



Pontiac's unemployment rate twice national average

County's residents also becoming less educated over time, according to Census results

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor

PONTIAC • The unemployment rate of Pontiac is almost twice as high as the rest of Canada, the most recent set of Canadian Census results revealed.

The 2006 Census showed 11.3 per cent of people in the labour force were unemployed in Pontiac, compared with a 6.1 per cent unemployment rate in Canada.

Mill closures and lack of new development have crippled the local economy and while the rest of Canada experienced steady growth in employment

rates between 2001 and 2006, Pontiac's rate increased only slightly: 11.8 per cent of Pontiac workers were unemployed in 2001.

"It's not surprising," said MRC Pontiac Warden Mike McCrank, the highest ranking municipal politician in the county.

"We did our own research to show the province how bad things are here, because they didn't believe us."

Those figures seem to support what many Pontiacers already suspect: job prospects in the area are poor.

Stats Canada regularly produces fig-

ures on unemployment rates for Canada, provinces and major centres but only once every five years do those figures become known for each municipality and county across the country.

That produced a problem for McCrank and his fellow mayors, as Pontiac is grouped with the rest of the Outaouais for job and economic statistics. He said Outaouais is considered the fourth most affluent region in all of Québec.

"They kept telling us, 'No, you're doing alright', but we knew that wasn't the case," said McCrank.

While a lack of available jobs may be the reason many would cite for the high unemployment rate in the area, Clement Hoeck thinks differently.

"I would disagree that there are no jobs," he said.

Hoeck is the coordinator of the publicly-funded Place for Youth program, which encourages young people with post-secondary educations to return to Pontiac for employment.

"There's a huge demand for qualified applicants at the Shawville hospital and it's the same everytime someone tries to start a business here," he said.

"A lot of people are waiting for forestry to come back and it's not going to."

McCrank also suggested the Census figures may be artificially inflated because of workers employed "off the books".

"There are huge amounts of unlicensed trade workers in Pontiac," said McCrank. "There are a lot of things going on under the table but people feel like they have to do it that way because the government rules and regulations are so overwhelming."

The latest Census results also pro-

duced a disturbing trend for Pontiac, in examining possible future growth.

Local residents have become less educated between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses, an unusual situation in a developed country like Canada.

Forty per cent of Pontiacers between the ages of 15 and 65 have not completed high school, according to 2006 Canadian Census results released last week.

That number is an increase from 38 per cent having less than a high school education in 2001.

Please see CENSUS on page two

No Loblaws for Shawville

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor

SHAWVILLE • The recent community rumours speculating on a Loblaws coming to Shawville are not true.

"There's nothing planned for Shawville whatsoever," said a representative from the head office of Loblaws Companies Limited, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The representative said unlike some Loblaws banners that can be franchised, such as Valu-Mart, FreshMart and Independent Grocer, the Loblaws name is used only on a corporate-run store.

Therefore, the Loblaws corporation would have to initiate any store in the Shawville area and currently has no

plans to do so.

John Drouin, franchisor of Shawville's Valu-Mart location, said he had heard of the Loblaws rumours, but had nothing to do with them.

Loblaws Companies Limited is Canada's largest food distributor with its title store, Loblaws, having 68 locations throughout Ontario and Québec primarily in urban areas.

Loblaws Companies is Canada's largest retailer with over 2,000 corporate, franchised and independent stores across Canada.

Its head office is based in Brampton, Ont.

The closest Loblaws stores to Pontiac are located in Aylmer and Hull.

THE EQUITY nominated for four awards

PONTIAC • Pontiac's favourite newspaper has received four nominations for Quebec Community Newspaper Awards.

The EQUITY's sports coverage has been recognized as one of the province's best and has been nominated in the Best Sports Page category.

The EQUITY is the best destination for full sports coverage including news, results and highlights of all Pontiac athletic endeavours including high school sports, fastpitch, minor hockey and the Pontiac Junior 'B' hockey team.

The 2006 addition of "Overtime" columnist, Luke Murphy, has increased the depth and breadth of THE EQUITY's sports page.

Editor Wilbur McLean was nominated in the Best Business Story category for his coverage of the cutbacks at Pontiac's largest mill, Smurfit-Stone, last summer.

Former reporter Amanda Dupuis received a pair of nominations.

She was recognized in the Best Community Health Story for her two-part series entitled, "Battle of the Bulge", tackling obesity in the Pontiac.

She was also nominated in the Best News Story category for her coverage of the police standoff in Shawville last summer that resulted in a local man being shot by police.

The award winners will be named at a gala in Montreal on May 23.



The Atom 'A' Pontiac Lions won all four of their games in Montreal at the provincial championships on the weekend and are the best team in Québec.

Atom 'A' wins provincial championship

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor

PONTIAC • Atom 'A' Pontiac Lions Head Coach Matt MacDougall isn't too sure about his new mohawk.

"It's interesting, that's for sure," remarks MacDougall, who had his hair styled in the 'hawk Sunday night in Montreal.

Chances are, MacDougall doesn't mind his new look too much, since it means his team did the improbable in winning the Atom 'A' provincial championship in Montreal over the weekend.

The Lions won all four of their games at the provincial championship, defeating the very best Atom 'A' hockey teams in Québec.

MacDougall made a deal with his players earlier in the season that if they won the provincial tournament he would style his hair in a mohawk and the youngsters could choose the colour.

Blue dye is apparently on its way.

The championships in Québec pro-

vided riveting hockey all weekend long, however, Pontiac's Nicholas Graveline scored in the finals with 1:11 remaining to vault the Lions to a 4-3 victory over the St. Marc Predateurs of the Mauricie region and give the Lions the championship banner.

The final on Sunday was an up-and-down contest with either team proving their deserved spot in the championship. The two teams were tied on four different occasions of the game.

The Predateurs scored in the first period to take a 1-0 lead into intermission but Pontiac responded early in the second period on a goal by Graveline, the first of his hat trick. Carter Pirie assisted.

Midway through the second frame, the Mauricie representatives took the lead once more but only a minute and a half later, the Lions' Camille Dagenais responded, proving the team's mettle.

Brayden Romain and Pirie assisted. Early in the third frame, Graveline

gave Pontiac their first lead of the contest, shorthanded, nonetheless.

However, the Predateurs responded within two minutes.

With the teams appearing headed for overtime, Graveline completed his hat trick and vaulted the Lions to a provincial championship.

"It's such a feeling," exclaimed MacDougall, once he'd returned home to Pontiac.

The coach said he always felt his team would have a good chance at winning the provincial tournament — "We weren't going all the way to Montreal just to show up" — but still expressed great pride in his team's accomplishment.

The road to the championship final was not easy for the Lions, however, who were strongly tested for one of the first times all season.

The semi-final was a come from behind 2-1 victory over the St. Francois Stars.

St. Francois took the lead early in the first period but Bradley Pearson responded later that period, with assists by Pirie and Graveline.

The Lions broke the deadlock in the third period when Graveline scored, assisted by Dagenais and Pirie to take the team to the win over the Laval representative.

The team's second game against the squad from Bourassa provided the Lions' largest margin of victory at the provincials, as they won 4-0.

Graveline scored twice, while Clancey Keon and Alexis Gauthier notched one apiece.

Graveline, Pirie and Pearson all had an assist.

Dean Horner provided the team's final shutout of the season in goal.

In the Lions' opening game Friday, the team overcame a two goal deficit to win 5-2 against the Candiac Lions, the Richelieu representative.

Please see CHAMPION on page two

Fort Coulonge residents charged



Heather Dickson, THE EQUITY

Residents of 5A Neville Street in Fort Coulonge were charged following a police raid Thursday. See story on page two.



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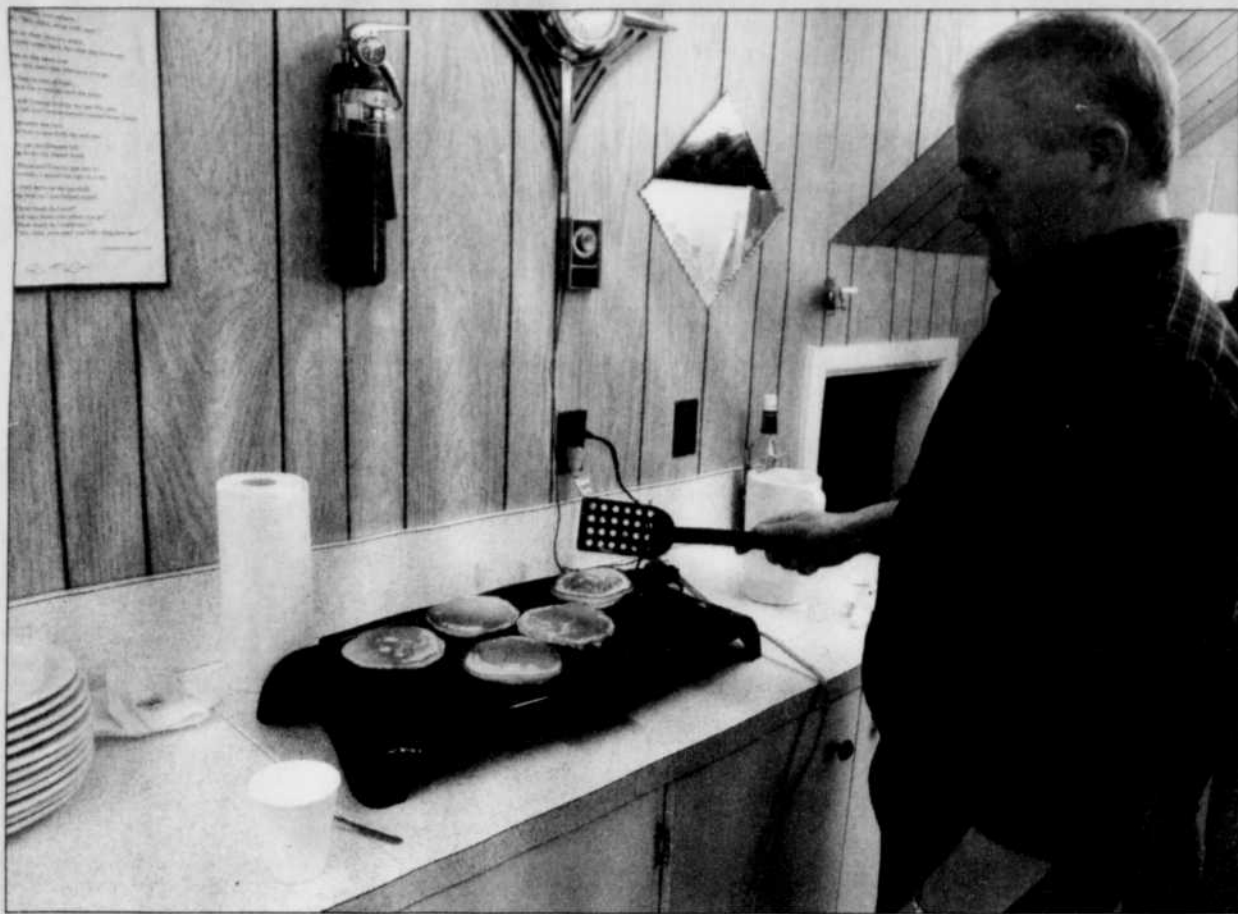
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WILBUR MCLEAN
Darren Knox of Thorne flips some pancakes at the Zion Lutheran Church in Schwartz recently. The church basement was filled with people hoping to get their taste buds on the delicious meal.

Drugs seized, Coulonge residents charged

WILBUR MCLEAN

Equity Editor
FORT COULONGE • Three local residents have been charged in connection with a drug seizure that took place in Fort Coulonge Thursday.

One hundred seventy five marijuana plants, 12 grams of cocaine, some ecstasy pills and a little more than \$1,000 in cash were taken by police in the search that was carried out at 5a Neville St.

Forty-three year-old Serge Francoeur of Fort Coulonge appeared in Campbell's Bay court and released on \$5,000 bail. Two others, a 19-year-old and 34-year-old, have yet to appear in court and their

names have not been released by police. This is the fourth search regarding narcotics successfully conducted by the Sûreté du Québec in the MRC Pontiac within the past two months.

Monique Donnelly (née Lavoie) Happy 65th Birthday MOM! April 10th, 2008.

With love, your children Gail, Sherly,
Helen, Brian, Mona and your
grandchildren Brandon, Aidan, Jordan,
Emily, Philippe, and Anissa.



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CHAMPION: Novice 'A' reach semis

Continued from page one

Richelieu scored the first two goals in the second period, but the Lions worked hard to tie the game on goals by Graveline and Zachary Elliott. Pirie, Keon and Gauthier had an assist apiece.

The Lions devoured the competition in the third period, scoring three times, twice by Pearson and once by Keon. Pirie assisted on the Keon goal.

The 2007/2008 Atom 'A' Pontiac Lions

- 1 Darron Bruce (G)
- 30 Dean Horner (G)
- 3 Travis Yach
- 4 Nick Greenshields
- 5 Clancey Keon (A)
- 6 Bradley Pearson (A)
- 7 Alexis Gauthier
- 9 Ayden Hodgins
- 10 Kyle Misener
- 11 Nicholas Graveline
- 14 Camille Dagenais
- 16 Bryce Atkinson
- 17 Jordan Horner
- 18 Zack Elliott (A)
- 19 Carter Pirie (C)
- 66 Brayden Romain

Coach: Matt MacDougall
Assistant Coach: Gary Pearson
Assistant Coach: Rick Atkinson
Manager: Jaime Christie

"I never played on a team as good as this one," remarked MacDougall, who had an extensive minor hockey career and played through junior.

