Shawville, Pontiac County, Québec

911 Litchfield, Campbell's Bay & Bryson will get the emergency phone service

Lang takes Farmers' Bonspiel

The latest in hockey
CC, House, Junior B and All-Star: some games cancelled

Pontiac's first baby of the year

All inside this week's issue

The Voice of the Pontiac since 1883

THE EQUITY

115th Year, No. 2, Wednesday, January 14, 1998 75¢

-photo Paul McGee

AROUND THE CLOCK: Area residents endured the ice storm of the century, while hydro employees worked around the clock to restore power. In this photo, Shawville Town Foreman Denzil Yach heads down into Mill Dam Park to clear the road to the town's water supply.

Pontiac survives ice storm

Paul McGee
Equity Reporter Pontiac

In what is being called the ice storm of the century, area residents last week battled the extremes of the unpredictable and relentless winter weather for which Canada is noted.

Mother Nature unleashed a mix of drizzle, freezing rain, and snow since last Monday, elements which combined to plunge many of the residents in the areas north and east of Bryson into prolonged cold and darkness.

Everyone, from children to the elderly, spent most of the week coping with life without the creature comforts we, and electricity, are connected to. In the blackout areas, there were no lights, no running water, no heat in some cases, no television, no Nintendo.

As more ice glazed the trees lining the many miles of power lines, the pines and birches drooped over, as if sad and weary from the weight they carried. Limbs snapped, falling onto lines also made vulnerable by the load of accumulated ice coating the high voltage (up to 25,000 volts) wires.

Fuses blown, poles down — 30 in the North Onslow area alone — lines snapped — these were repetitive terms as residents and hydro workers coped bravely with the worst Mother Nature had to offer. The worst areas were Shawville, Norway Bay, Clarendon, Otter Lake and Quyon.

"It is close to being a disaster," says Fort Coulonge native and retired Hydro Quebec foreman, Gilles Soucie on Thursday. "This area has some of the best lines, yet I don't know how they are hanging on." Soucie, who retired in May, 1997 after 31 years service, was one of four hydro retirees called in to help crews with the ongoing battle to restore power.

"Last night (Wednesday) we had to restore power three times," he says. "We would clear branches in one place and restore power, only to have some break off somewhere else and put the power out again."

Another hydro employee, Paula Hodgins, kept busy answering the phones, and phoning people to tell them their power was restored, says the blackouts were tough for the children, though "it teaches kids what it was like long ago."

The Otter Lake area was hit hard, with power out for most of the time between early Monday morning and Thursday night. Even then, some rural residences remained without power.

Shelter and cooking utilities were provided at the St. Charles de Borromee Church parish hall, but there were no takers on Thursday. One of the volunteers, standing in the empty hall, sleeping mats piled at the other end of the room, quipped the no-shows were testimony to the hardiness and self-sufficiency of rural people. As well, he added, many stayed with relatives or friends who had power. Another volunteer says people are not ready to abandon their homes, for fear of being burglarized, or later coping with frozen, or burst water lines.

"It's not too good, I have no heat," says Picanoc resident Richard Dubois, working late Thursday night to hook a water pump to a generator. "I have a propane gas stove and lantern, but I have 100 feet of water line i have to hook to a water pump. I'm afraid the water line might freeze."

Acting on the principle of necessity as the mother of invention, an Otter Lake woman found a novel way to cook supper.

"We're lucky we have a wood furnace," says Theresa Blaskie. "We've been cooking on the furnace. Tonight (Thursday) I baked some potatoes on it. We have to do what we must do. It makes you wonder how our ancestors coped. We have to keep together through this."

Linemen tested

Thursday proved to be a grueling day for the linemen and tree trimmers working on the Hwy. 303 feeder line to Otter Lake and area. Not only did they have to contend with numerous blown fuses, and snow, then freezing rain, they received word a main line tower near Buckingham buckled under the shear weight of ice glazed on the metal structure.

As the crew repaired another fuse at a tap (connection from the three-phase primary line to the one-phase secondary lines to residences), there was the underlying concern more towers could collapse, increasing the possibility a disaster was in the making.

"A tower collapsed near Buckingham. That's the line feeding this area," says lineman and Chapeau native Kevin Vickers, as he stands in the drizzle while a lineman in the boom bucket finishes up above. The boom is lowered, and the crew pile into the truck, heading off to repair another blown fuse, in many cases a fuse they repaired hours earlier.

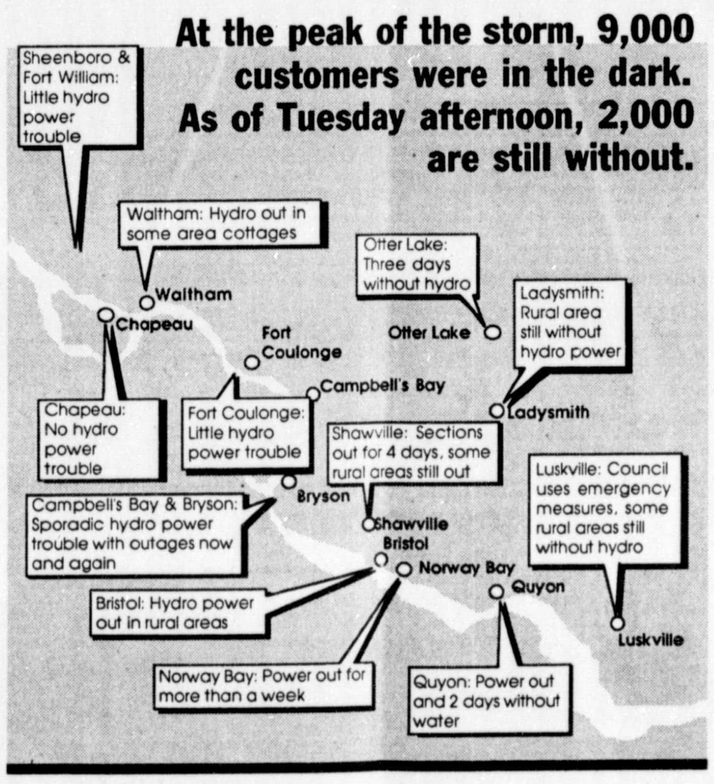
Back at the hydro offices on Hwy. 148, Soucie and fellow Fort Coulonge native and hydro retiree, Jackie Romain, are busy organizing crews according to directives from the main office in Hull.

Both veterans put in 16-hour shifts, organizing crews, who also put in 16-hour shifts, and prioritizing which services would be connected. The other two retirees, Shawville's Bill Black and Donnie Smart patrolled the area, spotting potential problems and reporting them back to the office.

"If we had a line with 35 services, for example, and one with 25, the line with 35 would be the priority, unless the line of 25 had a lot of seniors on it," Soucie says.

Not only faced with the bad hand nature was dealing, there were other impediments to the task at hand.

continued on page 2



Military helps with cleanup

Sylvia Bakker
Equity News Editor Pontiac

The sounds of chainsaws humming and ice-laden branches shattering could be heard throughout eastern Pontiac on the weekend as residents tried to recover from the worst ice storm of the century.

According to Shawville weather recorder Everett McDowell, more than 37 millimetres of freezing rain fell between Monday, Jan. 5 and last Friday.

This caused power outages lasting days and in some cases more than a week in Luskville, Quyon, Norway Bay, Bristol, Clarendon, Shawville, Thorne, Otter Lake and Danford Lake.

Military troops were a welcome sight in Quyon, Shawville, and Clarendon Saturday as they worked alongside volunteer fire departments, town men, and anyone else willing to help clean up the area.

Meanwhile, crews from Hydro Quebec and southern Ontario worked at a feverish pace – 16-hour shifts – to restore power to some 9,000 Pontiac customers.

Richard Roy was one resident happy to see the green convoy of military vehicles pull into Shawville Saturday. Four soldiers spent a couple of hours helping town men and other workers clear his yard of toppled trees.

"It was real nice to see them around," Roy said in between throwing branches into the bucket of Tom Orr's loader.

Likewise, the military was happy to be here. It was a welcome change from field exercises or tours overseas. "It's nice to be able to help our own people," said Master Cpl. Paul Parsons, of the 3rd Royal Canadian Regiment.

continued on page 3

DROP-OFF DEPOTS

Relief effort coordinated

Sylvia Bakker
Equity News Editor Fort Coulonge

Drop-off depots are being organized throughout Pontiac to help ice storm victims in southern Quebec and eastern Ontario.

More than a million customers are still without power. In the Montreal region, thousands have been forced to evacuate their homes and stay in shelters, which are quickly becoming overcrowded.

For many communities in Ontario, it could be weeks – perhaps a month – before power is restored.

Everything from razors and diapers to corded wood and kerosene is needed.

Until Friday, non-perishable items can be dropped off at Demers Centre or at the Chichester Fire Hall. Call 689-2266 for more information.

Items can also be brought to the Fort Coulonge Fire Hall (683-3424).

In Campbell's Bay, items can be brought to the municipal office until 4 p.m. After that, they can be dropped off at the Village Artistique. Call 648-2045 for more information.

Bert Marion, who is coordinating this relief effort, is also looking for anyone who can donate a truck to bring items to Hull or eastern Ontario. For more information on that, call Marion at 683-3424 or Cletus Ferrigan at 648-2045.

QUYON, LUSKVILLE

Emergency measures taken

Sylvia Bakker
Equity News Editor Quyon

After six days in a state of emergency, Pontiac Municipality lifted its emergency measures act Monday morning.

By that time, most residents in the municipality had their power restored.

But at the peak of the storm, nearly the entire municipality – close to 5,000 residents – was in the dark.

On the morning of Jan. 6 – two days before Ottawa-Carleton declared a state of emergency – council began emergency measures.

In Quebec, only the premier can declare a state of emergency; a municipality can impose emergency measures.

The only area in Pontiac Municipality that did not lose its power was the west end of Quyon village.

Onslow Elementary was turned into a public shelter. Many residents used the shelter for meals, and some slept there overnight.

When school resumed Monday, the shelter was moved to the Lions' Hall.

Power was cut off from Quyon's water pump, and the entire village was without water supply for nearly two days. That meant long lineups at an overflow well at Gerald McKenny's.

continued on page 3

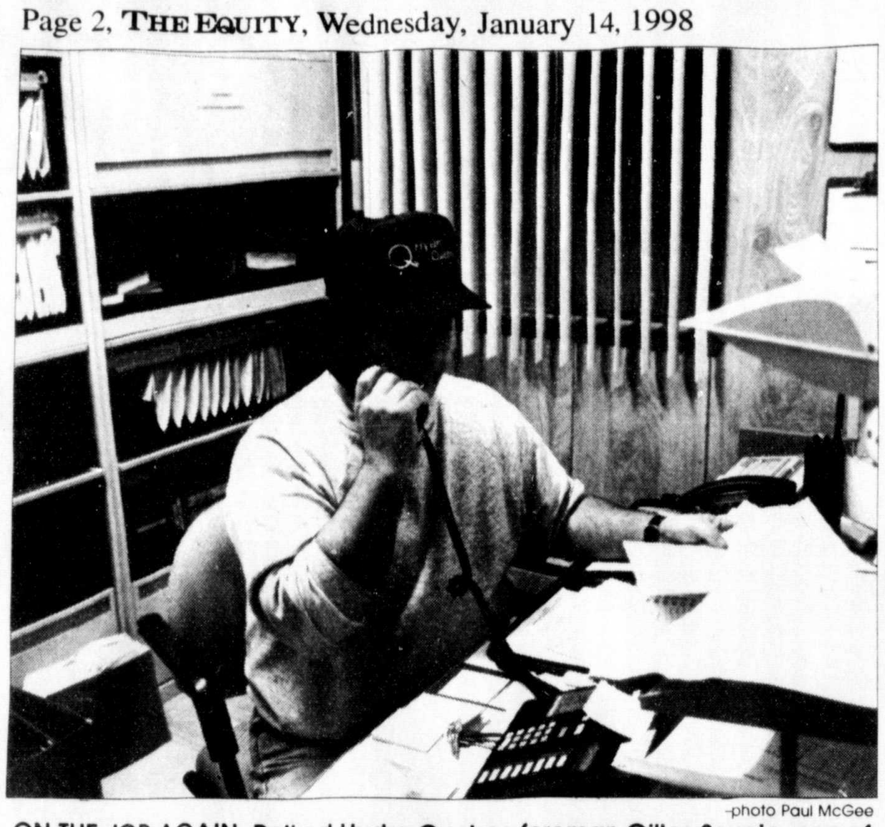
LATE NEWS

Storm causes late delivery of THE EQUITY

THE EQUITY apologizes to our readers who did not receive last week's EQUITY, the Jan. 7 issue, until this past Monday.

Due to power outages Tuesday, Jan. 6, THE EQUITY was not printed until the morning of Jan. 7, as opposed to its normal Tuesday evening printing.

Normally, our readers would have received THE EQUITY Wednesday, but because of the ice storm, mail was not delivered to some areas. On Friday, Canada Post was closed, so many readers did not receive their paper until Monday.



-photo Paul McGee

ON THE JOB AGAIN: Retired Hydro Quebec foreman Gilles Soucie, one of four retirees called in to help with the efforts to restore power, works at his desk in the hydro offices in Shawville. The hydro office was the control centre for the 50 hydro and tree trimming crews that worked around the clock to restore power to the afflicted municipalities.

