

THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

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FREE

June 2004

Isobel Kristijan, our new reeve

By Bill Graham, Editor



After Paul Doyle's sudden death in April, Greater Madawaska found itself in a delicate situation: who should replace him and how. In the weeks immediately after it was far from clear what would transpire. During an emergency meeting on April 21, which was called to declare the reeve's seat vacant, an unexpected round of nominations and votes by councillors ended in a split vote and no decision about a replacement reeve. As reported in the May *Highlander*, at the next scheduled meeting of Council the following Saturday Councillor Karin Lehnhardt broke the deadlock and Isobel Kristijan became our new reeve. That's the history and now our new reeve.

Reeve Kristijan is new to politics. Running for Councillor of Ward 2—the former Brougham Township—was her first foray into politics other than being a director of the Chimo Park Cottager's Association, on Black Donald Lake. As such, many will not know her.

She first discovered the Madawaska Highlands in 1979 when visiting a friend's cottage on Black Donald Lake. She and her husband became permanent residents between 1980 and 1981. The commute to Ottawa where they both worked proved too much and they moved to Manotick until 1996 when upon retirement they resumed permanent residency in the then Brougham Township. In the periods of permanent residency they used their home here as a cottage. All this is to say that Isobel has been connected to what is now Greater Madawaska for 25-years.

Before retirement and her new career in municipal politics, Isobel's work life was always music-based. She started out as a kindergarten teacher, with half of that time devoted to teaching music to the five-year old children in her charge. Later, she taught music to higher grade students full-time and eventually became the music consultant for the Board of Education in Ottawa. This included high school and adult music education.

Continued on page 2

Water: We're all downstream

By Richard Copeland

We're all downstream.

- Ecologist's motto developed by Margaret and Jim Drescher, Windhorse Farm, New Germany, NS

It has been said that we are what we eat—maybe not. A rendering of the human body would find that its major component is water—70%. A human denied food can live for about a month. Denied water, we would only last about 7 days. Perhaps we are what we drink.

As good fortune would have it, we are awash with water. Mother Earth contains

amounts estimated at about 1.4 billion cubic kilometers. Like most silver linings, there is a cloud; ocean water makes up 96-97% of the total. Ocean water, laden with salt, is not the required formulation for sustaining land based life forms. That role falls to existing stocks of fresh water, which is about 2.5% of the total. It gets worse, 67% of the fresh water stocks are locked up in polar ice caps and permanent snow cover. Fog and clouds account for 0.001% and then you and I and all other living things contain 0.00004%. The numbers suggest we do not have as much to work with here as first meets the eye.

Continued on page 3

Horse power in Dacre at the annual Horse Draw



More on page 14

Canada Day celebrations in Greater Madawaska

Canada's national holiday will be celebrated throughout the Township this year with events in Calabogie and Dacre on Canada Day (Thursday July 1) and in Matawatchan on Saturday July 3.

CALABOGIE

The day begins with a Calabogie Laker's Pancake Breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. at Centennial Park Community Centre in Calabogie, with the proceeds going to the Barnet Park Development Project. Madawaska Road will be closed from Lanark Road to Mill Street from 2 p.m. on with the water front festivities starting at 4 p.m. There will be:

- "Beef on a Bun",
- a beer garden,
- bingo,
- a dunk tank to dunk your favourite celebrity,
- a driving range for floating golf balls,
- a teddy bear picnic where children can bring bears requiring medical attention,
- book sales,
- raffle ticket sales,
- children's activities, such as a minnow race and Joey's many furry friends, including animals such as the African pygmy hedgehog, face painting and hair braiding with beads,
- a Canada Day band,
- a caricature artist and
- a flotilla contest.



Continued on page 7

Isobel Kristijan, our new reeve

Continued from page 1

She is an 'Associate from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Piano Performance' and uses her keyboard skills every weekend when she acts as organist at Precious Blood Catholic Church in Calabogie and St. Paul's Anglican Church in Almonte. She is also accomplished in woodwinds and brass. She teaches individual students in Calabogie in piano, trombone and flute. In addition she is accomplished in clarinet, but her passion is the recorder. She also has a degree in Philosophy and Psychology from Carleton University

On the surface this does not seem to be a background where politics would be added to the mix. However, she is also very community-based and people oriented. When during the last municipal election (November 2003) there were no candidates running from Chimo Park, many of her fellow Chimo Park Cottage Association board members encouraged her to run. She consulted with her husband, prayed about it and decided to give it a try. It was something she had never considered.

Praying about things—having a talk with God—is something that she does when important decisions are required. It has served the municipality well. As a result of one such talk she discovered a discrepancy in what the MNR was saying about ANSI zoning designations for residents on Constants Creek. As a result Council squashed the incorrect ANSI designation to the delight of residents.

As Councillor for Ward 2 (the former Brougham Township), she represented her constituents and chaired the municipal committees on recreation, waste management, the library and a home for the aged. In her short time as Councillor she moved a number of important projects forward. For example, the discussions her committee is having with the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre may lead to solution to the very critical 'waste management' situation being

experienced by Greater Madawaska. Recreation is another front on which she has been fighting. When her Recreation Committee was assured that a 'winter sports night' for Calabogie would never work, they persevered and it proved a huge success. She takes a positive approach in everything she does and it is proving successful.

She didn't entirely understand the demands of being reeve when she accepted the position. In addition to the professional responsibilities of being conversant with the information and issues crossing her desk and attending Council and committee meetings, there is the social dimension. Everyone wants her at their event. Add to all of this county-level responsibility, where she now represents Greater Madawaska on the Forest Management, Health and Social Services committees.

When asked about her goals for her term as reeve, she replied that the most important thing was to bring the people of the three former townships together and cement an identity associated with Greater Madawaska. Another goal is also a dream. It is to have a school of fine arts established in the municipality. She intends to proceed by looking for any grant money that she can find. Taxpayers shouldn't be concerned. Of course, the goals of the municipality's various committees are also at the top her agenda.

This writer thinks she will be a very effective reeve. On the basis of observing a few of her Council meetings as reeve, it indicates to me that she is no push-over. She runs a good meeting and handles procedure well. She also quickly cuts off lobby interests that sometimes intrude on proceedings. It is a fine balance to let the public be heard and yet not dwell on just one group's concerns. She seems to have the intuitive touch to do this.

All the best Reeve Kristijan!

Living in bear country

By Bill Graham



We live in bear country where every year there are encounters between bears and people. For the most part these encounters end peacefully. When they don't it is usually the bear that comes out on the losing end. However, bears can be dangerous in certain circumstances. We are in a swath of Ontario with the highest bear population in the province: 40 to 60 bears per 100 square kilometres.

It is very often food that brings bears and people into contact. Bears are normally shy and avoid people where possible. However, where there are people there is usually food; usually our garbage. If the wild berry crop is poor this year, then we will be seeing bears. The Ontario government (Natural Resources Minister David Ramsay) recently announced a new protocol with the Ontario Provincial Police about responding to bear problems. "I'm very pleased we've reached this agreement clarifying that police will respond to bear problems that pose an immediate public safety threat," said Ramsay. "This will help the public know who to call when dealing with bear problems, and should help ease the minds of people living in bear country."

- IN AN IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY: contact the local police (OPP) by dialing 911
- TO REPORT BEAR PROBLEMS: contact the Bear Reporting Line at **1-866-514-BEAR (2327)** (TTY) 705 945-7641

Knowing a bit about black bears and how not to invite them to your house, cottage or camp site might lessen the number of occurrences where police or MNR wildlife officer intervention is needed. The advice that follows was drawn from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) website about black bears (bears.mnr.gov.on.ca).

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BLACK BEARS

Black bears are not normally dangerous animals. They are, however, opportunistic omnivores. In other words, they will eat practically anything that is easy to get at. Admire them. Respect them. But please, don't feed them.

- Black bears are large, powerful animals. Adult males can weigh between 120-280 kg (250-600 lbs). Adult females can weigh between 45-180 kg (100-400 lbs)
- Black bears are actively feeding from mid-April to late fall in most parts of the province
- Black bears feed mainly on summer berry crops such as raspberries and blueberries, as well as mountain ash acorns and beech nuts in the fall
- In late summer and early fall some bears actively feed for 20 hours a day, ingesting as much as 20,000 calories
- During the summer bears typically double their body weight while preparing for winter hibernation
- If natural foods are not readily available, black bears will travel up to 100 km to find other food - primarily your garbage
- Once they know where to find a non-natural food source they will return again and again
- In northern Ontario, most black bears move into their winter dens by mid-October. In central Ontario, bears usually enter their dens by early November.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

You may not even know you're doing it. Simply by leaving pet food out at night, leaving food residue on your barbecue grill, or especially if your household garbage is stored in easy to open bags or in poorly sealed containers, you

Continued on page 7

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Water: We're all downstream

Continued from page 1

Canada, a nation comprising 0.5% of the global population has about 5.6% of global freshwater supplies. In terms of lake water, we have access to 27%. Within Greater Madawaska, one can hardly travel a mile without running into a fresh water supply of one kind or another.

IT'S NOT ROSY PICTURE

However, throughout the world there are issues concerning the supply of drinking water or its potability and major issues about projects for the reallocations of water for irrigation or hydro electric power. Wars have been fought or threatened over the control of water from which there are lessons to be learned. Some of the great rivers of Europe had been turned into sewers. Untreated sewage and industrial wastes are dumped directly into rivers and lakes.

Major dams for the purposes of irrigation have overtaxed nature's ability to filter and clean, resulting in concentrations of salt and agricultural chemicals, rendering land unusable. Many of the rivers that had initially given life to agriculture now kill the aquacultures that existed before human intervention. For example, the Aswan High Dam now retains the fertile silt of Egypt's Nile River, which made possible many millennia of farming.

While present day agriculture suffers the dam speeds quickly toward obsolescence as it fills with silt. The rich farmland of the Nile Delta now finds itself disappearing through erosion and Egypt's formerly massive sardine fishery has become extinct.



NOT A BENIGN TECHNOLOGY

Dams built for the purposes of electrical generation or irrigation have proliferated since 1950. That year, globally, there were 5,270 dams higher than 15 meters. Thirty years later the number rose to 36,562, a high number of these constructed in China where the numbers grew from two to 18,820 in that same period. Dams were considered at the time to be a benign technology. But dam accidents have happened, the worst predictably in China in 1975 where dam collapses killed 250,000 people and caused disease and famine for a further 11 million. The Teton Dam in the USA collapsed before completion wiping out 3 towns, and fortunately only a handful

of casualties resulted. Lately dam projects have been cancelled, the Bakun in Lesotho near South Africa, one in Nepal and another the Narmada in India. The World Bank has lost its fondness for funding these projects due to all the problems. Current research indicates that the environmental impacts from dam building are mostly negative.

Our residents can head for the hills when the dams burst and import food when the land is destroyed, but the alternatives for drinking water are just as unappealing. We can purchase a litre of water but the cost is a little more than a litre of gas. Or, we can install water purification equipment at our points of supply, like they do in the cities.

IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT

This is a solution that local residents don't need, but as a result of Walkerton the provincial government is pushing Ontario Regulation 170/03 down our collective throats. Enforced and very expensive procedures are being required for public facilities like churches and community halls whether they need them or not.

In this township, if you want clear, clean water you can drill a well, darn near anywhere, and come up with it. If you have ever lived in the city for a period of time you will have noticed the sickening smell of chlorine in the hot shower and the odd taste of the drinking water. Here, with your well, you enjoy the cold fresh taste of water as Nature intended. Our well water is processed by a natural hydrologic cycle. It is a process that has proved itself for a long time, and it is one that meets the 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' criterion. But when the government comes out and states that you must treat this historically clean water,

something must be catastrophically and unexpectedly wrong with either your water supply, or your government.