Following the championship win Sunday evening, the team was prepared with the clippers and MacDougall's hair was immediately styled to his players' liking.

The offer from their head coach stemmed from earlier in the season when all the players got mohawks but MacDougall was unable to.

"I had a funeral to attend so I couldn't," he said.

However, at that time, MacDougall agreed if the team won the provincial championship, he would follow suit.

MacDougall said he plans to move up to Pee wee to coach the older group of Atom 'A' Lions players next season, who will be advancing.

He said he wanted to coach the same group of players all the way up through the minor hockey system and keep instilling the "discipline and hard work" he emphasized all season.

"People should be proud of the kids, they did all the work, I just barked the orders," said MacDougall, slyly.

"A few times I even bit."

Novice 'A' reach provincial semifinals

The Novice 'A' Pontiac Lions were in Montreal on the weekend for the Novice provincial championships and the team had an excellent showing, reaching the semi-finals and proving the next generation of minor hockey players in Pontiac are in excellent hands.

After the long drive Friday, the Lions lost to the host team, the St. Constant Cougars of Richelieu, 3-1.

The lone Pontiac goal was scored by Xavier Plouffe on a pass by Austin Duggan.

That put the Lions in a precarious position as they had to win their next game or return home.

The team came through, defeating Les Aigles de Trois Rivières, representing Mauricie, 4-2.

Plouffe was in top form, scoring four times with two assists from Tyler Marion and one each from Michael O'Reilly and Duggan.

The semi-finals provided a difficult ending for the Lions, who lost to the team from Abitibi.

Plouffe was the goalscorer for Pontiac, assisted by Connor Romain.

"These kids played in a league where there is no double letter and were up against the best kids at their age

level," wrote Head Coach Dan Duggan in an e-mail.

"They finished the year as either the third or fourth best Novice 'A' team in the province."

During the season, the Lions were infinitely successful, winning the LaPêche tournament, finalists in the Richelieu tournament, division winners of the Metro league, champions of the Outaouais regional play-downs and semi-finalists at the provincials.

The 2007/2008 Novice 'A' Pontiac Lions

Michael O'Reilly
Jonathan Arthurs
Dany Lamoureux
Patrick St-Cyr
Maxime Côté
Nicholas Lemaire
Jeremy Poulin
Cedrik Durocher
Chevy Laroque
Tyler Marion
Connor Romain
Xavier Plouffe
Ryan Nugent
Austin Duggan

Head coaches: Tim Romain and Dan Duggan
Assistant Coaches: Gerry Nugent and Eric Plouffe
Team Manager: Natalie Chenier.

CENSUS: Youth exodus, forestry industry causing problems, say experts

Continued from page one

Those figures are significantly higher than the standard province-wide, as only one in four Québécois did not complete high school, according to the same data.

Generally, Canadians have become more educated over time as older generations that did not require high school completion for suitable employment die and younger generations that need to finish high school for employment gains replace them.

It is rare in a developed country for residents to become less educated over time.

Those figures, however, are not a reflection of the success of local high schools to graduate students.

Publicly-kept Québec Ministry of Education figures show Chapeau's Dr. Wilbert Keon graduation at 66.6 per cent in 2006, while École Secondaire Sieur de Coulonge in Mansfield was at 70 per cent that same year and the county's largest school, Pontiac High School, graduated students at a 70.4 per cent clip.

All three numbers were in line with averages from across the province.

Pontiac High School Principal Mike Dubeau, a Pontiac native who has turned his institution from one of the worst in the province to one of the best in terms of exam results over the last few years, said there

were probably a few other explanations.

"We live in an agrarian area and a forestry industry area and a lot of the people in those fields are older and in their youth they might not have needed a high school diploma to find gainful employment," surmised Dubeau.

To explain the increase in uneducated people living in Pontiac, Dubeau looked at the trend of successful young people leaving the area.

"Unfortunately, the ones who leave are the ones who are better educated. Often, they have to leave in order to find work in their field

—Mike Dubeau
Pontiac High School principal

"I also think with the shortage of industry and high-tech jobs, a lot of our educated are leaving the area to find work," he said.

"Unfortunately, the ones who leave are the ones who are better educated. Often, they have to leave in order to find work in their field."

With no postsecondary institutions in Pontiac, upon finishing high school at 16 or 17 years of age, young people must head to urban areas like Gatineau, Ottawa or Montreal to further their educations.

The Census results sup-

port the anecdotal evidence witnessed by many Pontiacers: that the educated young people are leaving and staying in the urban areas, rather than returning to find employment in Pontiac.

Dubeau also provided one additional possibility for the increase in high school dropouts in Pontiac.

"I also think with the reasonably low cost of living in the region, some people have migrated to the area because of that."

An economic expert, however, was not so sure that Pontiac's exceptionally low housing and rental costs would cause an increase in uneducated people moving to the area.

"I don't know if many poor people would decide to move to be poor somewhere else to make much of a difference," said Ali Zamani, economist.

Zamani instead suggested the rapid increase in the price of lumber in the early 2000s may have led to an increase in uneducated workers from other areas coming to Pontiac for employment.

The average price of lumber in Canada peaked in 2004 with growth in the U.S. housing market spurring demand for Canadian lumber.

Lumber mills thrived across Canada but have since fallen considerably in terms of profitability, including many of Pontiac's mills, some of which have since

closed.

Mills generally don't require a high school education for employment.

"When the economy is prosperous, people tend to forego education because they can be paid more to work," explained Zamani. "If less educated people could move to the area and be paid very well, they'd probably do that, especially if the cost of living is low."

Other interesting statistics from the recent Census release:

- About eight per cent of Pontiac residents hold a university degree, compared with the rest of Canada, which is 23 per cent.
- Forty-four per cent of Pontiac residents are not in the labour force, compared with 35 per cent of Québécois (this includes students, retirees, homemakers, seasonal workers who were not looking for work and persons who could not work because of illness or disability).
- The top three largest employment sectors for Pontiacers are sales and service occupations, trades transport and equipment operators and business, finance and administration occupations.
- Sixty-four per cent of Pontiacers use English only at work, 28 per cent used French only and seven per cent used both.
- One out of every 200 Pontiacers identifies as a visible minority.

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Performing a CPR demonstration are Adult Education RNA students Darlene Pepin, Mandy Ladouceur and Caroline Potvin. The demonstration was part of the Open House held at the Adult Education Campus in Campbell's Bay Thursday.

Adult students proud of their school

Open house exhibits accomplishments of adult education campus in Campbell's Bay

HEATHER DICKSON
Equity Publisher
CAMPBELL'S BAY • Learning for a better future while building confidence was on display at the Pontiac Continuing Education Centre on Leslie St.

Registered Nursing Aid's-to-be students were happy to demonstrate the many skills that they had learned over the 18 month time period that they had been enrolled in the Western Quebec adult education program.

"Nine of us will be graduating soon and our job prospects are excellent," said student Darlene Pepin. "As RNAs we are able to perform many of the tasks that nurses do, such as blood drawing, drug injections, changing dressings,

and removing an IV," said Pepin.

The students will be graduating on May 3 and are now completing their clinical stage by shadowing nurses in pre- and post-op environments at the Pontiac Community Hospital. During their clinical stage they are required to be part of the team at the hospital and gain a great deal of hands-on experience.

Academic coordinator and registered nurse Suzanne Poirier oversees the three health-related vocational programs — RNA, Ward Aid and Home Care.

"All programs are available in English through the Western Quebec Adult Education Centre in Campbell's Bay and are offered free to Quebec resi-

dents," said Poirier.

The RNA program requires approximately 1,800 hours to complete and is offered over a two-year time period.

The Ward Aid program is approximately seven months in duration and once certified allows students to find employment in institutional settings while the Home Care program certification allows a graduate to find work in a homecare setting with the CLSC or in private care.

RNA student Caroline Potvin is happy with the program.

"This program was tough, but I am pretty much guaranteed a job after graduation. It will provide me with job stability, plus I won't be stuck with a huge debt load

after completion," said Potvin.

The Open House was also an opportunity to demonstrate the many other programs that are available at the Adult Learning Centre.

"This program was tough but I am pretty much guaranteed a job after graduation. It will provide me with job stability plus I won't be stuck with a huge debt load..."

—Caroline Potvin
Registered Nursing Aid student

The facility on Leslie Street contains an operations lab for health-care studies, a state-of-the-art computer lab as well as

classes for academic courses. Clinical placements are managed through a number of hospitals and health care facilities in the region.

"We have approximately 100 students in the academic program and 100 students in vocational education," said principal Peter Ruppel.

"On the academic side we have students studying for their high school diploma or trying to upgrade specific prerequisites for college or university," said Ruppel.

"We also offer school bus-ing to and from school, help with babysitting services as well as information on financial and social assistance as well as guidance and direction for further educational opportunities," said Ruppel.

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Calumet talent part of Aylmer art show



HEATHER DICKSON
Equity Publisher
AYLMER • The Spring Exhibit included works that were inspired and created on Calumet Island in Pontiac County.

The annual spring show is sponsored by the Aylmer Arts Council and features local artists. This year, however, they sought out new artists to join their exhibit.

"They invited artists and artisans from outside of Aylmer to apply to be included in this year's show," said Dale Shutt.

"Through a selection jury both artists and craft people were encouraged to submit works which were then judged to determine talent and suitability for the spring show," said Shutt.

Shutt brought along many of her paintings on silk as well as a silk dragon which were featured in her booth.

"It's one of the Aylmer Art Councils largest shows and as an artist it's beneficial to

participate," said Shutt.

"Also it's an opportunity to showcase Pontiac talent and promote the Pontiac Artists' Tour coming up in the spring.

Also attending the spring show was Chantal Auger, also of Calumet Island, whose porcelain pottery was a unique feature at the exhibit this year. Auger's works are perfectly suited to everyday use.

"They are strong and resilient. I fire at very high temperatures (2240°F) which makes it strong and durable," said Auger.

The underlying porcelain is glazed with clay which Auger collects from a brook near her studio. It gives the pottery its deep brown finish.

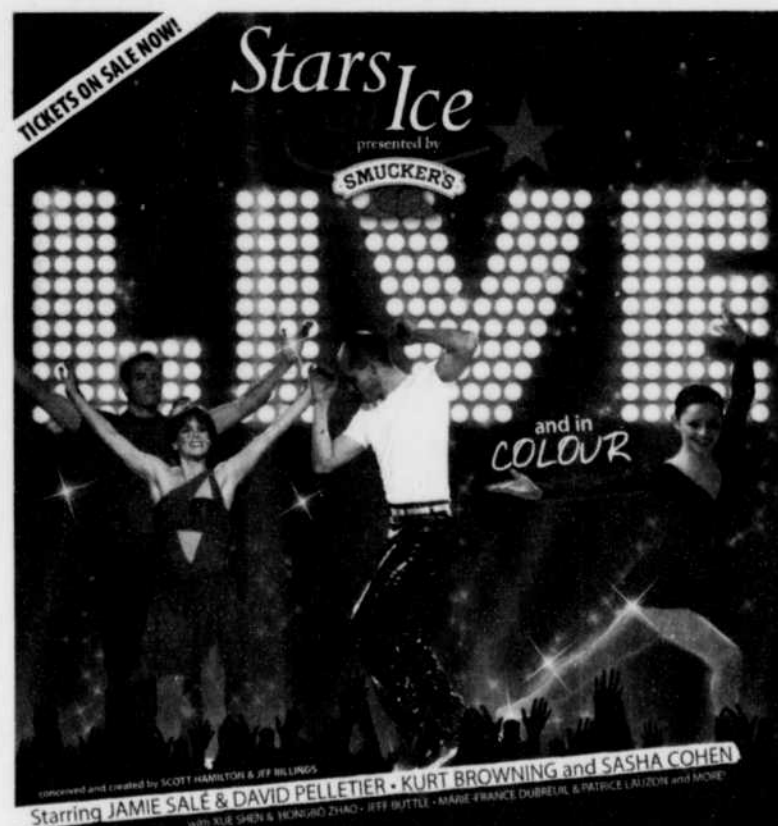
Both artists are inspired by the beauty of the Pontiac and were happy to display their works outside of the county in an attempt to encourage visitors to explore the Pontiac during the upcoming Pontiac Artists' Tour.

"The Arts Council Show is a very professional show and I am proud to display my works here and I hope they visit my studio on the Island in the spring," said Auger.

Heather Dickson, THE EQUITY

Above, left: Porcelain potter Chantal Auger, of Calumet Island, was an invited exhibitor at the Aylmer Arts Council Spring Show held in Aylmer's Centre Aydelu this past weekend.

Left: Dale Shutt was invited by the Aylmer Arts Council to participate and exhibit her art work in the Spring Show held in Aylmer's Centre Aydelu this past weekend.



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OPINION

The Voice of the
Pontiac since 1883

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ADVERTISING
DEADLINE
MONDAY 5 p.m.

