

# The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

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## TOM SHARBOT: A CALABOGIE LEGEND

By Wes Bomhower

### Foreword:

Tom Sharbot was one of the most interesting characters this writer ever had the good fortune of being acquainted with, and that is the main reason I chose to write his story even though he passed away in 1995. We became good friends and many a day we spent together as he told me some of his life's story, leaving out most of the gory details concerning World War Two.

Tom overcame many obstacles in the course of his life, not the least being aboriginal by birth. He became one of the best baseball pitchers that the Ottawa Valley ever produced, was a top notch fiddler and even played in a movie produced in the 1960s where Margot Kidder made her film debut. The name of the film was, 'The Best Damn Fiddler from Calabogie to Kaladar' and Tom was just that plus being a real gentleman.

### His ancestry & early life

Tom's ancestors originated around Lake of Two Mountains in the Province of Quebec and were native Mohawk. Some of their tribe assisted the British in one of the wars, so this entitled Tom's great grandfather to a one-hundred acre land grant in Eastern Ontario, twenty-five miles west of Perth near a beautiful lake. This would be around 1825. A village soon sprang up on the lake shore with other settlers arriving, and the village and lake became known as 'Sharbot Lake'; named after Tom's great grand father. Apparently other Mohawk families settled not too far away, and both Tom's father and grandfather married into these families. Tom's mother was an Antoine and some of her relatives still live around Sharbot Lake.

Tom's grandparents cleared the land but did not farm all that much. They kept a

few animals and made a living mostly from trapping beaver, muskrat, marten, fox and the like because there was still a big demand for fur in those years.

Time went by and somewhere, somehow a white man came into possession of the one-hundred acre Sharbot land grant, leaving the Sharbot family with only their buildings. By the time Tom was born in 1910, the wild animals that they trapped for fur were somewhat depleted in that area, so Tom's parents packed up and moved to Calabogie with their children in 1914. The hunting and trapping was much better here and they eventually moved into a log house on a small piece of property overlooking Calabogie Lake, just west of the now existing Home Hardware store. The family consisted of Harold (Buck), Jerome, Cecil, Cecilia and Tom, who was now four years old, and a baby girl who was killed by a shotgun blast a few years later. We will tell more about that event toward the end of this instalment.

At a very young age, Tom was fascinated by music and took an old fiddle down from its hanging place on the wall. Someone tuned it for him and in no time Tom was playing a few simple tunes to the delight of his parents and siblings.

Though Tom's siblings had little education—some never attended school—Tom liked school and got along well with the nuns who were then teaching at St. Joseph's School in Calabogie. He continued on to grade twelve, which was offered in Calabogie at that time.

In the meantime, Tom became quite adept with the fiddle and was in demand at a lot of dances throughout the area, playing his jigs, reels and waltzes. There were few tunes he didn't know. He had a knack, as Joe Quilty, (another

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Photo: Bill Graham

## Barnet Park and Cottage project is on-track

By Bill Graham, Editor

For the last few years ideas have been exchanged and money has been raised to create a community facility on an exceptional piece of property on Calabogie Lake. The 7.74-acre waterfront park was deeded to Calabogie by Tommy Barnet before his death back in the early 1970s. The land has been used for launching boats, for casual swimming and as a tourist office, but it has never really been developed until recently.

Work and planning have been going on for several years beginning with brushing to open up clearings and to eradicate noxious weeds like poison ivy. The Calabogie Seniors have installed a wrought iron park gate plus money

is being raised by local service groups and by events like the Calabogie Fun Day. During this same period, the Barnet Park Committee, which is a citizen's committee chaired by Don Swift, have been planning the future of the park and cottage. The final plans were approved by Council at the July Council meeting.

Planned work for the cottage itself is estimated at \$65,000, with \$5,000 of that designated for the rebuilding of both porches with proper decking. There a number of people who have indicated interest in this project and work on the deck will proceed almost immediately. The remainder of the cottage work is estimated at \$60,000. This work is extensive and includes new doors and windows, wheelchair accessibility, new washrooms, new facilities for the

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## Barnet continued

kitchen and some interior structural work. The stone fireplace, which is the centre-piece of the cottage, will be kept but the chimney will be capped because of insurance implications. The improved parking areas and walkways are estimated to cost \$8,000. A gazebo on the beach will be twelve feet in diameter and is estimated to cost \$5,000 to \$6,000. Another gazebo on the grounds, which is styled as the 'Grand Gazebo', will be sixteen feet in diameter and is estimated to cost between \$7,000 and \$10,000. A roofed picnic shelter is planned with dimensions of twelve feet by twenty feet at an estimated cost of between \$5,000 and \$7,000. The final major element in the plan is a field house that would accommodate change rooms, washrooms and a rinse area for swimmers. This element is estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Smaller and more affordable items like benches and picnic tables will be needed and the committee hopes that individuals and families will do-

nate the cost of these. A plaque will be attached to recognize the donation. Local organizations, like 'The Lakers' who represent local cottagers, want to contribute to the gazebo. The Lion's Club has raised money for decking and for a change room. The Calabogie and Area Business Association (CABA) has raised \$5,600 for Barnet Park specifically, but a decision on where the money will be spent is pending until August. Meanwhile, donations of money, time or labour will be gladly accepted by the Barnet Park Committee.

Development will not happen overnight but rather at a slow and steady pace. The hope is that the facility will be, as much as possible, maintenance-free and that it will be self-supporting. Don Swift anticipates a June 2007 official opening even if not all the planned elements are in place by that date. If you are interested in becoming involved with this project or wish to donate time or money to help move it forward, contact Don Swift at 613-752-0154.

End

## Valley Heritage Radio Come September

Garry Ferguson

As a result of the generous donors, investors and a monumental effort by a group of dedicated people, Valley Heritage Radio (VHR), CJHR 98.7, will begin broadcasting out of Renfrew during the month of September.

A broadcast signal of 14,000 watts will enable VHR to reach 145,000 consumers in the Ottawa Valley so that it will serve not only as a voice for the unique cultural differences that set Valley folk (Madawaska Valley denizens included) apart from the rest of the world, but an invaluable commercial venture as well. Community-minded merchants and corporations would not only increase commerce through exposure and affordable advertising – the most affordable in Eastern Ontario - but could also profit from the good will gener-

ated by such obvious civic support. Publicity generated by the patronage of a radio station committed to featuring local talent will reap benefits.

Programming will contain local news and events, valley and old time music, agricultural topics as well and other topics of interest to this area.

The VHR Board has devised a comprehensive plan to publicly recognize donors and to give members in the business/corporate and not-for-profit organization category a wide variety of advertising, promotional and free publicity choices.

Be sure to tune in and give it a listen.

For information, call Guy Jameison at 613 628 2234, Vic or Linda Mae Garbutt at 613 623 8935. Website: valleyheritageradio.ca

End



Vic Garbutt, Director of Operations (left) and (right) Guy Jameison, Board Chairman, Valley Heritage Radio.



Barnet cottage

## Waste cooking oil powers cars, trucks and buses

By Lynn Jones

**Author's note:** This article is fifth in a series by the Ottawa River Institute on energy innovators in the Ottawa Valley. As everyone knows, oil and gas are finite resources. The supply of both is expected to begin to decline soon and prices to rise sharply as a result. Burning of fossil fuels also contributes to climate change. For both reasons, we need to get better at energy conservation and using energy from renewable sources. Fortunately here in the Ottawa Valley there are many pioneers that are leading the way.

On a beautiful sunny day recently, out in the country near Wilno, Steve Anderson of Arnprior shared his knowledge of how to convert waste cooking oil from restaurant deep fryers into fuel for his diesel engine pick-up truck. More than 40 interested folks from around Renfrew County and as far away as Burk's Falls attended.

Fuel from waste cooking oil is called "biodiesel" and it can be made from vegetable oils and animal fats according to a pamphlet from Natural Resources Canada. Steve prefers canola oil. It makes very good biodiesel, and by collecting it from restaurants he is helping to re-use a waste product.

The process for turning waste cooking oil into biodiesel involves several steps. The oil is filtered, warmed, stirred, and then mixed with lye dissolved in wood alcohol. The lye causes a chemical change to take place in the cooking oil, turning it into a mixture of biodiesel fuel and glycerine. Some equipment is required but it is fairly simple, and Steve has put his system together from previously-used materials, such as a heating element from a discarded hot water heater, plastic pails, and an electric drill.

Steve estimates that his fuel costs him 75 cents per litre compared with

about \$1 per litre for petroleum diesel fuel or "dino" diesel as he likes to call it. For the last two years he has fueled his truck and another

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## Tom Sharbot *continued*

great fiddler would point out in later years) of dressing up a mediocre tune and making it sound beautiful.

Tom's older brothers were great hunters and kept rifles and shotguns in a small pantry off the kitchen of their log dwelling. Their father continually warned them to unload the guns when not in use, but Jerome came in tired one evening from a long hunt and forgot to unload his shotgun, placing it just inside the pantry door. In the morning, Tom, with his little sister, who was six years old, and a neighbour boy were playing near the pantry door, discovered the gun and the neighbour boy picked it up. Just then Jerome entered the kitchen and cried, "Hey, put that gun down". Startled, the boy dropped the shotgun, it discharged and the little girl took most of the blast in her abdomen. Some of the buckshot also struck Tom. Tom's mother rushed in and seeing her little daughter mortally wounded, cried out, "Tom, run quickly down to the doctor's house for help", not realizing Tom was also wounded. Tom ran for dear life to the doctor's house on the lakefront, (now owned by Bill and Dianne Griffiths) hammered on the front door and the doctor's wife appeared to tell him the doctor was away on a call.

Then her eyes widened and she held Tom in her arms as blood seeped through his shirt. "What happened Tommy? You are bleeding quite badly," she exclaimed. Until then, Tom had not realized he was wounded. The doctor's wife staunchly most of the bleeding and returned with Tom to the scene of the accident, but nothing could be done for the little girl.

Tom was taken to hospital where most of the buckshot was removed from his arms and chest, but some, which was lodged on his lungs he would carry to the grave. Doctor Buxton once remarked: "Tom Sharbot has the most interesting chest X-rays I have ever encountered!"

### Tom Sharbot goes to war

Tom completed grade twelve the year the Great Depression began but with his expertise around all types of saws he obtained work at Tom Gorra's sawmill in Calabogie, located on the south side of the bridge on what is now Heritage Point. He worked a couple of winters in the lumber camps and in summer honed his skills on the pitcher's mound for local baseball teams.

He also worked for some time at a sawmill between Tatlock and Clayton, a few miles north and east from Lanark, all the while pitching for various baseball teams in the sum-

mer evenings. Tom developed into an extraordinary pitcher and it is still told by the old-timers how Tom could win a game anytime he set his mind to it. Times were hard though, and quite often the players had to find their own transportation to and from the games plus supplying their own equipment. His fame spread however and Brockville's ball team hired him. Then he went on to play for Syracuse,



*Tom Sharbot (left) with Edgar Mayhew and Joe Quilty - founders of the Fenfrew County Fiddlers*

New York and probably would have gone much further up the sport's ladder had he not been aboriginal. There was a lot of prejudice in those years. Tom hunted when he could and became a crack shot with the ri-



*Tom Sharbot (seated with Hounds) while in his 20's*

fle He came home one autumn to hunt and found that two of his older brothers had joined the army, (World War Two had begun). They were posted in northern Scotland with the Forestry Corp cutting timber. This was natural for them because

both had worked in the 'Shanties' of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. Neither of these men could read or write but they got their buddies to write letters home to their mother that Tom would read. Life sounded pretty good over there in Scotland, so Tom, with next door neighbour Melville Bailey, went down to the recruiting office in Ottawa to join up. Melville Bailey was killed in the great Almonte train wreck just after Christmas that year while returning to base in Camp Borden.

