

The Madawaska Highlander

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Free

September 2010

Preserving the Past: St. Gabriel the Archangel

By Bill Graham, Editor

Anyone passing through Springtown along Highway 508 is immediately struck by the presence of an old church and accompanying graveyard that looks up the Madawaska River, which served as the highway of its day, some 150 years ago. The church was St. Gabriel the Archangel Roman Catholic Church but it is now deconsecrated

Bagot Township in which Springtown is sited was first surveyed in the early 1840s with the first white settlers having arrived in the mid-1830s. By 1850 Springtown was a going concern and one of the more important settlements along the Madawaska River. Its prosperity was drawn from its proximity to the Madawaska River, on which shantymen and river drivers travelled with their logs from the upper reaches of the Ottawa Valley watershed. It was an important 'stopping place' where travellers could break journey to rest and often imbibe. According to the Carleton Place Herald in an article written in the 1850s, there was the chief hotel of the village, which was owned by Mr. Edward McCrea plus another tavern, several grog shops, a few shoemakers, a post office and several stores. It was a place where serious money could be made from the loggers and river men who were heading home with a years worth of wages. Springtown was the first place they could spend their money.

Gerard McCrea who was the first reeve of the Township of Bagot was also the founder of Springtown. He was untiring in his effort to advance Springtown by building a school, encouraging commerce, by contriving to have the Division Court established in Springtown and by donating two acres of land overlooking the Madawaska as the site of a church. That church was St. Gabriel the Archangel Roman Catholic Church. Interest-

ingly Gerard McCrea was an Episcopalian (Anglican) so obviously Springtown meant more to him than did creed.

Prior to its consecration in 1854 the Catholic population of the area, which was made up of Irish and French families had their spiritual needs attended to by missionary priests from the church in Mount St. Patrick. Father John McNulty visited Springtown from 1838 until 1852 saying mass in the home of Edward McCrea. With the help of local Catholics, the donation of land from Gerard McCrea and help from the Church, a church under the patronage of St. Gabriel the Archangel was consecrated by Bishop Guigues on January 20, 1854.

Of the congregation the majority were from Springtown but with some coming from Lake Calabogie. Those who lived on Calabogie Lake used to travel the very long journey through the bush to Mount St. Patrick. With the establishment of St. Gabriel's Catholics from Calabogie could now travel seven miles by water to Springtown for monthly mass. For its consecrated history of almost one hundred years, St. Gabriel's would remain a mission church of St. Francis Xavier in Renfrew and would never reach the status of a parish church.

The reason for this was the K & P Railway with its route to Renfrew through Calabogie in the early 1880s—Calabogie ascended and Springtown declined. A church was built in Calabogie in 1896 to serve the growing population and by 1913 Calabogie's Precious Blood church became a parish and St. Gabriel's its mission church. By 1952 dwindling population around Springtown and improved road transportation led to the abandonment and the deconsecrating of St. Gabriel the Archangel church.

In 1900, forty-six years after the church was built it was showing signs of decay. The stone was crumbling, the roof was

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St. Gabriel's Church

Painting: Kim Carnegie

Dispatches from Afghanistan (2010-5)

By Major Ross Allan

Editor's note: *This is the fifth in a series of dispatches during the 2010 Highlander publishing year. It is also the beginning of the third year publishing these dispatches. All-in-all I was given 95 pages of Major Ross Allan's letters (in WORD format) from his wife. Major Allan is no longer in Afghanistan but his memories and humour live on. The events mentioned in these dispatches took place during 2008.*

A new General and headquarters arrived within the last couple of weeks and, apart from the loss of my team's SUV, the handover went well. The General is planning his campaign for the coming months based upon the intelligence gathered during the last few months, historical trends, the Taliban's stated intention, our desire to make Af-

ghanistan a better place, and other factors. I like what I hear but then I do not have the Taliban's best interests at heart. Neither do the several thousand additional US soldiers who will be appearing within the next few months. I expect that the 2009 fighting season will be busier than previous years as the insurgents will not simply fold up their tents and go away – they try to avoid direct combat except for a few spectacular, headlining grabbing attacks – so there will be more roadside bomb attacks, if only because there will be more troops out and about, as well as increased intimidation of the civilian populace. However, with more coalition soldiers in the south of Afghanistan, the insurgent freedom of movement will be reduced and there will be more troops to raid suspected insurgent supply points and more soldiers to choke the movement of supplies from Pakistan.

During the last two weeks, I noticed an increase in insurgent ambushes and gun-

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Marg Burleigh

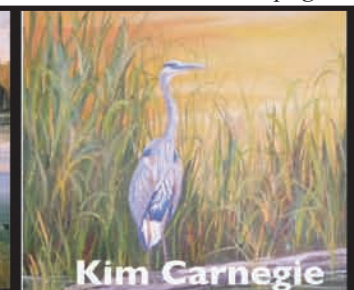


Carolyn Jakes

**Calabogie
Artfest
Oct 2 & 3**



Dywene Macnabb



Kim Carnegie

Afghanistan (Cont)

fire directed against Canadian and other coalition members within the south of Afghanistan. As opposed to the “2 shots and run like heck”, several of the attacks were serious in that they fired repeatedly during several minutes. It is early yet for either the veteran fighters to have returned from their winter havens in Pakistan or for the graduating classes from the Pakistani fundamentalist schools to be in Afghanistan. Therefore, the added activity is probably the result of coalition forces being in areas where the insurgents do not want us. Given the quantity of drugs destroyed within the last two weeks, we are doubtlessly annoying them. When they use direct fire, they often break contract and fade away but they do provide us with an opportunity to shoot back and there is always the chance that they end up in a foot race against a helicopter or jet fighter which often results in one or more insurgents being on the wrong end of a guided weapon.

We lost three more soldiers this week. They were killed by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) buried in a road. Within two days of the explosion, Afghan security forces fought insurgents burying a new device within 10 metres of the first. The Ramp Ceremony for the three took place while the NHL and entertainers were still at KAF. They came out to witness the ceremony and, though I did not see them myself, one of those nearby said that they were moved by the event. The ceremony took place on the same day as a concert by Glass Tiger; for the first time during my tour we had a wake accompany the Ramp Ceremony and the concert was a wel-

come distraction. During the concert, Glass Tiger presented an autographed guitar for the soldiers to use in KAF and our General promised the first player would be the soldier who survived the IED blast.

Just as the insurgents had successes so did we – more drugs that will not make it to market, several bomb makers and planters put out of business, and we helped make incremental steps to rebuild the country’s infrastructure. One bomb maker, caught with bomb-making materials, brazenly explained that it was not home-made explosives but home-made soap and that he was going to turn the artillery shells into flower pots. His story was not well received. Our bigger success was the realization that many of the bomb-finds and uncovering of bombers are the result of turn-in by civilians. In those areas where coalition forces offer security, civilians feel that it is safe to turn in those people and their bombs that indiscriminately kill civilians. The increase of US troops will help make more areas secure and buy time for the training of additional Afghan forces to help with the security situation. Success within Afghanistan will not be measured by dead insurgents but by Afghans living without fear of the insurgents.

The junior members of the Canadian contingent at KAF are eligible for escort duty at the military hospital. I mentioned the hospital within earlier E-mails – it serves more Afghan civilians than military – and some Afghan patients require an escort because they are not friendly towards the their fellow civilians let alone the military. An overnight duty might consist of escorting three people to the washroom or it might mean watching over a 10 year old

who recently lost several limbs. Recently, one of my team had the duty and she escorted a pious Muslim to prayers. Before prayers, he had to clean so he was escorted first to the washroom and then the prayer area. However, once at the prayer area, he did not pray and kept making signs that my team member could not understand. She got an interpreter who explained the Muslim needed to wash first; confused, she took him back to the washroom. He still would not pray after his second visit to the washroom. The interpreter intervened again and found out that the Muslim did not know how to turn on the water – he was 40 years of age and had not seen running water controlled by a tap. When people’s world view is that restricted, it is easy for them to fall prey to fundamentalist preaching.

Another incident came to light this week that showcases the restricted world view and the cultural clash. An Afghan man proposed to a woman with whom he was infatuated. As he did not know her and had no family connection, he used an intermediary to whom he gave money, gifts, and the marriage proposal. The intermediary, money, gifts, and marriage proposal promptly disappeared. Assuming that he had been spurned, the man then delivered an ultimatum to the woman – marry me or die. Having never received a proper proposal, the woman assumed she had the Afghan equivalent of a stalker and she quickly went into hiding. This did not sit well the marriage-minded man as he now had no fiancée and no one to kill. At this point, the insurgents became involved. As the story is told to me, the insurgents want to kill the man although I am not certain whether it is because he was too earnest or for not following

proper forms (remember that Pashtunwali developed to regulate disputes over money, land, and women; this situation involves a woman so the suitor may have violated Pashtunwali). However, the insurgents also want the woman to die. It is unclear whether she has to die because she is educated, because she is working outside the home, or simply because she is the centre of a dispute involving Pashtunwali. Whatever the reason, the insurgents approached the senior male of her family and said that he has to kill her – as the senior male, it is his duty to restore the family name with an honour killing. If he failed to do so, then the family was without honour and the insurgents would wipe out the entire family. He failed to do so and now the entire family is in hiding. There is a tangential connection to Canada and a Canadian fielded a call from someone claiming to be the woman’s driver and could the Canadian please say where the woman and family are now living? The Canadian politely declined the request as he knows the family does not have the means for a car let alone a driver.

End

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Dominic D’Arcy (Music from the Valley)

By Garry Ferguson

During my first telephone conversation with Dominic D’Arcy, a woman kept interrupting, at his end of the line, by singing in Chinese. She paused occasionally to inform me, in heavily-accented, broken English, that she wished to “sing” some Chinese country music for me. It took me a while to figure out that I was talking to only one person. It was a good beginning to our acquaintance.

Dominic was born 1939 in Sheenboro, Quebec to parents Patrick and Mary (Walker) D’Arcy. His parents, as well as most of the siblings in his large family (13), played instruments or sang, so Dominic was immersed in music from the day he came into the world. Talent apparently came at him from both sides of the family. His parents were both musicians, his father played violin and an uncle, Remi Walker, was renowned throughout the Pontiac and beyond, as top-notch fiddler. With such family genes, it’s not surprising that Dominic began performing on stage at the age of 14. He grew up and

went to school in Sheenboro before going out into the world. In 1964, Dominic married Noellie Larose of Ottawa. They have two adult sons, Anthony and Darren.

