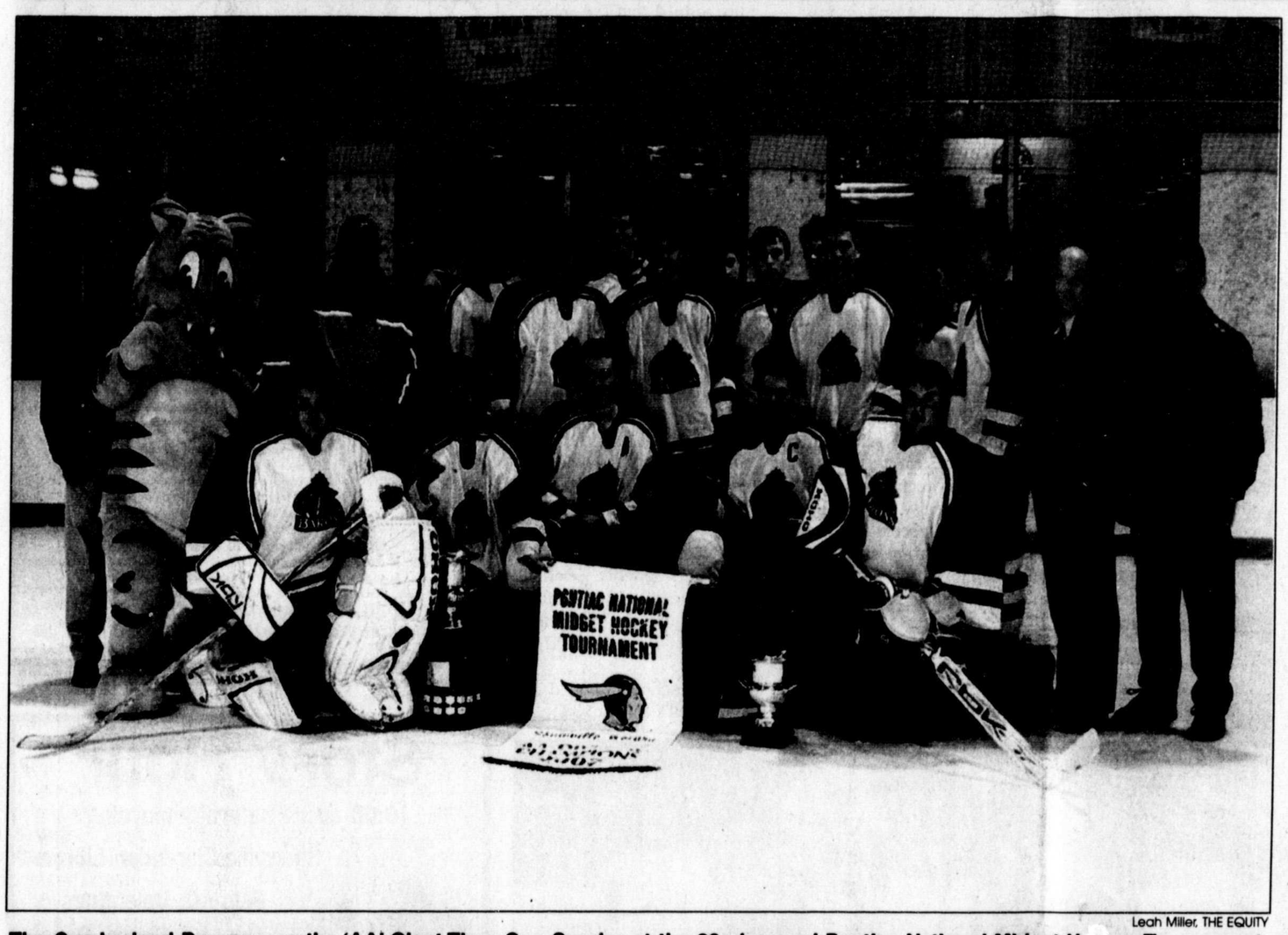
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THE EQUITY

It's our yearly Brides issue, see inside

124th Year, Issue No. 6 | Wednesday, February 7, 2007 | 88 cents



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

The Cumberland Barons won the 'AA' Giant Tiger Cup Sunday at the 32nd annual Pontiac National Midget Hockey Tournament. They beat the Sudbury Sharks 2-0, netting their second goal in the last few minutes of the game. The event went off successfully, seeing 18 teams from Canada and the United States vie for trophies in three separate divisions. To view more photos of this event go to www.theequity.ca.

JPII to become community learning centre

High school's closure could reap benefits for Campbell's Bay after all

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

CAMPBELL'S BAY • The currently unused John Paul II High School in Campbell's Bay has been chosen to be converted into a community centre, one of 15 in the province.

JPII will have some of its space converted into a video conferencing room to be made available to the public for any number of purposes. Classrooms and the gym will also be available to the community for a wide range of possible purposes.

The province is giving $150,000 over three years for Campbell's Bay's community learning centre, money that will be used for the video conferencing room and the startup of the centre.

"The lack of imagination is the only thing that can stop this community learning centre," said Paule Langevin, the project manager for Québec community learning centres.

The formal announcement was made in the cafeteria of St. John's Elementary School in Campbell's Bay on Tuesday, Jan. 30 and also served as an information session for the school's teachers and local community leaders. St. John's and the community learning centre are in the same building.

The Western Québec School Board voted to close JPII last June, sending its approximately 100 students to Pontiac High School in Shawville instead.

The idea behind the community learning centre is that it's available to anybody in the area and that money wouldn't necessarily be charged for its usage. Rather, an exchange of services could be done instead and would in most cases be preferred.

As an example, a local artist could use the community centre's facilities to exhibit his or her works and rather than pay for the room, the artist could instead provide art lessons to the community for free.

Another example given at the information meeting discussed a local company using the video conferencing equipment for free in exchange for taking on a local student as a trainee in the company.

President of the Pontiac Artists' Association, Dale Shutt, had not yet heard of the community centre when contacted last Wednesday, Jan. 31 but immediately expressed interest.

"It would be interesting to look into," she said. "I'll do a little bit of research and see what I can find out and bring it up at the next (Pontiac Artists' Association) board meeting."

The Pontiac Artists' Association has in the past offered lessons for school children in lieu of payment for using a school's facilities.

One school per each English school board in Québec was chosen to be turned into community learning centres and JPII was selected over two other schools in the Western Québec School Board.

Each application was evaluated and graded by independent volunteers from the area encompassing the Western Québec School Board.

The applications were graded based on the strength of their proposals and the potential benefits of that particular community.

The proposal receiving the highest mark out of 200 was awarded the learning centre. JPII scored 166 out of 200.

Bonnie Richardson, a teaching aide at St. John's, has been hired to work full-time as the learning centre's co-ordinator.

While Campbell's Bay will be the focus of the centre, Richardson said it will "definitely" be available to the rest of the Pontiac, though the actual boundaries still have yet to be determined.

The community learning centres are an initiative to promote English-speaking minorities in Québec, though Richardson said francophones would be just as welcome as anglophones.

She added that the formal launch of the community centre wouldn't likely be until fall 2007, but some programs could begin in the next month or two.

The video conferencing equipment is expected to be installed by June. Technicians are scheduled to visit JPII next week to decide on where the video conference room should be located.

Many of the activities will take place in currently unused classrooms. The gym and cafeteria, meanwhile, will be used by St. John's students during school days and be made available for events and programs in the evenings and on weekends.

Please see CENTRE on page 2

Pontiac hosts 32nd National Midget Hockey Tournament

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • In its 32nd edition, the Pontiac National Midget Hockey Tournament welcomed 18 teams from Quebec, Ontario and Florida to the Shawville Arena.

For four days last week, teams of 15- and 16-year-olds played midget-level hockey to large crowds of families, friends, and supporters. The tournament wrapped up Sunday night with the 'AA' championship game.

Each team played three games during the tournament, with the teams with the most points from each division heading into the championship game on Sunday.

In the 'CC' division the hometown Pontiac Lions did not make it to the finals. The Lions placed third in the Shawville Lions Division, losing 2-1 to the Ambassadeurs de Gatineau on Thursday, but won 2-1 against the Muskrat Voyageurs Friday after the opening ceremonies.

Ottawa Senators Coach Bryan Murray was on hand to drop the puck with Giant Tiger owners Ken and Carole Pack.

The Lions lost their grip in the team's final game, succumbing 2-1 to the Florida Hurricanes Saturday.

The home Pontiac team has only won the tournament once, in 1985.

Instead, the Ambassadeurs de Gatineau won the 'CC' crown over the Sudbury Sharks in a 2-0 match.

The Renfrew Timberwolves won the 'BB' championship over the Predateurs de St. Jerome in a 2-0 match.

The 'AA' final, featuring the top teams with players most likely to find themselves in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League in the future, was won by the Cumberland Barons for the second year in a row. They defeated the Sudbury Sharks 2-0.

At the end of the tournament, awards were given out to players and coaches. Coach of the tournament was awarded to Dave Laporte of the Sudbury Sharks. The Bill Black Memorial for Goaltender of Tournament was awarded to Roch Lapalme of the Sudbury Sharks. The Wrinn Memorial Plaque for Sportsmanship and Ability was awarded to Sandy Dubeau of the Pontiac Lions. The Frank Finnigan Memorial for Most Outstanding Player was awarded to Justin Murray of the Pontiac Lions.

In all, 30 games of hockey were played over the four days at the arena in Shawville and, according to tournament chairperson Tim Powell, the tournament was a success.

"It really went well," said Powell, in his third year as tournament chair. "Attendance was way up."

Please see MIDGET on page 2

Cannon content with year's accomplishments

SCOTT CLOUTHIER
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • One year into his term as Member of Parliament for Pontiac, Lawrence Cannon feels content with what has been accomplished by his government, both at the federal level and in support of the Pontiac region.

"I'm quite pleased and satisfied with what has been done over the last year," said Cannon.

Jobs

Cannon cites his government's actions on the front of forestry and agriculture as successes in creating jobs for the region.

"We've done quite well in terms of restoring the softwood lumber issue," Cannon said. "That enabled the industry, generally speaking in the Outaouais, not only in the Pontiac ... to recuperate close to $70 million in stumpage fees."

He also cites projects, such as one in Maniwaki, to bring second and third lumber transformation work to the Pontiac as a boost to job creation in the area.

"The farming sector has stabilized with our decision in terms of protecting supply management issues," he added.

Cannon thinks his government has exceeded expectations for the creation of jobs over the past year.

"From a job creation initiative, I think that we have done better than most would have expected," he said.

Tourism

Although he notes that promotion of tourism is primarily a provincial responsibility, Cannon feels his government has supported local tourism when it could.

"Government of Canada continues to support and sustain initiatives that the Outaouais sector here have," he said.

Cannon also added that his government is indirectly able to help the tourist economy of the Pontiac through aiding in the improvement of roads and other infrastructure.

"We continue to work through different projects through our projects that deal with infrastructure," he said, citing the Gas Tax Transfer Program cheques he has been able to deliver to Pontiac municipalities. "Those are ways of supporting our infrastructure and by doing so, we support tourism as a spinoff to our economic activity."

Quyon's Ottawa River crossing

Cannon acknowledges the local desire to improve accessibility to Ontario via Quyon, and is pleased with the discussions currently ongoing to promote either an expanded ferry or a bridge crossing.

"Certainly there's an interest there for that," he said, but noted federal support for such a project will depend upon the next budget. "We'll have to see within the infrastructure programs that are going to be put forward after the next budget, to see whether or not there's any willingness to be able to support that kind of initiative."

Pontiac looking to get a jail

Cannon said he has been involved in discussions about bringing a jail to the Pontiac, but his government doesn't have foreseeable plans to expand correctional services in Canada.

"I've been asked to look into that process," he said. "In the immediate future, there is no initiative on behalf of the federal government to develop new prisons. In terms of their requirements and their requests, that's not there now."

He notes, however, that he'll keep Pontiac on the forefront should such an opportunity come up, and he's already mentioned its interest to the federal minister responsible for corrections.

Please see MP on page 2

Bonspiel winners



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

The Fabricated Solutions rink won the 32nd edition of the Shawville Curling Club's Community Bonspiel Sunday. The 11-day event brought out 72 local rinks to compete for the Toilet Seat Trophy. From the left: 2006 winner skip Laird Murray of the Orr Farm rink hands over the seat to winners skip Joey Hannaberry, third Al Russell, lead Scott Wilson and second Jim Carson. Please see story on page 2.

RE/MAX


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Centre: JPII new home for community programs



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

The plaque declaring John Paul II High School in Campbell's Bay a community learning centre is shown by those responsible for converting and those who have an interest in the conversion of the school into a community centre. From the left: Campbell's Bay municipal councillor, Lois Smith; St. John's Elementary School principal, Mike Dubeau; Western Québec School Board commissioner, Sophie Ringrose; Patti Normandeau of the JPII Governing Board; Campbell's Bay Community Learning Centre co-ordinator, Bonnie Richardson, St. John's head teacher, Lorianne Bertrand and Québec Community Learning Centre Project Manager, Paule Langevin.

Continued from page 1

Richardson's job over the next few months will be to determine the specific needs and desires of the community and implementing them into the community learning centre.

The manner in which the community centre will operate is still largely unknown, but Richardson said that is because she has yet to determine what it is the community wants.

"I know there is going to be a vague understanding of what this is about until there are concrete things in place," said Richardson.

"The way to address this is through small activities in the school and show the community what it's all about."

Not charging money for use of the community centre could be significant for drawing educational, athletic, wellness and cultural groups to be active.

Currently, if a group wanted to hold an event in a public facility in the Pontiac, there is usually a fairly significant cost involved.

The Campbell's Bay Recreation Association Centre, for example, carries a $400 per day cost to rent in most cases, according to the municipality's secretary-treasurer.

The Pontiac High School gym, meanwhile, rents at approximately $20 per hour before taxes, according to a staff member there.

Richardson's next aim is to gather as many "community partners" as possible, including service groups, profit and non-profit organizations.

Possible initiatives that have either taken place at other community learning centres in Québec or were mentioned as possibilities include:

- Drop-in assistance for new parents
- A recreational sports league
- A video conference with medical experts from McGill University to provide coping help for cancer patients and their families
- Recreational activities for senior citizens
- Using video conferencing for a virtual excursion to the Botanical Gardens in Montreal for students
- Children's after-school programs or day care programs
- Conversation groups in French or English for those wishing to improve their skills in either language

Pontiac SADC Community Futures has already committed $5,000 to the community centre and the Campbell's Bay council has agreed to contribute $2,500.

The expectation is that the centre will have sustainable programs in place by the end of the three years of provincial funding, according to Langevin.

While the community learning centre and St. John's will be linked and the school's teachers were encouraged to use the centre for their classes, the two will operate independently under the auspices of St. John's principal, Mike Dubeau. Dubeau submitted the proposal for JPII, leading to the school's acceptance for the community centre.

He said any profit turned by the community centre — likely from businesses wishing to use the facility and opting to pay money rather than exchange services — would go towards purchasing SMART boards for St. John's.

SMART boards are a technologically advanced replacement for traditional chalkboards whereby teachers operate from a laptop computer that projects its screen for students to interact with.

Dubeau yearns to equip every classroom in St. John's with a SMART board and turn the school into a regional training centre for the new technology.

Currently, Richardson is in the process of sending out invitations for possible community partners to organize a meeting to further discuss the community learning centre in Campbell's Bay.

She encourages interested groups to contact her at 819-648-2149 during business hours or e-mail her at brichardson@wqsb.qc.ca to find out more.

A win for the town of Campbell's Bay?

In the few years before its closure, JPII consistently ranked poorly academically according to the Fraser Institute's annual Québec Secondary School Report Card.

Proponents of JPII's closure argued that the school had too few students to warrant funding for many things, like a guidance counsellor, placing the students at a disadvantage.

Opponents, meanwhile, countered that closing the school would be a severe blow to the community and deter families from wanting to move there.

At the community centre's information session Campbell's Bay councillor, Lois Smith, said she had been against closing JPII but admitted the community centre could be a "very, very good thing for the community" citing the possible economic spinoffs as a boon for the village of 766 residents.

The commissioners of the Western Québec School Board voted 13 for, four against and one abstention in favour of closing JPII on June 27.

The school opened in Campbell's Bay in 1981.

MP: Lawrence Cannon content with first year's work

Continued from page 1

"If that needed to come about, certainly — and I've indicated this to Stockwell Day — our riding would be more than amenable to look at assisting his department at setting up that infrastructure."

Accessibility

Being Minister of Transport as well as an MP, Cannon admits his schedule is busy, but feels the proximity of parliament to the Pontiac has helped make him more accessible.

"Needless to say, you know, it's an additional task and one of the, I think, compelling features is that I live (in the Outaouais) so otherwise it would be extremely difficult," he said, noting fellow cabinet ministers who live in other parts of the country and are constantly travelling back and forth to their ridings from Ottawa.

Cannon says he makes trips to the riding at least once a week to hold town hall meetings, and makes an effort to visit the Pontiac at least a quarter of the time.

"I try to get to the Pontiac side roughly every month, basically, to be able to go and see people and meet and listen to their concerns," he said.

Despite his important job as a cabinet minister, Cannon feels he is able to balance it with his responsibility to his riding.

"It is extremely time-consuming, but I've got a good group that works with me and I've got great constituents."

Cannon says his government is going to continue to work to improve Canada's fiscal imbalance and will put an improved effort on environmental issues this year.

"In 2007, we're going to continue to work on the files that are in front of us, the most urgent or course is to be able to tackle the fiscal imbalance and the environment," he said.

On the local front, he's hoping to be able to continue to provide government funding for local initiatives.

"I'm going to continue to work and ensure that, from my perspective, the dollars will continue to flow through," Cannon said, noting federal funding for road infrastructure, water supply and waste water projects. "In that way, I think that we are adding to everybody's quality of life."

If an election should happen this year, Cannon feels he is in a good place to win the favour of Pontiacers once again.

"When we're in a minority government, you never can exclude the fact that you're going to be in an election, so you're always working extremely hard to be able to make sure that we maintain and warrant the constituents' level of support. That's what we're into."



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

The official puck is dropped for the game between the Pontiac Lions and the Muskrat Voyageurs Friday night. From the left: Ottawa Senators Coach Bryan Murray, Muskrat Voyageur Craig Godfrey, Giant Tiger owner Ken Pack, Giant Tiger, Giant Tiger owner Carole Pack and Pontiac Lion Justin Alary.

Midget: Pontiac hosts 18 teams at weekend tourney

Continued from page 1

While no figures were available on attendance for the tournament, Powell "guesstimated" an additional 300 people more than last year came into watch a few games.

"The games were very good since we've changed the format," said Powell. "It gives us some very exciting championship games. It's good hockey."

For the second year in a row, the format of the tournament changed dividing teams up according to their class, producing three champions rather than one.

This year the tournament was down by two 'AA' teams, so it was reduced to a four-day tournament from a five-day.

"Normally we have 20 teams, but we couldn't get two teams in the 'AA' division," said Powell.

The tournament is run by a devoted set of volunteers, many of which have kids that have grown out of playing hockey.

"It's almost like an institution to us," said Powell. "We have a lot of dedicated people who want to see this tournament continue forever. It's fun."

Money raised from the event will pay operating expenses and $3,500 will be set aside for minor hockey in the area.

"If we have profits we basically look at the community and see where it could be best spent," said Powell.

Over the years the tournament has given over $68,000 to minor hockey, $10,000 to the arena's sound system and $12,500 in upgrades for the hospitality suite and dressing rooms. In total it has raised over $101,000.

The committee is currently seeking out new volunteers to help out with next year's tournament set for Jan. 31 to Feb. 3, 2008. Call Powell at 819-647-2372 for more information.

The tournament first began when Al Davis (now mayor of Bryson) chaired the first tournament to raise finds for Power Hockey Instructions. By the early '80s the tournament grew to a two-weekend event and hosted the highest number of teams in the tournament's history — 52 from across Quebec, Ontario and United States.