Hydro battles storm

Continued from page 1

"We need authorization from the head office in St. Jerome before we can go out to repair a line," Soucie says. "However, if there is a communications breakdown between St. Jerome and Hull, we are stuck."

"We have to identify the trouble spot by the number plate on the pole. If we are at the wrong place, Hull will tell us."

"In the 31 years I was with hydro, this is the worst ice storm damage I have seen," Soucie says. "I guess Hydro Quebec didn't realize what they were getting into when they started making cutbacks."

Soucie's concerns are shared by Romain.

"Otter Lake is the worst area because of all the trees," says Romain. "All the taps are open. If we fix one fuse, we may blow another down the line. As well, a tower in Buckingham is down. That's the line that feeds us."

Bristol area endures

It was much the same story in Bristol and Norway Bay. Without power for most of the week, residents were battling not only the ice storm carnage, but fighting the anxiety within.

"The biggest anxiety is the unknown. Each day, you live and hope the power will be restored," says Bristol Mayor Jack Graham.

Graham is not alone.

"Everybody's at wit's end, jumpy, snappy," says Bristol Fire Chief Steve Forbes, who was without power since midnight Monday. "It's pretty rough. I have a fireplace, the only way I have to keep warm. I've got milk and orange juice in a cooler outside on the deck. ...Don't anyone ever ask me to go camping.

"I've been coming here for the past 43 years, living here for the past 15, and have never seen anything like this. The pine trees look like mushrooms. There was an electrical fire when a fuse wouldn't blow because it was frozen. There was a broken live wire, bouncing on the road, which burned a hole in the pavement."

To accommodate residents weary from days with no water or heat, Bristol Town Hall was set up as a shelter and kitchen for anyone wishing to come in from the cold for a hot meal and a warm place to sleep. Residents were notified by flyers and messages broadcast from the speaker of the fire truck.

Cots delivered by the Red Cross in Hull were set up, and donated food was prepared by volunteers. Sixteen people were in for supper on Thursday, 14 on Friday, more than 30 for turkey dinner on Saturday, and more than 40 on Sunday, though none camped out overnight.

On Saturday, children played while a television set was turned on to the news, affording some an opportunity to catch glimpses of how the ice storm spread its woes across southern Quebec and eastern Ontario.

While the hearty meal, complete with butterscotch and lemon meringue pies, was served, hydro crews braved the strong gusts of wind along River Road as they tried to restore power. Tonight's crew was made up of linemen from Langley Utilities in Peterborough.

"I took holiday time to come up here and help," says a Peterborough hydro worker, who asked to be unidentified, before rising up in the boom bucket to fix a blown fuse.

"Watch the ice," another lineman warns, as ice chunks drop to the streets from the trees and power lines. The day's sunshine and mild temperature loosened the glazed ice's grip on the trees and wires, creating another impediment to safety.

Latest developments

By Tuesday morning, there were 50 hydro and tree trimming crews working out of the hydro offices in Shawville. Hydro crews had arrived from Val d'Or, Chapeau, Abitibi-Temiscamingue, and Rouyn-Noranda in Quebec, and Bowmanville, Oshawa, Peterborough, and Sault Ste. Marie in Ontario to help the four local hydro crews restore power to the outlying areas near Bristol, Norway Bay, Otter Lake and Wyman. As well, a crew from Hull was working to restore power east of Quyon

All primary arteries were restored, and the tired crews were busy restoring power to the secondary lines. About 2,000 customers remained without power, but those numbers were decreasing by the hour as crews diligently worked to restore power.

A hydro crew from Hull, specializing in underground lines, came to Shawville Monday to repair the blown transformer at Pontiac Protestant High School. A tree fell across the three-phase line near the school and as a result, the cut-out fuse was grounded by the trees, explains Soucie. When this happens, the transformer receives too much voltage, and the reducing coils inside short out.

Another impediment to the hydro workers is misinformation.

"Someone phoned and said there was one tree down on a line near Bristol," Soucie says. "We sent one crew down to repair the line, but when they got there, the whole line was down; there was nothing one crew could do.

"Someone phoned hydro in Hull and told them there was no power on the firehall line. Hull gave this job top priority, but when we got there, there was only one resident on that line."

As well as organizing the crews in the morning, assigning work orders, ensuring supplies are available, and answering phones, Soucie and Romain arranged living accommodations for the out-of-area crews.

"The restaurants, hotels and motels did a super job accommodating the workers," Soucie says. "Also, the help we received from the municipalities was tremendous. If we phoned and said we needed a road cleared, it was done immediately."

On Thursday, Soucie said he never thought he would miss work after retiring, but when he walked into the office, "it put a smile on my face."

On Tuesday, the smile was still there, but it was a tired smile after six 16-hour shifts. But, the determination to restore power to all the residents was wide awake. You could feel it from all of the hydro workers. They could sense victory.

THE EQUITY
Delivers every week of the year. Subscribe today.
647-2204

911 service to begin this February in Litchfield, Campbell's Bay, Bryson

Paul McGee
Equity Reporter Litchfield

The 911 emergency service is slowly moving into Pontiac MRC.

Three municipalities, Litchfield, Campbell's Bay, and Bryson are the most recent to subscribe to the service. Quyon and Luskville, in the MRC des Collines, signed on in June and November, 1997, respectively.

Litchfield hopes to have the service in operation by the end of February, says Mayor Michael McCrank.

A professional services contract was met with Monique Charette who operates the independent emergency answering service, Centre d'appel régional de la Vallée de la Gatineau, from her home in Maniwaki.

One of the prerequisites Charette's service met was a dual simultaneous setup, McCrank says. The purpose of the dual setup is to ensure the service continues in the event the setup at Charette's home fails. The second setup is near Charette's home.

Cost of this service is 97 cents per month for each installation, and will be added to the monthly phone bill, McCrank says. Out of this amount, 47 cents goes to Charette's company. The remainder is split between Telebec and Bell Canada, the two phone companies providing service to Litchfield.

At present, Charette's service operates in several municipalities in the Gatineau area, including Maniwaki, Gracefield, and Low. Charette says she offered the service to the 20 municipalities of the Pontiac MRC, but only Litchfield, Campbell's Bay, and Bryson subscribed.

Campbell's Bay Mayor Cletus Ferrigan says one of the biggest features of the service, which is expected to be ready by Feb. 26, is the automatic registration of the civic number on the computer screen.

"If someone phones 911 and are unable to speak, for whatever reason, the civic number will be on the screen," Ferrigan says. "The person answering at 911 will know there is an emergency at that location."

When Charette approached the MRC with her service, there was some concern she would be unable to provide bilingual services. (Charette attended that meeting with a translator, because she felt more comfortable having the translator with her, Ferrigan says). In the next 10 days, Campbell's Bay will make mock calls to Charette's service to determine if she is able to offer a bilingual service.

"She is aware we will make mock calls to her phone number, she just doesn't know when," says Ferrigan. "All the firemen will know about the mock calls. We want to see if it (her response) is loud and clear.

"She's got a commitment to provide a bilingual service. If she doesn't meet the commitment, then we have to act accordingly."

As well, Telebec will be doing test calls to ensure the proper location shows up on the computer screen, Ferrigan says.

Ferrigan also stressed the importance of civic numbers being posted in highly visible areas.

"Emergency services can't get to a place unless the civic number is in place," Ferrigan says. "Everyone has an obligation to put their civic number up."

Bryson Mayor James Stewart says he is "expecting and hoping" to have the service in place by the end of February. He has no concern about Charette's ability to provide a bilingual service.

-photo Paul McGee

LINEMEN FOR THE COUNTY: One of the hydro crews works to repair a line on Hwy. 303. This line was the source of much frustration for hydro crews, who were forced to spend many hours repairing blown fuses on the feeder line to Otter Lake and area. The problem was due to the many fallen trees and limbs across the three-phase line, which caused the fuses to kick open.

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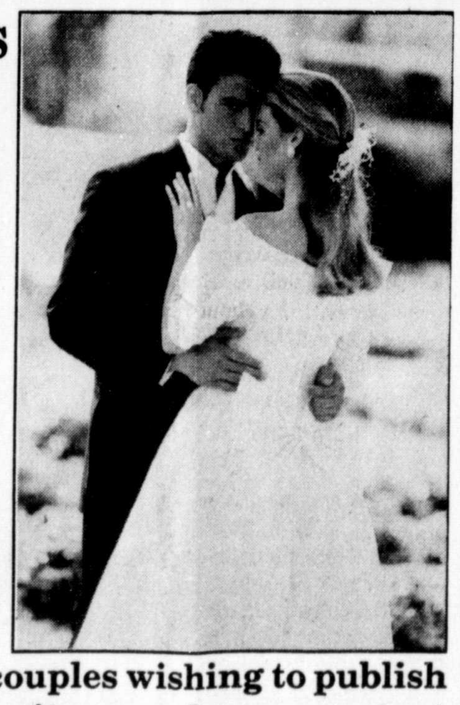

Married or engaged couples wishing to publish their photo and write-up please contact Katherine Hynes at THE EQUITY by Friday, January 16th, 1998.
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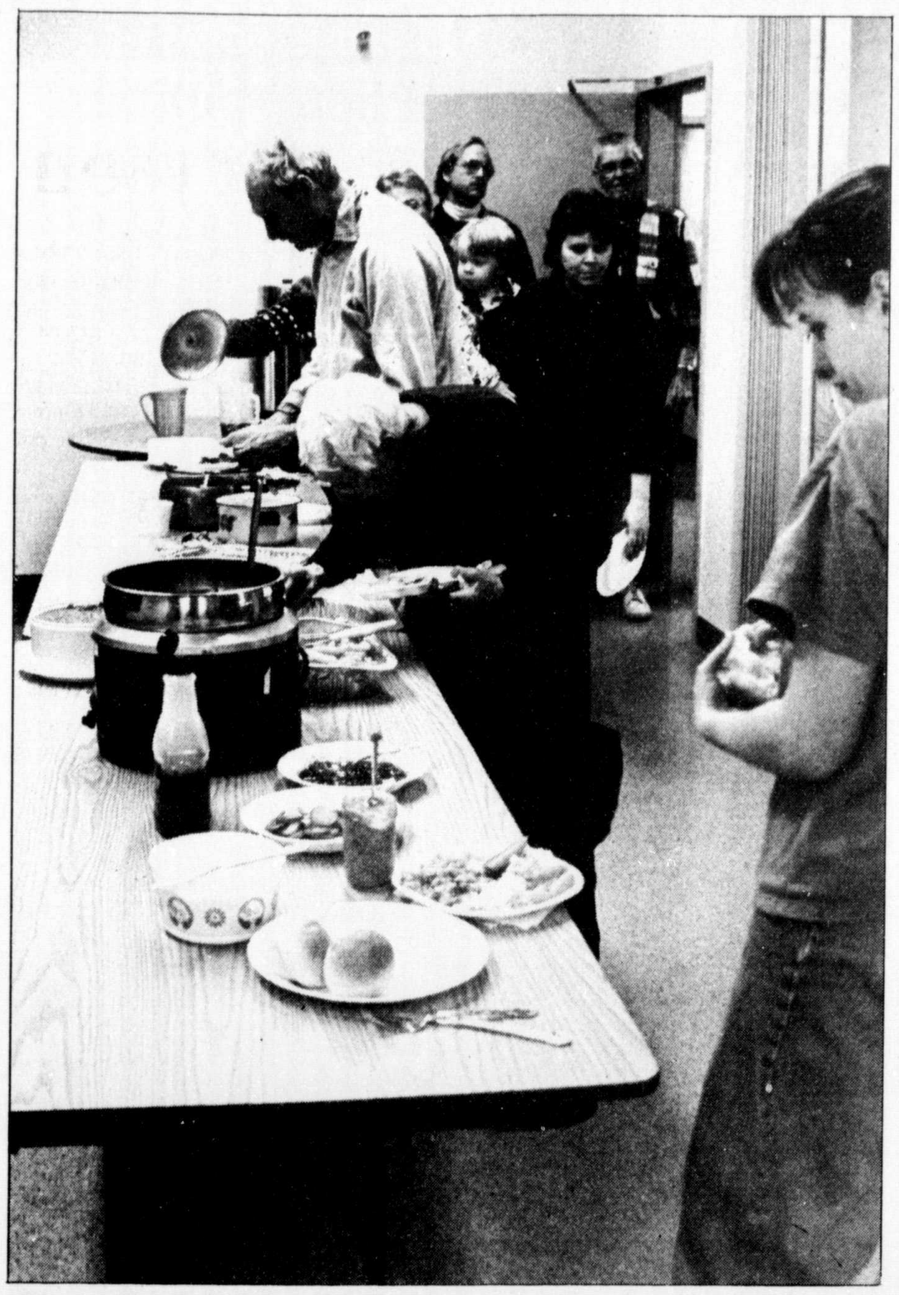


-photo Paul McGee

A HOT MEAL: Bristol municipality residents were treated to a hot turkey dinner Saturday. Town hall was set up as a shelter for residents who coped with power outages for most of the week.

Milkings missed as farmers scramble for generators

Sylvia Bakker
Equity News Editor Clarendon

The power may be out, but that doesn't stop Bessie from crying for her udders to be emptied.

Some of those hardest hit by the ice storm were dairy farmers.

Clarendon dairy farmer Ralph Bretzlaff probably didn't realize at the time how lucky he was when he bought what may have been the last generator for sale in Pembroke on Jan. 6 – the first day of the ice storm.