Because he had two brothers and four brothers in law on police forces, it is also not surprising that he eventually chose law enforcement as a vocation and so in February of 1965 joined the Ottawa Police Department. In spite of a lively sense of humour and a penchant for observing the lighter side of life in general, Dominic evidently did well in a type of organization that encourages uniformity. During his 36 years on the Force (retired 1999) he worked the streets, the beat, as the Youth Liaison Officer, traffic, as a detective and was promoted to Sergeant. In 1985 he won the Police Officer of the Year Award. It was sometime early in his career that he became known as the Singing Policeman. Since that time, 53 years later, Sergeant D’Arcy has taken his mixture of song and social message to audiences around the world. Those audiences included local youths, dignitaries, prime ministers and heads of state or monarchs from at least 13 countries.

In spite of the international renown, the passion of this writer and singer of songs, musician, actor and humourist – he claims to joke only about Catholics, cops and bald people because he’s of all three persuasions - is to perform for and work with youth bringing a motivational message concerning safety and personal responsibility. His programs encourage youth to get involved in their communities and to avoid drugs, cigarettes and alcohol. He conducts a No Bullying Program and has also founded both the Rising Star Program and The Dominic D’Arcy Development Foundation in order to guide young performers toward a career in entertainment. He provides exposure, experience and guidance by having them join him on television, stage or in recording sessions. His own TV show, *D’Arcy’s Beat*, that lasted for five seasons and won the Can-Pro Award, did just that. Some of the young folk he’s helped bring to prominence include Alanis Morissette, Polly Shannon, Stephanie Cadman and Meredith Henderson.

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The Past (Cont)

leaking and the interior was becoming dilapidated. Now 110 years hence, you can imagine the work that must be done to preserve this still essential solid building. Since 1952 the church remains a landmark and its surrounding cemetery a catalogue of the early settlers in the area. It is also feeling its age and needs preservation.

In all descriptions of the church, St. Gabriel's is referred to as a stone church when in fact it is not. The stone facing is just a veneer that covers a log building constructed of old growth timbers built in the old gothic style of European churches. There is some buckling at the buttresses but the dense nature of the logs has kept the structure in relatively good shape. However, if the building is to be preserved, it will need attention before too long.

There are some who would tear down the church and replace it with a commemorative plaque. Luckily there are many others who want to preserve St. Gabriel's as an example of a pioneer church and as a touchstone to local history and to our sense of place.

The Springtown Church Committee has been formed under the chair of local librarian Mary Joan (Skippy) Hale with help from interested resi-



Inside view

dents from both Springtown and Calabogie. The McCrea family who were instrumental in the church's founding remain involved in its preservation.

An application for the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario to do an assessment of the church has been written and the Catholic Diocese is picking up the \$300 fee for the application. In her application to the Conservancy Skippy described the church thus:

"Much of the interior woodwork has been dated to the original construction in 1854. A local stonemason, Edward McCrea, was said to have participated in its construction. In 1900, it was suffering somewhat from decay. From a leaky roof which was affecting the internal aspects,

to crumbling stones, it needed to be replaced or repaired. The decision to retain and repair it was a blessing for those of us who wish to see it preserved in 2010."

"The exterior treatment is imitation ashlar, which is stucco finished, scored and tinted light blue to resemble dressed stone. The interior was repaired and a porch added. The altar, roof, spire and vestry were enhanced. The interior is unique at least to its 1909 renovation. The paint and carpets date to that time. Beautiful pressed tin adorns the walls and ceilings of the nave and the vestry. There is much more detail described in Ms. Robillard's book on the history of Springtown. St. Gabriel's was blessed on July 20, 1909. The presider was His Lordship Bishop Lorrain with many clergy and members of the congregation present. It however, never became a parish and remained a mission of Most Precious Blood Church in Calabogie. It closed in 1952, was opened in 1955 for the funeral of Lewis Joseph McCrea. A mass was held on August 4, 1974 to commemorate its dedication 120 years before as well as a memorial to Edward and Bridget McCrea, the founders of Springtown in 1846. Though no longer consecrated, it is a monument to the settlers who built it, a unique example of pioneer church architecture and the history of the Roman Catholics in Renfrew County. It

is preserved as a moment in time since it remains as it was in the early 20th century, unchanged by Vatican II. The Communion Rail, pew boxes and Stations of the Cross remain as they were."

Over the coming months—probably years, you will be hearing more about the St. Gabriel project. Once a plan is in place there will be the inevitable fundraisers appealing for individual and corporate support. Stay tuned and remain receptive. St. Gabriel's is a beautiful echo from our past and needs to be preserved.

End



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Out on the First Concession

AEROPLANES

By Wes Bomhower

When I was quite young on the farm and an Aeroplane flew overhead, it was a real novelty and I would go shouting to everyone, "come quickly and see the plane flying in the sky"! The novelty wore off a number of years later when World War Two began and an air base was built about fifteen miles away to train Canadian, Norwegian and other nationalities the art of piloting, navigating and other skills required for war with 'flying machines'.

By the year 1941, Harvard and Anson training planes were criss-crossing the farm every day and I know some of the pilots delighted in flying low over the cattle in the fields to see the animals run in fear. This practice ended abruptly when a number of farmers complained and I believe one training plane also crashed as a result of flying too low, though the pilot was not badly injured.

My fascination with planes received a terrible blow in 1943 when my uncle, Kenny Rob Urquhart, a flying officer with the R.C.A.F. was shot down over France while returning from a bombing raid on Germany. He and his whole crew were killed.

My sister, Winnie joined the women's division of the R.C.A.F. the following year and she had high hopes of getting overseas to join in the war that was raging in Europe, but alas, while training at North Battleford, Saskatchewan, she came down with scarlet fever. By the time she fully recovered, the war was almost over and she never left Canada before her discharge from the Armed Forces.

My first flight was in 1949 to London, Ontario, where I was employed and I needed to get there quickly for work the next day. It was a two propeller job, (don't ask me the name or calibre of plane), but it surely rattled and shook a lot when taking off or landing, and I'll admit it was scary, but it got us to our destination in record time.

Down through the years I have flown in helicopters at work and travelled to various parts of the globe in jumbo passenger jets, Europe, the British Isles, Mexico, most of the Caribbean Islands, etc., and my fear of flying is pretty much a thing of the past, but I am still fascinated when a big jet flies over. I wonder what its destination may be and most of all I am in wonder of how times have changed in my lifespan.

End

Dominic D'Arcy

Performing 150 shows annually across North America, the Caribbean, England, Ireland, the former Soviet Union, China and even at the north pole, has brought him into contact with such notables as Nana Mouskouri, Peter Fonda, The Rovers, The Nylons, Shania Twain, Rich Little, Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana.

Though his name became known in international entertainment circles, it was the unselfish commitment to his own community that has won him the most accolades – enough award certificates to paper the walls of a barn-sized room. He still maintains (with a poker face) that when presented with the "Key to the City of Ottawa," he told Mayor Chiarelli that he didn't really need a key when he already had a gun. Since 1985, various levels of governments and community organizations have presented Dominic with the Ottawa/Hull Hospitality Award, The Solicitor General's Police Officer of the Year Award, The Community Service Award, Celebrity of the Year Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Community Builder's Award. Beside these attaboys, hang two Governor General Awards and a Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. As a token from the city, to show appreciation for all that

Dominic has done for Canada's capital, it marked two Dominic D'Arcy Days. (May 21, 1999 and November 05, 2006) He even got to ride in the 2000 Tulip Festival's Rideau Canal Flotilla as the Grand Marshall.

In addition to numerous appearances on radio and television, Dominic has acted in four movies with folks such as Dolly Parton, Barbara Niven and Paul Gross. He completed a video, *Don't Pay the Pusher*, intended to be a part of a curriculum for anti-drug programs aimed at school-aged children. It was developed with the assistance of post-graduate students from Queens University and the Ottawa Board of Education.

It was, however, Dominic's music – along with one of those high-octane personalities required to elevate successful entertainers above the mob of wannabees - that originally propelled him to prominence and provided a platform from which to voice his message regarding social issues. His music accomplishments include two LP's, six cassettes, 13 singles, a music video and six CD's – his seventh was released in December of 2008 in time for Christmas. Many of his one hundred-plus songs and recordings have risen to the top of charts around the world,

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Seniors -- "Why Exercise?"

By Susan Veale,

There is a Fountain of Youth and the secret is, "exercise." Millions of seniors worldwide have discovered "exercise" is the key to staying mobile and reducing the risk of heart disease, diabetes and depression. Staying active is important for feeling better and living longer. George Burns was quoted as saying, "If I knew I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself!" It's true that some people are blessed with good genes; my father is 95 and still lives in his own home. His older sister lived in her own home until she was 100. Life holds no guarantees and that is why proactive activity is good insurance for maintaining a healthier quality of life as we age. Around age 40, muscle mass starts to decrease by 3-5%. After 50, this decline continues to increase. Muscle is what keeps us strong. It holds our skeleton, burns calories to help maintain a suitable weight and it is an important tissue for bone strength and balance. Without muscle, mobility can significantly decrease resulting in a loss of independence. The good news... muscle can be built at any age of life as even aging muscle responds to exercise. One research study conducted in a nursing home in Boston, MA., using 100 male and female residents with the average age being 87, showed that exercise not only increased muscle mass and walking speed, but also muscle strength by an incredible 113%. Flexibility also decreases with age. Although the studies showing changes in flexibility are not quite as extensive as those with muscle changes, evidence does suggest that stretching contributes to a significant increase in range of motion with neck, shoulder, elbow, wrist, hip, knee and ankle joints. Balance is another area which can improve with exercise. Falling is a major contributor of fractures in the elderly and the second leading cause of spinal cord and brain injuries. Research has shown that muscle strength and balance exercises significantly reduce the risk of falling in people over the age of 70. Staying active with regular exercise can also benefit cognitive function. Scientists have reported exciting research showing

that the brain neurons, the special cells that are help thinking, movement, performing bodily functions that sustain life and even helping memory all increase in number with just a few days or weeks of activity. In one study, MRI scans were being used to measure the amount of brain tissue found in adults 55 years or older. They found consistent results of declination of brain volume with age. There were significant decreases in brain density in the areas of memory and thinking, but these losses were substantially reduced with cardiovascular activities. Other testing has shown exercise improves age-related dementia, anxiety and depression. To sustain your Fountain of Youth, there are four components which include:

1. Endurance activities such as walking, swimming or riding a bike. These activities increase cardiovascular health to reduce heart disease and increase circulation.
2. Strengthening exercises help build muscle tissue and reduce age-related muscle and bone loss.
3. Stretching exercises help to maintain flexibility and reduce arthritic pain.
4. Balance exercises reduce the risk of falls and injuries related to them.

