

# THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

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FREE

July 2004

## The Track gets zoned

By Bill Graham, Editor



Young supporters of the Track

After over a year of dispute, which has resulted in a divided community, the Track has finally received the zoning approval that it sought. To the surprise of many, the decision on the part of Council was unanimous. However, the new by-law covering the Track zoning issue was only read twice and not the three times needed to make it law.

The reason for this is that Council amended the original reading of the by-law and needs the approval of County for their changes. The amendment changes the previous zoning designations for the land incorporating Calabogie MotorSport Park to Rural-Exception 20 (RU-E20) and states that a motor sport track shall be the only

permitted use. This RU-E20 zoning is very specific on the meaning of a motor sport track:

“For the purposes of this subsection, a “motor sport track” shall mean a paved track, no wider than 12 meters and used for the purpose of accommodating recreational and educational motor sports including driving schools, car clubs, corporate motoring activities, promotions and vehicle demonstrations and does not include major spectator events and professional motor racing, drag racing or demolition events. Accessory facilities including parking and paved paddocks as well as buildings for administration, maintenance and track control facilities shall also be permitted. Seating areas for spectators shall be limited to facilities for no more than 125 spectators.”

When County-level approval is received—probably in September—Council will negotiate an agreement with Track owners concerning the operational standards by which the Track will be run. These will include such issues as hours of operation, noise, environmental practices and the like. Only

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## Anticipating summer



Photo: Bill Graham

## Water: We're all down stream

### Part 2 – The Road Salt Dilemma

By Richard Copeland

We Canadians apply more than five million metric tonnes of salt to our roads every year. In Ontario the number is just under two million of those tonnes. Ontario is the largest user of road salt in the country.

Road salt comes in various forms, the most commonly used varieties are calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride and ferrocyanide salts. The most commonly used among these is sodium chloride; the same one we use as table salt. From a health perspective, (regulation and concerns) most people focus on the bad taste of overly salty water, although there are some cancer studies related to salt that are underway.

However, the detrimental effects on the health of the environment are severe. Fish die, aquatic organisms die, heavy metal levels in lakes increase and roadside vegetation is damaged for as far as 50 metres from a salted road. By way of illustration, rainbow trout can only live a week with exposures of 1000 milligrams per litre (mg/L) and 10% of



Waste road salt, piled beside the Madawaska at Griffith this past February.

all aquatic life is harmed by exposures of as little as 220mg/L. The Ontario guideline for human drinking water places the salt limit at 250mg/L. Based on the past use of road salt in southern Ontario some levels of chloride concentrations could soon reach 400mg/L.

When sodium ferrocyanide is applied to a road (it is used as an anti-caking agent) the damaging effects increase, encompassing additional species of sensitive fish. In one cancer study, it was noted that “under acidic conditions, in the presence of strong sunlight, sodium

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## Gone fishing

By Bill Graham, Editor

We're going to take a little holiday from our labours in putting together the *Madawaska Highlander* for your reading. With organizing advertising, writing, editing, layout, design and attending events that we report on, a good portion of any month is absorbed. Without our contributing writers it would be an impossible task.

All this is to say that we are not publishing 'The Highlander' during the months of August and September. There is wood to be cut, solar panels to be installed and a drafty old log house to be sealed, just to name a few tasks. We will also think about how we can improve *The Highlander* and make it more relevant for our readers. If you have any suggestion, they would be welcome. We may even manage a few weeks of holiday.

We will return during the first week of October with an autumn issue of the *Highlander* and finish the calendar year with a Christmas issue. At that time we'll let you know our plans for 2005.

'Thank You' to our contributors and advertisers for their support. Without them the paper would not be possible. Finally, 'Thank You' to our readers whose positive encouragement keeps us inspired.



# The Track gets zoned

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after there is a signed agreement about these matters will Council read the by-law for a third time to make it law.

## A FULL HOUSE FOR THE DECISION

When I arrived at 6:30 p.m. at the Township office for the 7:00 p.m. July 8 Council meeting I was met by a line-up that stretched across the parking lot, by a video camera wielding reporter from CHRO-TV and by a group of children brandishing signs that read "Go Track Go". Track supporters had arrived early.

I found myself near the end of the queue with supporters of the Concerned Citizens of Calabogie (CCC). The rumours that I heard while in their company ranged from: "there will be no decision taken tonight" to: "the Track is being approved without any restrictions." Finally at 7:15 p.m. the doors were unlocked and the public began filling the Council Chambers. Only by the kindness of some people in front of me in line did I make it into the room—standing room only. Many could only watch proceedings through the two open windows in the rear of the room.

Proceedings had been delayed because County planner Jim Hutton had made a special effort to get to the meeting and

had to consult with Council before the public portion of the meeting could proceed. He said that all requirements from all levels of government had been satisfied by Calabogie MotorSports and that Council could now render a decision. The unanimous decision to approve the zoning was met by ecstatic applause by the supporters and by disappointment by members of CCC.

At the break immediately following the decision Councillor Karin Lehnhardt emphasized that, "the planning process has been satisfied but now the operational details must be settled to the satisfaction of Council." Those details will be determined by Council members, Track owners, the County planner and the Township's lawyer.

## IT'S NOT OVER YET

If there is that final reading of the by-law in September, after approval from the County and agreement about operational details, then opponents of the decision can bring the issue before the Ontario Municipal Board in appeal. That process will likely be satisfied one way or the other by Christmas. All this to say that there will be no use of the track facility before next summer.

Both sides in this dispute have provided a statement about the decision, which



The New RO interviewing ratepayers

accompanies this article. The "proof will be in the pudding", as they say. Either the fears of CCC will be realized next summer when the Track is operational

or they will not. For most of the public—they will just be happy to see this issue put to rest.

## CONCERNED CALABOGIE CITIZENS ORGANIZATION STATEMENT ABOUT TRACK DECISION

The Concerned Calabogie Citizens (CCC) Organization did not see any controls or safeguards in the documentation that was given first and second readings by our Council last night (July 8).

At this point, over 200 families in proximity to the track, as well as those beyond, do not appear to be protected.

At a previous meeting our Council passed a resolution for the Township planner to prepare a licensing by-law. We were very disappointed that NO licensing by-law, such as the Corporation of the Township of Cavan, Millbrook, North Monaghan introduced to protect their citizens, was even mentioned at this meeting. Nor will there be any temporary zoning such as the Corporation of Haldimand County implemented to shield residents affected by Toronto Motorsports Park in their area. Because of non-compliance issues, these safeguards have been helpful in these other communities.

Calabogie Motorsports Park (CMP) has made numerous presentations and given assurances about their development being "Unique" and the first to comply with noise guidelines. If they truly believe the accuracy of their own statements and reports with respect to compliance issues regarding noise affiliated with their development, then we are certain they would have no hesitation with a "licensing by-law" to prove their testimonials and their numerous statements about wanting to be a "good neighbour" in the community.

We are under the impression that our Reeve and Councillors concur with the CMP theory that there will be no adverse affects associated with this development to people of the community. While Council appeared to find the Haldimand County "temporary zoning" problematic, we feel they too should have no problem with a "licensing by-law". If there are no anticipated problems, what would be the harm?

This by-law could be instituted for worried residents, and show both **a vote of confidence by the developers in their development and their testimonials** and **Council could show due diligence for concerned people** who live in the community and could be affected by this undertaking.

Until safeguards have been passed, at this point, it would appear that our Council has given CMP a "blank cheque".

James Henderson, Chairman

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## Part 2 – The Road Salt Dilemma

Continued from page 1

ferrocyanide is known to break down, generating toxic cyanide forms, including hydrogen cyanide." As plant species die or are poisoned and as lakes are prevented from distributing oxygen and nutrients – then serious problems arise in the food chain. In addition, since road salt is also a dietary salt source for wildlife, there is an increasing risk of road kills as animals venture onto highways to seek it out.

Although damage to the environment is the most worrisome impact from road salt, it also causes damage to property and infrastructure. It has been calculated that the cost of the damage to vehicles, roads, bridges and vegetation is about 15 times the cost of the salting procedure. In 2001 the cost of salting roads, excluding labour, was about \$50- \$65 per tonne.

### FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE

This said, there are real safety benefits in salting roads during winter. The most challenging problem is balancing the negative impacts on the environment with the need for safety on our roads. There are not many of us who don't breathe a sigh of relief when we see the ploughs and salters out on the roads during a difficult winter storm.

Our long history of road salting has been justified on the interpretation of an old twentieth century adage, that being: 'the solution to pollution is dilution'. Given that the hydrological cycle does cleanse our water to some degree, we have relied on this natural process to look after the problem. As with most cases of pollution, nature can only go so far in providing a workable solution. Like any process, it gives out when overloaded, and wherever we have concentrated the salting activity (large cities, major traffic roadways, storage) we run into problems.

Environment Canada has declared road salt an environmental toxin to be regulated under the Environmental Protection Act. This does not imply a ban, but it does mean a responsibility for control. Reducing the road salt impact now requires the use of alternative treatments in environmentally sensitive areas, electronic controls on spreading equipment, embedded roadway weather information sensors and pavement friction monitoring devices to assist in determining how to optimize the salting application. Central disposal of waste snow where runoff is controlled and stockpiled road salt storage kept well away from surface and groundwater, (housed in shelters of lined



**Water tank in yard. Drinking water system replaces worn out RO System. Rain water collection system is in the background.**

floors with concrete containment and impervious roofs) will reduce the environmental impact.

Among the alternatives to currently used salts is calcium magnesium acetate (and other acetate based compounds), which are seen to exhibit lower environmental impacts but cost much more. Urea has potential as a less corrosive alternative and sand has been introduced on its own where traction is an issue on sidewalks and near sensitive areas.

The controls and alternatives are the domain of the governments we elect and it is incumbent upon them to regulate their activities with dedication and precision. For most of us in Greater Madawaska we have the advantage of wide open spaces and abundant flowing, cleansing water. However, our vehicles and structures are not immune to damage, but it should at least take longer before the accumulated effects of road salt catch up to us; unlike our city cousins.

### IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

What the future could hold is the experience of one Matawatchan family. Their experience illustrates what can happen if road salt contamination were ever to visit you. The owners of this 170 acre farm are a retired couple who bought the property for the peace and tranquility of the area and for what they thought was a pristine environment that would allow them to do some organic farming and livestock breeding.

One clue to their impending troubles could have been the more than 800 dead cedars near the low marsh area to the south of their house. But then, we all see 'dead tree' marsh areas, enough to associate it with a natural occurrence. The real awakening occurred when they stocked their pond with trout. In four weeks the trout were all belly up. Since the house was in its earliest restoration phase, the well had been untried. A quick test turned up extreme levels of road salt at 722mg/L.—undrinkable and unsafe.

Further south along this property, the township owns a salt storage shed. It should be noted that the township no longer stores salt there. A good thing,

since the movement of groundwater is from the shed location, through the lower land areas of the now polluted property. The family was about to introduce a breeding herd of cattle to the farm. But, the farm now had no potable water.

At their own cost, they installed a reverse osmosis (RO) water system. These systems, for the size required, cost about \$10,000 with a serviceable life of 4 to 6 years. One must provide the system with 3 times the water needed since two thirds is rejected in the filtering process. They run out of water frequently. They also have experienced frequent pumping and control equipment breakdowns due to over usage and salt damage. The RO system, installed four years ago, has broken down completely. It is at the end of its life cycle and the farm is now fed by a massive tank of imported water in the front yard. The tank cost thousands of dollars, which is compounded by the cost of having to refill the tank regularly.

If the farm were a public bridge, it would be repaired by now. For one family to bear the consequence of road salt pollution is an onerous situation that none of us would ever want to experience. But road salt pollution is here, and close to home. Very close.

### CALABOGIE MOTORSPORTS PARK – TRACK DECISION JULY 2004

On Thursday July 8, 2004, the Greater Madawaska Township council voted unanimously to proceed with the re-zoning application of the proposed Calabogie MotorSports Park. This unified endorsement by Council, the Planning Department, and professional staff, was the culmination of more than a year of research, studies, and extensive scrutiny.

The operating agreement with the Township of Greater Madawaska will give the local Council input into how the facility is used. The enormous and thorough amount of due diligence on the part of Council, indicates a confidence that the Road Course at Calabogie MotorSports Park will be a valued, welcomed, and very important addition to the community.