"We're very fortunate," says Bretzlaff's wife, Dorothy Haley.

Not only have Bretzlaff's 25 cows not missed a milking since the storm began, but Pontiac farmers have also been fortunate in that their milk is still being shipped.

Their Ontario counterparts have had to dump milk because the processing plants are without power.

Pontiac milk is shipped to Mont Laurier, which has been untouched by the storm.

Although they are entering day seven without power and are constantly switching the generator from barn to house, Haley counts her blessings.

"We're coping," she says. "There are people more desperate than we are."

Desperate

For fellow Clarendon dairy farmer Chris Judd, things were looking desperate on Jan. 6.

Unlike most area dairy farmers, Judd doesn't own a generator. Because his power source is on the same line used for Pontiac Community Hospital, his farm – normally – never experiences power outages for long periods of time.

But this wasn't a normal storm.

By the afternoon of Jan. 6, Judd's herd of 105 head had missed two milkings.

As a result, some cows had broken out in hives, a stress-related condition, and were on their way to becoming toxic.

To relieve their pain, the milk was drained out of the cows using teat dilators. By evening, Judd had found a generator to borrow. The next day, power was restored to his farm.

Judd says most dairy farmers in this area were more prepared than Ontario farmers.

Because Pontiac experienced regular power outages years ago, many farmers here had already purchased generators.

It wasn't the case in Ontario.

However, one glitch was that many generators used here were old and hadn't been turned on in years. Many broke down quickly.

By Wednesday, some farmers were already on their second generator.

Even so, neighbors shared with neighbors and most cows were milked regularly.

Bristol mayor feels the heat

Paul McGee
Equity Reporter Bristol

The ice storm which hit the area last week was not the only storm Bristol Mayor Jack Graham weathered last week.

There was pressure from some residents to have the Canadian Armed Forces deploy troops to assist hydro with the effort to restore power.

As a result, Graham held a special meeting of Bristol council Saturday with Capt. Michael Evans and Sgt. Maj. Joe Parsons of the 3rd Royal Canadian Regiment from CFB Petawawa.

"I was not hesitating (to call in the army); I never experienced an event to last so long," says Graham. "I had to make sure the cause justified the decision. The army is not heavily equipped with generators. They are not in the hydro business; hydro said they needed linemen."

At the meeting, it was established that the priorities would be clearing of the roads and cleanup in Norway Bay.

Capt. Evans agreed to provide manpower to help clear roads, cut trees and check on people not heard from, and says their stay would be open-ended, considering they could be called at any time to help in other areas.

"Basically, we will keep the lines of communication open, namely the roads," Capt. Evans says. "We will report anything we find. We will not be doing security."

Graham says the main problem was the lack of power, but people were "doing quite well" considering the fact, for some, there had been no power since Jan. 5.

"There was pressure to bring the army in to get the power back," Graham says. "I could understand why they (the army) couldn't do it (restore power); I could also understand why people asked (to call in the army). It would make us feel we're not alone."

"We were very fortunate compared to other communities. There has been some hardship, but we haven't lost anyone yet. ...I had to make a responsible decision. ...You can't be selfish and say send 10 trucks."

Graham, who followed developments of the ice storm damages in other areas, felt the military was needed in those areas more than in Bristol.

Military helps with cleanup

Continued from page 1

This is the first time troops from CFB Petawawa have been deployed so close to their home base.

Parsons said he and his fellow troops have been treated "like gold," by residents they have helped.

The soldiers cleared away trees and made roads passable for hydro crews to get into. One group of soldiers even helped pull a car out of a ditch.

Band together

But before the military had even been deployed, hundreds of volunteers throughout the county banded together to survive the storm.

Shelters were set up in Quyon, Bristol, Shawville and Otter Lake. Volunteers made hot meals and manned 24-hour emergency phone lines. Neighbors checked up on neighbors.

But by Friday, the storm was beginning to take its toll on many people.

"I'm fed up," said Kellie Keon, who was entering day four without power at her Hilton Avenue home in Shawville.

While most of Shawville was lucky enough to have power through much of the storm, the Consolidated subdivision and parts of Hilton Avenue went without for nearly four days.

With a fireplace as their only source of heat, the temperature at Keon's house hovered at 11 C.

At night, Kellie, husband Dave, and children, Kegan, 7, and Colton, 5, slept huddled in front of the fireplace.

Fifteen-month-old Clancey was wrapped up with so many blankets in the crib, she could hardly move.

They ate meals at relatives. The kids tried to keep themselves occupied by making forts with blankets.

But despite the chilly quarters, Keon had nothing but praise for the workers.

"I think they've done a great job," she said of the town men and hydro crews.

She admits though the first night without power she felt discouraged.

She saw the hydro trucks come in . . . and then leave again.

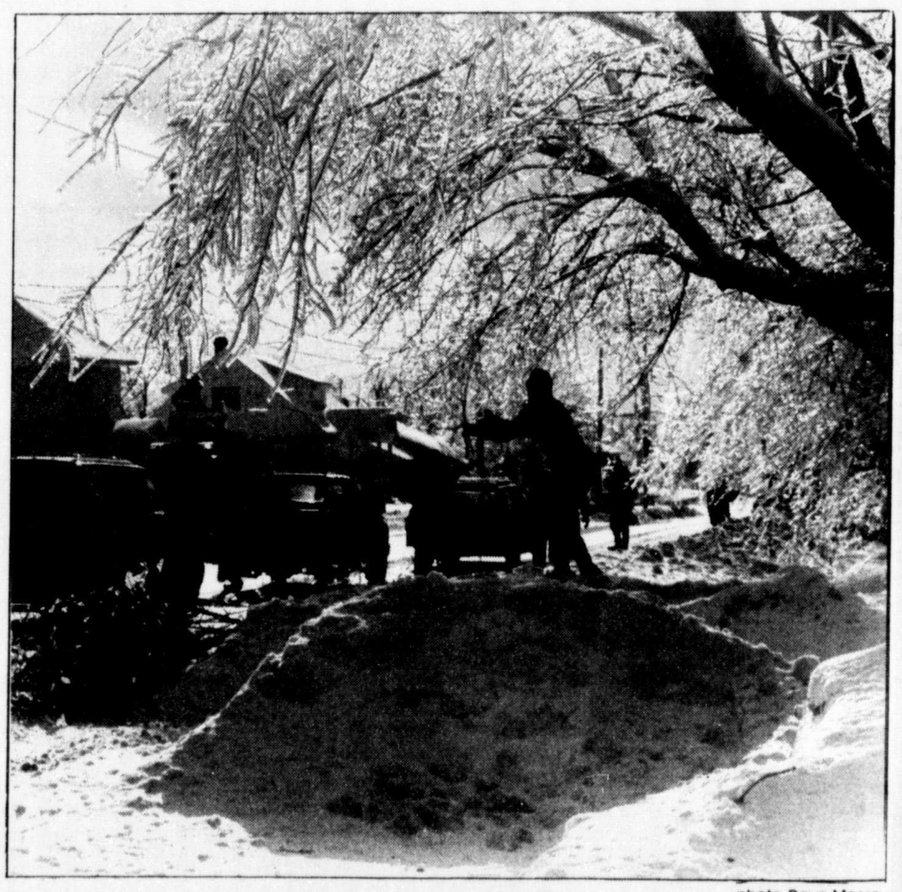
"I felt like we had been left alone," she said.

But days later the crews were back again working non-stop.

By Friday evening, the Keons and the rest of Shawville had power restored.

But it was not the same for Norway Bay and many rural areas in Clarendon, Bristol and Quyon.

By press time, Tuesday afternoon, about 2,000 local customers were still without power, preparing for day nine of the blackout.



-photo Dave Moore

MILITARY HELP: Troops from the 3rd Royal Canadian Regiment help town men and volunteer firemen clear debris in Shawville.

Emergency measures

Continued from page 1

On Saturday, the military moved in, cutting and removing branches and making all roads passable.

But like other areas, people in Quyon and the surrounding area came together to endure the storm.

"It's amazing what it does to people," says Quyon resident Leona Murdock, who had been largely unscathed by power outages. "Everyone wants to give a little."

Many in the village are hailing Claude Marcotte, owner of Petro Canada. When power went down, he kept his store operating with a generator, so residents could still get gas.

Residents say Marcotte even went that extra mile to stock candles and batteries, items that were disappearing fast everywhere.

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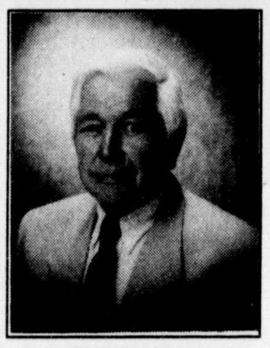

Laurie MacKechnie
Affiliated real estate agent
Joan E. Orr
Affiliated real estate agent
RE/MAX DIRECT INC. is proud to announce that Mrs. Joan E. Orr is the listing agent for the month of December and that Mr. Laurie MacKechnie is the selling agent for that same month.
Congratulations to both these agents. You can reach them at 770-2100 or 684-1220.

Attention Snowmobilers
The Shawville and District Snowmobile Club and the Quyon Sno Riders' Club need your volunteer help to clean up the trails due to the ice storm.
Contact any of the following:
Lee Laframboise 647-2545
Randy Pitt 647-2060
Don Campbell 647-5581/5837
Nick Matechuk 458-2354

"129th Anniversary Sale"
Starts
Thursday, January 15th
at 9:00 a.m.
25% OFF
WINTER BOOTS
Sorel - Prospector - Hush Puppies - Kodiak
MANY OTHER IN-STORE SPECIALS
Store Hours
Monday & Saturday 9:00 - 5:00 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 - 5:30 pm
Friday 9:00 - 8:00 pm
FARMER BROS SHOES Ltd.
124 JOHN ST., ARNPRIOR 623-2426
CG-CW-2-2c

THE EQUITY

The Voice of the Pontiac since 1883

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Publishers, Ross Dickson, Heather Dickson
News Editor, Sylvia Bakker
Reporter, Paul McGee
Display Ad Manager, Katherine Hynes
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Bringing out the best

Sometimes it takes a disaster to bring out the best in people. Last weekend's ice storm was a disaster. But in Pontiac – just as elsewhere in Quebec and Ontario – people banded together to survive.

In Pontiac, it didn't take long for people to organize themselves. By day two of the storm, the Bristol Town Hall was turned into a shelter. Those with power made warm meals to take to the shelter. The same was done in Quyon at Onslow Elementary, in Otter Lake at the church hall, and in Shawville at Pontiac Protestant High School.

In some areas, members of fire departments and their wives – all of whom are volunteers – went door-to-door, informing residents of the shelter, ensuring those without power were OK.

Town employees and elected officials took turns manning emergency phones 24 hours a day. Seniors were checked on regularly by neighbors.

Farmers shared generators with each other. Stores did whatever they could to get in extra supplies of kerosene, candles and batteries.

In Alleyn and Cawood, where most have wood heat, council went from house to house with a generator, keeping freezers frozen.

Those with a source of heat invited in their neighbors who had no heat. Everyone wanted to help. It's safe to say no one in Pontiac was deserted during the storm.

And it didn't end when the power was turned back on for most of the area. Residents continue to volunteer their time to help with the cleanup. Firemen sawed branches until their hands cramped up. Town men worked non-stop for hours, and many businesses donated their time and equipment to clean up branches. Hydro crews came in from as far away as Niagara Falls and New York State.

Despite the chilling conditions, seeing all these acts of kindness sure did warm the heart.

Sylvia Bakker

Don't call in the troops

Did we really need the assistance of the military in Pontiac? Maybe Bristol Mayor Jack Graham was on to something by not calling in the troops immediately.

One reason Graham didn't was because he knew there were areas much worse off than Bristol. Seeing pictures of the devastation in places like Vankleek Hill and, of course, Montreal on the nightly news was testimony to that.

In Shawville and Clarendon troops were called in and arrived on Saturday, when power had already been restored to most of the area. They spent most of their three days here clearing trees and branches. It's true, psychologically, seeing the convoy of green military vehicles lifted spirits.

But there are only so many troops to go around. And the devastation is far worse in places like Kemptville, Cornwall, Russell, where power could be out for weeks.

The troops would be better used delivering water to homes there or bringing blankets and cots to the Montreal area where shelters are overflowing, rather than clearing branches off someone's yard in Shawville.

The troops can't restore power, but they can make life bearable for those who will be without power for weeks.

In Bristol, as in other areas here, people are coping by making use of shelters and neighbors helping neighbors. Not calling in the troops – and allowing them to go where they are most needed – is, in itself, an act of kindness.

Sylvia Bakker

-photo Dave Moore

On the sixth day, there was sunshine

YOUR OPINION

Open letter to the Provisional Council Anglophone Board 50-06

Disappointed at decision

January 12, 1998

Dear Editor,

As a member of Campbell's Bay Elementary School Committee and a parent, I am very disappointed at the decision taken by the provisional council on Dec. 19, 1997.

With an enrolment at near capacity and increasing enrolments over the last eight years, this school has proven to the students, parents and our community that their programs and staff are succeeding where other schools have failed.

As the proposal now stands, the 50/50 immersion program will undoubtedly create serious problems for many of our students.

Also it has come to my attention that there was an agreement in principle on our school committee's behalf with the decision taken by the provisional council on Dec. 19, 1997.