Earlier this year, Conservation Ontario and Ducks Unlimited sent out a flyer entitled "Who's Looking Out for Our Water?" Their position is to protect the source. Wow! This suggests something like – if you don't pollute the environment, then you can draw clean water from the ground. Maybe common sense is returning to Ontario.

We seem to share many of the elements that are observed globally when it comes to potential problems about water. We have the dams. We have the government alarm about our well water. We see the haze of pollution in the air on hot summer days, with its potential to rain down on our waterways. We have some small agriculture enterprises and livestock. We use and store road salt. We bury garbage in our forests above the water table.

In our next issues of the *Madawaska Highlander*, we intend to dig deeper into the water issues. We want to explore the issues of water level controls, damming, road salt in wells, effects of rural dumps, runoff, government regulations and all things of relevance brought to our attention. To help feed this series, your input in the form of comments, observations and suggestions would be appreciated.

Sobey's still a possibility for Calabogie

Many thought that construction for the new Sobey's grocery store would have begun by now. There are rumours circulating that the project has been abandoned because of unexpected higher cost for construction. Not according to Dan Gauthier who is the store developer.

"We haven't given up on the store in Calabogie. The prices have jumped up considerably since last year. We are looking at an increase in the building of this store of 30%, which makes it hard to justify the investment. We are talking to another contractor who believes he can help us out with the pricing."

The increase that he refers to includes an almost doubling in the cost of steel. "We haven't given up", he says. However, he will have to

be able to justify a possible 30% increase in his cost and he just doesn't know if there is the local support for a store of this size in this area to offset the cost increases.

An alternative to grocery shopping in Renfrew was what many of us were looking forward to. This includes Dan Gauthier: "We want this store to be here as much as anybody else."

If you want to see a Sobey's grocery store in Calabogie, send Dan an email indicating this. Tangible support like this may be helpful for when Dan is negotiating financing. Dan can be reached at: dan.gauthier@nv.sympatico.ca

The Highlander will keep you posted on developments.

The Madawaska Highlander

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THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

Looking Back...

Rural residents contribute to urban rapid transit

The fact that rural residents will be contributing to the rapid transit infrastructure of major urban areas seems to have slipped in under everyone's radar. The most recent Ontario budget states: "Starting in October, we will begin to deliver on our commitment to make two cents of the existing provincial gas tax available for public transit. We will begin with one cent this October, increasing to one and a half cents in October 2005 and two cents in October 2006. Our biggest cities play a critical role in our economy-and no city plays a bigger role in our shared prosperity than Toronto."

Rural residents spend a much larger proportion of their disposable income on gasoline than their urban cousins because of the distances they have to travel to get anywhere. Just going to Renfrew on a weekly grocery run can mean up to 120-kilometres for a return trip and a considerable portion of the fuel in your gas tank. Does knowing that some of the money you use to fill your tank is going to Toronto or Ottawa to help solve their rapid transit problems make you feel any better?

The principle of equalization is fundamental to Canadian governance; at least when it comes to the federal distribution of funds to the provinces based on population. When it comes to rural – urban distribution that principle does not seem to be considered. There is no question that moving people around in the province's major urban centres is important to the economy of the province and in the case of Ontario to the whole country. However, let the residents of these cities pay their own two cents per litre to pay for it. After all, they do have the majority of people and the majority of vehicles.

Road maintenance represents a major component of the budget for a rural municipality and an injection of two cents a litre from the pumps of gas stations within the municipality would help alleviate some of the fiscal pressures. It could free up money to improve the quality of life and to tackle some of the special problems that a far-flung rural municipality like Greater Madawaska faces.

How difficult an accounting problem can it be to apportion two cents a litre at the pump for the municipality in which that pump is located. Drivers already angry at the high cost of gasoline might feel a little better knowing that a small portion of the money they pay at the pump is directly benefiting them.

Opening up Council to residents and business

In one of his first acts as the new reeve of the Township of Greater Madawaska, Paul Doyle pronounced that Council meetings were to be scheduled on every second Saturday morning a month to give residents more access to their elected representatives.

This was a good move since few ratepayers want to attend an evening workday meeting after labouring all day. The move seems to have been successful given the average attendance at meetings, though much of that is probably 'Track' related.

However, perhaps the pendulum has travelled too far. While residents have full access, business operators do not. Saturday morning is usually when many businesses have their highest volume of sales and attendance at a Council meeting is impossible.

Even residents must find it difficult having half the Saturdays of every month pretty much consumed by attendance at a Council meeting. Although it is usually a three-hour event, it does spill into the early afternoon and if you have to make a journey from the other side of the township then travel time consumes another hour and a half.

Maybe it is time to consider an altered schedule. Certainly one Saturday meeting should be maintained to accommodate residents, but perhaps a weekday evening meeting should replace the second Saturday meeting so that business operators can also participate in the affairs of their Council.



A funeral procession coming down Frontenac Road and passing in front of the Matawatchan Store in 1910.

We would like to make Looking Back a regular feature of the Highlander. If you have old photographs taken within Greater Madawaska that you would like to share with our readers, please let us know. You can contact us by email or telephone and we will discuss arrangements for scanning the photo into a digital format. If the photo is already in digital format please send it by email along with a caption.

Letters to the Editor

June 6, 2004

521 Stones Lake Road
PO Box 101,
Calabogie, ON
K0J 1H0

To the Highlander—Mr. Graham Sir:
I am writing with reference to Mr. Maurstad's letter in your May Issue. This will be in the form of Quotes - Q and Rebuttals -R.

Q – Moved here just over a year ago for the "peace and tranquility" that Calabogie has to offer but this is being destroyed by a small vocal group called the CCC.

R – "Peace and tranquility" has been destroyed by the proponents of the proposed Motorsports track. It is only the CCC that tried to give another viewpoint.

Q – "Small vocal group is trying to jam down our collective throats." You speak of disinformation and rumour--mongering and wonder why the Calabogie Motorsports put up with us.

R – Vocal? We had one public meeting last fall.. All other meetings have been Pro-Track or Township Council Meetings where everyone has the right to speak. If you don't like the CCC information, ignore it. Put up with us? It is a free country the last time I looked.

Q – You dispute the use of the word Community.

R – A community is a group with common goals and ideals. It may consist of many or few people.. If anti-racetrackers wish to call themselves a community, that is their right.. Similarly, those people who think the racetrack is going to make a fortune for Calabogie without disturbing the "peace and tranquility" could be called another community.

Q – "There has been no referendum."

R – Did you miss the last election where an anti-track vote was surely registered? Proponents for the track were defeated and except for Peter Emon with a large following, I would say that Ward One spoke loudly and clearly. I believe Mr. Huntley's (who spoke against the track and is relatively unknown) numbers were close to Mr. Emon's vote.

Q – "I drove their track and saw no Plateau!" Did you see a FOREST?

R – The following information has been widely disseminated.

- "The track site is built on a 180-190 metre elevation plateau. This plateau is approximately 40 metres higher than the Madawaska river and approximately 32 metres above Calabogie Lake. One of the highest points on the racetrack is located at the north east corner of the circuit at an elevation of 203 metres (GPS). At this point on the circuit it is possible to see over the surrounding forest." This was informa-

Letters to the Editor

Continued

tion provided by a Mr. Ian Cunningham, who is neither a member nor a supporter of the CCC.

The forest of which you speak has been logged recently between Stones Lake and the track. I listened to chains saws for two years. Scrub bush and a fringe of grown trees remain. I understand this must be left on any public waterway.

You many find their information acceptable but we have the right to question anyone who wishes to change the "peace and tranquility" that prompted our coming to this area some fifty years ago.

Holly Goodyear

.....

Dear Editor,

On 12 June 2004 Mrs. Peggy Cassidy, an active member and supporter of the "Concerned Citizens of Calabogie" group, made a public presentation to the Council of Greater Madawaska. Her narrative not only contained many accusations, assumptions and derogatory remarks, but the majority of her comments were unsupported by any factual information. Mrs. Cassidy's **performance** was prompted by the visit and documentary of two Council members to Le Circuit Mont Tremblant, a facility where the noise has been described by the CCC as "unbelievable and unbearable"

Within Mrs. Cassidy's presentation she accused Reeve Kristijan and Councilor Lehnhardt of being invited guests of Calabogie Motorsports to attend a "staged" event, implying the entire event had been arranged by CMP. Councilors independently decided on the May 12th date and then contacted CMP to meet them at the site and arrange admission. These individuals were not the invited guests of CMP. This event was selected because it was representative of exactly the types of groups that CMP will host. The annual three day Rennsport Porsche Club event was booked many months in advance and advertised on their website as early as Dec 2003. There were more than 90 Porsches participating in the event - a great deal more than the 30 cars stated by Mrs. Cassidy. CCC President, James Henderson was also in Mt. Tremblant on May 12th, 2004. He remained silent at the Council meeting of June 12th as Mrs. Cassidy presented her view of what she purports will happen in Calabogie. **Was this because he had already stated "the CCC has no problem with the type of event run at Mt. Tremblant on 12th May"**

Mrs. Cassidy took it upon herself to visit Le Circuit Mont Tremblant at a later date, at a nationally televised, spectator-oriented event - The Rolex Cup. She then attempted to explain that this would be the type of event run in Calabogie, even while knowing full well that the cars participating in these races would not comply with the sound management plan set out in a site plan agreement between Township and CMP. Mrs. Cassidy also neglected to mention that the Tremblant track is less than 500 meters from the main street of Mt. Tremblant Village, with half of the track running right along the main river that winds through Mt. Tremblant, AND which sits on a plateau with no sound barriers or trees to mitigate the sound. Mrs. Cassidy's expectation of sound from CMP was a stark contrast from the professional opinions of noise engineers S.S. Wilson, and Dr. Hugh Williamson.

It is also worth noting that Mrs. Cassidy's implication that "some of the developers have suddenly become interested in local activities" is a direct insult to Debora Giffin, Chris Fleming and Rick Fleming, people that have been active volunteers in various community organizations for more than 20 years. They deserve a public apology for Mrs. Cassidy's inappropriate comments. It has become quite obvious that she does not respect, nor can she appreciate the history and people who have helped make Calabogie what it is today.

We regard Mrs. Cassidy's June 12th presentation to be typical of the meaningless and desperate measures used repeatedly by the CCC to convey misinformation. At each and every request Calabogie MotorSports has provided justified, verified and professional documentation of proven facts. The message has been clear and consistent from the outset of the project. It is time for people like Peggy Cassidy and the CCC to take responsibility for what they say, the significant time and resources they are wasting, and concede they have no relevant information to contribute to the process. Council and the local community have done their due diligence, it's time to resolve this issue and move on to other matters.

Debora Giffin and Chris Fleming per Calabogie Motorsports and John Allerton

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Township of Greater Madawaska

NOTICES

Meetings

Please be advised the COUNCIL MEETINGS for the month of JULY and AUGUST will be held in the Council Chambers, **Thursday, July 8th, 2004** and **Thursday, August 12th, 2004** at 7:00 pm.

Household Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste materials may be taken to the Renfrew Landfill Site located at 376 Bruce Street during their regular hours of operation. Knowledge of the Waste Product is required and greatly appreciated.



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Dealing with Outages (Part 4): Making a decision about the batteries

By Richard Copeland

Editor's note: This is the second part of the article on 'inverters and batteries' in our series on **Dealing with Outages**. The May issue of the Highlander covered the subject of inverters. Inverters and batteries are like a horse and carriage; they are dependent on one another for a solution.