It is unfortunate that the small group opposing the facility continues to misrepresent and grossly exaggerate their claims of support for their organization. Recent claims by the CCC of a membership approaching 300 citizens were once again subject to doubt, when only a small group of less than a dozen known opponents showed up for the climactic July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Local ratepayers in support of the project filled the council chambers outnumbering those opposed by more than 7 to 1.

Calabogie Motorsports will be adhering to provincial noise guidelines via a Sound Management Plan within the Site Plan Agreement. This plan is an important component of the binding Site Plan Agreement and will be registered on title with the property.

Calabogie MotorSports has been clear, consistent, and forthcoming with all information and studies over the past year. It's time to look forward to the positive impact that it will have on the future of Calabogie and the surrounding area.

We take this opportunity to thank all residents who have taken the time to inform and educate themselves with truths, and who have offered their support over the past year. As always we welcome any questions about the facility. Information is available on our website [www.CalabogieMotorSports.com](http://www.CalabogieMotorSports.com), or at 752-1252.

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**Contact us!**  
Your comments and story ideas are welcome



# THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

## Living with the Track decision

Council's decision to accept the zoning proposal of Calabogie MotorSport Park (CMP), while only a first official step, points to the probable conclusion that a sports track will be operating in Calabogie by next summer.

The very public battle between Calabogie MotorSport Park and the Concerned Citizens of Calabogie (CCC) has been a long fought battle. For over a year it has dominated the agenda of every Council meeting and the pages of this paper. It could have been a classic PhD dissertation on community dynamics had there been an academic studying it.

While there will still be appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board and lobbying on the part of CCC to tighten the restriction on the Track's operations, with the acceptance of the zoning by-law, the issue is as good as resolved.

The operation of the Track during the 2005 season will provide the proof as to

whether the concerned citizens were correct in their concerns about noise and lower property values or whether their worries were unfounded.

It is now Council's job to see that CMP fulfills its promises and it is the responsibility of everyone else to back off, cool down and mend broken friendships.

After the second reading of the zoning by-law had been approved unanimously by Council, Councillor Don Mercer took the opportunity to state that he was tired of the recriminations on the part of both sides on the issue and he urged all those concerned to keep personalities out of any future discussion about the Track. Councillor Peter Emon supported Don by saying that there is: "no merit in insulting neighbours and friends, or even former friends."

As a first step in healing the rift, maybe the signs that advertise a community in conflict should come down.

pace up-stream on the Madawaska towards Griffith. In less than one hour, my craft was intercepted by the OPP water patrol. The officer was polite and after ensuring that we were complying with relevant regulations, wished us a pleasant afternoon and continued on his mission to enforce safety on the Madawaska.

On this outing, my wife and I were accompanied by a visitor from Germany who enquired about this practice of stopping people. Our subsequent discussions on the rules of the waterways did not lessen his sense of unease about law enforcement on the peaceful Madawaska and some reference was made to the once notorious Gestapo practices. After all, it's not every day that law-abiding citizens are stopped and questioned by police by virtue of simply being present.

Do the police stop every car on the highway or every motorcycle speeding on our roadways? Do the police stop every pedestrian haphazardly to question them without cause? Is the frequent presence of police on our waterways justified by the number of fatalities and criminal incidents in this area? ...and please don't use the "if it only saves one life argument".

The patrolling officer informed me that he is on the Madawaska and Ottawa riv-

## Looking Back...



Jack Miller and Highlander columnist Ernie Jukes with his car "Fast Lady" in front of the Black Donald General Store in 1953. The store is now under water.

## Important notice to local businesses

As you probably know, the Ministry of Environment (MOE) is implementing a regulation that requires community and business establishments whose water supply is available to the general public to make significant changes to their private wells.

The required changes are potentially crippling to business, to the community and to the Ontario tourism economy. The capital cost to rural business of implementation and testing is currently being assessed, in part through the Economic Impact survey available on the website of [Wellsafe.net](http://Wellsafe.net), an organization supported by Ontario Tourism groups, including the Ottawa Valley Tourism Association (OVTA).

To their knowledge, the government has never conducted an Economic Impact study of how this regulation will affect Ontario Tourism, how it will impact the ability of B&Bs to continue to provide accommodations, how it will affect restaurants, churches, campgrounds, community groups and others; how it will impact employment, tax revenues and

perhaps the very survival of entire rural communities.

The online web-survey, located at [www.wellsafe.net](http://www.wellsafe.net), is an independent effort to gather statistical information for the purpose of assessing the Economic Impact that Drinking Water Systems Regulation 170/03 is likely to have on Ontario's Tourism infrastructure.

**If you own or operate a business, service or community facility of ANY kind that serves the public and relies on its own source of water, then this regulation directly affects you.**

The Ministry of Environment will consider this survey information if at least 1,000 responses are obtained. The OVTA is encouraging its members and all effected businesses with concerns about the water legislation to complete the 10-minute survey. Visit [www.wellsafe.net](http://www.wellsafe.net), then go to "Complete the Survey" and "Request Survey Link."

ers as well as the larger lakes in Renfrew County from May until September. In light of all other policing priorities, can the expense of tax-payer dollars for these regular police patrols be justified? One often hears people say, "Where's the police when you need one?" Are they out boating? Do these constant patrols provide a needed public service or is it part of a revenue generation program?

Unfortunately, boaters don't seem to appreciate these law-enforcement efforts and most appear to feel intimidated and

harassed by police tactics. The impact of such frequent police presence is probably highly successful. The crime wave on our waterways has greatly diminished to the point of being non-existent.

However, the impact on their police image has not been enhanced and I would venture to say that their Public Relations image has suffered as a result.

One can almost hear the whispering of boaters echoing in the mists of the Madawaska Highlands: "Back off government! Let us live in peace!"

## VIEWPOINT

By J.P. De Grandmont

### CRIME WAVE ON THE MADAWASKA

The Ontario Provincial Police have a dedicated squad of officers patrolling the waterways of Renfrew County to enforce water safety rules. The high speed police boat intercepts boats on our waterways and officers request that safety equipment be produced and ensures that there are no open liquor containers in the craft and that the operator is sober.

I have heard numerous comments from people about the seeming omnipresence of these police water patrols. Rumours include a report of one person being stopped more than half a dozen times during the course of last summer, and American fishing tourists feeling harassed by this heavy police presence in pristine wilderness areas. I have also heard that some people only boat when they know the police are not on the water and that some have actually sold their boats because of their objection to being stopped too often for no reason.

I looked forward to observing this phenomena first hand. On a sunny Sunday afternoon, I launched my boat at the cement bridge launch site on Centennial Lake Road and motored at a leisurely



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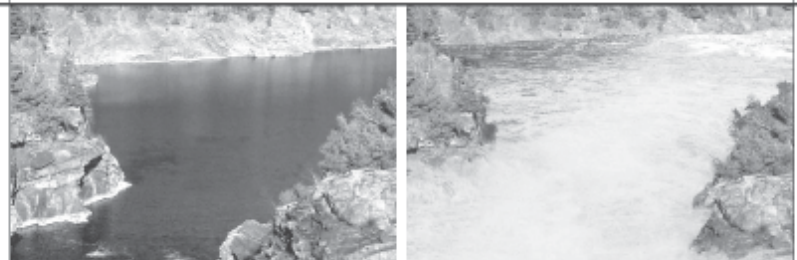
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# How Does Your Garden Grow?

By Audrey Copeland

You may have heard that some gardeners plant by the moon and you may have wondered about it or felt intrigued by that concept. At least that is how I felt when I first heard about the idea (many moons ago!). We are all well aware of the cycles of nature and the influence of the moon on the tides and even on horoscopes and astrology, where some believe our behaviour and moods are affected by the planetary forces. Why not plants, I thought! After scouring organic gardening books and magazines, (this is before the computer age), I did come across a companion planting book that mentioned the word "bio-dynamic". But I had no idea what that meant and there was no mention of the moon and the stars, until I moved to Matawatchan three years ago and came across two books. One, by Maria Thun, called 'Gardening for Life' and the other 'The Biodynamic Way and a Biodynamic Farm for growing wholesome food' by Hugh Lovel.

What a wealth of information! I'm just beginning to scratch the surface of putting into action many of the suggestions for planting, composting, cultivating and making special preparations to improve the soil, and assisting plants in their resistance to pests and disease—all without the use of artificial fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides. It is fascinating reading and I can share a few little gems that you may also find useful.

## Rudolph Steiner and bio-dynamic gardening

First though, we need to acknowledge where all this began in the western world. (I'm sure these concepts were practiced by ancient civilizations over three thousand years ago!) Biodynamic agriculture, which is a "holistic" system of farming, grew out of the investigations of Rudolph Steiner, a German philosopher and scientist in the early part of the last century. After being consulted by local farmers who had been noticing a loss of vitality in their land, crops and seeds, Steiner developed a series of eight lectures, which summarized his views and concepts relating to farming and which became the basis for bringing life back to their land. His course emphasized viewing each farm as a living individual within a living earth and universe; acknowledging that the earth is a living organism that breathes and is influenced by the forces of the universe.

### Is it a root day or a fruit day?

We find it easy to understand the effects of the sun on the growth of our plants but in bio-dynamic practices, the rhythms of the planets – Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Nep-

tune and Pluto, are also significant. Remember that these celestial bodies are also moving through the twelve constellations of the zodiac. Add to this the movements of the moon in relation to the sun, the earth to the stars. Amazing findings have resulted from the effects of the universe out there, on the plants here.

The protein, fat, carbohydrate and salt content of plants have been scientifically shown to be affected, as well as the nitrogen content of the soil and its availability to plants. It was found that seed germination and plant growth were influenced by the positioning of the planets and that certain parts of a plant did better at particular times and that the cultivation and harvesting times could enhance or nullify beneficial properties. The studies were able to show patterns and consequently favourable times for the planting or harvesting of the various plant types could also be predicted.

### The categories of plant types are:

- **Root**, (e.g. carrots, beets, onions, turnips, etc.),
- **Leaf**, (asparagus, lettuces, herbs, like parsley, sage, thyme, and cabbage family except broccoli),
- **Flower**, (broccoli, and all flowers),
- **Fruit**, (beans, peas, corn, tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumber, grain and cereals).

Because we all can't be astrologers or scientists, a calendar was developed to provide guidance about which days the earth and planetary forces affect which category of plants. Consequently, the calendar has Root, Leaf, Fruit and Flower days. That means you would plant or transplant, cultivate, hoe or harvest that particular category on that day and not touch the other plants until it's "their turn"—the one exception being the harvesting of Leaf vegetables being kept for winter. They need to be harvested on a Flower day.

### Here is a sample breakdown for the month of August, 2004, EST:

- Root:** Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> until 5 p.m.
- Flower:** Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. until Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon
- Leaf:** Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2 p.m. until Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.
- Fruit:** Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. until Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.
- Root:** Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. until Aug. 10 at midnight
- Flower:** Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> until Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.
- Leaf:** Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. until Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.
- Fruit:** Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> at noon until Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 a.m.
- Root:** Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 a.m. until Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>



- at 6 a.m. and between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Flower:** Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. until Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1 a.m.
- Leaf:** Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> at 3 a.m. until Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> at 4 a.m.
- Fruit:** Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 a.m. until Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.
- Root:** Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. until Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> at 3 a.m.
- Flower:** Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> at 5 a.m. until Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 p.m.
- Leaf:** Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> at 11p.m. until Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m.

Other interesting information coming out of Maria Thun's book tells us that during the early part of the day forces stream up from below the earth's surface, which is why lettuce harvested then stays fresh longer. In the afternoon and evening, forces stream down into the roots from above, so that is the best time to harvest root crops. It is not a good idea to harvest anything at midday.

In the morning the soil exhales, so if we hoe (not more than 3 c.m. in depth) in the morning, this enables soil that is too moist to breathe out some of its excess moisture. In the evening the soil inhales

and hoeing at that time helps a soil that is too dry in absorbing moisture from the atmosphere.

The position of the moon in November enhances the flower bulbs that are planted on a Flower day. It is also the best time to spread manure on your garden.

This is only a fraction of the material gleaned from Maria Thun's book, which is extremely easy to follow and to grasp. If you would like to know where to get the calendar for the year or learn more about bio-dynamic gardening, I would be happy to hear from you. You can reach me at [racopeland@northcom.net](mailto:racopeland@northcom.net)

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## A SPECIAL VALLEY WITHIN A VALLEY

By Ernie Jukes

Not all that long ago it used to be the sweeping rush of the log drives carrying black spruce and white pine down it's tributaries to the Ottawa was the most exciting occupation a man could have. There are stories galore of the camboose camps and the endurance of these hardy woodsmen and river men, cutting and skidding logs to the river's shores to await the spring run off. The broad mixture of these men unknowingly developed a rich dialect. It was partly Gaelic, Polish, Native and French; all influencing the "Valley" language—its vocabulary and accent.