The Cameron Highlanders accepted Tom and a few weeks later out on the rifle range an officer from the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Regiment noticed what a crack shot Tom

was and somehow got Tom transferred to the 'Glens'. There he was told he would be in the infantry as a sniper. "What is the infantry and what is a sniper", Tom enquired, and was informed that the infantry was comprised of foot soldiers and was

also told what a sniper's duties were. "Oh no," said Tom. "I don't want to be killing anyone, I joined up to be in the Forestry Corp with my brothers in Scotland". The officer showed Tom the enlistment papers he had signed a few weeks earlier. The papers of course stated that Tom would go wherever his country needed him the most. "And that was that," Tom said wistfully. "My mother and I both wrote the War Department several times and even had the parish priest of Calabogie write to them, but to no avail, I was doomed to become a sniper." He became a good soldier and sniper and served the 'Glens' well.

Tom trained in Canada and later in England before landing on the beaches of Normandy in 1944 where they were pinned down by enemy artillery fire for over a week before the Allies got their big guns into position. It was almost a steady barrage, day and night, and on the fourth day a lieutenant told Tom to gather as many canteens as could be carried and directed him to a well with a hand pump about a quarter mile away, saying, "the medical officer has O.K.'ed the water, fill as many canteens as you can carry for the lads." Tom saluted smartly and started up the road through the din, smoke and dust. A shell would come screaming over and he would dive for the ditch, covering his ears. He eventually found the well and in a short lull of the bombardment, he filled all the canteens, slung them on a rope over his shoulders and started back. He only went a hundred yards when out of the dust came three men of the North Nova Scotia regiment who were looking for fresh water also. Tom directed them to the well and shouldered his load again just as a shell came screaming over.

He dived for the ditch, knowing it was a close one because he was covered in grime and dirt from the explosion. When the smoke cleared, Tom stepped back on the road and looked to where the well and the Nova Scotians should have been, but saw only a huge gaping hole. He was not a terribly religious man at that period of his life, but Tom said a small prayer for the Nova Scotians and moved on, thinking, "I was there two minutes ago".

**Editor's note:** This is the first installment of this biography with more to follow next month.

*End*

### Something to think about

*The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.*

# FLOUR POWER BRIEFS

By Garry Ferguson

A fellow down in Newfoundland recently wrote a song called "The Five Roses Drawers That Me Grandmother Wore." Mary Cook, in her stories of depression life in Northcote, Renfrew County, also writes about her made-from-flour-bags drawers, so we folks along the Madawaska weren't alone in sporting our from-recycled-stuff skivvies. This frugality seems to have been national in scope. It was, however, the cause of much ribbing in the brood from which I came. Ask any Valley type who is old enough to be on the government's monthly cash-for-life plan and you'll hear of a time when folks always had at least a couple hundred-pound (98 actually) bags of flour stashed away in the pantry, that the cotton cloth from every bag was washed, bleached and used to make everything from curtains to caps. Now it would be difficult to find anything amusing about aprons or pillowcases no matter how badly bleached or dyed. However, when someone showed up with the toes of Robin Hood's green, sissy shoes still distinguishable through the dye on his shirt, this could cause a ripple.

My mother, like every other woman in the area, never wasted a bag. It was sometimes difficult though, to remove the printing and logo on a scrub board, so much of the bleaching depended on lye soap and the sun. It wasn't always completely successful. To her credit, Mum restricted her made-from-bags creations to boxer-style under shorts when it came to sewing for her mob of boys. Even something so normally-covered-up however, could sometimes cause a measure of discomfiture within a circle of ruffians always on the lookout for laughs at each others' expense. It wasn't being called Robin Hood that bothered me, but the fall-down-on-the-floor laughing fits the brothers went into every time I took my pants off to get into bed did. Until those not-so-well-bleached shorts wore out or were handed down, I did a lot of undressing in the dark or under the covers. Needless to say, this amused the lads even more than Robin Hood's faint visage peeking out from the front of my boxers.

In a time when women were judged by their sewing skills as well as their cooking and their piety, my mother was among the best at all three. Her skills and her designs were never in question, though she did occasionally forget some little detail. She once whipped up a pair of flour-bag under shorts for a younger brother and for-

got to incorporate a slit in the front. He hadn't had them on an hour when nature called and he discovered that the shorts didn't meet the usual stand-up-to-go male specifications. I guess it never occurred to him to haul them down. Mum was out of the house on some chore and was not available to make emergency alterations so he came to big brother for help. I'd seen Mum make openings in material by gathering it, giving it a twist or two, and then using scissors to cut at the twist so I used the same technique. Unfortunately, I gathered too much material and made too many twists. Thank heavens I didn't do any damage to Brother but the resulting hole was big enough for him to step through and to render his privates no longer private.

We never did get around to calling each other by the girlish name of "Rose." Not that we were above such behavior but, I believe, the Five Roses bags bleached better or it might have been that the store keeper at Matawatchan didn't stock a lot of that brand. Another brother did however become known as "Ninety-eight Pounds When Packed" because of the phrase printed horizontally across the back end of his shorts. Though he's 60 years older and a lot heavier, he's still sometimes referred to as - well you know.

The strange thing is that men now pay big money for under shorts with all kinds of mumbo-jumbo written on them. Maybe the memories of Robin are the cause for my shunning of such trends. They may also be the reason that I find myself unconsciously glancing at my undergarment purchases from Giant Tiger to satisfy myself that Mr. Hood isn't peeking out at me from some crease or fold. Imagine what the brothers would do with that.

End



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# Rural Broadband

By Bill Graham

Have you ever had the experience of a friend casually sending you a 5 megabyte email attachment and you casually cursing them because it will take a minimum of 40 minutes for you to download it? People with high-speed (broadband) Internet capability just assume that everyone is so lucky—but not so. Greater Madawaska and area is dial-up country.

Even dial-up land is unequal. For example, I am lucky enough to connect at 44 kilobytes per second (Kbps) but business partner (Richard Cope-land), who lives 5 kilometres down the road, can only connect at 26 kilobytes per second. Having access to affordable broadband Internet capability is a dream shared by everyone.

The National Broadband Taskforce under the offices of Industry Canada began working in 2001 on a plan with the principal mandate of mapping out a strategy for achieving the government of Canada's goal of ensuring that broadband services are available to businesses and residents in every Canadian community by 2004. While many communities have benefited; especially in the North, it is now 2006 and most of the Township of Greater Madawaska is still without affordable access to broadband Internet services.

The reason that many rural communities are still without broadband access is that these communities are widely dispersed with small populations and many miles away from high capacity fibre-optic cables that are the backbone of the Internet in Canada. Twenty-five percent of Canada's population lives in three-quarters of Canada's communities where broadband is unavailable. While there are a growing number of technologies that will distribute broadband access out from the east-west backbone, they are expensive. Consequently, it is not economically viable for the private sector to expand their subscriber base into smaller communities.

The National Broadband Taskforce report recognizes this reality: "For the foreseeable future, in spite of continuing technological progress, the basic facts of Canadian geography and demography continue to mean that it will not be profitable for the private sector to provide broadband service in scarcely populated areas of the country. Paradoxically, however, the need for access to broadband communications is higher in these areas than in urban centres."

New technologies are being developed and existing technologies are getting more affordable, so rural res-

idents do still have some hope. For example, some Calabogie residents already have access to DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) technology. DSL is broadband Internet technology offered over the existing Public Switched Telephone Network. While not super fast, like fibre-optic cable, it is at least three times faster than dial-up; often faster. In order for DSL to actually be offered on the Public Switched Telephone Network, a device called a DSLAM needs to be installed at the CO (Central Office). A DSLAM, short for DSL Access Multiplexer, receives signals from every DSL customer whose local loop is connected to that CO. It passes traffic back and forth between the customers and the backbone connection, which is usually a fibre optic pipeline owned by the telephone company or leased from another operator. At the other end a DSL transceiver, which is easily installed and costs around a \$100, connects to your computer. The DSLAM is what costs the big money to the telephone company at \$200,000 installed. The generic term 'switch boxes' is used, but some are upgraded to DSLAM compliant and others are not.

Local realtor David Lester has looked into this issue as it concerns Calabogie and has this to say: "Bell has officially told me through their management department (upper level complaints section) that there are two boxes in Calabogie. One has the high speed service, the other does not, and they have no intention in the near or far future of changing that situation."

The speed of a DSL connection is very fast if you're located close to the CO – about 24 Mbps up to a kilometre away. It decreases rapidly with increasing distance however, and becomes unusable about 5.5 km away from the CO. A DSL provider will usually cap the speed at somewhere between 1 Mbps (megabyte per second) and 5 Mbps to provide a fair level of service to all customers, regardless of their proximity to the CO. High speed DSL service costs between \$30 and \$50 a month.

If you live in Calabogie and want to know if you are hooked into the DSLAM switch box and can access DSL, go to the following website and type in your telephone number: <http://www.csolve.net/dsl/>

In the not too distant future Calabogie may have access to other broadband technologies. WiMAX, an acronym for Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access, promises to provide inexpensive wireless last-mile connectivity and can also serve as a

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# The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

*"Read cover to cover"*

## It's time to move forward

Greater Madawaska has an opportunity to be forward-thinking in its handling of a very complex issue that is on agendas across the province; namely waste management. Most of the reports are in. The only one still outstanding concerns the cost of transporting waste from municipal transfer stations to a waste recovery site such as that operated by the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre (OVWRC) in the Pembroke area.

To many, including Reeve Isobel Kristijan, Ward 3 Councillor Karin Lehnardt and the Township's 'Public Works Committee', this is the way to go. We at the Highlander have to agree—it's a no-brainer. Going forward with a policy that will, on average, recover 68% of the waste that we as residents produce and will allow us to receive a 1.2 million dollar COMRIF grant to accomplish this seems good sense.

Despite the complexity, eventually it comes down to a gamble: what guarantee is there that any existing waste sites will be approved (after 8 years) for expansion; what will be the future cost of transporting waste from municipal transfer sites in future; what about loss of control if decision-making passes from local council to an intra-county partnership of local councils? What is the political cost; or not, of making a decision?

The COMRIF grant application that was accepted is very specific about how the money will be spent and time-lines for the process are clear. If a decision is not made soon, the

## Dear Editor

With regard to Waste Management, the apparent direction of the Greater Madawaska Council leaves me puzzled.

I have had the opportunity to examine the application by the Township of the Greater Madawaska (G.M.) to COMIFIR, for financial assistance in handling the ever increasing problems in disposing of our garbage. The application, signed by G.M., will provide the township with \$1.2 million dollars.

