

Happy New Year

The Voice of the Pontiac since 1883

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75¢

THE EQUITY

Shawville, Pontiac County, Québec

Allumettes Island one municipality

Today marks the official amalgamation of the three municipalities

Sylvia Bakker

Equity Editor

Allumettes Island

As of today, Chapeau, Allumettes Island East and Allumettes Island West are no more – at least in terms of municipalities.

Today (Dec. 30) marks the official amalgamation of the three municipalities, which will from now on be known simply as Allumettes Island, population about 1,400.

The amalgamation was accepted by the provincial government Dec. 16 and was to be published in the official gazette today, about a week earlier than the local councils were expecting.

But the average resident probably won't notice any difference, at least not until the election in May, agree the three mayors of the old municipalities.

Many of the changes in the first few months will be internal. Individual bank accounts will be closed and opened as one. Chapeau will eventually become the town hall for the new municipality, and Richard Vaillancourt will be the secretary-treasurer, with Dennis Czmielewski

assisting.

All 18 councillors and three mayors will continue to sit as a provisional council until May 2, when residents will elect one mayor and six councillors for the island.

For the first two elections (eight years) two councillors will come from each of the three former municipalities.

Before the election, each of the three former mayors will serve as mayor of the new municipality for an equal term. Former Allumettes Island West Mayor Jerome Sallafranque will take the first term, followed by Allumettes Island East Mayor Denzil Spence and Chapeau Mayor Bernard Conroy.

All three will continue to attend MRC meetings until May.

Because they told us to

The amalgamation isn't expected to create a huge amount of savings, the three municipalities already share many services such as a fire department.

So why do it?

"We were told by the Minister of Municipal Affairs we had to amalgamate," Conroy says, matter-of-factly.

By agreeing to amalgamate, the new municipality is guaranteed a grant of approximately \$150,000.

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So many tiny miracles

Paul McGee

Equity Reporter

Shawville

Davinder Deogun knows something about miracles.

For the past 22 years, working as a registered nurse mainly in the maternity ward at the Pontiac Community Hospital, she has seen lots of them. And they're all cute.

"It doesn't matter how many babies I see, they are all cute, she says, smiling. "Anybody that doesn't believe in God, babies are miracles."

"I like maternity. If I had a choice, I would always be in maternity."

In September, Deogun, who began her 32-year career in Kenya in 1966, was recognized for her continuous care in the nursing profession by the Canadian maternity magazine, *Best Wishes*. The magazine entered Deogun and 94 other nurses from 1,075 hospitals in Canada into the Nurses Hall of Fame as part of the magazine's 50th anniversary. On the plaque she received and on the full-page roll of honour in the magazine, the nurses are cited for "caring for babies and mothers and presenting parents with best wishes for more than 20 years."

Road to Pontiac

Deogun, who's Punjabi father was a teacher, was raised in Kenya.

After graduating from a four-year nursing program in Kenya in 1966, Deogun spent time in maternity wards in Kenya and at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. From Montreal, she moved to Rouyn-Noranda in 1969 where she worked in medical surgery for seven years before moving to Shawville and the PCH in 1976. (Deogun's husband, Mohan Deogun, teaches sciences at Pontiac Protestant High School.) There was one stop which almost derailed her career, though.

After her stint at the maternity ward in Kenya, Deogun moved to England, where she studied some mid-wifery.

"We'd (Deogun and a nun) go from house to house to deliver babies," says Deogun, adding the nuns were strict, but trained good nurses. "At one house, the Sister told me to keep the kids away from the mother."

"I started playing with the kids, and forgot why I was there. The nun came down the stairs after delivering the baby, and was cross with me."

"At that moment I thought 'Do I want to be a nurse?'"

Obviously, Deogun withstood the early-career pressure and went on to care for countless babies and moms. So, ah, how many diapers has she changed?

Answers Deogun, laughing: "Ask me how many have peed on me."

Part of Deogun's routine is saying a prayer after the baby is born, not in one language, but three.

"I always say a prayer," she says. "I tell the parents the baby is totally trilingual. I talk to them in French, English, and Punjabi."

Deogun is 17 months away from retirement, but she is not sure she wants to make a clean break from a profession she has known and loved for so long. (She has treated five generations of one family.)

"It would be a shame to leave it right away," she says.

"I'd like to be a dulla and offer comfort only when the mother is in pain and when she comes (to the hospital) to have her baby. (A dulla gives comfort and offers support during labor, as well as passes on tips on baby-care.)"

Deogun says through the years the PCH has built a solid reputation as a good place to have a baby. With about 10 babies on average born each month, mothers and babies are not denied attention.

"There are changes, for sure, but change is always good," she says. For maternity, they are getting the best care here. Usually, it's one-on-one care for the baby and mother."

"I tell the parents the baby is totally trilingual. I talk to them in French, English, and Punjabi."



—photo Paul McGee

HALL OF FAME: Davinder Deogun holds the plaque (left) she received from the *Best Wishes* maternity magazine (right) for "caring for babies and mothers" for more than 20 years.



ICE FRAME: Shawville town foreman Denzil Yach heads down into Mill Dam Parking during January's ice storm.

THE EQUITY's highlights of 1998

The ice storm, Shawville's 125th anniversary, a near complete turnover of council in Pontiac Municipality are just some of the highlights THE EQUITY covered in 1998.

Pontiac entered into some new grounds in '98: The county dabbled in the production of hemp as the plant became legal again after more than 60 years on the banned substance list. Three municipalities amalgamated as the provincial government pushes for fewer municipalities.

And Pontiac continued debating some old topics: Solar aquatics versus a lagoon and the CP Rail corridor continued to be main issues of debate in Pontiac Municipality. At the MRC, rising municipal shares continued to be a sore point among mayors.

In many stories throughout the year, the good-heartedness of Pontiacers shone through: whether it was neighbors rallying around a family who had just lost their home to fire or fellow firefighters turning out in droves for

the funeral of fire chief Bill Black.

One thing is for sure – as people learned ingenious ways of surviving without hydro or men learned just how uncomfortable a bra can be as they competed for the Miss Peach title – 1998 will certainly be a memorable one for our readers.

Inside, EQUITY Editor Sylvia Bakker and Reporter Paul McGee have highlighted some of the events we've covered throughout our 52 issues in '98.

Suicide prevention something to talk about

Paul McGee

Equity Reporter

Pontiac

Everyone has had a shot of the post-Christmas blues, but for some the dark days of January can be too much.

For people already burdened with "mental anguish," this period of short days and overcast skies can lead to thoughts, and for some the act, of suicide.

But there is an effective means to treatment at everyone's disposal – dialogue.

Dialogue, says Raymond Rochon, psychologist and team leader of the Pontiac Community Hospital's mental health service, leads to preventive treatment of people at a high risk of suicide.

"If people could see another option, they wouldn't commit suicide, because suicide is not an illness, but a behavior," says Rochon, adding as such it can be prevented.

"When you help them see other ways, they will try other ways."

Mental health practitioners, he says, feel there is a need to discuss suicide with potential victims within the context of family and society.

"We have to lift a veil," says Rochon. "People will think about suicide and it is OK to talk about it. If someone is thinking about it, they need to talk about it."

Rochon says thoughts of suicide are often borne in states of "mental anguish."

Whatever the cause, be it depression, or psychoses, the pain can be unbearable, and sufferers search for ways to put an end to it.

"Often people don't talk about suicide and need to.

"If people don't talk (about suicide), and they know somebody at a high risk (of committing suicide), they won't say anything to anyone."

Rochon says a suicidal person will, if approached, talk about it "99.9 per cent of the time."

"The person won't always give you a reason, but they will talk about it," he says.

Take it or leave it?

In spite of the lyric from the theme song of the '70s popular television show *M*A*S*H*, suicide is not "painless."

The song's chorus lyric goes "That suicide is painless/it brings on many changes/and I can take or leave it if I please."

Rochon feels dialogue will help people "leave" rather than "take" the final act.

Death by suicide has a ripple effect on family, friends, and the community. Whereas the death of a loved one by accident or illness is painful, the question "Why?" is easier to discern in these cases than when pointed at the reason(s) someone would commit suicide.

People who contemplate suicide to the point of being at a high risk need someone to listen, says Rochon

Myths

Dialogue, for Rochon, also means debunking myths such as suicide rates rising with a full moon and more incidents at stressful times, such as the pre-Christmas rush.

"It's hard to find a pattern in mental health," says Rochon. "There are periods of calm, periods where it is busy, but not necessarily a regular cycle."

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COMING UP

What to do on New Year's Eve

Not certain how or where you want to ring in the New Year?

If sitting at home watching the year-end specials on the tube is not in your plans, several area nightspots are hosting New Year's Eve parties. Not all venues are listed here; check THE EQUITY or your phone book for more possible party spots.

• The Auberge Baie Inn, in Campbell's Bay, invites revellers to "come ring in the New Year" with deejay Billy's Boom Box.

• The Albert Hotel, in Calumet Island, is having a "countdown party" featuring music from deejay Patrick Bertrand and Disco Intense.

• The River View Restaurant in Norway Bay is offering a "complete candlelight dinner" of steak or roast beef for \$15 per person. For an extra \$5, parties can follow the country sounds of Howard Hayes and Ralph Carlson in the banquet hall, complete with hats and noisemakers.

• Atkinson's Bar in Shawville is featuring the rock-band Kuzzin. A light lunch will be served. Limited tickets are available at the bar.

• Killarney's Bar in Shawville is promoting the "biggest New Year's Eve bash" for a \$5 cover charge. Cash prizes and gift certificates will be drawn.

• Gavan's Hotel in Quyon also offers an end-of-year celebration for a \$5 cover charge. Broken Arrow will be performing.

• The Demers Centre Firehall is hosting a New Year's Eve Ball. Tickets are \$12 per person, with the proceeds going to the tennis court.

• The Pontefract Golf Club in Mansfield is having a disco and a hot-and-cold buffet for \$10 per person.

• The Dubois are performing at the Bryson Lions Hall. A hot and cold buffet will be served. This event is sponsored by the Bryson Lions and Lionettes for members and their guests.

• The Shawville Lions Club is hosting a party at the Lions Hall. Tickets are \$20 per couple, \$10 per single. A lunch will be served and music is by Sidewinder. A draw will be held for a night for two at the Albert at Bay Suite Hotel and a pair of tickets to an Ottawa Senators game. The draw is at 10 p.m. and the winner must be present at that time.

Whether you spend New Year's Eve at a house party, hall or hotel, remember don't drink and drive. Happy New Year.

BUDGET

Litchfield mill rate increases

Provincial downloading and MRC costs are blamed for the eight-cent hike in Litchfield's mill rate.

Mayor Michael McCrank says he is "not satisfied, but there's not a whole lot we can do" about raising the mill rate to 70 cents per \$100 of evaluation from 62 cents in 1998. For example, a house evaluated at \$50,000 would be taxed \$350 in 1999, compared to \$310 in 1998.

McCrank says MRC expenditures must be curtailed to take some of the load off the municipalities. While contributions to the provincial deficit and police costs are beyond each municipality's control, McCrank says given that "municipalities actually run the MRC, there must be some way to control MRC expenditures."

Litchfield's contributions to the MRC jumped \$17,557, or 24 per cent, to \$89,107 for 1999 from \$71,550 in 1998.

Police protection costs rose by \$7,516, or seven per cent, to \$112,913 for 1999 from \$105,397 in 1998.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Students of McDowell Elementary performed their annual Christmas concert for parents and other audience members Dec. 22. The concert featured a variety of carols as well as a number of solos by the students.

FROM THE FRONT

Allumettes Island one

Continued from page 1

While municipalities such as Shawville and Clarendon, and Fort Coulonge and Mansfield were also asked to amalgamate and refused, it is generally agreed amalgamation will come sooner or later.

The government is encouraging amalgamation to reduce the number of municipalities they have to deal with.

Conroy points out there should be some savings on such things as salaries, travel, and auditing.

Sallafranque says the amalgamation should bring the residents of the island closer together and give them a sense of community.

"It's the best thing for Allumettes Island," says Spence. "We'll be a stronger force at the MRC level because of our population in-

crease."

Spence even goes so far as to say the new municipality will be better equipped to encourage investment and attract tourism.

And of course, with Spence, who ran – and was soundly defeated – as the Equality candidate in the last provincial election, there is always a hint of provincial politics in his statements.

Spence says Ontario residents are now interested in moving to the newly-amalgamated island.

"There's a feeling of strength in the event of referendum number three," Spence says. "People feel there's a stronger chance of staying in Canada because of our geography."

Spence gained national attention immediately after he was elected mayor of Allumettes Island East and said

he would take his municipality out of Quebec in the event of a "yes" referendum.

Who will run?

None of the three mayors would commit themselves to running for mayor of the new municipality, but none would rule it out, either.