A very important selection decision is your batteries. They must be the 'deep cycle' variety, a type of battery which can be drawn on for an extended period and taken to very low charge values. A 'deep cycle' battery is one that can have the majority of its capacity discharged before having to be recharged. These are generally specified to be able to discharge 80% of their capacity, although one would be advised to not take them below 50%. They will do 80% discharging, but this will shorten their life. Minimum types recommended are truck batteries which are 12V units rated in the 80-100 amp-hour (Ahr) range. The next step up is the 'golf cart' battery, rated 6V and around 220Ahr. Many renewable energy systems use a 6V type called an L16, rated 350Ahr. These are into the 'heavy' class weighing about 130lbs, which should be a consideration at installation time. 'Deep cycle' batteries in the 100Ahr range should cost in the area of \$150, while the 350Ahr type are around \$300. Sealed gel cell batteries are excellent choices as well, having little maintenance and longer life. They are perhaps double the cost, and have the risk of being overcharged.

Batteries can be arranged in series or parallel connection. Most frequent voltages are 6V, 8V & 12V and connection arrangements can arrive at 12V, 24V and 36V, common for inverter applications. The lower the voltage selected, the larger are the cables for the DC side, and that can be a cost consideration. But 12V is nice to have since several other devices (pumps, boat motors, fans, stereos,

etc) are readily available, many being developed from the automotive sector. Depending on how you connect the batteries you add either the voltage or the Ahrs. If you parallel connect two identical 12V batteries, the voltage remains at 12V, but the Ahrs are doubled. If you series connect two identical 12V batteries, the voltage doubles to 24V and the Ahrs remain the same. Whenever you connect batteries together you absolutely must use identical batteries in very similar condition. That is, even adding a new battery to an old bank is risky, since they will not balance. Whether you series connect or parallel connect, the amount of power remains the same, 100Ahrs at 24V, holds the same amount of power as 200Ahrs at 12V.

An Ahr has the ability to produce one ampere of electricity for one hour. The Ahr condition of your battery bank is essentially like your gas tank. To figure out how many Ahrs you need, you have to take the calculations in watts (or volts X amps) for what you are going to supply in AC voltage. If you have the AC amps the equation would be:

$$\frac{\text{AC Current} \times \text{AC Voltage}}{\text{Battery Voltage}} = \text{DC Amps}$$

Multiply the number of DC Amps by the hours you need to supply the loads and this will give you a reasonable estimate of your Amp-hours. Adding 10-15% for inverter inefficiency is a good idea. Since it is recommended not to take your deep cycle batteries below 50% discharge, your total Ahr selection for your batteries should be about double the above calculation. One could stretch to 80% (then divide your calculated Ahrs by 0.8) if the system will only be infrequently applied to power outages, which means the batteries are on a high charge level for most of their lives. In this case, it is not too risky an approach. A battery bank must be installed in a sealed enclosure and vented to the outside. They

do produce small levels of explosive hydrogen gas.

The properly sized battery bank, once arranged in its correct voltage configuration can be connected to the inverter. It is recommended to place a circuit breaker or fuse in the supply line to the inverter. An Ahr meter will give the status of your charge (like a fuel guage) and that can give you valuable information. Ideally, you will also put in a sub-panel which will feed only those loads applied to the design calculations. If the inverter does not charge from your AC line you will have to add a small charger to keep the battery bank at what is called a float level charge. Batteries at high charge levels last longer than discharged batteries. The charging inverter can also be supplied to turn on automatically during power failure, giving you seamless transfer to your backup system.

From the maintenance standpoint, the batteries require checking of electrolyte (water) levels and occasional addition of distilled water. If your batteries are discharged frequently, you will have to

give them an equalization charge which is a fancy name for overcharging (flooded batteries only). A good domestic system inverter has settings for this, and this overcharge bubbles off the sulphate that can coat the battery plates and mixes the electrolyte during the charging process. This action greatly improves the capacity of the bank and increases its life span.

Once you have the backup system, you can entertain adding renewable energy equipment such as solar panels or wind generators. If you went the extra mile on a sine wave inverter you could become a supplier to Hydro and reduce your monthly bill. This is a discussion for another issue of the Highlander.

DID YOU KNOW...

Why repeat mistakes when there are so many new ones to make?
- Descartes



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Living in bear country

Continued from page 2

could be inviting bears to forage for leftovers.

- Put garbage out on the morning of garbage day, and not the night before
- Do not leave pet food outdoors
- Thoroughly clean outdoor barbecue grills after use
- Fill bird feeders only through the winter months
- Do not put meat, fish or sweet food (including fruit) in your composter
- Keep meat scraps in the freezer until garbage day
- Pick all ripe fruit off trees, and remove vegetables and fallen fruit from the ground
- Use electric fencing to protect valuable trees, orchards, vegetable and berry patches.

Here is what to do if you encounter a bear. Bears are normally shy of humans and quickly get out of our way when they see us. There are a number of things you can do if you spot a bear on a trail or one enters your campsite or yard.

- Slowly back away, watching the bear.
- If you are with others, stay together and act as a group. Make sure that the bear has a clear escape route,

then yell and wave your arms to make yourself look bigger. Use a whistle or airhorn if you have one. The idea is to be aggressive and to persuade the bear to leave. This will work if the bear is still partly afraid of humans.

- If the bear tries to approach you, stop. Be aggressive, yell, throw rocks or sticks and use pepper spray if you have it. NEVER TURN AND RUN.
- If the bear continues to approach you, resume backing away slowly while continuing to be aggressive towards the bear.
- Climbing a tree to get away from a bear may offer you little advantage as black bears are excellent tree climbers.
- A bear may stand upright to get a better view, make huffing or “popping” sounds, swat or beat the ground with its forepaws or even bluff charge. These are a bear’s way of telling you that you are too close. Back off and give the bear more space. If the bear comes within range, use pepper spray if you have it.
- If a bear makes contact with you, DO NOT PLAY DEAD. Fighting back is the best chance of persuading a black bear to stop its attack. Use a large stick, a rock or anything

else that you have on hand to hurt the bear.

and her cubs or you may not live to regret it.

Avoiding close encounters is the best way to avoid danger to yourself and to the bear. Don’t attract them by leaving food for them. If you do encounter them, never corner the bear—give it an escape route and never get between a mother

Living in bear country has many charms, bears among them. By taking precautions and knowing what to do in the case of an encounter you can enjoy the occasional brushes with wildlife and keep safe.

NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION THE TOWNSHIP OF GREATER MADAWASKA

TAKE NOTICE THAT in accordance with section 65 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, I hereby give notice of a by-election to be conducted on **Friday, August 27th, 2004**.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING:

ONE COUNCILLOR — Ward 2
Geographic Township of BROUGHAM.

Nominations may be filed in the prescribed form in the clerk’s office until 5:00 p.m. on July 13th, 2004, at a time when the clerk’s office is open. Nominations must be accompanied by the prescribed nomination filing fee of \$100.00. The nomination will only be certified where the clerk is satisfied that the person is qualified to be nominated and that the nomination complies with the Act. The nomination must be signed by the candidate, and may be filed in person or by an agent as set forth in section 33 of the Act. Nomination forms and full particulars of procedures to be followed may be obtained from the undersigned.

Where there are more certified candidates than are required to fill the office, notice will be given of the location of voting places, the dates and times that voting places will be open for voting, manner in which electors may use voting proxies, and any alternative voting methods.

Where, at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13th, 2004, the number of certified candidates for an office is the same as or less than the number to be elected, the clerk shall immediately declare the candidate or candidates elected by acclamation. On Wednesday, July 14th, 2004 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., additional nominations may be filed for the remaining vacancies in the office in respect of which there was an insufficient number of certified candidates, and the provisions of subsections 33 (5) and 37 (2) apply.

June 18, 2004

Cathy Reddy, Clerk

Canada Day celebrations in Greater Madawaska

Continued from page 1

Your boat can be decorated in any way you wish and the judging will be done by the children. Please note that special red t-shirts saying “I partied on the lake in Calabogie” will be on sale at the waterfront. These shirts are now available at various stores in Calabogie for \$15 for adults and \$12 for children.

Please do not bring dogs, bikes, roller blades, scooters or skate boards. The grand finale will, of course, again be the spectacular fireworks.

DACRE

Canada Day celebrations in Dacre (July 1) at the DACA Centre on Flat Road, will start at 1:30 p.m. and continue until the fireworks at dusk. Children’s games include: soccer, baseball and volleyball. There will be a barbecue, ice cream and Popsicles. This is the day that parents play against their kids to wrap up the season of baseball and soccer.

MATAWATCHAN

When Matawatchan began its annual picnic it was scheduled for Dominion Day and it was 125 years ago. Now, the Canada Day Picnic festivities will take place on Saturday July 3 at noon when attendees will be served a plate of old-time Matawatchan stew, with all the trimmings. Food will be served until 2:00 p.m. Immediately after, musicians from Renfrew (old time fiddlers) will join with local talent to set a few toes tapping from 2 p.m. onward. There are also baked goods, craft tables, a silent auction plus a fish pond and games for children.

The day is completed with the Matawatchan Summer Dance, which begins at 9:00 p.m. and finishes at 1:00 a.m. A professional DJ will be on hand and there will be a cash bar (LCBO 19 years and over). Admittance is \$5 for a fun evening at this non-smoking event.

All of the day’s activities are happening at the Matawatchan Hall in beautiful downtown Matawatchan.

GRIFFITH-MATAWATCHAN NEWS

By Garry Ferguson

The Northern Lights Seniors

Reeve Isobel Krisijan attended the monthly seniors meeting, on June 15 in Griffith, to become acquainted with the locals and to present information on the Seniors Appreciation Party at Barnet Park, Calabogie, Saturday, June 26. Needless to say, she made a good impression on the over-fifty crowd.

Though it was held to honor seniors, the Township of Greater Madawaska ensured that everyone was made to feel welcome at the Appreciation Party. The afternoon-long celebration activities were finished off with music from the Nepean Concert Band. There was a beer and wine garden to add a glow to the proceedings. Thanks Council. Seniors always appreciate appreciation.

Busy Bee Craft Club Trip

All are welcome to join *the swarm* for their annual fall trip. On Tuesday, September 14, they'll be buzzing off on the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield Steam Train Scenic Excursion behind an antique diesel. Since the railroad companies never heard of Matawatchan, let alone put a line to it, the group will have to use a bus that will leave from the downtown area at 10 a.m. That should allow the party goers to be riding the rails by 1:30 p.m. The total cost of this trip to Hull and back again is \$59.86. There's a depreciated price of \$56.41 for seniors. Seniors always appreciate depreciation.

I've been informed that the Bees will not meet in June, July and August though yours truly wouldn't have been there anyway. The only crafty-type projects I've ever attempted were from paper mache - an ashtray and a

candleholder. Fortunately we were able to save the house.

The Cost of Dying

The old Canadian folk song that advises, "Save your money when you're young: you'll need it when you're old," could be modernized to read, "Save your money when you're living: you'll need it when you're dead."

A one-hundred-and-fifty-dollar plot in the Matawatchan Community Cemetery will now cost \$1050.00 courtesy of something called The Ministry of Consumer and Business Services, Market Place Standards and Services Branch, Cemeteries Regulatory Unit. They want \$150.00 for each gravesite, or \$900.00 for each six-place plot, plus another \$100.00 for each tombstone.

Over the past few years, several members of the Matawatchan Cemetery Committee have attempted to come to some understanding with the denizens of that Toronto-based *place* mentioned above, but all efforts were thwarted by having to deal with thick-skulled civil servants sporting attitudes, a total ignorance of rural Canada and a remarkable lack of communications skills. In exasperation, Joey MacPherson, Cemetery Committee Chair, finally appealed to our Federal M.P. to help out in this provincial matter and to put him in contact with someone who was informed and intelligible. She came through.

Seems the idea behind this government money grab - in effect since 1992 - is not quite as unreasonable as it appeared to be when first our money was demanded without explanation. Companies appear, buy up urban property, call it a cemetery, make big bucks selling bone-parking spaces then disappear. To

protect the taxpayer from maintaining, in perpetuity, these commercial-type resting places, the boys and girls at Queens Park created a trust fund to provide care and maintenance forever. That's where the government's levy (tax) is *supposed* to go.