As a kinesiologist, I understand how important movement is in maintaining one's lifestyle and as such, I will again be offering this fall through Wellness Natural Health Centre, our regular "Stretch & Breath" program and due to requests, two new programs, "Stretch & Pilates" and a "Beginner's Stretch and Breath." The "Stretch & Pilates" program is a combination of flexibility and core strengthening with gentle stretching and resistance exercises. The "Beginners Stretch & Breath" program is designed for those with a limited range of movement due to age, arthritic pain and/or damage or chronic pain to soft tissue or joints. All of these programs will help to increase flexibility, strength and balance in a relaxed, gentle manner. For more information and registration details, call Susan Veale at 613-752-1540.

End

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PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

By Judy Ewart, Acting Executive Director

This month we will be holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is our opportunity to celebrate with you what we have accomplished in our previous year, elect and ratify our slate of directors for 2010/2011 and to hear our guest speaker JJ the Clown and Spot speak about the Shriner's Hospital.

The AGM is an important event for an organization/corporation as it is their opportunity to share with their stakeholders the accomplishments of their previous year and what they hope to accomplish in the coming year and for their Nominating Committee to present their slate of nominees for the Board of Directors. For the members/stakeholders attending the meeting, it is your opportunity to stay informed and involved with organization/corporation decisions and workings, to ask questions of the Board, and review the fiscal information. If you are a voting member of the organization, this is your opportunity to express

your opinions both verbally and through your vote regarding the resolutions that are being presented at the AGM.

So when an organization you belong to has their AGM, show up, let your voice be heard and let the organization know that you appreciate what they do. We would love to see you at our AGM on Tuesday September 21, at 7:00 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. If you are not a member of our organization but would like to become one, just call our office at 432-7691 and we would be pleased to assist you. Individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$15.

Just a reminder that our 2nd annual fundraising dance, "A September to Remember" with Arnprior Seniors at Home Program takes place on September 11, 2010 at St. John Chrysostom Church in Arnprior from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door. We have a great line-up of musicians for the evening - Dennis Harrington and Heritage Country, Dani and the Plager Boys and The Brysonnaires. So grab your dancing shoes and head on down to Arnprior for a great evening of music and dance.

End

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“Read cover to cover”

Reprieved

By Bill Graham, Editor

On Friday August 13th the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) announced the following:

“Thank you to all microFIT applicants who submitted feedback and information during the recent consultation period. The Ontario Power Authority has announced that it has finalized the price for the new microFIT ground-mounted solar price category at 64.2 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). This price applies to microFIT ground-mounted solar applications submitted after noon on July 2, when a new price category was proposed.”

“We have also announced that **all ground-mounted solar applications submitted prior to noon on July 2, 2010, will receive the original price of 80.2 cents/kWh whether or not they have received a contract or a conditional offer.** We recognize that many applicants had already made significant investments in their solar PV systems and, as a result, the new price category may have caused an undue hardship.”

Almost 11,000 mainly rural Ontario residents have received a reprieve from their threatened sentence of only receiving 58.8 cents per kilowatt hour while others

who applied in roughly the same period received the 80.2 cent rate. How these two groups were determined has never been clear.

I would like to think that the reason for this reprieve was the “Betrayed” editorial from the last Highlander. After all I did send a copy of the paper to Dalton McGuinty. However, it was only a small part of the critical onslaught that the Ontario Government received. I am not so naive as to believe that the decision to reinstate the 80.2 cent rate was done because the government realized that their earlier decision to lower the rate was unethical.

My cynical side says that the government always meant to reinstate the 80.2 cent rate but wanted to get out of the commitment to offer that amount for the remainder of the stated term, which would have been December 2011. This would have meant 18 additional months paying the higher rate. Now, those signing up after July 2 only get 64.2 cents per kilowatt hour. A lot of money will be saved by the government.

What is more likely is that resistance in rural Ontario was so strong that it reportedly threatened the re-election chances of nearly two dozen Liberal MPPs.

End

Dear Editor:

Re: Whispering to Mary

When I read the Highlander in mid-July, which was sent to me in St. Catharines, I encountered the story “Whispering to Mary”, which I read a dozen or more times. This short story is a literary delight. I not only enjoyed reading it each and every time but I actually could feel the story.

Thank you author Peter Wing for writing something so profound.

Wes Bomhower with his “Out on the First Concession” stories is another great storyteller. I wish him all the best.

Sincerely,

Diane Jukes

To the Editor:

I liked Irene Robillard’s history of Calabogie, The Early Years in July-August issue of the Highlander and I would like to add a bit of more recent history of the area.

Roughly a mile east from Calabogie, just beyond James Henderson’s and Moya Brakele’s Bed & Breakfast establishment, is a little roadside park that juts out into the flow of the Madawaska River. From this vantage point, the famed Group of Seven did a painting of Cherry Island which nestles in midstream just east of the park. I am surprised that the park and the island itself are not advertised more in relation to Thompson, (whom I believe did the actual artistry), and the Group of Seven.

There is a much smaller island some hundred meters further downstream which my daughter suggests should be named ‘Cherry Pit Island.

Wes Bomhower

Looking back...



Gerard McCrea the founder of Springtown with his wife Elizabeth

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this time to thank and acknowledge the people of Denbigh, Matawatchan and Griffith for their generous donations to the C.T. Scan for Renfrew Hospital.

I sold “Recipes of the Week” Cookbooks, where all the money went to the C.T. Scan along with a donation from each of the other books sold over this period. Then there was the lovely afghan, donated by our own Angela Yolkowskie, which was won by Mrs. Carol Ferguson, Centennial Lake area.

I am able to say that with the above along with personal donations, I was able to donate \$503.00 for the C.T. Scan. I would like to personally thank Mr. Howard Carr and Mrs. Corrine Parks for their generous donation to the cause. We can make a difference together.

Thanks,

Sandy Downs

Matawatchan Hall Annual General Meeting

Residents of Matawatchan are encouraged to attend the annual general meeting of the Matawatchan Hall on Tuesday September 14 at 7:30 p.m.

No one should fear that by attending they will be roped into a job they do not want. The current Hall Board is willing to stand for another year. However, if anyone does want to become involved in the day to day running of the Matawatchan Community Hall, they would be welcome. Since there are few organized events these days the job is no hardship.

Regardless, come out to hear what the current board has accomplished over the last year and put forward your ideas for the Hall. Refreshments will be served.

End

**Matawatchan Hall
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday September 14, 7:30pm
at the Matawatchan Hall**

Starting a Kitchen Garden

By Lynn Jones

A kitchen garden is a garden in which vegetables, fruits and herbs are grown for household consumption. Kitchen gardens are making a comeback all over the world as people re-discover the many benefits of fresh, local food in-season.

In part this surge in interest in home vegetable gardening is a reaction to the recent rise in unemployment. Fresh, delicious, home-grown vegetables help to take the pressure off the food budget.

Another reason people are taking up kitchen gardening is to reduce their "ecological footprint". Home grown vegetables require a lot fewer resources for their production than imported ones. No fossil fuels are required to transport them or refrigerate them en route to your kitchen!

Mostly though, growing a kitchen garden provides a lot of enjoyment. The gardens themselves can be beautiful to behold and a pleasure to work in. Just ask the thousands of Valley residents who never stopped kitchen gardening!

Two famous new kitchen gardens are the one started last year by Michele O'Bama on the White House Lawn in Washington D.C. and Queen Elizabeth's new garden at Buckingham Palace in London, England. Both of these gardens are organic and the Queen's garden features rare and endangered varieties provided by an organic heritage seed library in England.

The easiest way to start a new kitchen garden is to fill a few barrels or pots with good quality soil amended with compost or organic fertilizer. Place them in a sunny spot near your kitchen and plant them with fast growing salad veggies, herbs and edible flowers. Things like spinach, salad greens radishes, green onions, baby carrots, and turnips all grow quickly from seed. You can also plant frost-hardy vegetables like kale and chard, transplants of which are still available in some nurseries. If you plant your pots early in August, you should be able to harvest some beautiful salads from your garden this fall!

In the meantime, if you wish you can plan a bigger kitchen garden for next year. For visual inspiration, you might try a Google image search on "kitchen garden" which will bring up lots of photos and sketches of beautiful kitchen gardens.

There are several ways to prepare the ground for a new kitchen garden. You can have large raised bed containers made from rot resistant wood (like local white cedar) by a local carpenter and fill them with good quality soil and amendments. Or you can spread agricultural black plastic or a tarp or old carpet over the area you wish to turn into a garden and let it kill the grass and weeds for you

by leaving it there for several months.

You can also take the traditional approach and remove the sod by hand or with a tiller, and spade or till the soil underneath. Finally, you can take the easy route and try the "lasagna gardening" technique, in which layers of newspaper, compost, peat moss, rotten leaves and grass clippings are piled up in repeated layers over the new garden area.

I have tried all of these methods. They all work and have their advantages and disadvantages. You can find loads of good information on starting and caring for new kitchen gardens on the internet and at your local library. Here are just a few recommended books to get you started, all of which should be available through interlibrary loan:

The Harrowsmith Northern Gardener by Jennifer Bennett
From Seed to Table by Janette Haase
Four-Season Harvest by Eliot Coleman
Lasagna Gardening by Patricia Lanza

Happy Kitchen Gardening!