For your readers, COMFIR is the acronym for "Canada - On-

grant could be put in jeopardy and it is likely that another one would not be made available if this one is scuttled because of indecision on the part of some Council members.

We at *The Highlander* believe that Council should move forward with a decision to fill our remaining landfill sites under the existing certificates, move to transfer stations and join the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre partnership.

While there are understandable concerns about the long-term cost of taking this decision, the alternative (waste site expansion) could be just as expensive and without the certainty, eight years down the road, that approval will be given to begin the costly process of expansion.

Most of the debate has been about dollar costs, but there are other costs to be considered—environmental costs. If we stop dumping into landfill sites today, we know that the garbage that we produce will be recovered, through recycling and composting, at a current average of 68%. This is 60% above what Greater Madawaska landfill sites accomplish currently. If we stop dumping into landfill sites today, we diminish the risk of contamination of our ground water and any leakage into our rivers and lakes.

We hope that Council will decide to move forward during the few months left in its term and will not hand off this important decision to what could be a brand-new Council of representatives.

*End*

tario Municipal Rural INFRASTRUCTURE Fund". I underline the word "Infrastructure" as that is what this fund is designed to assist.

The intent of this agreement is for the Township to receive this one time grant of \$1.2 million for Infrastructure to eliminate the need for new landfill sites or the expansion of existing sites. The infrastructure money will be for equipment to receive and transfer local garbage to a recovery site for processing. Our Township agreed to the conditions of this agreement by signing the

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## Looking back...



*Resettlement: The Jackson family leaving Matawatchan in 1911 to catch the train in Calabogie for Perdue Saskatchewan.*

## Hazards close to home: Personal care products

By Bill Graham,

"In May 2002 a coalition of environmental and public health organizations contracted with a major national laboratory to test 72 name-brand, off-the-shelf beauty products for the presence of phthalates, a large family of industrial chemicals linked to permanent birth defects in the male reproductive system. The laboratory found phthalates in nearly three-quarters of the products tested (52 of 72 products) including nine of 14 deodorants, all 17 fragrances tested, six of seven hair gels, four of seven mousses, 14 of 18 hair sprays, and two of nine hand and body lotions in concentrations ranging from trace amounts to nearly three percent of the product formulation."

This statement from a U.S. health protection group (Environmental Working Group) entitled: 'Not Too Pretty', examines the presence of phthalates in beauty products. You can bet that the situation is exactly the same in Canada since the due diligence required by manufacturers is roughly the same as in the U.S.A. Manufacturers of 'personal care products'; mainly cosmetics, have not had to tell consumers about all of the chemicals in their products because of the 'trade secrets' provision in the law. "Chemicals that cause birth defects do not belong in products marketed to women of childbearing age." If there was ever a 'sin of omission', this is it.

Phthalates are only one class of chemical present in these products. The 'CancerSmart Consumer Guide', which has been mentioned in other articles in this series, also highlights 'benzyl violet', 'formaldehyde', 'coal tar derivatives' and 'parabens'. I will directly quote the 'Consumer Guide' to describe these ingredients—ingredients that should be avoided!

**Benzyl violet** is used as a colouring in various products, including

nail treatments; benzyl violet is listed under California's Proposition 65 as a substance "known to the state to cause cancer." It is a possible human carcinogen, according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC 2B). When it appears on U.S. and European labels, it is frequently listed as Violet 2 or Violet CB.

"**Formaldehyde**, which is sometimes used in cosmetic products as a preservative, was recently re-classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer to its highest toxic class. IARC 1 (known human carcinogen). It is sometimes listed on labels as formalin or methyl aldehyde. Nail hardeners, particularly, may contain as much as 10 per cent formaldehyde. In some cases, ingredients are formaldehyde-releasing, including Quaternium-15 and diazolidinyl urea."

"**Cocamide diethanolamine**, often listed as cocamide DEA, is used in numerous products, including shampoos, lotions and creams as a skin softener and thickener. It is readily absorbed through the skin.

In 1998, the National Toxicology Program in the U.S. published the results of a two-year study with mice and rats that showed liver tumours among mice dosed with a topical skin application of cocamide DEA. Since then, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs has listed it as a substance that is "likely to cause cancer in humans."

"**Coal tar derivatives**: Most of the hair colourings sold today are known as permanent because they are used in conjunction with a bleaching agent (usually hydrogen peroxide) to ensure that the entire hair shaft is coloured. Although they are less toxic than they were before 1980, most dark permanent hair colourings still use coal tar derivatives as their dye base. Coal

*Continued on page 19*

# What we will we do with our garbage?

By Bill Graham

After years of discussion and reports, the Township of Greater Madawaska has reached the point where a decision on how to conduct waste management can be made. This issue has been simmering on the back burner since before amalgamation in 2000. The decision when taken will have both financial and environmental implications.

Greater Madawaska currently operates four waste disposal sites: Black Donald, Griffith, Matawatchan and Mount St. Patrick, and one transfer station; Norway Lake. Norway Lake is a transfer station because this dump site is full. Waste from Norway Lake is transferred to the Black Donald site. Both the Griffith and Matawatchan sites have reached the end of their life. The Griffith site is scheduled to be closed as a waste disposal site in 2006 and there is little potential for expanding this site. The Matawatchan site is close to full and also has no potential for expansion.

The remaining sites; Black Donald and Mount St. Patrick, may have potential for expansion. As of October 2005 Black Donald was reported to have 7 years of capacity based on the fill rate at that time. The Mount St. Patrick waste site was reported (October 2005) to have a capacity of greater than 50 years at the current fill rate. However, as other municipal wastes sites close and waste is transferred to local sites that are still operating, that capacity will quickly diminish. In fact, SGS Lakefield Research Limited, who are conducting 'cost evaluations for selected long-term waste management alternatives' for the Township have concluded: "As of October 2005, the Township has approximately seven years of waste disposal capacity at the four waste disposal sites based a municipal-wide service area."

The Township asked SGS Lakefield to evaluate the tasks and associated costs for three waste management alternatives:

Alternative 1: The optimization of the municipality's existing C of A's (Certificate of Authorization from the Ministry of the Environment) for its several existing waste management sites (including increased diversion to a recycling facility).  
Alternative 2: The expansion of one of the existing waste sites.  
Alternative 3: The establishment of a long term contract with the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre and / or another suitable facility.

The report says that optimizing existing waste sites (Alternative 1) is only a short-term solution but should be undertaken regardless of future plans for long-term waste management. There is no debate on this; it's a given. It is the decision on acceptance of Alternative 2 or Alternative 3 where there is debate.

Alternative 2, which is expansion of one of the existing waste sites (either Black Donald or Mount St. Patrick) will require studies in support of certification for expansion and will take an estimated 8 years and cost approximately \$604,000 based on current fees. Phase 1 would be preliminary feasibility studies at a cost of \$40,000 followed by phase 2, which would be the full 'environmental assessment process' at an estimated cost of \$371,000 and taking 3 to 4 years, followed by phase 3, which would take approximately 3 years and cost \$115,000. This final phase is primarily the application to the Ministry of Environment for a Certificate of Approval for the expanded site. This is the most expensive alternative, in the short term, and approval is not guaranteed. It should be noted that these costs do not include the investment that would be necessary to accomplish the actual expansion.

Alternative 3 involves waste export and the report assumes that it will involve export to the 'Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre' (OVWRC) in the Pembroke area. OVWRC is a waste recovery site that has a partnership with a number of Renfrew County townships for the disposal of waste. Greater Madawaska has been negotiating for membership in this partnership for a number of years. Recently the buy-in amount of 1.2 million dollars was softened by an offer to spread the cost over fifteen years. This buy-in would give Greater Madawaska a seat on the board where decisions are made and would make the municipality a part-owner of the Centre's infrastructure, which is valued in the millions.

To accomplish this alternative there would be costs involved to shut down the existing landfill sites and to convert them into transfer stations. Among of things, machinery for each transfer site would need to be purchased to compact and load the waste for shipment to the recovery centre. Knowing this, Council unanimously agreed to apply for a grant with the 'Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund' (COMRIF) grant to cover the estimated 1.8 million dollar cost. COMRIF grants assume a 1/3 sharing of the amount applied for split between the federal

# Dear Editor continued

application. Should Council now move to seek approval for a new or expanded landfill site, it is apparent this \$1.2 million will be forfeited by "default" on this agreement.

Why does Council continue its quest for landfill solution; proven to be inadequate and costly, when a modern, international state-of-the-art facility, OVWR (Ottawa Valley Waste Recycling) is available to provide processing services?

The costing figures calculated by Council are for immediate costs, what about long-term planning? In ten years we will be repeating this exercise. Is the loss of the \$1.2 million included in these calculations? More important, are we losing the opportunity to be leaders in waste management if we continue the "status quo", i.e. searching for landfill solutions?

The comments above are based on the following information within the signed application:

"The Township will close existing sites to limit further leachate development" and will assume the responsibility "which includes

monitoring of closed sites". ----- This later responsibility rests with we taxpayers whether the landfill sites are closed or opening further landfill sites is selected. New sites must be monitored while in use and after future closing.

"Reduce impact to environment by reducing the number of active landfills".

"Reduces the reliance on land fill sites, promotes reduction, reuse and recycling" --- Existing, state of the art, internationally acclaimed, nearby facilities are available to "provide a long term (+/- 40 year)" ----- Hopefully, G.M. Council has a vision for the future.

"Implementation of this project would remove the requirement for the Township to develop a new landfill site" ----- Millions of tax dollars can be spent searching for new landfill sites only to have the sites rejected by the Ministry of Environment. A total waste of taxpayer revenue and not include in the initial "Costing" figures.

Respectively submitted;  
Don Beckett  
(Greater Madawaska, Ward 2)

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## Pine Valley

Continued on page 18

# Griffith / Matawatchan News

By Garry Ferguson

**No Response to First Response yet**  
Though the Greater Madawaska Fire Department began training for a First Response Functions back in 2004 and have been fully trained and prepared to carry out this function for some time, it is still awaiting the official green light from county council.



Greater Madawaska Fire Chief Todd MacDonald has no idea why the approval process has taken so long but understands that legal aspects of the project are presently being examined. The Ontario Fire Marshall's office is also involved in setting criteria for this facet of the department's duties.

On June 20, Chief MacDonald re-

quested, from county, an update on the proceedings and hopes to receive information after the July 27 county council meeting. He anticipates an official go-ahead for First Response by fall.

### All the Back Yard's A Stage

Montreal has Place Des Arts, Ottawa the National Arts Centre (NAC) and Toronto the "Dome," but now Matawatchan can boast a world-class - well, almost - stage as well. As a stand-alone adjunct to the Matawatchan Memorial Hall, the made-to-endure-forever structure was completed in time for the social

highlight of our year - the "Picnic." In our last edition of The Madawaska Highlander, we saluted the hard-working folks who made it happen.

Supported by huge cedar posts, the structure is enclosed at the back to provide rigidity and to improve the acoustics. Steel for the large roof was generously donated by M & R Feeds (Ron and Marilyn Leclaire) of Renfrew. Several covered outlets on the structure make power readily available to anyone requiring it.

Seating capacity around the stage is unlimited - providing enough bush could be cleared - so NAC and Place Des Arts with your little buildings, eat your hearts out.