"Ask me that in March," was Conroy's response.

Spence says he has been getting a lot of support to run, while Sallafranque points out he's qualified to do the job: "I'm bilingual, and I've been mayor for (nearly) 14 years."

All three mayors do agree the new mayor's position of 1,400 residents will be a big job, requiring a lot of time.

"It's not going to be easy," Spence says. "It's not just roads and dumps anymore; it's going to be developing the island."

FROM THE FRONT

Suicide prevention something to talk about

Continued from page 1

"A person can be lonely at Christmas, but usually the family gets together," says Rochon. "Maybe after Christmas (the potential of suicide) may increase." The post-Christmas coming-down from several weeks of frantic activity combined with decreased sunshine (Seasonal Affective Disorder) may lead to thoughts of suicide in some people, says Rochon.

Seasonal Affective Disorder is recognized as a form of depression and can be treated by replacing sunshine through phytotherapy, a treatment using artificial light.

Rates

Suicide rates in the Outaouais are near, or slightly above, the national average of about 13 suicides per 100,000 people, or 1.4 per cent of the population, while the average in Québec rises to 19.5 suicides per 100,000 people, or 1.97 per cent of the population.

According to 1995 Statistics Canada statistics, there were 3,963 suicides in Canada and 1,442 in Québec, with males about four times likely to be victims than females. Interestingly, females are more prone to attempt suicide, usually through drug overdoses or asphyxiation, but males generally use more lethal means in their attempts, such as firearms or hanging.

Statistics specific to the

rates in Pontiac MRC are not available, but, Rochon says, they should be at or near the Outaouais level. However, Pontiac is "ahead in organizations to deal with prevention and treatment."

"Pontiac is ahead by a long shot in terms of making people aware of suicide, what it is, setting up treatment and services, and developing a strategy to deal with suicide," says Rochon.

As part of the prevention program, the Pontiac Health Services has people in the community trained to recognize potential suicides. Those elected from various occupations undergo four days of training to become "more sensitive to the problem," acquire the skills to effectively deal with a potential suicide, and how to support the family of a suicide victim. Volunteers are accepted.

"We have people in the community trained to recognize the signs of a potential suicide and get them to a proper place for treatment," says Rochon.

Signs to watch for are changes in personality or habits, depression, expres-

sions of helplessness and hopelessness, inability to enjoy life, substance abuse, and, of course, statements indicating a willingness to commit suicide.

Treatment doesn't take place "in isolation," says Rochon, but involves the family, the doctor, and the hospital. Under legislation which took effect in June, 1998, a person considered a danger to themselves or others can be admitted for treatment for a period up to 21 days. With respect to the patient's rights, the physician can apply to the courts for an extension if deemed necessary.

Reversed reverse

Rochon shuns the "reverse psychology" approach (where the suicidal person is told to go ahead and do it) as dangerous.

"It is a very dangerous thing to do," he cautions. "Sometimes you have to confront the person, but if you don't have the skills to evaluate the person's condition, you are playing with a time-bomb."

"You don't know if the person is manipulating (a cry for help) or is serious."

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Clarendon mill rate frozen

Thanks to a budget surplus, Clarendon's mill rate stays at 50 cents per \$100 of evaluation in 1999.

For example, a house evaluated at \$50,000 would be taxed \$250 per year.

The auditor's report showed a surplus of \$560,005, out of which \$78,183 was appropriated to the 1998 budget to contribute to the province's debt reduction. Clarendon's contribution for 1999 is \$86,629.

"The surplus is pretty much the reason (the mill rate stayed the same)," says Mayor Jack Lang.

As well, while other municipalities have been hit with substantial increases to their police and MRC contributions, Clarendon's contribution increases are marginal. Police costs rose \$114 to \$125,772 from

\$125,688, and the MRC \$4,700 to \$80,852 from contribution rose only \$76,152.

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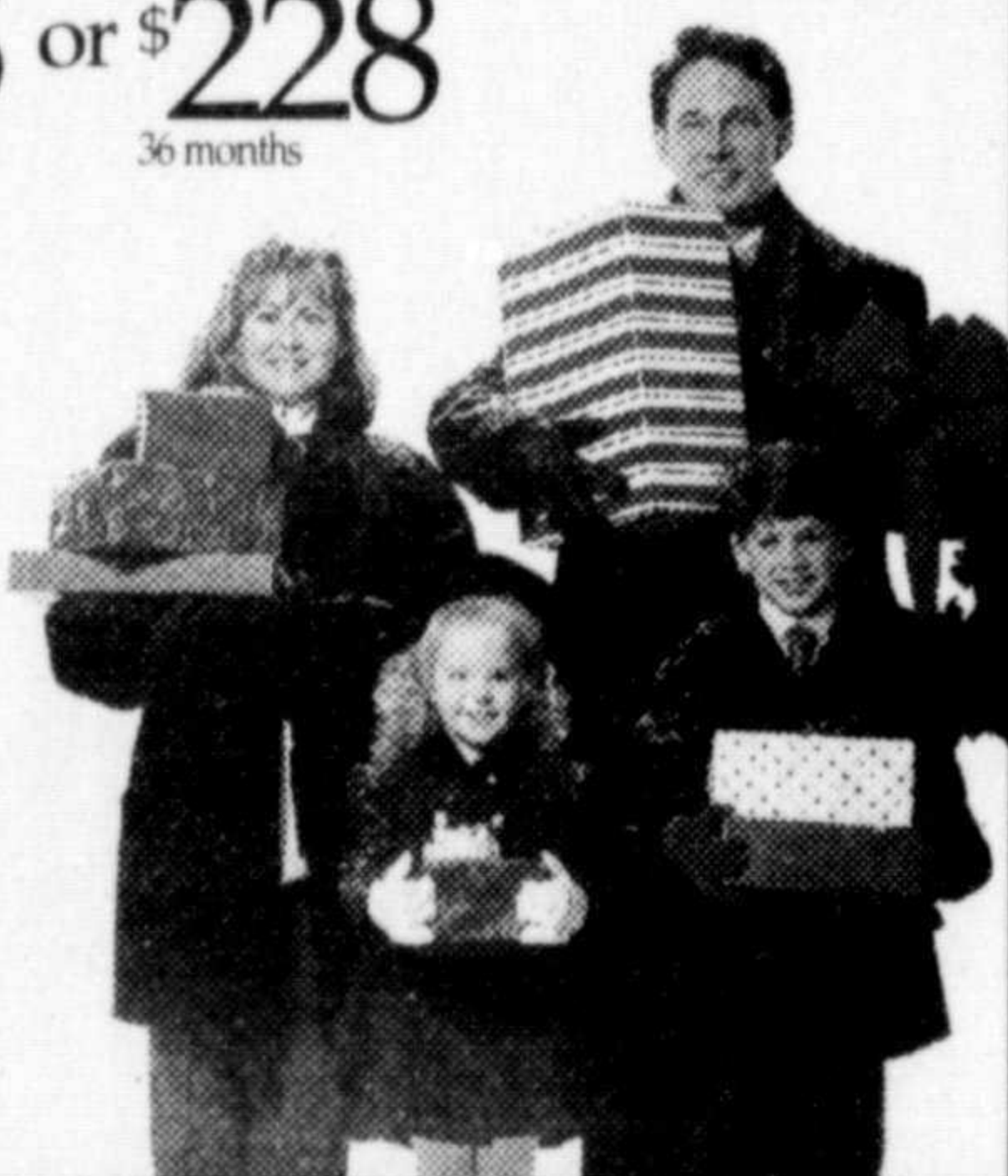
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Highlights of 1998 as reported in THE EQUITY

January

Fire leaves 60 mill workers unemployed: The year did not begin well as the Produits Forestiers Coulonge mill is destroyed by fire, leaving dozens of mill workers and hundreds of bush workers without employment.

Pontiac survives ice storm: Most of the county, specifically the eastern half, is hit by the worst natural disaster in Canada's history – the ice storm. However, Pontiac does not bear the full brunt of the storm, as eastern Ontario and other parts of Quebec do.

At the peak of the storm, 9,000 Pontiac homes are without power. The military is called in to help with the cleanup. Later, villages in the western half of Pontiac, which escaped the storm, relatively unscathed donate truckloads of wood and food to regions hit hard.

Privatization scrapped: Kitchen, laundry, and housekeeping services in Pontiac's Health Services will not be privatized as was announced in 1997. The board makes the decision after a consulting firm recommends management and the board with the union to reorganize auxiliary services in order to save the required \$600,000.

Ex-FLQ terrorist names mayors in list: Fifteen of Pontiac's 20 mayors are named as being anti-separatist on a Web site created by convicted FLQ terrorist Raymond Villeneuve.

Lagoon best choice: A second study – done at the request of a citizens' committee – reveals a traditional lagoon system is the best sewage treatment choice for Quyon.

February

Corridor frozen, lawyer retained: After months of discussion and disagreement, the Municipality of Pontiac council votes in favor of placing a six-month freeze on the former railway corridor.

Warden's a winner: Mansfield mayor and Pontiac MRC warden, Robert Ladouceur, wins \$100,000 by playing Loto-Quebec.

Murder-suicide shocks residents: The bodies of Nathalie Chassie, 22, and Brian Fleury, 24, are found in the couple's small white bungalow on Allumettes Island. An autopsy determines Brian shot his girlfriend before turning the shotgun on himself.

Royals take cup: The Pontiac Lions make it to the CC finals of the Pontiac National Midget Tournament, but lose in double overtime to Lachute. The West Island Royals go on to take the tournament.

Harris finishes fourth in "A" division at provincials: The Gary Harris rink returns from the provincials curling championship with a record of 3-4.

Minor injuries only in bus accident: Passengers on the Fort Coulonge-Hull commuter bus experience a harrowing ride to work when the bus flips on its side and slides down a 40-foot embankment west of the Luskville plaza. Luckily, only minor injuries are reported.

March

Developers sue Leslie, Clapham, Huddersfield: The former developer of Leslie Lake files a claim for \$905,000 against the Municipality of Leslie, Clapham and Huddersfield.

Corridor remains frozen: Despite the threat of a lawsuit from the Neighbors' Association, Pontiac Municipal council votes down a motion to drop the freeze. But the vote is close, 4-3.

Former mayor sues Joachims council: Former Rapides des Joachims mayor Jean-

Pine in Campbell's Bay. Final corridor section sold: The final section of the CP

Rail right-of-way in the lower end of Pontiac Municipality is sold to a group of adjacent landowners for \$16,000 less than what council offered.

April

Larivière takes over as head of Mutual: In less than two years, a third general manager, Denis Larivière, takes the helm of Promutuel Valley Mutual.

Charest greeted with optimism: Local politicians applaud Jean Charest's decision to step down as leader of the federal Conservatives to take over the leadership of the Quebec Liberal Party.

Coulonge golf course bankrupt: With secured creditors owed more than \$250,000, owners Wayne and Susan Narlock declare bankruptcy.

Ladouceur resigns as mayor: In an emotional address, Yvon Ladouceur resigns as mayor, saying he has lost the confidence of his council.

Residents oppose mentally handicapped home: Residents in a Shawville subdivision are opposed to a home for mentally handicapped being built in their neighborhood. Many say they are worried the home will be used for other purposes in the future, such as a young offenders' group home.

Council votes to expropriate CP corridor: Pontiac Municipal Council votes 4-1 to expropriate the former CP Rail right-of-way.

Jean-Louis Brizard well done: Former director-general of the Pontiac School Board is roasted as part of a fund-raiser for the Pontiac Bursary Foundation. \$2,500 is raised.

Commission takes over Otter Lake: In the wake of four resignations, the Commission municipale takes over operations of the Municipality of Leslie, Clapham and Huddersfield.

May

Community remembers dedicated chief, volunteer: Hundreds of people pack the Shawville United Church to remember a tireless volunteer and dedicated fire chief during a full fire department honors funeral for Bill Black. Black, 51, died of a heart attack while fighting a fire.

Stone Container announces merger: Stone Container Corporation, owners of the Portage du Fort pulp mill, announces it will merge with Jefferson Smurfit Corporation.

Marchand Bridge celebrates 100: About 200 people, including two grandsons of the bridge's builder, Augustus Brown, gather at the Red Covered Bridge to celebrate in honor of its 100th anniversary.

School Board election notices cause confusion: Anglophones without children in the school system learn their taxes will automatically be sent to the French Board unless they make an application to have their taxes transferred. The process leaves many confused.

Animation dropped: The French animation program is dropped at Onslow Elementary.

June

Doctors will close doors: Most of Pontiac's 16 general practitioners will likely join their 7,200 counterparts across the province by closing their offices for two days as part of

ed mayor of Leslie, Clapham and Huddersfield, defeating Doug Gauthier, 394 to 284.