Many players and coaches who have participated in the tournament have gone on to pursue careers in professional hockey, including John Chabot who played with the Gatineau Ambassadeurs in 1978, Denis Hotte who played with the Aylmer Mariners in 1978, Mike Sullivan who played for Postdam, New York, Darren Pang who played for the Nepean Raiders in 1980, Gary Galley who played for the Ottawa 79's in 1980, James Kyte who played for Ottawa East in 1980, Steve Yzerman who played for the Nepean Raiders, Coach Pat Burns who coached the Gatineau Ambassadeurs in 1980 and NHL referee Blaine Angus who played for the 1978 Shawville Pontiacs.

Fabricated Solutions wins bonspiel

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • The Fabricated Solutions rink of the teal division won the Shawville Curling Club's 32nd annual community bonspiel Sunday.

The rink, comprised of skip Joey Hannaberry, third Al Russell, second Jim Carson and lead Scott Wilson, was awarded the coveted toilet seat trophy for their 64 points plus 18. The winner was determined by the rink with the most points.

"I would like to thank the volunteers and the community for coming out," said Club President Bert Murphy after the last match.

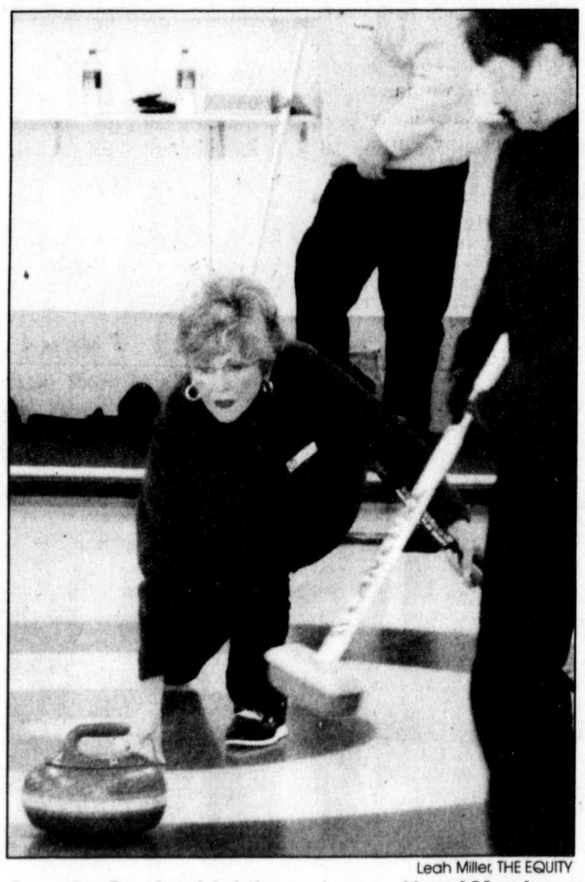
The last game of the bonspiel wound up at about 7 p.m. Sunday. Afterward, the rink was filled with donated prizes — one for each player — and participating teams picked their prizes in order of who won the most points.

"It was wonderful," said bonspiel chair Laird Murray. "It was one of our better years."

He noted that the turnout for the 72-team bonspiel was good, and participants arrived on time to keep to the schedule.

The bonspiel is said to be one of the largest one-rink bonspiels in North America.

"We're already have people asking to play next year," said Murray.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

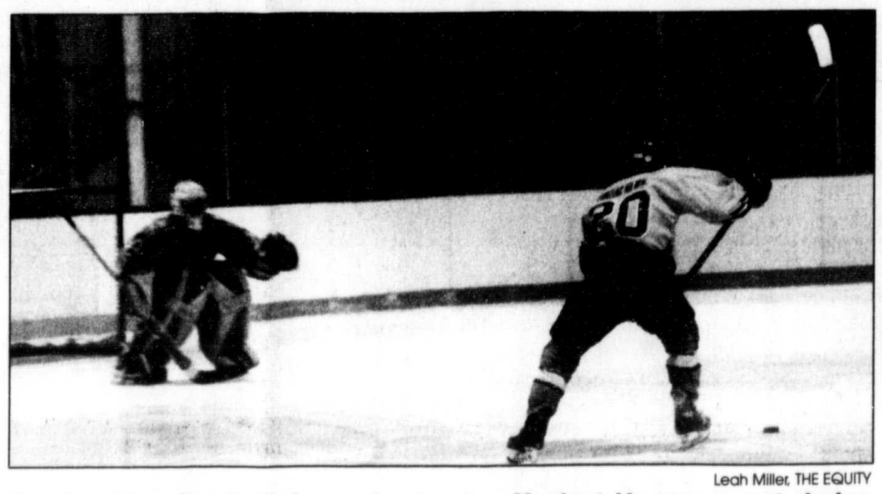
Dorothy Cowley (right) watches as Hazel Morrison delicately throws her rock in one of the last ends of their game against the Norway Bay Buffoons. The 32nd Annual Community Bonspiel wrapped up Sunday evening with each participant picking up a prize.

Money raised from the 11-day bonspiel will go towards curling club expenses. As well, quarters collected for hogged rocks totalled $176.85, which will go towards the club's general maintenance fund.

Murray says in particular the club will be spending close to $13,000 to repair its chiller and other rink cooling equipment. The total amount raised will be known by next week.

Last year's bonspiel winner, Murray of the Orr Farm rink, handed the toilet seat trophy to the Fabricated Solutions rink.

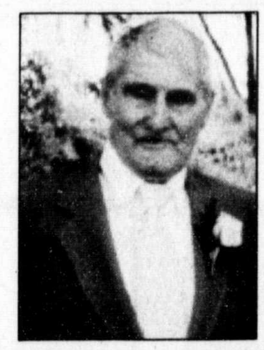
The committee consists of Club President Murphy, treasurer Darlene Murphy, chairperson Murray, co-chairperson Stuart Starks, scorer Doris Hanna, prizes Mary Allen, bar Bob Cowley and Wayne Park, and bonspiel committee Eason Russell and Phyllis Wilson.



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Pontiac Lion Sandy Dubeau shoots at a Muskrat Voyageurs net during Friday night's game.

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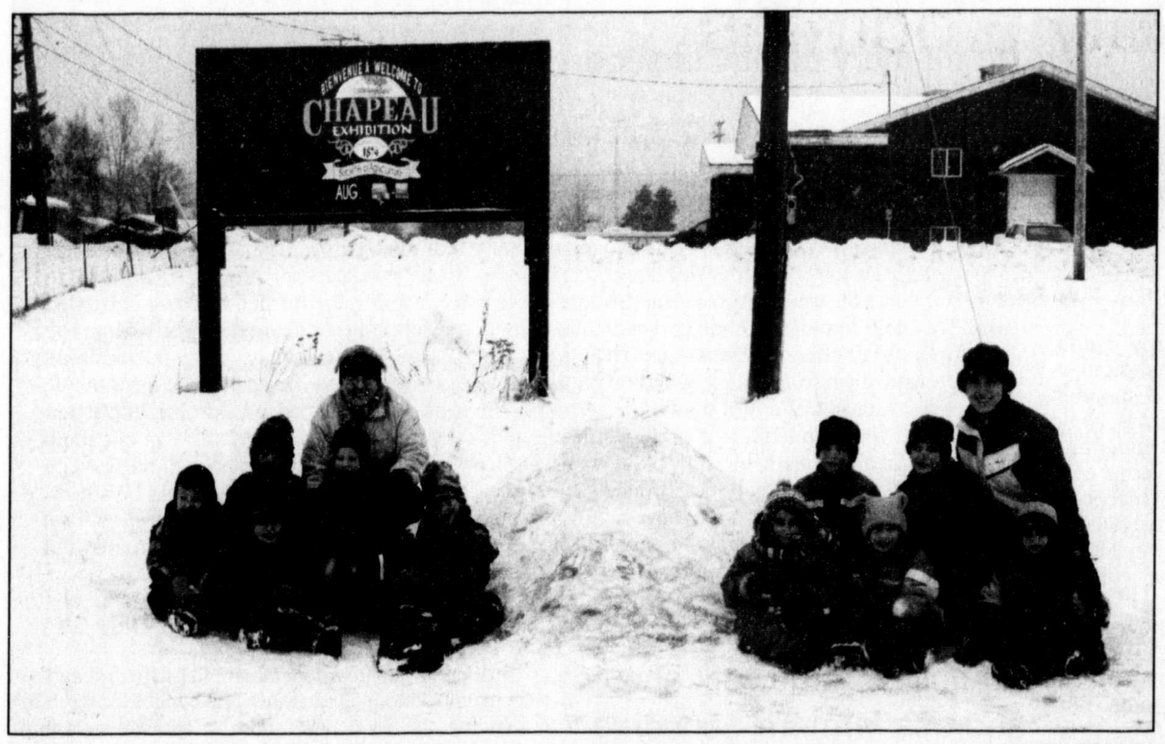
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Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

French-immersion kindergarten students from Dr. Wilbert Keon School in Chapeau flank a ladybug snow sculpture made by Grade 6 students Carly McDonald, Kelsey Chevalier and education assistant Kerry Tallon. From the left: Jonathan Lariviere, Blake Greive, Teegan Baker, Connor Belley, Tallon, Thomas Fleming, Isabelle Sallafranque, Brady Meehan, Anna Sallafranque, Joel Poirier, teacher Josee Mousseau and Adam Fleming. Students made the snow sculptures for the Chapeau Carnival that took place over the weekend.

Winter weather provided for Chapeau's annual carnival

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

CHAPEAU • The annual Chapeau Winter Carnival went off without a hitch this weekend, as winter made its return just in time for the event.

"It was a great weekend," said Chapeau Agricultural Society President Sharon Sullivan.

Many activities took place at the Chapeau fairgrounds over the weekend, including sleigh rides provided by Eldon Adam and Paul Devine, men's and women's hockey games and a magic show.

"We had very good attendance," said Sullivan. "We had lots of young people as well."

A highlight of the carnival was the hoola hoop contest, which was won by Kim Ranger of Chichester from last year's reigning winner Richard Martin of Chichester.

The carnival queen, Mallory Lariviere, was crowned Friday night for selling the most carnival buttons. Carnival princess was named Brittany Marion.

Buttons granted a reduced entrance fee for the teen dance.

The dance was a western theme complete with a fashion show and stand-up comedians.

Damos of Pembroke provided the musical entertainment.

The hockey tournament went over just as well as the rest of the carnival, said organizer Gene O'Brien.

In the men's 35-and-over division, Paul's Team won first place.

This team was made up of friends of former Waltham Mayor Paul Ryan, who died of cancer last November.

The team will be putting its $150 of winnings towards sponsoring a hole in the arena's fundraising golf tournament held in the summer.

George's Bar from Fort Coulonge won the open division while the Chapeau Team won the women's division.

Sunday wound up the carnival fun with a Lions Club pancake breakfast at Harrington Hall and a kids costume open skate in the sports complex.

"The breakfast was exceptional — we had a big crowd," said Sullivan.

In addition to the breakfast, the arena board worked a canteen in the arena and the Lions Club also provided a canteen throughout the afternoons in the hall.

The funds raised from the winter carnival will go towards the Chapeau Fair which runs in August.

Other fundraisers throughout the year include card parties and wagon trains.

A total amount raised for the society won't be finalized until later in the week.

Man arrested in connection to Rapides des Joachims marijuana grow operation

CAMPBELL'S BAY • Pontiac MRC Sûreté du Québec obtained a warrant to search a residence in Rapides des Joachims Monday.

Police entered the residence located at 377 chemin du Lac McConnell in the morning.

Inside police arrested a 47-year-old James Ignace of Rapides des Joachims and seized 776 marijuana plants, $3,900 in cash, a hunting rifle and lights, generators and other equipment used for marijuana production out of the basement.

The man appeared in Campbell's Bay court Monday afternoon and was held overnight before reappearing in Gatineau yesterday.

SQ Outaouais spokesperson Mélanie Larouche said Ignace was charged with production of cannabis, trafficking of narcotics, possession of cannabis for the purpose of trafficking, possession of $3,900 obtained by criminal activities, use of a fire weapon and possession of a prohibited weapon.

The warrant was obtained after police received information from the public. The Campbell's Bay detachment was aided by the Outaouais major crime unit in Hull.



Scott Clouthier, THE EQUITY

James Ignace (second from right), 47, was in Campbell's Bay court on Monday facing charges related to the possession and trafficking of marijuana. The Rapides des Joachims man was arrested on Monday morning by Pontiac MRC Sureté du Québec officers.

Curling rink targeted

The Shawville Curling Club, in the midst of its busiest weekend of the year hosting its annual Community Bonspiel, was broken into Saturday morning. Police say entrance was gained by the east door, which was broken down to access and take 31 cases of beer between the hours of 1 and 9 a.m.

Police have made no arrests at this point in time, but if anyone has information about this file they are encouraged to call the Campbell's Bay detachment at 819-648-2141 or the anonymous InfoCrime Line at 1-800-711-1800.

Clearing the air about myths of smoking

SCOTT CLOUTHIER
Equity Reporter

CAMPBELL'S BAY • There's a very simple reason why Tayten Court doesn't want to smoke.

"It kills you," stated the Grade 6 student from St. John's Elementary School in Campbell's Bay.



Scott Clouthier, THE EQUITY

A group of students from Grades 5 to 7 take part in a life-sized game of snakes and ladders at Maison des Jeunes in Campbell's Bay on Jan. 31. From the left: Jesse Mahoney, Josh Wicks, Patrick Christie and Chantal Larue are among the students who participated.

Tayten was one of eight students from grades five to seven who attended an anti-smoking activity night at Maison des Jeunes in Campbell's Bay on Jan. 31.

Thanks to funding received from the Quebec Ministry of Public Health, all Maison des Jeunes centres in the Pontiac were able to host smoking prevention events.

The centre in Campbell's Bay invited all Grade 5 and 6 students from the neighbouring St. John's and L'Envolée elementary schools to participate.

Activities included a life-sized game of snakes and ladders, where teams had to correctly identify a fact about smoking to advance their human pawn to the finish. Most questions were based around commonly-held myths about the habit, such as weight loss.

The youngsters prepared skits about smoking and performed them in front of the group.

Four large banners with anti-smoking slogans were made, and will be hung around the town of Campbell's Bay.

"We try to educate (the kids) as much as possible, so they can make informed, educated choices," said Michèle Gagnon, activity coordinator for Maison des Jeunes du Pontiac.

Jesse Mahoney, another Grade 6 student from St. John's, is certainly well-informed about the dangers of smoking.

"I think it's bad because it gives you bad cholesterol and gives you cancer," he explained.

SADC creates chamber for young entrepreneurs

Initiative to create Pontiac-wide chamber of commerce continues to push forward

SCOTT CLOUTHIER
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Pontiac SADC Community Futures Development Corporation is proposing a chamber of commerce for the county with a youthful twist.

The development corporation announced on Monday the creation of a Pontiac regional Chamber of Commerce for young businessmen and businesswomen.

"It's going to be young board members, 40 and under," said Luc Dubois, development officer for the SADC, but he stressed that all businesses would be able to become members, despite age or type of business. "We're not leaving out older people."

The chamber's territory will include all businesses from Rapides des Joachims, to Danford Lake, to Luskville.

Dubois hopes that the prospect of a youthful executive will make for a vibrant business network.

"I guess young people, they'll be more dynamic," he said.

A temporary board of seven members has been assembled, including Dubois himself.

Meetings will be held throughout the month to draft bylaws and determine membership benefits and fees.

An inaugural annual general meeting is tentatively scheduled for sometime in April.

This initiative is separate from a previously announced plan to create a Pontiac Chamber of Commerce by expanding either the existing Shawville or Fort Coulonge charters, or starting a new one.

The group has drafted a letter of inquiry to send out to Pontiac businesses to gauge their interest in joining a Pontiac chamber.

"We want to know whether there should be a Pontiac Chamber of Commerce," said Betsy Farrell, who is a member of the steering committee that is guiding the initiative through its early stages.

This steering committee will hopefully become a preliminary board for a new chamber of commerce.

"We're following what I think is a natural flow of how things should go," said Farrell.

Her group is holding a public meeting this Friday at 7 a.m. at the Campbell's Bay RA centre to discuss the next steps in the formation of a full-fledged Pontiac chamber.

Dubois feels the young chamber the SADC is putting forward isn't an attempt to undermine the process of Farrell's group.

"Really we're not working against the Shawville (and Pontiac) Chamber of Commerce," he said, adding that the young chamber would be open to discuss ideas of a partnership with the Shawville chamber, or a division of businesses between the two.

"I don't see a negative side of it," he said.

According to Farrell, if the public wants two separate chambers, then she isn't opposed to the idea.

"If there needs to be two (chambers), then there needs to be two."

With files from Wilbur McLean

Murder accused makes court appearance

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

GATINEAU • Murder accused Scott Presley made another brief appearance in Gatineau court on Friday, Jan. 26.

As has happened during his previous three appearances, Presley's lawyer requested more time and was granted another stay until Feb. 22.

Presley will remain in custody until that date.

According to *Le Droit*, about 40 supporters of murder victim Diane Durocher were present at the appearance.

Friends and family of Durocher have said they plan to be at each of Presley's court appearances, no matter how brief they may be.

The next step in the trial will be the bail hearing where Presley, 37, will seek to be freed from jail during the trial, which likely won't get underway until the spring.

Diane Durocher died from multiple stab wounds on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 10 at the Fort Coulonge home of her sister, where she had been staying since she separated from her husband, Presley.

After an overnight search, Presley turned himself into police the following morning and was charged with her death.

He faces charges of first degree murder, attempted murder and the improper storage of firearms, a charge unrelated to Durocher's death.

Luskville raid part of drug crackdown

PONTIAC • A Luskville home was raided in connection with a series of raids in eastern Ontario and western Québec last week.

Eight search warrants were executed, one in Luskville at 449 Chemin de la Baie, six in Ottawa and one in Mallorytown, Ont. all related to what the Ottawa police describe as a criminal organization that was distributing drugs, primarily cocaine, in the National Capital Region.

All of the search warrants were executed the morning of Jan. 22. No arrests were made in Luskville.

Ecstasy, marijuana, handguns, and assets such as homes, Canadian currency, and United States currency have been seized over the course of the investigation.

The raids were conducted by the Ottawa police in conjunction with the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

All of the locations were residences.

MRC des Collines police spokesperson, Const. Martin Fournel, said his department was minimally involved in the raid in Luskville, as they were only informed of the pending action an hour before it occurred.

"We had an officer there to make sure we had a presence but we didn't do anything," said Const. Fournel.

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OPINION

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Canada

OUR OPINION | Our good qualities in the spotlight

For Quebec to become the great nation it says it is, it needs to accept other cultures to help make it just that.

The Quebec English School Board's unprecedented endeavour to increase student population by launching a national advertising campaign attempting to attract Canadian families from other provinces to enroll in its schools. Finally, a visible action has been made to stop the decline we've been seeing in English-language schools over the past decade.

Shawville's own Bryan Murray, coach of the Ottawa Senators, is one of the faces of the campaign. He boasts of the success he's had being schooled at Shawville's high school, teaching physical education in the area and finally working his way up to live his dream job coaching the local NHL team.

The school board's strategy is to eliminate misconceptions Canadians may have about their children's ability to attend English-language schools in Quebec (any parent who received English schooling in Canada can attend an English-language school in Quebec).

Admirable as these efforts may be, they are wounded by an equal amount of misconceptions resurfacing regarding Quebec itself. The Front de libération du Québec (FLQ) has recently caused the RCMP to take a threatening letter signed by a group claiming to be a new cell of the FLQ quite seriously. The FLQ is a terrorist group that was active in the 1960s and '70s.

The letter, written in mid-January, said "strategic targets" would be hit in the western, largely English-speaking part of Montreal between Feb. 15 and March 15. It mentioned shopping malls, bridges, rail lines, airport facilities, water supplies, municipal buildings and service stations. This has lead the RCMP to warn businesses who don't conform to Quebec's French-language sign laws that they may be threatened as well.