### The Fish and Game Club

Twenty-two junior fishermen signed up for the sun-and-fun Kids Rock Bass Fishing Derby on Saturday July 15, 2006: that made it a success once again by any standards. Carling Kerkhoven hooked 42 for first prize, Jordan Dodge and Mike Harvey tied for second with 27 each and Brooke Felder took third with her count of 23.

Don't forget the Pig Roast on August 05, 2006. Golfers (snicker) will tee off (this happens just be-



Gerald Adamson (far left) and Doug Vasey (far right) received the volunteer award for Matawatchan from Reeve Kristijan and Councillor Lehnhardt at the Canada Day Picnic.

fore they begin to get teed off) from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and supper will hit the tables at around 6 p.m.

It's likely that the tournament's Grand Marshall, Cliff Holleran, has added a few kinks as well as some soul-destroying equipment to the game. Don't expect "handicap" to be used in reference to the usual golf term.

### The Dump Dude Says "Thanks"

Gary Guilmette, the friendly waste site attendant at Griffith and Matawatchan, is singing the praises of the local people who seem to be doing a great job in the recycling department. Though many of the bags torn open by animals contain recyclables, he believes that his regular visitors are not responsible since he knows them and their sorting habits.

Keep it up folks. Because of you he loves his job.

End

## Cooking oil *continued*

family vehicle with straight biodiesel, except in the coldest months of the year when he mixes in 50% regular diesel, due to the fact that biodiesel gels at a higher temperature than its fossil fuel relation.

No modifications to the engine are needed in order to burn biodiesel. As Steve points out, the original diesel engine, demonstrated by Rudolf Diesel in 1893, ran on vegetable oil.

Steve has recently given six demonstrations on making biodiesel to interested groups around the valley, and has sold some biodiesel to interested individuals. He advises folks to start gradually with 10% biodiesel and work their way up to 100%. He also advises purchase of a spare fuel filter since biodiesel cleans the fuel tank, engine and other components due to its higher solvent action.

Many people all over the world are making and using biodiesel. In Canada, several municipalities have experimented with mixing biodiesel and regular diesel- with biodiesel constituting up to 20% of the mix- and using the resulting fuel in bus and truck fleets with excellent results.

According to Natural Resources Canada, there are many advantages to biodiesel. It is versatile, readily biodegradable in water, and it produces fewer emissions than petroleum fuel when burned. There are also engine benefits associated with biodiesel use since it is a very good lubricant.

With the world facing fossil fuel depletion in the near future, biodiesel can play an increasingly important role as liquid fuel for motorized vehicles. While it is clear that there is not enough arable land in the world to replace petroleum with biodiesel, it can play a role in a sustainable energy future where we carefully use liquid fuels for essential activities.

A wealth of information on making biodiesel from waste cooking oil is available on the Journey to Forever website at: [www.journeytoforever.org](http://www.journeytoforever.org). Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency offers information on biodiesel for municipalities and members of the general public.

**Editor's note:** Lynn Jones is a member of the Ottawa River Institute [www.ottawariverinstitute.ca](http://www.ottawariverinstitute.ca).

## Look who's reading the Highlander



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# Fishing with Jim

By Jim Weatherall,



Well, here we are again, and when you read this, summer will be half over, but, if the rest of the summer is as good, we will have had a real good one.

On Monday June 12<sup>th</sup>, I took Terry Aldridge and Tammy Stewart, from Illinois, out on Calabogie Lake for a day of pickerel (walleye) fishing, and we landed 24, ranging from 12 to 14 inches.

On Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>, we went out again and in eight hours we got 72 walleye, ranging from 10 to 17 inches in length. I don't think I've ever had a day like this before. The year thus far has gone just like this. All of the fish were caught on a jig head and minnow, but some fishermen are using a jig head and worm and are doing very well too. Harry Cox also caught a walleye between 4 and 5 pounds. It was caught at Harry's "Secret Lake", as he was not forthcoming with the exact spot he was at.

Other fishermen on Calabogie Lake are trolling and having good results,

with a good number of walleye. David and Carol have been trolling near their cottage and one or the other of them continues to catch large walleye; one of which was 26 inches long and approximately 6 1/2 pounds...."Nice fish Carol". The best part of this catch was that she returned it for someone else to catch again.

I am finding that the pickerel are moving from the river mouth and into the lake into the deeper water now. Bass fishing had been a little slow at the start of the season but is beginning to pick up. I found them not to be in the weeds as much as in the sticks and stumps. We have been taking them on "wacky" worms and tube jigs and they bite more on the green colour than anything else.

When using the rubber worms and hooking them up wacky-style, you should use a #3/0 or 4/0 hook. You will find the bigger bass may have the hook too far down their throat. If you are going to release the fish, don't try to remove the hook. Cut your line and release the fish. The bass's system will dissolve the hook in 48 to 72 hours. Trying to remove the hook may kill the fish.

I'd like to remind all of you fishermen about the invasive species that are starting to appear in some of the local waterways. There is

a boater's checklist that is important to follow as you move from one body of water to another:

- 1) Remove all aquatic plants, mussels or other visible organisms and put in the garbage.
- 2) Drain the water from your boat, including the motor, live well and bilge.
- 3) Do not release live bait! Empty your bait bucket on land, or freeze or salt the bait to use later.
- 4) Remove organism you can't see on your boat by a) Rinsing with hot water or b) Spraying with high-pressure water, or c) Drying in the sun for 5 days.

I have lots of information on this topic at my store: Jim's Bait & Tackle, 12600 Lanark Road, Calabogie. Please drop in and pick up some of these booklets at no charge. Please report sightings of invasive species by calling Invasive Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 and use the boater's checklist before you leave the boat launch.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I'll see you out on the water.

Jim

## Out on the First Concession

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

By Wes Bomhower

He was a homely, long legged, spotted dog, part collie, part hound and several other canine species thrown in, but he was tough and strong and loyal to his master who was my Uncle Albert. The big dog would round up the cattle each morning and evening from the pasture, fetch them to the barn for milking and expected nothing more than a pat on the head or kind word for his efforts. His name was Spot.

Uncle Albert kept a bull in the stable for breeding purposes and the only time the bull was let out into the barnyard was when Albert cleaned the stalls out. The huge animal was mild mannered and never caused any trouble but I recall my Dad telling Albert, "Don't turn your back on that big guy, you can never trust a bull". Uncle Albert just laughed and cut a wad of chewing tobacco off a plug he always carried. "That goldurn bull wouldn't hurt a flea Ellis, and anyway that ring we put in his nose last year has slowed him down some" he declared, putting the chew of tobacco in his mouth. Dad shrugged and walked away.

It was a warm day in July a few weeks later and Uncle Albert decided to clean the stalls up while the boys were raking and hauling hay from the fields across the road. He turned the bull loose in the fenced barnyard and proceeded with his work for a half hour, then came out wiping his face with a large red handkerchief. He continued wiping perspiration away and leaned on the fence where he could see the boys across the road coming with a load of hay. Behind him, the bull watched his every move and began to gently paw the earth.

The sudden thunder of hooves made Albert turn just in time see the bull bearing down on him, head lowered and saliva dripping from an open mouth. Surprised, Albert side stepped the huge animal's rush

and as he did so he cried one word at the top of his lungs, "Spot"!

Wham! The bull's first charge caught Albert in the side, breaking ribs and knocking him off his feet beside the fence. Painfully, he tried to roll under the fence but the bull raked him again, this time breaking his leg. Then a spotted, snarling fury came flying over the fence to do battle for his master.

The dog went for the bull's throat, then his nose, then the hind legs; he seemed to be everywhere at once as Uncle Albert, gasping for breath, passed in and out of consciousness.


The fight raged on between Spot and the bull, and as Uncle Albert told afterwards, Spot was getting the best of the battle until the bull cornered the dog up against the barn and, crunch, one yelp and it was all over for the brave spotted dog who fought so valiantly to save his master.

The bull continued to gore and stomp the dog's body and in the meantime Uncle Albert managed to drag himself under the fence and out of harm's way just as the boys came running up at the sound of the commotion. They attended to their father, and after the bull had calmed down, herded the big brute back into his stall. Next day the bull was sold to a cattle dealer.


Uncle Albert spent some time in hospital but considered himself fortunate indeed to be alive. He never kept a bull afterward and began using the artificial insemination method for cattle breeding, which had just become available.

Spot's mangled body was buried with full honours that evening in a little shady corner east of the woodshed where he loved to doze on a warm summer's day. A small cross was erected over Spot's grave,(on Uncle Albert's orders) and on a shingle above the cross in large capital letters were painted the words, "Man's Best Friend".

Times indeed have changed.



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# 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.

### Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Griffith: Sat. Mass 7:30 p.m.  
 Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.

### Hilltop Tabernacle

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
 Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

### DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

#### Vennachar Free Methodist Church

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.  
 Tuesdays:  
 Lady's Bible Study (Bi-Weekly) 1pm  
 Bible Study (weekly) 7pm  
 Bible Study (Bi-Weekly) Plevna----7pm  
 WMI - Monday (monthly)  
 Third Sunday of every month  
 New Beginnings, Clar-Mill Hall,  
 Plevna-----6:30pm

### St. Luke's United Church

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

### 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

### The Calabogie Bible Fellowship Congregational Church

The Mill Street Chapel at 538 Mill St.,  
 Regular service – Sundays 7:00 p.m.

### Most Precious Blood Catholic Church

504 Mill St., Rev. Father Pat Blake  
 Sundays 10:30 a.m.

### St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Mount St. Patrick  
 Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

### Calabogie St. Andrews United Church

1044 Madawaska Dr.  
 (on the waterfront)  
 Church Services Sunday Mornings at  
 8:45 a.m. Communion  
 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month.  
 Bible study every Wednesday evening  
 7:15 – 9:00

## COMMUNITY EVENTS Calabogie

### Lion's Club Bingo

every Wed., 7:15 pm,  
 Calabogie Community Centre, 752-0234

### Calabogie Craft Sale & Tea

August 5 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Calabogie Community Centre

**Calabogie Seniors:** Pot luck dinner and meeting – the last Thursday of each month – Community Hall, begins at 4:00

p.m. followed by dinner and meeting.

### The Calabogie and Area Ministerial Food Bank

538 Mill Street, Calabogie  
 2 days per month [2nd and 4th Thursdays] 10:00 am to 12:00 noon  
 For emergency situations, please call 752-2201

### Dacre

#### Dacre and Area Community Yard Sale

August 19 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 DACA Centre

### Griffith & Matawatchan

**Matawatchan Community Cemetery Annual Memorial Service**  
 Sunday August 13 at 2:00 pm

Matawatchan Cemetery  
 Rev. Glen MacPherson officiating  
 In case of rain: St. Andrews Church

### The Heritage Old Time Country Music Association Jamboree

Sunday August 20  
 1:30 to 5 p.m.  
 The Matawatchan Hall  
 Admission: \$6.00—Members: \$4.00  
 For more information call 613-333-1107

### Downtown Matawatchan

#### Community Yard Sale

Saturday, August 5, 2006  
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
 3264 Matawatchan Road  
 and area

### Lion's Club Bingo

Every second Tuesday at 7:30 pm  
 August 8 and August 22  
 Community Centre, Griffith, 613- 333-5523

### Busy Bees Craft Club

Meet the second Tuesday of every month at the Matawatchan Hall.  
 (Contact: Hazel Warren (33-2798) or Carol Anne Kelly (333-5570)

### "Northern Lights" Seniors

Meet the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. alternating between Griffith

*continued on page 19*

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# Porcupine

By Floris Wood

My brother and I were walking down a track through the woods behind Matawachan a couple years ago when we spotted, on the trail far ahead of us, what we thought was a bear cub. We halted our advance to-

itself on whatever it was eating, it slowly waddled off down the trail as we followed at a respectful distance. After fifty meters or so of leading us down the trail it turned into the bush and stopped, as we strolled by. Not an unpleasant encounter at all.