EQUITY editor wins top prize: EQUITY editor Sylvia Bakker receives the Paul Dumont-Frenette award, given to the journalist who showed the best overall performance in 1997, at the Quebec Community Newspaper Association's annual awards.

EQUITY publisher Ross Dickson receives the Lindsay Chrysler award, given annual to the person who has made an outstanding contribution to community newspapers.

July

Fantastic 125th party: The 125th anniversary of Shawville was a huge success as thousands of people watched or participated in many events in the week-long event. A highlight was the Miss Peach contest.

Quyon Fair a great show: The Quyon Fair had a bit of everything: a wrestling promoter making a crude joke, Touch of Pride, great weather, and a

missing ostrich, which, by the way, was never found.

Would be bank robber on run: A man described as slim and pale with a pointed nose attempted to hold up the Royal Bank in Shawville. He is still on the run.

"Red" Bennett dies: Popular CHIP-FM deejay Maynard "Red" Bennett died after suffering a heart attack at the radio station. He was 64.

Stafford elected president: Faye Stafford, of Campbell's Bay, was elected president of the Outaouais Alliance.

Tragedy averted in plane crash: Six children and two adults from the Camp Voyageurs Tim Horton escaped serious injury when the Cessna turbo-jet plane they were sight-seeing in flipped on the Ottawa River near Quyon. Apparently, the landing wheels were down as the pilot attempted to land on the river.

Woman nearly beaten to death in Bryson: A 37-year-old Hull man was charged with aggravated assault in connection with the savage beating of a 43-year-old Hull woman.

police car as they attempted to leave on an ATV.

August

Rare turtle spotted in Clarendon: A rare Blanding's turtle was spotted at Claude and Charlene Lance's in Clarendon as it lay eggs in their flower bed.

Bryson steps back in time: Bryson celebrated its 125th anniversary.

Two drug busts: Sûreté du Québec haul in 238 pot plants with a police-estimated street value of \$91,500. The bust was the first of several in the county.

Shawville, Clarendon look at 911: The two municipalities look at implementing the 911 emergency service. No action has been taken yet.

Two Pontiacers declare candidacy: Denis Courtémance and Denis Larivière announced their candidacies to replace MNA Robert Middlemiss should he step down before the provincial election.

Animation will continue at McDowell: The oral French animation program was saved at Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School by a group of parents who started a fund-raising campaign to raise money for the animatrice.

Amalgamation awaits approval: The municipalities of Allumettes Island East, Allumettes Island West, and Chapeau agree to amalgamate and will be known as Allumettes Island effective Jan. 1, 1999.

Citizens' committee endorses candidates: The Quyon Citizens' Committee endorses three candidates for the Pontiac Municipal election in November. All three – Bruce Campbell, mayor, and Hawley Lepine and Roger Larose, council – won.

September

CT scan fund-raising begins: The fund-raising campaign to purchase a CT scan machine for the Pontiac Community Hospital kicked off at the Pine Lodge Golf Course in Bristol. The foundation needs \$700,000. So far, over \$300,000, including the foundation's

\$200,000, has been raised.

Shawville Fair outdoes itself: About 37,000 attend the annual fair, a record. Great weather, rides, entertainment, and organization are credited for the ever-popular fair.

Thorne man killed: Twenty-eight year-old James Smith was killed when his log truck collided with one driven



photo Paul McGee

RE-ELECTED: While the Parti Québécois won another majority government on Nov. 30, Pontiac voted overwhelmingly for Liberal MNA Robert Middlemiss.

by Robert Gravelle, of Campbell's Bay, on Jim's Lake Road in Mansfield.

Ambulance crashes into two vehicles: A Shawville man in diabetic shock was taken to the Pontiac Community Hospital in the back of a pickup truck after the ambulance he was in collided with two vehicles at the intersection of Main and Centre streets in Shawville. Donnie Hines, 41, was treated and released.

Arson suspected in Shawville blaze: Two youths were seen leaving the Morley Hodgins Inc. sawmill on Lang Street in Shawville shortly before a fire destroyed the building. Shawville-Clarendon firefighters were returning from a false alarm when they got the call, a coincidence which may have averted the fire from spreading.

Police grab \$440,000 worth of pot: Police from Hull's major crime unit seized 200 pot plants near Danford Lake. The man and woman suspected of growing the weed collided with the

police car as they attempted to leave on an ATV.

Oktoberfest president dies: Two weeks before Ladysmith's Oktoberfest was set to begin, its president, Clarence Bretzlaff, dies. He was 78.

Litchfield mill opens: The Produits Forestier Coulonge sawmill holds two open houses to celebrate its opening.

Cycloparc PPJ Cycloparc trail holds an information session: The 72-kilometre trail running from Wyman to Waltham is one year away from completion.

October

Norway Bay man found dead: Werner Goetz, in his mid-60's, was found under his pontoon boat on the Ottawa River near Norway Bay.

Oktoberfest pays tribute to past volunteers: The successful Oktoberfest paid tribute to past volunteers, including president Clarence Bretzlaff, who passed away two weeks before the celebration began.

Full slate of candidates, platefull of issues: The Pontiac Municipality election shifted into high gear with an all-candidates meeting in Quyon. Five candidates for mayor and 15 for council debate many issues, including the Quyon sewage problem and the recreational trail.

Man charged with sexual assault: A 66-year-old Vinton man was charged with three counts of sexual impropriety involving minors under 14-years-old. Robert Hearty, was released on his own recognizance.

Campbell's Bay election campaign: Jean-Pierre Landry challenges incumbent Mayor Cletus Ferrigan for the mayoralty. Joe Ranger and Michel Dubeau contest Seat 1 and Guy Larivière and William Stewart contest Seat 3.

Denzil Spence runs under Equality banner: Allumettes Island

SQ will move despite protests from landlord: Brian Stanton, owner of the building housing the Sûreté du Québec, fights to keep the SQ as a tenant. Sgt. Denis Lamothe says the SQ is moving.

November

Campbell elected mayor of Pontiac: Despite pundits' predictions, Bruce Campbell, due to support in Quyon and the North and South Onslow wards, is elected mayor of Pontiac Municipality.

Ferrigan wins second term: Mayor Cletus Ferrigan beat Jean-Pierre Landry by 57 votes to win his second term as mayor. Joe Ranger beat Michel Dubeau for Seat 1 and William Stewart beat Guy Larivière for Seat 3.

Locals lose Tembec jobs: Several area men lose their jobs as the Tembec planing mill in Braeside closes.

Mansfield man dies in crash: Leonard Morrisette, 69, was killed when his pickup truck collided with a tractor-trailer on Hwy. 148 in Mansfield. Morrisette was alone; the tractor-trailer driver was not injured.

Thompson sentenced to 18 months: Shawville's Shawn Thompson was sentenced to 18 months in jail for his role in the September, 1997 incident which left a Quyon man, Orville Burgess, paralyzed.

Pontiacers have little schooling, work: Statistics Canada statistics show Pontiacers are lacking in education and jobs.

Election campaign heats up: Equality Party candidate Denzil Spence continues his attack on the Liberal Party for not defending Anglophone rights. MNA Robert Middlemiss says he and the Liberal Party are the only choices at the Nov. 30 polls.

December

Middlemiss sweeps Pontiac: MNA Robert Middlemiss wins 167 of 168 to sweep the Pontiac riding for his fifth term. Middlemiss won by almost 18,000 votes. Equality Party candidate Denzil Spence placed third with 1,757 votes. The PQ candidate finished second with 4,143 votes.

We want jobs: Roadblock message: About 40 members of the Fort Coulonge-based Co-operative Forestière Autochtone de l'Outaouais block one lane of Hwy. 148 in Mansfield to protest out-of-county workers.

Fire destroys Charteris home: Shawn and Patricia Rutledge and their two children were left homeless after fire destroyed their home.

Parade of lights a success: "Amazing was one word used to describe the first-ever Parade of Lights in Shawville to kick off the Christmas season.

Putting Christ in Christmas: Rev. Isabel Black, of the Quyon United Church Pastoral Charge, returned home from the World Council of Churches conference in Africa with a new-found will to "do something" for the women in Africa.

Bryson woman in critical condition: An 18-year-old Bryson woman was taken to hospital in critical condition after her mini-van collided with a tractor-trailer on Hwy. 148 near Bryson.

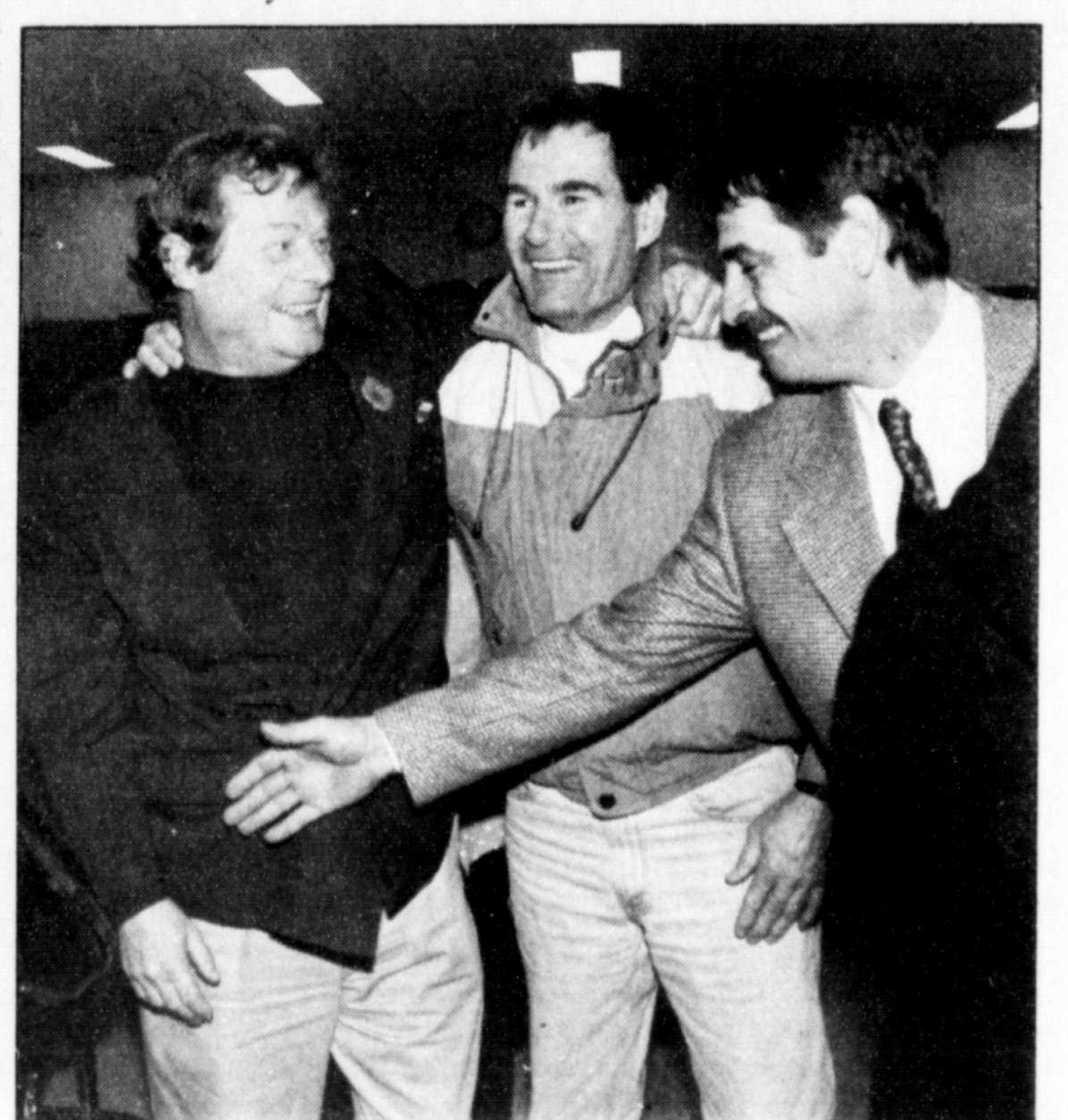


photo Sylvia Bakker

NEW MAYOR: Newly-elected Coun. Roger Larose (right) reaches over to shake the hand of newly-elected Mayor Bruce Campbell as supporter Don McColgan is all smiles during Pontiac Municipality's election in November.



photo Sylvia Bakker

CENTURY OLD: Dignitaries celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Marchand Bridge in May.

Paul Dupuy files a lawsuit against the present mayor, Gerald Dagg, and four councillors \$29,500 for damages after council severed its ties with the development corporation (of which Dagg is president) and, therefore, halting development of lots in the municipality.

CLD holds first general assembly: Litchfield Mayor Michael McCrank is elected president and SEMO director Sylvie Landriault, vice-president at the first general assembly of the Local Development Centre.

SQ to build new police station: Citing problems with air quality and bugs in their present building, the SQ announce plans to build a new station on land originally reserved for Iki

their pay dispute with the provincial government.