Interesting communities dot our forested land of lakes, rivers and rolling hardwood hills we now call the Madawaska Valley. We can travel the same waterways as those great river men of yesterday and the French explorers before them. It is known that Champlain travelled the Ottawa in the early 1600s. Even earlier Étienne Brulé, the first "coureur de bois" with his natives, could have paddled the Bonnechere (faire bonnechere" means to make good cheer) and quite probably the Madawaska.

Both the names of Madawaska and our local village of Matawatchan may be derived from the name of a tribe met by Brule and Champlain. They called it

"Mataouachita". Later "Calabogie" came from a Gaelic description "Calladh Bogaidh" which means "marshy shore", but no one seems to know what the peculiar expression "Calabogie and she shook her wooden leg" refers to. Much later Col.Griffith a commander at Balaclava, site of a major battle during the Crimean War left two village names to our valley, Khartum was the other.

Camel Chute has always been a very odd name but when explained, it was simply a map maker's error. Evidently when the surveyor stopped in 1846 at "Campbell's Chute" he asked a local logger the location's name and in our

valley dialect it came out sounding like "Camel" Chute and it has stuck ever since. Now who knows what's behind Vennachar, Opeongo, Denbigh or some of the other valley villages?

Our portion of the ancient Canadian Shield still offers spectacular scenery and the Madawaska Valley still depends on logging, along with mixed farming. We can enjoy hunting and fishing as our forefathers did along these same waterways and in these same hills. It's a special place, a special valley within a valley, so be proud and help protect it for the future and our grandchildren's future.

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# GRIFFITH-MATAWATCHAN NEWS

By Garry Ferguson

## Fish and Game Club

The annual lets-get-together-at-the-Holleran-spread-and-congratulate-our-members Pig Roast, scheduled for July 31, has been postponed. Cliff Holleran, one of the main movers and shakers behind the event, will be in the Heart Institute for a valve job. The "Roast" just wouldn't be the same without his "twisted" version of a golf tournament, so the date has been changed to September 04, 04.

To complicate matters even further, another club dynamo, Pat Holleran (the power behind Cliff the mover and shaker) shattered her leg. The official version of the mishap is that she stepped into a hole and fell. This happened after she stopped at a yard sale during the return trip from a wedding in Napanee. Rumors, however, (unofficial of course) say that the injury resulted from her determined efforts to kick ceiling lights out of some social hall in Napanee. At the time of this writing, Pat is holed up in the Ottawa Civic awaiting an operation to repair the extensive damage. Unfortunately, the place is so big that Cliff has already given up hope of ever finding her again without the aid of a GPS. Perhaps the Hollerans should take a another gander at the Old Testament's Book of Job to get some ideas on how the old boy dealt with his many afflictions.

The Fish and Game Club has arranged a Hunter Safety and Canadian Firearms Course beginning Friday, September 10 at six p.m. It will continue, during the day, on Saturday and Sunday. For details, refer to the latest club bulletin or call club president Karen Gaulin at 333 - 1206.

## Music Night

The third in a series of music nights (concerts) is scheduled for seven p.m., Saturday, July 31, 04 at the Vennachar Free Methodist Church. The first, at St. Andrew's United in Matawatchan and the second, at Hilltop Tabernacle, attracted a considerable number of people. Though most of the music is gospel, these non-denominational occasions are not meant to be religious services but rather a fun evening of music where the audience may sing along to old favorites, stomp, clap, wave or all of the above. Since this is the Madawaska Valley, no gathering - joyful or otherwise - is ever over until lunch is served. The music nights are no exception. A tentative date of Saturday, August 28, 04 has been set for the fourth gathering which will take place back at St. Andrew's United In Matawatchan. Everyone is welcome, so watch for posters at all local stores and businesses in the area.

## Denbigh-Griffith Lions

Without any of the excruciating fuss we recently endured just to elect a gang to run our affairs in Ottawa, the Denbigh-Griffith (I wonder what happened to Matawatchan) Kitty-Cat Club has already come up with a new executive for the next year. Imagine the pain if we'd had to witness the *Federales* fill positions with titles like Lion Tamer (Dearl Malcolm) or Tail Twister (Don Wilkes and Rowena Reynolds).

Some non-Lion (civilian) members of the community seem to harbor a mental picture of Dearl maintaining order with a whip and a barstool. Don and Rowena would be called in whenever he failed. Readers who've been considering joining up should not be deterred by such

rumors though, because our investigative staff at the *Madawaska Highlander* is pretty sure that this is not the way it works. Just dial 333 - 5177 and Membership Chair Jean Fong will gladly usher you into The Pride.

The incoming executive is as follows: Past President, Terry Holtzhauer, President, Gary Peters, First Vice, Joe Kleiboer, Second Vice, Erwood

Reynolds, Treasurer, Mary McKinnon, Secretary, Ruby Malcolm.

One of the many important local projects for the year will be the annual installment of \$5000.00 toward the \$25,000.00 pledged to the Renfrew Victoria Hospital. They'll need a lot of help.

### DID YOU KNOW...

Since 1972, some 64 million tons of aluminum cans (about 3 trillion cans) have been produced. Placed end-to-end, they could stretch to the moon about a thousand times. Cans represent less than 1% of solid waste material.

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## Denbigh Checking In !!!

By Evelyn Inwood

Well, here we are into July - half way through the summer!! The weather at times is just beautiful and other times the sun is so hot and burny, that we realize we really do need to use the sunscreen to protect our skin from possible future skin cancer.

How are your gardens growing? We need the rain - rain to make the seeds germinate and rain to keep them growing!!!

### WE REALLY DID RECEIVE THE RAIN JULY 15!!!

Have you noticed any animals coming to push over your composter? According to a letter from The Ministry of Natural Resources, raccoons may prove

to be an animal to watch, due to the spread of 'Raccoon Rabies' into Ontario, although their map shows we ARE NOT in the HIGH RISK area. More info and a map may be obtained from the Ministry at the following address:

Ministry of Natural Resources,  
Peterborough District Office,  
P.O. Box 7000, 300 Water Street,  
Peterborough, Ont. K9J 8M5  
Telephone: (705) 755-2001  
Fax: (705)755-3125

### NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

Summer School: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
North Addington Education Centre  
Cloyne, Ontario

Faye Mieske, the bus driver, drove the bus to the Centre, for the month of July

to help pupils who had been offered the opportunity to do further study, in the Summer School Classes.

### NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The T.D. Library Summer Reading Program - "Dragons Fire up Your Mind" will be completed on July 29.

The program was carried out by Librarian: Sandra Lloyd and Board Members: Mary McKinnon and Jeanette Scott.

Each Thursday, the children have enjoyed the story time and the craft-making, which followed each time.

A Library Open House is planned for early September.

### New Books: Ready for you to enjoy:

1. Yours until Dawn - (Medeiros, Teresa)
2. Blood & Gold: A Ralph Compton

- Novel, (West, Joseph)
3. Gunsmith # 272 - (Roberts, J.R.)
4. Longarm #309 - (Evans, Tabor)
5. Slocum #306 - (Logan, Jake)
6. Trailsman # 274 - (Sharpe, Jon)
7. The Wild Bunch - (Coolidge, Dana)
8. The perfect Husband - (Jones, Aphrodite)
9. Danderous Girls #1- (Stine, R.L.)
10. Beach Girls - (Rice, Luanne)
11. Children's Hour, (Willet, Marcia)
12. Dale Brown's Dreamland: Armageddon - (Brown, Dale), and many more.

### DID YOU KNOW...

There are more than 600 million telephone lines today, yet almost half the world's population has never made a phone call.



# Greater Madawaska Literary Matters

By Mary-Joan Hale

When the sun is shining, the cicadas are playing their tunes, a gentle breeze is wafting over you, and the time is ripe for a good book, the Library offers something for all interests and ages. You can even pick up books-on-tape to pop into the old Walkman as you drive, jog, cycle or power walk. Come in to the Library to cool off, get some reading materials and check your email on one of our high-speed machines.

We have access to some on-line research databases as well as CD search tools. A list of children's web pages is being compiled for internal or home use.

Mom and Dad can get a break for a short while on Tuesday mornings, when the kids drop in to one of the two children's programmes. Nine-thirty a.m. is for pre-schoolers and 11:00 a.m. is for 6 to 12 year-olds.

It is not too late to send in the surveys mailed out last month by the Township office. In order for the Recreation and Senior's Residence committees, and the Library Board to become aware of your needs and wishes in these areas, they need your suggestions to help plan for the future. Put down your thoughts and send them in. The Township and the future belong to you!

Recently several celebrities have announced their diagnosis of Prostate Cancer in an effort to encourage others to seek PSA testing. We have a book-on-tape discussing this condition. It was produced by a support group and provided to our library for your use. Early diagnosis is beneficial in the treatment

of this particular cancer.

## SOME OLDIES, SOME NEWBIES

- The grapes of wrath by John Steinbeck,
- Time's witness by Michael Malone,
- The kidnapping of a president by Charles Templeton,
- The last juror by John Grisham,
- Firefly Summer / Echoes (Two novels in one) by Maeve Binchy,
- Crimson by Shirley Conran,
- The Beothuk saga by Bernard Assiniwi,
- Hungry as the sea by Wilbur Smith,
- The hundred secret senses by Amy Tan, and,

## IDEAS FOR SUMMER READING FOR KIDS

First, find a comfortable place to sit and relax. We have a wonderful Snuggle-Up-and-Read area in the library. You may have a comfy chair, gazebo, old gnarled tree, swing-set, anything, where you can be together to share. Choose something age-appropriate and get reading. If you start young enough, (I read to mine before they were born), they will be comfortable with books and learn to sit still and listen. Soon, they will recognize the words and be able to recite them back to you. Don't ever try to skip a page, or they will notice! Ask questions about the illustrations, content and see if they know what is coming next. Parents know that favourite books are requested over and over again. What adult cannot recite 'Green eggs and ham' backwards? Do not be surprised if they bring a book home from the library or school that they already have in their own bookcase. It's a favourite. After a

couple of times, suggest that since they own one, someone else might wish to borrow the library copy and I can guarantee, they will be happy to share. Watch for suggested titles in the next issue, but in the meantime, come and see the many new and oldies-but-goodies we have to offer.

## SUMMER HOURS:

- Monday: 12:00 noon - 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: Closed
- Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
- Sunday: Closed

Email: [mjhale@post.library.on.ca](mailto:mjhale@post.library.on.ca)

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## Now a poem from the collection of Ruby Malcolm

**\*\* Mud Puddles — Very Good \*\***

Big Mud Puddles and Sunny Yellow Dandelions.

When I look at a patch of dandelions, I see a bunch of weeds that are going to take over my yard.

*My kids see flowers for Mom and blowing white fluff you can wish on.*

When I hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm so I sit self-consciously and listen.

My kids feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know them, they make up their own.

When I pray, I say thee and thou and grant me this and that.

My kids say "Hi God! Thanks for my toys and my friends.

Please keep the bad dreams away to-night.

Sorry, I don't want to go to heaven yet. I would miss my Mommy and Daddy!!

When I see a mud puddle, I step around it, I see muddy shoes and dirty carpets. My kids sit in it. They see dams to build, rivers to cross, and worms to play with.

I wonder if we are given kids to teach or to learn from. No wonder God loves little children.

"Enjoy the 'little' things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the "big" thing."

I wish you **big** Mud Puddles and **sunny** Yellow Dandelions!!!

*"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away"*

Take care of yourselves.

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# Kilts and Tartans

By Garry Ferguson

I've never had trouble believing the thing about what's *not* under kilts. For the desperately poor Highland Scottish clansmen, bloomers wouldn't have been a priority wardrobe item, even if they'd had a Giant Tiger just down the glen. It was the kilt itself that didn't ring true. The Highlanders, in their inhospitable environment, would have come up with something more practical just to survive. I also thought it *unlikely* that the plant dyes available would provide the multitude of colours we see in tartan catalogues. I came across a book, *Scotland and Her Tartans* by Alexander Fulton, which confirmed my suspicions but, sorry to say, exploded a lot of the myths on which I'd been weaned.