Our position was and still is quite clear. We will fight to protect the programs and the integrity of the staff that have made Campbell's Bay Elementary School an asset in our community.

Ron Ostrom
CBE School Committee
and concerned parent

AFTER THE STORM

The cleanup

In the aftermath of the ice storm that hit the region, most people are now trying to clean up the mess. Others, in rural areas, are still without electricity. The Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec invites farmers to use caution and common sense to avoid accidents during these operations.

Snow and ice on greenhouses

Greenhouse structures are not designed to support the heavy snow that other buildings can withstand. It is important to avoid build-up by heating the greenhouse, even if production has not yet started. In addition, the snow accumulation on the ground near the structure should be cleared away to allow ice and snow to slide off the greenhouse.

Farm buildings

Even if the snow accumulation on roofs does not yet look excessive, it is important to monitor the new snow which may add to the already heavy ice load. In many cases, a bit of shoveling in critical areas, such as roof valleys and slope changes can avoid costly repairs later.

Cleanup of broken trees

When cleaning up the broken trees and branches, the same safety rules used in forestry operations should be followed – that is, use the proper safety clothing (hard hat, visor, ear protectors, chainsaw pants, etc) and never work alone in isolated areas, in case of accidents.

Trees which are leaning on electrical wires should be left to Hydro-Québec, even if you think that the power has not yet been turned on.

Emergency generators

We can't repeat often enough the dangers of operating a generator indoors. Carbon monoxide is odorless but a lethal killer. The generator must be placed outside of the building. Farmers who are still looking for generators can call the agricultural office for information.

Reminder concerning perishable foods

The MAPAQ offers free information concerning the safety of storing and using foods, especially after prolonged periods without electricity. For information, farmers and operators in the food industry can call 1-800-463-5023 to talk to food specialists.

PAUL'S POINT

Phony politics

Now that the ice storm of the century has melted into memory, and the cleanup is in the works, we are reminded of the indomitable spirit of Canadians.

Citizens of this great country, from British Columbia to Newfoundland, banded together to bring aid and relief to the beleagured citizens of southern Quebec and eastern Ontario, who last week were faced with the misery caused by power blackouts and relentless freezing rain.

It was encouraging to see English and French people working together to weather the storm. This was a tangible example of the spirit of unity that, unfortunately, gets lost in the clouds of theoretical separatist rhetoric.

Even Premier Lucien Bouchard didn't hesitate to request assistance from the Canadian Armed Forces. Nor should he have. Quebec, despite what the separatists, or "ardent Quebecers" as some of the crafty house-dividers prefer to be called, is part of Canada, and Canada is part of Quebec.

When witnessing a hydro worker from Peterborough, Ontario being raised in a boom bucket towards 25,000-volt power lines, at night, while the brisk wind whips in off the Ottawa River in Norway Bay, Quebec, one feels proud to be a Canadian.

Imagine a man, from the distinct province of Ontario, risking life and limb to help his fellow Canadians from the distinct province of Quebec (If you have two people, or two chairs, for that matter, and one is declared distinct, then, logically, the other must be distinct as well.)

When the government in the equally distinct province of Alberta offers assistance, for example, you get the feeling there is not much wrong with this country that a little tinkering here and there won't fix.

Yes, the spirit of unity rose from the community level to a cross-country mission, just as Canadians fought the Red River floods in Manitoba and the devastating floods in the Saguenay region of Quebec.

For one brief moment in the ongoing legacy of this glorious nation's politics, political pettiness was cast aside, and people recognized what is most important — survival.

Last time we checked, Canadians didn't battle the extremes of weather Mother Nature gave us by wrapping ourselves in the comfortable security blankets of "culture" and "language."

No, once again, Canadians, from sea to shining sea, threw on Mackinaw jackets and persevered against that which threatens our physical existence. All the rest seems phony in comparison.

Paul McGee

Throw out spoiled meat

Residents who experienced power outages for numerous days, should carefully check the contents of their fridge and freezer. Refrozen meat may look OK, but often, it is not.

In Shawville and Clarendon, arrangements have been made to discard of thawed meat which has spoiled.

Barrels have been set up at both municipal dumps for meat only.

A company which removes dead livestock has agreed to pick up the meat.

ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Do You Have Power? Do You Need Help?

KATHARINE FLETCHER

On **January 5** the power went out. Prophetically perhaps, Eric and I were watching J.J. Clarke on CJOH announcing a forecast of freezing rain. Suddenly, ZAP: we plunged into silence and darkness. We lit a candle, climbed the stairs to bed, confident that all would be well in our world the following morning.

It wasn't.

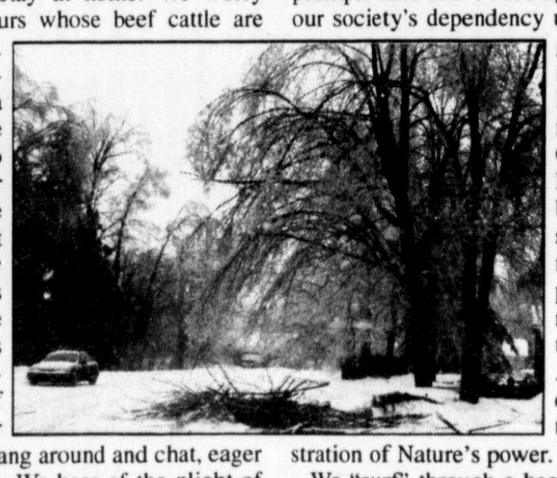
Little did we know we were plunged into what has become a "State of Disaster" that has affected not only the Pontiac but also Montreal east to the Maritimes.

Here's a brief step-by-step of my week, one that many of you will have shared.

Tuesday January 6: No power. Eric drains the plumbing, breaks a hole in the pond ice so we can fill buckets to flush our toilet. We trundle our two wheelbarrows through the snow to fill them with wood: our wood stove will become our sole source of heat for warmth, food and hot drinks. We hunker down and feel grateful. Although we have flashlights, our radio batteries are dead. But thank heavens, the telephone works so we contact neighbours and friends. The network of our Pontiac community kicks in. "Do you have power? Do you need help?" are the questions asked.

Wednesday: I have an interview in Ottawa so we drive in, notwithstanding advice to the contrary. The Steele Line is icy but navigable. The first car we meet is driven by Bruce Campbell, our North Onslow councillor, surveying the backroads and checking that his constituents are okay, along with John Telford. Their cheer is welcomed and returned. The Westbrook Road that connects the Steele Line to Highway 148 is a disaster. The lines are down, buried by the first row of birch and poplar in the adjacent wood. The next, exposed row teeters, poised and ready to fall next, like dominoes. A discouraging sight. In Aylmer some stoplights function, others are out, still others blink while drivers obey the four-way stop. Ice from an overhead wire crashes into our windshield, startling us. We're okay and proceed to Ottawa for batteries and my interview. As I'm greeted by my new editor, we eye one another and break into smiles. Neither of us has showered and our hair is not as squeaky clean as we'd like it to be! The storm is an "icebreaker" and I leave with assignments for Eric and me. Late that night we return to the Steele Line, bypassing Westbrook Road which is now sheer ice. The Wolf Lake Road is reasonable and with a lift we note that electricity is on at Mulligan's, at the intersection with the Steele Line. We sigh: our road is pitch black.

Thursday: Stay at home. We worry about neighbours whose beef cattle are calving. They're desperate for a generator. We drive down to Quyon for water at the spring in front of Gerry McKenny's tidy home. The spring is Quyon's outdoor version of an office water cooler. Folks hang around and chat, eager to swap stories. We hear of the plight of dairy farmers who are milking by hand. We feel desperate for them.



Friday: While Eric drives, I'm in the passenger seat of our Honda, laptop computer on my knees. The computer is plugged into the car's cigarette lighter via an adapter. I decide to write this column as an "as it happens." We pass Erwin Mohr's and Kathy Armitage's home: their beautiful herd of black Aberdeen Angus form a line against the snow-clad mountain. They are on a march: walking home to food and shelter. Eric stops the car for a photo: there's a van behind us, with neighbour/photographer Jim Whitford, out shooting photos of the extraordinary storm.

Like many, we've been listening to CBC radio with their emergency notices now being broadcast 15 minutes before and after the hour. Ken Rockburn (host of CBC Radio's All In a Day) tells us we're experiencing the worst ice storm in history in Southern Quebec/Eastern Ontario. Today it went beyond the "worst storm in living memory" to the worst of its kind in history. He chats with someone in Metcalfe who lives in a self-sustaining home powered by photo voltaic batteries. They will soon need re-charging but she and her family are fine. This interview prompts Eric and I once again to discuss our society's dependency upon technology - a rather ironic topic as I type away on my laptop!

On the Wolf Lake Road, brilliant splashes of magenta, purple and blue reveal children tobogganing. At least someone's enjoying this demonstration of Nature's power.

We "surf" through a heavy drift of icy snow onto the Swamp Road, listening all the while to Rockburn's interview with Bill Keindel, owner of Pontiac Propane who is responding to an earlier call for generators. Keindel says he still has some 5,000 watt generators that cost $3K (647-3547).

Good to hear Pontiac residents and business people on the radio, informing listeners about what's happening here in rural West Quebec.

We pass Armitage's feed lot, corner Henderson and Swamp Road. The cattle mill in their pens, flanks steaming.

We're impressed with the state of our Pontiac roads (thanks, municipal workers!). Not only are key service roads ploughed, they are also sanded. We feel proud of our Pontiac work crews. Talking of pride in our local workers, hats off to Maureen Tessier, our very own Quebec Hydro "meter reader." She's been enduring 12 hours on, 8 hours off, guiding hydro workers from Abitibi and beyond all over the back roads.

Saturday: We're back on the road to Ottawa again, to pick up supplies for neighbours, friends and us. We pass two trucks with men suspended high above the hydro wires, in "cherry pickers" extricating wires from trees. Stopping for a friendly chat, we learn that one Hydro Quebec worker is from Val d'Or: working 18 hour shifts, he comments. He's glad to be of help, he says. After an afternoon in town we return home. Hydro appears intermittent: it's on in Aylmer, black on the highway. Farms with generators glow in the surrounding indigo of night. We can see people in other homes: huddled around kitchen tables a-glow with soft candlelight and oil lamps. The Westbrook Road plunges us into darkness but Aha! the first house on the line is brilliant with light, complete to yard light and lingering Christmas tree. A single yard light at our house is a beacon in the night. Our power's back: the darkness is at bay.

Sunday: It's a day of tidying, of phoning friends to offer a hot shower, a bowl of chili. Eric helps Ted Fort and Marcio Melo clear their driveway of fallen trees up at Moffat Lake. I'm off to Toronto for a conference but VIA rail is out, so I'll travel south by bus on Monday Morning.

Who knows what I'll find along the way? One thing I know. Eric and I will be reviewing our home's "disaster preparedness" and we are even more determined to have auxiliary sources of power than ever. More on that - and on global warming, in later columns.

Katharine Fletcher is a Quyon-based journalist and author. Contact her with your comments at 458-2090, (by fax at 458-2493, e-mail at chesley@netcom.ca).

The Way We Were

COMPILED BY HEATHER DICKSON, PUBLISHER

25 Years Ago

January 10, 1973

Society has no age limits: Herbert Cuthbertson, now in his 88th year and Tommy Sharpe in his fifth, the oldest and youngest members of the Pontiac Historical Society were recognized as part of the society's membership campaign. Mr Cuthbertson attributes his agility to his forgetfulness — he forgets how old he is. Young Tommy is the son of Mr and Mrs Neil Sharpe whose entire family took out memberships.

Courses: Over the past few years a farmers' school has been operating in Pontiac, as a joint operation of Adult Education, Canada Manpower and Department of Agriculture. Farming is a complex business which involves a great many factors. All of these factors can be better understood by farmers and it is hoped better results will be achieved by making educational programs available to farmers.

• • •

50 Years Ago

January 8, 1948

Births: At Pontiac Community Hospital Shawville on Saturday, Jan. 3rd 1948 to Mr and Mrs Lawrence Lang, a son. At Pontiac Community Hospital, Shawville on Wednesday, Dec 31, 1947 to Mr and Mrs Freeman Grant (nee Margaret Dagg) a daughter.

Macdonald College short course: The Agricultural College was established to serve rural Quebec. A continued and close relationship with these farm people is essential. Nothing less would betray the confidence of its founder, said Dean Brittain in an address to students attending the Farm Forum Short Course at Macdonald.

Ad: Save dollars on these after stock taking specials. 20 percent off all overcoats. Still a good selection to choose from. Fleece cloths in smart single or double breasted, Herringbones, Tweeds, Apacamas in greys, browns and blues. Men's Winter Windbreakers and Jackets - checks, plains and two-tones. A fine assortment of oddments, values to $11.50. To clear at $5.95. A fine all-leather jacket that will outwear any two ordinary jackets. Full lined zipper pockets. Regular price to $22.50. To clear at $16.95. Fraser's Clothes Shops.

• • •

75 Years Ago

January 11, 1923

THE EQUITY's thermometer registered 20 below Fahrenheit on Sunday morning at 7:30, the lowest reading since the present winter set in. But other instruments in town beat us out by several degrees. That comes of being a competitive community, no doubt.

Local news: A recent bazaar in aid of the Calumet RC Church had gross receipts of $950.