In addition to these empty (or not-so) threats, a recent poll has concluded that 59 per cent of Quebecers admit to being racist to some degree. Yet another statistic to give a newcomer cold feet.

According to a Léger Marketing survey published in *Le Journal de Montréal*, most (43 per cent) Quebecers said they were only mildly racist, while 15 per cent said they were moderately racist and only one per cent responded that they were very racist. The findings come from three surveys taken in late December and early January. The first two surveys were conducted over the internet, with 2,228 Quebecers taking part, while the third survey interviewed 3,092 people across Canada. The survey looked at Quebecers' views of a variety of cultural groups.

It found 36 per cent of Quebecers have a bad opinion of Jewish people, while 27 per cent have a poor opinion of blacks. Fifty per cent have a bad opinion of Muslims. The Quebec portion of the survey is considered to have a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The survey done outside Quebec had a margin of error of 1.8 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

With the negative portrayal often given of Quebec, and the oil boom in the west extracting more and more of its population, the province needs to highlight its positive aspects and use them to reduce the migration — whether it be to Alberta or just across the river to Ontario. Also worrisome are statistics from a 2005 Community Health and Social Services Network poll indicating that five per cent of anglophones surveyed thought they would be living in another province in the next five years — meaning that there may be 30,000 fewer anglophones living in the province by 2010.

Quebec is a great place to live. It's the largest province in the country and it has everything anyone would ever want - lakes, rivers, forest, mountains, appealing major cities and agriculture. The fear of crossing the provincial border must disappear. To do that, Quebec and all its inhabitants need to highlight the benefits of living here in order to overshadow those age-old misconceptions.

LM

How deer you?

Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY



ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM | News, views from the mailbag

It's always a pleasure to receive e-mails and news of environmentally significant events from readers and from the "network." Periodically, it's good to share these with you, so here are your comments plus some workshops of note.

3rd Annual Alternative Energy Fair: Feb. 10

I highly recommend you attend this excellent fair held in Kemptville, where environmental organizations and entrepreneurs showcase energy solutions. I've attended two years in a row, and benefited from hearing William Kemp talk about how he designed an off-grid house, for instance. Although he realizes that many of us are retro-fitting energy efficiencies into old homes, many of his suggestions were pertinent.

This year's topics willinclude a keynote address on "The 'Eco'-nomic Approach to Efficiency and Renewable Energy," followed by several talks including "Landowner Response to Climate Change" and "Finding Energy Solutions."

In addition to speakers, you can browse displays featuring many eco-friendly and energy-efficient government agencies as well as private business people, NGOs, and other organizations. Last year, I met Philip Fry of Old Field Nursery, who I'd never met – but whom I had interviewed for several magazine stories on gardening with native species. This year promises more intriguing displays, including Sean Twomey from Arbour Environmental Shoppe.

Admission: free, plus free child care. When/where: Feb. 10 at the W.B George Centre in Kemptville. Time: 9 to 10 a.m. registration through to 4 p.m. (end of last lecture). Contact: Jack Henry, Tel: 613-342-8528; Fax: 613-342-7544; or jack.henry@mnr.gov.on.ca



Katharine Fletcher

Bird reports

Reader Joan Foran wrote to tell me about her turkey sightings, called in to her by her neighbour. Here's Joan's e-mail (with her permission). "Bunny (Foran) called around 3 p.m. on Saturday and said to look and see what was coming in our laneway. Turkeys of all kinds and so big! She had counted 42 of them. I thought that they were heading to the bird feeders, they but turned and went up into the bush. You should see the trail they left; they were all over the place. No single file for them. Our partridge is still with us; he was at the feeder late afternoon and then rested on the big spruce tree in front of the house."

When chatting with Joan, she said, "I think we have a spruce grouse, a female." She and her husband Clem, as well as Eric and I, are now on the lookout, determined to find out whether the "partridge" is actually a spruce or a ruffed grouse. Two grouse were perched in my lilac bushes, but I assumed they were the usual ruffed. More on this later.

Many of you will have noted the return of the rough-legged hawks. Ted Fort filmed an immense flock of snow buntings when he was out for a winter walk – and neighbour Erwin Mohr's feed lot and barns have attracted a similarly large flock. Kathy Letts reported a bald eagle sighting before Christmas, along the Steele Line – and a salesman at Defalco's wine shop in Ottawa, who has a cottage at Thorne Lake, also reported a bald eagle on the same road about a week ago.

Soon it will be time to watch for horned larks – best seen along the Wolf Lake Road at Armitage's feed lots or along the Luskville flats (turn off the highway at Luskville and explore the edges of the roads on "the flats."

Reader feedback on recycling column

Reader Doug Brandy often sends thoughtful e-mails on my column. He has given me carte blanche to present what he writes. On Jan. 30, he wrote: "I think it's important to help educate everyone on the importance of recycling but we should remember that Recycle is the third "R" after Reduce and Reuse. It seems to me we need to put more emphasis on Reduce and Reuse so we would need to Recycle less. More leadership from business and government would help. Here are some examples.

When I shop at the supermarket, I bring my large reusable cloth shopping bag. I keep the bag in my vehicle so it's always handy. Usually all my purchases will fit in my bag and I don't need any plastic shopping bags of which there are far too many. I'm appalled seeing other shoppers with as may as 20 plastic bags, sometimes with only one item in each. Where the supermarket chain could do more is in recognition of those who bring their own shopping bags. All the store gives me for mine is a one cent reduction on my bill.

Governments should do more to force retailers to reduce. We shouldn't have to pry open layers of plastic and cardboard to extract a hardware purchase. Why is all that packaging necessary? In my opinion, almost all soft drinks, beer, wine, milk and other liquid foods should be sold in returnable bottles that are washed and reused. Non returnable containers should be heavily taxed. That would probably mean the affected producers would pass on the costs to consumers. Let them! It would provide an excellent marketing opportunity for those who provide returnables. I'm sure you're very aware of Reduce and Reuse and maybe Recycle is easier for the public to understand so it's a place to start. At our cottage we have several streams for disposables and need to send very little to traditional dumps."

Celebrate First Nations' culture

The National Gallery's new exhibit, Robert Davidson, The Abstract Edge, offers fascinating glimpses into the "stylistic grammar" behind Haida art. Last Friday, I attended a talk, given by the artist, to a packed audience who followed Davidson about the exhibit, enthralled by his stories and explanations of his work.

"There is always duality," Davidson said about his art. "There is a positive and negative, convex and concave forms."

The duality not only takes artistic forms; duality has a resonance in real life. While discussing a painting called Looking at Asymmetry, dated 2001, Davidson said, "A sea monster is shown. It is feared the most, like a deadhead coming out of the water without warning which can overturn a canoe – therefore, the sea monster is feared the most among travellers."

He continued, pointing out the connection between his painting and the destruction of the World Trade twin towers. "When 9/11 happened, like everyone, I couldn't believe what I saw on TV. It'd be really great if we could find another solution than retaliation."

"No retaliation makes it asymmetrical – while retaliation makes it symmetrical."

His painting, Looking at Asymmetry, depicts the most-feared sea monster – and in this, Davidson proposes a different path than the path of retaliation that President George Bush invoked. A second work entitled "Are You Ready for the New Light," proposes the symmetry to his sea monster, where Davidson proposes a new path for the world that does not advocate war.

Go to this show. Haida artist Robert Davidson and other First Nations' artists may indeed use the old "stylistic grammar" to depict some of their truths. However, take a close look at their work: their subject matter is topical and important to our lives and our understanding of our world.

I hope that we human beings are ready for the new light – goodness knows it's better to spread understanding and potable water than mine fields and hatred.

Davidson's exhibit runs until May 6.

Contact: www.national.gallery.ca; tel: 613-990-1985 or toll-free 1-888-318-ARTS.

Katharine Fletcher is a Quyon-based writer, editor and published author. Contact her at chesley@allstream.net

YOUR OPINION

In memory of Guy Lesage

Dear Editor,

Guy is a very special man and always will be. I say "is" because he will always be with us. We leave our body behind, but we never leave the place where we are most loved and at peace. That place is in the hearts and minds of those who knew him, had the privilege to feel his warmth in friendship, to see his face light up when he laughed, to have shared with him a glass of wine and a nice conversation. He is a very professional man with an amazing ability to make anyone feel comfortable in his presence. You could not help but to have respect for him as he showed so much respect for others. He is a man whose career was carrying the burden of being entrusted with the most complicated and personal affairs of others, yet he never showed stress. He had the ability to clarify the most intricate of documents and jargon that seemingly only a doctor could and present them in such a way that even a child would understand. As clients, he never made me or my family feel as though we were just customers. He welcomed us into his home and showed us his friendship and professionalism with such perfect balance. We always left there with a smile and a sense of security knowing that we were in good "hands". Those hands gave to everyone, not just family, not just friends, but anyone who met him. His hands would be offered in business, in friendship and above all, in his love for people. To have known him was to have tasted the finest wine. He has rare qualities that can never be duplicated, a noble character and someone that will never be forgotten.

Hélène Boulet
Otter Lake

Ag policy framework should address farmers' concerns

Dear Editor,

The current round of public consultation on the so-called "next generation" of Canadian Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) offers family farms one last chance to turn around decades of destructive policies. Farmers should attend a meeting in Cobden tonight at Sacred Heart Church Hall, where they will have a chance to discuss and add to the document the NFU will be presenting to the Government Consultation Group in Kemptville on Friday.

The NFU notes that this federal government background paper prepared for the APF consultations actually suggests family farmers play only a minor role in the agricultural sector. The real focus is on ensuring profitability for the big corporations. The only farms that are considered to be 'commercial' operations are those with gross returns over $250,000. Those that must rely on off-farm income are dismissed as 'lifestyle' or 'non-viable' farms.

While the so-called "next generation" of farm policy is being hyped as new and visionary, it is actually a continuation of existing policies. The current policies are clearly not working because we are losing more and more family farms every year. The NFU urges farm families and farm women to speak up at these consultations.

NFU President Stewart Wells of Swift Current, Sask., said the APF consultations, which got underway this week in B.C., deliberately exclude the farm income crisis from the discussion. The APF meeting agenda includes Innovation and Science, Markets and Trade, Food Safety and Quality, Renewal, Environment and Business Risk Management. "The question that farm people need to ask at these meetings is, 'Where is the Farm Income pillar?'" stated Wells. "The Conservatives promised during last year's election campaign to incorporate a 'cost-of-production' calculation into their farm income program. They have not followed through on that promise."

NFU Ontario Board member Grant Robertson of Paisley, Ont. said the causes of, and solutions to the farm income crisis need to be front and centre in any discussions on future directions for agriculture. "I find it astounding that no one in government seems to be asking the question of whether current agriculture policy is working for farmers," stated Robertson. "Clearly, it isn't. We are close to losing the family farm in this generation. If that happens, things that Canadians take for granted, such as food safety and quality, healthy rural communities and a strong economy may be in jeopardy."

Robertson said all the evidence suggests the current direction of agricultural policy in Canada is an "unmitigated disaster." Yet the federal government seems to be pushing ahead with more of the same. "We have to ask the question, is this out of ignorance or design?" he stated. "The farm crisis didn't just happen overnight."

Locally, we hope to have a good turn-out of farmers tonight so that we will have our farmers' suggestions going to the Government Consultation Group in Kemptville on Friday. Also we need individual farmers to come with us and make their voice heard.

Dave Mackay, President
Renfrew County Local National Farmers Union

Searching

Dear Editor,

The Montreal General Hospital School of Nursing is trying to find a former student nurse from the graduating class of September 1957.

Her name is Grace Horner Wilson and she used to live in Ottawa but was originally from Shawville. Anyone reading this and knowing of her current address, please write to Heather Thuswaldner at 8 Firwood Crescent, Ottawa, K2B 6K3, or send an e-mail to thus@magma.ca

In the subject line please put "M.G.H." We are having a 50th reunion in spring and would dearly like her to know about it.

Heather Thuswaldner
Ottawa

Wise politics to obtain a coveted majority?

Dear Editor,

The Canadian Wheat Board is marketing the grain of all prairie farmers around the world successfully under the existing one desk system. Steps have been taken to accommodate those who wish to negotiate and sell individually and to encourage value-added processing involving farmers within this structure.

The government is erring in not working with those with whom they share governance (the farmer elected board members) to further adapt the current system – but rather has committed itself to ending the monopoly and the benefits accruing from it.

The new Government of Canada has been most impolitic in its handling of the issue. It has committed itself to change, yet is seeking to develop the appearance that it is supported in this. Though those able to vote for directors were reduced, four out of five opposing change were still elected. Government appointees opposed to the change were replaced, but even with the "firing" of Adrian Measner its view is opposed by a majority of the board.

Agricultural Minister Chuck Strahl saying that "People make decisions for all kinds of reasons, but the input that's going to be most valuable as far as changes to the board goes is going to be the plebiscite" is setting the stage for another political negative, should plebiscites support the continuance of the board as it is and the Stephen Harper government proceed anyway.

One new government member, Inky Mark, has said publicly he will oppose change. There are overall a score of government party MPs in Manitoba and Saskatchewan who will have to weigh loyalty to leader versus constituents' opinion when considering the probabilities of re-election.

All in all hardly wise politics on the part of a government seeking to obtain a majority.

Joe Hueglin
Niagara Falls, Ont.

Buyers beware

Dear Editor,

Want to know Stephen Harper's views on global warming? No need to dig back to his 2002 writings which mock global warming and view the Kyoto Accord as a "socialist plot"!

Check out 2006 when the Harper government prohibited an Environment Canada scientist from attending his own book launch on global warming. The government then axed no fewer than 15 programs aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and came out with a climate change policy that would not set emission targets until, cough, cough, 2050!

If you're buying Harper's newfound "sincere" love of Mother Earth, I have some very stable Antarctica ice sheets to sell you.

Dale Swirsky
Winnipeg, Man.

There's a better way to reform the Senate

Dear Editor,

The Harper government's attempt to try to provide a second layer of regionally-allied politicians in competition with the House is alarming. If successful, the result would provide at best, redundancy; and at worst, fractiousness. There is more than enough "gimme" attitude now in a loosely self-identified country such as ours. Prideful cohesion is inextricably entwined with beneficent central governance.

The idea of the Senate has been to have the sober second thought about bills passed by the House. These second thoughts are best pondered by those who have filled senatorial positions for the long term: who are not subject to the notions of party politics, intensely democratic electoral processes, and the precariousness of an upcoming election.

Nevertheless, I think that the public does not generally support the appointment of retired party hacks and bagmen, which has often been the case. So, there is some room for improvement on the appointment process.

An idea that comes to my mind is to have the vacancies filled by the Governor General from the list of Order of Canada recipients. These could be at the approval of the Prime Minister, even though that is not a constitutional requirement. This would ensure that the sober second thought would come from a wide cross section of societal expertise: the arts, sciences, social activism, architecture, law, civic policies, environmentalism, medicine, sports, home-making, and so on.

Eventually, the party politics element at the upper house level would be modified and reduced to some degree. This would provide a better balance with the more democratic... but also more divisive... regional noise rising from the Commons.

The Order of Canada would not necessarily have to provide the appointments. An identified number of interests such as I have suggested above could provide goals to be filled from the general public. In either event the terms should be long enough to provide memory within the upper house, a wisdom that is valuable, and not guaranteed in the Commons.

Ross Bateman
Langton, Ont.

Correction

Incorrect information was given in the story "Campbell's Bay incurs 3-cent tax hike" on page 11 of the Jan. 31 issue. Mayor Jean-Louis Auger was against the hike in the Municipality of Campbell's Bay's MRC share. The increase in the mill rate was due mainly to hikes in public security (Fire Safety Cover Plan upgrades), the dump and the MRC share. Recycling services are not included in mill rate costs. For the potable water project, the municipality has received authorization from Quebec's Environment Minister Claude Bechard to expropriate property for the well site if no other agreement can be reached. A separate water project will be partly funded by the federal gas tax transfer program, which will improve infrastructure of potable water in the municipality and help the supply and distribution of water with new lines and pumps.

124 years of news from the Pontiac

THE WAY WE WERE

Compiled by Heather Alberti-Dickson Publisher

25 Years Ago

February 10, 1982

COMMUNITY BONSPIEL HAD 216 WINNERS: Shawville Community Bonspiel had 216 winners. Everyone who played for the 54 teams entered in this year's bonspiel took home a prize and good memories after the tournament's conclusion on Sunday evening. The winning team was one field by the Shawville and District Kinsmen Club. They are Brent Belsher, Dan Hoopfer, John Argue and Gary Hodgins.

50 Years Ago

February 7, 1957

SEWERAGE FOR SHAWVILLE: It was proposed by mayor Lee Hodgins that a Sewerage Committee be established to investigate the feasibility of a sewerage system for Shawville; and to ascertain the extent of financial assistance available from government sources to assist in the construction of such a system. This proposal was accepted by council and the following councillors were elected to this new committee: Armitage, Young and Black.

HOCKEY: It was a bad week for Wyman as Radford and the Dairy Kings knocked them down in succession in the Farmers Hockey League being played Monday and Thursday nights at Shawville arena.

Last Thursday a good crowd was on hand to see Wyman take their first beating of the season as Radford really came to town. Standby Billy Horner netted three for Radford, Elson Smiley two and Sterling Bean one while snappy player Garry Young did all the scoring for Wyman, three goals in all.

BANTAMS EDGE WYMAN: The competition was keen and the game full of thrills and chills as the younger crowd took the ice at Shawville arena last night. A new bantam league, 15 years and under, has started up with Harry Gerber of Shawville and Ronnie MacKechnie of Wyman in the coaching positions.

MacKechnie's men were: M. Graham, B Mackay, D. Reynolds, E. Murray, D. Campbell, Jim Graham, G. Bronson, Jack Graham. E. Murray scored three and G. Bronson came in for the other two goals.

Gerber's guys were goalie Ted Hayes, Bryan Murray, Doug Young, Glen Splain, Albert Armstrong, Barry Wilson, Freddy Miller, David Yach, Harwood Dougherty, Leonard Watson and Huey Langford. Three goals last night were the work of Bryan Murray, two were Albert Armstrong's and one went to Glen Splaine, Denail Alexander and Barrie Murray refereed.



Provided by Pansy Spallin

Helen Dagg's 1934 Grade 3 and 4 class at Victoria Avenue School in Shawville. Front row, from the left: Cameron Rowat, Ronald McCredie, Melissa Strutt, Roland Rennick, Urquhart Campbell, Ralph Turriff, Clarence Cuthbertson, Mac Barrett, William McDowell and Lennis Armstrong. Second row, from the left: Dorothy Way, Elma Dale, Jean Judd, Doris Harris, Pansy Campbell, Dorothy Smith, Jean Smith, Iva Swartz, Laura Woodley, Isobel Corrigan and Lois Hamilton. Back row, from the left: Vera Turriff, Reid Black, Everett McDowell, Helen Dagg, Clarence Shore, Carl Dale, Bill Armstrong and Ian Reid.

75 Years Ago

February 11, 1932

LOCAL NEWS: High west winds following an early morning snow storm on Monday blocked the highway for motorists for the first time this season. Gibson's Transport made its usual trip to Ottawa, but with considerable hardship having to be shoveled out and towed at several places en route where drifts piled high.

Mr. Walter E. Elliott has recently purchased the residence on King Street, which he and his family have been occupying for the past three years, from Mr. John Gibson.

Four rinks of Shawville curlers, accompanied by an extra half dozen of the club members motored to Pembroke on Friday night to engage in a friendly contest with four rinks of that town. There was no silverware at stake, the main idea being an outing and a good social time, and from all accounts, Pontiac's only curling club did not meet with any disappointment socially, but with the irons the home players provided competition, that was a trifle too stiff, while in the entertainment which was in the form of a banquet, at the conclusion of the matches, they also excelled.