Publications Mail
Agreement
No. 40010387
PAP Registration No.
08560
Return undeliverable
Canadian addresses to:
Pontiac Printshop Ltd.
133 Centre St.
Shawville, QC
J0X 2Y0
819-647-2204
819-647-2206 Fax
www.theequity.ca

Subscription rates
(tax included)
Pontiac - \$29.34
Quebec - \$40.63
Canada - \$37.80
U.S. - \$53.55

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ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM | Rituals: spring cleaning with non-toxic products

Human society enjoys special days of celebration. Our various world cultures celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and special religious or spiritual days such as Christmas or Diwali. And, as society evolves, we create other initiatives, days, or even hours, of celebration, to raise awareness – increasingly about environmental issues.

For the past two years on the last Saturday in March, from 8 to 9 p.m. some people have started to celebrate Earth Hour (and the night sky) by saying no to contributing to light pollution and wasting unnecessary energy. What was the action? More than 100,000 Canadians turned off their lights: many went outside to view the constellations hitherto obscured by light pollution; others had dinner or played games with their kids by candlelight. From Ottawa's Peace Tower to Sydney, Australia's Opera House, lights were turned off or at least dimmed throughout the world.

Another fast-approaching international event is Earth Day, April 22.

Benefit or waste?

Many consider such events a disgraceful waste of advertising dollars and budgets. Moreover, some view such symbolic occasions as being a negative influence. This is because they believe that "do-gooders" will shut their lights off for an hour (for Earth Hour), or participate in an Earth Day event, and unthinkingly return to their environmentally "inappropriate" behaviour the next instant. Of course, some people will do precisely that.

However, many individuals, private corporations and governments view such celebrations as a symbolic call to sustained action.

Society, symbols and ritual

I believe celebrations and festivals represent important symbols and rituals in our societies and communities. They were designed to encourage us to personally assess ourselves and our actions in the context of family and the larger community. And, usually they are days of joyous celebration, think of Thanksgiving where thanks is given for the harvest, or of the spring equinox and Easter's promise of renewal. Throughout the world and throughout the ages, people have celebrated spring as a time of fertility, reproduction, and a time of welcome change.

Whatever their duration, a society's celebrations, symbols and rituals give us all use-

ful time to pause in our daily lives. We can take time to look deep into the mirror to contemplate what we can do to re-purpose our energies into actions that can become even more ethical, compassionate, responsible – and thus, powerful agents of positive change.

Spring cleaning

Because of renewal, many of us turn to our homes and clean house, perhaps just as I've been observing the groundhog do with its burrow. While it efficiently uses its paws to scrape winter's detritus from its home, you and I are looking at dust bunnies, cluster fly spots and other things, wondering how best to organically clean house and welcome the fresh air and cleanliness of spring.

Symbol and ritual to environmental action

Contemplating spring cleaning in the context of such initiatives as Earth Hour, Earth Day, not to mention Rick Mercer's one-tonne-challenge, offers us a meaningful way to walk the walk on a daily basis by using environmentally sensitive cleansers. The slogan "be kind to the Earth" can be a meaningful call to arms if we examine the toxins in cleansers, for instance, and use environmentally safe products.

Okay, so, what to use?

Three common household ingredients
Three common household items – baking soda, vinegar, bars of pure soap, are inexpensive and do a good job.

Baking soda

Want a scouring agent? Want to clean kitchen or bathroom drains? Reach for baking soda. You can also reach for it if you need to deodorize a room or a refrigerator (without any of the nasty toxins other commercial air fresheners may release into the air).

Vinegar

My husband Eric's mother used newspapers and vinegar to clean windows, so that is our method of choice and it re-uses papers. Vinegar also removes unsightly stains, gets rid of mildew and mould, as well as wax dripped from candles.

Pure soap bars

Reach for the (soap) bar and clean just about anything. Look for pure soap – not products which contain perfumes and other additives.

Buying cleansers

I hope to passively encourage visitors to Spiritwood to use environmentally friendly products by displaying store-bought brands from ordinary grocery shops. All have recyclable packaging. Perhaps like you, I always try to purchase Canadian products, so Nature Clean is my preferred brands.

Canadian Nature Clean products

You'll find the Nature Clean brand is "everywhere," being Canada's oldest brand of non-toxic, biodegradable, cruelty-free, hypoallergenic, septic-safe cleaning products. In my home, I use these Nature Clean products – and they work: all purpose cleaning lotion, dishwashing liquid; dishwasher soap and rinse agent, laundry detergent.

Finally: our buying power

Final tip: be smart with your hard-won dollars, and start to test environmentally friendly, non-toxic, cruelty-free products. We can all make a huge difference by saying no, with our wallets, to toxins such as chlorine bleach we thoughtlessly flush into our water and earth. (Tip: use organic, non-chlorine bleach if you need to, made from hydrogen peroxide.)

Embrace the ritual!

Turn such events as Earth Hour, Earth Day and seasonal events such as cleaning house into catalysts for personal, positive change. After all, a smile engenders a smile... your organic, energy-friendly lifestyle, day by day, acts as a symbol to all whom you meet. I'm talking about grass-roots, positive changes every single one of us can easily and inexpensively make.

Katharine and Eric Fletcher are freelance writers and authors of five guide books describing the natural and human history of our region.

Correction

Incorrect information was published in the story, "Breakfast program stated" on page seven of the March 19 edition of THE EQUITY. The program is only available at St. John's School as it is a partnership program with the Community Learning Centre.

Letters to the Editor

THE EQUITY welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. Short letters are more likely to be chosen for publication, but the use of any material is at the discretion of the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit letters to meet space requirements, for clarity, or to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. E-mail letters are accepted at news@theequity.ca and must bear the complete name, address and daytime phone number of the writer. The address and phone number will not be printed. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the editorial policies of THE EQUITY.

YOUR OPINION

More is off base

Dear Editor,

Bernard More's column in the April 4 issue of THE EQUITY demonstrates that he certainly has knowledge of electricity generation and I completely agree with him that the facts should be our focus. However, I don't agree that the risks of mining uranium and operating nuclear power plants are "minimal" as he states, and I believe that his arguments about the necessity of expanding the role of the nuclear industry are very much off base.

So, since we are focussing on facts, here are some facts about nuclear power: Minor mishaps in nuclear power plants can lead to major disasters. Deadly repercussions from the accidents at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island are still occurring many years later, and this is a fact. No one can guarantee that we won't have another major nuclear accident. Here is another scientific fact: any exposure to any amount of radiation – whether naturally-occurring or released during the processes of either mining uranium or producing energy through nuclear fission – has a negative effect on all surrounding lifeforms at the cellular level. For three of my friends from Harrisburg whose children have either died, have little likelihood of survival, and/or are suffering from radiation-caused cancers, this is quite sufficient reason to support alternatives to nuclear power. Aside from catastrophic nuclear accidents, there is the fact of the waste issue: 85 per cent of radioactivity is left over after uranium is mined or used in a power plant. Thus there are many thousands of tons of toxic radioactive waste which will remain deadly for over 770,000 years and which will need to be monitored and protected by generation after generation on into the future. Is this the legacy we want to leave to our children and their children?

The problem of nuclear waste disposal remains unsolved, and none of the proposed possible solutions sounds even remotely workable.

But aside from the safety issue, nuclear is simply not cost-effective and it is not working out to generate the amount of power it was expected to produce, so it's simply not the best option from any perspective. The UN's Brundtland Commission: Sustainable Development – Our Common Future states that nuclear energy has not only failed to meet earlier expectations; but in fact, is generating only one-third of what was projected. Today nuclear power produces only three to five per cent of global primary energy (which translates into 15 per cent of electricity) and costs have skyrocketed. Decommissioning – or shutting down a power plant permanently – is more expensive than previously anticipated and nuclear plants themselves not only cost in the tens of millions to set up initially, but they only operate for 20-30 years before needing to be shut down.

So, quite factually, nuclear power is unsafe and not cost effective. Then why would anyone

propose that we continue to use it, much less increase our use? In my opinion, because it is big business, and the infrastructure already exists. We tend to fear change, and nuclear is the 'devil we know.' More seems to support his entire pro-nuclear argument by stating that if Japan is doing it, then we should do it. I would like to counter that by using my mother's old favourite, "Just because someone else is jumping off a cliff, does that mean you should?" Yes, Japan is the country where nuclear bombs were dropped, and perhaps the Japanese would oppose the production of nuclear weapons (which we can discuss another time), but it doesn't follow logically that they would be against nuclear-generated electricity, does it? Am I missing something here? Let's look at the example of Germany and use the same logic. If any country would be in favour of nuclear power, it would be Germany, right? And actually Germany is currently generating more power from wind than Canada gets from nuclear power! I'll say it again to make sure that the point is made: wind power generates more of Germany's electricity than nuclear does in Canada. Canada could easily follow Germany's lead and replace our nuclear-generated electricity with wind power. Why aren't we doing this?

If we had no choices, and if sustainable energy sources were simply not possible or practical, that would be one thing, but the facts prove that if even a relatively small portion of what our government invests (your tax dollars) in nuclear power were to be used for research and development into alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal, we would have plenty of electricity for everyone and no radioactive waste to deal with. The facts lead to the conclusion that nuclear power generation is too expensive and too dangerous, while truly clean renewable energy has yet to be given a fair chance in North America. All we need to do is change our perspective and shift our priorities. I realize that many people are counting on a huge monetary return on their investments in this deadly, dangerous industry, but facts show that life-affirming power generation can be just as lucrative. And if we want our government to invest in research and development of renewables, let's speak out! Our governments seem to act as though they are accountable only to big business, and nuclear is big business, but we know that they are truly accountable to those who vote, and that's us!

Last, I would like to address More's repeated assertion that those who oppose nuclear power are like petulant children who won't resign themselves to the fact that it is time to go to bed. Perhaps More is telling us that all we need to do is just go to sleep and all will be well. Sorry, but I disagree. I believe that it is time for us all to wake up!

Gretchen Schwarz
Clarendon



25 Years Ago

April 13, 1983

STAY OF EXECUTION FOR THE RAILROAD: With the help of an ad hoc committee to promote Pontiac's railroad, members asked the Railway Transport Committee to delay the date of abandonment to permit an appeal to be made on the basis of new circumstances, not in existence at the time of the public hearing last June. Last week news arrived that the delay had been granted.

NOTHING DOES IT LIKE OLD TIME

MUSIC: Sunday, March 5, the sunroom at the Home on the Hill was filled with lovely old time fiddle music and dancing. Entertainers included: Margaret and Urban Curley, Roy and Edith Wiggins, Pat and Leo Foran and Margaret Alexander, Denis Alexander, Ebert Alexander, Basil Alexander, Clarence Westbrooke and Bruce Armitage.

50 Years Ago

April 17, 1958

OLDEST PROTESTANT CHURCH TOTAL LOSS IN FIRE: One of the oldest landmarks in the area burned to the ground yesterday afternoon as a result of a grass fire which unnoticed caught fire to the Litchfield United Church burning it to the ground. Men of the congregation went out to the adjoining cemetery early in the afternoon in order to perform the usual spring cleanup in the course of which they lit a small grass fire. It was watched very carefully, but in spite of this it caught onto a layer of building paper underneath the exterior shingles. The first indication of trouble was a spiral of smoke at the roof.

BREAK-IN AT COLTONS IN FORT COULONGE: Colton Bros. General Store was the scene of another "break-in" during the early morning hours of Easter Sunday. The burglary was discovered Sunday morning by

Robert Colton, one of the owners of the business on his regular check up round.

CURLERS WIND UP SUCCESSFUL YEAR WITH BANQUET: Shawville curlers wound up the season on Wednesday night with a banquet at Pine Lodge, Bristol where some 125 people sat down to the meal. Master of ceremonies at the head table was outgoing men's president Watt Taylor

75 Years Ago

April 13, 1933

LOCAL NEWS: Mr. R.A. Hodgins, of the 7th Line, marketed the first maple syrup of the season in town on Friday and reported that the sap run was very poor.

An enjoyable event is promised the people of this and the surrounding district on Wednesday, April 19, when the men of St. Paul's church will hold their Easter chicken supper in the theatre followed by two debates.

The annual meeting of the Ladies' Curling Club was held on Friday afternoon in the Club room with a good attendance of members. Mrs. C.H. MacLean, president, occupied the chair, and the reports presented for the season showed it to be a very successful one both financially and socially.

Large congregations have been attending the special services at the Standard Church during the past week.

In the passing of John Ebert Smith on April 2, Campbell's Bay and surrounding district has lost one of its most highly respected and best known residents. The deceased, who was a son of the late George Smith and Mary Jane Ebert, was born in 1863 near Shawville, Quebec. In his early manhood he and his brother Allen entered the lumbering business, later forming the Smith Bros. Lumber Company of Campbell's Bay. Respected and admired for his sterling qualities by all who knew him, his death has cast a gloom over the entire community.

Spring Specials at W.A.

Hodgins Store – Men's Overalls. We feature the famous snag-proof line of overalls. This spring we are offering what we consider the best overall value ever offered in this district. These garments are made of heavy-weight Blue Denim with red back, large roomy pattern, sizes 34 to 46 \$1.25.