Although the loon has become the unofficial symbol for the now not-so-



ward it and considered retreating, feeling a bit apprehensive over encountering the cub's mother. But something about its behaviour convinced us it was not a bear cub, so we continued toward it, very cautiously. We soon realized it was a porcupine . . . and we, who grew up in Michigan, had never seen a porcupine as large as this one. As we narrowed the gap between us the animal showed no alarm whatsoever. We came within 10 meters of it and it grazed comfortably. So we stood and watched it for some length of time. Having sated

new township of Greater Madawaska, the less romantic porcupine is its namesake. Although all my information sources agree that Madawaska is an aboriginal word for "Land of the Porcupine", there is a great disparity among information sources as to which aboriginal language the word comes from. Those writers more familiar with the other Canadian Madawaska region in New Brunswick attribute the word Madawaska to the Micmacs. Suffice it to say it is aboriginal and present in many of the Algonquin language groups.

# MAPLE PADDLES

By Ernie Jukes

Let's Go folks! The information and comments here on destinations and routes will hopefully encourage your interest in the joys of water travel---the quiet way--- perhaps as some say, the sophisticated way, with a paddle.

Well I was neither very knowledgeable about this ancient craft nor the least bit sophisticated about paddling when I got my first canoe and rode the surf of Lake Erie. But gradually and after travelling our portion of the Madawaska with my older partner Joe McLaren, the wobbly craft became more stable. We must have looked a strange pair as I was 13 years old and he was into his seventies, but he taught me a lot about the woods and especially how to read white water. That was back in the days when it seemed you could race through a

set of rapids every few miles or so. I would do the slugging and like a Grandpa, old river man Joe would provide the wisdom and the ways.



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One might think that porcupines are not particularly interesting, since, besides their unique quill defence mechanism and their reputed voracious appetite for salt, they aren't very well known for much of anything. But, as is the case with most things that are most familiar to us, a little knowledge of these familiar animals can enrich our lives and make the next sighting

of a porcupine much more exciting.

The porcupine, like its bigger cousin, the beaver, is a rodent. In fact it is the second largest rodent in North America. Following the Bergmann rule, Porcupines of our northern climate tend to grow larger than those in warmer

*continued on page 22*

losing a pair of specs and damaging a canoe badly, I learned that where water slopes downhill canoeing demand a number of precise canoeist skills. Like most things you have to do it to really know it! However, most canoeing and kayaking can be safely handled with a partner, a group or even a family, on many of our waters today. By the way, a good addition to your outdoor library is "A Complete Guide to Canoeing" by Monk and Knap, published by Pagurian Press, Toronto.

While the open Canoe is still a symbol that represents Canada and the romance of our history and endless waterways, the Kayak is also becoming a craft of modern day voyagers. No matter the craft, there is something about morning mists and sunset silhouettes that

*continued on page 20*



Attempt at the Guinness Record for longest floating line at the Calabogie Fun Day



Thomas Riexinger and Markus Beyritz of The Duck Restaurant with staff sold pieces from a 36-foot apple strudel to help pay for Canada Day fireworks in Calabogie.



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# Great Run with Calabogie Run

By Richard Copeland



Calabogie and its surrounding area are known for wilderness trails and the abundance of natural beauty and wildlife. Much of this pristine environment is winter-accessible through trails for snowmobiles and cross country skiing. Summer generally finds the long trails broken up and more difficult to use at a time of nature's greatest beauty.

Robin and Chantelle Wright have solved that problem and few more. Calabogie Run ATV Trail Tours was introduced by them in March of this year. With the cooperation of several parties they have put together exten-

sive trails comprised of private property, crown land and some snowmobile trails. Excursions can vary in length from a one-hour "Sunset Tour" through 2, 4 or 6 hours of trail riding. The riding is done on either a single seat ATV or a larger two-seater, allowing a passenger who may not wish to drive to enjoy the ride. And if you haven't driven before and want to test those waters, that's okay too. Robin will give you instructions, a small test and all the required safety equipment needed.

Activities can vary too. Robin and Chantelle offer the one-hour sunset tour and a range of touring hours that can take the nature enthusiast from Calabogie to Ompah and back. Robin can set up fishing expeditions (including ice fishing in the winter) and overnight camping. They are even considering introducing this venue to businesses for corporate team-building.

It is a wonderful way to spend the better part of the day, with wilderness, wildlife and wetlands accessible from these trails. A snack or lunch is offered, including homemade muffins, which Chantelle finds time to make while dealing with three active young boys. If you have ever wanted to try riding, and enjoy the best that nature has to offer, try it out with this very accommodating and enthusiastic young couple.

End

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# GREATER MADAWASKA LITERARY MATTERS

By Mary-Joan Hale

The temperature may be breaking all records outside, but it is nice and cool in the library. If you are tired of swimming, boating and fishing and need a break, come down to the basement of the Township building and break the heat.

“Quest for heroes” is the theme of the summer program this year. Our summer student, Christina McCollum has planned loads of fun every Wednesday from 1:00-3:00 p.m. From the library down the hall, all I can hear are tons of giggles. Why not join in the fun, meet some new friends, and pick up some books while you are at it.

Pre-schoolers meet Tuesdays from 2:00-2:45pm to explore books, paint, learn songs, finger plays and actions to shake out the sillies. Teachers say it is good preparation for school.

Viable communities are more than infrastructure. Of course roads, maintenance, disposal of waste and other services are essential. However a community must also serve the souls of its inhabitants. Libraries are more than bricks and mortar. They are safe havens for those wishing to expand their minds. They offer places of exploration for the life-long learner. The library of today is more than rows of bookshelves. It is a place of information sharing. For those still wishing to do research using printed texts, a reference section is available. For others, on-line searches are the preferred method. E-books offer another av-

enue. These can also be accessed at home after first registering with us.

In the 2005 document published by the Administrators of Rural/Urban Public Library Systems, several trends were outlined. Our area falls into this category. “Changing demographics and new technologies are already shifting rural/urban development trends toward a New Ruralism. Technology has changed rural choices in residential location.” Increase in outdoor and tourism-based economic and social activities (eco-tourism, agrico-tourism, skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, trail development) are key to our Township. This is an echo of many discussions around tables in our area.

Folks choose rural life because it is a good way to raise children. They require not only schools close by but also a good library system. Support of literacy through storytimes and other programs is essential. The trend is to have a library in a small urban centre with remote service available. Here in Greater Madawaska we are attempting to build this model with our Outreach Program.

Rural/urban libraries must also provide good high-speed Internet access. We were the first place to have that level of technology with six stations available including one that is adjustable for wheelchairs. There is also a need for access to a wide variety of virtual services.

Accessibility for those with physical challenges of all kinds must be met. We are aiming to meet

those needs, but it is in its infancy.

Libraries must enter into partnerships with educational institutions. Visits to the two Elementary schools are part of the school year. Secondary, college and university students are welcome to do their research here.

As the New Ruralism evolves, leadership must be aware of this new reality in order to attract families and maintain a vibrant community. This does not mean that we need to lose what make us special, but to provide the means to feed the souls of our residents. Our mandate is to provide literacy for all ages to the entire township.

There are many services that could and should be provided by our library if we had more space. In the document quoted above, it notes for accreditation purposes, small village libraries serving a 1,000-5,000 population should have an area of 2,500-3,500 square feet. We have 1,000 square feet and much of that is unusable. We lack good study tables and lounge space. A teacher recently told me that if she had room to spread out her materials, she would be in all of the time to work. We are able to use the Chambers (when not in use by Council for their meetings) for our children’s programs. Thanks to the Lions and Women’s Institute we have a travelling classroom and craft materials for these events. There is no room for exhibits, creative display of new materials, or presentation of local artists’ and artisans’ works. There are other minimal requirements, that we aspire to, which must be addressed as we evolve within this New Ruralism.

Obviously my heart is in our library, but I also love to skate and to see children enjoying the great outdoors.

We need to provide activities for the children, whether it is organised sports, swimming lessons, orienteering, skiing, canoeing lessons and other services to keep families here. We have such wonderful natural resources in our area that could be used to the benefit of our youth; not to organise every second of the day, but it is a shame to be sending people out of the Township for what we should be providing. This requires a co-ordinated effort among all parties. There needs to be a co-ordinator of all community activities. We were just starting to unify all groups. We gave our announcements to one person and a nice monthly calendar of events/newsletter for the whole township was available for all. Activities such as Yoga had been added. Thank you Chantal for a wonderful job! Unfortunately the almighty dollar cut that short.

In short, if community means coming together as one, we need to do so. A common purpose will unify and help us grow in a positive way, which is so important now in a world, that seems to be coming more fragmented. Let us show others that it can be done. We only need to open our minds to it. Greater Madawaska is a place where people can grow in health and spirit.

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# Rural Broadband

*continued*

reliable wireless pipeline. By accessing the Internet backbone via satellite and installing a tower this technology can then broadcast a 'line of sight' signal to households having compatible hardware for receiving the signal and interpreting it. A single access point can serve hundreds of homes and businesses within a 45km line-of-sight range (3km non-line-of-sight), with impressive speeds of up to 50 Mbps per subscriber.

VICIP Communications, a Renfrew-based Internet Provider already has a tower built in Barryvale at the Calabogie Highlands Golf Course that uses 'line of sight' Internet technology.

VICIP's current network layout shows strong service availability through the following neighbourhoods: Highway 508 near Waterfront, Kennedy Road, Barryvale Road (800+ Addressing), MacNabb Road, Lodge Lane, Hart Lane, Spindle Drift, Squaw Point, and K&P Trail.

Their immediate plans include expanded coverage through the following neighbourhoods: Viewmount Drive, Norton Road, Barryvale Road (200-700 addressing), Pheasant Run, Tatty Hill Road, Madawaska Street, Mill Street, Bluff Point Drive (all addressing).

VIC over the next month will install three new Wireless Distribution nodes in Calabogie and Barryvale. The new high-speed wireless-distribution nodes will enhance existing coverage, and open new coverage areas, as detailed above. Their new distribution nodes will use the latest in wireless

hardware to distribute maximum signal, and quality of service possible.

On another positive note for Calabogie, Bell Mobility and Rogers Communications in cooperation with Calabogie Peaks will be building a tower at the Peaks for more reliable cell phone reception in Calabogie. Bill Hewson, who is Chair of the Economic Development Committee and involved in this project on the behalf of the Peaks, has asked Bell and Rogers to build the tower with a future use for Internet applications in mind. They have agreed. However, in the short term, the tower will be used exclusively for cell phone use.