Canadians who have ended up with a clan name usually have some interest in kilts and tartans. Though the place that was home to those clans is foreign to us, our names entitle us to membership in a, now international clan, and to identify with its plaid - like the Ferguson plaid shirt that hangs somewhere in my closet.

## THE ANCIENT CLANSMEN'S GARMENT

I envisioned something pretty lean in the crotch when I came to the paragraph on the ancient clansmen's garment called a *leine-chroich*. Made me think of our fleece-lined combinations after our mother had boiled them for an hour on the old Findlay stove. When it became apparent that this frock was a loose kind of shirt that extended below the knee, like a mini moomoo, my bout of phantom male itch faded. I can imagine a few wind-burned cheeks, but it must have been pretty comfortable.

This, in time, gave way to the *feileadh mor* (big wrap), a huge blanket of cloth, which was the plaid. To dress, the Highlander lay down on it and wrapped it around himself, fastening a belt round his middle to keep the thing together. I didn't find this manoeuvre that unusual since I thrash around in a similar fashion to get my pants on in the morning. When all the rolling around had been completed, the wearer stood up and draped the top half around his torso. The garment could be pulled over one's head, in cold weather, or used as a sleeping bag.

I got to wondering why this handy apparel had gone the way of the corset, considering the savings on bed clothes and pajamas - not to mention pain inflicted through the careless use of zippers on trousers. As I read on, I understood why and thanked God for Giant Tiger. It seems that the wool, from which the plaid was made, was soaked in human urine to remove the grease and to act as a fixing agent for the colours. My

hunch is that a certain vulgarity, now used extensively in English, was coined when some clansman had to be reminded how to soak wool.

It's easy enough to believe that "the little kilt" came from this garment, but the version recorded in Fulton's book is enough to rupture a haggis. It'll probably bring on a few strokes in Scottish traditionalists or even the Lowlanders and other nationalities that play wannabees by prancing around in kilts on Robbie Burns Day. The clans threw a rebellion in 1715 and another in 1719 providing a plot for the movie *Rob Roy*. The British Government didn't consider the creation of such movie material quite cricket, so they appointed a General George Wade as Commander-in-Chief, Scotland, to keep the "savages" in order.

The General couldn't find anyone who needed killing right away so he passed the time by building roads throughout the Highlands. This opening up of the region had industrial as well as military applications. One of the first to take advantage of this opportunity was an ironmaster, Thomas Rawlinson, from Lancashire, England. In 1727 he established a foundry, at Invergarry, to be worked by men of Clan MacDonell on whose territory it was situated.

Rawlinson soon realized that the plaid was not very well suited to cutting down trees and stoking furnaces. It must have been akin to mud wrestling in an evening dress. Consequently, the ironmaster had a tailor, named Parkinson whip up a little something that was more appropriate for the occasion. He created the modern kilt by separating the bottom half of the plaid and sewing the pleats to hold them in place. The invention became a hit.

## G'AWAE WI' YE, YE WEE BEASTIE

"G'awae wi' ye, ye wee beastie," I gasped. (Highlanders spoke Gaelic, but since I'd learned only *leine-chroich* in that language, I used the Scottish accent I'd picked up from watching *Royal Canadian Airfarce*) But, there it was. Fulton just had to go blab it. An Englishman, he claimed, had invented the kilt.

I have no historical evidence, but it's quite possible that another widely used expression "Up yer kilt," originated when this news got out.

"At least he made them out of clan tartans that has been around forever," I sneered. "What about all those romantic stories—Walter Scott and all that stuff?" I sneered again.

Well, I soon learned that "tartan" isn't a



Highland word and Scotty was a Lowlander. Wally acknowledged that Lowlanders had never worn plaid or had distinctive tartans though he may have designed a tartan, now associated with Clan Scott, for use as his personal plaid.

## FULTON HAS NO MERCY

Before I could recover, Mr. Fulton delivered the knockout punch. A company in Edinburgh seems to have been the creator of quite a number of tartans, but two English brothers, named Allen, were in a league all their own. They went

through several name changes to appear Scottish, finally ending up with the moniker of Stuart in order to pass themselves off as descendants of Bonnie Prince Charlie. In 1842, these rascals published a book containing 75 tartans in full colour, most of them new even to the clans to which they were said to belong. They even created a significant number for Lowlanders. It doesn't matter that the pair was eventually exposed as phonies when their schemes became ridiculous. The work itself was a fake but nearly all the tartans became accepted and are still worn, as appropriate patterns, by clans and families.

Whether true or false, I'm not sure, but in spite of the ensuing trauma, I did manage to hang on to one conviction at least. It's about what they *don't* wear under the kilt. As for the Ferguson plaid shirt, I've never been able to find anything at Giant Tiger to go with it anyway.

### DID YOU KNOW...

In 1870 there were more Irish living in London than in Dublin.

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# Real Estate 201

By David Lester

**Editors Note:** David Lester is a Real Estate Broker with a Brokerage office located in Calabogie. David has previously published articles on your property valuations as well as last month's article called Real Estate 101. This is the second in a series of columns on what you need to know about Real Estate.

The world has changed since the Internet. Now I know that's simplistic to a fault, however, it has so upset the Real Estate business, that there are profound changes taking place. The old model just isn't functioning as it once did.

In the old days (when my Mother was a broker in Ottawa in the mid 1970s & 80s and before even PCs were invented), clients who wanted to buy had to visit a Brokerage in order to "find out" what was available on the market. The Brokerage was the only source of that information. Life was good, life was simple.

Welcome to today .... Now the MLS listings are posted on the Internet worldwide so the necessity of needing an agent to know what's available is diminished. Not eliminated for sure, but for those who wish to do a lot of the looking themselves, the need for an agent appears diminished.

So, let's be frank for a second and ask the question. "What does a seller need an agent for?" No, I'm not going to blow the company horn here, that would be inappropriate and I've already paid for the other advertising space.

The truth is, you can sell your home by yourself (FSBO means For Sale By Owner) but, you will be required to work at it as hard as a full-time job by:

- putting up with people calling anytime (especially during the 7<sup>th</sup> game of the hockey finals),
- being very knowledgeable about real estate law (or pay a lawyer by the hour), including all legal issues relating to water and land usage regulations,
- handling all enquiries at all hours

- and repeat yourself 100s of times, no matter how strange they seem,
- having the ability to use the Internet to post your home's information and pictures, and,
- if a buyer comes your way, having the ability to negotiate with someone who really thinks that because you're selling FSBO style, the price should be lower since there's no commission involved.

Of course, the reason you're selling FSBO style is to have the extra profits in your pocket, but the buyers never seem to appreciate this. They always want it cheaper...

So yes, it's possible to sell your home by yourself, but without time, effort and ability... It's extremely unlikely.

As a matter of fact, recent statistics in the US suggest that only about 2% to 4% of all FSBOs are actually successful. Most end up on the MLS after a short period of time.

That brings me to my discussion today... How long should it take to sell your home if you list it on the MLS system and what are your chances of selling?

The following is based on statistics from the national average of homes sold in both the United States and Canada. In some local markets, these may change due to supply and demand or the lack of amenities for an area, but in general, the following may be understood to represent normalcy.

Let's say that there are 100 homes for sale on the MLS system. On average, over time, these figures have come about...

(Sold Within) (% Sold)	(Actuals Sold)
1 month 40%	19
2 Months 7%	3
3 Months 7%	3
4 Months 20%	10
5 months 10%	5
6 Months 7%	3
7 Months 9%	4

Stay with me here, it gets statistical for a bit...

Previous national statistics show that in a normal market, only 47% of the homes coming onto MLS actually sell. The other 53% expired unsold. Look at the total of the rightmost column. That's 47 homes sold out of 100, over a 7 month period. The other 53 expired after their listing ran out. Looking at the center column, the 40% is of the SOLD homes or 40% of 47 that were totally sold = 19 homes. OK, the tough part is over now...

The following numbers are based on the MLS statistics taken from 1995 to present day. They include all listing that went on sale and they either expired, were cancelled, withdrawn, sold or are still for sale today for the general area from Hwy 41 South @ Griffith/Matawatchan and the east corridor including Arnprior, Renfrew, White Lake, Calabogie and the southern corridor of Lanark township down Hwy 511 towards Hopetown. There are 4,426 listings in the database.

Calabogie (BBB - Bagot, Blythfield and Brougham) has a better percentage than the national average. Since 1995, the MLS statistics show that we've had 424 homes for sale and 224 were sold or a 52% success rate, while Griffith (Centennial lake and northwestward towards Griffith/Matawatchan) had 110 for sale and 30 sold or a 27% success rate.

Let's examine the other areas to see how we compare...

All data is MLS system data from 1995 to present. (Total) (Sold) (% Sold)
BBB 424 224 52%
Grif.-Mata. 110 30 27%
Lanark 343 238 69%
White Lake 114 79 69%
Renfrew 866 638 73%
Admaston 194 129 66%
Arnprior 1147 795 69%
McNabb 1077 657 61%
Horton 264 157 59%

As you can see, the only low anomaly is in the Griffith-Matawatchan area. I offer no other observation except that it is perhaps out of the way between the major centers of Pembroke, Renfrew, Arnprior and Calabogie. Even Calabogie doesn't match up to the big centers such as Renfrew (+21%) and

Arnprior (+17%) over our BBB rate of 52%. Perhaps the low volume of listings the county has helps Renfrew County to beat the national averages. Perhaps people just want to live a country lifestyle with city amenities close by?

Here's the breakdown of the same data but grouped by years, before and after the MLS data was fully available on the Internet. (Circa 2000)

4426 MLS listings since 1995 to today	(Total)	(Sold)	(% Sold)
1995-1999	1444	1101	76%
2000-Today	2982	1847	61%

Kind of proves my point about the ability of the Internet to have an effect on the need for having a salesperson handy doesn't it. Before the MLS listings were placed onto the Internet, people still needed to have an agent show them the property. Today, they can just look on the Internet, get the address and then drive buy.

Do you think the agents helped sell the properties they took their clients to? I do! Remember, we're professional sales people and do this full-time, day in and day out and even during hockey games! We sell the most expensive things you'll ever purchase and we have a 610 batting average... Not bad at all!

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# The Booyaw

By Garry Ferguson

*Author's note: During the "thirties," folks around this part of the township had to create their own amusement. One of the options was to steal a few hens and throw a booyaw (probably from the French word bouillant). The following story is based on such an outing arranged by a few of the local lads who decided to add a little humor by inviting a young, unsuspecting preacher from the city.*

"Never trust a body you ain't known since his grandma was born, " my father used to say. Most people around Crooked Creek would've agreed with that when it came to outsiders, but as far as my friends and I were concerned, this didn't apply to the young preacher who'd arrived to fill in for the summer. Reverend John W. MacEwen was such a nice fellow.

He loved to talk about his pleasure at seeing our beautiful valley for the first time. He would tell how he'd stopped his car at the top of the Sandy Hill and had gazed down upon the settlement of Crooked Creek with a joy much like Moses must have felt when he looked across the valley into The Promised Land. Like most preachers, the Reverend could spread it pretty thick.

He offered a prayer on the spot, according to his story, asking for wisdom to guide his flock during his stay. In other words, he didn't want to blow his first job.

One of the differences between The Promised Land and Crooked Creek though, was the people. The Promised Land didn't have a crowd of young smart Alecks – at least there's no mention of them in The Good Book. It is mentioned however, that poor old Moses never made it into The Promised Land and I'd be willing to bet my Sunday socks that there came a time when The Reverend wished he'd never set foot in Crooked Creek either.

After they'd heard his first sermon, the folks of the congregation liked him. "He's a nice lad, even if he is a college fella from the city," they said. "But he needs a good wife to give him a more solid image." What they really meant was that a wife would prevent a lot of hard feelings among the unmarried local lasses who were a sure bet to make fools of themselves competing for his attention.

"Y'know, that new preacher fella looks sharper'n a tack compared to youse lads from around The Crick here," Wilf Granger said to a few of us one Saturday night in his store. "Youse probably don't feel really dressed up unless youse

got a little cow manure on your boots."

We grudgingly agreed. Reverend John was about six feet tall, thirty years old and had black hair, which was always combed. His suits – we counted two – were kept pressed and his long shining face was always shaved. It was difficult to be jealous of him however, because he was so friendly toward even us young yahoos.

