elizabeth Fieroben who has been on the sick list. Our

thoughts are with you.
 Belated birthday wishes to "That man from Sparling Mountain," Carmen Sparling who celebrated Nov. 29. Sorry I'm late.
 On Wednesday, Dec. 5, Margaret Fieroben attended a Christmas supper put on by the Lionettes for senior singles at the Anglican Church Hall.
 It was a wonderful meal and great entertainment followed. It was much enjoyed by all present.
 On Saturday Dennis and I enjoyed a lovely visit with Della Smith and John Stewart.
 Spending a few days with Margaret Fieroben this past week was her nephew, Rick Stewart of Ottawa.
 Now is the time to start

feeding the birds for the winter once again. Don't forget to keep those feeders filled up.
 The last few times I've been to Shawville I couldn't help but admire how lovely the town looks for the Christmas season with all the beautiful decorations and lights.
 All the store windows look so pretty. Congratulations to everyone who worked on this.
 The Ladysmith Sportsman's Club annual awards night was held at Hotel Ladysmith on Saturday, Dec. 1.
 This was well attended and much enjoyed by all present. Awards were presented for many categories of fish and game.



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Campbell's Bay

Iris Smith 648-5821
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 Despite the stormy evening on Monday, Bryson Golden Age Club held its Christmas Dinner at the Lions Hall in Bryson with the Bryson Lionettes catering to a delicious meal. Many prizes were awarded and euchre followed. Sorry to say I had the names of winners but I misplaced it. The Christmas rush is getting to me I guess. I may come across it this week.
 Sunday evening last week the C.W.L. held its Christmas dinner at the Parish Centre at St John the Evangelist Church. This is a yearly tradition and the ladies enjoy the outing and fellowship in the holiday season.
 Get well wishes to Marilyn Smith a patient in hospital at Shawville may she soon feel well. Her husband, Athol, had eye surgery this week as well so I wish him all the best as he recovers.
 Dana (Morin) Duquette is out of hospital and we wish her all the best as she is on the road to recovery.
 The Golden Age Club had its euchre on Tuesday

evening at the club room. Ladies high was a tie between Gwen Black and Isabelle Lacroix. They split the prize. Ladies second was won by Maxine Fenton. Men's high was won by Jean Guy Mainville, second was a tie between Richard Gratton and Gordon Porter. They split the prize. The door prize was won by Gwen Black. The 50-50 by Gordon Porter, Gwen Black.
 The club made the sandwiches and the cookies and fruit cake were by Aline Belland and Isabelle Lacroix. The free game of the month was won by Maxine Fenton. This is the end of the euchre for 2007. The next euchre will be Jan. 8, 2008.
 Get well wishes to Christine Cole. She is now at hospital in Shawville and we wish her all the best.
 Two euchres are coming up at the Odd Fellows Hall in Shawville. The first one is on Dec. 14 at 5 p.m. Supper included in the price of the admission. This is a six hand euchre. The second one is a four hand euchre and supper is included in the price of admission as well. Everyone is welcome.
 Birthday wishes to Ruth Hearty, Stephane Forgues, Briana Holland, Nancy Petterson, Andrea Smith, Jennifer McGuire, Julie St. Pierre, Randy Sloan, Mattieu

Dubeau, Marie Josee Corriveau, Marie Hearty, Kathryn Fenton-Graham, Kay Ranger, Patricia Kensley, Don Ebert, Cheryl Fenton Dubeau, Mary Ann Belanger, Daniel Prevost, Daniel Sloan, Terry Racine, Jessica Crawford, Isabelle Lacroix, Virginia Belland, Lisa Dagenais, Carol Kavanagh, Emile Morin, Bonnie Beuregard, Michel Kluge and Shauna Laporte. who celebrate birthdays this close to Christmas. We hope you have a great day and that Santa remembers to come as well.
 Anniversary wishes go out Leonard and Joan Kluge and Barbara and Roy Pilon.
 Claudette Stanton was totally surprised Saturday night with a party at the Forest Inn arranged by her family and friends in honour of her 65th birthday.