Mr William Labelle formerly of Waltham and latterly of Fort Coulonge is reported to have purchased the Ladouceur Hotel at Portage du Fort for the sum of $14,000.

Dr H K Neilson, who practiced in Bristol during the past summer has taken over the the office occupied by the late Dr Fraser in Shawville, where he may be found by anyone requiring his services.

• • •

100 Years Ago

January 13, 1898

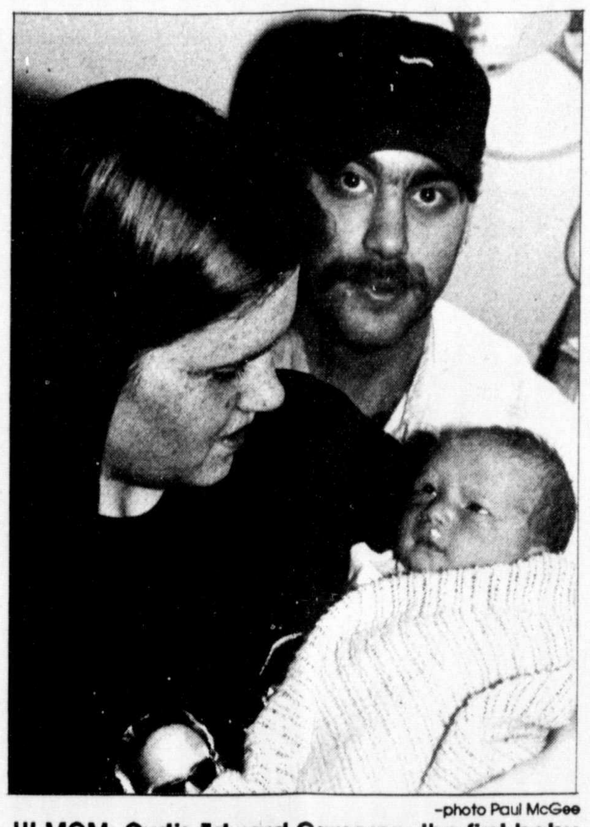
Married: A very interesting and solemn event took place in the Lutheran Church on Wednesday of last week, when Miss Lizzie Olm of Thorne Centre was united in marriage to Mr John Neuman of Mansfield. The church was well filled by interested friends of both parties.

Local & General: Mr D Kennedy of North Clarendon starts with five teams this week for Deux Rivieres where he has secured a contract for hauling lumbermens' supplies.

The Portage du Fort grist mill which was closed down for a few days, is again running full time and giving good satisfaction. First class flour always on hand for sale.

Another of the pioneer settlers of this county passed away on Tuesday, 11 inst. in the person of Mr George Stanley of North Clarendon. The deceased gentleman had reached the advanced age of 84 years.

By the upsetting of a lantern on Monday evening Mr J S Sauve, jeweller of Portage du Fort, had the roof burned off his stable the left of which contained a quantity of hay. The well directed efforts of the villagers prevented the fire from spreading to other adjacent buildings.



-photo Paul McGee

HI MOM: Curtis Edward Cameron, the first baby born in 1998 at the Pontiac Community Hospital, looks at his mom, Sheri Orr, with dad, Jamie Cameron, at their side. Curtis weighed 7 lb, 13 oz and was 21 inches long. Curtis sneezed right after birth. Dad says he must have been cold. Upon release from hospital, Curtis will live with his parents and 13-month-old sister, Ashley, in Norway Bay. Curtis was born at 10:14 p.m. on Jan. 5.

1998 Budgets

Waltham mill rate increases

Paul McGee
Equity Reporter Waltham

Waltham ratepayers face a mill rate increase of eight cents with the approval of the budget for 1998.

The mill rate rose to 58 cents from 50, an increase of 16 per cent, while water and garbage services remain the same at $75 per user, for each service.

A property evaluated at $50,000 would be taxed $440 in 1998, compared to $400 in 1997.

Ratepayers were spared a higher increase when council took $50,000 from the surplus of $152,000 to balance the budget, says Fern Roy, secretary-treasurer. Roy says there is a projected deficit of $41,000 for 1998.

The total budget of $298,414 was approved.

Portage faces rate increases

Paul McGee
Equity Reporter Portage

Residents of Portage du Fort face a mill rate hike as well as increases in the water and garbage rates.

The mill rate jumped three cents to $1.35, while water costs per user rose $20 to $170 and garbage fees rose $15 to $100.

Property evaluated at $50,000 would cost the ratepayer $675 in taxes in 1998, opposed to $660 in 1997, a 3.96 per cent increase.

Fern Roy, secretary-treasurer, says the municipality was forced to raise rates because of provincial downloading.

"We had to cut where we could, but with Quebec asking us to contribute more, we had no choice," he says.

The total budget of $166,595 was approved.

No tax hike in Chichester

Sylvia Bakker
Equity News Editor Chichester

Chichester's mill rate of 85 cents per $100 of evaluation will not change for '98.

The fees for the dump, $30, and fire protection, $20, also remain unchanged in the municipality's budget of $257,071.

Chichester's $14,254 share of the provincial downloading was absorbed through the increase in property assessment.

Lang takes Farmers' Bonspiel

Sylvia Bakker
Equity News Editor Shawville

The 18th Farmers' Bonspiel ended Sunday with Elwyn Lang's rink taking home top honors.

With a score of 45+22, Lang narrowly beat out the Bob Tracy rink, which ended up with 45+14.

Lang's foursome included third Brian Judd, second Dianne Judd and lead Lynn Lang.

Tracy skipped his team of third Richard Tracy, second James Tracy and lead Nancy Tracy.

With a score of 40+14, Eason Russell's foursome of third Richard Marion, second Shirley Marion and lead Susan Stanley ended in third place out of the 30 teams entered.

FARMERS' BONSPIEL: Phyllis Wilson (right) presents the Farmers' Bonspiel trophy to the foursome of Brian Judd (left), Dianne Judd, Elwyn Lang and Lynn Lang.

-photo Sylvia Bakker

Beautification committee established

The Shawville and Clarendon Chamber of Commerce plans to beautify the area.

With the help of Shawville and Clarendon municipalities, the Chamber of Commerce has established a Shawville and Clarendon Beautification Committee.

Chaired by Marion Lafrance, the committee hopes to make improvements to the appearance of the business districts in both municipalities.

To do this, the committee is asking for suggestions from businesspeople. Questionnaires, which have been circulated, should be returned to Lafrance by Monday.

ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARD 50-06

(on the same territory as the present Western Quebec School Board)

STUDENT REGISTRATION 1998-1999

Registration for all

"ELEMENTARY STUDENTS"

in the English School Board 50-06 for the 1998-1999 academic year is as follows:

(A) Students currently attending one of the schools listed below are *NOT* required to register for 1998/99. Additional information will be sent home by January 23rd, 1998.

(B) New elementary students include:

1. Kindergarten (age 5) children born **before September 30th, 1993 *or,***
2. Students for grades 1 to 6, who have not attended any of the schools listed below.

Registration Requirements:
At the time of registration parents will need the following documents in order to register at one of the English schools:

- Original Birth Certificate indicating the names of ***BOTH*** parents of the child being registered.
- Proof of Canadian Citizenship of a birth parent(s) and a document showing primary schooling in an English School ***or***
- A "certificate of eligibility" of a sibling or parent who has attended or is attending an English school.

Date: January 26, 27 and 28, 1998
Time: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm – phone for appointment
Place: At your community English school (see list below) ***with the exception of Aylmer and Eardley Elementary and St. Mark's schools.**

- **In CAMPBELL'S BAY, all kindergarten registrations will take place at John Paul II school.**
- **In GATINEAU, kindergarten and new registrations will register at H.A. Ward Elementary.**
- ***AYLMER, EARDLEY and ST. MARK'S -** all Kindergarten students from these school zones will attend Kindergarten at Eardley Elementary in 1998-99, where registration will take place.

SCHOOL NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	PRINCIPAL
Aylmer Elementary	116 Frank Robinson, Aylmer	684-6801	Gillian Heginbottom
Buckingham Elementary	615 George St., Buckingham	986-3191	Loretta Bonet
Campbell's Bay Elementary	1 Front Street, Campbell's Bay	648-5628	Henry Horner
Chelsea Elementary	74 Old Chelsea Road, Chelsea	827-0245	Esther Tarasofsky
Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary	89 Centre Street, Shawville	647-2841	Anne McGowan
Eardley Elementary	70, chemin Eardley, Aylmer	684-5955	Terese Taylor
École G. Théberge	40, rue Boucher, Temiscaming	627-3337	Gaetan Lance
Henry A. Ward	88 Maple Street, Gatineau	663-4949	Alice Bolt
Immaculate Conception	108, rue Notre Dame, Chapeau	689-2720	Michael Thompson
Maniwaki Elementary	265, rue Hill, Maniwaki	449-1011	Ann Addleman
Namur Intermediate School	333, rue du Parc, Namur	426-2996	Loretta Bonet
Noranda School	320, ave. Murdoch, Noranda	762-2706	Maureen Kelly
Onslow Elementary	76, rue Clarendon, Quyon	458-2375	Henry Horner
Percival-St. Joseph Elementary	980, 7ième Rue, Val d'Or	825-3211	Carol Boone
Pius XII School	185, rue Archambault, Hull	777-8600	Michael Donlan
Poltimore Protestant School	7 Paugan Road, Poltimore	457-2335	Therese Taylor
Queen Elizabeth School	9 Begley Road, Kazabazua	467-2865	Judy El-Hakim
South Hull Elementary	86 Crescent Drive, Aylmer	684-6565	Danielle Gilbert
St. Aloysius School	297, rue Alice, Gatineau	663-4842	Pierre Menard
St. John's School	222, rue Leslie, Campbell's Bay	648-2149	Phillip Perry
St. Mark's School	130, rue Frank Robinson, Aylmer	684-4888	Leo Marleau
St. Michael's School	26, rue Principale, Low	422-3584	Judy El-Hakim
St. Patrick's School	247, rue des Oblats, Maniwaki	449-2597	Christine Labelle
Wakefield Elementary	20 Caves Road, Wakefield	459-2373	Bill Dolan

Registration for all

"SECONDARY STUDENTS"

in the English School Board 50-06 for the 1998-1999 academic year is as follows:

(A) Students currently attending one of the schools in the territory of the New English School Board are *NOT* required to register for 1998/99. Students currently in grade 6 will be provided with a course and/or school selection form before the end of January.

(B) New secondary students include:

- Students for grades 7 to 11, who have not attended any of the schools listed below.

Registration Requirements:
At the time of registration parents will need the following documents in order to register at one of the English schools:

- Original Birth Certificate indicating the names of ***BOTH*** parents of the child being registered.
- Proof of Canadian Citizenship of a birth parent(s) and a document showing primary schooling in an English School ***or***
- A "certificate of eligibility" of a sibling or parent who has attended or is attending an English school.

Date: January 26, 27 and 28, 1998

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (or phone for appointment)

Place: At one of the Secondary English schools (see list below)*

* With respect to **HADLEY** and **SYMMES JUNIOR HIGH** Schools, please contact Danielle Gélineau at 684-1313 (Ext. 325)

SCHOOL NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	PRINCIPAL
École G. Théberge	40, rue Boucher, Temiscaming	627-3337	Robert Forget
Maniwaki Elementary	265, rue Hill, Maniwaki	449-1011	Ann Addleman
Namur Intermediate School	333, rue du Parc, Namur	426-2996	Loretta Bonet
Noranda School	320, ave. Murdoch, Noranda	762-2706	Maureen Kelly
Percival-St. Joseph	980, 7ième Rue, Val d'Or	825-3211	Philippe Messier
St. Michael's School	26, rue Pincipale, Low	422-3584	Judy El-Hakim
D'Arcy McGee School	250, rue Gamelin, Hull	777-3121	Michael Donlan
John Paul II	7, rue Morin, Campbell's Bay	648-2149	Phillip Perry
Hadley Junior High School	2, rue Millar, Hull	777-9117	Marian Lothian
Symmes Junior High School	205, rue Laurier, Hull	778-5344	Randy Smith
Pontiac Protestant High School	455 Maple St., Shawville	647-2244	Margaret Dupuis
Philemon Wright High School	80 Daniel Johnson, Hull	776-3158	Barry McGowan
St. Alphonsus School	100, rue Notre Dame, Chapeau	689-2488	Michael Thompson

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Western Quebec School Board, 170, rue Principale, Aylmer, QC (819) 684-1313 Mr. K. Drysdale (Ext. 326), Mr. A. Rose (Ext. 336) or Mr. M. Dawson (Ext. 323)

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JANUARY 1998						
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FEBRUARY 1998						
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COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 12 - 18 - Shawville Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Church location of services: Monday: St Paul's Anglican; Tuesday: St Edward's, Bristol; Wednesday: Bethel Pentecostal; Thursday: Standard; Friday: Wesleyan; Sunday: United. Several times: Monday to Friday: 7:30 pm; Sunday: 7:00 pm. Children's ministry provided at each service. Youth Service: Friday night. Guest speaker for Sunday is the Most Rev. Brendan O'Brien, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Pembroke. Bus transportation to St Edward's, departs from St Paul's at 7:00 pm (free of charge). We're looking forward to a great week of worship and fellowship in Christ. 2bja14

TUESDAY, JAN. 27 - Bryson Lions Bingo at 7:00 pm. $1000 jackpot, more than $2100 in prizes. Must be 16 years old. Help the Lions Help Others. 0-1-ja14