100 Years Ago

February 7, 1907

LOCAL NEWS: On Thursday night last, Mr. Daniel Smith, of Thorne had his barn, and other outbuildings, containing a quantity of grain, with several head of cattle, burnt to the ground by an incendiary who subsequently turned out to be a tramp who gave his name as Joseph R. Angers, Joseph Gilpin, constable of Otter Lake, took the incendiary's trail, and by means of the light snowfall was enabled to follow him up and overtake him which he did next day at 11 o'clock. Angers was arrested and brought him to Bryson jail where he will await trial.

The social club in Quyon village have a euchre club in full swing this winter, and most enjoyable weekly assemblies are held among its members.

Mr. Hugh Lackie has been re-elected mayor of Allumette Island.

We are pleased to have a call from Mr. F.F. Corrigan, who is just commencing to feel himself again after a long sickness from typhoid fever, which he contracted the day following the Shawville fire.

A rather peculiar accident happened to Mr. Richard Sally of South Onslow one day recently, while chopping wood in the bush. Mr. Sally had one foot pinned fast between the butt of a falling tree and a stone and so remained as if it were a bear trap, for about three hours, until help arrived. The peculiar part of it was that he did not sustain very serious injury.

On Thursday morning, Jan. 31 at the home of his son-in-law, Mr. Robt. McDowell, there passed away one of the very few remaining pioneers and landmarks of this section, at the patriarchal age of 92 years and three months: Henry Knox, Esq., a gentleman of high character and integrity, whom to know was to respect and esteem, and whose long and useful life marks a period in the history of Clarendon which dates back to the early stages of its development, its hardships, its privations, when modern luxuries were undreamed of and unknown.

The Shawville ladies who have acquired the art of skating have taken it into their heads to organize a hockey club, and in fact have already devoted a couple of afternoons to the healthful exercise, which in their case, seems to be an excellent developer, not only of the muscles but of the vocal cords, as well. We understand orders have been given for a specially designed puck - one about the dimensions of a dinner plate - and when this arrives the date of the first exhibition match will be formally announced; meanwhile doors are closed against all undesirable man-intruders. Quite right.

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PHS public speaking winners named

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • A long-standing tradition at Pontiac High School, the annual public speaking winners were named last Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Each of the school's approximately 550 students are instructed to prepare and deliver a speech on a topic of their choosing and the best in each English class are selected to perform at the school-wide level.

At the school level among the senior students (Grades 10 and 11), Kylie Beck finished first for her speech on Dr. Emily Stowe, Canada's first practicing female doctor.

In her speech, Beck discussed the evolution of women's rights in relation to Stowe.

Beck regularly performs well with her speeches, as the eleventh-grader previously won the school-wide contest in 2003 and 2004. She placed second last year.

Stowe's story has a good deal of relevance to Beck, who said she hopes to enter the sciences herself with an eye to one day becoming a doctor or veterinarian.

Other top finishers at the senior level were Peter Senack, second and Keith Tubman, third. Katie Dolan and Katrina Cardiff received honourable mentions.

Senior speeches had to be between five and seven minutes long.

At the junior level (Grades 7 through 9), eighth-grader Brooke Welburn was the top speaker, the second consecutive year she took top prize at the school level.

Her speech was about the constant search for oneself as a teenager.

"I really like to do well in public speaking," said Welburn. "You can really get your words across. It's a way to express yourself."

Welburn said she hopes to follow in the footsteps of her now-graduated older sister, Morgan, who frequently performed admirably at the regional level of the public speaking competition.



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

Above, the senior winners of the Pontiac High School public speaking contest delivered five-to-seven minute long speeches. From the left: second place winner, Peter Senack, Grade 11; third place winner, Keith Tubman, Grade 10; first place winner, Kylie Beck, Grade 11; honourable mention winners, Katrina Cardiff, Grade 10 and Katie Dolan, Grade 11. Below, junior-aged public speaking winners were named at Pontiac High School recently. Each student must prepare and deliver a three-to-five minute long speech about a topic of their choosing. From the left: honourable mention winner, Ally Cary, Grade 8; first place winner, Brooke Welburn, Grade 8; co-third place winner, Bai-Leigh Chapman, Grade 7; co-second place winner, Bria Hearty, Grade 7; co-third place winner, Colby Richardson and co-second place winner, Tyler Toupin.



Other winners at the junior level included Tyler Toupin and Bria Hearty in a tie for second, along with Bai-Leigh Chapman and Colby Richardson who tied for third.

Ally Carty received an honourable mention.

Junior speeches were between three and five minutes each.

Overall, Grade 10 and 11 English teacher, Paul Mcaneney, was pleased with this year's effort by the students.

"I thought the quality was excellent," he said. "They took it very seriously and did a very good job."

The competition's judges were Bill Smith, Barry McGowan, David Conrod, John Petty, Joan Conrod and Sandra Murray.

The top finishers from PHS now move on to the regional level, as part of the Lions Club Effective Speaking Competition.

The regional competition is scheduled for March 31 at Confederation High School in Ottawa.

Notice of Meeting

Annual general meeting

Promutuel La Vallée, société mutuelle d'assurance générale invites all its insured members to attend the annual general meeting which will be held on:

Monday, March 12, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.
Anglican Parish Hall
516 Main Street, Shawville

Seats to be filled

Seat No. 1: Ronald Hodgins
Seat No. 2: Jamie Horner
Seat No. 3: Roy Perrault

Nomination

Interested candidates must forward their nomination form to the Secretary of the Mutual Association and must be received on the tenth (10) day before the general meeting, being March 2, 2007 by 4:30 p.m. The candidate nomination form may be obtained at the Promutuel La Vallée office, 34 Victoria Street, Shawville.

Coffee and donuts will be served. Door prizes.

Vicky Lance
Board of Directors Secretary

Issued
February 7, 2007

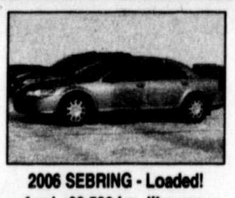
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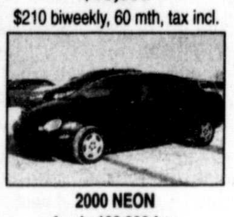
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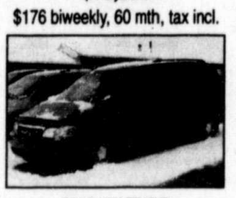
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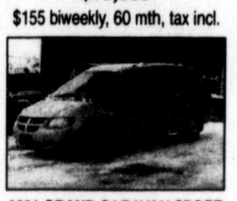
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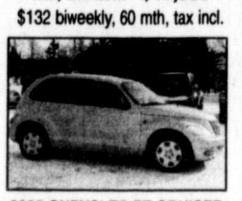
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SPORTS

Junior 'B's end regular season, prepare for Kings

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • The regular season concluded, the Pontiacs Junior 'B' hockey team now prepares for a first-round playoff matchup against the Carleton Place Kings.

The Pontiacs ended the regular season disappointingly considering they still had the opportunity to finish first place in the Valley division of the Eastern Ontario Junior 'B' hockey league.

However, those hopes were dashed when the team dropped a decisive 10-5 game to first place Stittsville last Wednesday, Jan. 31.

"Defensively all along was our strong point but lately we can't seem to sync with our forwards," said Head Coach Les Orr.

In a playoff preview, the Pontiacs then defeated the Kings 6-5 in overtime on Friday night in Carleton Place before receiving a 14-3 shellacking in the meaningless regular season conclusion on Sunday against the Gatineau Mustangs.

"You can't go into the playoffs playing like this," said a disappointed Orr.

The Pontiacs finished the regular season in second place with a 20-16-2-2 record.

Carleton Place finished in fifth place with a 13-21-5-1 record.

The Pontiacs entered their game against Stittsville just two points back of the Royals but were never in the game, giving up seven first period goals, making the rest of the game a formality.

John Deavey and Mark Taylor scored two goals each for the Pontiacs. Alex Taschereau also had a goal.

Matthieu Labelle started in goal for the Pontiacs but Orr said the goaltending was not the issue.

"It was just the defense."

Stittsville was a perfect three-for-three on the power play in the game.

On Friday at Carleton Place, the Kings and Pontiacs provided proof of a possible exciting playoff series to come.

The Pontiacs were up 5-2 at the conclusion of two periods but gave up three goals in the third, another lapse that produces questions of the strength of the defensive lines for the Junior 'B's.

"The zone coverage was just terrible," said Orr, who said the team must play to its potential or risk being ousted from the first round of the playoffs.

Sunday's game meant nothing to the Pontiacs as they had already guaranteed themselves of second place in the division.

The Mustangs, meanwhile, were still fighting for a higher seed in the Metro division and the differences in effort between the two sides was obvious as Gatineau delivered a beating.

"It's no way to end the regular season," said Orr.

Michel Racicot started in goal.

What Carleton Place brings

After a superb second half of the season, the Pontiacs enter the playoffs having given up 10 or more goals in three of the last seven games.

Orr said the team's effort will ultimately determine its fate for the more skilled Pontiacs' squad.

"It depends what team shows up to play hockey. If it's the team that finishes in second place then we should win. If it's the other team then this series is up in the air."

Depth should be a strength for the Pontiacs, who have about 10 players capable of scoring when required.

The Kings, meanwhile, played only two lines during the third period of the two team's game last weekend.

"I'll probably have to shorten my bench. The guys that come to play hockey will get more ice time and the others will sit," warned Orr.

Racicot was expected to get the start in goal in last night's game and Orr said if he won, he would continue playing.

"If he loses, then I'll go with the next guy," said Orr, referring to Labelle.

2007 EOJBHL Valley Division Playoffs

First round
Stittsville (1) vs. Arnprior (6)
Shawville (2) vs. Carl. Place (5)
Perth (3) vs. Renfrew (4)

Pontiacs' schedule
Last night in Shawville
Tonight at Carl. Place, 8:30 p.m.
Friday in Shawville, 8 p.m.
Sunday at Carl. Place, 1:30 p.m.
*Tuesday in Shawville, 8 p.m.
*Friday, Feb. 16 at Carl. Place
*Sunday, Feb. 18 in Shawville
* if necessary

Shawville Pontiacs vs. Carleton Place Kings

Valley division playoff round 1 fact sheet
Season series: Carleton Place won three games to two, with one tie
Last meeting: Pontiacs 6, Carleton Place 5 in OT on Feb. 2

	Shawville	Carleton Place
Regular season record:	20-16-2-2	13-21-5-1
Leading scorer:	Ryan Rees (24 g, 26 a)	Mark Mitchell (21 g, 32 a)
Best goalie:	Michel Racicot (3.17 GAA)	Craig Schoen (3.45 GAA)
Top rookie:	David Lazenby (9g, 26a)	Devon Montgomery (4g, 14a)
Penalties:	40.4 minutes per game	38.0 minutes per game
Power play success rate:	14.9 per cent	14.1 per cent
Penalty killing:	85.6 per cent	80.5 per cent
Season home record:	11-7-1-1	4-11-5-0
Season away record:	9-9-1-1	9-10-0-1

OVERTIME | LUKE MURPHY

Junior 'B' slate's wiped clean



PONTIAC • That's it, season over. After clinching second place with a 6-5 overtime win at Carleton Place (the team we'll be playing in the first round of the playoffs) on Friday, we lost to Gatineau on Sunday (in a meaningless game) to end the regular season. Now it's time to get down to business, and we have every intention of repeating last year's success, bringing home another championship to the Pontiac and creating a dynasty in Junior B hockey.

The first season is over, now it's on to season two, the *real* season, the playoffs. Now our true colours shine, it's time to see what these guys are made of – see if they can turn it up a notch and play playoff hockey.

I must say (and I'm a pessimist), I was impressed with the way our team played in the last half of the season. After a slow start and inconsistent play, the team rallied together and down the stretch, we were the hottest team in the Valley Division. We went 9-4-2 in the last 15 games, finishing second in a competitive, tight division.

Finishing in second place is a great accomplishment that our players should be proud of. It's been a long time since a junior team in Shawville finished this high in the standings and the achievement should be noted. But of course, since last year's team won the league, we'll be compared to them, so finishing second will mean nothing if we don't make a good showing in the playoffs. The slate's been wiped clean.

It was a bumpy, controversial season with a lot of new faces in the lineup that weren't with the club back in September. But that's hockey - part of the game. When things don't go well, changes are made and I feel we have the personnel now to make a run. The talent is there, the systems are in place, now it's up to the players to execute the plan and bring it home — easier said than done.

As a first-year coach, I'm excited and looking forward to starting the playoffs. I feel we have a strong team, with our chief strength being our depth. We have two very good goaltenders, five defencemen (when they're on their game) that can't be matched and four solid lines. We don't have one prolific scorer (as you can tell from the stats), but we have a handful of guys who pitch in, and any one player can be our best player on any given night. That's the sign of a true team. We don't rely on one player or one line to win. It's a team effort, and we have 20 players who work together every night to get the job done.

Because of our second-place finish, we play Carleton Place in the first round of the playoffs. Carleton Place has vastly improved since September (but so have we) and is a team that we struggled with throughout the season. We went 2-3-1 against them during the season, and this series will prove to be a long, tough fight. We need to be at the top of our game to win — there can be no nights off.

In the two other series, Stittsville plays Arnprior and Renfrew plays Perth. No series in the Valley Division is a lock, as any team can beat the other on any given night. The division is so well balanced that upsets are a definite possibility.

In the playoffs, the speed of the game increases and the intensity and competitiveness is at the highest point. Everyone knows what's at stake. We'll see if our boys are up for the challenge.

I urge you to come out and support your local junior team. Our first game of the best of seven series was last night (hopefully we won) and game three will be on Friday at 8 p.m. at the Shawville arena. I hope to see you all there.

That's my two cents. What do you think?

Side Note

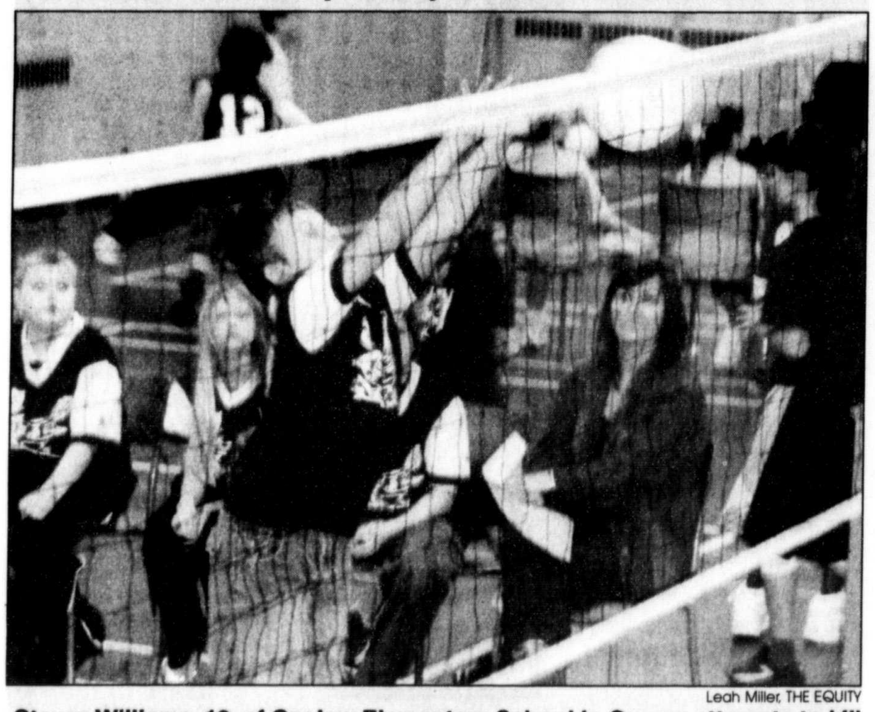
Leslie Park, in partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society, is organizing the first ever Relay For Life in the Pontiac — an event organized to raise money for cancer, honour survivors and pay tribute to loved ones lost.

As a member of this committee, I'm seeking volunteers to help make this event a success as well as teams to participate.

For further information, please see the website at www.cancer.ca (click on Relay For Life) or contact Brenda Racine at parcleslie@mrcpontiac.qc.ca. You can make a difference.

Murphy is a former professional hockey player who now resides in Shawville and is on the Pontiac Junior 'B's coaching staff. Contact him at news@theequity.ca

McDowell serves up volleyball tournament



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Steven Williams, 12, of Onslow Elementary School in Quyon, attempts to kill the ball into Eardley Elementary School's court. Two teams represented Lord Aylmer, Dr. S.E. McDowell, Onslow and Eardley elementary schools in the tournament held at McDowell Friday. McDowell gym teacher Darren McCready says the day-long tourney helps kids learn about sportsmanship.



Quyon Flyers accepted into Ottawa competitive fastball league

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

QUYON • The Quyon Flyers fastpitch team have been accepted into the Greater Ottawa Fastball League, the highest tier of league fastpitch available in eastern Ontario.

The Flyers were formally accepted into the league on Jan. 24 at the GOFL's organizing meeting and are one of three new teams in the now nine-team league.

Previously, the Flyers played in the Ottawa Recreation Association league, where they were last year's regular season champions.

The Flyers, along with the other top three teams from the R.A. league last season all moved to the GOFL.

"By going into the Greater we may not compete with all the teams right away but it will benefit us in the long term," said the Flyers' elder statesman, 24-year-old Joe McCleary, who attended the GOFL organizing meeting with teammate, Matt Greer.

The GOFL is high quality intermediate-level fastpitch and the league regularly sends teams to the International Softball Congress tier two North American championships.

Quyon is a primarily junior-aged (23-and-under) team who last year competed at the junior fastpitch national championships in St. Jerome d'Aston, Québec, finishing 10th out of 12 teams there.

"The quality of play in the Greater is better," said McCleary of why the Flyers opted to join the league. "That would be a good reason why we did so poorly at the nationals."

The promotion of the Flyers up to the GOFL also means there will be regular games of fastpitch played in Quyon for the first time in a number of years. At one time the town was well-known in the Pontiac for its fastpitch prowess.

The Flyers' home games will be played at the Quyon fairgrounds on Tuesday nights.

"Playing at home makes everybody's life easier," said McCleary.

The Ottawa R.A. League plays all its games in Ottawa.

Last season the Flyers hosted a seven-team tournament and an exhibition game against the Kanata Team Easton Thunder, who at the time were ranked the seventh best team in North America.

Both events were well-attended by fans and earned a significant amount of money for the team through canteen and beer sales.

That does not mean, however, that the team will be netting much, if any, profit this year.

Unlike the R.A. league where a team's fees cover field rentals and umpires, the Flyers will be responsible for those things on their own this season.

"We definitely won't come out ahead. Beer sales will just help out," said McCleary.

To help offset costs, McCleary added that the team hopes to hold fundraisers.

They are considering a playoff hockey pool and a poker tournament.

The coming season

The Flyers will be playing a 20-game schedule in the Greater Ottawa Fastball League.

Eighteen of those games will be played during a 12-week regular season beginning May 7 while the remaining two games will come as part of a showcase weekend planned for the league that will be hosted by Quyon.

Tentatively scheduled for June 2 and 3, the showcase weekend will have all nine teams in the league playing two games apiece in Quyon.

In anticipation of the higher level of play, McCleary said the team is looking to add players for next season to bolster the roster of the 10-player team.

"We're looking to add a pitcher," he said. "We definitely need to add an arm."

Local position players are also being considered as additions to the team.

The Flyers are currently unsure whether they will be attending this year's junior fastpitch national championships, to be held in Summerside, P.E.I. starting Aug. 5.

McCleary believed the Flyers would be granted an automatic berth like last year — two teams per province are permitted and last season only two Québec teams submitted their names for entry — but details had not yet been discussed by Quyon.

"Last year at this point everything was in place for the nationals," he said.

One potential deterrent may be that McCleary is now too old to compete as a junior-aged player.