Though rural community cemeteries are operated by individuals who *own* plots outright, the government allows no exceptions. If you're gonna die, you gotta pay. To alleviate some of the cost for residents, the committee has arranged to sell half plots (three spaces) for a \$75.00 pittance plus - here it comes - a \$450.00 shell out to *that place* in Toronto. Guess I'll try to put off dying until I can afford it.

Matawatchan Picnic

The one-hundred-and-twenty-somethingth annual Matawatchan Dominion Day / Canada Day Picnic will take place on Saturday, July 03, at the Matawatchan Hall. The dinner of old-time Matawatchan stew, with all the trimmings of course, will be dished up from noon until 2 p.m. Musicians from Renfrew will join with local talent to set a few toes tapping from 2 p.m. on.

Fish and Game Club

Anyone who has youngsters walking in circles and informing all, within earshot, that there's nothing to do up here in the sticks, should mark July 17 on the calendar. The Annual Kids' Fishing Derby will start at 10 a.m. at Holleran's Hideaway. Just follow the Hutson Lake Freeway until you run out of road. You don't have to be a member and every kid under 16 goes home with a prize. Hamburgs and hot dogs will be sold. Anyone wishing to donate prizes or some coin to this free event may do so

by contacting anyone on the board.

All are welcome to the Annual Pig Roast, at Cliff and Pat Holleran's spread, starting at four p.m. on July 31 - especially those with kids still walking in circles or those with spouses whose mantra seems to be, "We never go anywhere." Free to all, this is, essentially, an "appreciation for our members" bash, so come out and help appreciate them.

There'll be a Fish and Game Club yard sale, probably during the first part of August, so watch for information. Treasures are now being accepted.

Club President, Karen Gaulin (333 - 1206) reports that the pickerel count was away down this spring. The MNR however, maintains that this was common in many areas.

Wasting Away

The new face - well, new to us - you see at the Griffith and Matawatchan waste sites belongs to eligible bachelor Gary Guilmette of Calabogie. He also attends the Calabogie and Norway Lake sites. Some of you may already know him through his parents Ron and Carol who own the Rainbow Plaza.

Gary is big on the "recycle and reuse" method of operation, so you'll see an area set aside for rescued items that may be a treasure to someone. They're free for the taking. Anything passed over for several weeks is loaded onto his truck and delivered to the Salvation Army in Renfrew. Gary maintains that the good feeling he derives from this effort more than makes up for the cost and time involved.

Denbigh Checking In !!!

By Evelyn Inwood

Many birds have come to visit our backyard. We look forward to their return each year especially the tiny "Humming Birds" that entertain us with their flitting around like little helicopters! Here it is into June and the trees and grass are as green as can be. The grass will need some extra work at this time of the year. And if you are a gardener, the way is clear; there will be some very busy days ahead!

Are you pestered with black flies? This is the time to wear your protection, especially if you are allergic to the "poison" they inject as they go for your BLOOD. Wearing a BUG jacket, even if at times it is hot, is the safest way to keep them off. If you want more information, please contact your county

health unit.

Also from the Health Unit there is a pamphlet *Children and Second-hand Smoke*. Two sentences from it stand out, as follows:

1. Second-hand smoke is more harmful to children than adults because their lungs are smaller and they breathe more rapidly.
2. Children who have parents that smoke are almost twice as likely to start smoking as children with non-smoking parents.

DENBIGH PUBLIC SCHOOL

The last day of school is June 24, 2004 and all pupils will be saying their good-byes to their school friends for a little while. But there are Summer Programs

which may be of interest.

Summer Programs

Some of the programs offered to our youth will continue again this summer.

1. The Mazinaw Swim Program at Bon Echo Park is offered to our students for the month of July. Unfortunately, there will be no available bus transportation to the program from Denbigh this year. If interested in receiving a registration form for the Mazinaw Program which runs July 05th to the 30th, please contact the school and one can be sent home.
2. The Sand Lake Swim Program is being offered again this year during the first two weeks in August.
3. The Red Cross Aqua Quest for children who are 4 years old or older, levels 1 - 12. Please contact Laurie Lemke at 479-2673 for more information.

DENBIGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The T.D. Summer Reading Program at the LIBRARY will run on THURSDAYS from July 8 through until July 29 from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

"DRAGONS FIRE UP YOUR MIND" Registration forms will be (or have been) sent home with report cards with children attending Denbigh Public School. Anyone else who is interested may stop at the Library to register. The Program is for children 4 to 12 years old. Look for details on crafts, activities, fun and prizes at the Library.

COMING IN JULY

Non-Fiction

- Lazy About Grilling
- Garden Decoration From Junk
- Rescue
- Sentinels in the Stream

Fiction

- Across a Summer Sea

Greater Madawaska Literary Matters

By Mary-Joan Hale

When it comes to literacy, the Greater Madawaska Public Library (GMPL) is working hard to see that all ages in the Township are well served. The collection is constantly being updated to keep the reading public happy. If we do not have your favourite author, we have access to an Inter-library Loan Service (ILL). Soon, you will be able to search and order ILL titles from your home computer and they will be sent to our library for pick up.

We have access to thousands of e-books for research. Simply come into the library and register for an e-account. It is a free service. You can do the research at the GMPL or on your home PC. It is very user-friendly (honest, it is!).

HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE TO VOTE FOR

Read and vote for the best book on the CBC Canada Reads' list. The results will be announced at the end of the summer. We will see if Greater Madawaska agrees with the choice made by the rest of Canada. Come in and get started on your reading!

TWO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS WILL BE OFFERED THIS SUMMER.

As usual, the TD Summer Reading Programme will be offered for children 6 and up. The theme this summer is "Fire up your imagination: Dragons, books and quests". With the new puppets and theatre purchased with our Trillium Grant funds, kids in Greater Madawaska will have a chance to create their own

shows. There is no charge for this programme, which will be offered every Tuesday morning in July and August. Call or visit the library for information and to register your children. (752-2317)

The wee ones will still be meeting at 9:30 every Tuesday morning before the TD Summer Reading Programme. The next Public Health Nurse visit will be July 20 at 10:20 a.m. She will do her Well-baby check-ups and spend some time with the older children talking about summer health issues and do a fun activity to illustrate proper hand-washing. Heather Yolkowski, our nurse, is a welcome addition to the children's programmes and we appreciate her making the trek out to see us.

On Canada Day, with the help of the Renfrew County Health Unit and the Calabogie Medical Centre, we will be hosting a Teddy Bear's Picnic down at the lakefront in Calabogie. Bring your injured teddies and stuffed animals and the nurses in the GM BASH tent will take good care of them. We will also be doing story reading. There will be free draws for books and other prizes for kids.

SOME NEW ADDITIONS:

Adults: Larry McMurtry: By sorrow's river; Marie Giordano: I love you like a tomato; Jayne A. Krentz: Dangerous affair; Elizabeth Peters: Children of the storm; Nora Roberts: Birthright; Marie MacDonald: Die once.

Children: Anna Vojtech: Maruschka and the Month brothers; Wolfram Hanel: Little elephant runs away; Udo Weigelt: It wasn't me! and Hans Christian Andersen: The ugly duckling.

FROM THE HEALTH UNITS

Outdoor fun in the sun

1. Reduce your time in the sun between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
2. Seek shade or create your own.
3. Wear a wide-brimmed sun hat to shade the face and neck.
4. Put on sunglasses that protect against both UVA and UVB rays.
5. Protect as much of your skin as possible by wearing comfortable clothing.
6. Use a sunscreen that protects against both UVA and UVB rays and has an SPF of 15 or higher.

Do a patch test - a few people may react to sunscreen chemicals. Getting a tan under the lights before you go south in the winter will not protect your skin in the tropics.

- (Lyn Anderson)
- After Hours (Lynn Erickson)
- Beachcomber (Karen Robards)
- Blind Side: FBI Thriller (Catherine Coulter)
- Isle of the Palms (Dorthea Benton Frank)
- Sense of Evil (Kay Hooper)
- Summer By the Sea (Susan Wiggs)
- Summer People (Elin Hilderbrand)
- Grave Denied (Dana Stabenow)
- Hoe Lot of Trouble (Heather Webber)
- Kiss Me While I Sleep (Linda Howard)
- Street Dreams (Faye Kellerman)
- Destiny of Edges (William W. Johnson)

Plus our popular westerns - Gunsmith, Slocum and Trailsman novels and many more, including several children's books.

Junior fiction: Krista Ruepp: The sea pony; Wolfram Hanel: Weekend with Grandmother.

Don't forget to fill in your Library Survey when it arrives in the mail. We want to make your library the best it can be and we need you to help us plan for the future.

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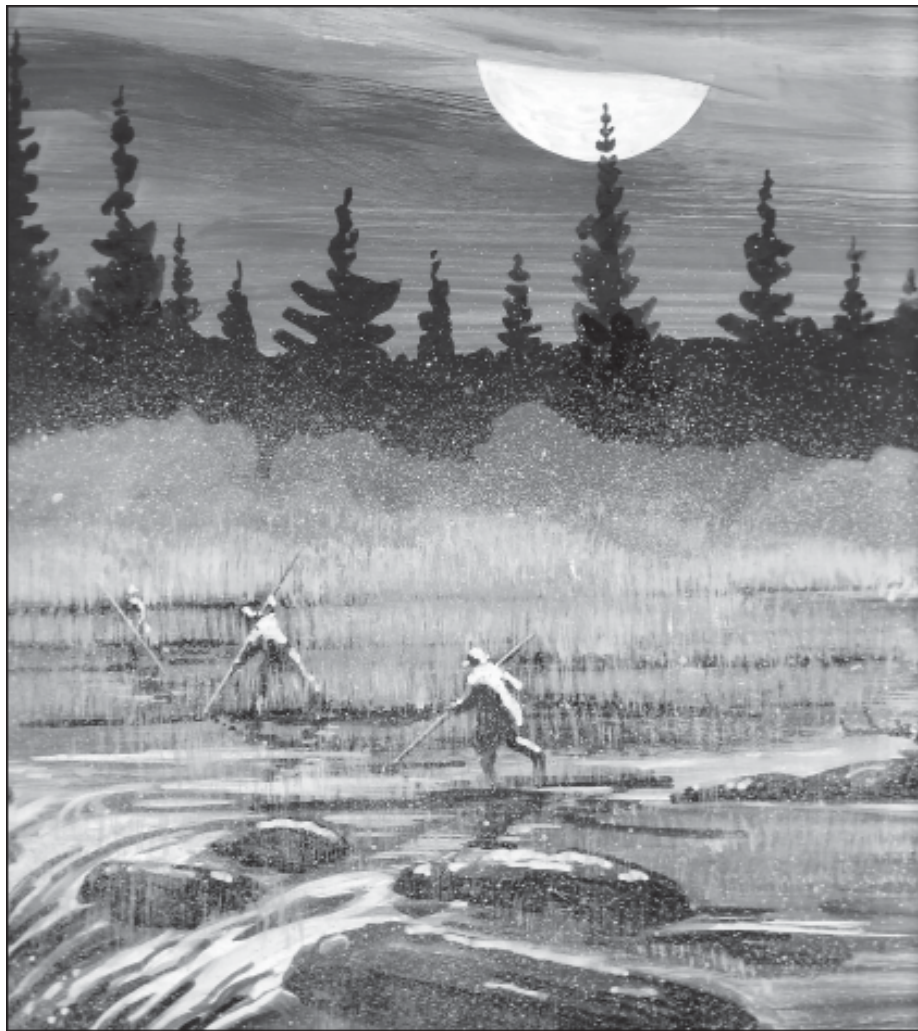
Strange Mists on the Madawaska

By Ernie Jukes

"They're makin' the drive!" was the springtime cry as the ice went out of northern rivers in days gone by. From the camboose logging camps along the Madawaska River, hardy Glengarry Scots floated their "sticks" of pine down to the mills on the giant Ottawa. The axemen from our part of Renfrew County went to "shanty" along the early trails, such as the Frontenac Road and Opeongo Line. They cut all winter with axe and cross cut saw, and then skidded the logs with horses to the frozen water's edge to await the spring thaw. Those gritty rivermen began their treacherous log drive knowing some would never return.