Unfortunately, this friendliness stuck in the craws of some senior members of the flock. "No good will come of it," they predicted. "He'll lose respect, mind you. He blasted well should socialize with older and wiser people."

After he'd arrived, some of the boys from around the settlement decided to throw a Saturday-night booyaw to celebrate the end of the week. When they spoke to me about it, I said, "We should invite the Reverend to come along for a free feed since he seems like such a nice lad an' all, eh." My generosity got me appointed to do the inviting.

Now bringing the preacher along presented a problem because a booyaw is a boiled chicken supper, laid on late at night. It's held late at night because the chicken has to be fresh. To make sure it's fresh, you kill and pluck the birds then take them directly to the pot. To be able to kill and pluck them you have to get them. To get them, you wait until the chickens are on the roost, the people you obtain them from have taken their dogs in for the night and are asleep before you call around to make your selection. Jacky Cameron was all for keeping the Reverend in the dark about our shopping practices and had no trouble convincing the rest of us.

There was Jacky, Sandy Ferguson, Jimmy Murdock, Bobby Davey and me, along with Reverend John, in on the celebration. Bobby was a bachelor who lived alone – and a damned good cook to boot – so we used his place.

Jacky volunteered to carry out the butchering duties. Sandy, Jimmy and I agreed to get the chickens and meet the others at Bobby's sometime after ten. We took Jimmy's Model T since the MacLeod farm, where we were to obtain our chickens, was at least ten miles from Bobby's place.

The day had been a real scorcher. It seemed that even the trees were craving shade. No one was inclined to hit the hay early, including the MacLeod's cross yellow dog, so it was late when we made it to the back of their henhouse.

I held the bag while Sandy reached through the small floor-level hole that served as a doorway to allow the chickens to run free during the day. His long arms came in mighty handy because he had to reach up to the roost, which was

at least three feet above the opening.

He meant to grab each bird by both legs and turn them upside down so they wouldn't squawk. Unfortunately, on the second grab the two legs belonged to different chickens and they set up an unholy ruckus as if there was a weasel in the henhouse. We took the three we had and hightailed it down through the bush to the old Township Road where Jimmy's Model T was hidden.

Good old Jimmy, who did nothing more than wait in the car, took to grumbling. "A measly three half-starved ole layin' hens're hardly enough to feed me, a hungry preacher and four gluttons with straight guts," he grumbled. "Midaswell see if we can git a coupla more - the price bein' what it is, an all. I don't mind waitin'."

How could we have known that old Sam MacLeod had come out to see what was spooking the hens and was standing inside? When he grabbed Sandy by the arm we had a real standoff. Neither could pull the other through the hole. I planted a foot against the henhouse wall and hauled on Sandy's scrawny neck until the night filled with the sounds of his godawful squawks. It was eerie, the way he sounded so much like those old hens had. Sam, who milked twelve cows morning and night, had a grip like a steel vise, so for a while it appeared that he might end up with an extra arm.

In the end, our desperation won out over Sam's strength. Even though we couldn't see worth a damn, we took off again through the bush like two cats that'd been rump sliding in turpentine. Sam was cursing a blue streak and trying to sic his old dog on us.

We were just about to put the three hens on to cook when the Reverend arrived. He had shaved and his hair was slicked down, but for once, he wore no tie. Since there wasn't much else to do, we sat around jawing until Bobby yelled, "Come 'n git 'er."

"D'ja like t'say grace there, Revern?" Bobby asked as we hauled up to the table.

Jacky took a snickering fit but the rest of us stared him into silence.

Reverend John went on and on, thanking the Lord for the chickens. I was relieved enough to offer up a few words of thanks myself when he finally mustered the good sense to quit, after he'd begun to repeat himself.

A couple of weeks passed and we began to forget about the affair. But it's difficult to keep anything – especially your transgressions – a secret in Crooked Creek. On the second Sunday after the booyaw, the ghosts of Sam's long-digested chickens must have taken

it into their little detached heads to come back and roost on our smart-assed smugness – and to crap all over it.

Reverend John preached a great sermon that morning. It was clear, by the nods and the accusing glances thrown at neighbours, that everyone liked it. He also reminded us that a meeting would take place after the service. The meetings were get-togethers attended by our elders, the minister and anyone else who might be interested in the business end of the religion.

My father, who was an elder, knew all about the cost of running a church. He tried to downplay the money part though, by saying, "Religion's as free as water, m' boy; it's jist the pipin' 'er in that costs." I had to hang around because I'd driven to church with him.

I knew that this wasn't going to be one of the usual bitch-and-squabble chewing matches when Dora MacLeod jumped up, faster than a bald-assed hound on a hot poker, and started giving the Reverend hell about something. Dora, who combed her grey hair back into a bun and peered over her glasses a lot, was respected and feared for she could look meaner than a setting hen with piles. A sinking sensation arrived in my gut with the realization that it was our booyaw she was ranting about. When it occurred to me that Dora was Sam MacLeod's wife, my ears began to burn.

Blast it! I tried to think over the rhythmic "whump" in my ears as my heart shifted into high gear and pounded blood against the inside of my skull. Damn! One of those silly buggers let the cat out of the bag. I swear – I'll break his frigging neck when I get my grubhooks on him.

In Dora's opinion, things had come to a new low when the minister of our church had consorted with thieves by attending a booyaw where, as everyone knew, fowl obtained in a sinful, scurrilous manner - in this case, from her henhouse – were served. What was even worse, she maintained, was the fact that he'd had the gall to stand before the Lord and *thank* Him for stolen chickens before helping to "gollop" them down. This shameful conduct was not consistent with her idea of any servant of the Lord, much less one of His ministers.

The poor man's face went very white at first, then turned red. From where I sat, it appeared that his collar had shrunk about four sizes. His face glowed, like a ripe Macintosh in the sun, and even a few hairs fell out of place. As I slunk out, from the rear pew where I always hid, he was attempting to say something but his stammering made it impossible for me to figure out just what that was.

Continued on page 19



# Community Calendar

## CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

### GRIFFITH AND MATAWATCHAN

**St. Andrew's United Church**  
 Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School 8:30 a.m.  
 Minister: 333-2381

### Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Griffith  
 Saturday Mass 7:30 p.m.  
 Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.  
 Esmond Sunday Mass 9:00 a.m.

### Hilltop Tabernacle

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
 Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

### DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

**Vennachar Free Methodist Church**  
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

### St. Luke's United Church

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

### St. Paul's Lutheran Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

### The New Apostolic Church

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
 Wednesdays 8:00 p.m.

### CALABOGIE

### Calabogie Bible Fellowship – Congregational Church

Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m.  
 • Prayer & Praise (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)  
 • The Lord's Supper & Praise (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)  
 • Healing Ministry (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)  
 Wednesday Evenings 7:00 p.m.  
 Bible Study

### Most Precious Blood Catholic Church

Calabogie - Saturday Mass – 5:00 p.m.  
 Calabogie – Sunday – 10:30 a.m.

### Calabogie St. Andrews United Church

1044 Madawaska Dr.  
 (on the waterfront)  
 Church Services Every Sunday Morning at 8:45 a.m.  
 Minister: Rev. Don Anderson  
 Organist & Choir Director: Anita Selby  
 Communion Services held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month. Everyone is welcome.

## CHURCH EVENTS

### St. Andrew's United Church – Matawatchan

- Bake and Rummage Sale – July 31 – 9:30 a.m., at Matawatchan Hall.  
 - The St. Andrews United Church Women's Group will be sponsoring dinners, bake sales, flea markets etc. to raise money for the summer camp facility at Golden Lake and for the Millennium Garden / Coffee Club.

### St. Luke's United Church, Denbigh

Vacation Bible School  
 July 19-04- July 23-04  
 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Ages 3yrs. - 12 yrs.)  
 More information: Ruby Malcolm 333-1449 or Norma Kaufmann 333-2329

### St. Luke's United Church, Denbigh

- Exercise Group Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.

### The New Apostolic Church, Denbigh

The New Apostolic Church in Denbigh invites all visitors to our area and all interested to join us for our Sunday morning services. Come enjoy our choir. They sing several selections before service which begins at 10:30 a.m.

Prayer changes things. Our Wednesday evening services at 8:00 pm, again gives us an opportunity to join in prayer and

Godly fellowship.

Our Vacation Bible School will be held the week of August 2nd. Bible stories with music, crafts and snacks will provide an interesting week of morning activities in a non denominational setting. All children, ages 4 - 10 from our community or visiting the area are welcome.

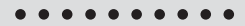
### Precious Blood Catholic Church, Calabogie

PARISH DINNER  
 Sunday August 29 – 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Peaks in Calabogie

Contact Bill Graham 333-1694 or Richard Copeland 333-1551 to have community and church announcements placed in future issues of the paper.

### DID YOU KNOW...

One in ten people in the world live on an island.



The opposite sides of a dice cube always add up to seven.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### CALABOGIE COMMUNITY DAY:

- July 31st, 2004  
 Pancake Breakfast - 8 to 11 a.m.  
 Horseshoe Tournament - 10 a.m to 5 p.m.  
 Bar-B-Q - 2 to 7 p.m.  
 Wes Bomhower & Local Musicians - 2 to 5 p.m.  
 Fiddlers - 5 to 9 p.m.  
 Beer Garden - 2 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
 Field Dance, Live Band - 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
- Youth Games and Fun afternoon
  - Beef Raffle all day
  - All profits to Barnet Park
  - Bring your lawn chair

All activities at the Calabogie Community Hall

### MATAWATCHAN HALL

- Ball Game – August 1, - 1:00 p.m.
- Ball Game – September 5, - 1:00 p.m.
- Matawatchan Hall General Meeting – September 15

### Matawatchan Cemetary

Cemetery Memorial Service at the Matawatchan Cemetery will be held on Sunday August 8 at 2:00 p.m. Linda Winton is officiating.

### Music Nights

The third in a series of music nights (concerts) is scheduled for seven p.m., Saturday, July 31, 04 at the Vennachar Free Methodist Church.

A tentative date of Saturday, August 28, 04 has been set for the fourth gathering which will take place back at St. Andrew's United in Matawatchan. Everyone is welcome, so watch for posters at all local stores and businesses in the area.

### Griffith and Matawatchan Fish & Game

Fish and Game Club Pig Roast, which had been scheduled for July 31, has been postponed until September 4.

### Busy Bees Craft Club

No meetings this summer. Our Annual trip this year is the **Train Excursion** from Hull to Wakefield, Quebec on September 14. For information and reservations call **Hazel Warren, 333-2798** or **Carol**

### Anne Kelly, 333-5570 by the end of July.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this trip. Meetings will resume on October 12, 1:30 p.m. at the Matawatchan Hall. All welcome. **Call Jackie Jenks, 333-5542 for information.**

### “Northern Lights” Seniors

Meet the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. alternating between Griffith and Matawatchan. For information contact Lois Robbins at 333-1082. **All Seniors Welcome**

### Community Bus Service

Phone Kay Kelly for information and reservations at 333-2731 by Tuesday evening. Bus travels every other Thursday for shopping. The bus fee is \$10.00.

### Fellowship Luncheon

These meals are held the first Wednesday of each month at noon. The location alternates between the Lions Hall in Griffith and St. Andrew's United Church in Matawatchan.

We welcome those who live alone, seniors and retired people. **Contact Lois Robbins, 333-1082** or **Carol Anne Kelly, 333-5570** if you wish to be added

to our list.

The August 4 meal is in Griffith and September 1 in Matawatchan.

### Diners Club

Dinners are held the first Monday of the month at the Denbigh Community Hall at 12 noon. Full Course Meal \$5.00. Contact Lynn McNicolle at 333-5586 for information.

### HEALTH CARE

Paramed Health Care Services Foot Care Clinic/Denbigh  
**Call 333-5559, Muriel Burgess,** for an appointment.

### DID YOU KNOW...

About 27% of food in developed countries is wasted each year. It's simply thrown away, and almost 1,2 billion people are underfed—the same number of people that are overweight to the point of obesity.



# Community in Action



The Calabogie Lakes are a bunch of friends that all have cottages at Calabogie. "We put on the Canada Day pancake breakfast every year as a small way of showing our appreciation to the community we cherish so much." Over the past eight years they have raised over \$12,000, which they give to the community.

This year, there were 489 breakfasts served on Canada Day for a total donation of \$2,165.66 for the Barnett Property Improvement project, which is earmarked to build a gazebo. Molson Breweries, Coke, Pepsi, Morkland Eggs and Quaker Oates are acknowledged for their generous help by donating supplies.