Men's Work Boots - Good, sturdy, solid leather work boots, made to stand good hard wear \$1.95 per pair.

100 Years Ago

April 16, 1908

LOCAL NEWS: Mr. Sam Armstrong, we regret to report, is laid up with an attack of pneumonia.

Messrs. John Horner and R.J. Hamilton, with their gang of men and teams returned last week from the Rouge River district, where they were engaged all winter forwarding shanty supplies for Klock Bros.

The task of rolling the roads in the township of Clarendon during the past winter, cost the municipality a pretty good round sum, as will be seen from the statement of payments. But if the cost seems comparatively high the people who are paying it at least have the satisfaction of knowing that notwithstanding the great depth of snow during the past winter, Clarendon had better winter roads than ever before and better than any of the neighbouring municipalities where similar means for keeping roads in order were not employed. And good roads at any time of year are one of the greatest advantages any community can enjoy.

Mr. A.E. Postlewhite, our enterprising carter, has taken to the wheels this week, the streets having at last become too bare for runners. Reports from the surrounding country say that sleighing is pretty well over in the open section, but the bush roads are still fairly good and much snow remains in the woods. Winter has indeed lingered long in the lap of spring this year.

Mansfield firefighters first to graduate in Pontiac

HEATHER DICKSON
Equity Publisher

MANSFIELD • Two hundred and forty hours of theory and training over two years were rewarded with a graduation ceremony on Saturday at the Club l'âge d'or for 16 firemen.

The entire Mansfield fire department, decked out in well-pressed shirts and uniforms, along with their partners and invited guests, enjoyed a celebratory evening to honour the 16 graduates along with a special presentation for an exemplary service award.

"It's an important investment in our community," said mayor Richard Romain "and we are the first in Pontiac to complete the required courses."

Quebec has imposed mandatory training requirements as part of the province's Fire Safety Cover Plan. The two-year course, from 2005 - 2007, for the Mansfield fire department has cost the municipality approximately \$101,000 and will help, by providing the right training, to reduce losses due to fire and increase the effectiveness of fire departments.

Minimum average standards of 80 per cent are required to pass the exams

and all 16 students met or surpassed these requirements. Firefighters need to complete 120 hours of class room theory followed by 120 hours of practical training.

Throughout the training period the fire fighters are required to complete certain tasks, scenarios that could occur while on the job, such as working with survivors in confined spaces, working with a respirator, ventilating a roof on a burning building, layout out fire hoses and setting up the nozzles in the line of fire.

The course was conducted by the l'École Nationale des Pompiers du Québec (ENPQ) and the certificate which they received at the ceremony, a Firefighter I Certificate, allows them to work anywhere in Quebec.

Receiving certificates were: Aurèle Bélair, Larry Pleau, Luc Mignault, Richard Héroult, Mike Landry, Guy Rivet, Ronald Rivet, Eric Héroult, Richard Morrisette, Jacques Fortin, Richard Pleau, Stéphane Mousseau, Fern Mousseau, Eric Rochon, and Gabi Morin all of the Mansfield Fire Department plus Jacques Pilon of the Waltham Fire Department.

Exemplary Service Medal
Also included in the



Mansfield firefighter recipients of a Firefighter I Certificate from the École Nationale des Pompiers du Québec were from the left, kneeling: Richard Héroult, Larry Pleau, Aurèle Bélair, Richard Morrisette, Michel Landry. Backrow from the left: Michel Richer from the l'École Nationale des Pompiers du Québec, Luc Mignault, Guy Rivet, Richard Pleau, Jacques Fortin, Eric Héroult, Ronald Rivet, and Denis Messier also from the l'École des Pompiers.

evening's celebration was the presentation of the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal. The medal is awarded

to fire fighters with 20 years or more of service to the department. Receiving the award was Roger Dyelle. He

joins the elite group of fire fighters for long-time service, they are: Darcy Bélair with 28 years service, Aurèle

Bélair 23 years, Luc Mignault 23 years, Larry Pleau 28 years and now Dyelle with 20 years.

Ladies of charity at St. George's Anglican Church

HEATHER DICKSON
Equity Publisher

CAMPBELL'S BAY • Regularly these ladies meet to sort through donated garbage bags sometimes coming up with treasures, but more importantly recycling some else's unwanted items.

Parking was scarce in Campbell's Bay last week Friday morning on Leslie Street close to St. George's Anglican Church for the bi-monthly 'Gently Used Clothing Sale'.

"The deals are great here. The items on display are a bargain," said church warden Jean Sparling. "Plus you can buy a Tim Horton's coffee and muffin and enjoy a social time in our little cafe."

Mrs. Sparling is one of several ladies who donate their time to keep the shelves stocked and the bargains on display.

They receive donations on

a regular basis.

"Sometimes they call and we will pick up their donations or we just find the bags placed at our door," said Sparling.

"We sort through the bags, sorting through items, washing some articles of clothing, pricing them and putting them on display," said Sparling. Items that are not saleable are packed up together and used as rags in garages. Nothing is wasted.

Clothing is priced at 50 cents while other items, such as household products, are priced competitively for quick sale.

Dishes are prized buys for campers and cottagers, while antique clothing and items are picked up by discerning shoppers.

They have specific sections for young people's clothing, men, ladies, children's and infant wear and

everything a person might need for bedding.

"Once we had a pair of war-time stockings for sale. You know the type that needed to be attached by a garter belt. They even had the seam up the back and they were still packaged in their little box with tissue paper," explained Mrs. Gwen Black. "Well someone bought them at our sale and apparently sold them on E-bay for \$85."

The money earned from the twice-monthly sale has been used to replace the roof on the church's adjoining building and the ladies are now saving for new ceiling tiles for the same building.

Sharing in the work and the fun on a regular basis at the church for the sale are Jean Sparling, Gwen Black, Dorcas Sparling, Betty Church, Marilyn Amyotte, Donna Bohemier and Barbara Stopa.



Jean Sparling, left, Dorcas Sparling, Betty Church and Gwen Black, seated, enjoy a brief break during Friday morning's Gently Used Sale at St. George's Church in Campbell's Bay.

Les Transports collectifs (shared rural transport) announces results for 2007

Les Transports collectifs des Collines, through their President, Mr. Harry Gow of Chelsea have published their statistics for 2007; a rough year, according to Gow, during which the board had to compose with some delays in funding for its services (the Ministry of Transport pays its contribution after the end of each year, for example). "Fortunately the Municipalité régionale des Collines (MRC), the Centre local de développement (CLD) and the Conférence régionale des élus (CREO) helped us to balance the books, but we again had to limit the number of trips except those for health care during 2007.

In 2008, with prospects of improved funding from Transports Québec and the MRC, we are beginning to offer more trips for such purposes as local grocery shopping for deprived clients, said Gow.

The number of trips supplied in 2007 was 1,287 in the Municipality of Pontiac where the service is contracted out to the TransporAction Pontiac organization and 1,802 trips in the rest of the MRC. (1,076 and 1,868 respectively in 2006). In 2007, 93 per cent of the trips were to take clients to health services, one per cent for studies or training, three per cent for work and three per cent for social support services in the MRC, except in the Municipality of Pontiac where the percentage of trips made for Sécurité du Revenue (Social Welfare) made up 60 per cent to 85 per cent of work carried out,

depending on the month. Per municipality, the number of trips was: Val-des-Monts 349, Cantley 406, La Pêche 645, Chelsea 384, L'Ange-Gardien and N.-D. de la Salette, 18; and Pontiac 364.

The Transports collectifs des Collines worked actively with the Société de Transport (for persons with disabilities) de La Pêche in order to recruit a joint Director in order to build an even more integrated "single wicket" service, but the very competitive labour market of the Capital nearby made it hard to attract candidates. Hence, the two organisations still have to try to find a suitable person; meanwhile, Mr. Robert Dupuis, the Director of TransporAction Pontiac is supplying administrative and training support to the office of the CTC.

"Another difficulty is the price of gasoline which makes trips to accompany our clients more expensive for the volunteers" said Gow: "We try to keep up with the increasing costs gas in order to reimburse these expenses, so for this and other reasons the hoped-for increase in financial contributions from Transports Québec and the MRC is vital for us".

The Corporation des Transports collectifs also announced its Annual General Meeting; this will be held on April 29 at the La Pêche Municipal Library. The financial results for 2007 will be announced and a new board will be elected. Gow concluded by underlining the support of the MRC des Collines, Transports Québec and the

Conférence régionale des Elus de l'Outaouais (CREO). Assistance from the Centre local de développement

(CLD) des Collines in preparing the 2008 budget was particularly appreciated. "We thank these partners with-

out whom we couldn't turn a wheel; - as well, the cooperation of the Golden Age Clubs Federation, the Société de

Transport de La Pêche and of TransporAction Pontiac is of critical importance for us," he said.

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Benjamin volleyball girls capture silver at championship

SHAWN MACDONELL
PHS Benjamin volleyball coach
PONTIAC • The Pontiac High School Benjamin girls volleyball team was in action one last time this season and this time the games were for keeps.

This was the first time any of these girls would be setting foot on a championship court with the possibility of playing 10 sets on this day.

Nerves, excitement, and adrenaline were of no shortage for any of the girls.

Already the girls had managed an amazing show of skill and dedication as they moved from last place in the league (because they were a new team entering the league this year) to finishing in the top 15 teams in the Outaouais.

This year there were also more teams (almost 40 teams) than ever before so this year's accomplishment meant even more than previous years. The girls didn't want to stop there though, they knew they could elevate their game pushing them higher up the ladder of success.

The first match saw the girls facing St. Alexandre, perhaps one of their toughest competitors this year. The girls had a bit of a faulty start falling behind early in the first set but quickly recovered to tie things up and even take a considerable lead. The girls made one mistake though, they got excited and forgot that St. Alexandre is one of the best

teams in the league allowing them to come back and take the victory 27-25 over PHS. The second set saw another really close game with two top teams battling it out to another final score of 27-25.

The girls knew now that it was time for them to start playing the kind of volleyball they could. The girls went into the second and third matches with grit and determination to make it to the championship finals. In the second match the girls faced St. Joseph and made quick work of them finishing the first set 25-17 and the second set 25-12. Now standing at two wins and two losses on the day they faced Le Carrefour, who had given St. Alexandre some considerable competition earlier in the day. The level of play showcased by Le Carrefour did not deter the girls from their style of play as they were able to win both sets 25-23 and 25-17.

This meant that the girls were now sitting with four wins and two losses on the day, good enough for second place in Division 'A' of this championship tournament with St. Alexandre in first.

On the Division 'B' side of the championships Du Versant finished in first place and Rapides-Deschenes finished second. This meant that PHS would face Du Versant and St. Alexandre would face Rapides-Deschenes in the semi-finals.

Immediately after defeat-

ing Le Carrefour the girls remained on the court to play Du Versant, one of the teams that PHS had been battling fiercely with throughout the season. All of the games these two teams had played were closely matched. The girls were starting to get excited though as they were getting closer and closer to that gold medal. Du Versant stepped onto the court only to find themselves outmatched.

This Pontiac team was a lot different than the one they had faced earlier in the season. The Pontiac girls had improved their game immensely and were ready for the challenge. Du Versant has one of the best servers at the Benjamin levels of volleyball and the last time these two teams met she rallied for more than 15 points in both sets. This time though the girls were ready for her and they returned every serve she hammered over the net. The girls were determined to not let anything phase them as they had one goal on their mind — to make it to the finals. The girls took the first two sets (25-19 and 25-17) of a best of three series against Du Versant, winning their right to go to the championship. The girls were pumped and ready for, oh yes it was St. Alexandre that would indeed be up against Pontiac High School once again.

The girls took the court in their very first championship

game knowing that they had already been a major success being a small town team who started in last place overall climbing 36 spots into either 2nd or 1st place overall. The girls played with great poise and started off the match doing all the right things, calling the ball, using three hits, and moving their feet, no one was standing still, no ball was hitting the ground without some effort. The atmosphere in the gymnasium was chilling as each server lined up the courts went silent

and a pin drop could have been heard.

Everyone on both teams was determined and focused making for a very exciting championship match. Although Pontiac had made their best efforts to win St. Alexandre proved to be the stronger of the two teams on the day finishing off Pontiac in a close 25-23 win in both sets. Pontiac never once lay down in this tournament making come backs and maintaining leads and driving forward all day this is what really impressed me as

a coach.

After 36 regular season sets and 10 championship sets the Pontiac High School Benjamin Girls Volleyball team can hold their heads up high as they competed hard and brought home a silver medal for PHS.

Way to go girls, you have made a coach, a school, and community very proud. There was not one girl this season that did not make improvements in their game and it showed on this day. Your effort and determination is inspiring.



Submitted by Shawn MacDonell
The Pontiac High School Benjamin girls volleyball team were silver medalists at their season-ending tournament. Bottom row, from left: Heidi Peck, Makayla Campbell, Emily Simms. Top row, from left: Coach Shawn MacDonell, Jennifer Fierobin, Bria Hearty, Jodi Wilbee, Michaela Cahill, Hannah More, and Val Trnka.

Septic regulations concern for local Luskville resident

AMANDA DUPUIS

For The Equity

LUSKVILLE • François Aubin, a Luskville resident, discovered a neighbour installed a septic tank late last year that doesn't conform to certain regulations.