Watershed Ways is a publication of the Ottawa River Institute, a non-profit, charitable organization based in the Upper Ottawa Valley. For more information please see the ORI website at www.ottawariverinstitute.ca

Dominic D'Arcy

(Cont)

including Canada, Europe and Australia. His most recognized songs include "I Love You More Than Peanut Butter," "My Son," "I'm Going Back" and "My Canada." "My Son" was written when his son Darren left home and is a tribute to family, "I'm Going Back" on the trip back from his mother's funeral after visiting his hometown. "My Canada," a tribute to his native land, details a trip across each province.

If all this wasn't enough, Dominic has just manuscripted his memoirs for a book entitled *Stop or I'll Sing*. I expect that a lot of wit, anecdotes, advice and wisdom aimed at our younger generation will be packed between the covers. In his seventies, Dominic D'Arcy has just hit his stride, so expect him to be front and centre for a long time – and if I know him, a good time as well.

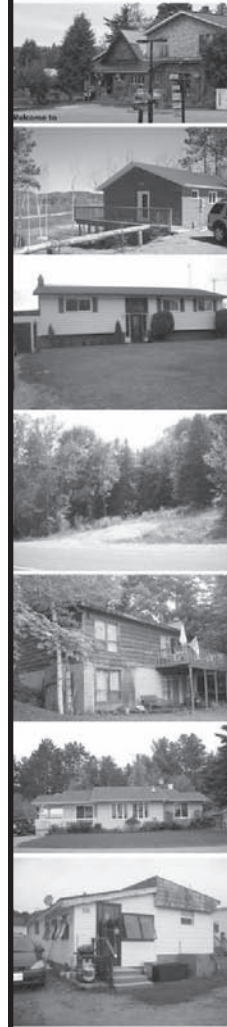
End

*Groucho Marx (1895-1977)
Here lies Groucho Marx
and Lies and Lies and Lies
P.S. He never kissed an ugly girl.*

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1561 Church Griffith \$299,000
water access retirement home

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Wanted a horse farm in Addington school district.
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Press Release

A Foray to France, The CP Railway: A pas de deux for Richard Gill's 2010 Fall Show

What do France and the CP Railway have in common? Nothing really other than that both subjects are muses that of late occupy the mind of Burnstown sculptor Richard Gill.

Having produced a body of work for his show each year of the past 38 he continues to have an insatiable appetite for new material, often historical in nature.

In 1871 British Columbia decided to join Canada but only if the government agreed to build a continental railway—the rest is history. A history that fascinates Mr Gill and compels him to document the subject in the beauty & durability of sculpted and fired clay. He has captured events like the Last Spike, Lady MacDonald's insistence that she ride on the cow catcher to enjoy the magnificent scenery of the Rockies and scenes that depict the actual construction of the rail with the Chinese workers.

A foray to France inspired the second part of Gill's fall show. The Spring journey began with an overnight ferry taken from Portsmouth to the ports of St. Malo, then to La Rochelle (both points of embankment for migrants to the New World). The journey continued through the Loire Valley to the rugged coast of Brittany and of course no visit to France would be complete without a visit to Paris in the Spring.

Perhaps therein lies the *pas de deux* - both are subjects that indeed played significant roles in Canada's history.

The show opens October 1 and continues daily to October 11 at the artist's Fog Run Studio at Bittersweet Gallery in Burnstown. 613.432.5254

End

*W.C. Fields (1880-1946)
Here lies W.C. Fields.
On the whole I would rather be
living in Philadelphia.*

Cottage Corner Gaslighting

By John Roxon

It was a muggy day, just one of many that we've had this warm summer. It was 7 p.m. and Julie, my wife, and I were sweeping away the libations and preparing our evening meal. Typically, Julie prepares the vegetables and I, the meat dish. The conversation was light, almost technical in nature as we discussed which veggies to eat and what appetizer would complement the meal. In fact, almost everyday at the same time we have the identical conversation. Oh, we substitute chicken for beef and asparagus for broccoli, perhaps, but the essence is the same.

"Have you seen the matches", I ask nonchalantly. "I gave them to you already", was the terse reply. "No, I'm sure you didn't", I add with determination. And so the conversation goes, back and forth. Understand that the whereabouts of the matches is known. Julie knows exactly where they are, for she is indulging in one of our favourite cottage activities – gaslighting. Many people like to go to their cottage or camp for quiet, many others like to play cards or board games. And there are other perfectly normal people out there who enjoy nature's splendor and the many activities and adventures she affords. Not us, though, oh no. Our preferred activity is to try to bring the other person to the point where they start to question their own sanity. If it gets as far as one of the parties looking in the yellow pages for psychiatrists or doctors specializing in dementia, then we've succeeded.

J.E. Lighter's superb "Historical Dictionary of American Slang, Volume 1" (Random House, 1994) gives gaslight, a verb, the meaning, "to attempt to frighten or confound in a manner so as to make the victim question his or her sanity". It is, of course, in direct reference to that excellent 1944 film of the same name starring Charles Boyer and Ingrid Bergman in which a husband, eager for an inheritance, attempts to drive his wife insane so her murder will be interpreted as suicide.

Of course, our cottage parlour games don't take it to the extreme that the film did, and we have been playing the game for a few years now. Still, each of us catches the other unawares at times and both of us, at different times, have silently wondered if we were losing our mind. I suspect that most married couples play this game, though perhaps at least one of them don't realize it's a game. I also suspect that it's usually the wife that surreptitiously tries to drive the husband insane. You can bet that every missing car key, screwdriver or sock was taken by the wife for the sole purpose of driving hubby crazy. The reason for this may not be as nefarious as to lock the poor soul away in a "quiet room" to never see the light of day again. The reason may be to simply

point out to an ungrateful husband how much he actually needs his wife. Or perhaps the reason may be to have a slight advantage in the control sweepstakes (that see-saw of power evident in all relationships) so hapless husband won't whine when his mother-in-law drops by for a visit, or you've tried one of your "special recipes" again.

There are many different ways to gaslight someone. It could be as simple as hiding the car keys, and, when asked, innocently say, "where did you leave them, dear". Another favourite, more by wives than husbands, is the shopping time mix-up. The scenario is all too familiar to husbands. Wife wants to go shopping. Husband would rather look at power tools. When they get to the mall, they agree to separate and meet at a predetermined time – predetermined by the wife, that is. The husband will invariably be late because the wife will claim that she said 2:00 when you swear that you heard 2:30. She will then flip off the whole incident with a remark like, "Oh Bob, you're getting so forgetful, I don't know what I'm going to do with you".

Of course, before you can successfully gaslight anyone, there has to be a level of trust established first. The more trusting and settled a relationship, the easier it is to gaslight. There are other, more sublime forms of gaslighting. Move something in the house and then claim that that is where it always was. Change the seat position in his car every day for a week. Say nothing. Sneak into the washroom as significant other has used it and turn on the tap – just a bit. Go to washroom 15 minutes later and ask him why he's wasting so much water. Repeat periodically over a month or so and before you know it, the victim will be going back into the washroom just to make sure he's turned off the tap.

While Julie and I try to outdo each other with creative gaslight techniques, we both know what the other is up to. Of course, perhaps she just reeled me into this game because she always suspected my sanity and just needed some physical proof to make it stick. Or perhaps it was I who reeled her in.

At the rate we're going, we'll be enjoying our 50th anniversary from opposite sides of a thick plate of glass, one of us dressed in white, the other sporting a natty new silk tie. Norwegian playwright, Henrik Gibson, said it best; "Marriage is a thing you've got to give your whole mind to".

End

*Sir John Strange (1696-1754)
Here lies an honest
lawyer, -
That is Strange.*

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Matawatchan Market

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Saturday September 4**

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Community Calendar

CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

GRIFFITH AND MATAWATCHAN

St. Andrew's United Church
 Aug to Feb Sunday Worship 11:30 a.m.
 Feb. to August Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.

Decoration Service
 Matawatchan Cemetery
 Sept. 25 at 2 p.m.
 Pastor Dave Tubby officiating

Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church
 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
 WMI meet first Monday of the month
 Sunday School 10am
 Sunday Worship 11am
 Weekly Bible study Tuesdays 7pm
 at Fellowship Hall and in Plevna
 Pioneer Club Thursdays 6pm at
 Clar-Mill Hall, Plevna

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 10:30 a.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)
 Christmas Eve service 7 p.m.
 Church Services Sunday Mornings at
 8:45 a.m. Communion
 1st Sunday of every month.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Calabogie

Calabogie Artfest
 Oct. 2-3, Calabogie Community Centre, 574
 Mill Rd., Calabogie, 10 am - 4 pm,
 free admission, featuring 25 members of
 Renfrew Art Guild; Tea Room on site.

Kids' Free Movie Nights, at 7 pm every
 second Friday, call township at 752-2222 for
 new fall start date; at Calabogie Community
 Centre; organized by Township Recreation
 Committee.

Pre-school Program, NEW DATES &
 TIMES, Thursdays, 10 – 11 am, as of Sept.
 9, year round, Ages 0-5 at township library

Most Precious Blood Cemetery – Calabogie
Memorial Service Sept. 19 at noon
 Bring a lawn chair. Church Service
 at 10:30 am in church.

Calabogie Seniors' Dinner & Meeting,
 last Thursday of each month, 5 pm
 at Community Hall. All seniors 55+
 welcome. 752-2853

Calabogie Women's Institute meets
 usually second Thursday monthly, 7:30 pm.
 at Calabogie Home Support Office next to
 Pinky's Bar & Grill at 5056 Calabogie Rd.;
 New members welcome. 613-752-2598

Calabogie Arts and Crafts Assoc.
 Every 2nd Monday (if holiday, then 3rd
 Monday), 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, Community
 Hall, Prospective members most welcome
 (\$15 per year), 752-1324

Lion's Club Bingo every Wednesday,
 7:15 pm, Calabogie Community Hall, 752-
 0234.