The Madawaska Valley is quite different today. Not the pristine forests of yesterday, but still fine scenery to be sure. Modern highways have made the clear lakes and blue ridges of this handsome area fairly accessible, yet somehow it holds on to its old ways and quaint secrets surprisingly well. One secret, untold till now, has been known to only a few living people and a few... well, let's go back a few years.

Artwork: Ernie Jukes



We three voyageurs had put our canoe into the downstream flow of the Madawaska River just to take a leisurely trip south for a few days to a picturesque site at some very large rapids located a few miles above Black Donald, an interesting old village built around a graphite mine and named after a dust covered miner. However, due to the construction of a large electrical generating dam nearby, both the town site and the spectacular rapids are now underwater.

The fishing was excellent along the way as we swam and drifted in the warm July sun. Hit after hit, the smallmouth black bass gave us action as we moved with the current down the historical waterway. It goes without saying we enjoyed a delicious fish fry when we camped that evening, just above the notorious Snake Rapids that had often dashed the river men of the past to their deaths.

On the water bright and early the next morning, we carefully negotiated the long series of raging rapids of this dangerous section of river by running from island to island. On one of them, just past Rifle Chute, lay half a Grumman aluminum canoe, torn in two from having its back broken against a boulder. This is a rough, tough, sassy river. Unforgiving and deadly, too, as evidenced by the French names of long departed souls carved into a large rock on the wooded portage near Slate Falls.

With gear tied in, we shot the rest of the white water to Griffith Bridge at Highway 41. Following a short portage, we

sallied on down along the slow moving flats just above the old Camel Chute sawmill. We were soon into more bass, as well as some Northerns. "Here's another," Bill hooted as he tied into a good sized bass. The Algonquin natives of the area called the smallmouth Achigan, "the one that fights." How right they were. Inch for inch and pound for pound, they are probably the gamest fish that swims.

We gladly stopped for a well deserved stretch and lunch after running Camel Chute rapids. Here again was another odd name, evidently evolving from the Valley vernacular of Campbell's Chute. A settler had established a sawmill there in the early 1800s.

From the small beach we could see that the river road branched. One to Calabogie and the other leaving the river and going up over the steep hill to my village of Matawatchan. It was there, many years before, that I had chummed up with an older friend, Joe McLaren, a former logger, surveyor and river man. We must have looked an odd couple as he was almost seventy and I was not quite twelve. Joe taught me how to read whitewater, a lot about the bush, and life in general in his own quiet way.

Continuing our journey, it was an easy run through the Wolf Rapids, moving us ever closer to our destination —the mighty Colton's. Again a fish smashed the surface, breaking the tranquility, this time on Rob's line, which trolled a small leopard frog. Lures work, but a frog is

often dynamite. The whole strategy of employing a "bug" type critter is to make it act like the real thing. The closer to natural appearance, the better the chances of fooling a lurking fish.

After going under the old iron bridge, the next half hour of paddling passed quickly. The roar of those grand Colton's broad rapids with river-wide ripping chutes, dropping in series; perhaps thirty feet or more of rampaging waterfalls could be heard just around the corner. We slowly stroked up to the rocky shore and landed cautiously at its height. There before us lay a compelling, almost staggering display of glistening rocks and thundering water plunging down, down, through the dazzling rainbow mists for the next hundred or more yards.

There were still drill holes for iron stakes in the pink granite where river men had tied their booms and large pointer boats filled with supplies. Joe had told me of the many lives lost on these cataracts, and the long days and exhausting physical labour of the log drives. The cooks would go ahead of the drive and set up camp at designated locations, such as this. In their boats, they would carry stoves, tents, pots, pans, and lots of salt pork and blackstrap molasses to feed the hungry crew. We pitched our tent on high ground overlooking the spectacular view and gathered firewood. Then we fried up a pan of flour dipped bass in bacon drippings, and served them with potatoes and creamed corn to our own hungry crew. The whitewater, rocks, and grassy bank were soon

painted in a wash of amber as the red sun set behind the tall pines on the other shore. When the cool of the evening dew settled over us and the embers glowed smaller and smaller, we crawled into our three man "A" tent. The booming of the rapids became a lullaby, drifting us off to a sound slumber in our comfortable sleeping bags. Or so I thought.

With a sudden start, loud voices awakened me. Not one, but a number of men. Bellowing! I threw open the tent flaps and looked out, while muttering to myself, "Dammit, it's three a.m." Who and where, were our annoying nocturnal visitors? I strained my eyes into the inky blackness no lights, no boats but again I heard muffled shouts. Slipping into my moccasins, I moved quietly out of the tent toward the shore. Maybe some damn fool fishermen drifted over the rapids in a boat? But at night?

Suddenly I saw them through the rising mists, with moonlight on their backs! They appeared with peaveys and pike poles yelling instructions to one another as they hopped about on the black surface. Then Bill poked his head out of the tent to ask, "Who's hollering?"

Rubbing my eyes in disbelief, I looked again. They were still there desperately shouting and jumping back and forth on an invisible log jam.

Rob now also inquired from within the tent, "What's the noise out there?"

"Go back to bed," his older brother grumbled.

I blinked again and all was gone! It was quiet, save for the thundering rapids. I immediately returned to my warm bag. After turning and tossing and a lot of wondering, I finally fell back to sleep.

What happened there? Was it a peculiar environmental phenomenon "photographing" a tragedy and exposing it at certain times under correct atmospheric conditions? Apparently, aspects of tragic events, like the Battle of Hastings in eleventh century England, and other authenticated sightings are revealed to spectators again and again. Was this "happening" a trick of nature, resulting from the swirling mists, the moonlight, the noise of the rapids? Or did we somehow delude ourselves, yet without alcohol just being over tired, suffering from too much sun, prone to a vivid imagination? Maybe. But all three of us? You go figure it out. We didn't, nor have we discussed it much between ourselves or anyone else. Who would believe it? It's another secret of the valley. The answer lies only within the strange mists of Colton's on the Madawaska.

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 - b. Bring all our interested buyers to see your home over a 2 week period.
2. At the end of 2 weeks, we'll give you a free full report on the activities and the thoughts of our buyers, as to what they honestly thought of your home and you can then change it, fix it, forget it, put it on MLS (yes, we'll even help supply a contact with another Brokerage if you want) or sell it as a For Sale By Owner.

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Community Calendar

CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

GRIFFITH AND MATAWATCHAN

St. Andrew's United Church

Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
 No service on July 4th

Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church

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

Hilltop Tabernacle

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

DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

Vennachar Free Methodist Church

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Luke's United Church

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

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

The New Apostolic Church

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

CALABOGIE

Calabogie Bible Fellowship – Congregational Church

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

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church

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

CHURCH EVENTS

St. Andrew's United Church – Matawatchan

- Strawberry Social – July 10, 4 to 6 p.m.
 - The St. Andrews United Church Women's Group will be sponsoring dinners, bake sales, flea markets etc. to raise money for the summer camp facility at Golden Lake and for the Millennium Garden / Coffee Club.

St. Luke's United Church, Denbigh

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

St. Luke's United Church, Denbigh

- Exercise Group Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.

The New Apostolic Church

The New Apostolic Church in Denbigh invites all visitors to our area and all interested to join us for our Sunday morning services. Come enjoy our choir.

They sing several selections before service which begins at 10:30 am.

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

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

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

DID YOU KNOW...

We childproofed our homes, but they are still getting in.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALABOGIE

- Canada Day festivities beginning at 8:00 am on July 1 and continuing all day.

DACRE

- Canada Day festivities beginning at 1:30 pm at the DACA Centre

MATAWATCHAN HALL

- Matawatchan Picnic – July 3, 11:00 a.m.
 - Matawatchan Summer Dance – July 3, 9:00 p.m.
 - Ball Game – July 4, 1:00 p.m.

Fund Raiser

The Matawatchan Memorial Hall Board is planning a major fund raiser on July 24th, and they need our help! This enormous event will be a combination of our Annual Rummage and Bake Sale, our Picnic/Barbecue and the Griffith & Matawatchan Fish & Game Club Yard Sale. All proceeds from the yard sale will be split between the Matawatchan Hall and the Fish and Game Club.

We are seeking contributions from the community: this could be in the form of yard sale items, baking, extra preservatives such as jams and jellies or vegetables from your garden. The hall needs the assistance of the Community for this

event to be a success! The Picnic/Barbeque will feature: hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages, and soft drinks.

This event will take place from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Please help keep the hall alive and well for all our use!

Griffith and Matawatchan Fish & Game

- Fish and Game Club Kid's Fishing Derby. Saturday July 17: 10:00 a.m. at Holleran's Hideaway in Matawatchan
 - Fish and Game Club Pig Roast. Saturday July 31: 3:00 pm at Pat and Cliff Holleran's home in Matawatchan.

Busy Bees Craft Club

Meet the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Matawatchan Hall. New members and visitors welcome. For information, contact Jackie Jenks 333-5542

"Northern Lights" Seniors

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

Community Bus Service

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

Fellowship Luncheon

These meals are held the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Please contact Carol Anne Kelly at 333-5570 or Lois Robbins at 333-1082 if you wish to attend and be added to our mailing list. These meals are held in our community for those who live alone, seniors and retired people who enjoy a meal together. The location alternates between the Griffith Lions Hall and St. Andrew's United Church, Matawatchan. Cost \$5.00.

Diners Club

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

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 Call 333-5559, Muriel Burgess, for an appointment

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The horse draw

By Garry Ferguson

Author's note: For many years, the main attraction at the Matawatchan Picnic was the horse draw. During my time, a team would be pitted against 12 men, seated on the ground as in a conventional tug-of-war, with feet planted in footholds dug into the ground. The object was to draw the men out of position. Ardean Kelly, however, tells of a time when the challenge might be to move 25 men from a standing position.

The first draw that I remember would have been in 1942 on the spot where the south wall of St. Andrew's United Church now stands. Mrs. Christena Thomson had her leg broken by the rope when the team went sideways. The last I remember - in 1946 or 47 near the hall - is the one featured in the following poem. Though I used some literary licence, (a nice phrase for B.S.) the poem is based on that event. I was recently reminded that the screaming teamster, on that occasion, had been sampling the "oh be joyful" and had run, half the length of the lines, past his team several times in his alcohol-heightened zeal to see it dislodge some of the biggest men in three counties. Ardean, who reminded me that the temperamental teamster was tipsy, also remembers some memorable horse draws up until 1953 (approximately) but they are other stories to be told by other fans of the sport.

Festive chatter flowed around me.
Clouds of pipe tobacco smoke hung,
fragrant, on the air.
Beyond the maple shade a piper paced,
and swung his kilt to "The Forty Eighth."
"Great Dominion Day picnic - weather wise,"
I turned and said to someone there.
Just then, a scruffy teamster
I had worked with when I made my living as a logger,
sidled up and murmured in my ear.
"Twelve sound lads we're needin' for 'the horse draw.
Tell'm to come over to the field where I'll have my horses,
harnessed up and rarin' jist to show you 'rock pile farmers'
what a bush camp team can do.
Oh - and try an' pick 'm - not too stout."
He winked.