Anglophones line up to support school board: In the first-ever election for linguistic-based school boards in the province, 42 per cent of eligible voters exercised their right to vote in the English-language Western Quebec School Board. Usually, school board elections attract less than 15 per cent of eligible voters.

School's out forever at CBE: More than 300 past and present students and staff get together for a Fun Fair at Campbell's Bay Elementary, just days before the school will shut its doors forever.

Richard new mayor: Terry Richard is elect-

THE EQUITY

The Voice of the Pontiac since 1883

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New Year's resolutions

As we look back on the old year and look forward to a fresh start in the new year, it is an annual tradition to make New Year's resolutions.

This year, we, at THE EQUITY, have decided to make resolutions for the new year to you, our readers:

We will continue providing professional news coverage throughout the county every week.

We will continue to improve the design of the paper to satisfy our readers.

We will not back down from objective reporting, regardless of who is offended by it. But at the same, we will continue to be empathetic when covering sensitive topics.

We will continue to make a distinction between news and advertising. The two do not go hand in hand. We will not allow personal bias or goals muddle our objectivity.

We will continue to check and double-check facts before printing a story. In the event we do make an error, we will continue to print corrections on the editorial page.

We have established a good rapport with the Sûreté du Québec and will continue to provide you with good police coverage. With your tips, the police are able to make arrests, and we, in turn, can report it.

We will do our part to promote tourism by publishing our annual Travel Guide this spring, and by publishing weekly Sunday drives in THE EQUITY throughout the summer months.

We will continue to promote community work done by the various service clubs and non-profit organizations. But we won't allow special interest groups to dictate the content of the newspaper, either.

We will do our utmost to get the correct breed of horses or cows in our cutlines. Otherwise, we will just call them horses or cows.

Although a lack of staff (one reporter and one editor) and time don't allow us to be at two places at the same time - we will do our darndest to cover your event. We will try put an emphasis on towns which don't get as much coverage as other areas.

We will continue to serve our community with the best news reporting, writing and photography in the county as only THE EQUITY is able to in Pontiac.

And finally, we will continue to encourage our readers throughout the county to call us with news tips, ideas or suggestions and write letters because it's your community newspaper.

Sylvia Bakker



-photo Dave Moore

Puppy's first snow

YOUR OPINION

Young people need your help

Dear Editor,

For the last three years, Les Maisons des Jeunes du Pontiac has been working towards the improvement of the life of Pontiac's youth. The response of the young ones towards the activities of the centres has been overwhelming.

Even though we only have centres in four municipalities: Rapides-des-Joachims, Fort-Coulonge, Campbell's Bay and Shawville, all the activities and services of the Maisons des Jeunes du Pontiac are offered to all the young people of Pontiac County.

Today, the centres are working in full capacity, and the young ones are always looking for new ways to make their activities happen. Some of these activities are: homework club, community involvement, cultural outings, youth council, health workshops, Internet, guest speakers, leisure and social activities, exchanges with other youth centres, discovering their region and its resources, and more.

The young ones are making it happen by doing the work: the planning, the financing, taking on tasks and evaluating the activities, all with the help of a trained adult who supports them as they move towards adulthood. Because that is our ultimate goal: to help young people become active, healthy, responsible and critical adult citizens. But for the achievement of this goal and for the work already started, we need the public's help.

There are many ways people can contribute: a donation of money, time, volunteer transportation, rebates or gift certificates, share ideas, knowledge or expertise, etc, chaperon when we take out-of-town excursions.

All donations and suggestions are welcome!

All the donors will be thanked at the closing ceremony on the evening of Feb. 13, 1999. Questions? Do not hesitate to give us a call at 819-683-3629 or to stop and visit the youth centre closest to your home.

Mathieu Dupont, Director
Les Maisons des Jeunes du Pontiac

Need for support

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank THE EQUITY for having published our series of articles about the grieving process. Reading about it helps people to understand and deal better with what happens to them after a beloved person has passed away.

The grief support group in English consists of 14 persons. These are people who feel the need for support and to share with other people in a similar situation.

Richard van der Gulik
CLSC psychologist
Mansfield

Old Fools' Weekend annual tradition

Dear Editor,

I would like you and your readers to be informed of an event that has been happening for 35 years virtually under the noses of the residents of Otter Lake. "Old Fools' Weekend" is an annual snowshoe trek, by brave adventurers, into the winter wonderland of Otter Lake and usually takes place on the second week of February of each year.

Men, yes this event is for men only (and now young men), are exclusively invited and gather from far and wide. Most come from Ottawa and area but one such gentleman comes from England to participate in this weekend of fun and merriment.

As for myself, I come from Truro, Nova Scotia.

Back in April of 1965, a brave band of eight first made the long and difficult snowshoe journey up Blaskie Road to the Joiner and Carroll cottages on the shore of Otter Lake to spend a bitterly cold weekend in the wilderness.

Back then, supplies were carried in by toboggan; today we are helped somewhat by snowmobiles.

This group of men came to be called "Old Fools," and the name has carried through to those participating each year to this day.

The group has changed its membership over the years and, regrettably, some members have departed this earth. George Joiner passed away in 1991 and for many years was acknowledged as the leader of the Old Fools.

The weekend consists of an evening snowshoe walk to the cottages where small groups are welcomed by a bonfire.

The following day (Saturday) there are organized winter sporting games, an evening feast of weird and wonderful delicacies, combined with an awards ceremony, an exchange of good cheer and ribald storytelling.

As for myself, I have been coming up to Otter Lake since 1951 and now own a cottage on the lake. My family and I make our annual pilgrimage to Otter Lake from Truro, Nova Scotia each and every year without fail. Needless to say, Otter Lake has provided me with many fond memories over the years.

I know that many of your readers regard Nova Scotia as a beautiful province, but the people of Otter Lake should be very proud of the unique natural character of Otter Lake and the surrounding area.

More information on Old Fools' Weekend as well as a few photographs of the Otter Lake area can be found at <http://www.wolfeworld.com>.

Ron Joiner
Greenfield, Nova Scotia

Letters to the Editor

THE EQUITY welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. Short letters are more likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit letters to meet space requirements, for clarity, or to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. Letters should be typed, if possible, and must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include the complete address and phone number for verification purposes. The address and phone number will not be printed. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the editorial policies of THE EQUITY.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1998

We asked our readers to send in their highlights of 1998.
Here are a few samples:

Surviving the ice storm

Surviving the ice storm was my highlight of '98. I had had a stroke, was in the hospital for seven months, and just came home on Jan. 10 - the beginning of the ice storm. My daughter Jane, her husband Mark and two children had no heat or lights, and a tree had fallen on their roof. I helped them. They sure were good to me for the month they were here. We had good wood heat, as Brian Stanton had given me his mother's woodstove. My family have since moved back to Kemptonville.

Helena Lamothe
Calumet Island

Blessing of stained glass windows

For a small town, the various clubs in Waltham have had a fairly busy year. Annual events that bring people from a good distance are the Firemen's Fishing Derby, the Anglers' Picnic in July and their Awards Night in the fall, the RA's Seniors' Christmas dinner and card parties and other events, and this year, the blessing of the church's stained-glass windows with Bishop O'Brien. Government representatives and clergy from a great distance gathered for this once-in-a-lifetime event. We hope we will have the coming year as busy and I feel it will be.

Eileen Labelle
Waltham

Craft show

First place we will have to put the weather at the top of the list. Never have I ever known of us experiencing such warm weather, no snow right through to Dec. 18. The summer was wonderful as well, real summer weather.

Then our Christmas Craft Show, which was our first, was really something at our Bristol Town Community Centre.

Well, to put it down pat and as I said before, 1998 is a year we won't forget for awhile.

Harmonie Sharpe
Caldwell

To be a Spice Girl

My highlight of 1998 was being one of the Spice Girls.

It was my idea to be a Spice Girl at the Shawville Fair and at the Christmas Parade of Lights in Shawville. I told my mother to ask if I could sing at the Fair. They said yes I could at the Miss Shawville Fair. I asked some kids if they wanted to be a Spice Girl.

I asked Karla Hobbs to be Ginger, Kaitlin Hobbs to be Sporty, Natasha Plouffe as Scary, Kayla (Plouffe) Stewart as Posh and I was Baby Spice. We practised singing and dancing, because we wanted to be good. It was about two weeks before the Fair and we practised four times at my cousin Natasha's house.

We had a dress rehearsal at my house and we got to use real microphones instead of markers that we used at Natasha's to get used to holding a mike. The first thing I did was get ready at my house. Then it was time for the concert. We had pictures taken from people and we were tired because it was ten o'clock at night.

When we went up on stage, me and Karla just about laughed because we were excited. Me and the other girls were very suspicious about being on stage. The songs we sang were "Spice Up Your Life" and "Say You Will Be There."

I felt excited about being on stage because I never went on stage and sang before. I said "Welcome to our show." I was proud when it was over. Everybody left to see us, and because they thought we were the best. They thought nobody else would be as good as us.

Four months later we were ready to do it again at the parade. We wore fur coats and our costumes. I had a blue dress and pony tails in my hair. When I went on my float we all were not frightened because this was our second time. We started to sing and we saw a whole bunch of people. We were happy. I saw Mrs. Heins my old teacher and I saw my friends. We were all cold. It was freezing outside, but we did it!

Adrienne Plouffe, age 8
Bristol

ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Sightings of birds and beasts: Cardinals do not exist west of Aylmer

KATHARINE FLETCHER

A few weeks ago I made a rash statement! Not my first; not my last. I wrote that cardinals were not seen regularly west of Aylmer.

Well that'll teach me: make a broad generalization and a reader will inevitably catch me up.

That's what the Dickens did a couple of weeks ago when they sent me this ever-so polite correction, by e-mail. They permitted me to repeat it here, in entirety, so you could enjoy their news.

"Regarding your column and the reference to cardinals being rare in this part of Quebec. We are near neighbours to you and thought you would be interested to know that we have had cardinals for about 18 months. We are located at the corner of Cochrane Road and River Road. We have only seen three at one time - two females and one male, but we have no way of knowing, of course, whether we always see the same ones. We do know that one of the females is obsessed with mirrors. This became evident one day when we saw her

trying to make contact with the bird she could see in the outside mirror of a service van parked in our laneway. For half an hour, at least, she tried to contact her image. Then we discovered that a female cardinal had been waking us up in the morning because she was hitting the bathroom window where we think she can see herself in the bathroom mirror. This had been going on for some time but we didn't catch on to what it was all about, until we had seen her at the mirror in the van. Birds seem to stay in a rather small area. We see bobolinks north of the railway corridor that we don't often see at our house which is just 1/2 mile south. Also, we had had reports of cardinals nesting across the Cochrane Road on Frazer Road long before they came to our feeders.

Anyway, the purpose of this message is to let you know that there are cardinals west of Aylmer. Enjoy your columns. Alan and Frances Dickens"

Thanks to you both!

Meanwhile, a bird that has been causing a lot of attention here along the Steele Line and Wolf Lake roads is the rough-legged hawk, a buteo variety of hawk. The buteos are "high-soaring hawks, most with broad, banded tails and rounded wings."

During our Steele Line Ladies Cookie



Cardinal

Exchange on December 13 at Kathy Armitage's home, "everyone" was talking about these hawks.

Rough-legged hawks are big: at first glance, you might think you have seen an eagle. A good identification marking is the white

"spot" they have at the base of the tail. If you see a hawk flying overhead, look for dark "wrist" patches.

Another tell-tale behavioral characteristic is that rough-legged hawks hover over their prey, in mid-air.

We are fortunate to have both the dark and light phase of birds here on the Steele Line. I'm still unsure of what these phases signify and I'll research this further. On first glance, the dark phase would appear to describe the mature male adult but because the National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America states that "the dark phase is less common," I don't think the phases can solely indicate gender.

I'll let you know when I find out more.

Neighbor Barbara Steele and I went for a stroll near my pond a while ago and our attention was captured by the sight of a muskrat. It was swimming just beneath the ice so we could observe it, unnoticed, as it swam the

entire breadth of the pond. With a scurrying motion it dived into its hole in the bank.

Keep your feeders well stocked as we advance into winter. Woodpeckers love suet, as do the blue jays and grey jays (also known as Canada jays or whiskeyjacks). Black and striped sunflower seeds as well as niger seed are popular.

Still watch out for deer on the backroads and highways. We've seen four lingering on one stretch of road more than once, around midnight. Take care and always drive defensively.

Finally, happy new year to all my readers. Both Eric and I wish you all a challenging, happy and fun 1999.

Keep well!

Katharine Fletcher is a freelance writer based in Quyon. Contact her at chesley@net-com.ca

115 YEARS OF NEWS

The Way We Were

COMPILED BY HEATHER DICKSON, PUBLISHER

25 Years Ago

January 2, 1974
Missing from our files.