The Calabogie and Area Ministerial Food Bank
 538 Mill Street,
 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month
 9:00 am to 11:00 a.m.
 For emergency situations, please call 752-
 2201

Griffith & Matawatchan

Matawatchan Community Hall Annual General Meeting
 Sept 14, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Harvest Supper
 Turkey & all of the trimmings
 St. Andrew's United Church
 Sept 25, 2010 – 5 pm to 7 pm

Wednesday Evening Baseball
 Matawatchan Hall grounds
 Begins June 16 @ 6:30 pm

Matawatchan Community Market Final Market Day: Sept. 4
 Saturday morning from 9 am to 1 pm
 Fresh vegetables, baking, preserves, etc.
 Lunch served after 11 am

Lion's Club Bingo every two weeks
 Sept. 14th and 28th
 Oct. 12th and 26th
 Nov. 9th, and 23rd
 Dec. 7, Monster Bingo

Fellowship Luncheons every third
 Wednesday
 Sept. 15; Oct. 20; Nov. 17 & Dec. 15

Sylvia's Foot Care
 Every six weeks
 St. Andrews Church (Matawatchan)
 Call Annabell Marshall 333-1752

"Northern Lights" Seniors
 Meet the third Wednesday of each month
 at 1:15 p.m. in Griffith at the Lion's Hall
 following food and fellowship beginning at
 noon. For information: contact Lois Robbins
 at 333-1082. All Seniors Welcome

Denbigh

Countryfest
 September 17th, 18th and 19th
 See Denbigh News on page for details

Denbigh Ontario Early Years Playgroup
 (up to age 6) Every Tuesday
 Denbigh Community Hall 10 a.m.
 until 12 p.m.
 Info 1-613-336-8934 ext 257

Diners Club
 Dinners are held the first Monday of the
 month at the Denbigh Community Hall
 at 12 noon. Full Course Meal \$6.00.
 Contact Faye Mieske at 333-2784 or
 Irene at 333-2202 for information.

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

HEALTH CARE FOOTCARE CLINICS
 Sylvia's Foot Care
 Every 6 weeks in Denbigh and Matawatchan
 Next clinics are August 11 & 12, 2009
 For information or appointment
 Please call--Muriel Burgess 613-333-5559
 OR --Annabelle Marshall 613-333-1752
 Home visits can be arranged

End

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People who don't stand for anything will fall for anything

Bringing Home the Bacon

By Howard Popkie

In the fall when the garden was all taken in for the winter and it was cold enough that chickadees would feed on a hung carcass, it was time to kill the pig. The pigs had been out for some time from their pens and were feeding on oak nuts on the ground all up the side hill near our home in Black Donald. The side hill was so dug up by the pigs that they would hang around their pens a lot. I guess it felt like home. Sometimes they would come down the path toward our house but my dog Shep would meet them and all he had to do was give them that "go back to the stable" look and they would turn around and head back.

Grandpa made a wooden funnel to put in the pig's gut to make blood sausage. We had an old door that we laid down on blocks beside a half 45 gallon barrel hanging on a pole over a fire. The hot water it contained was used to scrape the hair off the dead pig.

Mom got out her potato pot with some salt in the bottom and a big spoon to mix the blood for the blood sausage. She

made the sausage using the gut from the pig that she turned inside out and pulled it through two knitting needles to clean it.

Shep was always standing by and while I was too young to help I took it all in. My brothers Reuben and Donald were four and eight years older than me and their job was to kill the pig.

Rueben had a 22 calibre and Donald had an old 44 calibre rifle with a long barrel that a hunter had given to him. Rueben got some food for the pig and got it near the fire and the boiling water. He shot the pig but only wounded it. The pig took off and was running away up the side of the hill with Donald and Shep chasing it.

Donald got buck fever and fired a wild shot at the pig and hit it in the front shoulder with the old 44. Mom yelled "you ruined a whole roast of pork" and Shep was no help because all he was doing was chasing the pig farther away. The pig was finally killed and it was a long haul to pull it back to the fire.

I was wondering why they just didn't harness the horses and skid the pig back to the fire, but I guess they were all too excited to think of that.

End

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“NUMBER PLEASE?”

By Ernie Jukes of Camp J

Ontario, Canada has led the way with so many aspects of a better life for North Americans. After we produced the first oil wells, the light bulb, basketball, baseball, and zipper, there was another invention however that really changed the world.

It was on July 26, 1874 that our Alexander Graham Bell precisely outlined the entire concept and method of creating the “Telephone” with his father in Brantford, Ontario. In the same year, at Paris, Ontario he received the first long distance phone call from his father and uncle also to Brantford, over borrowed Telegraph lines.

It was no doubt due to Mr. Bell’s tremendous understanding of music and sound, particularly his great work with the Deaf, in our province that on March 10, 1876 he was able to speak and hear a two way conversation on his new “Telephone.” His first words through his new invention was to say to his answering assistant Thomas Watson “Come here I want to see you”. The fantastic invention rapidly developed into the first telephone exchange in the world and spread throughout the Hamilton, Burlington and Toronto areas.

He went on to also develop the Silver Dart manned flight aircraft and the first Hydrofoils. There is a fine museum of his many inventions at Lake Bras Dor in

Nova Scotia adjoining the family summer estate. But of all these, “Hello” became his and the world’s broadest salutation.

Even the earliest days of our great Telecommunications Industry was a godsend for doing comparatively vast business, reaching out to multitudes of people politically, and spreading warnings of potential storms and disasters. In those days operators were helpful and sometimes became friends in small towns and villages. The early phones were wall mounted with a crank to call the operator, and you would be ready to give her the person’s number that you desired. Desk models, in only black of course, soon came along. The mouth piece topped the instrument and the ear piece hung from a cradle to disconnect or for use when you were ready to wait for the operator at “Central” to ask “Number Please?”

I remember during the 1940’s our phone line in St.Catharines was 2299-J and sometimes there was more than one phone, if a business was involved. In more remote areas like Wilson and Matawatchan however we had to share with “Party Lines” I recall our ringing sequence of three short and two long offered by the Northbrook Telephone Company, and in fact still have one of their early subscriber’s directories. You would pick up your ear piece to call “the opera-

tor” when the line was available or when you received your “ring”, which was any number of short or long impulses to the bells of your appliance. Even the fire tower on Dan’s Mountain was able to report a fire to Nellie McLaren at the central switchboard in Matawatchan causing her husband Basil to gather us firefighters.

Soon after answering we may have heard a click or two or three of other people coming on to the line. Sometimes to simply listen-in to the latest gossip or perhaps those getting bored with your conversation and deciding upon leaving. Do you suppose these were possibly the first “Conference Calls?” Also on occasion others would “rattle” the line to demand their turn. Patience and being a good neighbour was sometimes overlooked.

In spite of us having the “phone” during World War 1 during 1914-1918, we gained little ground because of it. The Somme, in France, for example was crisscrossed with miles of trenches and communications wire. Of course with 4 years of artillery bombardment the lines were always being blown away. We did not invent the walkie-talkie, which was wireless, until World War 2 when we returned overseas in 1939 to again save Britain and Europe.

During the years telephone companies improved customer relations with access to public telephones almost everywhere. Telephones in booths were almost on every corner in virtually every Cana-

dian city. I recall one time after a dance in Renfrew missing a buddy and quickly locating him in the Bell office. Simply by asking his switchboard date “for Don please” from a telephone booth on main street. Also years later while traveling through Europe and the USA, popular phone cards at the time, provided easy prepaid use for reserving a hotel or campground or calling ahead to a friend.

So much has happened with mobile phones, and cell phones, iphones, ipads, many using satellite called wireless and internet with email. Others called IPO and cable or Skype and any number of smart phones all providing convenient technology making it easier and easier to be connected for improved productivity or simply staying in touch.

Phones today are used in every part of the world for virtually every purpose. The dial system gave way to touch tone in most regions. Now we have Blackberry touch screen, still with Canada leading the way. We sure have come a long way from saying “Is that you Mert?” when a voice would say.....”Number Please?”

Bye

Before you put a foot down, be sure you have a leg to stand on.



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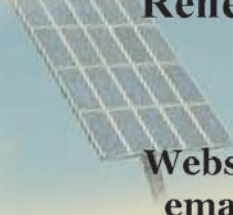
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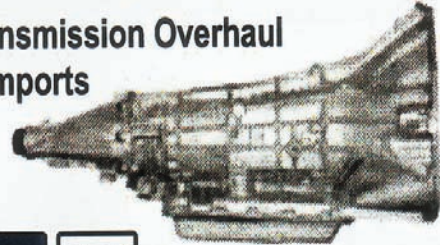
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Our Disappearing Giant

By Floris Wood

The Sturgeons we see today look, by and large, the same as sturgeons that inhabited the Earth 100 million years ago. Most dinosaurs became extinct about 65 million years ago, but the Sturgeon survived the comet or volcano or extraterrestrial feeding frenzy or whatever it was that eradicated dinosaurs. The only other locally native fish with dinosaur credentials is the Long Nosed Gar, but the Gar has fared better than the Sturgeon under the most recent wave of destruction to hit Earth...human beings. Gars are still found in abundance in the Ottawa valley. They were spared extinction perhaps because they were considered nuisance fish by most of the commercial and sports fishers, whereas Sturgeon were much prized for their caviar, swim bladder (useful in making isinglass), and meat.

I was amazed to see photos taken in the early part of the 1900s of enormous Sturgeon that were caught in tributaries of the Ottawa River, including the Madawaska. Sturgeon of nearly 2 m in length were not the rule but were also not rare. But other species of Sturgeons came in

even larger packages. Russian Sturgeon, called Beluga, of the Caspian and Black seas can reach nearly three metres and weigh one ton. Pictures taken in modern times of Sturgeon greater than 3 m can be seen in advertisements for fishing resorts in northern Ontario. The photos may or

continued on page 16



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 for Ward 1
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Richard Gill

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 brittany, la rochelle, paris*

*The Canadian Pacific Railway –
 an historical perspective*



and new works of the Ottawa Valley

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CABA Corner

Third Annual Festival of the Senses

By Catherine Reynolds

On Saturday and Sunday, October 2 and 3, 2010 you will be once again welcomed at many locations in and around the villages of Burnstown and Calabogie as The Festival of the Senses aims to delight all of your senses with a host of events and special activities.

Local businesses are already gearing up for the 3rd annual Festival of the Senses. Last year there were 28 festival sites. This year promises to be just as exciting as some new venues join in enriching your senses. Many of the events are free of charge, some offer special prices and others require prior registration or appointments.