I understood the flagrant pride that made this teamster want to
pit his team, in tug-of-war,
against a dozen strong determined men
who'd herniate themselves
before they'd let the whole damned township watch
them face defeat.
But - "Rock pile farmers," did he say?
"I'll cut this braggart back
a swath or two," I vowed.
So off I went and picked a dozen from the biggest fellows there.
The foothold pits were dug. We fetched a rope
and tied it round the whippetree then waited for the challengers
to hatch some sort of strategy.

The lathered horses, nervous, rolled their eyes.
They pranced, exuding equine odour, pungent
over scent of clean turned earth. Onlookers cheered.
Six on each side of the rope, the burly fellows settled in.
Some drove their heels in deep to anchor rigid legs.
Others grinned at wives who shrilled at them
for soiling Sunday suits.
The object now, was for the team to pull the men from where they sat
or for the twelve, with spit upon their calloused hands,
to hold the horses for a measured time.
Tense, alert, they waited until everyone distinctly,
through the uproar, heard some young smart Alec, somewhere,
call out, "Now."

To "Heaves" and "Hoes" through gritted teeth,
with rigid backs, oozing sweat, the fellows held while out in front
the muscles on the dappled horses' rumps stood out
in glossy wet relief.
Rib cages heaved.
Knees were locked while massive hindquarters squatted.
Steel-shod rear hooves slipped and scrambled for a hold.
Scarcely heard above the crowd, the teamster cursed
and dodged the turf thrown up from sharpened corks.
For hours, it seemed, we yelled or held our breaths beneath a cruel sun
and waited for the sign to indicate the boys had beaten out the clock.
It never came.

We craned our necks to find the cause.
Crowd noise ebbed. Faces took on question marks.

Frenzied horses wheezed and snorted.
Desperate became the grunts from those along the rope.
Then, Grandma Morris, seated on a chair
way back beside the fence, stood up and waved her cane.
"The fools," she spat, "Forgot to pick someone
to watch the time."

The teamster saw his chance to save his reputation
and the good name of his team.
Since he could not, with all his screams
of, "Giddap Buck," or, "Giddap Bock,"
dislodge the challengers,
he flicked the lines and sent the horses plunging
left toward the crowd.
Spectators, concerned with life and limb,
didn't wait to see the lads swept sideways from the pits.
Now this was nothing less than downright dirty.
Everybody said it was. The bounder though,
maintained the crowd had spooked his team.
"It ain't my fault youse didn't get a chance t' pick some lad
to watch yer time," he said.
"False start be damned." He claimed the victory anyway -
but so did all the men.

It doesn't matter after all these years
who really won. The days when sweat was cheap
have gone the way of those who had the brawn - and minds -
to challenge beasts.
Oh, there are tractor pulls, with all the noise,
and massive Clydesdales still draw weighted stone boats at the fairs.
But - no one sweats or gets their hands
and thirty year old wedding suit pants soiled.
Oh well, that's progress - though -
with this tale, I'd hoped to stir, perhaps,
some pleasant memories about a vanished sport.

An aging farmer, or a lumberjack, might nod and slowly smile,
recalling how behind a team of horses, long ago,
he stomped a foothold in the solid earth
and strained until he heard the blood pound in his ears.
There was no prize except his pride and a chance to act
like the biggest thing
he would have seen through half closed eyes.



Burnstown's affair of the Arts

By Bill Graham

Burnstown was first settled by Scottish settlers in 1825 and is named for Scotland's national poet Robbie Burns. Even early settlers seemed to have some connections to the arts as suggested by the naming their town for a poet. Those early intimations have been realized in recent years with Burnstown quickly becoming the "cultural crossroads" in our area. In particular it is the visual arts that now predominate. For its size it has a disproportionate number of resident artists, galleries, studios and artsy shops.



For the last two years the village's artists and arts businesses have sponsored a two-day festival called the Burnstown *Affair of the Arts*. This year's theme was the *Heart of Burnstown* with festivities occurring on the weekend of May 29 and 30.

It was not exclusively visual arts. Music also figured in the weekend. A youth vocal concert occurred on the Saturday morning the Burnstown United Church while a group of revellers called MadriGala, in 16th century costume, were the musical highlight of the afternoon. In keeping with the Scottish heritage of Burnstown, a piper was present and Scottish dancing was performed.

It is not often that you can find so much talent in virtually your own back yard. Resident artists **Richard Gill of Fog Run Studio** (well known by many locally as well as abroad) opened up his studio for the public as did **Stephen Haigh of Images Studio** who creates world-class marquetry masterpieces (inlaid wood). Guest artists **Hugh Malcom, Dave and Adriana Card and Brock Clow**, willow furniture maker **Denise Atkinson**, unique garden sculpture of **Andy Adach and Alana Boyd**, **Russ McDermid**-wood turner and **Meghan Hurst**-stained glass artist were also be there with their creative works. Organizers were very pleased to wel-



come local painters **Vallery Roos Webster and John Webster, Jennifer Jimmo, Tim Yearington and Victoria Alexander, Christine MacDonald** to the festivities who also presented some of the fruits of their talents. **Peter Graul** had his amazing water wheel set up and **Gunnar Guckes** delighted the taste buds with some German pastries. **Debbie Enright** of St. Joseph's high school presented a cross-section of grades 9-12 artistic works.

It was a delightful two days for anyone who attended. In addition to viewing the work of these talented artists, there was also the opportunity to visit the many

arts-oriented shops that Burnstown features. My mid-day Sunday visit was crowned with lunch at the Blackbird Café with old friends. It was a thoroughly enjoyable outing.

Your next opportunity for something similar will be in October when Richard Gill has his annual fall show. It begins on October 2 and runs through until Thanksgiving on October 11.

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Celebrating Local Artists

Greater Madawaska has numerous resident artists. It must be something about the river. From Burnstown up the Madawaska into Calabogie and over to Matawatchan art is alive and being practiced. What follows is a taste of this community of painters and sketchers. This month we are featuring eight artists from this community. Many of those featured displayed their work at a CABA meeting this year.

From time to time we will publish a colour spread like this to introduce you to the artists and illustrate their work. There is a lot of talent resident in the Madawaska Highlands.



Dwyene MacNabb has been painting in oils and other media since her teenage years in Ottawa. Since retiring in Calabogie in 1996, Dwyene continues to paint and is once again giving monthly workshops.

Dwyene's extensive collection includes spectacular outdoor scenes, country vistas a delightful medley of flowers.

D. MacNabb Studio is located at 5377 Calabogie Road, on the shores of Calabogie Lake, directly across the road from Fawn Ridge Campground.



Tim Yearington is an artist of Ojibwa descent who lives and works in Burnstown. He is an artist who considers himself to be as much an explorer as a painter. Acrylic paints and brushes are equally a part of his outdoor equipment as his hiking boots, snowshoes, skis and canoe.

"As an artist, I feel it's my responsibility to illustrate the spirit of the environments I explore. The nature of wilderness makes this an enjoyable task. For me, being a Canadian painter is to be in harmony with the land that inspires me."



David Morris painted during all of his teen years while working on farms. While working as a cook at Atomic Energy in Chalk River he continued painting.

With marriage and the demands of working painting took a back seat and slowed down. He started again in earnest during the winter of 2000 after about 40 years. He's back and he loves it.



Richard Gill has a Bachelor of Architecture from Pennsylvania State University and a diploma of Applied Arts in Ceramics from Sheridan College. He has been sculpting full time since 1970. His is in the village of Burnstown.

Richard's plaques and murals have received numerous awards and hang in many private and public collections across Canada and abroad.

He does however specialize in doing smaller commissioned pieces for individuals of their homes or any subject matter.



Kim Carnegie is new to art having been painting only since the winter of 2000. In the years immediately prior to this, she was fully occupied raising a young family and running her own business: The Hair Port in Calabogie.

She began painting landscapes in oil recently, after attending workshops with local artist and teacher Dwyenne McNab. During a recent trip to Bridgewater Artist Retreat, she learned more about oils and water colours.

Her work can be viewed at the Hair Port and at Knock on Wood Gallery.



Sonya Morglan works from her Studio by the Lake on Kennedy Road in Calabogie. She works with oil paint using brushes and palette knives. She paints wildlife, historical scenery and some portraits.

Her work has been sold to art collectors in South Africa, Japan, Mexico, Europe, the USA and Canada.

She welcomes all visitors to her Studio by the Lake. She has regular hours from Thursday to Saturday and can be seen by appointment all year round.



R. Ernest Jukes- AOCA—Artist/Writer- has been creating and winning awards for over half a century, across Ontario and in the Madawaska Valley. The outdoors, objects of yesterday and travel, particularly Mexico have all influenced Ernie's work.

You may enjoy his figures, landscapes and still lifes- in watercolour, pen and ink, acrylics or oils at his Camp J, log cabin, studio/gallery at 1748 Frontenac Road in Matawatchan. Visit most days from June to November or phone (613) 333-2350 or anytime by email: ernoddjukes@hotmail.com Ask about commissions and lessons in any medium.



Carolyn Violet Jakes discovered a new love - a passion for painting, when she took an art class in 1993. This strong desire to paint is now a driving force in her life.

Her work is permanently on display and for sale at her Knock on Wood Gallery in Calabogie. It includes watercolour, acrylic and mixed media paintings, note cards and painted glass and wood.

Carolyn has applied the monotype technique for many of her watercolours. This involves layering watercolours on a piece of glass, placing a wet piece of paper over the dried paint, and applying enough pressure to the paper and glass to allow the paint to transfer to the paper.

Council Notes

By Bill Graham

The Track issue still dominates Council proceedings and guarantees a good turn out to meetings with sometimes more passion than one might want. Through May and June a decision on this issue was expected from Council but they had to complete their visits to other track establishments and finalize some of the paper work. Everyone now expects that a decision will be taken at the next meeting, which has been rescheduled from the regular Saturday morning meeting to a Tuesday evening meeting on June 29. Even CCC members expect that this meeting will decide in favour of the zoning change for Calabogie Motorsport Park.

The issue of 'Stop the Track' signs, which have been a part of the landscape for the last year, surfaced at a number of meetings. The municipality wants signs on hydro poles and road allowances removed. Track opponents say that signs were purchased by individuals and that the decision to take them down is an individual choice.

The last two Council meetings for Track issues centred on the visit by members of Council to the Mount Tremblant track facility. The event that they attended was similar to those that would be held at the Calabogie Motorsport Park, but members of CCC attended another Tremblant event, which featured a much noisier event. CCC members also surveyed residents near the Tremblant track by questionnaire and received a high return rate. Most of these had a big problem with that facility; but it is not the same track. You can probably already see the seeds of the current escalation in this conflict.

At the June 12 meeting of Council, Mrs. Peggy Cassidy and her husband Brian both made public submissions to Council regarding the Tremblant visit. Mrs. Cassidy's presentation implied that developers were all alike and only gave back to the community when they are forced to do so. Understandably, Chris Fleming and Debora Giffin were furious. Both have been active in the community for many years volunteering their time to community activities entirely removed from their business considerations. Tempers reached a sufficient level that Reeve Kristijan called an early recess. Strong words were exchanged out in the parking lot and tempers cooled. However, the incident was not forgotten entirely and a letter was submitted to the Highlander, which you can review on page 5. In the view of this reporter it was probably a matter of poor communications since Peggy Cassidy is well aware of the contributions to the community of some of those associated with Calabogie Motorsports.

OTHER BUSINESS ALSO HAPPENED AT COUNCIL

Notice of a by-election for Ward 2 (Brougham) is in this paper and other local publications. The by-election will be conducted on Friday August 27, with nominations having to be filed by July 13, 2004. Hopefully we will once more have a full Council by the fall.

Councillor Lehnardt has been vigilant in reminding Council that the Matawatchan Road is in need of their attention. A major repair (resurfacing) of the road by County is scheduled within the next three years, but many are wondering if it will last that long. Reeve Kristijan is hoping to use 'infrastructure' money from higher levels of government to try to advance that date.