50 Years Ago

December 30, 1948

Harris family bereaved: A particularly sad death took place on Wednesday morning at the Pontiac Community Hospital when Mrs W J Henderson Harris passed away after a brief illness. On Friday, December 16 her husband died, she suffered a severe stroke and was taken to the Hospital but failed to rally. At the time of her death she was 49 years of age.

\$50,000 grant to PCH: A further special grant of \$50,000 for the Pontiac Community Hospital in Shawville was announced this week by Raymond Johnston, Union Nationale member for the County of Pontiac.

Deaths: After an illness of only two days, Mrs Julius Schwartz died on Tuesday morning in the Pontiac Community Hospital at the age of 47 years.

William John Stephens a lifelong resident of this district died at the home of his brother Thomas Stephens near McKee's on Wednesday morning after an illness of several years, at the age of 65.

75 Years Ago

January 3, 1924

Marriages: At the home of the bride's parents, Shawville at 8 o'clock pm Monday, Dec 31st by the Rev M Robinson, Annie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Geo E Wainman and Andrew Douglas McCredie of Shawville.

At the home of the bride by the Rev W B MacCallum on Dec 26 Verna Maud Cartman daughter of Mr and Mrs Robt Cartman to Richard Ellsworth Palmer son of Mr and Mrs Wm Palmer of Charteris, Que.

A very pleasing event took place on the afternoon of the 18th inst., at the home of Mr and Mrs Watchorn when James Victor Findlay and Miss Olivia Gladys Moffat, daughter of Mr and

Mrs James Moffat, 7th line were united in marriage.

Commercial School: All persons interested in having a commercial school in Shawville after the New Year are requested to apply at once for particulars to the undersigned, who organized the commercial school here some years ago. R W Hodgins.

Winter: Thursday night marked the ushering in of Winter so far as we in the Ottawa Valley understand it this year. Like a thief in the night the snowstorm broke in upon us with something of March-like fury, and continued intermittently throughout the following day. Wonder if that "big affair" staged by the Masons had anything to do with disrupting the order of things hitherto prevailing?

100 Years Ago

December 29, 1898

Reckless: The village carter narrowly escaped with his life on Saturday morning, as the result of very reckless driving on the part of a young man who seemed to have partaken too copiously of the exhilarating fluid. George was sitting in his sleigh near H Lang's store, when the aforesaid gent came along driving a team at a furious pace. One of the horses landed squarely in the sleigh on top of the carter, for whom things looked serious enough until assistance arrived and extricated the horse. After another spin down to the corner in order to get a fresh start, the man from away back went up Pickanok Street as if ten thousand demons were in pursuit.

Fifty cords: James Kelly of Bristol is one of the remarkable men of the present day. He is 96 years old and it is reported that since the beginning of November he has cut 50 cords of wood, and has it piled up to be seen by anyone. Besides this he has attended to a number of cattle, and has done other odd jobs about the house. Mr Kelly frequently walks from his own place to Quyon and return in the course of an afternoon. The distance is eight miles.



FUND-RAISER: By selling 100 boxes of chocolates in aid of McDowell Elementary's animation program, Stephanie Heins' Grade 2 class was treated to a Billy T's Pizza Party. The entire school raised more than \$1,600 by selling chocolates earlier this month. That brings the

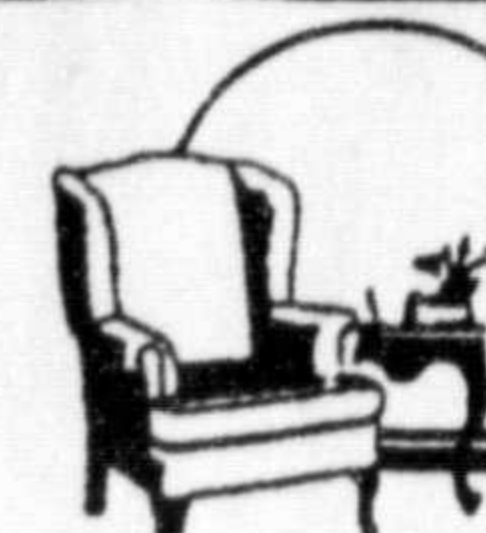
total amount raised to \$11,000. About \$4,000 more is needed to continue the animation program until June. The top three sellers in this Grade 2 class were Joey Derouin (standing at right), Brandon Carson (standing, second from left), and Scott Corrigan (standing at left).

Photo Sylvia Bakker

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Pontiac Archery
R.H. Nugent Ltd.
Quyon Ferry
Bastien Tire
Mickey McGuire Const.
Rachel's Restaurant



The Quyon Hockey League would like to thank all of the company's which donated gifts towards their Annual Xmas Basket. Their Xmas Party was held at Atkinson's Sports Bar Friday night Dec. 18, 1998. The

league sold tickets on the Xmas Basket, Senators' Hockey Tickets and a Texas Mickey raising over \$1,200.00. Profits will go towards paying for the league's ice time, referees and timekeeper.

This year's winners were:

Loretta O'Reilly
Sandra Nugent
Keith Cummings
Edgar Barber

Xmas Basket
Senators' Tickets
Senators' Tickets
Texas Mickey

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1999 Neon



1999 Chrysler Minivan



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1999 Dodge Ram

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Chrysler customers read the fine print: * These are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of 1999 models and must be taken from retailer inventory by January 4, 1999. Cannot be combined with any other offer except Grad Rebate. Excludes all Viper, Prowler, Avenger, Sebring Coupe, Durango, Grand Cherokee, Dakota Regular Cab 2WD, T300 Diesel and V10 models. Offer applies to price before trade-in. See retailer for complete details and conditions. * Your Chrysler retailer will take \$500 off the price of selected in stock 1999 models, deduct any applicable retailer discount, and then reduce the price by a further 7%. The 7% "GST Break" does not apply to freight, retailer installed accessories, warranties, taxes or administration costs. Offer applies only to selected 1999 models purchased from retailer inventory for personal use. Offer applies to price before trade-in. Offer ends January 4, 1999. † Savings based on reductions from MSRP for fully equipped Dodge Ram Quad Cab 4x4. Retailer may sell for less. Actual savings will vary depending on model selected and price negotiated. Offer applies to price before trade-in. ** Offer applies to select models excluding Dodge Viper and Plymouth Prowler. Rebate includes GST. Limited time offer applies to university or college graduates between October 1, 1996 and September 30, 1999. ® Jeep is a registered trademark licensed to Chrysler Canada Ltd. Visit us today at www.chryslercanada.ca

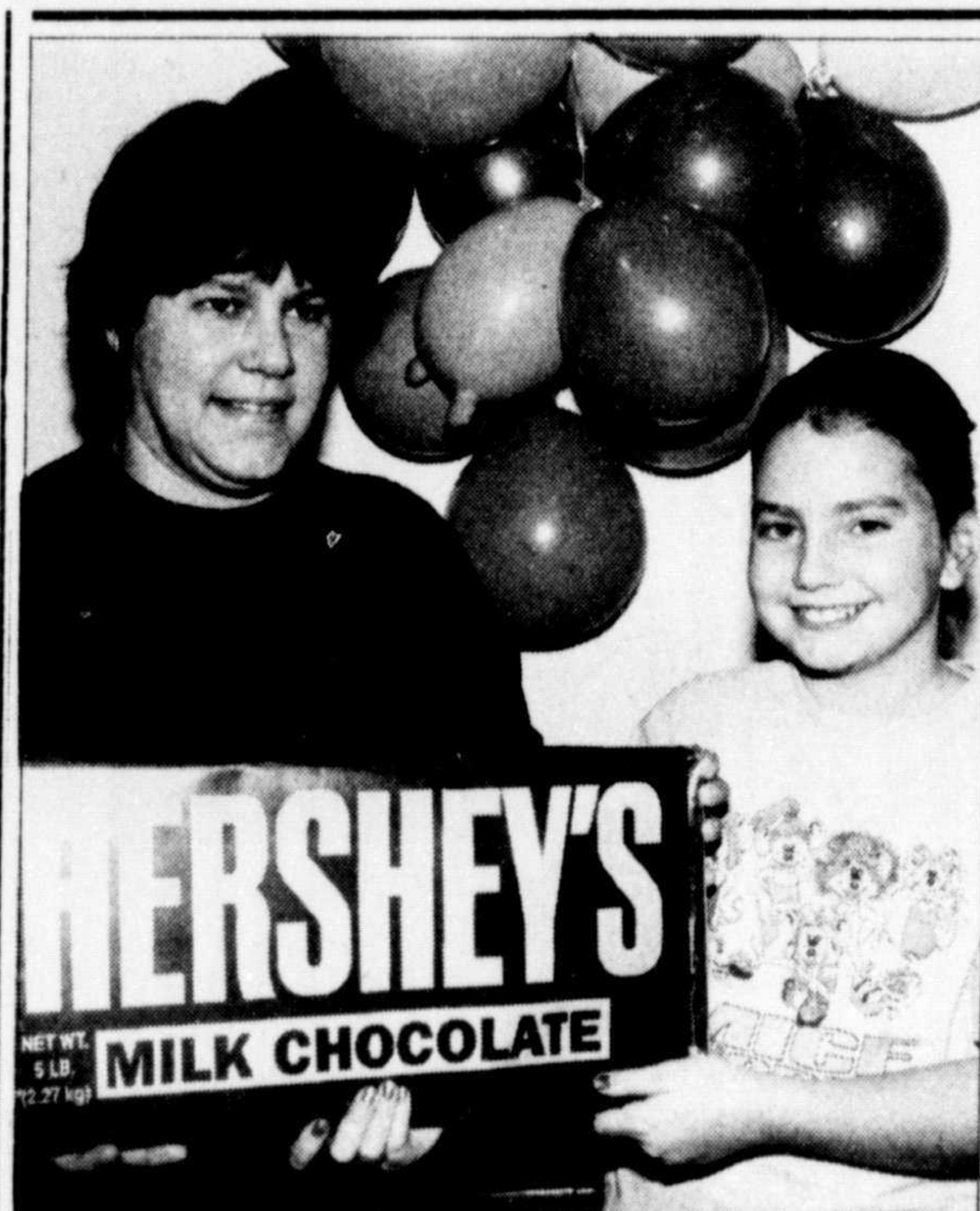


Photo Sylvia Bakker

CRAVING FOR CHOCOLATE: For selling the most boxes of chocolates - \$175 worth - during McDowell's recent fund-raising campaign for animation, Meagan Derouin won a five-pound chocolate bar, which was presented by fund-raising committee member Brenda Belsher.

Obituary

Verner Hermar
Reinhard Thrun

Verner Thrun of Ladysmith, QC, passed away on Nov. 30, 1998, at the Pontiac Community Hospital at the age of 89 years.

Predeceased by his wife Zelma Mielkie, and his parents Herman Thrun and Minnie Reuckwald. He leaves two sons, Dennis and Denver Thrun, two grandchildren, Crystal and Christopher Thrun, and one sister, Margaret Mielkie.

Verner Thrun was born in Detroit, Michigan, on May

14, 1876 and was a farmer.

The wake was at W.J. Hayes and Sons. Rev. Carl Kappes officiated at the funeral which was held on Dec. 3, 1998, at St. John's Lutheran Church, interment in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery. Roy Bretzlaff was the organist and St. John's Lutheran Choir sang.

The pallbearers were Ivan Thrun, Charles Mielkie, Kenneth Yach, Gordon Fierobin, Wallace Bretzlaff and Gerald Mielkie.