The Festival is anchored by two popular and well attended events, Richard Gill's Annual Fall Show at his studio and gallery in Burnstown and the Annual Art Fest established in Calabogie many years ago.

Drop by the community centre in Calabogie and allow yourself to be bedazzled by the works of 23 local artists during the 10th annual Art Fest. The artists, of the Renfrew Art Guild, will be on hand both Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm inviting you to revel in the **Sense of Colour**. Tea and lunch will be available, served by Calabogie Women's Institute.

Richard Gill looks forward to welcoming you to the Bittersweet Gallery Fog Run Studio where his fall show will be in full

swing. It runs from October 1-11 and festival visitors will be amazed at the beauty and detail in his sculpted clay-relief wall plaques featuring a Foray to France, the Canadian Pacific Railway and new works of the Ottawa Valley. You will surely experience a **Sense of Artistry**.

For something new you really must experience the open house at Gunnar Guckes' place on Grassy Bay. He invites you to walk the grounds of his newest creations, a cooking school, Taste Funatic, and guest accommodation, Grassy Bay Getaway. All your senses will be awake as you tread down the sensory pathways and as you catch the sweet aromas from the herb gardens. The cooking school and tasting cellar are so unique to our area you need to see to believe.

Grassy Bay Getaway is Calabogie's latest treasure nestled by the side of the lake. Take note of the sauna, the private outdoor shower and the hot tub and then imagine sinking into total relaxation the next time you are looking for a place of escape. The accommodations are sumptuous and designed to cater to all of your senses. This stop on the festival route, a **Sense of Taste Funatic**, is one you should not miss. You are invited to drop by Saturday or Sunday, from 11:00 am-5:00 pm.

Discover your inner **Sense of Rhythm** by joining a one hour "Community Drumming Circle" at Barnett Park facilitated by local composer and music educator Byron Hermann. This is a new activity for everyone of all ages and experience, from the very young to the very old, from those who drum a lot to those who just enjoy an air drum in the shower or banging on a few pots and pans or even just tapping those fingers. Come enjoy the energy and power you will feel as your sounds join together with others to create a beautiful musical experience. There is no charge for this event, in the park on

Saturday at 2:00 pm (weather permitting).

Just across the road there is an open house at The Fans of Calabogie B&B, celebrating a **Sense of Asia**. In keeping with the Asian theme of this fine bed and breakfast there will be Chinese tea and Asian treats available throughout Sunday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

The Festival promises many more surprises (and senses). To keep abreast of all the details please visit www.calabogie.org. An up to the minute listing of all events and festival sites will be posted beginning September 1st. Then look to your mailbox for the flyer with the final listing and site map. We hope to see you all out and about, October 2 and 3.

Feeling Muscle Tension? Needing to Tone your Tummy? Are you a Senior wanting to stay Active?

Choose one or more of the three Exercise Programs offered this fall in Calabogie

1. **STRETCH & BREATH** - designed to increase flexibility through a gentle stretching and breathing program. Thursdays Sept 16th - October 28th, 10 - 11 am. Cost \$70
2. **STRETCH AND PILATES** - designed to increase flexibility and core strength through a gentle resistance program. Thursdays Sept 16th - October 28th, 11:15 - 12:15. Cost \$70
3. **BEGINNER'S STRETCH & BREATH** - designed to increase range of movement for those with decreased mobility. Chair & standing exercises. Thursdays Sept 23rd - October 30th, 12:45 - 1:45 Cost \$50

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Denbigh News

By Angela Bright

*Hi there! It's Angela sitting in for Christi this issue as she is in recovery mode. Pray that by the time you read this Christi, you will be back on your feet again!

*Ready for Countryfest? September 17th, 18th and 19th is jam packed with activities in Denbigh. There are lots of events on the schedule, some old and some new. The Music Cafe will once again be the kickoff to the weekend on Friday, the 17th. Anyone wishing to showcase their talent please contact Paul Isaac at 333-2776. One small change to the schedule will be the Logging Events moving to Saturday afternoon and the Horse Draw to Sunday afternoon. Vendors are welcome again this year to bring their wares, crafts, baking, art work, etc. For information on table space please contact Carolyn Keller at 758-2855. Any students out there needing community hours for school please contact the committee as there are lots of areas where you can help out. Watch for the Countryfest Posters around the village and area with all the details.

*By the time you read this, the Summer Reading Club will have wrapped up at the Denbigh Library. The children have enjoyed crafts, games and stories over the last eight weeks, and those who did their weekly book reports, were rewarded.

*Sunday School at Vennachar Free Methodist Church will open for the fall session on Sunday, September 19th at 10am. There are classes for children, teens and adults so everyone is welcome. That also means Sunday morning worship will change back to 11am beginning the 19th as well.

*The Northern Lights Senior's Group presents their Fall Leaf Tour on September 22, 2010. On the tour will be the Madonna House Gift Shop & Gallery, Flea Market and Pioneer Museum, a visit to Al Capone's famous hideout, and a stop at Crooked Slide Park. Lunch to be arranged, with the cost estimated to be around \$9 or \$10. Bus departs Eganville at 8:30 am, Griffith 9:00am and Denbigh 9:15am. The cost is \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members. Organizers must know by Sept. 19 if you plan to take the tour and need a minimum of 26.5 people to secure the bus. Call Evelyn in Denbigh at 613-333-2291 or Sandy in Griffith at 613-333-1932 to book your seat.

End

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Griffith Lions Club
Hwy 41, Griffith

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Monday, September 20, 2010 - 7:pm
Calabogie Recreation Centre
574 Mill St., Calabogie

For more information call: Juliette LeGal
(613) 333-1352
(The Greater Madawaska Seniors' Housing Corporation is a non profit organization developing plans for future seniors housing needs in your community)

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Sturgeon (Cont)

may not be taken in Ontario, and they may or may not be Lake Sturgeon.

Speaking of which, some northern Ontario resort owners refer to the Sturgeon in their area as White Sturgeon. Officially, there is a White Sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*), but it is, as the scientific name implies, found only on the other side of the Rocky mountains. I was baffled, especially since, just before viewing their sights, I had read in an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources site that Ontario waters supported only the Lake Sturgeon. Further research verified that White Sturgeons (*Acipenser transmontanus*) are indeed found only west of the Rocky Mountains. From this I gather that the name White Sturgeon given the Sturgeon in northern Ontario is one of many popular names these animals bear. The DNA of the northern Ontario Lake Sturgeon that live in the Hudson Bay watershed is slightly different from the Lake Sturgeon found in the Great Lakes/St Lawrence watershed. But these differences result from their having been isolated from each other for a long time and because, historically they came from different sources. An area populated by a species in which the members all have identical DNA is called a refugium and northern Ontario Lake Sturgeon are be-

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lieved to have descended from Lake Sturgeon in the Missourian refugium, while Southern Ontario Lake Sturgeon are descended from Mississippi refugium. The minor differences in the DNA of the Northern Ontario Sturgeon and the Southern Ontario Lake Sturgeon have not resulted in any significant differences in physical features or behaviour.

There has been a great deal of difference in their survivability of the two. The Northern Ontario Lake Sturgeons are far more plentiful than their southern Ontario cousins. The reason for the difference however, is attributed to the inaccessibility of the far northern bush to commercial and sport fishing, and the existence of far fewer hydro dams in the north. While Sturgeons have survived

millions of years it was because they are very versatile fish. Their very size has brought them to the top of the food chain and, once a certain size is achieved, they are without predators. But the easy life at the top of the food chain also gives them the luxury of a long life. One way of prolonging that life even further is to reproduce at a slower rate, saving a lot of wear and tear on the body. Evolution has seen to it that Sturgeon female do not

begin bearing eggs until nearly into their third decade of life. Even then they bear eggs only every four or five years. The male too begins reproduction only after 17 years old and then reproduces only every third or fourth year.

All fishing for Sturgeon has been closed for the southern Ontario Lake Sturgeon

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A bounty of local food

By Lynn Jones

Newcomers and visitors to the Ottawa Valley have a real culinary treat in store for them. At this time of year, in addition to its many other attributes, our beautiful valley is one of the best places in the world to "eat local".

We are blessed in Renfrew County with fine soils, good growing conditions, lots of wild forests, sparkling streams and rivers, carefully cultivated farmland and a dedicated population of farmers and gardeners, young, old and in between! The result is a cornucopia of delicious locally-grown and produced food: everything from heirloom fruit and vegetables to eggs, meat, hemp nuts, wild-crafted teas, herbal vinegars, jellies, pickles, honey and maple syrup.

Accessing this bounty is fairly easy at this time of year thanks to the many farmers' markets, pick-your own farms and roadside fruit and vegetable stands sprinkled throughout the valley. Renfrew County has ten farmers' markets located in Arnprior, Barry's Bay, Burnstown, Cobden, Combermere, Killaloe, Matawatchan, Pembroke, Petawawa and Renfrew! In addition, several local grocers stock local foods along with imported produce.

Renfrew County is also home to an innovative award-winning, producer and consumer food co-operative, the Ottawa Valley Food Co-operative (OVFC) (www.ottawavalleyfood.org) which circulates a wide variety of local goods to hundreds of members through a monthly order cycle. A wonderful CSA farm in the Pembroke-Cobden area, the Rainbow Heritage Garden (www.rainbowheritage.ca), distributes weekly baskets of heirloom organic vegetables and fruits to its members.

A great resource is available free-of-charge to help newcomers to the Valley and/or newcomers to the wonderful world of eating locally find local foods. The "Local Food Buying Guide for the Upper Ottawa Valley" is a beautiful 17-page colour brochure that contains detailed information about county farmers' markets, 34 OVFC producer members, eight pick-your own farms, and close to 50 other local food producers. The guide was produced in the summer of 2009 with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation by the Ottawa River Institute and Ottawa Valley Food Co-operative. Visit the ORI website at www.ottawariverinstitute.ca/local-food to download a copy of the brochure and for a list of locations where copies may still be available.