The 125<sup>th</sup> annual Matawatchan Picnic featured an afternoon of live music by Ren-frew and local musicians.

Rear, alone - Bert Kauffeldt.  
Middle row - Elaine Varrin, Mervin Varrin, Ron Whitteker, Paul Devries, Norm Warren, Larry Dougherty, Greg Roche, Mervin Malcolm.  
Front, kneeling - Cecil Ball, Garry Ferguson, Gary Murphy.



The Calabogie and Area Communities in Bloom Project was launched on July 13th with a workshop on preparing stepping stones. The people trained will later train others to make stepping stones for Barnett Park as part of this beautification of our township project. Rhubarb leaves, cement, garden trowels, wheel barrows and strong backs were needed.

(Back row, left to right) Heather Bennett, Donna Pratt, Jane Karpenko, Ann Godin, Laurel Neill, Deb Stagg(artist/instructor from Kingston), Yvette Blimkie and Mary Joan Hale, (front row, left to right) Georgette Reed, Debora Giffin, Carole Cox, and Karen Warren. Absent from the photo are Denise Legault and Carolyn Jakes who took the photo.



As part of the fundraising activities in Calabogie on Canada Day red T-shirts sporting a star burst and the text "I Partied on the Lake in Calabogie" were on sale. The three Amigos, Carolyn Jakes, Isobel Kristijan and Dwyene McNabb, sporting their T-shirts worked to make the day the success that it was. One T-shirt of the hundreds sold had a double star burst as a result of an error. Just like stamps, a flaw makes a collectors item. Reeve Kristijan beat out other bidders at an auction and purchased the T-shirt for \$100. This money and the profits from the sale of many single star burst T-shirts was donated to the Barnett Park project.



# Calabogie's Zoo

By Bill Graham

Carl Nichols, owner and operator of Nichols Park, manages a zoo. I'm not talking about the Buckhorn on a Friday night, but the petting zoo, which is the centre-piece of the Park. The operation also includes a 'mini-putt' golf course, a 'chip wagon', the Buckhorn restaurant and a 'flea market'. But it is the zoo that is closest to Carl's heart. It's a real labour of love. So much so that he has the Buckhorn up for sale so that he can spend more time with the zoo.

## HE DID IT HIS WAY

All of the current elements were in his original vision when he bought the land on which it now stands back in 1988. He came from a development background to Calabogie to create a tourism focus for what was then a beautiful but largely undeveloped district. He stresses that he did it all on his own without any help from government. Initially, he tried to get a government buy-in but it proved more trouble than it was worth, so he did it his way.



To start, he built the mall, which in addition to the Buckhorn and the 'flea market' has commercial space for tenants. The 'flea market' is no longer operated on a full-time basis. His most recent tenant is Milano Pizza. Then he started development of what is now the petting zoo. At first it was smaller animals like goats, geese and chickens. Then larger animals like European fallow deer, which look like small reindeer.



As you might gather from viewing the buck-studded walls of the Buckhorn Roadhouse, Carl is a hunter, but he loves animals and regularly provides hay for hungry deer during the winter. Anyone living in this community knows that there is no contradiction in this.



## A SMALL MENAGERIE BECOMES A ZOO

Larger animals, like a full size donkey and a pig were tried, but they tended to be a little too imposing for smaller children. However, smaller animals that were accessible to children were what the market demanded. Now the emphasis was on miniatures—miniature donkeys and horses, for example. However, there are large animals. There are llamas, alpacas and an Emu. At this stage in its development Nichols Park Petting Zoo includes:

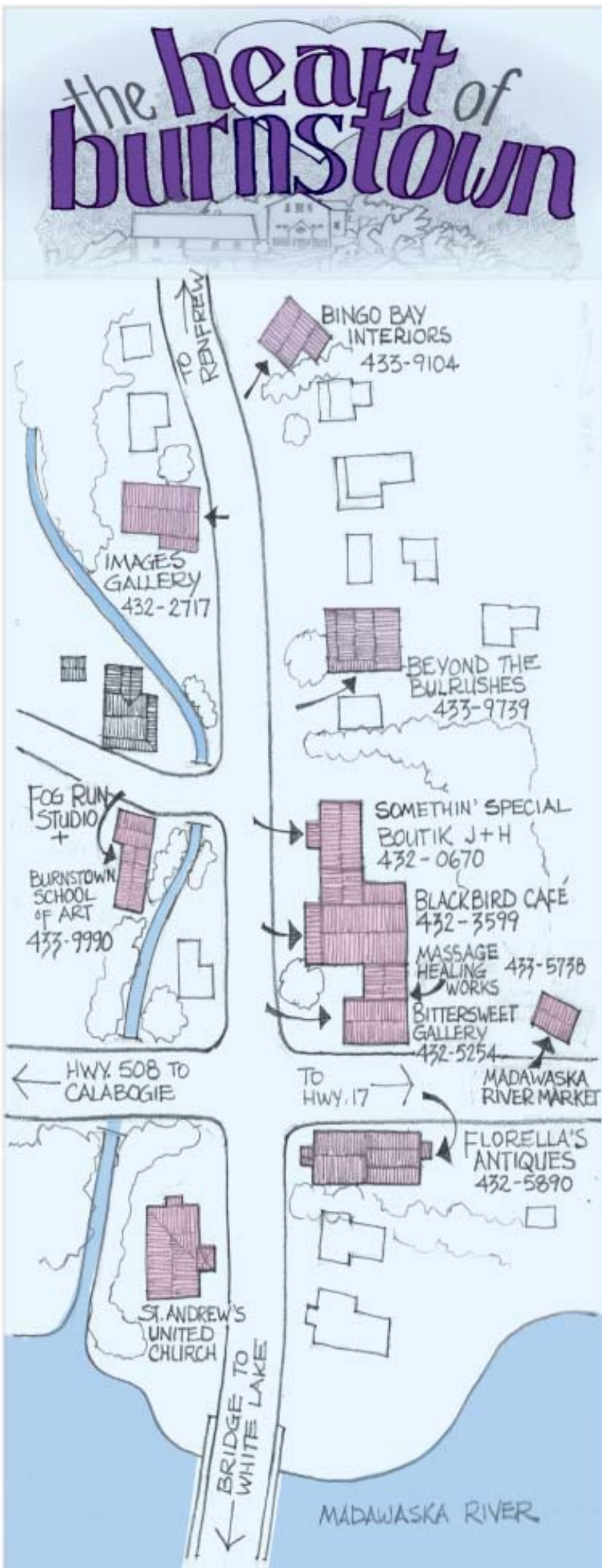
- Two Royal Mute Swans,
- Two Llamas,
- Two Miniature Horses,
- Two Miniature Donkeys,
- Two Alpacas,
- Four Peacocks,
- Five Fallow Deer,
- Twenty Goats of various breeds,
- One Emu,
- Many Rabbits,
- Many Chickens and Roosters
- Many Migratory Geese and Ducks, and
- Last but not least, Rosie the Pig.



## IT'S BECOMING A VIRTUAL NOAH'S ARK!

All of these animals are very low maintenance and co-exist beautifully. There is the odd altercation, but these incidents are minor. For example, the goats have learned not to be in the vicinity of the hind hooves of the miniature stallion when he is eating.

All of these animals have found their own space within this limited living area. For instance the swans; they are very solitary and prefer to be on their own. Just as well; they are also very aggressive. Until winter, they will inhabit the marsh between Carl's house





# Calabogie's Zoo

and Nichols Park.

As an example of ultimate sociability, the Palomino miniature stallion has just



successfully bred with the miniature donkey, so in eleven months we should see a miniature mule. There are also new births of late. A previously bred Alpacas female had just given birth to a little one



when I visited to take photos in mid-July. The little guy, whose name is subject to a local naming contest, was one day old when I photographed him. There were also twin black goats born two days prior to my visit. Already they were displaying the voracious appetite of their breed.

The zoo will be growing. Carl has just



purchased 50 acres immediately behind his property. Something beyond a petting zoo is envisioned. Immediate plans include an Ostrich, but what will be included in the back 50 is still not determined. Personally, the presence of farm-raised bison and elk is appealing, but the outcome will be determined by Carl.

You can also expect to see the development of the marsh area to include a

boardwalk, which will bring visitors closer to an environment that is not always obvious from the shore.

I asked the obvious question about local predators: "No problem, between the Emu, the donkeys and the geese the compound is protected." A mink did get in on one occasion, but it was sent running for its life when the Emu got on its

case.

The zoo is open from 10:00 a.m. until dark in the summer and for the cost of \$3 admission there are hours of enjoyment. A ride on the zoo train costs \$2 and a session on the 'mini putt' course costs \$4.



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## Memories of *Relays* past & present

By Mary Joan Hale

**Editor's note:** This is a follow up to the author's article entitled **Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life** from the May issue of the Highlander.

Exhausted, sore and pumped by a successful *Relay for Life* fundraising event, our family and friends are looking forward to returning next year. After Yard and Bake Sales and requests for pledges, by the time we arrived at the Nepean Sportsplex in Ottawa, we were excited to set up our campsites and get to work. After collecting my team's donations we greeted and hugged members of our extended *Relay* family.

The Survivors' Victory Lap brought cheers as they began the fun. It is impossible to express the joy on the faces of the survivors, clad in blue T-shirts, as they waved their sparkly wands and sported blue ribbons marking the number of years Cancer-free. We

clapped for their victory over a foe we could all face. Out front was 10 year-old Jordan followed by Max Keeping the Honourary Chairman, who, in spite of his own illness, has been leading the fight to 'Make Cancer History'.

With transponders on ankles, the running, jogging, walking or wheeling began! This anklet registered laps as we passed a sensor. My 71-year-old Uncle Gerry, a survivor, did 3 ½ laps—half of them running. The musical beat supplied by two live bands and an excellent DJ set our pace all night. Julie, our daughter-in-law, led a team with Michael, our eldest, and their colleagues. Our youngest son, Devin, captained a team of very good runners including our daughter Taben. Marg Solar, Rich Hale and I from Calabogie and family members made up my team. We are known for our enthusiasm if not for speed, although my husband ran 15-laps at one go and Marg and I maintained our nurse's walk!



Rich, Skip and Devin Hale of Calabogie join Mike Hale, a 6-year Cancer survivor and his wife Julie at the Nepean Sportsplex to support the Relay for Life 2004.

The Luminary Ceremony at dusk was stirring. Several guests told their stories while lighting candles in memory or in honour of loved ones. Big Ben tolled and a moment of silence ensued; all candles were lit and the piper played a lament. The candles glowed all night. In the bleachers the most touching ones spelled HOPE.

It is a rain or shine event. One year it rained all night and another it was warm, but the mosquitoes were rampant. We did get cold over night but it kept the bugs away.

Max Keeping returned to count down the end of the *Relay*. Thanks to good corporate sponsorship and thousands of volunteers, the \$691,000.00 we raised will all go to support the Canadian Cancer Society. We can and we will Make Cancer History!

### DID YOU KNOW...

There are 8000 kms of shoreline on the US side of the Great Lakes. Only 3% is fit for swimming, for supplying drinking water or for supporting aquatic life.

## Raccoon: he scratches with his hands (Part 2)

By Floris Wood

**Editor's note:** To read more about this clever creature, see Part 1 of this article in the June issue of the Madawaska Highlander.

Raccoons' most natural habitat seems to be wild areas blessed with many rivers and lakes. The raccoon's favourite food is shellfish such as clams and crayfish; small animals such as fish, small rodents and frogs; and bird's eggs. However, their incredible adaptability also applies to appetite. One source listed 75 varieties of vegetation eaten by the raccoon, including corn, nuts and fruits. Experts speculate that the raccoon's habit of washing their food derives from rinsing sand and mud from shellfish. Others believe they simply handle their food to look for inedible parts, which are discarded. In any case, their hands contain one thousand times more nerve endings than human hands, making them far more sensitive than ours.

Their manual dexterity accounts for the word "raccoon", which was *Arakun* in Algonquin and means "he scratches with his hands", as well as their scientific name, *Procyon Lotor*, the *lotor* part of which means, "washer". The *Procyon* part of the name means "before the dog" because it is believed that the evolutionary branch that produced the weasels and raccoons probably emerged before the branch that produced dogs. Within the order *Procyon*, are many other living species of raccoons. Most did not range far from their origin, which is believed to around Central America.