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JANUARY					1999	
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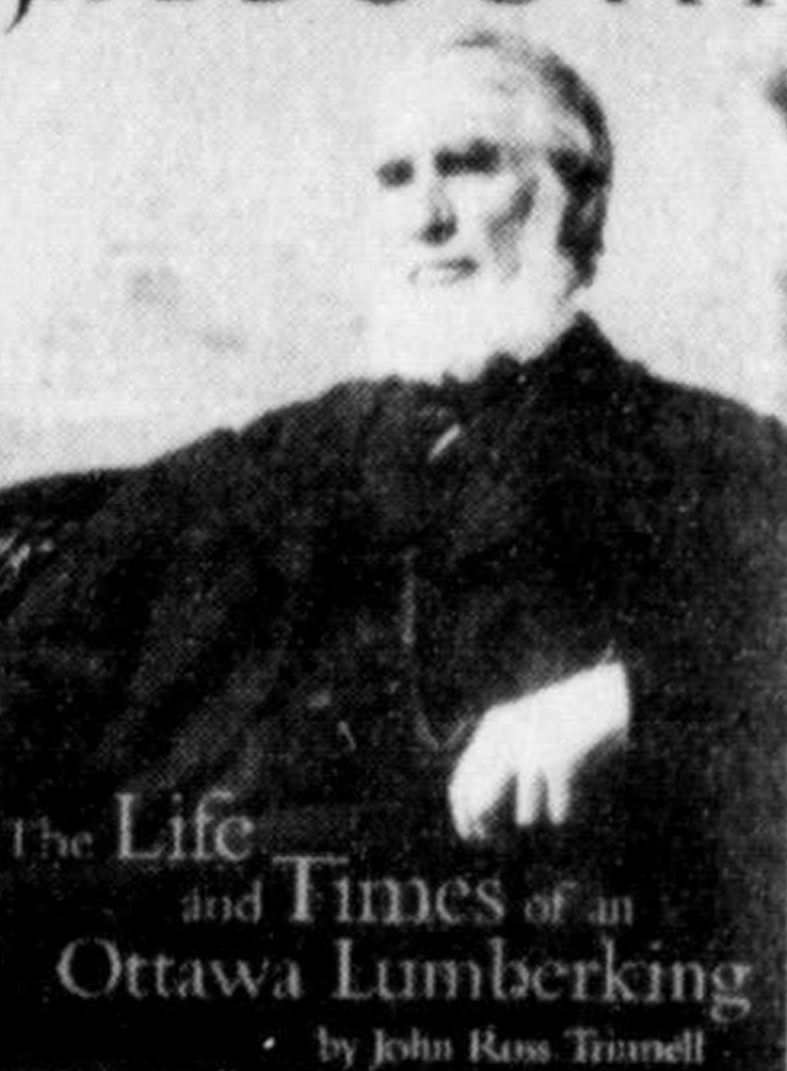
Prayer to the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, you who make me see everything and who shows me the way to reach my ideals. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget all that is done to me and you who are in all the instances of my life with me. I want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. A person may say this prayer three consecutive days without asking for their wish. After the third day, their wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this dialogue as soon as your favour has been granted. RB

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COUPLE OF TURKEYS: Ten teams competed in the annual Turkey Draw at the Shawville Curling Club Dec. 22. The winners pose with two of the turkeys. From the left, Lorne Green, skip, Phyllis Wilson, lead, Gord Lagard, second, and Elaine Findlay, third.

The hockey scene Pontiac hockey: halfway through the season

Dave Moore

Sports Pontiac & Valley

As the Pontiac hockey scene takes a short holiday break, it's time to take a look at what has been accomplished so far.

The Shawville House Novices got off to a great start this season and have racked up an 6-0-0 record, good for first place.

Coach Paul Hodgins says the whole team is improving as they go along.

"They play as a team," says Hodgins. "In a competitive league." That goes a long way for the younger players.

The Shawville Atoms I team is also playing well.

This team has racked up just as many ties as wins and are still contenders in a very strong league among teams that are loaded with second-year players.

"The players give their

all, skate hard and play well together," says manager Patty Davis.

The Atom I sit in fourth place.

The Shawville Atom II squad didn't started off great. They have one win in eight starts.

"They skate hard and they are starting to come around," says first-year coach Vaughan Bastien. "They (the team) keep it positive and are enjoying it, they are pulling together but we have some things to work on."

"The main thing is that they're having fun," says Bastien, a comment every single coach is making, good or bad.

The Shawville Peewees are also enjoying themselves.

The Peewees are working hard in most games and get by in others. Their record

so far is 6-3-1, good for first place among the three teams (Cobden and Chapeau) that play in a Petawawa-Deep River House league. Total results are not available the entire league but Shawville won, lost and tied in several games up there and are not out of the picture.

The Bantam coaches are very happy with the team, but do get worried in some games.

Shawville leads the four-team league with a record of 7-2-2 for 16 points and have dominated all the teams "when they play it smart as a team and not individually" as assistant coach Renaud Dumouchel puts it.

First-year goalie Carl Bruce has racked up good numbers, with a 1.54 goals-against average.

In the Draveurs minor

Continued on page 7

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SQ ON THE MOVE: The Sûreté du Québec has begun its move to its new location. The SQ expects to be in its new building, which is just up the road on Hwy. 148 from its present location near Campbell's Bay, by next summer. Above, workers move gas tanks to the new site.

Pontiac hockey: halfway through season

Continued from page 6

hockey system, the Novice I and II teams are cruising along just as Shawville's team is.

Manager Joanne Romain says the Fort Coulonge's Novice I "are having a blast."

"We lost two games at the start, but they seem to have gotten over that."

The Novice Draveurs I have won five straight since, for a record of 5-2-0 with 10 points, good for second place behind Shawville's 12 points.

The Fort Coulonge Novice II's are tied with their sister team, at 10 points as well. They sport a 5-3-0 record, and coach Alain Belair says that everything is going great with his team.

The Atom Draveurs are enjoying a strong season and are currently in the top four.

The Pee wee Draveurs are the only Pontiac team playing in the Metro league, and

while the team hasn't been

winning many games, they feel they are competitive, even with their best teams.

The Bantam squad have had their share of wins and losses in their league up the line.

The CC league this year is quite different from last season. The competition is tougher than what seasoned players and coaches, in Atom and Pee wee at least, saw last year.

The Atom CC Lions are in contention against most teams but are still back in the standings. They have won some games and lost many close ones, but the main thing is that everyone on the team is giving it all they have.

"They are coming together," says manager Colleen Powell.

The Pee wee CC Lions are in the same boat as the Atoms standing-wise, with a

4-9-2 record for 10 points.

The Pee wee staff say the competition is tougher than what they expected. Given their experience in Atom last season (most of the players are first-year Pee wee) where they finished in first place, the onther teams really picked up across the Outaouais in the that division.

"We knew it was going to be tough, but we're happy with the team," says assistant coach Terry Campbell.

The Pee wee CC record is 2-12-2 for six points.

New Bantam coach Serge Denault says the Bantam division is extremely competitive this season.

"The players try hard, play hard, we can compete against anybody."

The Bantam Lions have been in most of their games right from the start of the season but as other Pontiac teams are back in the stand-

ings as well with a record of 5-9-0 for 10 points.

As for the CC Midget division, it is in a mess.

From a well-run machine the last two seasons, the Midget division has fallen apart and continues to suffer as teams fold.

For awhile, coaches from the Pontiac/Aylmer team said they didn't know if they were going to a game or a have practice while the teams from Low and Hull were on the edge of collapse. They have since joined together.

As for the Pontiac/Aylmer Midgets, they win few and lose most and have a record of 3-10-0 for six points.

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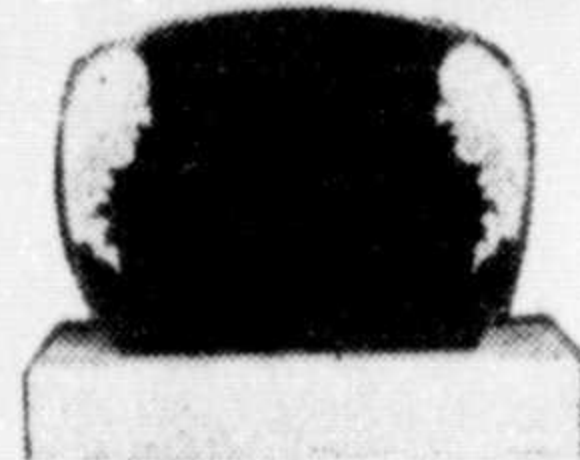
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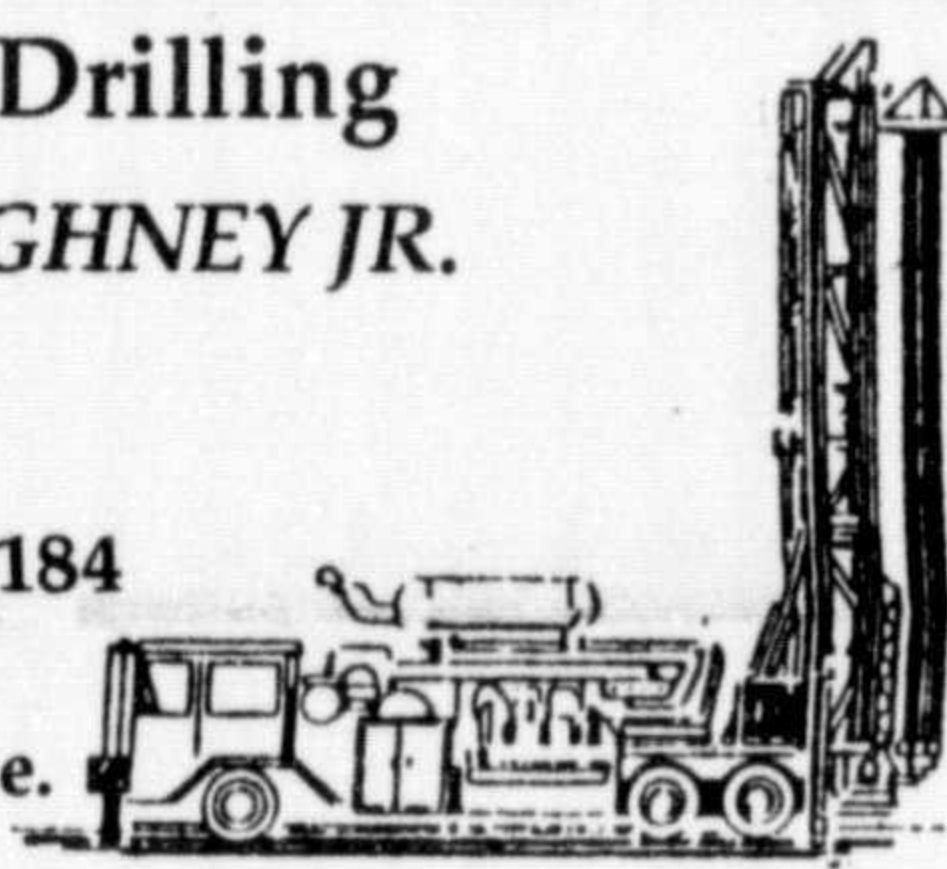
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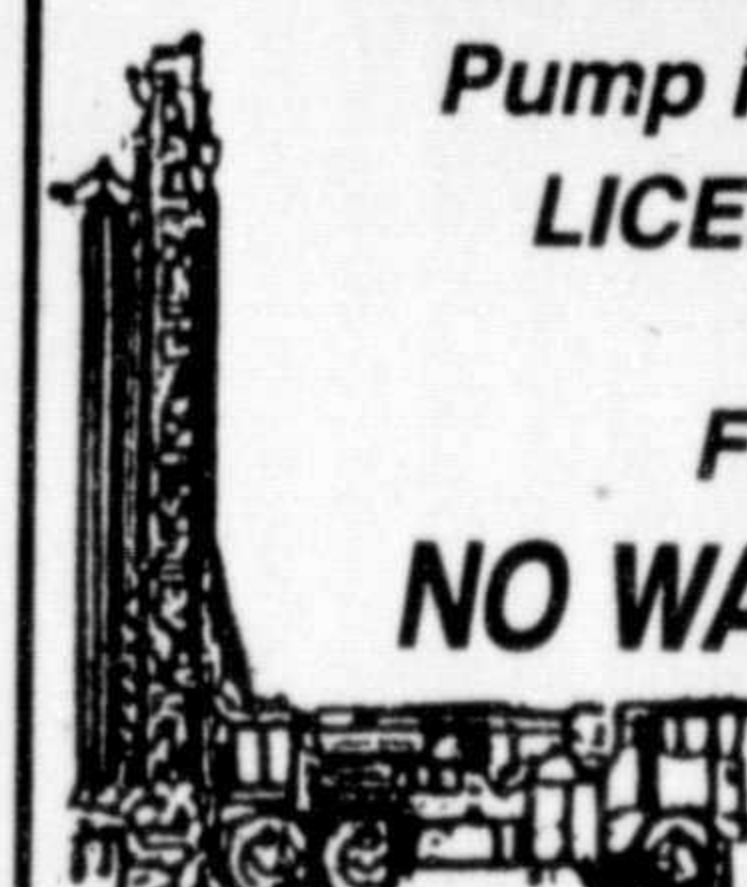
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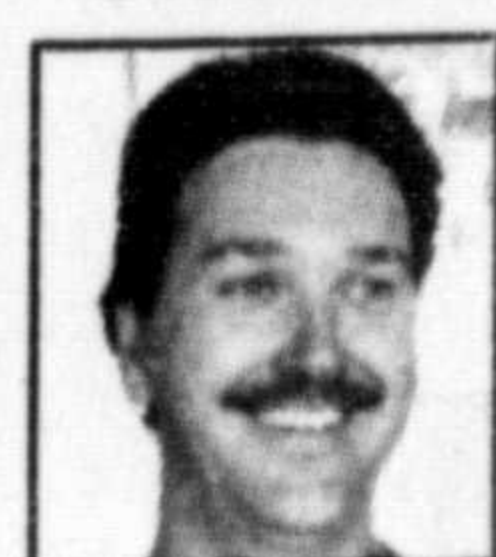
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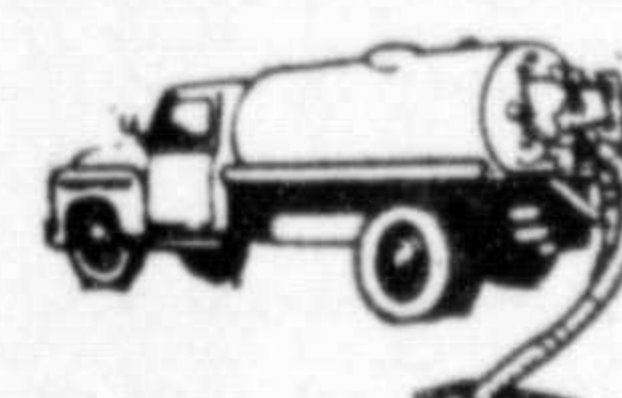
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Grandpa's calendar of forecasting

On New Year's Eve, celebrating birthdays are Gloria Desabrais, Alan Horner and Bill Orr.