Local food is fresh, delicious and nutritious. Eating it is good for the local economy, good for the environment, good for our neighbours who grow the food and good for planet earth! How fortunate we are that such an easy and delicious thing to do has so many additional benefits!

continued on next page



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2010

NOMINATIONS

Positions For Which A Person May File A Nomination Paper For Municipal Office Are As Follows:

- Reeve (1)
- Councillor – Ward 1 (2)
- Councillor – Ward 2 (1)
- Councillor – Ward 3 (1)

- English Language Renfrew County District School Board (1)
- English Language Renfrew Catholic District School Board (1)
- French Language Public District School Board #59 (1)
- French Language Separate District School Board #66 (1)

A Nomination must be signed by the Candidate and may be filed in person or by an agent with the Returning Officer of the Municipality between January 1st 2010 and September 9th 2010.

On September 10th 2010 (Nomination Day), a nomination may be filed between the hours of **9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office**. A prescribed nomination filing fee of \$200.00 for the Head of Council and \$100.00 for all other offices must accompany the nomination form. A nomination must be certified by the Clerk before a person becomes a certified candidate.

If there are insufficient candidates to fill all the positions available, nominations for the vacant positions only will be reopened, and additional nominations may be filed in the office of the Clerk on September 15th 2010 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. If a greater number of candidates are certified than are required to fill an office, voting day will be October 25th 2010.

Further Information regarding the 2010 Municipal Elections may be obtained from your local Municipal Clerk as noted below.

Returning Officer: Angela Yolkowskie
Township of Greater Madawaska
613-752-2222
1101 Francis Street
Calabogie, ON K0J 1H0

Matawatchan's Community Cemetery

By Bill Graham, Editor

In today's world there are two types of cemeteries: The church cemetery and the private cemetery. The private cemetery category has two contrasting types: the private 'for profit' cemetery and the community 'for community service' cemetery. In Matawatchan we have a community cemetery (not connected to the church) but regardless it is ultimately all about real estate. It is a place (a plot) where your family can rest your bones or ashes and mark your presence on this earth.

Local legend says that a young boy with a dream told his mother that when he finished working on the log drive in Mackie Creek he was going to school to become a minister. He also told of his plans to build a church on a hill near the family home. Fate however put a tragic end to that dream, for the following week this boy, David McLellan, was drowned on the drive in Mackie Creek.

Since there was no cemetery in this pioneer community, the devastated family buried young David on that same hill where he had visualized his church.

If you visit Matawatchan Cemetery you can see the stone in memory of David, who drowned on June 25, 1859. This is



Joe Lance's burial by family and friends

where he was laid to rest on top of the hill—the first grave in Matawatchan cemetery—at least according to legend.

The earliest dates recorded on grave stones in the cemetery are in the 1850s. However, Matawatchan Cemetery Committee chairman Joe MacPherson believes there are graves that are no longer marked that date back to the 1830s. These graves would have been marked with wooden crosses that have long since decayed. In the earliest years people would have been buried on their homestead or perhaps where they died beside the

river as was the case for many loggers.

While it is evident that people were buried at the present location of the Matawatchan Cemetery in the early to mid-1800s, there was no official cemetery until 1901 when Norman J. McLeod (Yeoman) and his wife Mary Ann deeded the land to James Wilson, Alexander Thompson and John Ilan, Trustees of the Matawatchan Cemetery and their successors.

More than a century later, their successors are Joe MacPherson and his committee of five residents. They are volunteers that pro-

vide a valuable service to their community.

The cemetery has already expanded once and is once again running out of space. There are around thirty full plots left and twelve half plots. A full plot is 20 feet by 20 feet and will accommodate six burials. Each full burial plot can be purchased for \$1050 and half that for a half plot. Most of that money (\$900) goes to the Ontario government, which is put into a trust fund that will ensure the upkeep of the cemetery should the administration of the cemetery be abandoned, for whatever reasons.

The scant remainder of the plot cost goes to the Matawatchan Cemetery Committee for expenses incurred in keeping the grounds in good repair and for the actual burials. For example, there is someone hired to cut the grass in summer, snow must be cleared and equipment must

continued on page 22

Local food (Cont)

Watershed Ways is a publication of the Ottawa River Institute, a non-profit, charitable organization based in the Upper Ottawa Valley. For more information please see the ORI website at www.ottawariverinstitute.ca

End

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GREATER MADAWASKA LITERARY MATTERS

By Mary-Joan Hale

If you felt a breeze, it was the summer flying by. It seems I went to bed one night in June and woke up at the end of August. Seriously time flies, as they say, when you are having fun and this summer sure gave evidence of that. We wrapped up the TD Summer Program with an afternoon of critters from 'Waddles'n'Wags at our Community Hall in Calabogie. Sharon Shalla arranged a wonderful afternoon for the children to cuddle bunnies, pet snakes, lizards and cockatoo and take a ferret or rat for a walk on its leash. I needed to be on the door, so unfortunately only the bunnies and baby ducks got my attention. However, I did pet the boa (carefully) and yes, it is satiny smooth so I can mark that off my list! The best part of the afternoon was the joy on the faces of the children and the wonderful explanations by Kim and her crew.

There will be a change in the Pre-school Storytyme starting in September. We will meet Thursday mornings from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. This will accommodate naps and allow families to share playtime at another venue on Tuesdays. We wish to be open to the needs of the young families in our community.

We will be participating in the "Festival of the Senses" again this year and will be at the 'Sense of Languages' in order to formally present our MangoLanguages Program now offered at the library. You may register to learn one of 37 languages through this on-line site. Once registered, you can learn at your own speed at home through this interactive presentation.

The volunteers have been speeding their way through the cataloguing of the backlog of books. Come in and meet a new author or renew an acquaintance with an old one. In order to make room on our shelves, we did a good weeding, so do come in and browse.

The Early Learning Centre is back, kids, and we have a nice table and bench to learn in a relaxing fun place.

The summer was a busy one with visits from kids, tourists, and our regular bibliophiles and I know that the fall season will be the same. Ward 3, you can get books at Eagle's Rest and Lacourse's venues. I hope that I can announce a stop in Ward 2 soon. The new website will be up & running shortly with some new features for all. Keep watching.

End

End

Gardening in raised beds

By Lynn Jones

Ottawa River Institute member Debra Lloyd recently shared with me her enthusiasm for her new raised bed gardens constructed from local cedar. Besides being beautiful to look at and tend, these raised-bed, container gardens will make it easier for Debra to garden "in her dotage" as she puts it. Now I know she's joking because she is one of the fittest and sharpest people I know, and I think there is probably loads of evidence that gardening (and eating organic garden produce) keeps people fit, healthy and mentally sharp.

However, there are lots of reasons why folks might want to consider raised bed, container gardening. According to Wikipedia, raised bed gardening is a form of gardening in which the soil is formed in 3-4 foot wide beds, which can be of any length or shape. The soil is raised above the surrounding soil (6 inches to waist high), sometimes enclosed by a frame generally made of wood, rock, or concrete blocks, and enriched with compost.

Vegetable plants in raised bed gardens are often spaced in geometric patterns, much closer together than conventional row gardening. The spacing is such that when the vegetables are fully grown, their leaves just barely touch each other, creating an environment in which moisture is conserved and weed growth suppressed.

Raised beds produce a variety of benefits: they extend the planting season and can reduce weeds if designed properly. Since the gardener does not walk on the raised beds, the soil is not compacted and the roots have an easier time growing. The close plant spacing and the use of compost generally result in higher yields with raised beds in comparison to conventional row gardening. Waist high raised beds enable people with reduced mobility and flexibility to grow vegetables without having to bend over to tend them.

A special kind of raised bed that I learned about while researching this article is the "keyhole garden". These are circular waist high raised beds with a path to the centre. The walls are usually made out of stones piled on top of each other. Often the centre has a "chimney" of sorts built with sticks and then lined with feedbags or grasses that allows water and/or compost placed at the centre to flow out into the soil and reach the plants' roots. Keyhole gardens are very big in parts of East Africa where they are helping to make low-income families self-reliant in food. To view some beautiful photos of these gardens, type "keyhole gardens" into Google Image and prepare to be inspired!

When making raised bed containers, construction materials should be chosen carefully. If building with wood, it is a

continued on next page

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Sturgeon (Cont)

where they are listed as a threatened species. In the Northern areas, where they are listed as a species of special concern, there is a catch and release restriction. Hydro dams change the flow rates, seasonal flushes, water temperature and oxygen concentration of rivers. Sturgeons are sensitive to all these factors, especially as they relate to spawning. Hydro dams segment the rivers into isolated habitats causing genetic alteration due to inbreeding. It has baffled some researchers how, in the same river there will be stretches of river between dams that will be void of Sturgeon while between other dams Sturgeons flourish.

It is very difficult to know how well or poorly a seemingly thriving population of Sturgeons is really doing. The nearly thirty year period before a female lays her first eggs and the four to five year period between egg bearing means that in any given year only 10 to 20% of the females will produce eggs. Further, since the older a female gets, the more eggs she produces, a premium is placed on the lives of older females. Females produce 4000 to 7000 eggs per pound of their own weight. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has placed a ban on the commercial and sport fishing of Sturgeon in the southern Ontario area. For some time it was only legal to catch smaller Sturgeons for the above reasons, but the OMNR could not risk the elimination of generations of future productive females, so a total ban was decreed. It might be years before we know whether or not this ban was early enough to counter balance other negative pressure on the breeding population.

Physically the Sturgeon is quite unique. It is long and slender, like a pike. It is a bottom feeder so its long snout is ever so slightly curved upward and its sole purpose seems to be for sliding through the silt or sand to disturb the edible morsels buried there. As the Sturgeon passes along the bottom the debris stirred up by the snout is passed over by four whisker-like barbels hanging down underneath him between his snout and his mouth. As a bottom feeder his mouth is underneath his body, behind the barbels, and is uniquely designed to form into the shape of a siphon to suck up morsels that his barbels have identified as food. If the fish is viewed from the side the mouth is not even visible. The Sturgeon's taste buds, along with many other sensors, are on the barbels, so pleasure-wise, I guess the joy is already over by the time the food enters the mouth. The barbels are stiff enough to help manipulate food and position it toward the mouth, while manoeuvring non-food debris away from the mouth. Their favourite foods are: clams, crayfish, insect larvae, leeches, worms and snails.