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14 - Shawville - Poor man's lunch, 11 am - 2 pm. Soup and pie $4. Oddfellows' Hall, Alfred Street. 2bja14

SATURDAY, JAN. 17 - Starts 8 am - Campbell's Bay - Sale. Household articles, etc. 14 John Street. 2bja14

BUS TOURS - Feb. 14 - March 2 - Daytona Beach. March 22 - April 3 - Myrtle Beach. May 2 - 11 - Branson. Call Beulah 647-3628. 2bja14

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Dining/kitchen set, Bergeron table, large extension, 6 chairs, buffet and hutch, all solid elm. Retail value $3,000, asking $900. Delivery can be arranged. Phone 647-3425. 1bja14

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REAL ESTATE TO RENT

Bristol - 3 bedroom apartment, heat and hydro included. 2 bedroom house, oil furnace, ideal for retired couple. Call Ann 647-6915. 2bja14

Bryson - 2 bedroom apartment. 648-2222. otc

Bryson - 2 bedroom apartment, furnished, heat, hydro and cable included. 648-2833 or 648-5757. otc

Bryson - cosy 1 1/2 bedroom house, nice backyard, available Feb. 1st. Phone 648-2868. otc

Bryson - 1 bedroom apartment, furnished and heated. 648-2376. 1xja14

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Quyon - 3 bedroom apartment, heat and hydro not included. $350 per month. *Honest people only.* 647-3872. 4bf4

Shawville - 2 bedroom apartment, soundproof, fireproof, Elizabeth Court, Shaw Street. 648-2222. otc

Shawville - 3 bedroom two storey brickhouse, near Main Street. $575 per month. Jan. 1st, 1998. 647-3753 otc

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Shawville Lions Hall. Air Conditioned/heated hall available. Contact Nelson Angus, 647-2732 anytime. otc

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Shawville - 2 bedroom apartment. Phone 647-3626. otc

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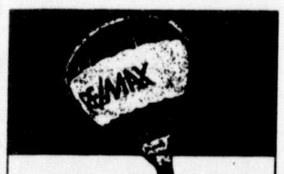
Shawville - 1 bedroom apartment to sublet. Immediate occupancy. Phone 647-6946. 2bja14

Shawville - 2 bedroom apartment, appliances, low heating. 647-2778. 2bja14

Vinton - 2 storey house, 3 bedrooms, wood and electric heating. Call 648-2244. 2bja21

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Shawville - 3 bedroom bungalow, large lot, great location, 5 appliances included. 430 Hillcrest Avenue. 647-5029. 4bja28



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New - Weatherproof mineral - If you're tired of throwing away unused mineral give this product a try - excellent for brood cows/replacement heifers. M & R Feeds - Micksburg 735-3689, Pembroke 732-2843, Quyon 458-2023. 4bja28

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THANKS

Merci mon Dieu - Dites 9 "Je vous salue Marie" par jour durant 9 jours. Faites 3 souhaits, le premier concernant les affaires; les deux autres pour l'impossible. Publiez cet article le neuvième jour. Vos souhaits se réaliseront même si vous n'y croyez pas. Merci mon Dieu. C'est incroyable mais vrai.
C.P. 1bja14

THANKS

Meredith - Thank you to Dr Croteau and all the staff of the Pontiac Community Hospital for the care so graciously administered. Thanks to the many friends and relatives for cards, flowers and get-well wishes while I've been ill here and in St. Luc's Hospital in Montreal. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated. A big thank you everyone!
Sincerely, Glenn Meredith.

Presley - We would like to give sincere thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for all the comfort and support to each and everyone of us during our loss of our father, Elwood. Also, thank you to all for the flowers, cards and donations to the heart trust and food sent to our homes, it was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Otter Lake's fire chief, Rodrigue Vadneau and the whole fire department for their special tribute to our father. Thank you to Father Tim for his support and compassion, the lovely choir and to all who organized the lunch and to Ringrose Funeral Homes for their help and support. Thank you.
The children, brothers and sister of Elwood.

Thrun - The family of the late Mrs Verner (Selma) Thrun wish to express their most sincere thanks for the many acts of kindness, sympathy, support and flowers and donations from dear friends who came from far and near bringing flowers, cards and support. And many thanks to all with the funeral. Mr and Mrs Ernest Yach for the supper. Also for the delicious lunch served by the Ladies at the TCRA. The choir, Rev. C. Kappes, the pallbearers. These kind deeds will never be forgotten. The Thrun Family.

THANKS

Sicard - A sincere thank you to our family and friends for best wishes, gifts and cards on behalf of our 50th wedding anniversary.
Rhéal and Joan.

IN MEMORY

Hodgins - In loving memory of a wonderful mother, mother-in-law and grandma, Annie Hodgins, who was taken from us on January 14, 1997.
A dearly departed dad, father-in-law and grandpa, Lawrence Hodgins, on May 12, 1975.
A beloved brother, brother-in-law and uncle, Grenville Hodgins, December 11, 1996.
Memories are treasures
No one can steal
Death is a heartache
No one can heal.
Some may forget now you are gone
But we will remember
No matter how long.
Love you always.
Harvey, Fern Smith and family.

Scott - In memory of Stan Scott.
Four years ago God called you home,
His reason to us unknown,
We cannot question why,
But your sweet memories never die.
We miss you.
Stella and family.

Zimmerling - In loving memory of a dear dad, Otto, who passed away January 13, 1948.
To memory ever dear;
If love could save, thou hast not died.
Lovingly remembered by Jewel.

CC Peewees rebound against Aylmer Mariniers

Dave Moore
Sports Outaouais

The Peewee Lions, hoping to gain two points in the short re-match (a 13 minute running time game to make-up for a protested match October 11), against La Pêche Wolves ended dead locked at 4-4, Jan. 3.

With 3-2 put on the scoreboard, the Lions' Lee Richard banged in a goal to tie it up early. It was unassisted.

Pontiac's Eric Duval gave the Lions the lead with his first goal of the season. Danah Arniotis set it up at the 5:43 minute mark.

La Pêche then tied with 4:29 remaining. Pontiac had chances to pull off a win in the last few minutes but had to settle for the tie.

A quick run of the Zambo-

Continued on page 9

DON'T DELAY

1997 Birth Announcements

for the January 28, 1998 issue of THE EQUITY

THE EQUITY is planning a special birth announcement spread, featuring photos of babies born in 1997 with announcements, for the issue of January 28, 1998.

Advertisement: Includes a one column (1 1/2" wide) photo and 50 word write-up. Additional words welcome at 10¢ (plus taxes) per word.
Cost: $26.08 + $1.83 GST + $2.09 PST = **$30.00.**
Payment: All announcements must be prepaid. Cheques payable to Pontiac Printshop Limited.
Information: Photos may be of any size, reduction or enlargement will be made to adjust the size to 1 1/2". Photos may be picked up after January 30, 1998, or, enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and it will be returned.
Deadline: January 16, 1998.

SAMPLE

Jane Elizabeth Jones
Jones - Peter and Jean (née Smith) are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, Jane Elizabeth, born January 1, 1997, at Pontiac Community Hospital, Shawville, Quebec, weighing 8 lbs 3 oz. Proud grandparents are Jack and Jill Jones of Shawville, and Mary and Bill Smith of Guelph, Ontario.

Mail or drop-off to
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Outaouais "CC" League

Lion Atoms start '98, winning

Dave Moore
Sports Carleton Place

The Atom CC Pontiac Lions checked out another tournament in Carleton Place last weekend.

The Lions opened with a strong win against a weaker opponent, the Ernestown Jets and the end result, 6-0 in Pontiac's favor was indicative of the early match up.

Shawn Laframboise set up Alex Brown for the eventual game winner in the first period. Then Ryan Powell scored twice with Patrick Younge and Jason Campbell assisting on both. Later Campbell and Younge traded off goals for a 5-0 lead. Ryan Powell added one more for the hat trick and a 6-0 final.

Having just played the Cumberland Barons in the Christmas Stick, the Lions knew what they were up against and were confident to repeat with a win.

Slow at the start and in the penalty box for much of the first period, Pontiac wore down the Barons for a 5-3 win.

Younge with two, Andy Bean, Darcy Findlay and Tyler Smart pulled in the points. Campbell, Laframboise, Julien Gagnon and Ryan Powell drew helpers to set up the final show down against Almonte/Pakenham.

Almonte/Pakenham, with a short bench proved to be a tougher opponent as the game wore on. They started to take the play to the Pontiac Lions even after Kenny Fleck set up Patrick Younge to give them a one point lead early on in the first.

The Lions dug in to edge them out 3-2 in the end with Smart and Ryan Powell scoring. Laframboise and William Armitage drew the helpers.

"For the ninth game in a row, the boys played the ultimate team game," says Campbell, "They were concerned about the team."

Nine games in eight days (with the Christmas Stick), eight wins, one tie and two tournament championships, the team has really started to come together mentions Campbell. "We expect a great second half (in league play)," adds Campbell.

Lion Atoms edge Papineau

Lions 3, Voisin 2

Dave Moore
Sports Outaouais

There was to be back-to-back games against the Papineau Voisin, but the one in St Andre de Aveline had to be canceled as the rink there was powerless on Sunday.

But the day before, the Pontiac CC Lions came to life in the second period of their lone Outaouais Regional league game last Saturday, Jan. 10, in Shawville.

After Papineau opened the scoring in the first period, the Lions woke up to score three straight in the middle frame.

Jason Campbell, Andy Bean and Patrick Younge scored for the Lions.

Younge, along with Ryan Powell, with two helpers and Campbell, also with a pair, chipped in.

Papineau made it a 3-2 game in the third frame.

The Lions are in Fort Coulonge Saturday, Jan. 17, for a 5 pm game against Aylmer. Then it's off to Gatineau for a 1 pm match against the last place Gatineau Ambassadeurs.

Storm halts some minor hockey in the county

Dave Moore
Sports Shawville & Valley

Shawville Minor Hockey almost came to a stand still this past weekend.

The ice storm that ripped through Pontiac County effected several games Friday night and left coaches and managers scrambling to cancel the Saturday games, not knowing what the roads would be like.

Novice

The Novice House I had their Saturday, Jan. 10, game, against the Barry's Bay Grizzlies cancelled but returned to the ice Sunday, Jan. 11, to whip Shawville Novice II, 4-1.

Shawville II's Kyle Richardson was busy in the nets as the Novice I peppered the net. He stopped all but four.

Nathan Stewart started it off in the first period with Quinn Sheppard assisting, it was a soft screened shot that found its way into the net. Then Brock Plouffe and Tyler Orr sent Kyle Hodgins in on a breakaway. David Hobbs assisted on the next one of Stewart's while Plouffe set up Justin Murray for the fourth goal.

Novice II's Travis Johnston broke Chris Telford's shutout near the end of the game on a nice play from Kyle Smart.

The Shawville Novice All-Stars only had one game lined up and that was in Deep River Saturday. It was cancelled. Their next game is Sunday, Jan. 18, in Cobden at 12:15 pm.

Atom

The Atom House canned their only game against Beachburg Friday night, Jan. 9.

Peewee

The Shawville Peewee I team didn't cancel their home game against Cobden Saturday morning and none were happier than Shawville's Randy Frobel. He pumped in the first four Shawville goals as the Peewees went on to dump Cobden 5-0.

Steffan Paquette and Blair Campeau each got in on a pair of Frobel's points while Brian Young helped on one.

Chris Chevalier scored the closing marker with Stephen Murray on the helper.

Tonight, the Peewee I's are in Fort Coulonge for an early game, 5:30 pm. Saturday, Jan. 17, has them in Renfrew for a 2:20 pm start.

The Shawville K&L Dairy Peewee II scrapped their planned trip to Renfrew Saturday morning but still had their game Sunday against Fort Coulonge to fall back on.

In that one, Fort Coulonge badly out shot Shawville, but couldn't bulge the twine behind Patrick Marcotte who robbed Coulonge for the Shawville 2-0 win.

The Peewees had trouble getting out of their zone, but when they did, they made the chances count against a stingy Coulonge netminder.

It paid off with a 1-0 lead late in the first period with Scott Higgins picking up a rebound with an empty net in front. Dave Thompson and Steve McCord set it up from the corner.

Then later in the second, Dan Moore fed McCord at the top of the circle for the second goal.

The Peewee II's next two matches may be cancelled because of tournaments.

Midget

The Shawville Midgets had a busy weekend ahead of them with a tournament in Gloucester. But the Earl Armstrong Arena was taken over for shelter for the hundreds without hydro power in that city.

The Midgets returned to action Monday night, Jan. 12, in Pembroke and came away on the short end of a 3-1 final.

Chris Evans, assisted by Julien Corriveau scored the lone Pontiac marker for a 2-1 game at one point.

Junior B

Even the Shawville Pontiac Junior B's weekend was a complete wash, Friday night's Perth game and the Juniors road trip to Goulbourn on Sunday were cancelled. Just as well, the time should be well spent recovering from one of the worst games of the season for Shawville.

In Renfrew Jan. 4, the Pontiacs just let up as the Renfrew Timberwolves didn't and racked up a 16-2 victory in a long, drawn-out game for Shawville's skaters and goalies.

Individual scoring results were not made available, but Renfrew's league leading scorers split over forty points in this game.