According to the Ministry of Environment, a watertight septic system must be installed a minimum distance of 15 metres from an underground well.

"According to the regulations, it has to be 15 metres," said Rock de la Durantaye, a biologist with the ministry.

Aubin said the neighbour's septic system was installed 12 metres away from his well — which is not only against regulations but also a health hazard.

"He's installed a septic tank that's within the perimeters," said Aubin.

"The law is in black and white... the work was not done properly."

When a septic system is to be installed, according to Ministry of Environment regulations, the property owner must obtain a permit from the municipality before construction can begin.

To obtain a permit, the owner must provide proof of the engineer's plan for approval.

The municipality must verify all documents, and if everything is up to the standards, they will issue a building permit.

"Although it's not in the regulations, most municipalities will ask the engineer or technician to issue a certificate of conformity," added de la Durantaye.

Municipality of Pontiac Mayor Eddie McCann said although he was not 100 per cent familiar with the file, from what he remembers the engineer who issued the plan did not see Aubin's well at the time of the survey because it was hidden under two old cars.

"Of course, the engineer is responsible to check everything out," said McCann.

In addition, McCann said he recalls there was a concern over the type of soil the neighbour had, which left no choice but to install the septic tank where it is now.

"We issued a permit based on what the engineer said needed to be done," said McCann.

Should an issue of non-conformity arise, the municipality is required to send a notice of infraction to the residence in question, which will allow time to correct the situation.

"Most of the time, the

municipality would act on it," said de la Durantaye.

Aubin said he feels frustrated because when he discovered the infraction he approached the municipality but they would not listen.

"Rather than fight with my neighbour, I approached the municipality," said Aubin. "The measurements don't lie."

McCann said as soon as Aubin enquired about the installation, they checked into it.

"After he enquired, we followed up," said McCann.

"His concern was looked into."

"We answered him in writing. He has a letter back from us stating what the neighbour put in was acceptable."

McCann said the situation was looked into, everything is in order and the file is closed.

The 15-metre regulation is in place mainly as a precautionary measure, for example if the septic tank breaks or starts leaking — which could easily happen without anyone noticing until it's too

late.

"Fifteen metres is a security zone," said de la Durantaye.

"The reason for the distance is to give anybody a chance to intervene if a problem arises."

De la Durantaye said in theory a sealed septic tank could be installed right beside a well, but should the tank spring a leak, serious health problems could arise.

"I wouldn't allow a septic tank to be five metres away from my well," said de la Durantaye.

"At least the minimum (regulations) have to be respected," he said.

"It doesn't matter if there's health concerns or not, that's the regulations."

Aubin moved to Québec from Ontario to retire. He has three grandchildren who come to visit his house often.

Aubin said he is afraid of what could happen should his neighbour's tank spring a leak.

Exposure to polluted septic water could cause symptoms such as fever, fatigue, stomach cramps, diarrhea,

parasites, weight loss or even death.

"I don't want to turn around [to my grandkids] and say, sorry guys you can't drink my water because it's polluted," said Aubin.

"I've seen lots of things. But you know you shut your eyes on certain things. But when it starts to concern my health, my drinking water... I'm not sticking my neck out for nothing."

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GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

JOINT PLAN OF THE

PONTIAC FOREST PRODUCTS PRODUCERS BOARD

NOTICE OF MEETING

To all woodlot owners covered by the joint plan of the
Pontiac Forest Products Producers Board

You are invited to participate in the 48th general annual meeting of the joint plan of the Pontiac Forest Products Producers Board that will be held on:

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2008

Time: 1:00 p.m. Registration

1:30 p.m. Meeting

Place: Recreation Hall, 2 Second Street, Campbell's Bay, Quebec

The matters to be dealt with during this meeting are detailed in the agenda featured below. Copies of the minutes are also available at the office or at the door of the annual meeting.

The proofs of ownership accepted are the following: **Please take note that the producers must identify themselves and possess a recent proof of ownership.**

- Municipal tax bill
- A notarised deed of ownership
- Pre-registration certificate

Article 4.1 of the regulation:

The persons having the right to vote are: property owners owning four (4) hectares or more of woodlots; jobbers with written proof of cutting rights contract accompanied by the corresponding municipal tax bills; and in the case of a corporation, the vote may be given by proxy provided it has a power of attorney. A physical person is entitled to only one vote. (Article 86).

We are counting on your presence.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting by the President
2. Reading and adoption of the notification of meeting
3. Reading and adoption of the meeting procedures
4. Reading and adoption of the agenda
5. Adoption of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on April 26, 2007
6. Presentation and adoption of the 2007 activities report
7. Presentation and adoption of the 2007 financial statement
8. Nomination of the auditor for 2008
9. Regulation modification:
 - Regulation on the levy payment and perception: to add a line to charge interest on levy and monies owing to the Office that does not respect time limits.
10. Certification:
 - Adoption of a sustainable forest practices policy
11. Marketing tool:
 - Creation of the Pontiac wood producers forest funds
12. Other motions
13. Special guest
14. Election of directors:

Districts :	No 2:	the townships of Bristol and Clarendon, as well as the village of Shawville;
	No 4:	the united townships of Leslie, Clapham and Huddersfield;
	No 6:	the villages of Campbell's Bay and Fort-Coulonge, the united townships of Mansfield and Pontefract and Waltham & Bryson as well as the township of Upper Litchfield;
	No 8:	municipality of Cayamant.
15. Varia
16. Draw for door prizes
17. Adjournment

Sweeping for Pontiac Liberals

HEATHER DICKSON

Equity Publisher
SHAWVILLE • A sweeping fundraiser was held this weekend for the Pontiac Liberal Association.

The eighth annual Pontiac Liberal bonspiel was hosted at the Shawville Curling Rink on Saturday with more than 96 players sweeping in the annual fundraiser.

"I had to turn teams away this year. This is the largest turnout ever," said organizer Rick Young.

The day started early at 8 a.m. with six teams hitting the ice to support their association but more importantly to meet their representative Charlotte L'Écuyer.

"People want to be involved because she is doing a good job in the area," Young said regarding the extraordinary turnout.

"They are trying to give back to her," said Young.

To accommodate the huge turnout, Young cut each game to six ends, so that everyone could get on the ice. The bonspiel had teams playing until 9 p.m. that evening. It was a full day of curling.

This year, however, L'Écuyer met with some stiff competition as she was scheduled to play a well-practiced, challenging team. Four junior curling members who play and practice every Friday



Heather Dickson, THE EQUITY

MNA Charlotte L'Écuyer, centre, was challenged by a young team of curlers at the Pontiac Liberal Association's annual bonspiel held last weekend at the Shawville Curling Rink. From the left are: Owen McCredie, Bailey Foster, Mme. L'Écuyer, Tessa Corrigan and Lindsay Howard. The young curlers defeated L'Écuyer's team by a score of 8-3.

evening as part of the Little Rocks program at the curling club were scheduled to play the MNA in the morning. Eleven-year old skip of the team was Owen McCredie and his team members were Tessa Corrigan 11, Lindsay Howard 11 and Bailey Foster, the senior member on the team at 12.

The four team members, perhaps a little intimidated to play against a member of the National Assembly, were looking forward to discussing topics with her.

"I want to chat with Mme L'Écuyer about the financial situation of the farmers — they are poor," said Howard. "I also hope to invite her

out to our farm so that she can see how hard we work."

L'Écuyer's team was made of family members, sister Hélène L'Écuyer, sister-in-law Charlotte Cross both of Montreal and daughter Josie.

In the end the youth beat out the more mature team by a score of 8-3.

The annual bonspiel is also an opportunity for L'Écuyer and liberal association members to meet and talk about local needs and exchange ideas.

"She can meet a lot of people and find out what the people want," said Young.

"She's always ready to help."

New faces at Shawville R.A. AGM

HEATHER DICKSON

Equity Publisher
SHAWVILLE • A plea for help to Shawville Recreational Association members may have paid off.

"I haven't spoken to so many members at an AGM for a long time," said president Kathy Murray. "And I welcome you all and thank you for coming."

Approximately 20 members turned up to the annual general meeting held Wednesday, April 2. The meeting was preceded by soccer, ball hockey and minor ball registration in the Shawville Arena.

Each year the organization operates programs for more than 200 kids in soccer, 75 kids in minor ball, 50 kids in ball hockey, as well as running a popular summer activity program for more than 100 children.

All this is done with the help of eight volunteer directors.

"We have a tremendous need for volunteers as we are rapidly running out of people and steam," said Murray at the AGM.

"Kids need things to do and rather than 'hang out' the Shawville Recreation Association offers several programs to keep kids active," said Murray.

In addition to the programs the R.A. also main-

tains a hall and recreational facilities at its Hillcrest Avenue location, adding to the work load of volunteers.

Murray, in a plea for help, addressed a letter to R.A. members encouraging them to come out and support their association.

"We are truly grateful for all the volunteers who do come out to coach soccer and ball each and every year, but we really need to get some new directors to come on board and get involved," said Murray in her letter.

"Most of our current members have been with the R.A. over 10 years and some up to 20 years. We want new ideas, we want different perspectives, we need new members who are fresh and energetic and we need parents to get involved."

"We are truly concerned about succession of the R.A. programs — who will take them over once the current members' involvement comes to an end?" wrote Murray.

In response to Murray's letter, a few new faces did appear and a few new names did volunteer to the board of directors. A good start for now according to secretary Rhonda Meisner.

"We still need more people. The more people we get involved, the better we can be. We can be more diverse



Heather Dickson, THE EQUITY

Kerry Young, seated, signs up her three daughters for soccer at the Shawville R.A. registration night last Wednesday evening. President Kathy Murray, left and secretary Rhonda Meisner received registrations until the start of the Annual General Meeting. R.A. Director Shawn MacDonnell looks on.

because of everyone's different ideas and opinions. We want to operate for the long term. We always want to have programs for your kids to participate in but we need volunteers," said Meisner.

Directors for this year are: president Kathy Murray, 1st vice-president Wendy Hearty, 2nd vice-president Scott Lemay, treasurer

Fiona Campbell, secretary Rhonda Meisner, John Quinsey, Rick Atkinson, Dan Duggan, Shawn MacDonnell, Tina Hillier-Atkinson, Jaime Christie, Jason, Laurent, Leona Lalonde, Kerry Young and Kaara Brown.

Committee members are — Registrar - Kathy Murray, Kerry Young and Shawn

MacDonnell; Bar Committee - John Quinsey, Scott Lemay, Rick Atkinson; Maintenance Committee - Rick Atkinson, Jason Laurent, Scott Young; Summer Program Committee - Wendy Hearty, Shawn MacDonnell; Hall Rental - Leona Lalonde; Ball Hockey - Jason Laurent.

OVERTIME | LUKE MURPHY

My playoff predictions



Eastern Conference

(1) Montreal vs (8) Boston — These are two very different

teams. Montreal has been consistently good all season, they score a lot of goals, and with rookie Carey Price improving in net every game, and a potent powerplay, will make them a tough opponent in the playoffs. Boston is a boring team to watch, who can't score goals. They rely on stellar goaltending, and a defensive, trap-like system to win games. With the lead, they are deadly, but their lack of scoring rarely puts them in that position. Montreal went 8-0 against Boston in the regular season and I don't see anything changing.

MY PREDICTION — Montreal in 4

(2) Pittsburgh vs (7) Ottawa — This is a repeat of last year's first round match-up, only this season the circumstances are different. After starting the season 15-2, looking invincible, the Senators have been the fourth worst team in hockey since January 1. And with

key injuries to Daniel Alfredsson, Mike Fisher and Chris Kelly — 166 points — Ottawa will be hard pressed to score goals. Pittsburgh is a young, energetic, fun team to watch, led by arguably two of the most exciting players in hockey, Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby. They added Marian Hossa to an already potent offense. After last year's first round exit, Pittsburgh will be hungry to move on. If Ottawa was healthy, my prediction would be different, but as is...

MY PREDICTION — Pittsburgh in 6

(3) Washington vs (6) Philadelphia — Washington won their final seven games of the season to win the Southeast Division and gain a playoff birth. This team is led by certain league MVP Alex Ovechkin, and has a great balance of youthful energy, and veteran leadership. Philadelphia has been inconsistent all season, but is starting to get healthy at the right time. A tough series to pick, but I have to go with the hot hand.

MY PREDICTION — Washington in 6

(4) New Jersey vs (5) NY

Rangers — These two teams faced off in the last game of the regular season, a 3-2 win for New Jersey in a shootout, and will meet each other in the first round of the playoffs. New Jersey, like always, will rely on arguably the best goalie of all-time, Martin Brodeur, to shut down a star studded Rangers lineup. With key off-season acquisitions in Scott Gomez and Chris Drury, the Rangers should roll. But I haven't figured this team out, and they've been inconsistent all season. I do feel the Rangers have the team to take out the Devils, but they need their stars to be stars.

MY PREDICTION — New York in 6

Western Conference

(1) Detroit vs (8) Nashville — Like they seem to do every year, Detroit had another sensational regular season, cruising to the President's Trophy as the regular season's champion. They have a potent offense, reliable, consistent defense, but the goaltending will be the big question in Detroit for the post-season. Nashville has surprised me. This is a team I picked to miss the playoffs in a strong Western Conference, but they got hot

down the stretch, and took advantage of Vancouver's inability to win the big game. Nonetheless, I have to take the heavily favoured Red Wings in this one.