If you live anywhere else in the Township, it is unlikely you will ever have DSL access and it would require a very tall tower to reach the western end of the Township. However, there are other technologies already available and becoming more affordable or technologies on the horizon and just a few years away.

At the western end of the Township in Griffith or Matawatchan, the only current option if you want broadband access is satellite. There are a number of geographic obstacles and infrastructure gaps that limit the possibilities for many technologies. Being in the Madawaska Highlands; hundreds of feet above Calabogie and the rest of the Ottawa Valley, there are trees and mountains that obstruct 'line of sight' broadband Internet technology.

Despite this, VICIP Communications company representative Bruce Mosier, says there are plans for this end of the Township: "For areas such

*continued on next page*



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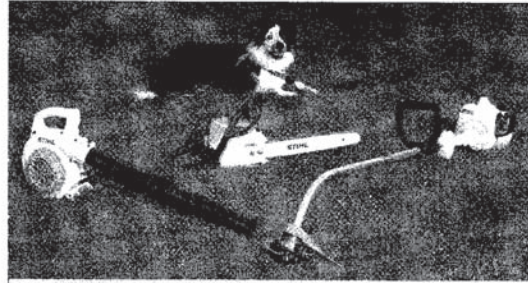
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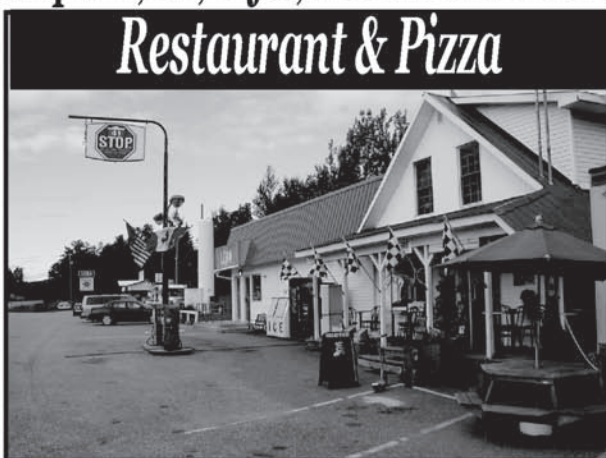
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# Rural Broadband

continued

as Matawatchan and Griffith, we do have full plans to service these communities in the very near future. Our primary goal and objective is to deliver broadband-class internet service to rural communities giving residents access to the world, and content which has become the "standard" in today's busy world."

Until that day, residents outside of Calabogie will need a satellite if they want broadband access. Internet service has been available by satellite in Canada for about ten years. The first consumer technology was called 'terrestrial return' because it used the satellite connection to receive data and a dial-up connection to send data. One provider of this service was Bell ExpressVu, which operated their DirecPC Internet service on their "Nimiq" Ku-band satellite.

In early 2002, DirecWay satellite Internet service was introduced in Canada by LinCsat Communications Inc. and is now operated by Xplornet. Using the Ku-band Galaxy 11 satellite, DirecWay reaches every corner of Canada and doesn't require a dial-up connection for the uplink. While this technology was an improvement, the bandwidth was limited and consequently very expensive.

In the Spring of 2005, DirecWay gained a competitor when Telesat's Ka-band broadband Internet service was introduced on the Anik F2 satellite. Telesat has a small network of service providers including Xplornet, Infosat, NetKaster, NorthernTel, and Télébec, with Xplornet being the only provider that serves the entire country

Xplornet is the main satellite service in this area through Noron Home Communications in Renfrew. The Ka-band satellite has significantly reduced the cost of broadband access via satellite. The Xplornet website

now advertises a one-time equipment fee of only \$499 (with certain conditions) on your satellite high-speed Internet equipment, plus a one-time installation fee and monthly subscriber fees starting at \$54.99 per month for up to 512 Kbps at the low end to \$249.99 per month for speeds up to 2 megabytes per second (Mbps). The difference between kilobytes and megabytes is a factor of one thousand.

Finally, there is a new technology on the horizon that looks very promising for remote communities that are on the electrical grid. Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) has been around for a few years and has been tested in many trial installations in Canada and the United States. The electrical grid is easily the most ubiquitous wired network in Canada, so obviously it is worth looking into as a possible medium for distribution of broadband Internet service. The grid could potentially bring broadband Internet and other digital services to any place that has electricity.

Because of the serious interference issues created by Broadband over Power Lines, the first generation of this technology has lost much of the support it had at its peak a year or two ago. The second generation of BPL technologies, especially Corridor Systems' implementation, is promising, but it will likely take at least one or two years of testing before the first widespread deployments are possible.

It appears that in the next few years those of us in dial-up land may no longer have to endure those long download times and will have the same digital opportunities as our city cousins. However, technology is always full of promises but they are not always delivered.

End



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## The Township of Greater Madawaska

### Notice to Greater Madawaska Residents

Please ensure that you are on the voters list for the upcoming municipal election which will be held in November. For confirmation please contact the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation at 866-296-6722.

Municipal Election news and information can be found on the Township Website [www.townshipofgreatermadawaska.com](http://www.townshipofgreatermadawaska.com)

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# COTTAGE CORNER

## The Opera, Naturally!

By John Roxon

Nature's seemingly random mix of cries, wails and calls is actually a very well orchestrated symphony. Perhaps more like an opera as the animal's dramatic performances in combination with their songs and warnings is clearly theatrical. Sitting by the dock at the cottage on a cloudy morning, recently, allowed me privilege to my own box seat to just such a performance.

The song was a cappella unless you include the splash of the jumping bass as the percussion. With the croaking bullfrog keeping tempo, the birds producing a canon in A sharp and the insects adding their own atonal quality, the opera was in fact a scherzo – a quick piece in triple time set to the drama of the clouds floating aimlessly across the sky and the water gently lapping at the shore. The goals of each individual animal in pursuing their daily routine, collectively had the effect of a conductor, as each animal seemed to know their part and performed on cue.

Periodically the fish would jump to catch a dragonfly. Cue bullfrog. Then the loon would add its tremolo. Cue

Pileated Woodpecker. Just then the Magnolia Warbler adds its "pretty, pretty lady" refrain. This went on for what seemed to be a very well rehearsed interpretation. Cue ruby throated hummingbird with the buzzing of their wings producing a wonderful aria. In come the percussionist chipmunks rustling the leaves in a distinct timbre, which was rich and airy.

Sitting by a quiet lake on a summer's day it's easy to be aware of every sound and every nuance. It's remarkably easy to follow the warble of the American Robin in time with the swaying of the tall pines. The sun hiding and reappearing in the clouds is the metronome. Of course every theatrical performance has its irritants, akin to the patron who constantly coughs and clears his throat during the softer passages. In the great opera of nature this irritant is the almost constant drone of the various buzzing flies. The mosquito, deer fly and horse fly, among others, just can't seem to keep their wings still during the performance. Sounding like the circuit for the stage lights had faulty ballast, these bothersome flies were definitely unwanted patrons.

On and on goes the performance of the animal opera with one player or

another performing their parts virtually 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. To be sure, there are times when nature does a thorough job of imitating avant-garde composer John Cage's famous 4'33", which is four minutes thirty-three seconds of silence, but for the most part the opera continues piece by piece, stanza by stanza. Then it repeats itself with a slightly different interpretation of the previous day's performance. Each day produces a new show dependant largely on the weather, the season and the other animals in attendance. Of course, since it is an opera, let's not forget the wonderful visual effects produced by the stagehands. The beautiful costume of the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly is adorned in yellow with black stripes. Or the rare, delicate Luna moth in all its glory draped with soft green wings with purple front margins. Many of the eyes and wings and bodies of the other performers – many silent to the human ear – under the proper lighting are gorgeously iridescent, producing a different hue when viewed from different angles. Just when the performance of a Monarch butterfly is worthy of an ovation, a Circumpolar Bluet will dart by creating a gasp from the audience with its pure blue body and black-striped head. The Bluets, the damselflies and the dragonflies en-

joy a well choreographed dance together, dipping and looping around each other, stopping momentarily to emphasize a point and then continuing the crazed whirly dance while the birds sing in harmonious accompaniment. The leopard frog with its coat of camouflage sits as if the muse for the dancing dragonflies, quietly observing the proceedings and nodding ever so slightly its approval.

The diva of this natural opera, especially in this beautiful part of Ontario, must surely be the loon. This heavy-bodied star of the show, with its loud wailing call and its mournful yodel, sings the characteristic song of these north woods. All other performers seem to be quiet when the diva sings. When she stops, the others sing their refrain, seldom venturing far from the libretto.

And so it goes, never really reaching crescendo until an outside force, the phantom if you will, provides the catalyst. The booming drum roll of an advancing thunderstorm is always a marvelous crescendo. The drums build and build slowly signifying the dramatic point of the show. Then, the lights flash brilliantly, filling the whole sky, a crack of the drum with each flash. The other performers fall silent. The drums end, the clouds part and it's on with a new show.

## CABA Corner

### Improvements in Business – Government Relations

By Mike Greenley

The economy of the township is influenced by residents, tourists, businesses and government, and how well all these groups work together in a positive manner.

A key component of these relationships is the link between business and government. The interaction between business and government has been steadily increasing in Greater Madawaska Township (GMT) over the past several years. The Calabogie Area Business Association (CABA) has been central to these relations and will continue to seek opportunities to act as an effective link between the business community and government.

Recently CABA has worked closely with business leaders in the association to identify areas where (a) business could work more closely with government to cause positive effects within the community

and (b) government could act in ways that would improve the conditions for business success and a strong economy in the community.

The output of these sessions will now be used to continually shape the actions of CABA and to shape the input that is provided to government to help drive responsible, sustainable, economic growth. It is timely for CABA to have collected these inputs, as the association will now be in a position to provide this feedback to the Township as they continue with economic development strategic planning.

As we enter an election year in the township, it will be important for the business community to understand what qualities and beliefs are important to have in the government team and to use that understanding to ask relevant questions of candidates, thereby informing the business vote. Again, CABA will assist in developing this understanding in the township and ensuring that the issues important to business are communicated to candidates and that the business community understands where candidates stand on those issues.

As CABA continues with its efforts to enhance business-govern-

ment relations and to communicate the interests of business to government, it is important that the association receives all relevant inputs and suggestions. Members of the community that have ideas in this regard are encouraged to contact CABA through [www.calabogie.org](http://www.calabogie.org) or email to [president@calabogie.org](mailto:president@calabogie.org).

End

## Garbage continued

and provincial governments and the municipality that is applying. So, the Township would be required to invest approximately \$600,000 of its own money to realize this grant, but it would also make \$1.2 million in grant money available to the Township.

This alternative assumes that existing waste sites would be filled under existing certificates from the MOE and transfer sites (probably at Mount St. Patrick, Black Donald, Matawatchan and Griffith) would be added to the existing transfer station at Norway Lake for export of waste to OVWRC.

What is not yet known is how much it is projected to cost to transport waste and recyclable to OVWRC in the Pembroke area. At the July Council meet-

No need for reserved tickets. No need to wait in queue. No need to plan in advance. Nature's opera is more complex than any produced by man yet easy to understand. It coddles the soul, frees the mind and offers a most welcome respite.