Père Noël



Wibur McLean, THE EQUITY
Jamie Sulle sits on Père Noël's lap at the parish hall in Fort Coulonge Friday night. Each year Le Patro and the Knights of Columbus of Fort Coulonge set up a meeting with Père Noël and the children. This year about 200 children showed up. A spaghetti supper with cake for dessert was also served.

Sheenboro

Myrtle Sullivan 689-2236
 Congratulations to Amanda Gagnon who won first place in the public speaking competition at Dr. Wilbert Keon School. She then went on to the competition in Val d'Or, Quebec where she took first place again. Well done Amanda. Amanda's great-grandmother is Clarella Keon, who was a cousin of mine. It's nice to see her great-grandchild doing so well.
 Get well wishes to Leo Downey who is ill. I hope he is feeling better soon and is able to enjoy Christmas. I remember when Leo used to call the square dance competitions for all the teams who competed from Sheen. He did such a fine job and many times we practiced out at Mildred Perrault's. I was looking at some pictures a few days ago taken out at Mildred's.
 I was sorry to hear Frank Lisk passed away. My deepest sympathy to his family I enjoyed many a meal at Frank's when he used to run Amie's restaurant.
 My daughters attended "Christmas with Elvis" at

Festival Hall Saturday night and they enjoyed it very much. They recalled when I turned off the TV on them when Elvis came on the Ed Sullivan Show years ago.
 Last week "The Sounds of Christmas" was presented at the Chapeau Church. Local artists and musicians sang and played. It was followed by a supper at Harrington Hall. Everyone had a great time.
 Get well wishes to George Payne. I hope he is soon feeling well. George went to school with my daughter Myra and son Jerry.
 Welcome back to Patty Hansen who was in Guatemala building homes in Saint Mary of Jesus Village. Eighteen people from the area went. She said it was a wonderful experience. Patty said she also helped build furniture for a school.
 This Saturday I attended a birthday party for my good friend, Teresa Jennings. She turned 95. It was held at Miramichi Lodge and there were many of her relatives and friends there. We had a pleasant afternoon with a lovely meal. It was so nice visiting with Mary King whom I hadn't seen in a year. I hope everyone has a great week.

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Otter Lake

Elizabeth Hahn 453-7326
 On Dec. 1 week-end Julia Proulx of Pembroke visited with her great-grandma, Elizabeth Hahn, for a few days.
 On Saturday, Dec. 8 I drove down to Kanata to spend the weekend with my daughter and her family, Pam and Randy Thoms, Kathryn and Graham. I also had a nice visit with my daughter and her family Patricia and Carson Russell and Michael.
 In the afternoon we toured and enjoyed the lovely crafts at the Carp Christmas Craft Fair.
 In the evening we attended the Christmas Carol Service at Glen Cairn United Church. We enjoyed the lovely singing of the Cantiamo Girls Choir of Ottawa where my granddaughter, Kathryn Thoms,

sings with the choir of 35 girls.
 The reading was by Regional Contact hosts Kathie Donavan and Joel Haslam.
 A large crowd attended. A lovely lunch was served to all the guests after the service.
 On Sunday we attended a hockey game at Walter Baker Arena where my grandson, Graham Thoms plays for West Carleton Warriors. They played a very good game.
 Results of the Golden Age Club euchre for Dec 4: Ladies first prize Rita Beaudoin, second Debbie Lackey. Men's first: Denis Lafleur, second, Linden Anderson. 50/50 draw: Ray Dubeau. Door prize: Rita Beaudoin.
 Dessert was prepared by Denise Dubois and Rita Blaskie.
 Happy birthday wishes to Pierrette Graveline and Paul Blaskie on Dec 4 and Red Peck on Dec 5.