MY PREDICTION — Detroit in 5

(2) San Jose vs (7) Calgary — Another toughy. San Jose is the most improved team since the deadline, acquiring offensive defenseman Brian Campbell and going 19-1-2 since that time. They have a solid overall team, but have struggled in recent playoff years. Calgary is a team built for the playoffs. They have all-star goaltending, solid defensemen, a lot of size and grit, and a 50 goal scorer in Jerome Iginla. It could go either way, but I'll pick the home team.

MY PREDICTION — San Jose in 7

(3) Minnesota vs (6) Colorado

This is my upset pick. Minnesota is well coached, and plays a tight, defensive style that always is successful in playoffs. But they don't score. Colorado acquired Adam Foote, and signed Peter Forsberg to add character, grit, and scoring to

join the nice group of forwards already in their lineup. They're healthy for the first time in a long time, and should be a tough opponent.

MY PREDICTION — Colorado in 6

(4) Anaheim vs (5) Dallas — Last year's Stanley Cup Champions look poised for another run at the cup. They're healthy again, fresh legs, and have basically the same team that won last June — big, physical and skilled. Dallas is another one of those teams that's hard to figure out. They're a streaky club, with many offensive stars, but they've struggled down the stretch, and are heading into the playoffs in a lull.

MY PREDICTION — Anaheim in 5

So those are my 2008 first round playoff predictions. As you recall, last season I went 11-4, but this season is tougher, the race is tighter, and like every year in the playoffs, everyone has a chance to win.

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

Murphy is a former professional hockey player who now resides in Shawville. Contact him at news@theequity.ca



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Pat Moorehead

This is an experience that none of us will ever forget, the memories will be with us forever! Thank you!

Your Atom A Pontiac Lions, 2008 Quebec Inter-Regional Champions

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Clancey Keon

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COMING EVENTS

April 9 - 11 to 1 o'clock Poor Man's Lunch, soup and pies \$6 person, Oddfellows' Hall, Shawville. 2xa9

Thurs., April 10 - PHS Spaghetti Supper/Auction Fundraiser. PHS Cafeteria. Supper 6 p.m. Auction 7 p.m. Tickets in advance \$5 - at the door \$7. Under 12 in advance \$3 - at the door \$5. 2xa9

Fri., April 11 - Will Thank You. From the youth centre a.k.a. the Garage at 430 Bristol Street, Shawville. We invite you to celebrate with us our new Wii Game system. Friday, April 11, 5:00 - 7:00. Thanks to our generous sponsors, especially Chantal and Josh of Wepc for all your hard work. You have helped us reach our goal. Thank you! Call 819-647-5912 for information. 2xa9

April 12 - Eastern Star Dinner and Card Party. Dinner 5:30, cards 7 p.m. at Masonic Hall, Main St., Shawville. Admission \$8. 2xa9

RIVER CLUB CHAPEAU presents **Jimmy Hebert & Friends** **Sat., April 12th** 3 pm - 7 pm **Ghost Town Criers** 9 pm - 2 am - \$3 cover **Hwy 148, Chapeau**

Sun., April 13 - 3 p.m. Musical Service at St. Andrew's United Church, Campbell's Bay featuring The Brysonnieres. Everyone welcome. Lunch to follow. 2xa9

Mon., April 14 - Armstrong Heritage Farm Annual General Meeting Dr. S. E. McDowell School cafeteria 7 p.m. 2ba9

Sat., May 3 - 7:30 p.m. St. James Anglican Church, Otter Lake is having a Blue Grass Fundraiser Concert featuring The Foggy Hometown Boys. General Admission \$15 each. For tickets call Joan Zimmerling 819-453-7898 or Bev Kluge 819-453-7236 or any member of St. James United. Tickets available at the door. Everyone is welcome. 2ba9

July 4, 5 & 6, 2008 - Quyon JamFest - Fairgrounds. Charlie Major will be headlining Sat., July 5. Info - Diane - 458-2139 or Mark 458-1691. 2tc

MISCELLANEOUS

Furniture at huge savings as well as TV and appliances. At Utronki Appliance & TV. Renfrew 613-432-5318. We sell the best for less. 2tc

GE stove and fridge, self cleaning and self defrosting 819-648-5501, wall unit 647-5469 ext. 233. 2ba9

Classified Ads Work! If you have something to sell, want to buy or need to promote - classified ads are the way to go! Call Marlene at the Quebec Community Newspapers Association for more information. 514-453-6300. Visit: www.qcna.org. 2xa9

Eleanor's Cookbook, Volume 1 and 2 are available at The Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec. Stop in and pick up your copy. They make great gifts! 2ba9

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MISCELLANEOUS

Hot tub (Spa) Covers. Best Price, Best Quality. All Shapes & Colours Available. Call 1-866-652-6837. www.thecoverguy.ca. 2xa9

#1 high speed internet \$18.95/month. Absolutely no ports are blocked. Unlimited downloading. Up to 5Mbps download and 800Kbps upload. Order today at www.acanac.ca or call toll free 1-866-281-3538. 2xa9

Sawmills from only \$3,495.00. Convert your logs to valuable lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.norwoodsawmills.ca/400t - Free Information: 1-800-566-6899 Ext. 400 OT. 2xa9

16 foot pontoon boat, Sweet Water, 1999, with a 30 h.p. motor, seats 7 persons, docking and running lights, \$4,800 819-647-2507. 2ba9

All steel buildings - Sale/Lease. US steel shipment just arrived. Save up to 30%! 25'x40', 30'x50', 32'x50', 40'x60', 50'x100'. Many others. Call now! Pioneer 1-800-504-7749. Canadian made, www.pioneerbuildings.com. 2xa9

Amazing relief the first night! Restless Leg Syndrome and leg cramps gone. Sleep deeply, safe with medication, proven results guaranteed! www.alicall.com 1-800-765-8660. 2xa9

Need extra money? Classifieds work! Advertise your items for sale in THE EQUITY. Call 819-647-2204 to place your ad. 2tc

BEDS, SOFA BEDS, BEDROOM SUITES, DINING ROOM SUITES, SOFAS, RECLINERS, BAR STOOLS, HEADBOARDS, COMFORTERS

MATTRESS FACTORY & FURNITURE OUTLET
312 Raglan St. S., Renfrew
432-8826

L O S T
Blue environmental bag with handles full of clothing lost on highway between Campbell's Bay and Shawville 819-664-2601. 2ba9

FARM PRODUCE
4 x 5 round bales of hay in Shawville area, can deliver 613-227-8378. 4xa23

2007 round bales of mixed hay, no rain, stored inside. Can arrange delivery 613-587-4830. 2ba9

Small square bales of hay, no rain, no dust. Call evenings 647-3013. 2ba9

FARM EQUIPMENT

John Deere 450 G and Dresser TD8G 6 way bulldozer, Case Super M 4 x 4 backhoe, Clark 4 x 4 articulated loader \$10,900, sidewalk plow, sander and mower, Ford 4 x 4 1 ton dump truck, International 3 ton dump truck, Chev 5 window and 54 Chev 1/2 ton, Army jeeps 613-432-2424. 2xa9

LIVESTOCK

40 crossbred cows young due April-May, some calves at foot 819-455-2229 (day). (819) 455-9576 evening (Roy). 4ba9

LIVESTOCK

Wanted to rent Limousin bull preferably with blue papers 819-458-2385 Mark. 2xa9

CARS & TRUCKS

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

1999 VOLKSWAGON GOLF WOLFSGURG Automatic, air, 180,000 kms. SALE \$4,995

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Affordable Quality
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290 Coumbes St., Renfrew, Ont.
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819-647-3313

MOTORCYCLES & ATVs

2003 Honda XR70 motorbike, excellent condition \$1,300.00 819-647-6181, 819-647-6797 Ernie or Kathy. 2xa16

FOR RENT

Bryson - 2 bedroom apartment for rent 819-648-2222. 2tc

Bryson - 3 bedroom house available March 819-648-5555. 2tc

Cottage for rent - June, July, August weekly or special rates per month. Sand Bay, Quebec near Shawville 819-458-2366, 613-729-4312, Jill McBane. 2tc

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

Shawville - Luxurious 1 bedroom fully furnished, heated, lighted and satellite TV. No pets, no smoking 819-647-3730. 4ba30

Shawville - large 1 bedroom apartment. Central location, appliances included. Indoor garage available. References required. Available immediately. 819-647-6085. 2tc

Shawville - 5 bedroom farm house available June 1, 2008. 5 minutes from Shawville on paved road. For more information please call (819) 647-6518. 2ba9

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Large lot for sale in Shawville, Quebec on Calumet Road. Ready to build, surveyed and serviced in walking distance to all amenities 100' x 234', \$35,000. Contact 613-623-7407 or 613-622-0399. 2xa16

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Wanted - business owner + Financial Agents. Create income streams partnering with Sterling Group. Since 1993 investors have averaged over 20%+ yearly. Not mutual funds. Training provided. Contact 1.888.855.8187. kevin@sgcwealth.com / www.sgcwealth.com. 2xa9

WANTED TO BUY

Old barns no longer used, collapsed or about to? Don't leave it to rot, will purchase outright or dismantle and sell based on profit-share with owner. To talk about options call Geoff 819-827-2880. 2xa9

Bush lots or wood standing. We buy spruce that has been damaged by the spruce bud worm (cord or ton). Cut by felled buncher and deliver so limbs and tops come out of bush. Call 1-819-467-3749 - if no answer please leave a message. 2tc

Abacadabra turn your hidden treasures into ready cash. International buyer wants to purchase your antiques, paintings, china, crystal, silverware, jewellery, rare books, sports, movies, postcards, coins, stamps and records. 514-501-9072. 2xa9

WANTED

Ride to Ottawa 5 days a week 819-647-3625. 2ba9

HELP WANTED

Are you considering reorienting your career path? Universitas Trust Funds, established since 1964, is seeking sales representatives in your area to meet market requirements. Training provided, excellent compensation, vehicle required. Gilles, 514-603-0043 or 514-987-5454, sophie.babeux@universitas.qc.ca. 2xa9

Truck driver wanted - Minimum 3 years tractor-trailer driving experience, good abstract, local and long haul. Possibility of lease-to-own (broker), equipment available. Must be a team player and safety oriented. Send resume to Tom Orr Cartage Construction, P.O. Box 646, Shawville, QC J0X 2Y0 or by email to ronda@tomorcartage.com. No phone calls please. 2ba9

Full time experienced waitress. Must be fast, reliable and efficient. Must be available to work day, night and weekend shifts. Must have a great smile and die-hard personality. Must have outstanding references. Apply at Motel Voyageur in Bryson, 819-648-5667. 2ba9

Marine technician Year round employment. Excellent working environment. Benefits and bonus programs. Top remuneration for talented individual. Ecco Marine, Alberta Beach, Alberta; marv@eckomarine.com. 780-924-3255; www.eckomarine.com. 2xa9

DEATH

Gauthier, Reverend Marc Loric - Priest of the Diocese of Pembroke
Father Gauthier died peacefully at the Pembroke Regional Hospital, on Saturday, April 5th, 2008 in his 82nd year. He was the son of the late Alfred Gauthier and Marie Soucy. Following his studies at Saint Paul Seminary, Ottawa and Saint Augustine Seminary, Toronto, he was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 1952. He served as assistant at Saint Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke, St. Peter parish, Fort-Coulonge, Saint-Jean-Baptiste parish, Pembroke, and Saint Alphonsus parish, Chapeau. Father Gauthier served as parish priest of Saint Anne parish, Rapides-des-Joachims, Saint-Jean-Baptiste parish, Pembroke, Saint Bernadette parish, Bonfield, and Saint Anne parish, Ile-du-Grand-Calumet. In addition to his parochial duties, Father Gauthier served as principal of Ecole Normale Saint-Michel in Fort-Coulonge from 1959-1965. In September 2000, Father Gauthier retired from parish ministry, but continued to stay connected to the many people he served in both Ontario and Quebec. He has recently been in residence at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, where he continued his own ministry among many cherished friends. He is mourned by his sisters Annie (the late Wilf Bimm), Jacqueline Taylor, and his brother Leo "Smokey". Predeceased by his siblings Alexander "Lou", Emery, Ernest, Connie, Andre, Doris and Patricia. He will be remembered in a special way by his many nieces, nephews, brother priests and friends. Visitation at St. Joseph's Motherhouse, 1127 Pembroke Street West on Monday, April 7th, began at 3:00 p.m. with Evening Prayer at 7:30 p.m. Solemn translation to Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church, Pembroke on Tuesday, April 8th where the Rite of Reception was held at 2:00 p.m. Lying in State was held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and on Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church on Wednesday, April 9th at 11 a.m. with the Most Reverend Michael Mulhall, Bishop of Pembroke, presiding. Rite of Committal to follow in the Priest's Plot, Saint Columba cemetery, Pembroke. In lieu of flowers donations to the Sisters of St. Joseph Scholarship Program for Children in Chincha Alta, Peru would be appreciated by the family. 2tc

DEATH



Stonely, Edna (née Woodward) - At her home, Pontiac Respite Centre on Thursday, April 3, 2008 at the age of 90 years. Beloved wife of the late Donald Stonely. Dear mother of Martin (Nicole Thibault), Mercier, Que., Daphne (Jean-Louis Auger), Campbell's Bay, Que. and the late Penny (Winston) Manning, Kanata, Ont. Lovingly remembered by grandchildren: Stéphanie (Marie-Josée), Marie-Josée, Roxane (Jeffrey Laberge), Christopher (Natalie), Colleen (Kris Drake) and Ian (Dana) and by six great-grandchildren. Friends and relatives are invited to attend a memorial service for Edna at the Pontiac Respite Centre (24 Reid St., Campbell's Bay, Que.) on Saturday, April 12 at 2 p.m. In memoriam donations to the Campbell's Bay-Litchfield Fire Department First Response unit would be greatly appreciated. Arrangements are in the care of Ringrose Brothers Funeral Home 1-819-648-2181.