End

ing in Calabogie, Council approved a study to determine these costs.

OVWRC is a leader in waste recovery with a current recovery rate of 68%. The current average rate of recovery (waste diversion rate) for Greater Madawaska is now 8% while the Government of Ontario has a goal of recovering 60% from across the province. Recovery involves recycling metal, glass, plastics and paper but also the conversion of organic waste into composted soil.

The time-lines identified in the COMFRI grant application are already in process. The SGS Lakefield report on waste management alternatives has been in hands of Council since November 2005. On November 24, 2005, Township CAO John Baird provided a memorandum to Council that summarized the report

continued on page 22

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## Hazards *continued*

tar is a known human carcinogen and some of the substances derived from it that are used in hair colourings have been linked to bladder cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma."

"Parabens is the group name given to various preservatives used in many cosmetic products and sunscreens. Easily absorbed through the skin, they are endocrine disrupters and since they can bind to oestrogen receptors in women, they could potentially affect oestrogen-sensitive functions of the body. Scientists have urged further research into their possible role in the development of cancer following a 2004 study by British researcher Dr. Philippa Darbre, who found parabens in the tumours of breast cancer patients she studied. Parabens are identified on ingredient labels by their individual name, such as methyl paraben, butyl paraben and propyl paraben. Buying parabens-free products is difficult. Parabens are used extensively, even by some natural product manufacturers."

The good news in this story is that Health Canada recently brought in new regulations that, starting in November 2006, will force ingredient labelling on all cosmetic products. The department is also holding consultations on new regulations to label

consumer products with carcinogens and bring Canada in line with European rules. Health Canada plans to finish the consultations this year and implement the new rules in 2008.

The new regulations will cover products such as lipstick, shampoo, make-up, hair colouring and fragrances, but other products, such as toothpaste or sunscreens are not covered because they fall under a separate classification. Natural health products are also not covered under this legislation.

The bad news is that you will probably not understand what the labelling means; as reported by the Ottawa Citizen: "Many critics say Health Canada's labelling system will only confuse people. Ingredients will be listed using the symbol-based International Nomenclature Cosmetic Ingredients system, which is used in many countries. "We fully acknowledge that this ingredient list will only be understood in conjunction with a medical professional," said Carl Carter, vice-president of the Canadian Cosmetic, Fragrance and Toiletry Association, which represents approximately 60 cosmetics companies. But Mr. Carter said in a country with two official languages INCI was the best solution, especially for companies that plan to sell products worldwide. "We know consumers want to know what is in their products," says Mr. Cart-

er. "We don't want to hide what is in our products so consumers can make an informed choice whether they have allergies, concerns or fears."

As has been repeated through-out this series, you have a right to know what is contained in the products that you purchase and to know whether there are any health hazards. This legislation is a step forward but it still leaves the onus on the consumer to make an informed decision. In Europe, where public policy on this subject is far in advance of North America, the decision is made for the consumer and unsafe products are not allowed.

I refer you to the following website of The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics at <http://www.safecosmetics.org/about/reports.cfm>. The first link that you find is entitled Skin Deep. This link will take you to a database where you can research a product by name or browse by product type. Different brands are rated by level of concern. There are 29 product types with everything from soaps to creams to shampoo to lipstick. It should be noted that the database contains U.S. product brands, so some Canadian brand names may not be present. You will also find on the website the full article: *Not So Pretty*, which was mentioned earlier.

End

## Calendar *continued*

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. Contact Pat Holleran 333-1229 or Lois Robbins at 333-1082

### Denbigh

#### 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.

**St. Luke's United Church**, Denbigh Exercise Group - Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.

### HEALTH CARE

**Paramed Health Care Services Foot Care Clinic/Denbigh**

Call 333-5559, Muriel Burgess, for an appointment

End

# Maple Paddle continued

will reach out and grab your senses.

Car topping your water craft can cover a lot of back country and you will find various ways to get back to your put-in spot. You can travel ultra-light for drift fishing but your rods and tackle can be tough to handle when portaging. Scenic summer trips offer exciting and tasty fishing, superb sight-seeing and inspirational photo and painting. You can also travel right into autumn and feel the grandness of the outdoors and the rich ruggedness of our highlands during maximum fall colour with virtually no bugs to bug you.

Access to the Madawaska River can be made at so many spots. Boston Mills Press offers "A Paddler's Guide to Ontario" by Kevin Callan, which is loaded with tips and maps. It describes the diversity of the Lower Madawaska Provincial Park with 36 campsites along its banks. Of course you can get detailed topographic maps of the river or lake section you wish to explore from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

Sounds will travel farther over water. However if you go quietly you should see and hear the waterfowl and animals, as you would expect in this almost pristine region. The joys of canoe camping cannot be overstated. Sunsets, fireflies, crackling campfires—watch the sparks—and if kids are along bring some marshmallows; all provide lifelong memories. Anyone can travel our waterways by boat and motor but the canoe or kayak allows one to penetrate smaller water trails to escape the increasingly noisy crowd.

You don't have to make your trip a laborious expedition; it should never be an endurance test. There are many short, easy routes, such as simply the one from Calabogie to Burnstown. The YM/YWCA sponsor a run of only 12 km. from Burnstown to the Stewartville Dam and return. You will have lots of time to visit shops and galleries as you go.

Two canoeists were paddling down Black Donald when they hit a concrete wall. One looked at the other and said "Dam"!

Those of us soaked in that wonderful urge called "wanderlust" can imagine travelling arduously across Ontario back in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. It was tough, buggy work in the days of Etienne Brule when the canoe carried these adventurers and explorers from the St. Lawrence River west using native and voyageur routes. They worked their way up the Ottawa and

its tributaries, like the Madawaska, to Lake Nippising and on to the French River. These wilderness challenges are still there but today there are many more creature comforts available to suit your group. For example, you can enjoy shoreline inns, B&Bs, cabins, cottages, and even lodges for total wellbeing along the way. You will also enjoy the shopping for supplies and the sightseeing that is often nearby these many accommodations.

Of course Outfitters on the Madawaska will provide hands-on assistance, and there seems to be an outfitter for just about everyone at any level. They offer you good equipment, a guide if desired, accommodation along the way and return to your vehicle or motel. They are usually well worth their fee. You will find outfitters in Algonquin, at Bark Lake, Hyde's Bay, Barry's Bay, Kaminski, Combermere, Palmer Rapids, Quadeville, Griffith, Burnstown, Calabogie, and Arnprior—virtually any village or town along its route.

There are a growing number of groups ready to assist you, such as "Paddle Routes of the Ottawa Valley" from the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (Pembroke). Remember half the fun is in the planning and by not rushing you will have the time to explore art and crafts and antiques along the way. There is a great variety of media from backcountry artists from Denbigh or Camp J in Matawatchan through to a number of galleries in Calabogie and Burnstown. Many are known to travellers from across the province for their fine work.

Both "Ontario Tourism" and "Paddle Ontario" remind us that parks such as Bon Echo Provincial Park provide us with an enticing campground and launch site close by our area. Here you can explore "The Gibraltar of the North." and aboriginal rock paintings. Some groups combine rock climbing with water travel on Mazinaw Lake and the Mississippi River. There are also many destinations available from the Wilderness Canoe Association. Through your own investigations such as [info@wildernesscanoe.ca](mailto:info@wildernesscanoe.ca) and other Internet sites you will find ways of participating in canoe and kayak trips complete with schedules. By the way did you know that a kayaker's idea of a complete first aid kit is a roll of duct tape?

There is a nice little run of about 30 km and two days duration. You can put in at Latchford Bridge on Hwy. 515 and travel East on the Madawaska. Lift around Almonds Rapids ...Snake Rapids ...Slate Falls ...Crooked Rapids ...Wadsworth Rapids and Highland Falls pulling out just above Griffith bridge at Hwy. 41. There are 14 easy portages and the running will depend upon your experience. Do

not be reckless, this section is not for raw novices. Check with the MNR for the current state of campsites.

Now, there's another trip that seems to be an almost forgotten route, except for military boot camp excursions. It might have another name but we call it the "Schooner Lakes" trip. It is one way into the inter-portaging chain of lakes, which include Round Schooner, Fortune, Long Schooner, Mackie and Brule. To start you proceed due south of Centennial Lake perhaps putting-in at the bridge on the Madawaska River. Go past Big Island into Mackie Creek and paddle on to the small dam and waterfall at the Hydro road and Salmond's hunt camp.

That's a pleasant spot to stop for a bite and a fun, refreshing shower under the waterfall. Don't forget the garbage bags. Continuing along Mackie Creek you may see evidence that this and Skead Creek, which flows out of Fortune Lake, were extensively used in logging days. That area reminded me of the fright I had while portaging one evening from Brule to Fortune when I came around a bush smack into a big buck. The bow shot over his antlers and

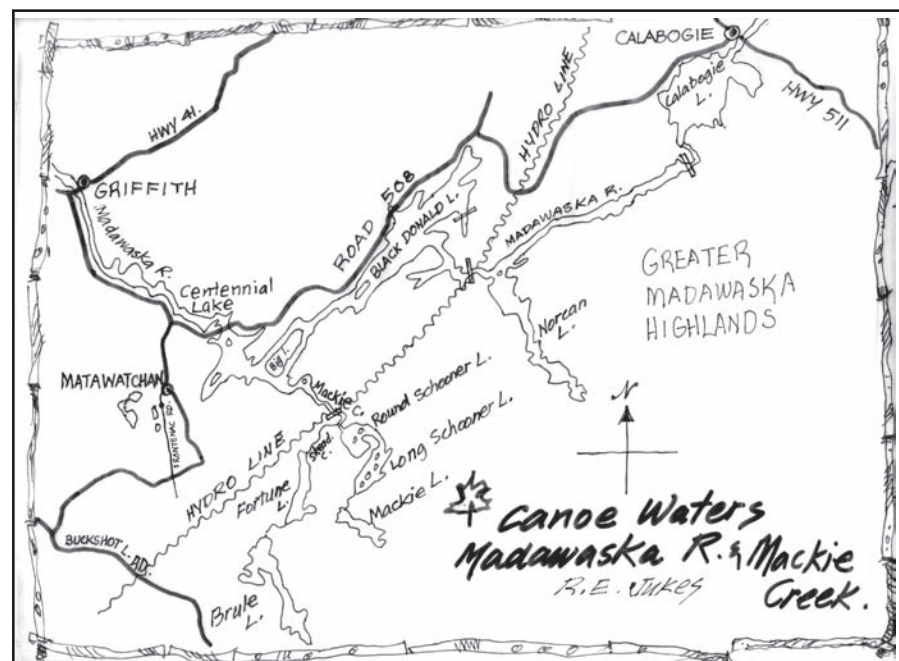
with a snort he was gone, leaving me sitting back on my dropped canoe.

You will soon come to a huge log jam, probably caused by the confluence of the two creeks, and unless the army has cut a channel through, you will have a carry. So the kids can take the paddles, fishing rods and life jackets and in a few trips you will be at the bay entering scenic Round Schooner Lake. There are a couple islands and some nice shoreline with beaches. There are more islands through the gorge into Long Schooner, which portages into Mackie. You can get out by road from that end or reverse your route.