McCleary is the team's regular catcher, one of its top hitters and a team leader.

The Flyers will decide definitively whether they will seek to enter the junior nationals in the coming weeks, according to McCleary.

Atom 'A' Shawville Pontiacs win battle of Pontiac rivals, beating Fort Coulonge

SCOTT CLOUTHIER
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • The Atom 'A' Shawville Pontiacs won bragging rights over their Pontiac rivals, the Fort Coulonge Draveurs, during an exhibition match on Jan. 30.The friendly game was held at the Shawville Arena.

After an exciting first period of play, the Draveurs found themselves up 2-1 thanks to goals by Xavier Plouffe and Bradley Pearson. A first period assist was also picked up by Fort Coulonge's Nathan White.

Nathan Graham put Shawville on the board. Assisting were Clancey Keon and Carter Pirie.

The Pontiacs managed to tie the game up in the second period, as Pirie scored to make it 2-2. Ty Wilson assisted.

Pirie caught fire in the third, scoring a hat trick goal and adding a fourth to secure the victory for his team. Jonathan Hickey picked up an assist for Shawville.

Nicolas Graveline scored in the final frame for the Draveurs, but the team couldn't muster a tying goal.

The final score was Shawville 4, Fort Coulonge 3.

Bantam 'B's split double header

The Bantam 'B' Pontiacs faced off against the Maniwaki Forestiers in a double-header on Sunday.

Shawville managed a split from the two very close games, winning one.

The first game turned out to be a defensive affair.

Through two periods of play, both teams were scoreless. It wasn't until more than halfway through the third period that Shawville was able to break the deadlock.

Jason McGuire's goal with 9:49 left in the game, assisted by Brett Carson, turned out to the game winning goal as Shawville goalie Brennan Smith shut the door the rest of the way to earn the shutout and the win.

It was a different story during the second game of the day, as Maniwaki came on strongly, scoring three unanswered goals in the first period to take a commanding lead in the game.

Cameron Huckabone managed to get Shawville on the board in the second period with an unassisted goal.

The Forestiers' lead was cut to a single goal in the third period after Taylor Orr scored, unassisted, to make it 3-2 for the home side. But no further offence could be mustered by the Pontiacs, as Maniwaki's three first-period markers were enough to give them the win.

Midget 'B' Pontiacs tie Gatineau

On Sunday night the Shawville Midget 'B' Pontiacs faced off against the Gatineau Titans. The Pontiacs were able to salvage a 2-2 tie thanks to the scoring duo of Anthony Nugent and Jacob Bourgeau. Nugent scored twice for Shawville and Bourgeau picked up an assist on both goals.

Shawville native's rink falls short at Ontario curling provincials; Allen rink out

WILBUR MCLEAN
Equity Reporter

PONTIAC • Shawville will be without representation at upcoming major bonspiels.

After dominating most of the field throughout round robin play, sisters Jenn Hanna and Steph Hanna looked a good bet to represent Ontario at this year's Scotties Tournament of Hearts but two playoff losses sent them home without their second provincial title.

"We had a bad Saturday, really. It wasn't black Sunday, it was black Saturday," joked Jenn about the two playoff losses.

"Everyone deserves to have an off-day every once in a while. Your best athletes in any sport will have an off-day, that's just how it goes sometimes."

Skip, Jenn and second, Steph, are the granddaughters of Shawville's Doris Hanna, Ruth and Ervin Beattie, nieces to Mavis Hanna and cousins of Erin Dittburner.

The sisters reside in Ottawa but Jenn said she holds Shawville dear to her.

"I have so much family there, I love it. My parents both grew up there so Shawville is really close to my heart."

In 2005 the pair won the Ontario championship before losing an 8-6 match in the Scott Tournament of Hearts final that same year to Jennifer Jones of Manitoba.

This year, in Mississauga, the Hanna rink won their first seven games and finished the round robin with an 8-1 record, good enough for first place.

However, they lost their 1-2 page playoff game, 11-5, to the eventual winners, Krista Scharf's rink from Thunder Bay and then dropped the semi-final, 8-7, to Sherry Middaugh of Victoria Harbour.

Despite the losses on "black Saturday", Jenn said she was pleased overall with the year her rink put forth.

"We didn't play so well in the first half of the season so I guess I'm really happy with the way we ended. I think it's to learn from the losses as well as through the wins."

The team's other players are Chrissy Cadorin, vice, and Joelle Sabourin, lead.

The Hanna sisters finished fourth at the provincials in 2006.

The 2007 Scotties Tournament of Hearts takes place Feb. 17 to 25 in Lethbridge, Alta.

No provincials for Allens

After some contemplation, the team of brothers Steve and Rickey Lee Allen decided not to enter a last chance provincial qualification bonspiel that took place in Montreal last weekend.

Their team consisted of former Labatt Brier finalist, skip, Guy Hemmings, third Don Westphal and spare, Louis Biron.

Rickey Lee played second and Steve threw lead stones.

"Something came up with Donny and we weren't able to go," explained Steve. "I'm not sure what's going on for next year yet, we haven't had a chance to talk to Guy."

The fivesome was entered in the Outaouais regional competition in Buckingham in January but finished the triple knockout tournament with a 3-3 record. The winner was entered in the provincial championship, which began today and continues until Tuesday in Sorel-Tracy, Qué.

The Simon Dupuis team from Thurso will represent the Outaouais.

Steve admitted disappointment at not entering the last chance bonspiel and being unable to play at the provincials.

"It's always disappointing when you have a chance to go and you don't end up going," he lamented. "We'd done kind of well down there (at provincials) before, we've been a contender."

Last year, a Shawville-based team skipped by Steve qualified for the provincials and played well enough to tie with six other teams for the final playoff spot.

The team, which also consisted of third, Gary Harris, second, Rickey Lee and lead, Dave Draper, lost out in their second tiebreaker match and was eliminated. The winner of the provincial tournament qualifies for the Brier, which takes place March 3 to 11 in Hamilton, Ont.

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Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

Pontiac County director-general André Cordeau (left) presents a draft strategic plan to Warden Mike McCrank and fellow mayors at the county council meeting held at the Campbell's Bay R.A. Centre Jan. 29. The three-phase process will allow the public to join elected officials and community leaders in planning where Pontiac wants to go in the coming five to 15 years.

Residents will assist in planning Pontiac county's next five years

MRC's director-general dismisses claims of amalgamating county

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

CAMPBELL'S BAY • The Pontiac County's director-general André Cordeau says an article in a recent edition of *Le Droit* was incorrect in claiming he thought the MRC could amalgamate to form only one great farming community.

"I think the reporter was just making news," Cordeau told THE EQUITY. "I mentioned it was an issue we would like to address in our strategic plan for economic development. All these issues will be discussed."

Cordeau spoke with a reporter from the paper at a recent Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais meeting.

Cordeau added that because the five-year strategic plans were due for development agencies SADC Community Futures Development Corporation, the Local Development Centre (CLD) and the county itself, now is an opportune time to create a plan that will ensure everyone in the county is working together towards the same goal.

Though forming one giant municipality might be out of the question, the county and its development agencies plan on confronting Pontiacers to find out what paths and projects elected officials should pursue and what economical areas locals would like to see highlighted.

At the County Council meeting held Jan. 29, Cordeau stated he had met with the CLD, and SADC board of directors to present a draft strategic plan.

Louise Donaldson, executive-director of the SADC, explained to council how the MRC, CLD and SADC all needed plans redone and hoped to look at a broader picture this time around with all three organizations.

"We agreed on most pieces of it in principle," she said. "But we want to bring it to the forefront in the minds of Pontiacers."

The draft plan involves three phases.

"The process will start from the bottom up," said Donaldson to the county's mayors. "It will help you make decisions in the long run."

For phase one, the county's 18 municipalities will be divided into four zones (east, central, west and Rapides des Joachims) to take part in simultaneous community forums guided by community building specialists.

"At these individual directive town meetings, we will ask for suggestions," said Donaldson.

"The purpose being is that we need to define what we want to do so that this room drives the development process — not the government."

The second phase consists of the SADC holding a Community Futures Conference that will look at two or three international speakers who are of global interest. The conference will include all leaders such as community, business, municipal, provincial, federal, civil servants and politicians.

Outsiders will only be able to observe and can only participate in discussions if called upon by the meeting chairperson. A second day in the conference will be spent defining a five to 10-year vision after assessing local forums.

The third phase is when a consultant will engage in a typical strategic planning process using updated community information and expectations.

Ideally, Donaldson said, they would like to begin the process by March and have the public's input collected by summer holidays.

"You will decide with your communities what you want to do first, 10 or 15 years from now," said Donaldson. "Our strategic plan is only for five years, but it sets us up for the long-term."

Solution will be online for firefighter training

SCOTT CLOUTHIER
AND LEAH MILLER
Equity staff

PONTIAC • After being unable to find enough English-language instructors to teach the new mandated curriculum to Pontiac's volunteer firefighters, the Western Quebec School Board has found an online alternative that will allow them to fulfill the requirements of their contract with Pontiac County.

A verbal agreement has been made between Pontiac and the school board to subcontract NWC-Educ Expert Inc. to pick up slack in English-language Fire Fighter Level 1 Training in order for county departments to meet the provincial training deadline of September 2008 mandated in the Fire Safety Cover Plan.

Educ Expert, which specializes in online training, already has 200 francophone firefighters registered for the French version of its course. It offers both traditional and online training in both official languages.

"It looks very, very user friendly," said Ruth Ahern, the WQSB's director of adult and vocational training. "It probably goes beyond the requirements."

She notes that the online route will not cost municipalities any more than the conventional training.

Having seen a preview of what Educ Expert has to offer, Ahern is confident that local firefighters shouldn't have many problems taking the online course.

"(A lack of instructor feedback is) always a concern when you do any kind of e-learning," she said, but noted "There's management at the other end (of Educ Expert) that does allow for feedback."

Ahern also said that arrangements can be made to accommodate firefighters who are unable to access the internet.

Pontiac MRC Warden Mike McCrank thinks the school board has come up with an acceptable solution to its problem.

"It's the same information, it's just how it's delivered," he said.

The MRC had asked the province for an extension to the training deadline, given the circumstances, but when reached by THE EQUITY, McCrank couldn't confirm if it had been granted or not.

Pontiac had received a previous extension so that the plan developed by Fire Safety Cover Plan Project Manager Claude Lafleur for the MRC could be translated into English.

Conventional training is currently underway in French and also in English with the two English-language instructors the WQSB was able to hire.

The only difference between the original program and Educ Expert's is that the latter does not include training for pumper operators.

"That's a specialty that can be learned elsewhere," said president and CEO of Educ Expert, Luc de la Durantaye, who was formerly fire chief in Aylmer.

The program through Educ Expert can have a firefighter trained within two years.

Educ Expert is currently training 275 firefighters. Upon successful completion of the training, firefighters will receive a diploma from École nationale des pompieres du Québec, certified by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress and recognized ouside of Quebec.

The price for each firefighters' training with this online company is approximately $700 less than the original program.

It is up to each municipality which training program it would like its fire department to take.

Boys' basketball team grabs first win of season

SCOTT CLOUTHIER
Equity Reporter

SHAWVILLE • Pontiac High School's Juvenile boys' basketball team earned their first victory of the year, narrowly defeating École Polyvalente l'Érablière 48-47 during a game on Jan. 31 in Gatineau.

The PHS Panthers currently stand in ninth place in the Association du Sport étudiant de l'Outaouais (ARSEO) 'AA' Juvenile boys' league with a 1-9 record after defeating winless Érablière.

The Panthers' next two games are away. Tomorrow they play at Collège St-Alexandre and on Feb. 15 at École secondaire de l'Île.

PHS will wrap up their season at home on Feb. 21, hosting Nicolas-Gatineau. That game will tip off at 7:45 p.m.

Juvenile girls fall to De l'Île

The PHS juvenile girls' basketball team saw their season record fall to three wins, two losses and a tie after losing a 54-18 decision to De l'Île on Jan. 30.

The Panthers are currently last in the ARSEO standings, although they have played fewer games thus far than the rest of the teams in the league.

Their next home game is on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, against Hormidas-Gamelin. The game starts at 7:45 p.m.

The following night they will host Mont-Bleu. That game will also begin at 7:45 p.m.

Struggles continue for Cadet girls

The PHS Cadet girls are still searching for their first win of the season after dropping a 40-16 decision to École secondaire du Versant on Jan. 29.

The closest they have come to a win this season was a 36-27 loss to Hormidas-Gamelin on Jan. 11 at home. But the Panthers may get a gift on Valentine's Day, as Grande-Rivière, the closest team to PHS in the standings, comes to Shawville. The game will get underway at 6 p.m.

Quyon



Jill McBane
458-2366

Clem and Joan Foran have spotted a rare bird at their house, they notice the spruce grouse comes for a bit in the morning and then again at evening. They also had 42 wild turkeys in their yard and watched as they crossed the road into the bush. I hear the food is pretty good back at the Foran's, of course it's Clem doing all the preparing.

On Jan. 12, Rolly, Linda, Adam Bernier and Vicki Leach travelled to Hamilton to celebrate Christmas with Rolly's' daughter Lisa, son-in-law Eric and grandson Zachary.

They made excellent time thanks to Adam's driving and Chris's caddy. They spent an enjoyable weekend with them all and did a bit of shopping. They left to come home on Monday, freezing rain in Hamilton and snow along the way. The road from Kingston to Prescott was terrible. There was a tanker truck on its side in the ditch but thanks to Rolly's great driving, they arrived home safe.

Sympathy is expressed to the families of Eric Campbell and Reta Calder who both passed away last week.

Velma Storie has returned home from a vacation with her daughter Cindy, son-law Manfard and two granddaughters in B.C.

Ottawa River waterway waiting on Renfrew

LEAH MILLER
Equity Editor

PONTIAC • Though the last bypass of the Ottawa River waterway was completed last June, project organizers say there are loose ends that still need to be tied.

The County of Renfrew was recently placed on notice of a serious breach of trust by the Ottawa River Project's lawyer in terms of not paying a promised $50,000.

Due to the government's commitment to match any funding for the project, project manager Gary Wiseman says they could be out by about $90,000.

"It's a lot of money," said Wiseman. "It puts us in a very difficult situation."

He said the commitment Renfrew made to the project — which also included funding from the City of Ottawa, $150,000 from Pontiac County, the federal government and Ontario — did not have a time limit attached when it was made in 2002.

County Chief Administrative Office/Clerk Norme Lemke told *The Eganville Leader* in December that the agreement was cancelled because of the delays in the project.

Messages left for Renfrew County Warden Janice Visneskie by THE EQUITY were not returned.

The missing funding has put a stop to equipment upgrades, ramp construction and community advertising the waterway had planned for the year.

"It was due last February-March," said Wiseman. "One year is long enough to wait."

He said that all other partners' shares had been paid months ago.

Wiseman has been working on the project since the first bypass opened in 1993.

"You go in expecting to meet the challenges and then nothing really surprises you," he said. "When a partner makes a specific commitment and one partner pulls out... that is bothersome."

Wiseman pointed out that Renfrew County has the largest portion of river frontage than any other partner in the waterway.

Delays in constructing the last bypass at Quyon and Fitzroy Harbour were created by government-required environmental studies and the deaths of two people on the Madawaska River following the opening of a dam by Ontario Power Generation operators, which convinced project planners to assess different landing points.

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Formation pour les pompiers est disponible sur l'internet

QUÉBEC • La Commission scolaire Western Quebec et NWC-EducExpert inc. sont fiers d'informer la région administrative de l'Outaouais, qu'ils ont signé une entente, visant à rendre disponible la formation Pompier I à l'ensemble du personnel des services de sécurité incendie du territoire couvert par la CS Western Quebec.

Par cette dernière, la Commission scolaire Western Quebec délègue à NWC-EducExpert inc. l'intégralité de la gestion des formations.

Les pompiers de l'Outaouais pourront ainsi débuter la formation prévue au règlement régissant cette dernière et rencontrer les exigences.

Cette formation sera disponible en anglais et en français et aura la particularité d'être offerte de façon traditionnelle et via Internet.

Cette dernière alternative offre à l'apprenant une solution moderne et efficace de formation, donnant de la flexibilité à l'horaire de chaque personne.

Les pompiers qui suivront cette formation se verront remettre, à la fin du programme, un certificat par l'École nationale des pompiers du Québec les reconnaissants qualifiés professionnellement et certifiés IFSAC, certification reconnu au-delà des frontières québécoises.

Pour toutes informations supplémentaires, contacter M.Luc de la Durantaye, Président directeur général chez NWC-EducExpert inc. qui se fera un plaisir de fournir plus de détails.

Chambre de commerce de Pontiac est une réalité

PONTIAC • Nous avons l'honneur d'annoncer la création officielle de la Jeune Chambre de Commerce régionale de Pontiac. Quoique les administrateurs bénévoles seront des jeunes propriétaires d'entreprises, tous les entrepreneurs, peu importe leur âge, la catégorie d'entreprise ou son emplacement, pourront y adhérer.

Cette nouvelle corporation procède maintenant à la rédaction des règlements, à l'élaboration de l'offre des bénéfices aux membres et à préciser les frais d'adhésion. Le lancement officiel aura lieu lors d'un gala des entrepreneurs en avril.

Comme collaborateur, la SADC Pontiac est fière de son partenariat avec le milieu des affaires et compte sur cette initiative pour mobiliser les gens d'affaires, créer des liens étroits avec le monde municipal et souligner l'attrait économique de la région tout en inspirant les jeunes entrepreneurs.

Pour plus d'informations, veuillez communiquer avec la SADC Pontiac.

La future stratégie visant l'intégration et le maintien en emploi des personnes handicapées

QUÉBEC • La ministre de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale, Mme Michelle Courchesne, rappelle que la population a jusqu'au 5 février prochain pour répondre à la consultation en ligne qui servira à alimenter une stratégie nationale pour l'intégration et le maintien en emploi des personnes handicapées. « Pour relever ce défi important, la participation à la consultation de nombreux citoyens, dont les personnes ayant des incapacités et les acteurs du marché du travail, est souhaitée et primordiale », a mentionné la ministre Courchesne.

Pour rendre accessible la consultation à un plus grand nombre de personnes, le cahier de consultation intitulé Pour une chance égale en emploi ainsi que les documents afférents sont aussi présentés en médias adaptés sur le site Internet www.mess.gouv.qc.ca. Il est également possible de les obtenir en téléphonant au Bureau des renseignements et plaintes du ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale au 418 643-4721 ou au 1 888 643-4721.

Rappelons que, parallèlement à la consultation en ligne, des rencontres sur invitation avec différents acteurs des milieux syndical, patronal et associatif des personnes handicapées auront lieu au cours des mois de janvier et février 2007 dans différentes régions du Québec.

« Le Québec a besoin de toutes ses forces vives pour poursuivre son développement socioéconomique. Ainsi, la participation des personnes handicapées au marché du travail est tout aussi déterminante que celle des autres groupes de la population. À nous de s'assurer qu'elles disposent d'un environnement qui leur permettra de développer leur plein potentiel et de s'intégrer durablement en emploi », a conclu la ministre Michelle Courchesne.

Ca s'passe entre tes 2 oreilles: Tu as tout pour réussir en Outaouais

GATINEAU • En continuité avec la campagne nationale qui est amorcée aujourd'hui même, les membres de la table éducation Outaouais (TÉO) sont fiers de s'associer à Emploi-Québec Outaouais, à la Direction régionale du ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) et aux partenaires des établissements de formation de la région pour proceder au lancement de la campagne de valorisation de la formation professionnelle et de la formation technique

« Ça s'passe entre tes 2 oreilles, tu as tout pour réussir ».

Cette campagne, qui en est à sa 4e année, met en évidence la diversité, l'accessibilité et la qualité de la formation professionnelle et de la formation technique offertes en Outaouais.

Elle vise à sensibiliser a population et plus spécifiquement les jeunes de l'Outaouais et leurs parents à explorer les opportunités d'emploi dans ces domaines.