White, Mildred Alice "Midge" (nee Smith) - Retired teacher, Scarborough Board of Education. Past member of Washington United Church, Scarborough. Current member George St. United Church, Peterborough. Peacefully, with her family by her side on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at Peterborough Regional Health Centre, in her 84th year. Midge, beloved wife of Douglas for 60 years. Dear mother of Donald (Monica), Alex and Kathy Watt (Ian). Loving Grandma of Virginia, Blake, Owen and Graeme. Dear sister of Helen Stolport of Oakville and Joyce Moore of Brantford. Midge will also be missed by many friends and family in Toronto, Peterborough, Clear Lake and across Canada. A funeral service was held at George St. United Church, 534 George St. North, Peterborough on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. with visitation one hour prior. Reverend Karen Ptolemy-Stam officiated. In memory of Midge, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to the Comstock Funeral Home and Cremation Centre, 356 Rubidge Street, Peterborough. 2tc

THANKS

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

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Clear your criminal record now - a record affects employment and any travel anywhere! We guarantee your pardon. Apply online www.canadianpardons.ca or call today toll free 1-800-298-5520. 2a26

If you saw the picture in THE EQUITY we can make you a full colour 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 prints for \$10 plus tax, at The Pontiac Printshop, 133 Centre St., Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0 819-647-2204. 2tc

Promotional items are available for your business such as caps, pens, cups, etc., etc. It's a great way to advertise your business. For more information call Katherine at the Pontiac Printshop, 133, Centre St., Shawville, Quebec, J0X 1G0, 819-647-2204. 2tc

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MEMORIAM

Beaudoin, Edgar (Jagger) - April 9, 2003
In loving memory of my husband who left us way too soon. As times goes by without you, The days have turned to years. They hold a million memories And a thousand silent tears. To me you were so special What more is there to say, Except I wish with all my heart That you were here today. You will always have a special place in my heart. Linda

MEMORIAM



Rutledge, Viola - In loving memory of Viola. Sad are the hearts that love you Silent are the tears that fall Living our lives without you is the hardest part of all. Love Alex and family

Smith - In loving remembrance of a wonderful husband, father, father-in-law and grandpa, Pearley, who passed away April 6, 1990. We lost a father with a heart of gold. How much we miss him can never be told. His life was unselfish, for others he lived, Not to receive but only to give. Helpful, willing, thoughtful and kind. What beautiful memories he left behind. Precious memories. Betty, Calvin, Dawn, Ryan and Nicole; Judy, Michael, Courtney, Adam and Caleigh-Anne

Trafford - In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Albert, who passed away April 11, 2004. We cannot have the old days back. When we were all together But wonderful memories and loving thoughts Will be with us forever. Lovingly remembered by Stella, Don and Joyce, Heman and Brenda and families

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Nouvelles policiers

PONTIAC • Le 3 avril dernier par les policiers de la Sûreté du Québec du Bureau régional d'enquête et de la MRC de Pontiac.

Les policiers ont obtenu un mandat de perquisition relativement à la vente de stupéfiants grâce à de l'information reçue du public.

Ils ont donc perquisitionné vers 19h30 au 5 (a) rue Neville à Fort-Coulonge.

Ils ont saisi 175 plants de marijuana qui poussaient au sous-sol de la résidence, 12 grammes de cocaïne, quelques pilules d'ecstasy et un peu plus de 1000.00\$ en argent.

Ils ont arrêtés trois individus pour possession de stupéfiants en vue d'en faire le trafic. Un de 43 ans qui a comparu au palais de justice de Campbell's Bay et qui a été remis en liberté avec un dépôt de 5000\$.

Il s'agit de Serge Francoeur de Fort-Coulonge.

Les deux autres, de 19 et 34 ans, ont été remis en liberté moyennant une promesse de comparaître en juin prochain.

Il s'agit de la 4e perquisition relative à la vente de stupéfiants dans la MRC de Pontiac en quelques semaines.

Les plaisanciers doivent avoir une preuve de compétence pour conduire une embarcation

OTTAWA • À l'approche de la prochaine saison de navigation, l'honorable Lawrence Cannon, ministre des Transports, de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités, encourage fortement les conducteurs d'embarcations de plaisance du Canada à s'assurer d'avoir avec eux une preuve de compétence avant de s'aventurer sur l'eau.

« Notre gouvernement souhaite que les millions de plaisanciers canadiens profitent d'une sécurité accrue sur l'eau », a déclaré le ministre Cannon. « Selon nous, l'obligation de détenir une preuve de compétence aidera à réduire le nombre d'incidents et de mortalités qui surviennent chaque année sur nos voies navigables. »

Un nouveau règlement de Transports Canada exige qu'à compter du 15 septembre 2009, tous les conducteurs d'embarcations de plaisance munies d'un moteur au Canada détiennent une preuve de compétence.

À l'heure actuelle, tout plaisancier né après le 1er avril 1983, ou toute personne qui conduit une embarcation de plaisance de moins de quatre mètres munie d'un moteur, y compris une motomarine, doit avoir une preuve de compétence à bord.

Le non-respect de cette exigence pourrait entraîner une amende allant jusqu'à 250 \$.

Une preuve de compétence peut comprendre: une carte de conducteur d'embarcation de plaisance; une preuve que le conducteur a réussi un cours de sécurité nautique au Canada avant le 1er avril 1999; une liste de vérification de sécurité pour embarcation de location dûment remplie.

Une carte de conducteur d'embarcation de plaisance est émise lorsqu'une personne réussit un examen de sécurité nautique administré par un fournisseur de cours de sécurité nautique agréé par le Ministère. Bien que le cours ne soit pas obligatoire avant de passer l'examen, Transports Canada encourage les plaisanciers à le suivre pour obtenir les connaissances et les compétences qui pourraient aider à sauver des

vies.

Les plaisanciers ont la responsabilité de conduire leur embarcation de façon sécuritaire. Le cours est une

très bonne façon d'apprendre à naviguer en toute sécurité.

Pour savoir comment obtenir votre carte de con-

ducteur d'embarcation de plaisance, communiquez avec un fournisseur de cours agréé ou visitez le www.securitenautique.gc.ca.



ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE DU PLAN CONJOINT DE L'OFFICE DES PRODUCTEURS DE BOIS DU PONTIAC

AVIS DE CONVOCATION

À tous les propriétaires de boisés visés par le plan conjoint des producteurs de bois du Pontiac

Nous vous invitons à participer à la 48^{ème} assemblée générale annuelle du plan conjoint des producteurs de bois du Pontiac qui se tiendra :

Date : Jeudi, le 1^{er} mai 2008
Heure : 13 h 00 Inscription
13 h 30 Début de l'assemblée
Endroit : Salle récréative, 2 rue Second, Campbell's Bay, Québec

Les sujets traités au cours de cette assemblée sont détaillés dans l'ordre du jour ci-après. Copies du procès-verbal sont disponibles au bureau ou à la porte le soir de l'assemblée annuelle.

Prenez note que les personnes doivent s'identifier et posséder une preuve récente de propriété. Ces preuves de propriété seront exigées à l'entrée. Les preuves acceptées sont l'une des suivantes :

- Compte de taxe municipale
- Acte notarié d'achat de propriété
- Certificat de pré-inscription

Article 4.1 du règlement :

Les personnes ayant un droit de vote sont : les propriétaires de quatre (4) hectares ou plus de lots boisés ; les entrepreneurs avec un contrat d'achat de coupe de bois accompagné de la facture de taxe municipale correspondante ; et dans le cas d'une corporation, le vote peut être donné à un autre pourvu qu'il ait une procuration. Chaque personne physique a le droit à seulement un vote (article 86).

ORDRE DU JOUR

1. Ouverture de l'assemblée par le président
2. Lecture et adoption de l'avis de convocation
3. Lecture et adoption des procédures d'assemblée
4. Lecture et adoption de l'ordre du jour
5. Adoption du procès-verbal de l'assemblée générale annuelle du 26 avril 2007
6. Présentation et adoption du rapport d'activités 2007
7. Présentation et adoption des états financiers de 2007
8. Nomination du vérificateur pour 2008
9. Modification réglementaire :
 - Règlement sur le paiement et la perception des contributions : ajout d'un alinéa pour que soit porté un intérêt aux prélevés et paiements dus à l'Office qui accusent un retard.
10. Certification :
 - Adoption d'une politique d'aménagement durable
11. Outil de mise en marché :
 - Création d'un fonds forestier des Producteurs de bois du Pontiac
12. Les résolutions
13. Invités spéciaux
14. Élection des administrateurs :
Régions : No 2 : les cantons de Bristol et de Clarendon ainsi que le village de Shawville;
No 4 : les cantons unis de Leslie-Clapham-Huddersfield;
No 6 : les villages de Campbell's Bay et de Fort-Coulonge, les cantons unis de Mansfield et Pontefract et de Waltham et Bryson et le canton de Litchfield (partie haute);
No 8 : municipalité de Cayamant.
15. Varia
16. Tirage
17. Levée de l'assemblée



OFFRE D'EMPLOI

Secrétaire réceptionniste

Responsabilités

- Assurer la réception téléphonique et l'accueil des clients
- Répondre aux demandes d'information par téléphone et courriel
- Faire la gestion documentaire et les recherches d'information
- Coordonner la tenue des rencontres
- Procéder au dépeuplement du courrier, photocopies et télécopies
- Procéder aux commandes d'approvisionnement en fournitures et services généraux
- Assumer toutes autres tâches connexes

Exigences

- Minimum de 3 années d'expérience dans un poste similaire
- Bilinguisme obligatoire (français/anglais)
- Maîtrise de la communication orale et écrite
- Grande autonomie, grande facilité d'adaptation, professionnalisme et flexibilité
- Connaissances étendues des logiciels Ms Office
- Contribuer à la vie d'équipe

Conditions

Poste contractuel 1 an renouvelable (temps plein)
La rémunération sera établie selon l'expérience, les qualifications et l'échelle salariale en vigueur.
Entrée en fonction : 5 mai 2008

Les candidatures doivent être soumises avant midi le 18 avril 2008

Offre d'emploi - Secrétaire réceptionniste
Centre local de développement (CLD) du Pontiac
C.P. 580, 602, Route 301, Campbell's Bay (Québec) J0X 1K0
Téléphone : 819-648-5689 - Télécopieur : 819-648-2866
Courriel : clcd@mrcpontiac.qc.ca

Veuillez prendre note que seules les personnes qualifiées seront invitées à l'entrevue.



CENTRE DE LA PETITE ENFANCE 1-2-3 PICABOU CHILDCARE CENTRE APPEL D'OFFRES

DEMANDE DE SOUMISSIONS POUR LES TRAVAUX D'ENTRETIEN MÉNAGER (SANITAIRE) D'UNE OU PLUSIEURS INSTALLATIONS.

Les soumissions doivent être reçues au siège social le ou avant le 9 mai 2008 à 13h00.

Le CPE 1-2-3 Picabou ne s'engage pas à accepter ni la plus basse ni aucune des soumissions reçues.

Les copies du cahier des charges et du contrat doivent être obtenues à l'une de nos installations (voir adresses ci-bas). Les personnes intéressées à obtenir de plus amples renseignements relativement à cette demande de soumissions pourront communiquer avec Renée Lance, Directrice générale (au siège social), en composant le (819) 683-3333 poste 21 ou avec une coordonnatrice en se présentant à l'une de nos installations.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

TENDERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE CLEANING SERVICES OF ONE OR MORE INSTALLATIONS.

Tenders must be received at the Head Office on or before May 9, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

1-2-3 Picabou Childcare Centre does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any of the tenders received.

Copies of the book of duties and the contract must be obtained at one of our installations (see addresses below).

Persons interested in obtaining further information on this request for tenders may call Renée Lance, Executive Director (at the Head Office), at (819) 683-3333 ext: 21 or see a Coordinator at one of our installations.

Installation de Campbell's Bay Tél: (819) 648-5545

Coordonnatrice: Jenna Pilon
166, rue Front, Campbell's Bay

Siège social / Head Office et
Installation de Mansfield Tél: (819) 683-3333 poste : 23

Coordonnatrice: Sally Stewart
242, rue Lévesque, Mansfield J0X 1V0

Installation de Chapeau Tél: (819) 689-5000

Coordonnatrice: Pauline Lanoix
30, rue Rochon, Isle-aux-Allumettes



Le Parc Leslie cherche à combler les postes suivants :
Gardienn(e) de nuit. Gardienn(e) de plage certifié. Commis(s) (e) de bureau. Entretien général.