Discussions are ongoing to try to resolve the problem the municipality has with dump sites. Reeve Kristijan and Councillor are talking to Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery to become a partner; along with other rural municipalities like our own to try to divert a portion of the waste from land fill sites. This is a very important issue that has been simmering in the background. It is an issue that will be tackled in a later issue of the Highlander.

A motion by Council asking the Ontario Government to reconsider their 'Regulation 170/03' on water due to its impact on rural Ontario has received support from many communities facing the same consequences from this reaction to Walkerton.

A questionnaire, supported by Council, has been sent to residents in an effort to discover the views of ratepayers on library and recreation services and long term/home care. Before developing programs in these areas it is necessary to know the views of the people. Be sure to complete it since your views are essential to future plans.

Work on a website for the Township of Greater Madawaska is nearing completion. The site, which is expected to be announced very soon, will give ratepayers access to information about the work of Council, including the minutes of all Council meetings.

We'll have more details in the July issue including information about economic development that we couldn't, as promised, include in this issue.

DID YOU KNOW...

Don't be afraid to take big steps. You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.
- David Lloyd George

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 June 26 - Valley Idol, Part 2 with music by All 4-1
 July 17 - Live entertainment with D.T.P.
 July 17 - Wakefest Ontario
 July 24 - Glow Ball Golf

www.calabogie.com

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JULY 1, 2004 1:00PM - 3:00PM

Please join us for an afternoon of fun collecting clues and selected items.
Great prizes to be won!

Lists can be purchased for \$5.00 at the Fire Hall at 12:00 pm

All proceeds going to the Greater Madawaska Fire Department

Please come out and support your local community

For more information pls call Karen Wagstaff 333-1768 or Sandra Peters 333-5523



Finding Eagle's Nest

By Tim Yearington

The word is out. Folks are talking. And it goes something like this: "I've lived in this area all my life. I've heard about Eagle's Nest, but I've never been there. I don't know how to find it!" Well, as a follow up to my Eagle's Nest Sacred Site story, here are specific directions so you can discover the splendour of Eagle's Nest for yourself.

Wear comfortable, sturdy footwear and dress appropriately for the weather. It's a good idea to bring along drinking water and a light snack, especially if you will be hiking with children. Bring bug spray too in case you need it.

The best way to go there is on foot. But, the easiest way to find the trailhead to Eagle's Nest is by vehicle and the best point of reference to start from is the base of the ski hill in Calabogie. If you start your odometer from Barrett Chute Road, it's only 2.2 km up Highway 508 (going west) to the Eagles Nest trail head which is marked by a stone inuksuk (ee - nook - sook) that I built.

As you drive up #508 past the ski resort the road continually climbs a rolling hill. At the highest point on the road look for the inuksuk - a standing pile of stones - on the left (south) side of Highway 508. (If you start going downhill or out onto a flat stretch of road you've gone too far...)

The stone inuksuk marks the correct dirt road that you must take to walk into Eagle's Nest. There's only room for 3 or 4 cars to park on the right-hand side of the highway opposite the inuksuk. Park very carefully and please do not block in other vehicles.

The dirt road is the route to Eagle's Nest. The route is well indicated by small route markers I painted and affixed to trees on the right-hand side. Each route marker is composed of a circle divided into four colours.

From the highway it's only 1300 metres or about a 20 to 25 minute hike in to Eagle's Nest. The route starts going uphill, but it soon levels off. There may be mud and puddles depending on any recent rain and it may be a bit buggy until you get to Eagle's Nest. Once atop the site, the wind will keep them away. After a while you will begin to walk downhill and a large beaver pond will appear on your left. The route follows the edge of the pond. Nearing the end of the pond you will find the last route marker on a large White Pine on the right, facing away from the road and pointing up a rocky trail.

Just up this short trail is where you will see the larger "Eagle's Nest Sacred Site"



sign that I painted. Supported locally by "The Friends of Eagle's Nest", the sign provides insight into why this place is called Eagle's Nest and why it's sacred. You must journey to Eagle's Nest if you want to see it and learn its message.

Continuing up beyond the sign will bring you directly atop Eagle's Nest Sacred Site. It's a high cliff here so be very careful. Parents: be advised that young children MUST be under control at ALL times! Eagle's Nest reveals a spectacular panoramic view and the true Spirit of Wilderness. It's a place that holds the power to inspire us.

Here you will likely be witness to the aerial acrobatics of Ravens and Turkey Vultures. And if you are fortunate you may even see an Eagle. When you are ready to leave, simply follow the same route in reverse to bring you back out to your vehicle.

Please refrain from damaging ANY life forms: plant or animal. If you visit by ATV please consider parking it well below the site and then walking up as this will help prevent further erosion and damage to plant-life atop the site, and further erosion of the trail. Please bring out ALL that you bring in and please do not litter, break bottles, or throw anything over the edge.

I leave you with these ancient Madawaska-Algonquin words of wisdom: "If you find fear in your heart, go to Eagle's Nest and stand high upon its edge. Watch the storm come from the horizon, see the lightning, hear the thunder, taste the rain and feel the power. And then know that all this power is small in comparison to the power the Great Spirit has to protect you."

I wish you an enlightening journey.

Tim Yearington offers an Art Adventure to Eagle's Nest called "Scout & Sketch" and also guides "Jingwakoki Journeys" offering insight into Ojibway Spirituality. For more information visit his PAINTBOX STUDIO in Burnstown or call 433-9530. Website: www3.sympatico.ca/yearington

Raccoon: he scratches with his hands (Part 1)

By Floris Wood

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part article. It is serialized due to its length. Part 2 follows in July.



Their manual dexterity accounts for the word "raccoon", which was *Arakun* in Algonquin and means "he scratches with his hands." For most of us the raccoon has been a lifelong acquaintance. Older residents, however, may remember a time in their youths when there were no raccoons in the greater Madawaska area . . . or, indeed, in all of Canada. In the 1940s a combination of events and circumstances caused the raccoon population in North America to explode. Experts speculate that among other reasons for the population boom was the abandonment of many farms, the eradication of many predators, and the falling demand for raccoon hides.

Sometime during the early 1940s raccoons from the eastern and mid-western United States became landed immigrants and settled right into the Canadian environment as though they had been here all their lives. As they moved north raccoons evolved physically in

ways that would make them more suitable residents of southern Canada. Their body size increased slightly, which decreased their surface to volume ratio and enabled them to retain heat better. This phenomenon is common in other species such as bears. The smaller black bear gives way to the larger grizzly, which then gives way to the huge polar bear. The larger size increases the space for fat storage. Although Raccoons do not truly hibernate in winter they are less active and need to spend much more time in the protective warmth of a den.

A SMART AND ADAPTABLE ANIMAL

Habitat variety is another unique characteristic of the raccoon. They are found in the deep bush, especially in wet areas, farms, small towns and even in fairly large cities. The urbanization of North America has not been a threat at

Continued on page 31

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Barnet Park: A community property

The Township of Greater Madawaska is most fortunate to have the Barnet Property as a community property. This historically significant land was left to the municipality by the Barnet Family. The cottage property has been a place members of the community have gone for many years to sit in quiet contemplation, host a family function, walk or swim. They have enjoyed the view and the quiet, all the while wondering what the other two thirds of the property looked like and what use could be made of it.

This past winter, Brent Fillator, a life-long resident, brought to council a vision of the Park's potential. Brent saw a desire by families to provide an improved waterfront for children to play. Encouraged by the late Reeve Paul Doyle, he started to plan the work that could be done.

We now have a committee of citizens, operating with the blessing of the Municipal Council, working to ready the remainder of the property for the enjoyment of all residents and visitors to Greater Madawaska. Plans are in place to construct a beach area, beach volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, swimmer's rinse station and increased parking. The trees on site are being trimmed and the healthy ones will be given the opportunity to flourish. There will be a gradually sloping trail to allow handicap access. The existing beach will be refurbished and the sand and grass will be refreshed to make the area more appealing for the lazy days of summer.

There are plans for further beautification of the property through the addition of a "Grande Gazebo", surrounded by a series of flower gardens and a "Walk of Thyme". A butterfly sanctuary and garden will be developed. The butterfly, a symbol of beauty, serenity and grace will be invited into the park to roost in a series of specially constructed butterfly houses.

A "Rustic Beach Gazebo" and BBQ area will be built for fun summer days.

The property will be dotted with Adirondack chairs and resting benches, some constructed of wood and some of natural stone slabs. They will become the perfect place for a rest, or just to stop and chat while walking the trails.

A boardwalk is planned through "The Fernery", a natural area, left to flourish on its own. The boardwalk leads to "Painters' Point", a beautiful mini peninsula jutting out into the lake. An integral part of this area will be a small and unique bridge from which to watch the sun setting over Dickson Mountain.

A project such as this will need lots of support from the community. Contributions are a perfect way to remember a loved one, celebrate a wedding, an anniversary or a means of saying thank you to the community.

We invite people to support the project through various levels of sponsorship. It could be through our Buy a Board on the "Fernery Boardwalk" for \$25. A person or family may want to sponsor a stepping stone of the "Walk of Thyme" for \$100 or sponsor an "Adirondack Chair" for \$250. Groups and families are encouraged to consider contributing \$500 to sponsor a park bench.

We are also seeking sponsorship for the following projects:

"The Grande Gazebo", "The Rustic Beach Gazebo", "The Bridge" and the "Painters' Point" deck. As the required funding becomes available each structure will be added to the park. Minimum contribution for this category will be \$1000.

Each sponsor will be gratefully acknowledged with an inscription of your choosing. We invite everyone to visit

the park, see the work in progress and imagine what it will become with your help. Barnet Park will be enjoyed by you, your family and friends for generations to come. You are invited to take part in this exciting venture!

Please complete and return the Barnet Park Sponsor Form to the Township of Greater Madawaska. All donations are gratefully received and a Charitable Contribution receipt for income tax purposes will be sent to you.

A portion of the work recently completed is a result of generous donations

of time, machinery and money. If you would like to contribute labour, machinery or materials please call Brent Fillator at 752-0242 or Peter Emon at 752-2222.

DID YOU KNOW...

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Barnet Park Sponsorship Form

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1101 Francis Street,
Calabogie, Ontario,
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Black Donald Sunday and Holiday Mondays Wednesday Saturday	3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Mount St. Patrick Sunday and Holiday Mondays Saturday	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Griffith Sunday and Holiday Mondays Wednesday Saturday	Noon to 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. to Noon
Matawatchan Sunday and Holiday Mondays Tuesday Saturday	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Noon to 5:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Denbigh Wednesday Thursday Saturday	1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m.
MacAvoy Wednesday Sunday	8:00 a.m. to 12 noon 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
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3/4	Three Quarter Page	97	\$115.00
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Out on the First Concession: Sarah's cow lost her cud

By Wes Bomhower

Wilma and I took a short cut across the neighbour's fields that early June morning on our way to school, and as we approached Sarah Lauder's pasture field, there she was prowling the fence line and looking through the grass. "Good morning, Mrs. Lauder" Wilma greeted her. "Did you lose something"? Sarah paused a moment, a frown on her wrinkled face. "Well, t' old cow has quit chawin'. I think mebbe she lost her cud out here".

Wilma and I exchanged glances, but said nothing. Here was a woman old enough to be our grandmother, and who were

we, mere children of nine or ten years to dispute what she believed? Since we were knee high to a grasshopper, we had been told that most animals with a split hoof and horns had multiple stomachs, and when they regurgitated their food from the first stomach, they 'chewed their cud', and the food then passed on to the next stomach.

We continued on to school, but I could hardly wait to find out that afternoon what had transpired with Sarah's cow. What would a cud look like, I wondered, if perchance Sarah did find it? Did she really know what she was looking for? It would probably resemble a big wad of chewing gum, I supposed.