Les site Internet toute pourrreussir.com, outil majeur de cette campagne, permet de mieux faire connaître les métiers et professions qui sont disponibles.

Dans la région, environ 60 per centum des emplois crées dans les prochaines années nécessiteront une formation professionnelle, de niveau secondaire ou une formait ont technique, de niveau collégial.

En Outaouais, la formation professionnelle et la formation technique offrent plus de 75 programmes dans 14 établissements.

La campagne se poursuit jusqu'au 22 avril 2007.

Stratégie d'action jeunesse 2006-2009

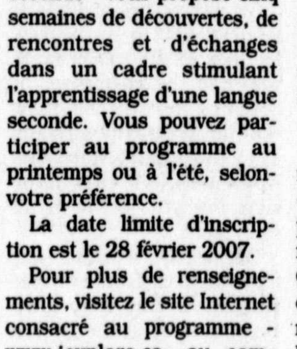
CAMPBELL'S BAY • « Les adolescents qui fréquentent les maisons de jeunes sont entre bonnes mains, c'est pourquoi nous octroyons un financement supplémentaire à ces partenaires dont l'action auprès de la jeunesse est source de créativité et de dynamisme. »

C'est ce qu'a déclaré aujourd'hui la députée de Pontiac, madame Charlotte L'Écuyer, au nom de la ministre déléguée à la Protection de la jeunesse et à la Réadaptation, madame Margaret F. Delisle, alors qu'elle confirmait un investissement de 6 456 dollars destiné à la maison de jeunes du Pontiac.

Les maisons de jeunes sont des lieux de rencontre animés pour les jeunes de 12 à 17 ans.

Reconnues pour leur capacité à rejoindre les adolescents de tous les milieux, les maisons de jeunes favorisent leur épanouissement, leur bien-être et leur santé à travers des activités à caractère éducatif qui ont comme dénominateur commun la responsabilisation et le développement optimal du potentiel du jeune.

« Les adolescentes et les



CHARLOTTE L'ÉCUYER

adolescents trouvent dans les maisons de jeunes des adultes significatifs qui leur accordent la confiance nécessaire pour s'épanouir et bâtir ensemble des projets stimulants, qui leur ressemblent », a affirmé madame L'Écuyer

Cet investissement figure parmi les 80 mesures inscrites dans la Stratégie d'action jeunesse 2006-2009, lancée par le premier ministre en mars 2006.

Ce programme global veut favoriser la réussite des jeunes sur tous les plans et propose des actions dans plusieurs secteurs, pour répondre à cinq grandes orientations : améliorer la santé et le bien-être des jeunes, favoriser leur réussite éducative, favoriser leur insertion professionnelle, accroître leur présence dans la société et améliorer le soutien qui leur est offert.

Ce sont 5 millions de dollars sur 3 ans qui y ont été prévus afin de consolider le réseau des maisons de jeunes du Québec.

« Notre gouvernement veut offrir un soutien véritable à la jeunesse québécoise, afin qu'elle puisse s'épanouir et relever les défis qui se poseront à elle. Les maisons de jeunes font partie des acteurs de notre société qui proposent des choix intéressants aux jeunes. Notre décision d'augmenter leur financement va de pair avec la confiance que nous leur accordons », a conclu madame L'Écuyer.

Wô minute! Prenez le temps de voir à la sécurité des écoliers

QUÉBEC • Depuis 1989, l'Association du transport écolier du Québec (ATEQ) tient une campagne annuelle de sécurité afin de rappeler aux jeunes, aux intervenants et aux automobilistes l'importance d'adopter des comportements sécuritaires à bord et autour des autobus scolaires.

Le ministère des Transports du Québec, la Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec et la Commission des transports participent à la campagne de sécurité en transport scolaire organisée par l'ATEQ. Les usagers de la route sont donc invités à prendre le temps de voir à la sécurité des écoliers tandis que ces derniers sont directement interpellés par le slogan « Wô minute! Pense à ta sécurité ». La campagne de l'ATEQ toucheun grand nombre de personnes étant donné que, chaque jour, plus de 10 000 véhicules parcourent un total d'un million de kilomètres pour transporter près de 575 000 enfants vers les établissements scolaires partout sur le territoire du Québec.

Pour en savoir plus :www.ateq.qc.ca/evenements/campagne.html

Programme EXPLORE

Vous êtes étudiant? Vous désirez apprendre l'anglais et découvrir une nouvelle région du Canada? « Explore – Programme d'été de langue seconde » vous propose cinq semaines de découvertes, de rencontres et d'échanges dans un cadre stimulant l'apprentissage d'une langue seconde. Vous pouvez participer au programme au printemps ou à l'été, selon votre préférence.

La date limite d'inscription est le 28 février 2007.

Pour plus de renseignements, visitez le site Internet consacré au programme - www.jexplore.ca -ou composez le numéro sansfrais 1 877 866-4242.

Le DÉFI SANTÉ 5/30 invite tous les Québécois à entreprendre une démarche afin d'atteindre 2 objectifs clés pour leur santé :

1. Manger au moins 5 portions de fruits et de légumes, au minimum 5 jours par semaine;

2. bouger au moins 30 minutes, au minimum 5 jours par semaine.

Ainsi, pendant 6 semaines, du 1 ermars au 11 avril 2007, le DÉFI SANTÉ 5/30 encourage les petits et les grands à découvrir le plaisir de bouger et de manger mieux!

Il est possible de s'inscrire au DÉFI dès maintenant en visitant le www.defisante530.com/defisante/ fr/. C'est gratuit!

La 17e édition de la Semaine de promotion de la vie et de la prévention du suicide se déroulera du 4 au 10 février 2007 : www.aqps.info/activ/sps/sps2007. html

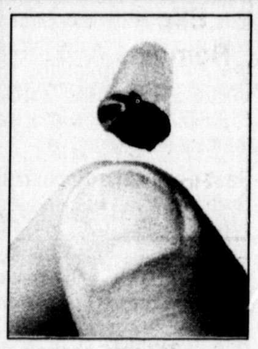
Ici on recycle!

Le programme de reconnaissance gouvernementale « Ici on recycle! », instauré par RECYC-QUÉBEC au nom du gouvernement du Québec, souligne les efforts des industries, des commerces et des institutions – ICI - qui ont implanté dans leurs établissements des mesures permettant une gestion exemplaire des matières résiduelles, dans le respect de la Politique québécoise de gestion des matières résiduelles 1998-2008.

L'attestation de performance permet aux détenteurs d'afficher publiquement leurs accomplissements et leur engagement en faveur de l'environnement.

RECYC-QUÉBEC s'engage à faire état de cette attestation.

La date limite pour le dépôt des candidatures est fixée au 31 mars 2007. Détails : www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/client/fr/programmes-services/prog-reconnaissance/ ici.asp

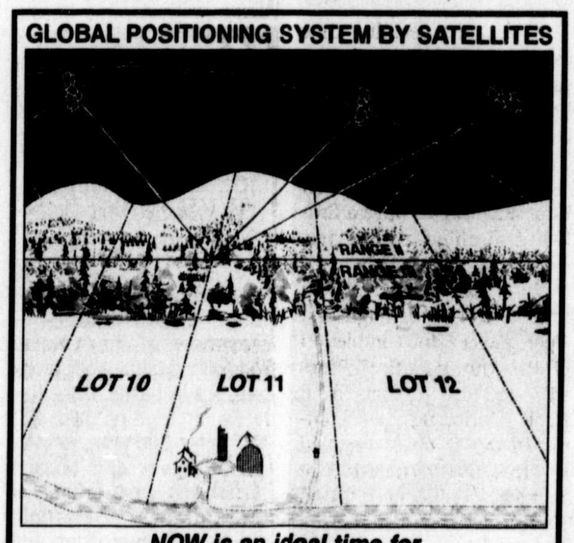


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Le ou la gestionnaire est responsable d'assurer une utilisation judicieuse des ressources humaines, matérielles et financières de ses services.

EXIGENCES :
- Membre de l'OIIQ avec permis de pratique valide.
- Posséder un baccalauréat en soins infirmiers ou en gestion.
- Posséder un minimum de 3 ans d'expérience en gestion en soins infirmiers serait un atout important.
- Doit communiquer dans les deux langues officielles.
- Doit posséder une voiture et un permis de conduire valide.

Pour en savoir plus :
Venez visiter notre site web : www.santepontiac.qc.ca
Veuillez faire parvenir **VOTRE CURRICULUM VITAE avant le 13 février 2007** à la Direction des ressources humaines, Le CENTRE DE SANTÉ ET DE SERVICES SOCIAUX DU PONTIAC, 160, chemin de la Chute, case postale 430, Mansfield (Québec) J0X 1V0, par télécopieur au (819) 683-1424, par courriel : info@santepontiac.qc.ca

Seules les personnes convoquées en entrevue recevront une réponse écrite.
POSTE CADRE
Salaire selon l'échelle salariale en vigueur.

Commission scolaire des Hauts-Bois-de-l'Outaouais

AVIS AUX PARENTS

INSCRIPTION DES ÉLÈVES POUR SEPTEMBRE 2007

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE DES HAUTS-BOIS-DE-L'OUTAOUAIS SECTEUR M.R.C. DE PONTIAC

PRÉMATERNELLE 4 ANS – MATERNELLE 5 ANS PREMIÈRE ANNÉE

L'inscription des élèves qui fréquenteront une classe de prématernelle 4 ans, de maternelle 5 ans ou de première année en septembre prochain se fera dans la semaine du 12 février 2007 aux écoles suivantes:

* L'école Ste-Anne à l'Ile-du-Grand-Calumet, les 12 et 13 février de 13 h à 15 h.
* L'école Ste-Anne à l'Ile-du-Grand-Calumet, le 16 février de 8 h à 15 h.
* L'école l'Envolée à Campbell's Bay, le 12 février de 8 h 30 à 11 h 30.
* L'école Ste-Marie à Otter Lake, le 13 février de 8 h 30 à 11 h 30.
* L'école Poupore à Fort-Coulonge, du 12 au 16 février de 8 h 30 à 15 h.
* L'école Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur à Chapeau, le 14 février de 8 h 30 à 15 h.

CONDITIONS D'ADMISSION

- Prématernelle 4 ans : Avoir 4 ans avant le premier octobre 2007.
- Maternelle 5 ans : Avoir 5 ans avant le premier octobre 2007.
- Première année : Avoir 6 ans avant le premier octobre 2007.

DOCUMENTS À FOURNIR À L'INSCRIPTION

Vous devez fournir le certificat de naissance (original) **grand format** émis par la Direction de l'état civil où **apparaissent les noms et prénoms des parents et le lieu de naissance.**
IL NOUS SERA IMPOSSIBLE D'ADMETTRE VOTRE ENFANT SI VOUS NE FOURNISSEZ PAS LE CERTIFICAT DE NAISSANCE.
Pour les enfants nés au Québec, seulement le certificat grand format émis par la Direction de l'état civil est accepté. Les formulaires pour les demandes de certificat de la Direction de l'état civil sont disponibles dans les C.L.S.C., au bureau du registraire général de l'état civil au numéro 1-800-567-3900 ou via le site internet : www.etatcivil.gouv.qc.ca
Pour les enfants nés en Ontario, c'est le certificat VERSION INTÉGRALE. Vous devez vous adresser au Bureau du registraire général de l'état civil au numéro 1-416-325-8305 ou via le site internet : www.cbs.gov.on.ca . Il faut aussi fournir une preuve de résidence au Québec (compte d'Hydro-Québec ou taxes municipales).
Pour les enfants nés ailleurs qu'au Québec et en Ontario : vous devez vous adresser au bureau du registraire général de l'état civil de la province concerné. Les noms des parents ainsi que le lieu de naissance doivent apparaître sur le document. Il faut aussi fournir une preuve de résidence au Québec (compte d'Hydro-Québec ou taxes municipales). Pour les enfants nés à l'étranger, communiquer avec l'école.

PRIMAIRE ET SECONDAIRE

Pour les élèves déjà inscrits dans les écoles primaires ou à l'école secondaire : l'école fera parvenir une fiche de renouvellement d'inscription à faire signer par les parents.

NOUVEAUX ÉLÈVES

Pour les nouveaux élèves qui désirent s'inscrire au primaire, les parents se présentent à l'école la plus proche de leur domicile selon le même horaire que les élèves qui s'inscrivent à la maternelle.
Pour les nouveaux élèves qui désirent s'inscrire au secondaire, les parents se présentent à l'école secondaire Sieur-de-Coulonge à Fort-Coulonge les 12, 13, 14 ou 15 février 2007 de 8 h 30 à 15 h.

Marlène Thonnard
Directrice générale

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February '07

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
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March '07

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CLASSIFIEDS

COMING EVENTS

Fri., Feb. 9 – 8 p.m., Harmonic Distortion is entered in a battle of the bands at Café Dekcuf, 221 Rideau, Ottawa. Come show your hand to get them through to the next round. Ages 19+, $15.00 at the door.. xF7

Attention – A Xango meeting will be held on Feb. 10, 2007 at the Voyageur Restaurant, Hwy. 148, Bryson, Que. at 1:30 p.m. The topic will be health and wealth, we will show you how to save 6 to 8 thousand a year on your income tax. This meeting is open to everyone. So come and bring a friend. xf7

Sun., Feb. 11 – Meeting Pontiac Environmental Protection 3:00 – 5:00 pm Shawville. Call 647-3522 for directions. Topics: Waste management and the "Mega-Dump," Uranium exploration, landowner rights, timber harvest plans on public land, protected areas negotiations." bf7

Sun., Feb. 11 – 7 p.m. Inspiration Hour at Wesleyan Church, James St., Shawville. All welcome. Fellowship to follow. bf7

Mon., Feb. 12 – Join Harmonic Distortion and other groups at Zaphod Beeblebrox, 27 York St., Ottawa, 8 p.m., free admission. xtcf7

Feb. 14 – Poor Man's Lunch 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Oddfellow Hall, Alfred St., Shawville, Variety of soups and pies. $6 per person. xf7

Thurs., Feb. 15 – Pancake Supper, Orange Hall, Centre St., Shawville. 4:30 to 7 p.m. Adults $8. Children $4, everyone welcome. 2xf14

Sun., Feb. 18 – From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A delicious pre-Lent brunch at the T.C.R.A. in Ladysmith. Cost $10 for adults, $5 for children aged 3 - 12. An all you can eat meal with ham, sausages, beans, pancakes, local maple syrup, various salads, dessert and tea and coffee - a quality and quantity meal! Sponsored by the Anglican Parish of Northern Pontiac. Come join us for this feast! For information call 819-648-2949 or see www.pontiacanglican.org 2bf14

Feb. 20 – Pancake Supper, St. John's Anglican Church basement, Quyon. 4:30 to 7 p.m. $8 adults, $4 children. Everyone welcome. 2bf14

Tues., Feb. 20 – St. Paul's Anglican Pancake Supper from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Adults $8, children $4. Everyone welcome. 2xf14

Wed., Feb. 21 – Information Day, Sponsored by Pontiac County Women's Institute. Four guest speakers. Registration 9:30 a.m., Shawville United Church Hall, Everyone welcome. 2bf14

MISCELLANEOUS

Good set of wooden stairs 12' long by 37" wide. Serious callers. Asking $475. Tel: 819-647-3424. xf7

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MISCELLANEOUS

20% off all in-stock Bradford Exchange collectibles from Feb. 1 - Feb. 28, 2007 at the Lighthouse Bookstore, 349 Main St., Shawville, Que. 4b28

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Stop in and get your copy of "Eleanor's Recipe Collection No. 2" at The Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville, QC. Just $14.99 each. xtc

1970-230 Timberjack skidder, new motor, lots of parts. 1971-644 Clark, new motor, chains. Bush lot available 819-648-2835, 613-312-5764. 2xf14

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Interested in purchasing older home to renovate. 819-684-5611. 3bf7

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Bryson – 2 bedroom apartment 648-5555. otc

Campbell's Bay – 2 bedroom apartment overlooking the Ottawa River 648-2500. otc

Campbell's Bay – 1 bedroom apartment utilities, stove and fridge included $425 per month 819-647-2967. otc

Campbell's Bay – 2 bedroom apartment $475 per month, utilities not included. 819-647-2967. otc

Campbell's Bay – 2 or 3 bedroom house $400 per month with option to buy, heat and hydro not included. 819-684-9355, David. xf7

Otter Lake – 3 bedroom bungalow $450 per month, heat and hydro not included 819-647-6706. 2bf7

Shawville – 2 bedroom apartment for rent 647-3256. otc

Shawville – Large spacious, 1 bedroom apartment, appliances, washer and dryer, storage 819-647-6085. 4bf28

Shawville Lions Hall available for all occasions. Air conditioned. Call Jerry Callaghan 819-647-5691. 0-1-F7

Vinton area – Bachelor room, furnished, kitchen and shower 819-648-2835, 613-312-5764. 2bf14

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Truck driver, warehouse labourer required full time. Must be physically fit. Class 3/D2 license an asset, bilingualism and computer skills an asset. Send resumé to M & R Feeds, Box 280, Quyon, P. Q. J0X 2V0 Att'n: Dan Proulx. Only those candidates who will be interviewed will be contacted. bf7

HELP WANTED

Olymel is a world class Canadian Pork and Poultry Product Producer, with more than 9,000 employees throughout Canada. Our Red Deer location is now hiring food processing workers. Competitive wages, relocation program, employee incentives!! Send your resume to Olymel, 7550-40th Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6R7. Tel: 1-866-926-3544. Fax: 403-309-7547 apply@olymel.com, www.olymel.com. qf7

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Waterwell drilling company requires experienced waterwell drillers, supervisors, helpers, pump installers and well testers. Year round work, top wages. Must have Class 3 driver's license. Fax resume to 403-748-2880. qf7

2nd power engineers - Olymel is a world class Canadian Pork and Poultry Product producer, with more than 9,000 employees throughout Canada. Our Red Deer location is looking for 2nd class chief engineer. Competitive wages, relocation program, employee incentives. Unionized position, and much more! Send your resume to Olymel, 7550-40th Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6R7. Tel: 1-866-926-3544. Fax: 403-309-7547 daanhardman@olymel.com, www.olymel.com. qf7

Cook needed part-time for week nights and weekends. Drop CV off to Mohr's Restaurant, Quyon in a sealed envelope. Attention: Lisa. No phone calls please. 2bf14

Attention chercheurs d'emploi! Besoin d'aide avec votre CV et vous voulez savoir comment accéder au marché caché de l'emploi? Communiquez avec un conseiller en emploi au CREP/CJEP 819-648-5065. Services bilingues et gratuits. Attention job seekers! Need help preparing a résumé or accessing the hidden job market? Contact a job counsellor today at CREP/PYEM 819-648-5065. Services are free and bilingual. b4f14

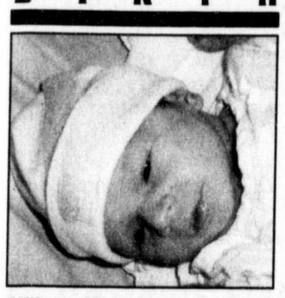
Cook including evenings and weekends. Apply at Shawville Village Inn 819-647-6464. 2bf7

THANKS

Horner – The family of Janet Horner (née Nesbitt) would like to thank her many friends, relatives and former students who called, visited or attended her funeral. Your expressions of sympathy were greatly appreciated. A special thank you to the staff at the Pontiac Reception Centre and Pontiac Respite Centre for their excellent care to Janet, and support to us. Bob and Elayne Horner

Thrun – The Thrun family would like to express a sincere thank you to their relatives and friends for food, flowers, donations and messages of sympathy in the loss of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Ivan. A special thanks to Gerda for the delicious meal on Friday evening and to Terry for her many nights and afternoons of keeping us company at the hospital. Thank you to Hayes Funeral Home for all their compassion and to pallbearers - Wally Bretzlaff, Ebert Turcotte, Nelson Angus, Phillip Thompson, Gary Reynolds and Raymond Pasch. A heartfelt thank you to Gary Reynolds for a comforting and memorable eulogy. We wish to thank Rev. John Stopa for a touching service and Ladies of the Parish for providing the lunch following the funeral. Ivan was a caring, loving man and will be missed by all. Helen, Susan and Wendy Thrun

BIRTH



Miller – Chris and Julie Abbott are thrilled to announce the arrival of Grady Peter. Grady was coaxed into the world on Friday, January 26, 2007 at 7:48 pm., weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz. A little brother for Ryan, first grandchild for Peter and Gail Abbott of Brockville, On., and an 8th grandchild for Robin and Donna Miller of Pembroke and Joane Love of Round Lake. Many thanks to Drs. Courchesne, Wootton and Croteau and their staff and Dr. LeGoff and obstetrics/maternity staff at Gatineau Hospital.