Kinkajous and Olingos stayed closest to home while the larger ringtails and cacomistles ventured farther north, even into southern Oregon. Coatis on the other hand, are found only as far north as New Mexico. What we know as common raccoons have the largest range of all other groups, ranging from southeastern Canada to northern South America. Many families of smaller, shorter haired raccoons exist in the Central America and Caribbean area. These tend to be lighter in colour and include the Bahamas Raccoon and the Crab-eating raccoon. The common raccoon that we are familiar with was the great survivor of the species, thieving in the heat and dampness of equatorial climates and into the bitter cold of the Canadian winter. Adaptability has been the hallmark of the raccoon.

Although raccoons like to live close to water they are reluctant swimmers. Their coat is not waterproof so, in the water, they get soaked to the skin and weighted down by the water. Their athletic skills are more apparent when climbing, running and falling. They are agile tree climbers. That, combined with a running speed of up to 15 mph on level ground, is their best means of defence. If they find themselves "out on a limb" by an adversary, a frequent escape route is simple to fall to the ground. One researcher reported that he has never seen a raccoon injured by a fall or "jump" from 45 feet or lower. However, when cornered or to protect their young, raccoons will fight. Listening to two raccoons disputing territorial rights can be harrow-



ing. The human-like screams and pitiful wails of the injured loser can make a human feel very happy to have a small claims court where such disputes can be settled with more civility.

The Madawaska Valley is well below the northern limit of the raccoon. That northern limit can vary from year to year. We are probably close enough to it however that we will experience dramatic differences in raccoon population for year to year depending upon negative and positive pressures on both birth rates and mortality rates in a given year. And as the Madawaska Valley becomes home to more people and their garbage, raccoons might well find life here more hospitable too. Raccoons live well with people, but they do not make good pets. As kits they are fairly well mannered. But as they grow older they become aggressive about food and during mating season, lose their civility altogether. One of my relatives raised raccoons in order to have them sleep on burlap bags filled

with straw, which were dragged through the bush for miles to help train coon dogs.

On a camping trip, I visited this relative while two of his cute raccoons cavorted in the yard. As I leaned on the open door of my car toward the end of the visit the two raccoons, appropriately named Bonnie and Clyde, jumped into my car and started laying waste to bags of groceries I had just bought. As I began to intervene my nephew stopped me and said, "Don't try to stop them now. I'll pay for it. Let them have what they want." I was amazed not only at their rapaciousness as they ransacked my car, but also at their cleverness at opening packages that would have taken me several times longer to open. Naturally my car looked like a European village after a Viking raid when Bonnie and Clyde finally left, bellies bulging with my hot dogs and dragging off a loaf of bread in triumph.



# Tapping the Valley's talent



**Addie Lueders: Moves on to the Finals**

The second of two competitions for the Valley Idol contest was held at the Calabogie Peaks Resort, on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The performers in the competition can accompany themselves or have accompaniment provided by an excellent Karaoke System with a massive selection of Karaoke tunes.

At the event, the audience is treated to some very good local talent, food and bar service. After the competition portion, the audience can actively participate in the Karaoke singing throughout the evening.

A panel of judges comprised of Terry Campbell, Jerry Knight, Laurie

McClune and Crystal Silver has the tough job of selecting those that will compete in the finals.

From the earlier competition, Jamie Bentz, Lindsay Wilson, Valarie & Brendon White, Jesse Villeneuve and Marie Buscomb moved on to the finals, with Addie Lueders and Ben Copeland



**Ben Copeland: Guitar Solo**

proceeding from the second competition. The overall winner will receive a recording contract for the production of a CD of their music.

Finals are slated for July 31<sup>st</sup> at the Calabogie Peaks Resort. Contact them for more information.

## The Booyaw

*Continued from page 13*

I saw the Model T parked under the pines behind the church, so I went over and found Jimmy and Sandy sampling a jar of somebody's beet wine.

"What d' ya figger we should do now?" I asked after I'd told them about the big comeallya going on inside and that I was planning on breaking some neck.

"Well boys," Sandy said slowly. "I guess th' first thing we best do is hunker down for some thuderin' good sermons from the folks."

"If he hadn't made a pig of himself and et so much," Jimmy said, "he wouldna got sick. I heard Grandma MacLean tell my mother about it. Some got to wonderin' about a dose of poison. "Maybe our booyaw came up."

"You *did* tell him to keep his yap shut about it, didn' ya?" Sandy snorted as though his question was merely an attempt at humour.

"Dam!" I kicked at a rock. "I hear there's gonna be a war. Think I'll jine the army – tamorra."

"A guilty conscience makes a great brine for picklin' awkward recollections," my father used to say. If that's true, then I suppose hell will freeze over before we'll ever forget the Reverend John MacEwen. The devil will be getting around on skates long before another preacher gets an invitation to a booyaw – unless, of course, we've known his grandmother since she was born.



## WATER COMMUNIQUÉ #1

*Editor's note: This is the first in a series of communiqués concerning water.*

### COMMON WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS

This chart lists common water quality problems that can be treated. Some of the substances occur naturally, but only become a problem because of poor waste management or well construction (e.g., bacteria, nitrate and chloride).

PROBLEM	CONCERN	SIGNS THAT INDICATE A PROBLEM
Hardness	aesthetic	- scale build-up on appliances, plumbing fixtures and pipes - soap scum, excess soap use
Bacteria & viruses	health	- only detected by testing and may cause human health problems (fever, stomach cramps, diarrhea)
Iron	-aesthetic - clogs pipes	- rusty black stains on plumbing fixtures, - rusty/black water, metallic taste
Nuisance bacteria	aesthetic	- red/brown slime in plumbing fixtures, red filament-like particles in water, unpleasant taste and odour - decreasing well yield due to screen plugging
Manganese	aesthetic	- black stains on fixtures and laundry, metallic taste
Acidity (low pH)	- aesthetic - health (from increased dissolution of metals)	- green stains on copper pipe, corrosion of pump
Sodium	health	- salty taste
Chloride	aesthetic	- salty taste, blackening and pitting of stainless-steel sinks
Nitrate	health	- no signs, requires water test
Sulphate	health	- water has laxative effect
Fluoride	Aesthetic and health concerns	- mottled teeth at low doses, but at high concentrations can cause problems with bone development
Arsenic	health	- no indicator; must consult local public health unit
Hydrogen Sulphate & Sulphate-reducing bacteria	health	- Rotten-egg smell, scale and black stains on pipes
Methane Gas	- aesthetic - health	- No odour by itself, but offensive odour if present with sulphide gasses; gas bubbles in water; explosive/fire risk if not properly vented
Decayed natural organic matter	aesthetic	- Musty, earthy or wood smell
Sediment	aesthetic	- Water cloudy or gritty

**Source:** *Water Wells: Best Management Practices*, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Government of Ontario

## MADAWASKA EVENING

*Garry Ferguson*

The brilliance of this day is dead while in its place a bitter chill hovers on the edge of dusk.

Bluejays in the hemlock merely croak as though their shrill bravado vanished with the sun.

A bushman interrupts his toil to scan the sky as echoes from his axe blows fade across the hills.

Then, trailing footprints on the snow he plods toward home and leaves me with the forest and the night.



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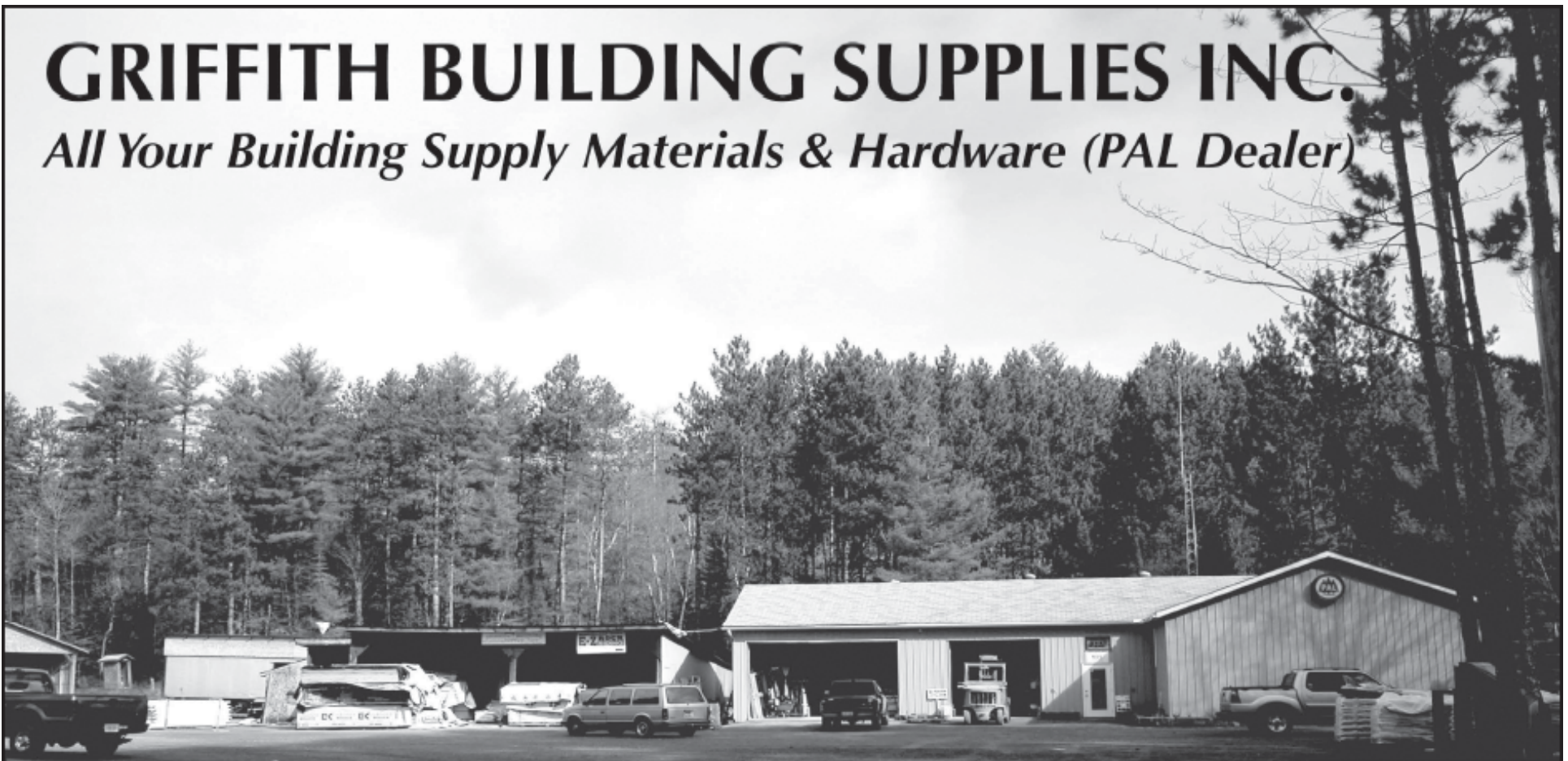
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## WATER COMMUNIQUÉ #2

### Glacial melt

Glaciers play an important role in the provision of fresh water. As snow accumulates and compacts, becoming glacial ice in the process, it slowly proceeds downslope under the force of gravity, eventually melting and becoming streamflow at lower elevations.

Glacial streamflow, which peaks in the hot summer months, provides moisture during the driest times of the year. This phenomenon is central to the ecological and economic functioning of the Prairie provinces. If the rate of accumulation of snow is greater than the rate of melt, glaciers advance. If not, glaciers recede.

In Canada, 1,300 glaciers have lost between 25% and 75% of their mass since 1850. Along the eastern slope of the Rockies, glacier cover is decreasing rapidly and total cover is now close to its lowest level in 10,000 years. Most of this reduction has taken place over the last 50 years and has resulted in a decrease in glacial streamflow during the critical driest months of the year.

**Text source:** Statistics Canada, Human Activity and the Environment (2003)

### DID YOU KNOW...

A political party can come up with the expenses of a platform of opposition promises within 24 hours during the heat of an election campaign, but can sit in the Legislature in opposition, with the comfort of years, and fail to find a \$5.6 Billion deficit?

### GARBAGE DISPOSAL: Summer hours

#### Norway Lake Transfer Station

Only bagged household garbage and recyclables are accepted at the transfer station.