The Junior's next game is at home against Goulbourn this Friday night, Jan. 16. It goes at 8:30 pm. Sunday they're in Carleton Place.

CC Peewees rebound against Aylmer Mariniers

Continued from page 8

ni and the two teams went back at it right away.

La Pêche opened the scoring with Pontiac not far behind to tie. Eric Duval got the rebound from Arniotis' point shot.

La Pêche rebounded for one in the second period and another early in the third to take a 3-1 lead.

Pontiac scrambled for two to tie it from Louis Philippe Carle and Richard scoring.

Ben Young assisted Carle's point while Dan Whitford set up Richard.

Then with time running out, a Lions' player in the box and La Pêche scored on a screened Scott Taber.

The Lions' Peewees took on Aylmer Voisin Jan. 4, and skated away with a 5-2 win.

The Lions were working on a 4-0 lead before the Voisins' scored.

Shawn MacDonnell, short handed, Richard Martin, Carle and Martin again had the Lions ahead 4-0 by the second period.

Dan Whitford set up the first point from back in their zone, MacDonnell skated through everyone to score. Duval and Carle set up Martin to bang in the second point while Arniotis assisted on Carle's point.

The Lions fourth point came on a three on one break with Duval and Josh Armitage feeding Martin for his second of the game.

Aylmer scored their first of the game early in the third fame but shortly after, Pontiac's Dan Whitford point shot got through for a 5-1 lead. Duval assisted.

Aylmer got one, again on the power play with 1:16 to go.

Midgets maul Mariniers

Lions 7, Aylmer 2

Dave Moore
Sports Outaouais

The CC Midget Lions were in top form after winning the Christmas Stick, to play in their first game of '98.

Jan. 4, the Midgets skated hard and inside three minutes, the Lions Luc Lagarde picked up the first goal. Trevor Walls assisted. Seconds later, Jason Argue and Matt Dunn set up Gaston Allard. A late period goal from Sebastien Laramee gave the Lions a 3-0 lead. Walls chipped in.

The Mariniers narrowed the gap early, beating Mark Lang in the nets, but the Lions roared back for a 4-1 lead with Laramee netting his second on an Allard set up.

Shawn Romain, Dunn and Allard put the game well out of reach in the third period with each of them scoring. That line also picked several assists.

The Lions have only played 17 league games so far, fewer thanb the rest of the league, and are ranked third with 26 points.

Saturday, Jan. 17, the Midgets will entertain the Aylmer Mariniers again with a 6:10 start time.

Pontiac Agricultural Society Division 'C'

Annual Meeting

Monday, January 26th
8:00 pm - Women's Institute Hall
Quyon, Quebec
Memberships available at the hall up to 7:00 pm that evening or by calling 647-3254.

Municipalities of Shawville & Clarendon
Re: Freezer Meat
The municipalities of Clarendon and Shawville have set up barrels at their dump sites for residents to dispose of all meat that has thawed out from freezers and deep freezers.
Don't take a chance – meat won't be safe if refrozen!
For further information or inquiries please contact
Municipality of Clarendon 647-3862
Municipality of Shawville 647-2979

DAVIDSON - Reduced Price - Bungalow 3+2 bedroom, 2 baths, main floor, laundry room, above ground pool and accessories.
SHAWVILLE - *"Motivated vendors have reduced the price."* Bungalow which boasts many extras (incl. appliances). Sound interesting?
LAWLESS LAKE - Bungalow approx. 7 years old. **New Price.**
JOAN E. ORR
RE/MAX DIRECT INC.
819-647-2562

CORRECTION NOTICE
CANADIAN TIRE
We wish to draw your attention to the following in our current 'Winter Super Sale' flyer.
Page 4 - Item 3. 13" colour TV, 45-2134-4. Copy should read: Mono TV, NOT stereo TV.
Page 7 - Item 3. Hammer drill, 54-2748-2, does NOT come with a case. The copy is incorrect.
We sincerely regret any inconvenience we may have caused you.
cnote 301-97 zones: ALL

Dennis Lucas, D.D.
DENTUROLOGISTE
Removable Dentures made and repaired
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By appointment only please
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Send resume to:
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Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0
or fax to 819-647-2206.
No telephone inquiries please.

DISCOVERY EVENING AT ALGONQUIN COLLEGE
THURSDAY, JAN. 29TH
7 P.M. - PEMBROKE CAMPUS
Now is the time to apply for college this fall. Plan to attend a free information session to find out about these FULL-TIME day programs:
- College Vocational Program
- General Arts and Science
- Practical Nursing
- Forestry Technician
- Office Administration
- Social Service Worker
- Computerized Business Systems (next intake Jan. 1999)
- Early Childhood Education
- Nursing Diploma
- Electronics Technician
- Motive Power Technician
- Personal Support Worker

PLUS, FIND OUT ABOUT:
- Course Information
- Career Counselling Service
- Financial Assistance Programs
- College Application Information

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL DAWN AT 735-4712
ALGONQUIN

Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood
PART-TIME BUILDING INSPECTOR
Hours to be discussed. Salary determined by experience. Must have own transportation. Bilingualism a must. Deadline for application is January 30, 1998 by 4:00 p.m.
Submit resumés to:
Municipality of Alleyn & Cawood
Box 75
Danford Lake, Quebec
J0X 1P0
Phone 819-467-2941 or fax 1-819-467-3133.

JOB OFFER
M.R.C. PONTIAC

The Regional county municipality of Pontiac is searching for candidates to fill two building inspector jobs for its assessment department for a determined period.

Type of Work
The principal and usual work of the employee of this class consists of surveying, by the work of inspection, the application of the legislation concerning the farm and residential buildings at the time of their construction or their renovations in regard to the preparing of the new rules.

Conditions of Admission
To be admitted to the class of building inspector, a candidate must have a certificate equivalent to grade 11 or a secondary 5 recognized by competent authority or an attestation of studies with specialization in building engineering where the equivalence is recognized by competent authority.
Equally admitted is the candidate who has an inferior number of years of school to the one required in the preceding paragraph, on condition that he/she compensates each year of schooling missing by two years of work experience.
The candidate must own a car and a driver's permit and must be bilingual.

Place of work: 602, Highway 301 North, Campbell's Bay (Québec)
Work week: 32.5 hours
Remuneration:
The remuneration will be established according to the salary scales provided for in the collective agreement.
For any other information you may contact the undersigned at (819) 648-2103.
The persons interested must send their curriculum vitae ***before January 21, 1998 at 4 p.m.*** to the attention of:

Mr. Luc Séguin
Secretary-treasurer
MRC Pontiac
P.O. Box 460
Campbell's Bay (QC)
J0X 1K0

OFFRE D'EMPLOI
M.R.C. PONTIAC

La Municipalité régionale de comté de Pontiac est à la recherche de candidatures pour combler deux postes d'inspecteurs de bâtiments pour son service de l'évaluation pour une période de temps déterminée.

Nature du travail
Le travail principal et habituel des employés de cette classe consiste à surveiller, par des travaux d'inspection, l'application de la législation concernant les bâtiments de fermes et résidentiels lors de leur construction ou de leur rénovation en regard de la confection de nouveaux rôles ainsi que toutes autres tâches connexes.

Conditions d'admission des personnes candidates
Pour être admis, le(la) candidat(e) doit détenir un certificat d'études équivalant à une 11e année ou à une 5e année du secondaire reconnu par l'autorité compétente ou une attestation d'études avec spécialisation en mécanique du bâtiment dont l'équivalence est reconnue par l'autorité compétente.
Est également admis le(la) candidat(e) qui a un nombre d'années de scolarité inférieur à celui exigé au précédent alinéa, à la condition qu'il(elle) compense chaque année de scolarité manquante par deux années d'expérience de travail.
Le(la) candidat(e) doit posséder une automobile avec permis de conduire et doit être bilingue.

Lieu de travail: 602, Route 301 nord, Campbell's Bay (Québec)
Horaire de travail: 32 heures et demie par semaine
Rémunération
La rémunération sera établie selon les modalités prévues à cet effet dans la convention collective.
Pour toute information supplémentaire, veuillez communiquer avec le soussigné au (819) 648-2103.
Les personnes intéressées doivent faire parvenir leur curriculum vitae ***avant le 21 janvier 1998 à 16 heures*** à l'attention de:

Monsieur Luc Séguin
Secrétaire-trésorier
M.R.C. de Pontiac
C.P. 460
Campbell's Bay (Québec)
J0X 1K0

The Municipal Corporation of Litchfield
Mayor's Budget Address

We had the good fortune in 1997, of attracting a major enterprise to our municipality, this being a new sawmill which is presently under construction. Also in 1997, we undertook to begin the reconstruction of the Litchfield/Leslie town line as well as a portion of Leslie Lake Road. Another project we worked on was the completion of McGuire Road to the river so people will be able to have access to the Ottawa River. We also hope to install a Dry Fire Hydrant in this area in order to improve fire protection. We should have the service of 911 operating by early spring 1998, and all your emergency needs will be handled by this number. It is therefore **VERY IMPORTANT** to remember to post your civic numbers in an area where they can be **seen easily from the road** by responding emergency services. It is also important to remember and use these numbers when using the 911 service and even now while we are on the present system.
In 1998, we are being further squeezed by the Government as part of their dumping of responsibility to municipalities in the amount of $39,837.00. Even with this burden, the tax rate will remain the same again in the coming year. But in order not to increase the financial burden on all of you, we have taken the necessary steps to tighten our collective belts. The major change you will see is a reduction in the amount of hours the dump is open to the public. **Starting January 3, 1998 the dump will be open Tuesday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** From April 1 to October 31 the dump will be open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Therefore **Summer Season is April 1 - October 31, and Winter Season is November 1 - March 31.** Please keep this information as a reference, as it may help avoid future inconvenience in disposal of waste. We have made cuts everywhere in our budget to keep the tax rate at the current level, but with the way we are being dumped on, sooner or later we will have to face the reality of an increase. The following table is a brief illustration of our projected expenses.

Administration: including 56,121 to MRC	**$196,733**
Public Security: including 105,397 to Police	**$132,084**
Public Finance: 39,837 to Quebec Gov't.	**$39,837**
Municipal Roads:	**$250,825**
Enviromental Health:	**$20,983**
Recreation & Culture:	**$8,236**
Urban Planning: including 15,429 to MRC	**$23,929**
Cost of Financing:	**$160**
Total being paid to outside agencies 216,784 (32.22% of our budget)	
Total Projected Expenses: $672,787	

I hope this gives you an idea of our general direction for the coming year and the obstacles we all face. We are being challenged today like never before ladies and gentlemen, as I am sure you know from your own personal experiences. It is far easier to grow and move ahead than to cut back. But cut back we must, and with your continued cooperation we will try to make the coming changes as minimal as possible.
In closing let me take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe, happy and rewarding 1998.
Your Mayor,
Michael McCrank
The Municipal Corporation of Litchfield

Euchre cancelled until further notice

Caldwell

Hermonie Sharpe

647-3459

Belated birthday greetings go out to Lennis Tubman of Shawville who celebrated his 86th recently.

Sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Lillian Doris Wormke who passed away on Jan. 6th. She was the loving sister of Elsie Gibbons of Shawville and Mary McCallum of Arnprior.

The week of Jan. 5th sure won't be forgotten in a hurry. Rain, sleet, snow pellets or snow, but the worst of all was the freezing rain. Some of our trees are bent over to the ground. At my home it is my shrubs in the middle of the lawn, my white birch out on my lawn and the Manitoba maples. So far my apple trees have stood up the best which is something I'm really pleased about. Four apple trees and not one damaged is really something to brag about.

We here at Caldwell can really be thankful as we have only lost our electricity for short periods of time or for a few hours. Our friends at Norway Bay, Pine Lodge and Bristol weren't so lucky as some of them have been without power for three or four days. As many of these places depend on electricity for heat and haven't any back up, it's a sad situation. Then, you can think of their freezers, small children and the inconvenience it all takes in. People are really in sad circumstances. The old saying "There's nothing bad that couldn't be worse" is sure true. So far no one has been hurt, no fatalities and this is Thursday night. At present I'm told there are 15 people at the Bristol Town Hall for supper as it is open for anyone in Bristol to spend the night or to stay during the day as the electricity is still on there.

People are trying to bring food in which they can warm on the electric stove or in the microwave. Even a hot meal is a help in a time like this.

Through all the inconvenience the storm has brought, all the people I have talked to are in good spirits.

The ones I really feel sorry for are the farmers. No doubt when this is over it will be like the people who didn't have back-up for heat, they will think twice before another winter rolls around and the farmers will see that a generator is a must on a farm where you have milk cows and also handy for the electric freezers, etc.

Aren't you pleased that we have the Town Hall now? It was wonderful to have this comfortable facility for anyone who wished to stay a night or nights. Then what a lovely place to enjoy a good hot meal as they have been supplied for the second night tonight or you could stop in and make yourself a cup of tea or coffee, because so far the Hall hasn't lost electricity. Our mayor along with his staff Mona Emerson and Gail Bertrand, as well as the foreman Hubert Horner, have really been a big help as well. It's sure wonderful what can be accomplished when people pull together.

This is Saturday morning and we woke to a red sky. What is the saying? "Red sky in the morning, sailors' warning!" The bad weather isn't finished with us yet.

While talking to someone this morning and remarking about my apple trees weathering the storm, they remarked that the apple trees and nut trees are hardier because they are used to holding a heavy load with their fruit, so they will stand up to this weather better than others.