NOTICES

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DEATH

Beauchamp, Dickie – Peacefully at the Ottawa General Hospital after a life long brave battle with diabetes, on Friday, Jan. 26, 2007 in his 53rd year. Beloved son of Oliver and Marion Beauchamp. Dear brother of Aileen, Paul, Mertina, Benjamin, Grace, Brian and Lori-Ann. Nephew of Essie Schwartz (Ernest). Predeceased by sister Evelyn 1964, Xavier and Martina Beauchamp and Paul and Theresa (mamere) Dagenais whom he cared for all of his life. He was a special friend to many people who had the pleasure of knowing him. Dickie will be sadly missed for his good sense of humour and story telling. He was an inventor of many gadgets, who also loved hunting and fishing and Ski-doos. But most of all the endless time that he spent in his garage fixing anything for people who dropped in or passed by. He was especially very proud of his dad's 1952 Ford truck which he has always planned to restore but never got to finish. Dickie had a solution to fix anything and was seen most every day with garage doors wide open to the passing public who would stop for a warm welcome, visit, advice, suggestions or even to listen to the music he had playing. He always had the local C.H.I.P. Radio Station playing. We miss you Dickie, but we all know that you are in a better place now where you will not suffer any more and we know that you will watch over our families and guide us from above. God bless you on your journey. From far and wide to our home town. Farewell my son, friend, uncle, nephew. But most of all my dearest brother.
Sisters and brothers xo

DEATH

Desabrais, Marcel G. – Peacefully in the Pontiac Community Hospital on February 4th, 2007 in his 68th year, surrounded by family and friends. Survived by his mother, Rose Desabrais, Bryson, P.Q. Devoted father of Dan (Diane) Shawville, P.Q., Sean and Brionne of Bryson, P.Q. Wonderful grandfather to Travis Kluke, Craig, Alanna and Stacey Desabrais. Brother to Ronnie (Gladys) Otter Lake, P.Q., Claudette (Marcel Dufault) Bryson, P.Q., and Kenneth (Suzanne) Renfrew, ON. Predeceased by his father Adelore Desabrais and sister-in-law Madeline Desabrais. A memorial service will be held at the Immaculate Conception Church, Bryson, Quebec on Saturday, February 10th, 2007 at 11 a.m. Interment of ashes in the Parish cemetery in the spring. Donation to Pontiac Community Hospital Foundation, Palliative Care Unit, would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to W.J. Hayes & Sons Ltd. 819-647-2221

Horner – Janet Louise (née Nesbitt) Feb. 17, 1909 - Jan. 27, 2007. Peacefully in Pontiac Reception Centre, Shawville, Quebec on Saturday, January 27, 2007, Janet Horner, beloved wife of the late Bert Horner, in her 98th year. Loving mother of Dr. Robert Horner (Elayne), of Mississauga, Ontario. Predeceased by sister, Jessie MacMillan and grandson John Horner. Dear grandmother of Catherine, Christopher and Mark and great-grandmother of six. She will be sadly missed by many nieces and nephews. Friends called at the W. J. Hayes & Sons Funeral Home, 134 Centre Street, Shawville, Quebec on Sunday, January 28, 2007 from 7–9 p.m. and on Monday from noon until service time. Funeral was Monday, January 29, 2007 at the Shawville United Church for Service at 2:00 p.m. Interment Maple Grove Cemetery. Donations to the charity of your choice would be appreciated.

McCauley, Helen (née Prophet) – Owner of McCauley Jewellers in Shawville since 1959. In hospital, Shawville, Quebec on Sunday, February 4, 2007. Beloved wife of Hubert McCauley. Loving and devoted mother of Hugh and Ervan. Proud grandmother of Ryan, Connor and Lauryn. Dear sister of Thelma (late John Degroot). Predeceased by siblings Freda (late John), James (late Mable), Orval (late Lois), Lynne (Betty), and Mariel (twin of Thelma). Dear aunt of Cheryl, Bruce and Brian Prophet, and Robert and Karl Degroot. Daughter of the late William Prophet and Alice Tomalty. Friends may call at W. J. Hayes & Sons Funeral Home, 134 Centre Street, Shawville, Quebec on Thursday, February 8, 2007 from 5 to 8 p.m. and on Friday from noon until service time. Funeral Friday, February 9 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel. Interment in the Spring.

Thrun, Ivan Hiram Otto – Jan. 24, 2007
Peacefully with family by his side in Pontiac Community Hospital, after a courageous and lengthy battle with cancer in his 78th year. Cherished and beloved husband of Helen (née Buck) for 53 years. Proud and loving Dad of Susan (Loren Smart) and Wendy (David Sugrue). Dearly loved Grandpa of Kristina, Amanda, Courtney and Christopher, and great-grandson Zaydon. Son of the late Walter and Theresa Thrun. Ivan will be dearly missed by his family, relatives and many close and special friends. Funeral was held at St. Paul's Anglican Church on Saturday, January 27, 2007 with Rev. John Stopa officiating. Interment was at Maple Grove Cemetery.

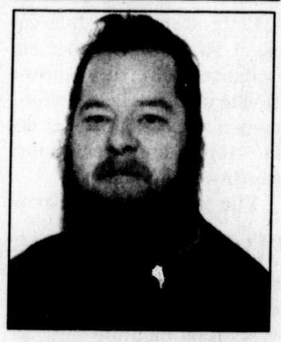
MEMORIAM

Bean, Keith – In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather who passed over February 7, 2001.
May the winds of love blow softly,
And whisper for you to hear,
That we love you dearly,
And wish you were still here.
We hold you close in our hearts,
And there you shall remain,
To walk beside us in our lives,
Until we meet again.
Shirley and Carle, Sean and Audrey, Lesley and Adam

MEMORIAM

Beattie – In memory of our Grampa Ivan who passed away February 6, 2006.
There's a home not made by hands,
Beyond its golden door awaits
the one who's now away
Not lost just gone before
And in that home not made by hands
The master will prepare
A place for us and when he calls
We'll meet our loved one there.
Just a thought of sweet remembrance,
Just a memory fond and true
Just a token of affection and heartache still for you.
More each day we miss you
Little do they know the sorrow
That is within our hearts.
Robin, Sylvain and family

Beattie, Ivan – August 4, 1921 - February 6, 2006
In loving memory of a dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather, who passed away February 6, 2006.
A year has gone by and we think of you often.
The many memories we have will never be forgotten.
You're always in our hearts and there you will remain.
Until we meet again.
Always remembered.
The Beattie Family



Parizeau – In loving memory of Rudolphe ("Rudy") Parizeau who passed away Feb. 7, 2006.
It is hard when our loved ones have reached their day,
When they say goodbye to all,
But harder by far when they pass away
With no goodbye at all.
Could we have been there at the hour of death
To catch the last sigh of his parting breath,
His last faint whisper we might have heard,
And breathed in his ear one loving word.
Lovingly remembered by Valerie and Denis and grandchildren, Christopher, Jason and Shawn

MEMORIAM

Knox – Fond and heartfelt memories of a loving Mom and cherished Nana, Jean, who passed away Feb. 13, 2004.
The light of her love,
The tenderness of her caring,
The warmth of her presence,
The joy of her laughter
Brightened the lives
Of those who knew her.
Dearly missed,
The family

Sicard – In loving memory of Yves Sicard, who went home on February 10, 2006.
Dad...
On angels' wings your soul soared to Heaven. We entrust you now into the Father's loving care, for memories of you live deep within our hearts.
Till we meet again on resurrection day, We miss you so...
Love Larry, Wendy, Corrine, Terry and Kevin.
Many thanks to Ringrose Funeral Home, Mr. Pigeon and Annette Gauthier, for all that you have done for us.

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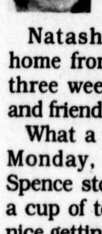
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Waltham



Helen Perry
689-2652
jacobg42@hotmail.com

Natasha Beaubien was home from Yellowknife, for three weeks visiting family and friends.

What a nice surprise last Monday, when uncle Leo Spence stopped by and had a cup of tea with us. It was nice getting caught up on all the family news.

Georgette Beaubien, Shirley, Serge, Natasha Beaubien and other family members and friends all enjoyed a tasty supper at Northfork last Wednesday night.

Get well wishes and lots of love extended to our nephew Matthew Heagle of Cornwall, who had the misfortune of breaking his arm. Matthew was on a ski trip with his school in Rigaud when this happened. We sure hope that you are on the mend soon Matt!

Get well wishes are extended to Harvey Gale who is recovering from open-heart surgery at the Ottawa Heart Institute. We sure hope that you get well real soon. Our love, thoughts and prayers are with you Poppa Harv!

It was sure nice to see Garry Marchand out chatting at the store the other day. Garry has been having health challenges and he was telling me that he was in the hospital for nine weeks. Keep it up Garry, you are doing good!

With the recent snowfall that we've had, the skidooers are in their glory, as many are enjoying the ski-doo trail that runs through Waltham. It is a great winter sport, as long as they are cautious.

Wasn't that a terrible tornado that ripped through central Florida in the wee hours early Friday morning? Our heart thoughts and prayers are extended to the families that lost loved ones, and to those that were injured and lost their homes and possessions. May God be with them in the days and weeks ahead. I called Margaret and Andre Pilon in Lakeland and fortunately they are fine, as well as Carolyn and Gerard Pharand, who are down there with there trailer.

This is Friday, Feb. 2 Ground Hog Day. Apparently, he hasn't seen his shadow, so we are suppose to have an early spring. We will have to see about that! It has turned milder today but I hear that the cold weather will be back by the beginning of the week.

Congratulations to April Gagnon and Dave Nolan who were married this past Saturday. The wedding took place at 3 p.m. at St. Peter's Church in Fort Coulonge. Fr. Nil Guillemette officiated the sacrament. The dinner and reception took place in St. Peter's Church Hall.

April is the daughter of Darlene and Larry Gagnon and Dave is the son of Linda and the (late Tim Nolan). May you both share many years of God's richest blessings. Several people from Waltham attended.

On Saturday afternoon an outdoor fun day was held on the Lilly Lake behind Laurette Spencer's.

Her family gathered and enjoyed the fresh air and numerous activities. Afterwards, everyone was treated to a tasty supper at Laurette's.

A very happy birthday and all the best of everything are wished to Lysanne Bechamp, who is celebrating her birthday on Feb. 11. We hope that you have a lovely day Lysanne!

Ryan Bayne is also celebrating his 12th birthday on Feb. 11. We hope that you have an awesome day Ryan!

Sheenboro



Myrtle Sullivan
689-2236

Five teams of horses hauled sleighs filled with happy campers through the fields and along the trails of the Brennan farm on Sunday afternoon. This has become an annual event hosted by Bill and Sandra Brennan of Sheenboro. Not only were sleigh bells ringing, (one group was heard singing "jingle bells") but the hills were alive with the sound of music. All this with the smell of baked beans and other delicacies wafting from the cook house. I got there about 1:30 p.m. and already the sleighs were on the go. My daughter Carmelita and I immediately boarded the nearest sleigh and were off. Others headed for the warmth of the house. The temperature was about -15 with a brisk wind blowing but we were well bundled up and had a marvelous ride, not to say we weren't glad to soak up the heat of the fireplace some 30 minutes later.

The Brennan dog, a white husky, greeted all the guests as they arrived. Bill later told me that the dog prefers to stay out of doors regardless of temperature and burrows in the snow at night. Shortly after 2 p.m. the musicians were in place and ready to go. At this point there were lots of hot coffee, tea and snack food and the sleigh rides were still on the go outside. The house was near filled to capacity and I think I knew everybody there.

Jim Beatty headed up the band of 10 fiddlers, three guitars, piano, and a home concocted string base which was a real crowd pleaser. My daughter Carmelita played the Irish bodhran drum. She so enjoyed herself that she played right through the buffet which was to follow and didn't miss a beat. The age of the musicians ranged from about 16 to 80 and they gave it their all. Jim sang a few solos here and there and that served to give some of the musicians a short break from time to time. I've been a fan of Jim for along time and enjoy his singing.

Later in the day Louis Schryer joined in with the music showing us what an eight-time-champion fiddler sounds like. Amazing.

Then Louis' daughter, Chelsea, stole the show by giving us a stepdance demonstration. Wow! Her feet were just a blur and the rhythm great. It's obvious that we will be seeing and hearing a lot more of that young lady.

While Billy played the fiddle along with meeting and greeting, driving a sleigh and over-seeing the event, Sandra was looking after the kitchen, and what a job she did. With the help of Theresa Brennan and hubby Roger Sampson, a 30 ft long buffet was presented, in addition to a table of sweets. There was everything one could ask for, even a pot of beans which were the creation of Billy himself. He came by the buffet table quite often to promote them. I had some, hoping he would be swayed into inviting me back next year. But seriously they were very good. I think everybody out this way has their own family baked beans recipe. My husband Emmett's recipe included maple syrup, right from the Sullivan farm. My son Lornie has his own special recipe that he often makes when he's home. Baking beans must be a man's thing it seems, they all love to do it.

With the house full there was hardly room for dancing. But dance they did. Brian Adam the mayor of Chapeau called for a square in the middle of the crowd and eight dancers quickly appeared. I expect their were a few toes stepped on. Dancing often broke out from time to time with people doing the Sheenboro hop or a waltzing about when the music suited.

One of the fiddlers was Tom Brennan of Pakenham, grandson of the late Ellard and Claire and son of Bobby and Barbara Brennan. He recently released a CD and had it for sale as a fundraiser for a planned Irish tour. I purchased a copy and played it later when I got home and found it to be very well done. I wish Tom every success in Ireland.

There were a couple of roving photographers on the scene, Dave Prentise and Penny Perrault. If there is something in particular you would like a picture of I'm sure one or the other has it on film.

I received a nice e-mail from Massachusetts the other day. It was from Fredi Hungate who is a frequent vacationer in Sheen. She and her husband are building a home here and keep in touch with the music scene through this column. Fredi loves to play guitar and often plays with her many friends at the Regal Beagle. She said she would be attending Billy's bash and sure enough showed up and we had a nice chat. That same evening she remarked on a seven and one-half hour trip back home to Mass., USA.

On Saturday last, we celebrated my daughter Carmelita's birthday. She had just returned from Australia so she had many yarns to tell and pictures to show. She brought everybody gifts, and with the birthday celebration it was a little bit like Christmas all over again.

Get well wishes go out to Mary King who is presently in the hospital and also Harold D'Arcy who is in the Sudbury hospital.

My granddaughter, Shannon McDonald, is back home in Chapeau after outpatient surgery at the Riverside. We wish her a quick recovery.

My sympathy to the family of Molly Venasse on her passing. Molly was from Chichester and was the aunt of Doris Ranger of Sheen.

Happy birthday to Mary Walker. The Walker clan gathered last week to celebrate with her.

Happy birthday to Darcy McKinnon who celebrates the big nine O on Feb. 25.

A warm welcome to our new, but temporary priest, father Bill Burke. Father is from New Glasgow, N.S. and will be with us weekends for the next few months. His service on Saturday earned the applause of the congregation.

Happy birthday to my granddaughter Chantal Ouellette and great- granddaughters Selina Pierera and Sophia Ouellette who all celebrate in early February.

Eddy and Jane Walker are back from their trip to Hawaii where they had a wonderful time.

My daughter Betty along with Bill Brennan and Elaine Rochon Gardiner sang a medley songs at Pine Wood Seniors' Home in Pemroke last Wednesday. Among the crowd which showed much appreciation of the trio were several folk from Sheenboro and area, Gordon and Marie McCrea and Mary Spence. A good time was had by all.

Happy birthday to Garnet Morris who celebrated his 70th on Jan. 31 and also my grandson's wife, Natasha. Frank Clyde who will celebrate in Ottawa on the 8th.

Congratulations to my granddaughter, Allison Clyde, and her good friend Tara who ran the half marathon last week (13 miles).

Their time was just over two hours and it was a personal best for them both. They were awarded medals for their achievement. This was also a fund raiser for breast cancer.

Valley Traditions



Leah Miller, THE EQUITY

The Ottawa Valley band Valley Traditions plays to a receptive audience at Norway Bay's River View Inn Sunday afternoon. From the left: Mark Lemens, Guy Sauvé, Dorothy Porteous, Mike Whitehead and Old Time Fiddlers of Renfrew President Barry Martin. The Valentine Dance was hosted by the Heritage Old Time Country Music Association. Other performers included Mel McDougal, Bonnie Schiraen, Jim Hodgins, Elenor McDougal and 12-year-old step-dancer Amy Felhaber.

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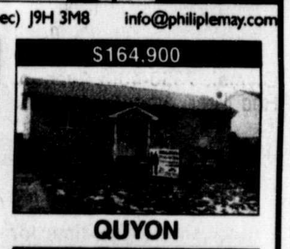
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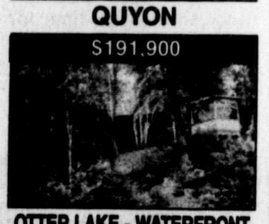


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IN APPRECIATION OF WESTERN QUEBEC STAFF

"Educators affect eternity; they can never tell where this influence stops"
- Henry Adams

On behalf of the Council of Commissioners and Management Team of the Western Quebec School Board, I would like to acknowledge the dedicated teachers and professionals of our system during their "Appreciation Weeks". These special individuals are what make our system work. None of us remember much about the day to day delivery of curriculum and raw material from our school days, but we do remember the people who touched us.

A simple mental exercise may give you an even greater appreciation for those dedicated to serving our students. Imagine for a moment that in your profession you had between twenty and thirty people in your office at the same time. Picture them all having different abilities, needs, attitudes, and motivation. See in your mind's eye some not wishing to be there and attempting to sidetrack what you need to accomplish on a given day. Now envision doing this five times a week for nine months with the same group. By the way, you will be second guessed by the relatives of those who are not achieving or behaving, your best efforts notwithstanding. Our dedicated teachers work hard for their students!

Our non-teaching professionals have a less recognizable role, but are no less important. These individuals work behind the scenes to provide our young people with support and encouragement. Guidance counsellors, librarians, educational consultants, psychologists, and speech professionals all work with teachers to impart knowledge, as well as to build self-esteem, confidence and well-being. In turn this allows students to develop values, attitudes and opinions of how they are able to succeed and achieve their goals now and later on in life.

Please take a moment to reflect how an educator affected your life. Those of you in the field stop and smile a bit as you remember the lives you influenced.

Thank you teachers and professionals! I look forward to our continued work together as we search for ways to improve what we do for our students, our colleagues, our parents, and our communities.

Mike Dawson
Director General

Campbell's Bay



Iris Smith
648-5821
iriss@personainternet.com

The Golden Age Club held its euchre on Tuesday evening at the clubroom. Ladies high was won by Anna Porter. Second was won by Lucy Kelly. Men's high was won by Mervin Smith. Second was a tie between Tom Hearty and Boyd Ebert. They split the prize. The door prize was won by Lorraine Gagne. The 50-50 was won by Faye Moorehead. The free game of the month was won by Veronica Perrier. Lunch was by Faye and Dawson Moorehead.