Sunday and Holiday Mondays	Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to Noon

#### Black Donald

Sunday and Holiday Mondays	3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### Mount St. Patrick

Sunday and Holiday Mondays	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### Griffith

Sunday and Holiday Mondays	Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. to Noon

#### Matawatchan

Sunday and Holiday Mondays	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Saturday	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### Denbigh

Wednesday	1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m.

#### MacAvoy

Wednesday	8:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Sunday	2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

#### Vennachar

Wednesday	7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday	9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

### Apology from the Nepean Concert Band

"The Nepean Concert Band would like to apologize for the misunderstanding that led to the cancellation of our scheduled performance at Senior's Appreciation Day at Calabogie's Barnet Park, Saturday, June 26, 2004. We are truly sorry for any inconvenience caused to the event organizers and audience.

The Nepean Concert Band hopes an occasion will present itself when we will be able to perform for you in the future".

Sincerely,

Members of the Band

### DID YOU KNOW...

In the developed countries, the proportion of adults married has declined from 72% in 1970 to 60% in 1996. The chance of a first marriage ending in divorce is between 50% and 67%. The chance that a second marriage will end in divorce is about 10% higher than for the first marriage.



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# Websites of Greater Madawaska

By Bill Graham

In recent months Greater Madawaska has gained two major portals to information about the municipality; its government and its businesses. In May the website for the Calabogie and Area Business Association (CABA) came online and in July a website dedicated to the Township of Greater Madawaska was activated.

The CABA website, located at [www.calabogie.org](http://www.calabogie.org), is a portal in the true sense because it is the doorway to the sites of almost half of the association's membership. A major feature of the site is its businesses and services directory. The directory is segmented into ten categories, for example, trades, arts, restaurants, recreation, personal services, etc. Many of the over eighty listed CABA members have websites that are

linked from the CABA site. Almost all have listed their email addresses.

For anyone wanting to patronize local business there is much more information than you would find in the telephone book and for many of us getting that information does not involve a long distant telephone call. For example, if you want to go out for dinner, you can access the 'food and beverages' part of the directory, click on restaurants and view the websites of local establishments to learn about hours of operation and even menus.

In addition to the businesses and services directory the CABA site provides links to CABA activities through the minutes of their meetings, announcements about events happening within the municipality, links to tourist attractions

within Renfrew County and local weather (Calabogie). The weather link is particularly useful because it is local.

The township now also has a website. It is located at: [www.townshipofgreatermadawaska.com](http://www.townshipofgreatermadawaska.com) Information that you might need regarding township personnel, elected officials and township infrastructure is present on the site. For example, current hours for waste disposal at any of the various dump sites is there, hours for recreation activities sponsored by the municipality are there plus information on the township's medical centre.

For those interested in Council activities, the minutes of each meeting will be published on the site. At present there

are only the detailed minutes of the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, but eventually all minutes of the current year will be available.

The township website is another legacy of Paul Doyle who felt strongly that rate-payers should have access to the activities of the Council that they elect. Websites are organic in that they grow and mature. In both websites we have a very good beginning. However, to be relevant they must be kept up-to-date.

### DID YOU KNOW...

The chance of being born on Leap Day is about 684 out of a million, or 1 in 1461. Only 4,1 million have their birthday on Leap Day.

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**DID YOU KNOW...**

The odds of being struck by lightning are about 600,000 to one.

## Out on the First Concession – Star

By Wes Bomhower

Do children today learn as much about life as we did seventy years ago out on the farm? We watched calves being born, baby chicks hatching from the eggs, kittens and puppies coming into the world, a mother hen looking after a brood of ducklings, turkeys or even baby goslings that she had incubated herself, so considered them her offspring no matter what they looked like.

And we learned about death, which after all is part of life. Sometimes a chicken or an animal was slaughtered for meat, other times there was an unplanned tragic death of perhaps one of our favourite animals.

When I was nine years old a kitten was born, completely black except for a white star on its breast, so she became known as "Star". She was a barn cat and as she grew up she followed me everywhere while playing or doing chores. She had kittens herself before she was eighteen months old, and unfortunately at the same time she developed an appetite for baby chicks, which roamed freely around the barnyard with the mother hens.

After a half dozen chicks had disappeared and Star was caught in the act, strict orders were issued. Either Star was to be kept tied up until the chicks were grown or she would suffer dire conse-

# THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

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quences. Knowing what the dire consequences would be, Star was fitted with a makeshift collar and a length of double binder twine and installed with her kittens in the straw loft of the barn far away from the baby chicks; or so I thought.

It was Saturday morning and Dad asked me to clean out the granary, which I did, but left the granary door open when Mother called to say lunch was ready. While we were eating lunch, one of the mother hens took her brood of chicks through the open granary door, pecking at a few loose kernels of grain, unaware of the danger lurking above.

I returned to the granary and there was Star hanging a foot from the floor. She suffered a broken neck when she found a loose board dividing the loft and granary and had crawled through to jump for the chicks below. Had the twine been a bit longer, she may have survived. My only consolation was that she died a quick death. Mom and Dad never knew, but I cried myself to sleep that first night grieving for my favourite cat. Only my sister Wilma knew.

How times have changed.



# CABA Corner

By Carolyn Jakes

An area which was identified for action by CABA in its 2003 Annual Report was the need for more team work in our community. The community is already reaping the benefits of increased teamwork with a series of co-operative events undertaken.

For those who attended the Canada Day celebrations in Calabogie, you would have noticed the sea of red, created by "I partied on the lake in Calabogie" T-shirts sold by CABA members and worn by members, local residents and visitors to the waterfront festivities. Over 300 of these shirts were sold by July 1st. The Canada Day Activities were organised by a committee comprised of members of CABA, the Calabogie Lions, the Seniors, St. Andrews United Church, the Fire Department, Home Support, the Recreation Committee, the Community Fundraising Committee, Greater Madawaska Council, various municipal staff and members of the public. It was truly a group effort and one which will no doubt be enthusiastically repeated in years to come.

Another example of how team work can make a big difference is the planning, laying out and construction of the two beach volleyball courts at Barnet Park. These courts will be the site of many exciting tournaments thanks to the involvement and efforts of CABA members and their friends who have put so much of their own time and effort into getting the courts ready. The beach volleyball courts will meet the strict standards required to host tournaments ranging from family or recreational fun to professional matches. CABA members Mark Thomas, Alf Law and Rick Fleming, site manager Brent Fillator and residents Rob Peever and

Germain Poirier have worked hard with members of the Barnet Park committee to complete this challenging and worthwhile project.

Barnet Park is getting lots of attention this summer. CABA members Debora Giffin, Karen Warren and Carolyn Jakes were part of a group of 13 students who, on July 14th, learned how to make stepping stones for Barnet Park as part of the preparation of a 2005 project. Our thanks go out to Carole Cox for arranging this workshop to launch the Communities in Bloom Project for Calabogie and Area and to Debora Giffin at the Calabogie Highlands for hosting the event. This project is a part of the community beautification strategy which CABA is undertaking with the township's Economic Development Committee.

These past few months have seen a tremendous increase in the number of community co-operative efforts. One further and illustrative example is the fund raising day on July 31st in Calabogie. This undertaking is entitled Community Day and it is hoped it will be the first of many annual fund raising days. The committee organizing the event is comprised of members from CABA, the Calabogie Lions, the Seniors and the Recreation Committee, to name a few of the various non profit organizations banding together to produce a day of fun. The Committee has the objective to raise money for one common goal, which this year is the development of Barnet Park. CABA is very proud of its involvement in our community which is exemplified by the team work exhibited with this exciting new opportunity to assist the community.

CABA has another team, the team putting on the Third Annual "Calabogie

Fall Classic Golf Tournament" on Sunday, September 12th. Proceeds from this annual event will be directed to the re-development of Barnet Park and the construction of Roger's House. Roger's House is an assistive facility for families of CHEO which will be built on the property of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. CABA at the same time will be selling tickets on an incredible home theatre and flat screen television system which will make you the envy of your neighbours. If you are interested in golfing in this tournament on Sunday, Sept. 12th or in buying raffle tickets for the home theatre system and flat screen television, please contact a CABA member or call Carolyn at 752-0430.

CABA's newly revised web site can be seen at [www.calabogie.org](http://www.calabogie.org). Click on "Upcoming Events" and see what's going on. It is our hope that all community and CABA related events will be listed. Our goal is information sharing among all community groups. Send us an email if your event is not yet listed. Click on "Contact Us" to send CABA an email. Click on "About CABA" and read the minutes of our latest CABA meetings.

To broaden our network of contacts and build a new relationship with our neighbours in Lanark Highlands we accepted their offer of a booth at "The Art of Being Green" Festival in the village of Lanark on July 17-18. We displayed numerous examples of what our area offers such as our special Eagle's Nest Look Out, our activities and our fine accommodation and restaurants.

If this new spirit of teamwork continues to grow in our community at this same rate in the future, just imagine what can be accomplished!

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If you operate a business in the Township of Greater Madawaska or Burnstown and wish to join CABA, please contact Carolyn at 752-0430. The fee is \$25.00 and quite a bargain when you think of how busy CABA is in your community

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# Council Notes

By Bill Graham

Council activities have slowed considerably with the coming of summer. Since the last publishing of the *Highlander* there have been two meetings—June 29 and July 8. The next Council meeting will be on Thursday August 12, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Griffith Community Hall. That will be the only meeting during August. In September, at an as yet undetermined date, the Council Meeting will be held at the DACA Centre in Dacre. Closer to that date you can visit the Township's new website at [www.townshipofgreatermadawaska.com](http://www.townshipofgreatermadawaska.com) and click on 'Council Meeting Schedule' to get the date and time for the September meeting.

It is unclear at this time if a rotation of venues between Calabogie, Griffith and Dacre will be the norm or if after the summer months the majority of meetings will once again be held at the Township Office in Calabogie. It is also unclear if the level of ratepayer participation at Council meetings will be as great now that the Track issue is close to resolution. If there is any lesson to be learned from the past year it is that citizens should keep themselves informed about the matters being brought before their elected officials.

As usual both meetings were Track-heavy in content. The June 29 meeting included a presentation by Jack Ledger, which essentially put the responsibility for any negative impacts from the Track on Council. He was followed by a presentation by Chris Fleming and John Allerton, which took exception to the presentation from the previous meeting by Peggy Cassidy. At the July 8 meeting, a decision was handed down in favour of the zoning application by Calabogie MotorSport Park. Details about that decision are 'front page' in this issue of the paper.

The remainder of the June 29 meeting announced that the budget for the Township had been approved and that overall the tax rate will remain virtually the same as last year. While there were savings, there was also a 6.1 increase in expenses. Councillor Don Mercer said that considering the increased cost of fuel and insurance, this expense increase is not too bad. The total budget for this fiscal year for the Township is \$2,414,338.

Also covered at that meeting was an announcement that a draft proposal to Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery is close to agreement. When finalized, the Town-

ship of Greater Madawaska will become a partner with the waste recovery company in Pembroke and the Township will be a step closer to solving our waste disposal problem. One can't just keep dumping waste into land fills without serious consequences to the environment. In all probability all municipal dump sites will become transfer stations when the agreement goes into effect.

Other business included an announcement that the dry well in Griffith, which is being developed for the Fire Department, is moving forward as planned and that the 'Modified Tiered Response' proposal, which would involve the Fire Department as 'first responders' when an ambulance has been called, is on hold. The delay is happening at the County level and everything has been deferred until January 2005. The issue of barking dogs was discussed in reaction to a number of noise-related letters received by Council. An amusing exchange between Council and the attending public ensued.

The major item on the July 8 agenda, after the decision to approve zoning for Calabogie MotorSport Park, was a presentation by the Council of the Township of Lanark Highlands. The issue was the

Walbalac Road, which is shared by Greater Madawaska and Lanark Highlands. What began as an appeal for more money to help in the shared responsibility for maintaining the road, developed into a shared strategy for getting the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to contribute their share of the maintenance cost for the road. The road is used by lumber businesses licensed by MNR for a fee, but none of that money trickles down to the municipalities that have to maintain the roads. Councillor Emon suggested a one ton limit on the road as a way to force the MNR to open a dialogue. All in all, it was a very positive exchange, which should lead to more cooperation between the two municipalities.

At the time of the July 8 Council meeting, two candidates were standing for election for Councillor to represent Ward 2 (Brougham). The election will be held on August 27, 2004, with an advance poll scheduled for August 20. Contact the Township Office for more information on this.

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ON PAGE 16

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