On Jan. 1, Karen Hobbs, Andrew Devine, Marhsalene Campbell, Blair Angus, David Horner and Willard Sparling and on Jan. 2, Jack Lang.

Anniversary congratulations go out to Pattie Horner and Aaron Patroquin on Dec. 28, Earl and Bonnie Potvin on Jan. 30 and Dawn and Andrew Dickson on Dec. 31.

This week we are given the privilege to use our column to give you something you have asked for before but because of limited space we couldn't meet your demands.

One thing I was asked for and now Elizabeth of Norway Bay, take note and cut this out for your scrapbook.

Weather channel was Grandpa - Today radar and space satellites help forecasters predict the weather. It's the best they can do without Grandpa's feed store calendar.

With its colored pictures and large spaces around the dates, that calendar hung from a special nail in the kitchen. Alongside it was a string tied to a pencil Grandpa sharpened with his pocket knife each morning. In importance, the calendar came in second only to the Bible.

As farmers, we depended on the land to put food in our mouths - and Grandpa's calendar played a large role in helping that happen.

The new year for Grandpa didn't begin on Jan. 1. As

Caldwell



Hermione Sharpe
647-3459

early as the Christmas holidays, he would be scribbling notes on his calendar. Moonlit nights meant that crops would be light - but dark nights were a good sign - a sure signal that harvest would be bountiful.

I can see Grandpa now, standing in the yard with his legs apart and his hands on his hips, staring up at the chimney. If the smoke hung low and flat, it was duly noted on his calendar that rain was in the making. If it rose high, he'd record that fair weather was due.

Jan. 2? If it was cold and clear, Grandpa's calendar notation was "late spring." But it was Jan. 5 that Grandpa was more concerned about. He knew that if it rained on that day, we would have a rainy May - which meant the beans and peas would be fat, plump and plentiful. (Of course it also signified there'd be no shortage of grass and weeds to plow under or hoe.)

Each day in February on which we heard thunder, grandpa would flip the pages of the calendar to April and mark the corresponding day with "Frost." If the wind blew from the

south on March 22, that, too, made an appearance on the calendar. "Could be a dry year," Grandpa would observe with a frown. "Let's hope not."

On Sundays, if the sun set behind a bank of clouds, grandpa pronounced "It will rain before Wednesday - put wash day off until Thursday this week." He believed as well that a morning shower never lasted long. What's more, if it brought a rainbow, the wind would rise - so it was a good time to put quilts and spreads on the line.

Warms spells never deceived Grandpa. He ran to the calendar as soon as he heard the first katybirds call - after winter, to scribble that exactly three months to the day, frost would fall.

Come the last of October - his pantry filled and produce sold - the year ended for Grandpa. He studied the calendar's dog-eared pages, flipped them back and forth, smiled and said, "It's been a good year."

To this day, when I see a halo around the moon, I count the stars within so I'll know how many days it'll be until the next storm arrives.

"Every time you learn something new, a wrinkle develops in your brain," Grandpa used to tell me. "No, you're not grown yet" - there aren't enough wrinkles.

I may never have as many wrinkles as he did. But I think Grandpa would be happy to know I was listening - and that I do remember.

On the way down we stopped in Aylmer and lo and behold, who did we run into but Ada (McGee) Asselin. We had a nice chat and glad to see her. A few days after our provincial election, who did we see on CJOH 6 o'clock news, but Ada's husband, Gilles Asselin. It was nice to see and hear someone that we knew for a change.

Belated birthday wishes go out to my brother-in-law Rhéal Amyotte of Fort-Coulonge who celebrated his birthday Dec. 18.

I want to wish the staff at the Pontiac Printshop a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I also wish the same to the readers of THE EQUITY and to all the correspondents, keep up the good work.

Vinton



Bertha McGee
648-2669

and Petawawa. This place is owned by Art Fleming. I was told they had an excellent meal and evening and would recommend this place to anybody. They hold different activities during the year.

A few weeks ago we motored to Orleans and had a visit with Pauline McGee, Lisa Maria and Stephanie.

Bryson



Anna Stewart
648-2351

of Laval. Visiting Jim and I were Heather and Marcel of Mississauga, and all the rest of our children from here.

Here is a little poem to start us off right for the new year.

Blessed are they who understand my faltering step and shaking hand. Blessed who know my ears today, must strain to catch the things they say. Blessed are those who seem

to know my eyes are dim and my mind is slow. Blessed are those who looked away, I spilled my tea on the cloth that day. Blessed are they who, with cheery smile, stopped to chat for a little while. Blessed are they who know the way to bring back memories of yesterday. Blessed are they who never say, "You've told that story twice today."

Blessed are they who make it known that I'm loved, respected and not alone. And blessed are those who will ease the days of my journey home, in loving ways.

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year and health in our final year of the century and may everyone see the year "2000."

Have a safe and healthy week.

Happy New Year

Shawville



Jean Wallace
647-3855

I would like to thank my readers for their contribution of news items for my column. I trust you will continue in the New Year.

I wish each and everyone a joyous, happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Have a Happy New Year with your families.

Christmas on the Prairies

With Christmas passed we can look back on some of the favorite times of our childhood and the great times we shared. At our house we had no elaborate gifts as children have today. We were children raised during the depression and appreciated the simple gifts we received.

We always had about 40 relatives gathered at one of my father's brothers, sisters or at our home. We lived in town so it was a special treat to be picked up with team and horses, buffalo robes and heated stones to keep us warm and snug on the drive to the country. Sleigh-bells ringing and shared laughter were part and parcel of the celebration. Games, lots of food and extras, like cream puffs, Christmas cake and pudding, turkey and the works were enjoyed by all.

One year, as a child, I received a doll that was able to wet. Such a marvelous gift. Who enjoyed it most? Two of my teenage cousins amused themselves all day with my gift. It was the hit of the day. As I was raised on the Prairies, it was very cold and frosty all winter long and the roads were not plowed like today. This is just one of the mem-

Campbell's Bay



Iris Smith
648-5821

ories I recall. Today Christmas is still a big hit with children and adults alike, but it seems more commercialized for everyone. We didn't have the great gifts people now have, so as money became more available we bought our children the things we had always dreamed of, little knowing we were over compensating for our own lack of extravagances in our own childhood or the dreams we had. They, in turn, have outdone their parents and so the cycle continues. Nevertheless, we still get into the Christmas spirit that thrives in the generation of today.

So I will include in this week's column a recipe for a hearty soup which is a meal in itself. If you happen to have a large slow

cooker, it is ideal, if not, a large pot will do.

At this time I wish everyone a healthy, happy New Year.

Italian Vegetable Soup
1 lb. ground beef
1 c. diced onion
1 c. celery
1 c. carrots
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 1/2 oz. can tomatoes
1 1/2 oz. can tomato sauce
1 1/2 oz. can red kidney beans, undrained
2 cups water
5 tps. beef bouillon granules

1 tps. dried parsley flakes
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. oregano
1/2 tsp. sweet basil
1/2 tsp. black pepper
2 cups shredded cabbage
1 cup green beans
1/2 cup elbow macaroni
parmesan cheese
Brown beef in large kettle; drain. Add all the ingredients except cabbage, green beans and macaroni. Bring to a boil. Lower heat, cover and simmer 20 minutes. Add cabbage, green beans and macaroni; bring to a boil and simmer until vegetables are tender. If you prefer a thinner soup, add additional water or broth. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese before serving.

Raisin cookies

Charteris



Cora McNeill
647-2191

Raisin Cookies
Boil for 10 minutes: 2 cups raisins and 1 cup water.

Allow to cool completely. Add to cooled raisins: 1 cup Crisco 1 cup white or brown sugar 1 egg Mix very well together. Sift together 3 cups of flour pinch salt 1 tsp. baking soda 1 1/2 tps. cinnamon Add flour to raisin mixture, blend well together. Drop by teaspoonful on cookie sheet. Bake for 10 minutes at 325° or until golden brown. Cool well before storing.

More recipes

Ladysmith



Debbie Lance Thrun
647-3927

I would like to share with you a couple of recipes for the holiday season.

Carrot and Green Bean Casserole

1 tps. chopped onion
3 tps. fat
2 tps. flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1 1/2 c. milk
2 eggs beaten
1 c. grated cheese
2 c. cooked green beans
2 c. cooked sliced carrots
1/2 c. bread crumbs
3 tps. butter or margarine
Cook onion in fat until tender. Add flour and seasonings, blend well. Add milk gradually, cook until slightly thickened. Add eggs, cook over low heat for one minute, stirring constantly. Add cheese and vegetables, mix well. Pour into greased casserole. Cover with crumbs, dot with butter or margarine. Bake in 350° oven for 30 minutes. Yield 8 servings.

Graham Wafer and Butterscotch Dessert

Ingredients:
Whole Graham wafers
1 pkg. butterscotch pudding
2 pkgs. Dream Whip
Graham wafer crumbs.
Method:

In two separate bowls have your butterscotch pudding and Dream Whip mixed. In an 8" x 8" pan, put a row of Graham wafers, then butterscotch pudding and Dream Whip. You continue like this till all is finished. You have to end up with the Dream Whip, top with Graham wafer crumbs, then put in fridge to thicken. This is very delicious.

Peanut Butter Balls

1 c. brown sugar
1 c. corn syrup
A little salt
Let come to a boil. Add:
1 c. peanut butter
Have a large bowl ready and put in:
4 c. Corn Flakes
1 c. Rice Krispies
1 c. shredded coconut, and the above ingredients, mix well.
Grease hands with margarine and roll into balls, and roll in shredded coconut.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bristol Community Association will hold their

Annual Meeting

for Election of Officers

Saturday, January 9, 1999

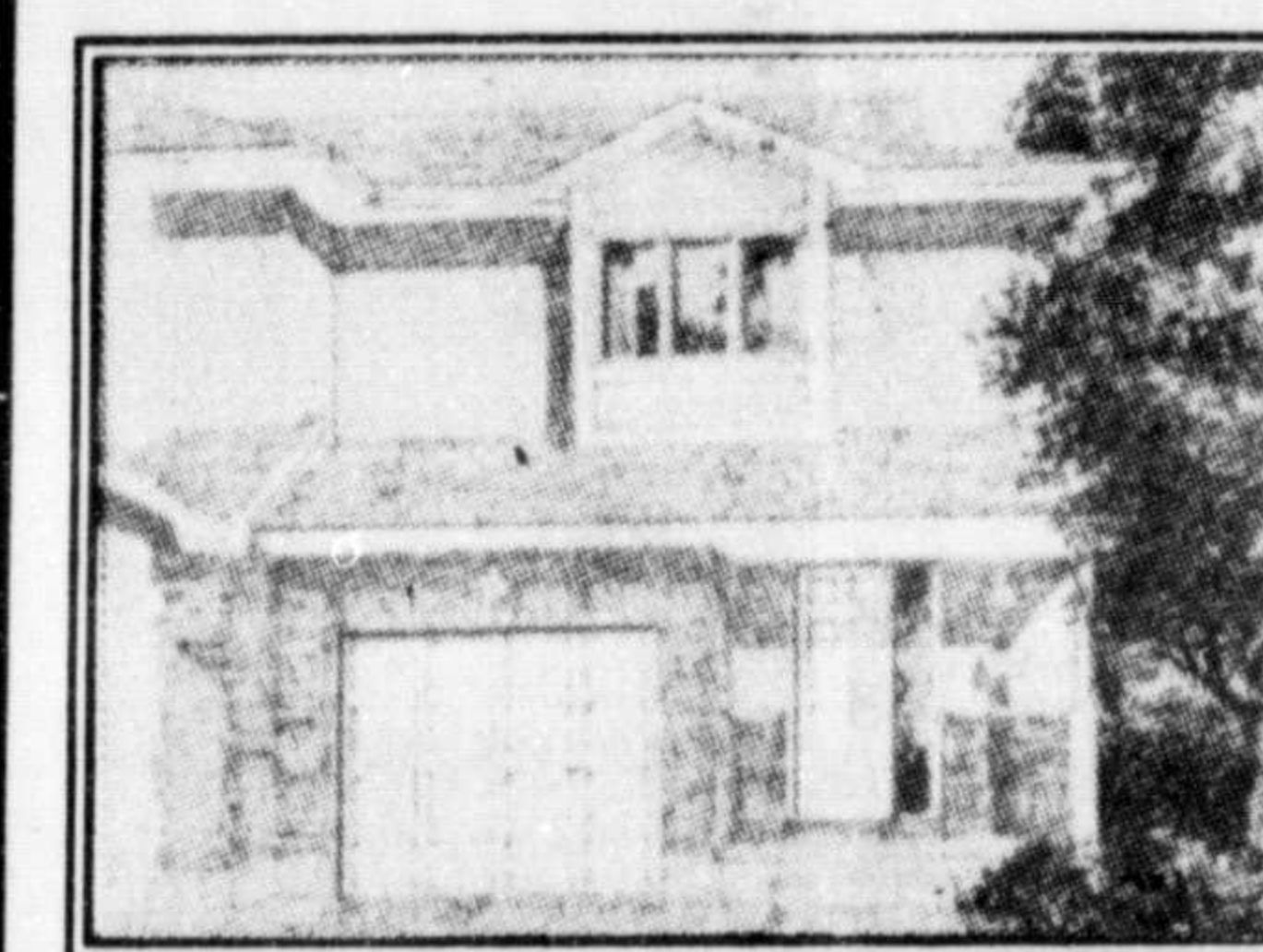
at 10:00 a.m. at the Bristol Community Centre

Only paid-up members will have voting privileges. Memberships are available at the municipal office.