The Pontiac Lionettes will hold their Annual Valentine Euchre at the Lions Hall on Friday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the winners and draws will held on baskets of groceries. Everyone goes home with a prize. Tickets are available from Lionettes. or at the door. Lunch to follow. Your support would be appreciated.

Trina Telford and Ryan Mace have returned from a holiday at Peurto Plata in Domincan Republic. Trina is our granddaughter. They had a great time.

Recent visitors at our home were Beth Dubeau and daughters, April and Falon, Joyce Leach, my sister, Norma Stewart, Danny Hodgins,Catheryn Stewart, and her friend Amy Teevens.

Heather and Lena McEllwain of Gatineau visited with Roy and Joan Stephens last week.

Gladys Walsh is visiting with relatives in Alymer and Ottawa for a few days. It's a nice break on these cold days.

Stacey and Wayne Robinson of South Mountain returned from a vacation in Cuba. Quite a change in the weather when they reached home after the hot weather there.

Reverend Orville White was the guest minister at the Free Methodist Church on Sunday morning. Some family members surprised him by attending the service.

Kimberly and Carl Havekes of Mountain have returned from a holiday in Cuba. They report a great time. They were home in time to attend the retirement party for Kim's father, Brian Telford on Saturday evening in Ottawa.

Kids Club starts again on Tuesday evening at the Free Methodist Church.

Donna Stewart and daughter, Trina spent a week's vacation in Cuba. They reported a good time.

Birthday wishes to Colleen Bastien, Crystal Meilleur, Gayle Sloan, Rick Ranger, Karen Kluke, Denise Germain, Dorothy Brown, Paulette Dubeau, Pauline Dubeau, Mackenzie Moorehead, Kassandra Bourgin, Pauline Scharf, Roxanne Acres, Wendy Crawford, Philip Crawford, Wayne Crawford, Matthew Black, Christina Sloan, Cory Dubeau, Shawn Lepine and Matthew Kluke, various members of our community who celebrated their special day. Have a happy year ahead.

Anniversary wishes go out to Arthur and Ann Grace who celebrate on Valentine's Day.

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Please send us **YOUR RÉSUMÉ before February 13, 2007** to the Direction of Human Resources, Le Centre de santé et des services sociaux du Pontiac, 160, chemin de la Chute, PO Box 430, Mansfield (Quebec) J0X 1V0, by fax at (819) 683-1424, by email: info@santepontiac.qc.ca

Only those called for an interview will receive an answer.

MANAGEMENT POSITION
Salary according the current salary scale.

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NOTICE:
Chemical Warfare Agent Testing Recognition Program
Service at Allied Forces' Test Establishments

On February 19, 2004, the Ministers of National Defence and Veterans Affairs announced a recognition program for Canadian veterans who served as test subjects in chemical warfare agent experiments between the 1940s and the 1970s. Eligible veterans can receive a one-time tax-free payment of $24,000 in recognition of their service to Canada. This amount is in addition to any disability pension benefits to which they may also be entitled. Those eligible for payment under the program are members or former members of the Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Air Force or the Canadian Forces, who volunteered and participated as test subjects at Suffield, Alberta, from 1941 to the early 1970s, or the Chemical Warfare Laboratories, Ottawa, 1941 to 1945.

The Government has now extended this program to include Canadian military veterans who served as test subjects at Allied Forces' test establishments such as the Chemical Defence Experimental Station at Porton, Wiltshire, United Kingdom during the Second World War.

Where eligible veterans are deceased, the executor of an estate that is still open – or the primary beneficiary of the veteran's will where the estate is fully dispersed – may submit an application. In those cases where an eligible veteran died without a valid will, the last unremunerated adult person(s) ordinarily residing with the veteran at the time of the veteran's death may also apply for the one-time, non-taxable payment of $24,000. Healthcare givers, housekeepers and other individuals paid to provide services to these veterans are not eligible to receive this *ex gratia* payment.

For more information please contact the Chemical Warfare Agent Testing Recognition Program Office by phone at 1-800-883-6094, by e-mail at: recognition-2006@forces.gc.ca. or in writing to Chemical Warfare Agent Testing Recognition Program Office, National Defence Headquarters, 101 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa ON, K1A 0K2.

It should be noted that many Canadian service personnel attended courses in the United Kingdom at the "Army School of Chemical Warfare" at Winterbourne Gunner during the Second World War. While this establishment is close to the Chemical Defence Experimental Station, Porton, it is a separate unit and service at this school, which often included exposure to chemical warfare agents, does not equate to being a chemical warfare agent test subject.

Applications from, or on behalf of, Canadian chemical warfare agent test subjects who served at Allied Forces' test establishments must be received by February 28, 2007.

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) provides for the award of disability pension and other health-related services and benefits for service-related disability or death. If you believe you suffer from a disability related to your military service, including a disability related to chemical warfare agent testing – or if you are the surviving spouse/partner of a deceased veteran who you believe suffered from a disability related to his/her military service – please call VAC toll-free at 1-866-522-2122 (English) or 1-866-522-2022 (French).

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Diane Boisvert
648-5296

A week ago last Thursday, I was in the Independent parking lot in Almonte. I had just stopped the car to run into the Royal Bank for a few minutes it was -33 degrees Celsius but with the wind chill it was like -43 degrees Celsius. I went back to try to start the car but the battery was flat. I took out the Eliminator but it wouldn't boost me. An elderly gentleman saw my hood and trunk open. He drove in front of my car to give me assistance. He tried boosting me. Nothing. The battery was flat out dead. We were freezing. I told him not to worry and to get into his van. But he said that nobody else would stop and help me in this weather. Anyways, I called UAP and they delivered a new battery to me. This kind man, who happened to have tools in his van, took the old battery out and put the new one in. He and his sister-in-law would not take any money for helping me. I was very thankful. There are still a few good Samaritans out there.

This past weekend there was yet another catastrophe at the "Ponderosa". I got home Friday night and turned on the water. An hour or two later I had to check the wood stove and went to the basement. I had a flood. I shut off the water and cleaned up. I decided to find the problem the next day. I tore apart walls, stairs, moved furniture, prayed, cursed and just about everything else to find out where the water was leaking. It took all day and I almost lost it. Well, I think I did, because I had three men in the house who didn't' speak until spoken to. Now, that only happens when they know somebody is ready to explode.

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Marion and Oliver Beauchamp and family on the loss of their son, Dickie. Dickie was always full of humour and stories. No matter, what his ailments were, he carried on and tried not to let things get him down. He loved to talk and talk about anything but he particularly liked hunting, fishing and fixing cars.

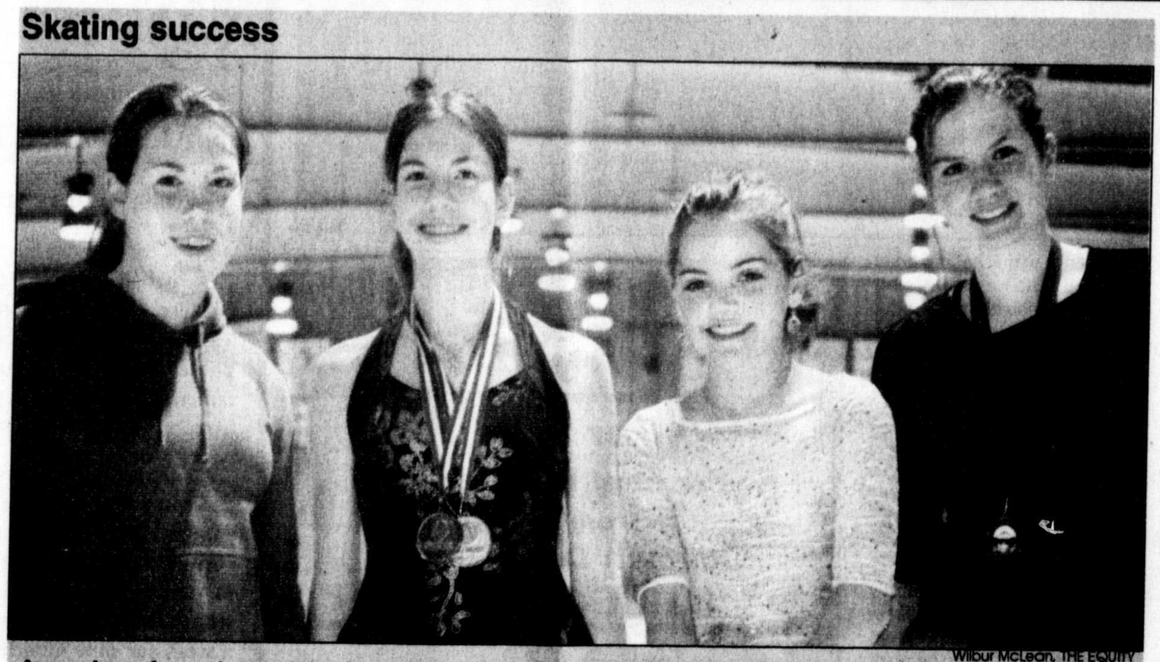
A surprise 40th birthday party was held for Sandra Vibert on Sat. at Pat and Ruth Hearty's. There were some pretty wacky pictures on display. I really liked the "Holland's Mountain" picture. It was actually a picture of the Walton family but they replaced the faces with the Holland family. Very well done. Sandra's birthday was Feb. 6.

Happy birthday to Gayle Sloan on Feb. 8, Paulette and Pauline Dubeau on Feb. 9, Christina Sloan on Feb. 13. Speaking of Christina, she will be celebrating her birthday at the Baie Inn this Friday. There will be a DJ. She wants me to tell you all that you are invited.

Get well wishes go out to Trevor Beauregard who had an altercation with a tree. Trevor ended up with 16 stitches to his head. Trevor might look a bit tough but you should see the tree! it's in worse shape. Glad to see George Sloan back home and on the mend.

Kiki's nose is getting out of joint, almost like rat's, because the house is getting over run by kids, animals and musical instruments. Kiki gave up the piano a few weeks ago because while she was playing one day the door came down across her tail. enough of that. So, now she is looking for a new hobby.

Skating success



Wilbur McLean, THE EQUITY

A number of members of the Shawville Figure Skating Club competed at competitions recently. From the left, 14-year-old Gwendolyn Simms competed in Prescott, 12-year-old Emily Simms won a bronze medal for her solo and again for her elements in Eganville, 11-year-old Keri Beck competed in Eganville and 14-year-old Vikki Twolan won silver medal in Prescott for Interpretive. The 2007 Shawville Winter Invitational takes place March 2 to 4 at the Shawville arena.

Otter Lake



Elizabeth Hahn
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Otter Lake Golden Age Club dart league results for Jan. 25: Ladies high score: Olivette Mason, Ladies high average: Rosette Fleury. Men's high score: Moe Lajoie. Men's high average: Len Ahearn. Door prize winner: Alvine St. Aubin.

Otter Lake Golden Age euchre club results for Jan. 30: Ladies first: Rosette Fleury. Ladies second: Paulette Lewis. Men's first: Roy Peck. Mens second: Hervé Wolfe. Door prize winner: Olivette Mason. 50/50 winner: Bruce Lewis.

Desserts were provided by Rosette Fleury and Barbara Linttell. Guests for the evening were Diana Peck, Linden Anderson, Red Anderson, Ellard and Sandy Robinson.

Happy birthday wishes to Rita Beaudoin (Feb. 2) and Laurier Francoeur (Feb. 5).

Get well wishes to Marguerite St. Aubin, Maudie Mason and Richard Dubois.

I would like to remind everyone about the Otter Lake First Annual Non-profit Ice Fishing Tournament being held on Farm Lake on Saturday, Feb. 24. All events and fish weigh-in will be held at the Otter Lake Recreation Hall. Fishing times will be from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be over $4,000 in prizes with a limited number of tickets. Live music from 5 p.m. until 3 a.m., a spaghetti dinner at 6 pm. Prizes and draws at 8 p.m. $20 a ticket includes fishing and meal, live music and door prizes. Tickets can be purchased in Otter Lake at Picanoc Corner Store and Depanneur Dubeau. A euchre tournament ($5 entry fee) hosted by the Otter Lake Golden Age club with registration by 1 p.m. the first day. For more information contact Stephen Desabrais 613-447-9895.

Sincere sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of Dickie Beauchamp who passed away at the age of 53. He was the dear son of Oliver and Marion Beauchamp.

Happy birthday wishes to my sister Olive Gravelle Utz who has a birthday on Feb. 13.

On Jan. 21 Patricia and Carson Russell, Elizabeth Hahn had a lovely brunch with Pam and Randy Thoms, Kathryn and Graham at their home in Kanata.

On Wednesday, Jan. 31 visiting with me was my son Pat Hahn, Dolores Bertrand of Pembroke and Marriette Bertrand of Fort Coulonge. I want to thank them or bringing a lovely supper and for all their help. Everything is much appreciated.

Sincere sympathy to the family of Dalton Twolan who passed away recently. He worked many years with my late husband, Clifford Hahn at the mill in Portage du Fort.

Bryson



Heather Stewart
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Happy birthday to Tina Gauthier of Bryson and to Marc Gauthier of Hull. I hope you both have a wonderful day!

Results for the Golden Age Euchre held on Monday, Jan. 28, are as follows: Door: Jean Guy Mainville, 50/50: Jean Guy Mainville, Men's first: Mervin Smith, Jim Stewart, Men's second: Clifford Robitaille, Ladies first: Phyllis Smith, Ladies second: Georgette Piche, Joan Sicard and Rose Gutoskie.

Birthday greetings to my sweetheart, Eric Lavoie.

The Ladies of the Bryson CWL would like to thank the people who donated food and supported their Valentine Brunch on Sunday. The winner of the 50/50 was Rose Gutoskie. Cassie and Sam Gagnon and I went out for breakfast and the ladies did a wonderful job putting on a lovely breakfast brunch! Great job ladies!

Jacob and Caley Stewart had a sleep over with their Nanny and Grandpa Jim and Anna Stewart. They also visited with Aunt Sherry and Uncle Chinker and went up to the rink to visit Eric and I.

Get well wishes to Margot Newberry who is home after having surgery. Hope you get well soon!

Get well wishes also to Danny Dumouchel of Calumet Island who also had surgery. Hope you are feeling better soon Danny!

Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Marcel Desabrais. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.

Happy birthday to Rose Gutoskie.

The Pontiac Lionettes are holding their annual Valentine Day euchre on Feb. 9, at 8 p.m. in the Lions Hall in Campbell's Bay. It's always so great supporting the Lions and Lionettes. Your money goes to a good cause helping others less fortunate!

Happy anniversary to my cousins Tammy Benoit and Sean Troke.

Birthday wishes going out to Georgie-Ann Evans of Portage and to my little cousin, Charlie Benoit of Braeside. Charlie is the son of Lee and Jen Benoit.

On behalf of the Bryson Fire Department, Gerald Stewart would like to send out a great big thank you to Charlotte and Dave Miljour for their generous donation. Your thoughtfulness will not be forgotten!

Happy birthday to Melissa Piche!

A friendly reminder that the Bryson Fire Department are still selling tickets for their Valentine Dance which is on Feb. 10 at the Rafter's Sport's Bar in Bryson. Please see local fire fighters for tickets. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful team of firefighters in our community. Keep up the great work guys!

Happy birthday to Sean Troke and Todd Lance of Bryson and to Daphne Laycock of Davidson.

Visiting Eric and I for the weekend was Cassie Gagnon of Campbell's Bay and her sister Samantha Gagnon of Bryson. We had a great weekend!

Happy birthday to Denise Laroche of Fort Coulonge.

Greetings to Suzie Romain and Warren and the boys in the West. Greetings also going out to Monique Lepine, Shawn and family in the West. We think of you all often.

Bilan de quatre ans — Four year statement

Chers citoyens, je vous remercie de m'accorder votre confiance et je suis fière de vous représenter à l'Assemblée nationale, mes réalisations démontrent mon engagement envers la population de la circonscription de Pontiac.

Le 21 janvier 2007, j'ai renouvelé mon intention de continuer cet engagement lors de ma convention. Vous pouvez compter sur mon support et ma présence.

Dear citizens, thank you for granting me your confidence and I am proud to represent you at the National Assembly, my achievements show my commitment towards the Pontiac riding population.

January 21st, 2007 at my convention, I renewed my intention to extend my commitment for another mandate. You can count on my support and my presence.

INFRASTRUCTURE ET DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE

- **325 400 $** pour la construction d'un nouveau bâtiment pour la station radio CHIP FM
- **6 millions $** pour la construction de l'école des Deux-Ruisseaux
- **7.1 millions $** accordés dans les infrastructures d'aqueducs
- **822 000 $** pour la construction d'un gymnase à l'école Notre-Dame-de-la-Joie
- **576** nouvelles places créées - CPE
- **329 099 $** pour la réfection et peinture du Pont Marchand à Mansfield
- **231 747 $** pour la construction de la bibliothèque de Shawville
- **250 000 $** pour la construction d'une usine de filtre à Mansfield
- **15 000 $** Scierie de feuillus
- **86 000 $** Coopérative forestière de l'Outaouais
- **337 000 $** Programme pour les travailleurs licenciés de Tembec
- **580 000 $** Produits forestiers Pontiac inc. (PFP)
- **1.05 million $** - Fonds de diversification aux municipalités mono industrielles de la MRC de Pontiac

Plus de 250 000 $ pour des organismes communautaires (enveloppe discrétionnaire) tels que : Associations récréatives, projets d'écoles et voyages étudiants de fin d'année, clubs d'âge d'or, bourses aux finissants, associations d'hockey et curling, activités culturelles, maisons des jeunes, maisons de familles, foires agricoles, arts et culture, etc.

Entente sur la mobilité de la main-d'œuvre dans l'industrie de la construction entre l'Ontario et le Québec, une question épineuse qui était en suspens depuis 30 ans.

PONTIAC



SANTÉ - *HEALTH*

1.4 million $ pour le Centre de santé du Pontiac: recouvrement exterieur et equipements Groupe de medecine de famille

$1.4 million *for the Centre de sante's exterior facing and equipment Family Medical Group*

TRANSPORT - *TRANSPORTATION*

Plus de **17 millions $** pour l'entretien et l'amelioration du reseau routier **121 000 $** - Transport collectif et adapte

*More than **$17 million** for improvement and maintenance of the road network* ***$121,000*** *- Public and adapted transportation*





EDUCATION ET JEUNESSE
EDUCATION AND YOUTH

324 621 $ dans le cadre du programme « Aide aux devoirs et Écoles en forme et en sante » **15 000 $** coordonnateur – Maisons des Jeunes

$324,621 *within the « homework assistance and wellness-oriented school programs »* ***$15,000*** *for a coordinator – Youth Centres*

Charlotte L'Écuyer
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Députée de Pontiac
Member for Pontiac
Member of National Assembly

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **$325,400** for the construction of a new building for the radio station CHIP FM
- **$6 million** for the construction of the school des Deux-Ruisseaux
- **$7.1 million** allocated in water systems
- **$822,000** for the construction of a gymnasium at the Notre-Dame-de-la-Joie school
- **576** new places in daycare centres
- **$329,099** for repairs and paint of the Marchand bridge in Mansfield
- **$231,747** for the construction of a new library in Shawville
- **$250,000** for the construction of a filter factory in Mansfield
- **$15,000** Sawmill
- **$86,000** Outaouais Forestry Cooperative
- **$337,000** Program for Tembec's laid off workers
- **$580,000** Produits forestiers Pontiac inc. (PFP)
- **$1.05 million** - Diversification fund for single industry municipalities in the Pontiac MRC

More than **$250,000** for community investments (discretionary envelope) such as: Recreation associations, school projects and year end school trips, Golden Age Clubs, student bursaries, hockey and curling associations, cultural activities, agricultural fairs, youth centres, family centres, arts and culture, etc.

Agreement on the mobility of manpower in the construction industry between Ontario and Québec, an issue that has been kept in abeyance for the past 30 years.