While you have a look at our history as well as our hills, please cruise safely on our waters and respect our bush. Off trail-side and back on land-side you may want to visit The Canadian Canoe Museum and learn more about Canada's canoeing heritage. It's the biggest museum of its kind in the world and it's located at 910 Monaghan Road, Peterborough. Call toll free 1-866-3422663 for details.

Knock Knock -Who's there? Canoe --- Canoe who? Canoe tell me a Kayak joke?

End



## Classifieds

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# Getting into Hot Water

By Richard Copeland

**Editor's note:** This is one of Richards 'energy dreams', two of which ('Trucks and trains' and 'Sanity and hydrogen') have already been published.

Electricity is perceived as the king of energies by those who work within the industry. It can provide light, motion (cooling) and heat. The consumer can be coerced to believe that the electrical devices he or she purchases are extremely efficient, an electric heater for example is almost 100% efficient, but only at the point of use. The lost energy in the production of electricity at source (heat loss in a coal and gas-fired plants or nuclear plant) and subsequent losses in its transmission result in the delivery of about 30% of the initial energy used to produce it. What we don't want to talk about is the pollution (particulate in our air, heat in our lakes) to produce it. The pollution costs us dearly in terms of health care and environmental degradation; costs which we share as a society but we poorly connect this fact to the quality of our lives. If we could displace the heating applications that require electricity we could improve the efficiencies of energy consumption, reduce the pollution in

our environment and reduce major investments in nuclear energy production—investments that we in Ontario are now regrettably looking at.

We the people can produce energy as well. The recent Ontario introduction of 'Standard Offer Contracts' (SOCs) allows purchasing of wind power at 11 cents per Kilowatt Hour (KWh) and solar electricity at 43 cents. Public groups and business have responded with wind projects and many sites are now under investigation or construction in Ontario. Solar electric is less economic with these SOCs. But solar thermal could play a major role in energy supply in Ontario. Hot water is a necessity everywhere, commercially and in the home. Domestic Hot Water (DHW), which is frequently produced with electricity (a poor application for the king of energies), can be considered one of our 'base' loads, since the demand for it is spread through the days activities of showers, baths, laundry or dishes. Unfortunately, small scale applications for solar thermal have yet to be blessed with incentives by our governments; an oversight that if repaired could lead to considerable advantages for the home owner, the economy and the environment.

Solar DHW systems have been around for decades and all but ignored as an energy solution since the decline of the price of oil in the last energy crunch of the 1980s. A manufacturer and installer of systems in the Niagara area has told me they calculate a figure of 12 Gigajoules per year of energy production two 4 foot by 8 foot solar flat plate collectors. This would translate to 3333 Kwhrs per year or \$333.30 at 10 cents per KWhr. The costs vary and a reasonable system cost is about \$4500 with the current high price of copper and the low demand in manufacturing. That's a straight payback in 13.5 years, which looks at first glance like a lousy payback. But then we're not very futuristic in our outlook. If the cost was financed into a 25 year mortgage at 5% with new house construction, the average monthly saving would be about \$27.78 and the additional cost into the mortgage would be \$26.17. The home owner saves roughly the cost of the system on a monthly basis and not too many would complain about their mortgage increase. If say, we required a Solar DHW in all new home building, Ontario with about 50,000 housing starts per year, would produce 167 Megawatt hrs of power for each construction year. If the existing stock of owner occupied homes in Ontario were converted we would produce about a Gigawatt

hour. That's a lot of baseload reduction, and it reduces pollution, global warming and is relatively painless given homeowner access to long term low interest funding. Government support programs would be helpful to push it and reduce the need for more large scale public investment.

There's more to this than breaking even and doing one's bit for the environment. The homeowner, once exposed to the Smart Meter will begin to experience the price fluctuations they are familiar with at the gas pumps. Electricity costs will rise and the responsibility for the purchase decision will reside fully with the newly informed consumer. The Solar energy production will remain static at its cost and the savings in energy will grow with this protection from the volatile energy markets. Canadian jobs would be created in both the manufacturing and construction sectors. Ideally the existing utilities would participate through a contracting arm of leasing or selling systems.

And there's another plus. The astute user of the system will soon become attuned his own environment and optimize the timing of hot water consumption activities with energy production availability. It could be a big win for the individual and the province.

End

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# Porcupine *continued*

climates. A corollary to that rule that applies to porcupines is that limbs and appendages such as ears and tails tend to be shorter to preserve heat.

The porcupines' quills mark the most unique adaptation in these animals. The average porcupine has about 30,000 quills, about 100 per square inch. A polar bear's hairs are hollow but a porcupine's quills are filled with a spongy matrix and in both cases the hairs or quills serve as a great insulator against the cold. Hence, both species can endure tremendously cold temperatures, enabling them to coexist in Artic conditions. The North American porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*) ranges from the Artic Ocean to northern Mexico, although they are seldom found east of Texas in the southern U. S.

The quill's chief function is defence and as such it is very effective. The quill is not barbed at the tip like a fishhook, but has many microscopic scale-like barbs toward the tip. These scales not only hold the quill into position once a predator is stabbed with it, but the pain of having the quill imbedded tends to cause the victim to contract its muscles and these contractions help the barbs draw the quill deeper into the victim's body as much as two centimetres a day. Further aggravating the victim's plight, the moisture in the tissue of the victim's flesh tends to expand the quill, tightening the quill's grip. As many hunting dog's owners can tell you, an encounter with a porcupine is perilous. Pulling out the quills is a harrowing experience for both man and beast. Since most porcupine predators attack mouth first it is usually the face, especially the mouth, which suffers the most damage. Starvation becomes a factor in wild predators if they cannot remove the quills by rubbing or scratching. Even if a dog can be tranquillized for the removal of the quills, recovery is still an ordeal as the wounds are deep and painful. Porcupines cannot throw their quills like little archers, but they will do their best to swat the overly curious with their quilly tails.

A porcupine's need for salt is not unusually high, but their winter diet of mostly tree bark and pine needles is notably low in salt, therefore they are always seeking food sources with high salt content. Since your old leather boots, privy floors, barn walls or shovel handles absorb a good amount of salt they are likely candidates. Keeping a salt lick somewhere well away from your buildings will help all winter foraging animals maintain the salt

they need in their diets and might save you some property damage.

Besides your favourite building, porcupines eat a great variety of foods, depending on where they live. They are, after all, rodents. In deserts they can survive on chaparral and roots. Around here their favourite foods are various parts of trees. Although salt is essential in their diet, the most essential element in their food is nitrogen. In its quest for nitrogen it is a very selective generalist herbivore. As the chemistry of trees change through the season porcupines tend to switch from eating one kind of tree to eating another kind, or from eating one part of a tree to another part. For example, maples are a favourite food until the leaves mature in spring. Though high in nitrogen the mature leaves contain a high amount of tannin which is toxic to porcupines, so the maple is abandoned. Porcupines have a feeding frenzy on aspen catkins during the short period they are available.

Feeding rates also change over the season. During the spring and summer when more protein and nitrogen is available the porcupine is a casual eater. As fall and the nut season begin, feeding time increases, presumably in an attempt to store up for the winter. Winter is a particular problem for porcupines because very little nitrogen, salt or protein is available. A unique adaptation for digesting low nitrogen food is that food remains in the porcupines gut for a longer than usual time, allowing it to extract much more of the nutrients from its food than other animals. Nevertheless, winter deaths through starvation are high.

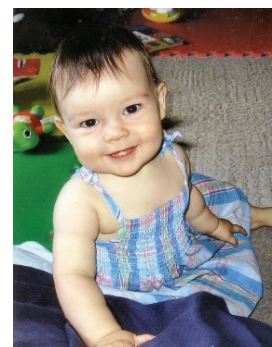
The winter attrition rate is particularly precarious considering the low birth rate of porcupines. Porcupine females (I have yet to find gender specific names for male and female adult porcupines, but babies are sometimes referred to as porcupettes) produce only one baby a year, rarely more. As parents the porcupines are less than attentive. The father plays no role whatever in rearing the young. The mother is with the baby only a few hours at night, providing food for it. The porcupette spends its days on the ground while the mother sleeps in a tree above it, providing some protection. She forages close to the baby but increasingly ranges further away as the baby gets older. By three to four months the mother loses all contact with the baby who, by then, can fend for its self.

Females and males are territorial and not very social. Female territories are established separately from male territories and the male terri-

*continued on page 23*

## Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday To our precious Little Girl

**Jorja Kelly May Pittman  
August 3, 2006**



Love from Mommy, Daddy, Grandpa Norm, Mere mere & Pere pere Thompson and Uncle Jody! Also a happy birthday to Pere pere Thompson!

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## Garbage *continued*

and, in part, offered the following observation: "The essential components of the report clearly identifies that time is running out for the municipality regarding waste management. With landfill capacity at 7 to 10 years maximum, a decision on long term waste management strategies for the municipality must be made within the next six month or so."

Eight months later, a decision has still not been made. During the July 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting a final resolution of this issue was expected, but a motion by Councillor Parker, supported by Councillors Emon and Mercer, delayed any decision until the September Council meeting. There is no Council meeting in August and this Council's mandate runs out in October; when Council is in a lame duck position, so little time remains.

## Things to think about

*If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?*

*Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing*

*I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes*

*In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.*



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## Porcupine continued

teries will overlap several females' territories. Occasionally a breeding male and female will winter den together in a hollow log or rocky den. Even more rarely, in arctic areas, several porcupines will den together to fend off cold. But, by and large, porcupines are solitary creatures. The young female establishes her territory far from the area where she was born while young males stay in the area where they were born. Young males know enough not to try to compete for females in the first few years of their reproductive lives. But as they age they venture into other male's areas and begin to compete for females. Since porcupines can live as long as 18 years in the wild, a young one has plenty of time.

Breeding is by mutual consent. A few hours before she is ready to breed a female will begin to give off the vaginal secretions, produce urine markings, and make high pitched vocalizations. Many males respond, and screaming, biting and displaying matches ensue, usually high in the trees. Occasionally these matches break into fighting matches in which quills are used to inflict damage on competitors. Ultimately the female picks the winner and the others flee to other advertising females. The male is very attentive to the female, spraying

her with copious amounts of scented urine and defending her from any die hard suitors. Copulation itself takes place on the ground after the competition has taken place in the trees. The pair remains joined for several hours until a vaginal plug is formed by the chemical action of the male's semen and the female's fluids, rendering further copulation impossible. After impregnation the male saunters away, possibly to return next year.

How many stuffed animals have you seen in the form of a porcupine? Porcupines are not cute, furry or cuddly. Nonetheless, the land of the porcupines should hold these animals in high esteem as we share our living space with them. The land was theirs before it was ours and, judging from our track record so far, it may well become theirs again after it was ours. As we walk through the bush the arboreal porcupines are high in the trees resting for another night of foraging. What we see of them is often the damage they do to trees and, infrequently, to our property. They are doing the same thing we are . . . trying to survive. With a little cooperation we can all survive in the same living space and our lives will be a little richer for it. Let's give them what they want most; to be left alone.

End



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