The latest news this Saturday on the storm we have experienced, some of the military has met with our mayor Jack Graham.

Norway Bay, along with what our farmers, etc, have gone through, is a great big inconvenience. No heat in their homes, elderly people or small children toughing the cold and regardless of what help we give them, it's still not their home.

At 6 pm Saturday four hydro trucks from Toronto arrived at Norway Bay and they hadn't slept in 24 hours. At this hour Norway Bay is without power, some parts for as long as five and six days, some are draining their water pipes and our local plumber, Clarence Tollman, is having a busy time. Also this past Saturday night 42 were fed their supper and some also stayed at night.

When checking tonight with the mayor's residence I learned that the army is also helping with the hydro to bring everything under control again.

I know it seems like a long time to be in such dire straits but rest assured everything possible is being done.

Be thankful because there are other parts of Quebec and Ontario that won't have the power back on for weeks.

This was one storm (the likes man of us have never experienced before) we won't forget in a hurry.

This is something of real importance. Jack Graham was here this Sunday morning and he told me to inform everyone that there will be no more euchre at the Bristol Town Hall until further notice. The hall will have to be used in this emergency for sleeping and eating as the military as well as the people will have to have accommodation. Please be sure to take notice.

I had a call this past Saturday night from Liz Lateer in Sussex, New Jersey, as they had been watching our predicament on on TV.

Get well wishes are sent to Joyce Pitts' father, Bill Campbell, who has been on the sick list.

Visiting with Evelyn Murphy over the holidays were Paddy and Susan Bourgeau and son Shawn and daughter Christine of Nova Scotia and Francis Murphy of Garson, and lately visiting here was Juliette Trudeau of Quyon.

Annual euchre tournament

Vinton

Bertha McGee

648-2669

In my column of Dec. 31st I had reported that Christmas was over for another year. Well I was rushing things as Christmas is just over after the Epiphany and then again we should continue living Christmas year round. I should have quoted "Christmas Day" is over for another year.

Celebrating birthdays this week are James O'Brien on Jan. 11, Brian Solan on Jan. 15 and Frank Desjardins on Jan. 17. May they have a very good day and continued good health.

At the home of Claude and Charlene Lance on New Year's day were Alva Lance, Ronnie and Stella Lance, Jerome and Joanne Lance, Garnet and Georgette Paquette and Ivan and Annette Tierney. They had a good New Year's day.

What an ice storm. We were very lucky to get as little as we did. It's very sad when you listen to the news and see it on TV. The trees are very beautiful, but then they sure are causing trouble.

Jan. 11, 1934 in Shawinigan Prime Minister Chrétien was born. We wish him the best in the year 1998.

Jan. 16, 1972 Justin Pierre Trudeau was christened at Notre-Dame Basilica in Ottawa.

Bonnie (Sloan) Laird and Danny Laird were very happy about the arrival of their baby boy Christmas day. Seventeenth grandchild for Arnold and Phyllis Sloan.

Mr and Mrs Jeff O'Brien and family spent some holidays with Leo and Joan O'Brien and Tommy and Louise O'Brien and family and other relatives and friends.

Jan. 3, Lynda and Bob Sloan held their card game with relatives. Attending were Connie Clark, Genevieve Cahill, Randy Sloan, Leo and Bertha McGee, John and Sheila Lawn, Erin Lawn, Rachele Ringrose, Marilyn Robillard, Paul McGee, and of course Bob and Lynda's boys Blake, Brian, Brent and Kyle. Randy was the lucky winner. Different ones won door prizes. A lovely lunch was served. We all had a good evening.

Visit to New York City

Waltham

Eileen Labelle

689-2314

Sympathy is extended to Verner Thrun and family on the death of Selma Thrun of Ladysmith.

Rev. Roger McElwain, Waterford, NY, visited friends here on Thursday following his return from his parents' home in New Brunswick. He spoke of his visit to New York City where he witnessed the portrayal of the Nativity on a very large stage where they used live animals, etc. and he said while witnessing this event you felt as if you were living it. This was his third time seeing this. He, his wife and daughter returned to their home after New Year's day.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Georgette Beaubien and her family on the demise of husband and father, Maurice Beaubien, who passed away Jan. 2 at his home.

Family and friends gathered at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Jan. 5 for the funeral of Maurice Beaubien. Rev. A. Harrington was the celebrant.

Lunch was served at the Town Hall following the burial, sponsored by the ladies of the parish.

Lillian Spinks hosted a New Year's day dinner for Don and Helen Pilon, their two sons and a friend Tina Jolicoeur of Ottawa.

Mrs M. Fitzgerald, South Porcupine, was a holiday guest of Phil and Ita Perry.

Mary and Hank Gelaneau, Renfrew, visited with me on Jan. 3.

Get well wishes to Leo Bechamp, a patient in the Pembroke General Hospital.

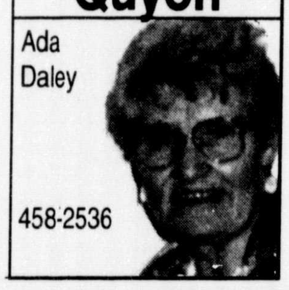
Thank you are two little words that seem hard to say by many people, yet they take such a small amount of time and give such joy and a show of appreciation for a gift, a phone call, a kind deed, etc. If not spoken, the person who gives in various ways is at a loss to know where he or she went wrong. If children are taught at an early age to say "Thank you" it will be a habit for life. Let's think about it.

Due to "Ice Storm 98" Brent and Gayla Ryan are presently staying with Brent's parents, Paul and Betty Ryan. Brent and Gayla's home in Kemptville has been without hydro since last Monday as most homes South-East of Ottawa that were hit very hard by the ice storm. Brent recalls he could see the trees falling near his house, through his window.

Get well wishes to surgery patients

Quyon

Ada Daley



458-2536

Get well wishes to Archie Kingsbury. He has been in the Heart Institute. We'll think of him in our prayers.

Get well wishes to Tom Tracy. He is in the Pontiac Community Hospital and has undergone surgery. Our sympathy to him on the death of his sister Margaret Curly.

I had a nice long distance phone call on the weekend from Mae O'Reilly from Sudbury inquiring on our health. Mae hasn't been keeping too well. She has moved from Gilman St. and enjoying the change on Ramsay view Crescent.

As I sit here and wonder why God has sent this tragedy to our country. Is it because we are not sharing with the poorer countries of the world? We all have much in our cupboards filled with groceries, two cars in the garage, 10 pairs of shoes in our clothes cupboards, two fridges and/or freezers and replacing carpets for hardwood floors, etc. I think back to our parents' time when they had to walk out and pump pails of water, carry them in and boil the kettle on a woodstove or cook up potatoes and fry up their meat on the kitchen stove, while the wood stewed away to produce heat. I guess a lot of people experienced this type of life last week. It may be a lesson we learned. I guess we hope and should pray that our life today will still be decent and acceptable and thank God for it.

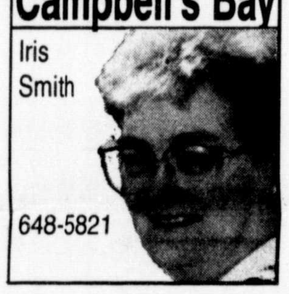
Sympathy is expressed to Nancy Callaghan on the death of her husband Martin Callaghan of Sudbury. He was 94. Nancy Neil worked at Gerry Murphy's Hotel in Quyon a few years back.

HAVE A NEWS TIP?
Call THE EQUITY
647-2204

Tomato survives ice storm

Campbell's Bay

Iris Smith



648-5821

Get well wishes to Anna Ferrigan a patient at Pontiac Community Hospital.

Birthday wishes to Keith and Ken Morin (twins) and brother Terry. All who celebrated birthdays during the last week.

Bert, Jill and myself were at Spencerville on Saturday to take some much needed articles to Jo-Anne and Stacey. Life takes on a new meaning and different lifestyle as you live a week without hydro and in one of their cases no telephone, batteries, propane cylinders for lanterns, barbecues, oil for lamps, no water (drinking). People in the area are melting snow and are lucky to have candles also limited food supplies and they stand in line for a few people to be let into the supermarkets or small stores and can buy 10 articles. Shelves are bare. Gas stations with a generator are also scarce. Line-ups are also faced to fill your gas tank. Banks are closed. No bank machines so cash is also at a premium. No use of your credit as the machines are not working.

Some had lamps but had no fuel and no idea how to light them. It is such a struggle for survival. No traffic lights so it is very dangerous if you have to be on the road at night. But most people are so busy trying to keep heat on if you have it or the basement from flooding that there is little traffic. After one week of this, finally some help is on the way.

Farmers are having to dump their milk. Hauling water to the animals is another day time chore. People are exhausted from coping with this area's disaster.

The highlight of the week was being able to have a shower. I hope this situation improves greatly in the next few days. The bakeshop at Kemptville helped out, cooked turkeys and hams for the hospital and the centres where meals were served.

Agnes Klaiber grew a tomatoe on her verandah or balcony last summer. It is now four months and 10 1/2 days since she picked it and it is still red. I went to see it Sunday.

Congratulations to Pearl Ebert, a former resident of Campbell's Bay, who celebrated her birthday at the Home on the Hill in Shawville.

Visiting with Elmer and Maureen Belanger on the weekend were son Chad and Angela of Ottawa.

Bert celebrated his 69th birthday on Sunday with brunch at Auberge de la Forêt in Bryson. Attending were Jill Smith, Andrea and Cory Hobbs and their friends Paul and Samantha. We enjoyed it very much. Also celebrating on the same day are Betty (Sparling) Laporte and her cousin Helen Robinson of Bryson.

Drain Cleaning Repairs
Pontiac Plumbing
For all your plumbing needs
Pump and well repairs
Garry Young phone **(819) 458-2833**

Thanks to the hydro, army and volunteers

Shawville

Jean Wallace

647-3855

Correction to an item in last week's column: Visiting with Harold and Doreen Davis over the Christmas holidays were their daughter Kim and her daughter Aliesha and Baird Barber. Harold's mom Agnes was with them for noon dinner. I joined them for dinner on Christmas night.

Here as everywhere else in parts of Ontario and Quebec the freezing rain and the power failure it caused was on the minds of everyone.

I hope no one suffered much hardship. No doubt the hydro men had a hard time of it, missing sleep and working such long hours in such rough weather. It sure was nice to have the power restored. Many trees or parts of them were down. It's a week we won't forget. My neighbour's TV antenna broke down. It's a week we won't forget. To see all the things that happened on TV it sure makes us appreciate when things are going well. Many thanks to the hydro, army and everyone else who helped. The radio and TV reports were certainly helpful to people.

Concerned callers from across Canada

Bryson

Anna Stewart

648-2351

We sure had one terrible ice storm in the past week. A lot of people are suffering on account of this. We are thankful Bryson was spared these hardships. We were in Ottawa yesterday and it is much the same as Shawville with the trees falling and also the wires. It is wonderful the way the rest of Canada and the USA have pitched in to help our people. There is no way we could ever repay them for their help. That just goes to show that as a country we should all stick together as no one can live without their neighbours.

Well our Heather has returned to Mississauga. We sure miss her. It was so nice to have you home Heather.

A very happy birthday Marcel Bertrand of Mississauga.

Belated birthday greetings to the little Bryson secretary Lucille Lanoix. Hope you have a super year in your new job.

A special birthday greeting to Glenna Saunders from her mom and dad, Ivan and Arlene Saunders. Also special birthday greetings to Suzie Stewart of Shawville. Hope you have a lovely day.

Heather and Marcel told me that Marcel's brother Melvin Bertrand took a special liking to her parents' bathtub and he really fell for it.

I received phone calls from across Canada concerned about everyone's safety. Glenda O'Brien daughter of Bill and Nora Lepine called from Alberta after watching a program on their local TV station. She was glad to hear everyone was OK. Then I received a call from my sister Barbara Graham of Vancouver. She was quite concerned about her family back here. I then got a call from Melvin and Monique Stewart of Matagami. They didn't get rain there but got a lot of very cold weather. I then received a call from Bill and Nora Lepine of Newfoundland. They didn't get this ice storm but were quite worried about everyone back here. Also Marcel Bertand of Mississauga called to see if we were OK. There sure was a lot of concerned people.

Our sympathy to the family of Pierre Scott of Calumet Island who passed away on Wednesday.

Congratulations to Grandma Betty and Grandpa Paul Cameron on the birth of their first grandchild. Proud parents Jamie Cameron and Sheri Orr. You will be pretty busy aunt Christine.

Margaret Wall of Bryson returned home after spending three weeks over the Christmas holidays with her son Carl and his wife Karen and grandchildren Jason and Jessica in Winnipeg. Also there for the holidays was her other granddaughter Tammy Wall, daughter of David and Cathy Wall of Renfrew. Tammy goes to school out there and stays with her aunt and uncle. Margaret said she had a wonderful time.

Jim and I visited with Helen and Pat Wallace and Phyllis and Elwyn Kealey of Ottawa. Helen and Pat opened their home to their neighbours as they had power and her neighbours across one side of their street didn't have any. Everyone pitched in as much as they could to help.

Jim called the fire station in Bristol to see if they needed food or anything from the municipality of Bryson. But they said so fair they were doing OK and about 40 people were eating there. But if they needed anything they would call him and tell him.

I hope everyone has a safe and better week.

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