Le bilinguisme serait considéré comme un atout.

Les C.V., avec références, peuvent être postés à la C.P. 509, Otter Lake, Québec, J0X 2P0. La date limite de postulation est le 25 avril 2008.



Leslie Park is now accepting applications with reference and bilingualism an asset for the following positions ...
Night Watchman. Certified Life Guard. Office Clerk. General Maintenance.

All resumes can be mailed to Box 509, Otter Lake, Quebec J0X 2P0. Cut off date for applications will be April 25th, 2008.

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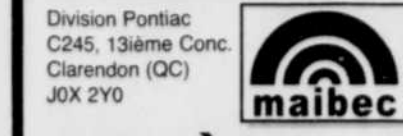
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responsable des
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Cell.: 819-661-2766

Before any deliveries or further
information, please call:
Sylvain Garneau, Wood
Procurement Supervisor
Tél.: 819-647-5959 ext.31
Cell.: 819-661-2766

NOTAIRE - NOTARY

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

Manoir Mansfield
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Notaires & conseillers juridiques
Notaries & legal counsels

Me Mireille Alary
malary@gipl.qc.ca
131A, rue Victoria, CP 569, Shawville (QC) J0X 2Y0
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Big cheque for the hospital



The final tally was added up and the result was \$5,732 raised from the Irish Stew supper held at the Jack Graham Bristol Community Centre in honour of former mayor Jack Graham, held last month. The stew and an auction raised the amount, which will go towards the dialysis project at the Pontiac Hospital Centre. At the cheque presentation was Graham's widow, Charlene Graham (holding cheque, left); River View Inn owners Viola Walsh and Robert Menard, who prepared the Irish Stew supper; Greg Hayes of the Pontiac Hospital Foundation (holding cheque, right) and the members of Bristol's municipal council.

Sheenboro

Myrtle Sullivan 689-2236
Happy birthday to Ellen Hynes my great-granddaughter who turned three on April 6. She is the daughter of Jason and Fiona Hynes in Scotland.
Get well wishes to Father

Tate who underwent open heart surgery on Friday, April 4. I hope he is feeling better soon. I'm afraid this will create changes to our masses because now Father Holly is the only priest for four parishes.
I had a nice long call from Mrs. Pearl Fleury's sister, Jean and we talked about when we went to school.
Happy birthday to

Marcella Crozon Smith who also celebrated on April 6. I hope she had a great day!
My daughter Betty went with my son Jim and his wife Ellie to visit Lornie who is still in the hospital.
I had a nice chat with Ella Gagnon who is in the hospital the other day.
I hope everyone has a great week. I sure am glad to have the warmer weather.

Vinton

Diane Boisvert 648-5296
T's Bar had Upstream Dave (Dave Walker) playing on Sunday afternoon. What an entertainer. He played all the favourite tunes of the customers. While I was working there I met Beverly and Frank Quinn from Cavan Township near Peterborough. They are related to the Quinns in Vinton and also the Daleys. Frank has been doing research on his relatives and he and his wife will be travelling to Ireland this Fall. Hope you find the family information you need.
Happy birthday wishes go out to Hilda

Mayhew, Billy Fenton April 9, Sonny Quinn April 10, Chris Sauriol April 11, Mary King, Kerry Ann Alexander and Danny Miller on April 14.
Finally the snow is disappearing and the robins are back. It was sure nice to be able to sit outside and enjoy the sunshine once again. Now it's clean up the yard time. Then comes preparing the gardens and getting the lawnmowers and tillers out.
Easter weekend, Diane and Jeff Eggers were at Min and Barry Belangers visiting for the weekend.
Kiki is also happy that spring is here. Rat's cat is back on her hunting ritual and feeling good about bringing home her treasures to show off to her master.
Remember your blue boxes tomorrow.

Grandparents Theresa and Barry Harkins and Karen and Brian Henderson are tickled pink!
Congratulations are extended to Isabelle de Bruyn and Patrick Morin on the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Loic Gregory. He arrived on Tuesday, April 1 at the Shawville Pontiac Community Hospital. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 9 oz. and he measured 19" 5 inches. Loic is a little playmate for big brother Marius.
Babies, babies and more babies this week! Congratulations are extended to Angie Bissonnette and Gus Athanapoulos on the birth of their beautiful baby boy Nickof. He was born on Saturday, April 5 at the Pembroke Regional Hospital. Nickof weighed in at 9 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 22 inches long. He is the third grandson for Sheila and Victor Bissonnette.
Wasn't that a beautiful spring weekend that we had

Waltham

Helen Perry 689-2652 jacobg42@hotmail.com
This past week Jennifer and Victor Adam became the new owners of the Waltham Grocery. Congratulations and we wish you all the best in your new endeavor. Lorna and Frankie Turner have retired from the business. We wish Lorna and Frankie many years of health and happiness and may you both pursue the many activities that are dear to your heart especially fishing!
Congratulations are extended to Lindsay (nee Harkins) and Shawn Henderson on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Jaycie. She was born on Monday, March 31 at the Pembroke Regional Hospital. She weighed in at 5 lbs. 14 oz. and measured 17 1/2 inches. She is so tiny!

Remove tree guards or burlap winter protection from any young trees or shrubs. Try not to leave tree guards in place over the summer. They keep rabbits and mice from nibbling on tender bark over the winter, but trees don't need them in summer. They don't allow enough air movement around the base of the trunk and that can promote rot of the bark.
Transplant any existing shrubs you want to move before they begin to leaf out.
Apply dormant oil spray to fruit trees, magnolias, crabapples and shrubs such as euonymus to control scale insects and other overwintering pests. Use this organic pest control method when the buds are swelling but the leaves haven't opened yet. Apply when temperatures are between 40 and 70 degrees F (4-21 degrees C).
Get your lawn mower checked and blades sharpened if you didn't get the job done in late winter. Sharp blades cut better and leave your lawn grass healthier.
Early spring garden jobs: In the flower garden Don't be in a rush to remove winter mulch or to cut back evergreen plants such as lavender until temperatures are reliably warm. Freeze and thaw cycles over the winter may have given some of your plants the heave-ho. Replant any perennials that the frost has heaved out of the ground as soon as you can.
Cut back the previous season's dead plant material. Clean up old perennial foliage from last season (trimmings can go into the compost). Cut back ornamental grasses. Remove winter protection of mounded earth from roses. Prune rose bushes before they start to leaf out.
Resist the urge to start digging in your flower beds too early. You can damage the soil's structure. If you pick up a handful of soil, it should fall apart, not stick together like glue. When it's dry enough, you can start to dig beds and add compost or manure in preparation for planting.
Getting on top of the weed-

Respite Centre at 2 p.m. She had been a resident for several years.
Congratulations to Luke and Melanie Murphy on the birth of their baby daughter, Addison. She may grow up to be an EQUITY reporter later in life who knows.
Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Nicole (Laporte) Ippersiel, who passed away after a battle with cancer. Nicole had grown up in town and married her husband who was a policeman at the time. She was the sister of Bobby Laporte and his wife, Betty and family who live on our street.
It is nice to hear Terry Frost is on the mend after having the flu and bronchitis.
Birthday wishes go out to David McTiernan, Emily Belland, Alex Belland, Danny Lance, Robyn Sullivan, Christopher Black, Charleen Moore, Christopher Lloyd, Debbie Bertrand, Barb Stopa, Alyssa Lavigne, Winston Manning, Scott Laporte, Ethien Bertrand, Allison Lawn, Izac Bertrand, Stephanie Meilleur, Sara Geremian, Jean-Pierre Landry, Joanne Clarke, Cordell Dubeau, Suzanne Roberts, Brian Akitt, Sylvie Prevost, Krystal Chasles, Leonard Lance, Shelley Heaphy, Debbie Sloan, Ricky Frost, Michael O'Brien, Emily Martin, Steve Powers, Jason Gibson, Cletus Ferrigan, Dorothy Akitt, Hector Francoeur, Marion Martel, Isabella Pilon, William Billings, Sylvianne Vallee, Tyler Bertrand, Chris Theriault, Eric Pilon, Ronnie Kluge, Tim Palmer, Ryan Mac, Martha Drolet, Marielle Kluge, Hilda Mayhew, William Fenton Jr. Troy Kelly. To all of you we wish you the very best birthday ever.
Trust the CBC to muck up the World's Men Curling on T.V. Just as several years ago we didn't get to see the coverage of Jenn Hannah. We can read, in the paper, Martin has won two games. But where is the coverage?
Anniversary wishes go out to Tim and Joan Frost who celebrated on April 5. I hope you enjoyed your special day.

Campbell's Bay

Iris Smith 648-5821 iriss@personainternet.com
After being in the restaurant business for seven years and serving the customers of our town with a pleasant and smiling face for seven years Peggy's Restaurant closed on March 30. She will be missed by one and all. Good luck to her and her staff who were great as well. I wish them well in future endeavors.
The Golden Age Club held its euchre on Tuesday evening at the club room. Ladies high was won by Dorcas Sparling, second was won by Paulette Lamothe. Men's High was a multiple tie between Laurier Dumouchel, Richard Gratton and Kervyn Burman, second was a three-way tie between Perry Kluge, Lucien Dumouchel, Boyd Ebert and Tom Hearty. The Door prize was won by Richard Gratton. The 50-50 was won by Vera Mayor.
Saturday the Golden Age Club went to Fortin's Sugar Bush for a meal which was truly delicious. It was a great day and everyone came away happy. Many bought the syrup to bring home to enjoy as an extra treat.
The Pontiac Lions will hold their Annual Duck Race on Saturday, April 12. Tickets are available from any member.
Congratulations to Trina Telford, my granddaughter, who finished her French course and is now bilingual and is back at her regular job.
Congratulations to Frank and Marie Finnigan who celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. They are long time friends and I hope they can celebrate many more years together.
Deepest sympathy to Jean Louis and Daphne Auger with the death of her mother, Edna Stonely. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 12 at the Pontiac

Otter Lake

Elizabeth Hahn 453-7326
Golden Age Club euchre results for March 25: Ladies first Rosette Fleury with another perfect score of ten games, second Gisele St-Aubin. Men's first Denis Lafleur, second Michel St-Aubin. 50/50 winner was Debbie Lackey, door prize winner was Josie McCarthy. Dessert was provided by Rita Beaudoin.
Happy birthday wishes to Theresa Blaskie on March 25.
Dart League results for March 27: Ladies high score and high average, Barbara Lintell. Men's high score Jean-Paul Lafleur. Men's high average Laurier Francoeur. 50/50 winner Barbara Lintell. Door prize winner Shirley Routliffe.
A speedy recovery to Jean Maxwell (nee Sparling) who is home after having heart surgery.
Elmus King of Richmond spent the weekend in Shawville visiting with Theresa Tubman. They attended their cousin, David Zimmerling's 50th birthday party at Ladysmith T.C.R.A. also attending the birthday party was Florence Sparling, Blake Sparling and his friend Lynn of Ladysmith.
Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Mayhew were Hilda and Blake Keayes of Bells Corners, Garnet Mayhew of Osgoode and Liz Hahn.
Warmer weather is just around the corner. My daughter Patricia Russell of North Gower saw two robins on her lawn on March 29.
Golden Lake euchre results for April 1: Ladies first prize Janet Lafleur, second Rita Blaskie. Men's first Hervé Wolfe, second Byron Hodgins. Mabel Kluge and Louise Schulz provided the dessert. The ladies were also winners of the 50/50 draw (Mabel) and the door prize (Louise).
Guests for the evening were Elaine and Byron Hodgins.
Best wishes to Lionel Racine who is home again from the Shawville Hospital.
Dart league results for April 3: Ladies high score Janet Lafleur. Ladies high average, Shirley Routliffe. Men's high score Jean-Paul Lafleur. Men's high average, Michel St. Aubin. Winner of the 50/50 and the door prize was Vern Schulz.

Shawville

Lyse Lacourse 647-5932 lysie_wheezy@hotmail.com
What a beautiful spring weekend! Near the foundation of our home, crocuses, tulips and snow drops are piercing through the soil. Birds are beginning to chirp again.
Many gardeners are anxiously waiting to work in their gardens. Here are a few helpful hints: Start winter cleanup of the lawn when the grass is no longer sopping wet and planting beds stop being a sea of mud. Rake your lawn to get rid of dead growth, stray leaves, twigs and winter debris and let light and air to the soil level, encouraging the grass to grow.
Re-seed bare or damaged patches of lawn. Scratch up the soil with a rake first. Mix a shovel of soil with a couple of scoops of grass seed and spread in the patch you're fixing. Rake level and keep well watered until seeds germinate and the new grass establishes.
Remove tree guards or burlap winter protection from any young trees or shrubs. Try not to leave tree guards in place over the summer. They keep rabbits and mice from nibbling on tender bark over the winter, but trees don't need them in summer. They don't allow enough air movement around the base of the trunk and that can promote rot of the bark.
Transplant any existing shrubs you want to move before they begin to leaf out.
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Getting on top of the weed-

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