The long torso that follows the mouth contains three sets of smaller fins, behind which is a shark-like, triangular shaped back (dorsal) fin and the typically shark-like deeply forked tail (caudal) fin.

One of the unique markings characteristic of nearly all Sturgeons is five rows of very hard, boney angular plates going down either side, down the spine and two rows on the rear underside of the Sturgeon. Underwater these plates may have a luminescence about them that causes them to almost glow. Their outer covering lacks scales in favour of a rough leathery hide, again, reminiscent of the shark. Unlike the shark it has no teeth. Like sharks their body is made up mostly of cartilage instead of bones.

The Lake Sturgeon populated all the Great Lakes. Lake Erie provided the commercial fishing industry with the greatest number of Sturgeon. At its productive height in 1885, Lake Erie produced 4109 metric tons (5.2 million pounds) of Sturgeon for the commercial fishing industry. This industry is now closed for all of the Great lakes.

The best article I found for learning more about the history and possible survivability of Sturgeon in the Ottawa valley was A Synopic Review of the History and Our Knowledge of Lake Sturgeon in the Ottawa River, 2008 Report by Tim Haxton. According to Gayle and Steve Main, owners of the Eagle's Rest Store and Resort, in their nine years in the area they have never heard of a Sturgeon coming out of this part of the waterway.

The Lake Sturgeon is an impressive animal and its history exemplifies the history of much of Ontario wildlife. Conservation measures too often come too late for an easy solution to the disappearance of animal species. The once teeming animal life in Ontario forests, lakes and rivers often have been reduced to rare sightings. Hunting and fishing is not the problem. Most hunters and fishermen

obey the laws. The greatest problem is the failure to see human society and the natural world (one can argue that these two concepts are not separable) from a global perspective. Failure to protect that natural world is a failure to protect the Earth. Failure to protect the Earth is a failure to protect ourselves. If we are to survive on Earth, the Earth must first survive us.

End

Raised beds (Cont)

good idea to avoid pressure-treated lumber which can leach toxic chemicals such as arsenic into the soil. Untreated hardwood is better. Debra's containers are made out of local white cedar by resident craftsman, Tom Eldrige. She is willing to share information about

their construction. If you are interested, contact me via the general email address at Ottawa River Institute website ("info" at "ottawariverinstitute.ca").

When it comes to filling the containers with soil, consult a good reference book at your library or do a bit of internet research to determine the ideal mixture. A Google search on "organic garden soil recipe" will provide lots of information. Debra used a mixture of earth, sand, vermiculite and her own compost and as the attached photos will attest, she has had wonderful results!

End

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Fire Prevention on Private Roads in TGM

By Betsy Sayers, Fire Chief

Many properties in the Township of Greater Madawaska are on non-Township maintained private roads. These properties present a unique challenge when it comes to fire response that requires a partnership between homeowners and the Fire Department. For example, we are often asked to provide advice and guidance on what kind of pump and hose equipment homeowners should buy and whether or not the Fire Department will provide training on its use.

The Township of Greater Madawaska does not support the idea of individual property owners buying fire fighting equipment and attempting to fight the fire themselves before our arrival. You should escape the danger zone, call 911, alert neighbours and leave immediately!

Fire fighting in the wildland/urban interface that is our beautiful Township is not a simple or safe operation. Narrow, single lane private roads add to this complexity. It is our opinion that the risk of becoming trapped and/or out-run by a rampaging forest/bush fire is too high.

If you have only one way out and can't fight the fire effectively with a garden hose – RUN!

WHAT WE DO RECOMMEND: Working with us to create a Fire Safe Community

-Smoke alarms! Smoke alarms! Smoke alarms! Early warning and immediate escape so that everyone is safe and the road is clear when we arrive is the best thing to do.

-Having a well known and practiced escape plan from your house, your street, and across the water.

-Make sure we are able to get our big fire trucks down your road. Our fire ap-

paratus need 14 feet clearance in height, a road that has a solid base designed to support the weight of our heavy pumpers and tankers that is at least 9 feet wide and a safe turn around point where our trucks can be positioned facing out in case the fire gets out of control and we need to retreat quickly. The Township has wisely invested in Rapid Attack Trucks (4x4 pickups) that are loaded with portable pumps, hose and other firefighting equipment, but these can't replace the water supply capacity of our big pumpers and tankers.

-Develop a Community Master Fire Plan in co-operation with the Fire Department. After smoke alarms and an escape plan, this is the best defense. We'll help you map out your road in detail; have a master plan on file that shows us who lives where, who is seasonal vs full-time; where our trucks can and cannot get to safely; where major propane tanks are located; help you to implement a community smoke alarm and home escape planning program; determine the best/fastest way for us to get to your location at all seasons (inside/outside Twp? Road plowed in winter? Water sources in winter? etc.)

-Create a recognizable and loud signal (e.g., car horn honking pattern) that alerts other residents to get in their cars and leave immediately.

-If safe to do so, remove vehicles (cars for escape only – leave the boat and RV!) from the area as quickly as possible eliminating explosion sources, freeing up laneways for our big trucks, reducing the likelihood of a traffic jam and eliminating obstacles to our fire ground operations.

-Join the GMFD Auxiliary to help us provide better service.

Help us help you! Email us at: firechief@townofgreatermadawaska.com or call (613) 433-2545 and leave a message for the Fire Chief to contact you.

End

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Griffith / Matawatchan News

By Garry Ferguson

Remember the angry-gobbler shades of red on people's faces after we'd spent a Sunday afternoon sweltering under the August sun that always seemed to pre-empt every Matawatchan cemetery memorial service? Last year, the heat problem was solved. The memorial was moved to September when the environment was more temperate and the surrounding countryside more beautiful. This year, the memorial service will take place on September 25 at 2 p.m. Other than a small amount from sales, the goodwill offering taken at the service each year provides the only substantial source of funds for the upkeep of the Community Cemetery. Pastor Dave Tubby of the Hilltop Pentecostal Church will officiate. Sure hope he brings along some of those talented musicians from his congregation.

The annual Harvest Supper – turkey with all the trimmings - held at St. Andrew's United Church in Matawatchan, is famous, even in far-flung and exotic places, (like Douglas and Dacre) because of the quality and quantity of the home-made pies served up. The main course is considered to be pretty darned good too. This year the feast will also (see cemetery above) take place on September

25 beginning at 5 p.m. Cost per person is \$12.00. We can only hope that the excitement of two Matawatchan events in one day won't cause problems to those with weaker hearts. There will be no extra charge to those with mega-size appetites like the strapping lad who, last year, tried valiantly to eat a whole pie but fell short by two wedges because he'd had three helpings of the main course. By bedtime he was probably suffering from more than just the agony of defeat. Don't forget the Hunters' Supper, same place, same time on November 06, 2010. More pies? You bet!!

Anyone who has traveled between Griffith and Camel Chute (the other way counts too) lately can see that crews are busy carving out for us the third installment in a long-lasting effort to provide some relief from the bone-jarring, mind-numbing, front-end-destroying obstacle course that was once the Matawatchan Road. Seems to me they started at the wrong end this time 'round. Then again, what do I know? They may be keeping the expensive part until last on purpose. Meanwhile, we can only hope the boys from the county will maintain a keen eye on the Camel Chute end and keep on gamely filling the potholes that seem to

continued on page 22



One of the groups performing at music night in Griffith. From left: Laura Lee Heins, Julie Vincent and Leanne MacPherson.



Names from left to right: Malaki Pittman. Zander Pittman. Jorja Pittman and Isabella Kelly enjoying their ice cream cones at the Matawatchan Market.

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G/M News (Cont)

reappear behind them as they drive away. I guess it's a little late now to let the Road-Powers-That-Be in on a little secret: we would have been absolutely delighted with just a new asphalt surface.

Fifty people came out on the evening of Sunday August 22 to join Dave and Marie Tubby who along with the folks at Hilltop organized an evening of music at the Lions Hall in Griffith. The event was to raise funds, through a good-will offering, for the hall. Several local groups and individuals contributed – with the help of an enthusiastic audience - to a lively program that was a success in both the music and fund-raising departments.

Now that the 2010 Show and Shine, the biggest event on the Denbigh Griffith Li-

ons' calendar, is behind them, they can relax a little – but not for long. Members will be out on the toll roads again on the afternoon of Friday September 03 to help fulfill the pledge to Hospice Renfrew. Once one has witnessed firsthand the care and compassion given to the terminally ill at the Hospice, it becomes easy to conclude that this is one of the most worthy causes out there. Tolls will be set up in Denbigh at the intersection of Highway 28 and Bridge Street as well as at the intersection of Highway 41 and the Matawatchan Road in Griffith.

Knowing the enthusiastic nature of the "pride," it's a sure bet they're already planning for Christmas.

End

Cemetary (Cont)

be purchased. Joe MacPherson has a crew of volunteers who hand dig the graves but still there are many expenses necessary in maintaining a cemetery.

If cremation becomes more popular then many more individual plots can be created and the cost brought down considerably. However, commitment to a plot that is enough to bury ashes and erect a marker would need to be made before the Cemetery Committee would consider selling such a small plot.

The Cemetery Committee relies on donations to do their work. In the past money was sometimes bequeathed in wills though on occasion it was to the church since there was the mistaken assumption that the cemetery and the church were under the same umbrella. To remedy this, the church has lately been giv-

ing the Matawatchan Cemetery Committee an annual payment to help their operations. The cemetery committee gets no grants and depends on donations

On September 25th the annual Decoration Service takes place at the Matawatchan Community Cemetery. Pastor Dave Tubby is officiating at the service. It is a time when many take time to visit with their departed loved ones.

To learn more about the Matawatchan Community Cemetery and the services it offers, contact Joe MacPherson at 333-2762.

End

*I am ready to meet my Maker.
Whether my Maker is prepared for
the great ordeal
of meeting me is another matter.*

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

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Vincent was born and raised in Renfrew. He has lived in Hurd's Lake Hamlet with his wife Paula for the past 15 years and they have a daughter Rebecca and a 2 year old grandson Carter.

Vincent has been a well known Renfrew businessman operating Renfrew Auto Sales and Budget Car and Truck Rentals for over 20 years.

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