Did we shoot you - or at least take your picture?
Stop in at THE EQUITY to order a 5x7 or 8x10 print.

NO MORE RENT PAYMENTS!

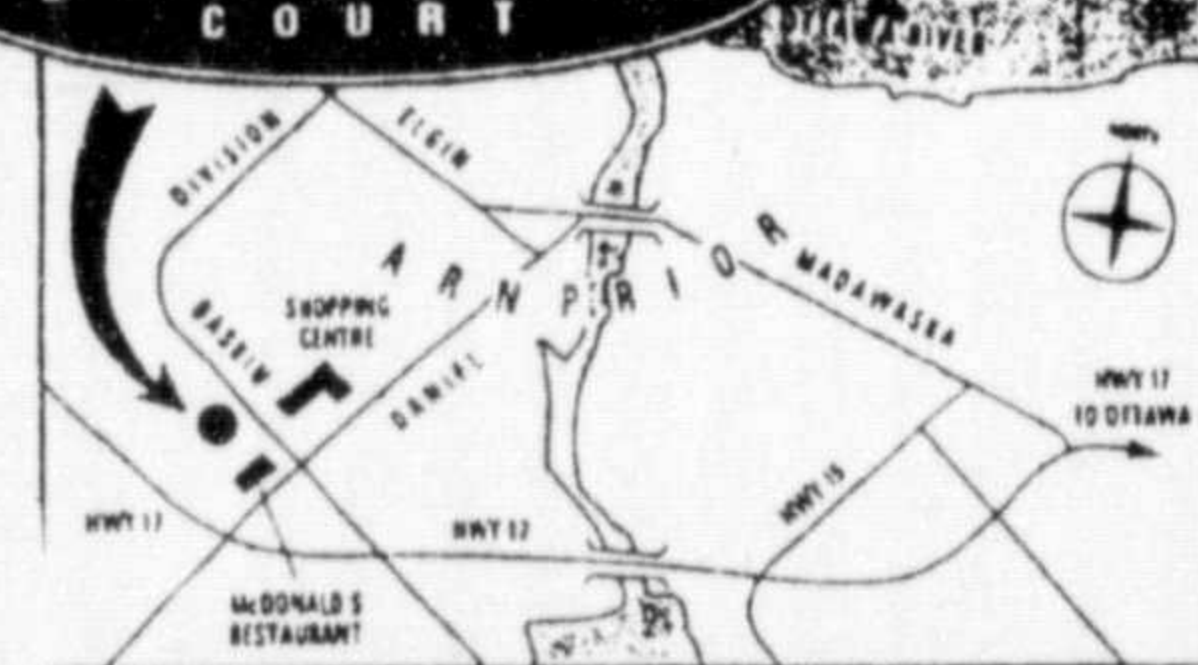
ONLY 10 UNITS LEFT



Sorry for any inconvenience as the office is temporary closed Sat. & Sun. in preparation for the Grand Opening of our final phase.

FOR VIEWING PLEASE CALL
623-0569

FAIRBROOKE COURT



MADAWASKA PROPERTIES



AECL EACL



AECL EACL

La population est invitée à formuler des commentaires sur la réouverture de l'aire de gestion des déchets « G » qui servira au stockage de déchets découlant de la production d'isotopes médicaux

Énergie atomique du Canada limitée (EACL) invite la population à formuler des commentaires sur la réouverture proposée de l'aire de gestion des déchets « G » pour le stockage en surface de déchets radioactifs découlant de la production d'isotopes médicaux dans deux réacteurs MAPLE à ses Laboratoires de Chalk River, en Ontario.

EACL propose de construire jusqu'à 16 nouveaux silos de stockage en béton aménagés en surface dans l'aire de gestion des déchets (AGD) « G », sur le terrain de l'établissement de Chalk River. Cette aire surveillée régulièrement contient 12 silos de stockage en béton aménagés en surface où l'on stocke actuellement du combustible nucléaire irradié provenant de la centrale NPD déclassée de Rolphton, en Ontario. L'ajout de 16 nouveaux silos de stockage de béton aménagés en surface à l'AGD « G » n'agrandira pas l'aire actuelle et l'on ne prévoit aucun effet indésirable sur les travailleurs, la population ou l'environnement.

Le silo de stockage en béton aménagé en surface est une technologie démontrée et très répandue de stockage de déchets radioactifs. Les silos en béton aménagés en surface présentent plusieurs avantages, car ils assurent un environnement sec et sont faciles à surveiller de façon à satisfaire aux exigences relatives à la sécurité et à la protection de l'environnement. Le stockage des déchets provenant de la production d'isotopes médicaux dans les silos en béton aménagés en surface devrait commencer en novembre 1999.

Nous vous invitons à poser vos questions et formuler vos commentaires avant le 15 janvier 1999. Les commentaires écrits ou les mémoires reçus par EACL seront accessibles au public dans le cadre du rapport d'évaluation environnementale. Veuillez faire parvenir vos questions et vos commentaires à :

Donna Roach
Directrice (par intérim), Affaires publiques
EACL
Laboratoires de Chalk River
Chalk River (Ontario) K0J 1J0
Téléphone : (613) 584-8811, poste 4966 ou 1 800 364-6989
Télécopieur : (613) 584-1350

Public Comment invited on Reopening Waste Management Area 'G' for Storage of Waste Resulting from Medical Isotope Production

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) is inviting public comment on the proposed reopening of the Waste Management Area 'G' for above-ground storage of radioactive waste resulting from the production of medical isotopes in the MAPLE reactor being constructed at its Chalk River Laboratories site in Chalk River, Ontario.

AECL proposes to build up to 16 new above-ground concrete storage canisters in an area known on the Chalk River property as Waste Management Area (WMA) 'G'. This regularly monitored area currently comprises 12 above-ground concrete canisters that are safely storing spent nuclear fuel from the decommissioned Nuclear Power Demonstration (NPD) Generating Station in Rolphton, Ontario. The addition of 16 new above-ground canisters at WMA 'G' will not expand the current boundary and no adverse effects on workers, the public or the environment are anticipated.

The above-ground concrete canister is a demonstrated and extensively used technology for the storage of radioactive waste. The use of above-ground concrete canisters has several benefits in that it provides a dry environment and can easily be monitored to satisfy security and environmental protection requirements. Storage of waste from medical isotope production in above-ground concrete canisters is expected to start in November 1999.

Questions and/or comments are invited before January 15, 1999. Written comments or submissions received by AECL will be available for public examination as part of the Environmental Screening Report. Please direct your questions and comments to:

Donna Roach
Manager (Acting)
Public Affairs
AECL
Chalk River Laboratories
Chalk River, ON K0J 1J0
Tel.: (613) 584-8811 ext. 4966 or 1-800-364-6989
Fax: (613) 584-1350

Final year of this century

Well Christmas with all the hustle and bustle and hurrying to get ready is just gone again for another 365 days. I hope everyone had a nice day and no one was ill. We had a lovely time. But it was a sad time also. As we attended the wake of a dear friend, Gladys Robinson of Cardinal, Ont. She was buried on Dec. 21. Weston and Bernice Stewart of Onaping with their daughters Lorie Deschamps, Billy Joe Deering and Kim Kier of Dowling all attended the wake and funeral.

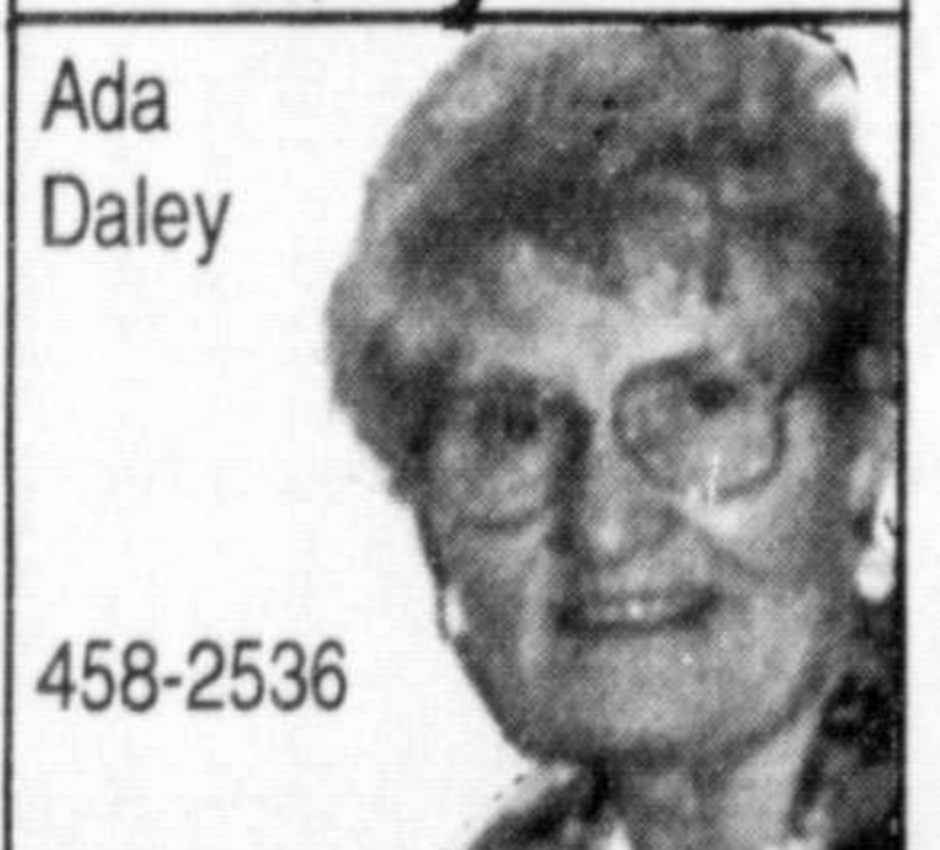
Visiting Ray and Marie Grier over the holidays was their son Todd of Ottawa.

Visiting with Ivan and Arlene Saunders were their children Karen and her friend Jim Shanks of Montreal.

Visiting Georgette Piche and Gilles Lemaire were Nicole and Damien Mantha

Van load of friends

Quyon



Ada Daley
458-2536

Birthday greetings to Angela Coyle on the occasion of her birthday Dec. 19. A van from Quyon left Saturday morning to go to Burlington with her six sisters and a brother to attend a party held for her big celebration of her 50th birthday. Over 33 attended this

event held at Mel and Isla Daley's home. Driver of Ed Desabrais van was Gerry McKenny with lots of laughs and a good time was had by all.

A gathering of the Daley clan came to help celebrate Francis' birthday on Dec. 16. Lorne treated us all to a fine meal at the Stanton Restaurant. All came back to the house for the birthday cake and a sing-song. Little Lindsay played a few tunes on the fiddle which was a joy to hear.

Thanks to all for the nice Christmas cards, presents and thoughts and best of all and good wishes in the New Year from the Quyon Notes Composer.

THE EQUITY and Pontiac Plus -
Pontiac's only weekly newspapers.