Wilma, being my senior by a year, was very adamant in her belief about cow's multiple stomachs and cuds and so on, and she didn't hesitate to tell me so. Still, there was a nagging doubt in my mind. What about Santa Claus? What about storks bringing babies? Both proven myths, I reasoned.

On our way home, we stopped by Sarah's house on some pretext, enquired about the cow's health, and had Sarah indeed found the missing cud? "Never found no cud, but John and me, we made her a new cud; Sarah announced proudly." And now t' old cow is alright".

Well, this was certainly a different turn of events, and we asked what the ingredients were for a new cud. "Jist like making bread", was Sarah's reply. "Flour, water, a pinch of salt and a little yeast, let it rise some, then cram a good handful down t' cow's throat".

Perhaps the cow spit it out afterwards, perhaps the yeast and flour relieved her digestive problem; we'll never know. Whatever, there was the old cow contentedly chewing her cud.

How times have changed.

CABA Corner

By Debora Giffin

Initiatives of the Calabogie and Area Business Association (CABA) continue to grow and we are all pleased with successes and accomplishments to date. The newly elected executive is keen and eager to grow business opportunities in our area. Community artists were hosted at a recent monthly meeting and this special feature of inviting guests to CABA meetings will continue.

An application approved by GM Council and Renfrew County to increase directional signage in the Township will greatly assist visitors and tourists visiting our area.

T-Shirts with the "I Partied on The Lake" slogan have arrived and will be sold at Canada Day celebrations and throughout the summer.

On your next visit to Eagle's Nest you will enjoy the new signage erected to encourage respect and honouring of the site. (Financial donations of any size, to this project are welcomed.)

The number of member businesses in Burnstown has doubled this spring with the recent opening of: Beyond the Bulrushes (accents for your home, cottage, garden and you); Boutik J & H (ladies wear); Madawaska River Market (Life as Nature Intended); Bingo Bay Interiors (furniture, art, accents and interior design services); 'The PAINTBOX' studio (wilderness artist guide, Tim Yearington) and The Blackbird Café (under new management). Burnstown is quickly becoming the "cultural crossroads" in our area and we wish them success.

Registration for CABA's most important fundraiser, the annual Calabogie Fall Classic Golf Tournament has started. All members are encouraged to participate and assist in promotion of this event. Being a scramble format, beginner golfer to "experienced hacker", all can enjoy the day.

The date is September 12, 2004 and the place is the Calabogie Highlands Golf Club. The event includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, a silent auction, dinner and

prizes. Funds raised at this event will go toward improvements to Barnet Park with some funds from special events being donated to Roger's House. Entry fees are \$72 (including GST) with Calabogie Golf Club members enjoying a reduce fee of \$62. A poster with all the details and an entry form is available from CABA members or from the Township Office.

Raffle tickets are now available from any CABA member for a draw for a 32" Philips "Real Flat" TV & Model # MX5100 VR DVD-VCR Home Entertainment System. This high-end system retails for \$1500. Tickets are now on sale until September 12. One ticket sells for \$2 or three for \$5. One draw for one prize takes place on September 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Calabogie Highlands Resort. Funds raised from this draw go to Barnet Park improvements.

Visit the revamped CABA website at www.calabogie.org.

See you at the 'Party on the Lake' on Canada Day! Cheers!

CABA needs your help

A brainstorming session is underway to develop a slogan for our tourist destination area and everyone is invited to send in ideas.

The slogan should be simple, to the point and differentiate us from other tourist destination areas, but define the community as well. Ideas to date include:

- One Place, Four Seasons
- Your Playground... Naturally
- All Reasons... All Seasons
- Treat Yourself to our Good Nature


Your suggestion for a slogan can be forwarded to any member of CABA and it will be announced at the next monthly meeting. It is our goal to implement the slogan for autumn advertising initiatives.




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Have a great summer everyone!

Brenda Dool

Garry Ferguson: Traveling in time

By Doug Smith

Editor's note: Doug Smith is a resident of New York State who spends much of his summer in Matawatchan. He was a regular contributor to the earlier version of the Highlander. Doug spends some of his time here traveling the Madawaska Valley finding interesting locals and interviewing them. Some of these interviews have been published in the earlier Highlander. Recently he interviewed Garry Ferguson who provides us with the Griffith-Matawatchan News and his amusing humour pieces. Travelling in Time is part of that interview. Being modestly Canadian, Garry agreed to having the part about his early years published since it provides glimpses of what Matawatchan was like decades ago. He decided to save the rest of the interview for his obituary.

I met Garry Ferguson as a fellow reporter for the *Highlander* and was fascinated with his storytelling both written and spoken. At his home on Schoolhouse Road he provided the history and entertainment while his lovely wife Carol provided comfort and refreshments. The Madawaska River outside the windows was a perfect context for the flow of time that Garry related within.

When Garry and Matawatchan were younger

He was born at the Renfrew Hospital in 1937. At the time, his parents Clayton Ferguson and Lorina (Hutson) Ferguson lived in Black Donald where his father was a miner in the graphite mines. Both Clayton and Lorina's families were from the Matawatchan area. Their family names can be found on lakes and roads in the area that testify to their roots as early settlers. Hutson Lake was named after Garry's great, great grandfather who settled here in the middle 1800s. The Fergusons settled in the area between what is now Matawatchan and Glenfield.

They moved back to Matawatchan and he was the oldest grandchild on either side. He had grandparents, aunts, and uncles on both sides who spoiled him terribly. They would keep him at his grandmother's in the old house near Matawanooka for as long as they could. He can remember his Hutson aunts, Melinda (MacPherson), Mildred (Ilan) and Isabella (Kelly) spoiling him so badly that his mother could hardly handle him after he got home. One day he was being taken home in the jumper, which was a low sleigh unlike a cutter where you sat up high in seats. Being about two and a half at the time and reluctant to leave the kingly treatment of his aunts, he rolled off the jumper when they weren't looking and ran as hard as

he could back for the house until his uncle retrieved him.

Reg was born next and Garry resented this intruder to the extent that he started making plans to drown him in the barrel that was used to collect slop for the pigs. He was watched so closely by his parents that he was unable to dispatch Reg. In frustration, he tried to drown the cat in the pig barrel. He figured after all the planning, he had to drown something. Fortunately for the cat, it made such a big splash that it was fished out before any further damage was done. The family went back to Black Donald Mines in the 1940s when his father was working in the refining mills and that's where he started school. It was just torn down a few years ago. The Popkies were living in it. It had just narrowly survived the flood.

They moved back to Matawatchan in 1945 and he attended school where the Matawatchan Road and Frontenac Road now meet. It has since burned down. It was called the Miller School. A building still on the site, named "The Palace," was the woodshed.

He found school boring except for English and History. The Christmas concert was his favorite part of the school year and Jenny MacPherson, a teacher who taught him for most of his public school, was an expert at staging such events. Her grandparents were early settlers in the Vennacher area so she passed on to her students a wealth of stories about growing up in the "bad old days." Though she and Husband Jack lived on the MacPherson Road, now called Sweets Lane, the ten-kilometer commute to Miller was too great so she lived in a bunkhouse that Garry's father had used to house bush workers.

Many people say that the MacDonalds were the first settlers in the area though others claim that the Wilsons were first. Whoever it was, they were within about a year of each other because they were here before the first survey. Many from the area have McDonald blood in them, but the name is carried on only by Scotty and Boyd. Boyd is a bachelor in Matawatchan who always has people dropping in for coffee or tea and any news and many good stories. Scotty is a partner in the building supply in Griffith and has, in the past, represented the people of Griffith/Matawatchan on the township council.

Garry's big amusements as a child were fishing when the ice went out and radio at night. He recalled how during the war his father had a battery powered Stewart Warner radio and how men would gather around it to hear the war news. They had a map of Europe - including Roosha - on the wall next to the radio and they would discuss the progress of the war.

Looking back on it there wasn't a lot to do but they were always busy. He can remember there being some pretty wild dances here (more appropriately described as brawls.) Neither he nor his parents attended them.

While in high school he had a job during one summer at the Pine Camp on Morrow Lake. There was a big mill and enough buildings that it could be described as a village with a huge bunkhouse. When he came back many years later to hunt partridge in that area, all he could find was the old iron water pump that had been in front of the cookhouse. All the rest had completely returned to bush. Birch trees a foot in diameter were growing where the cookhouse had been.

The six houses he had lived in are gone except one. They were all heated by wood stoves that would go out by midnight. So you would just put more blankets on as it got colder. You'd get up in the morning and the eggs would be frozen as would the water in the pail. The only water that wasn't frozen would be in the reservoir of the cookstove. Everybody would be around the stoves when they first got fired up. Normally that

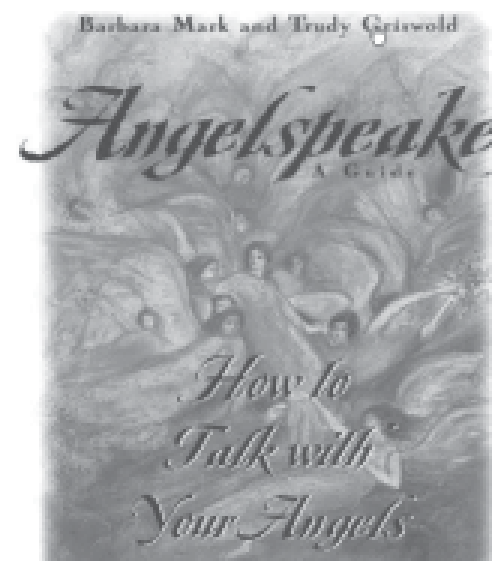
would include a cookstove and a boxstove. The only furnace he ever heard of was a homemade job which was wood fired. At the school someone would get the woodstove going before everyone arrived. At the Miller School, Orval Strong, who was a student there himself, was the care-taker responsible for taking care of the stove.

None of the houses were insulated except for some that had sawdust between the walls, which helped a bit but the big thing was to cut down on drafts. Most inside walls were lath and plaster.

Garry holds no nostalgia for those times past. He loves central heat, indoor toilets, answering machines, air conditioned trucks, computers and, most of all, those indoor bathrooms.

DID YOU KNOW...

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We would like to thank everyone for attending the Grand Opening of our LCBO and The Beer Store and our 1st Anniversary with Dixie Lee. Thanks also for the plants, cards and good wishes. It's so wonderful to have so much support from family, friends and the surrounding area. Drop by anytime and we will be pleased to be of service. Thanks Again. Judy, John and Avery

Some Prizes are still unclaimed and new names will be drawn after 30 days

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Paddle Boats from Lacourse Mini Mart- Jack Keating
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Garden Tool Set from Kelly's Propane-Charles Edison
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Car Wash brush from Kelly's Propane-John Youmans
Car Wash brush from Kelly's Propane-Kevin Adams
Case of distilled water from Crystall Rock-Val Barnes
Cooler Bag from THE BEER STORE Pembroke-Brandon Kauffeldt
Green backpack from Dixie Lee- Megan Brown
Green Backpack from Dixie Lee-Bev Minie
Black Pepsi backpack from Dixie Lee-Linda Walters
Afghan from Dixie Lee-Paul Adshead
Black Hat from Dixie Lee-Harvey & Sheila

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Binoculars from Bowmac-Patsy Chatten
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No-Plow Wildlife Seed from Louis Outpost-Roger Rosenblath
Pry bar set from Auto Parts Extra-Paul Thomson
T shirt from Auto Parts Extra-John Larabie
Golf Shirt from the Pepsi Bottling Group-Ivan Kauffeldt
Pepsi Cap from the Pepsi Bottle Group-Dawn Kenner
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Black/Red Ballcap from IKO-Shirley Vanderstine
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Golf Shirt from W.C SmithWholeSale-Tom Lupinski

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Coffee Mug from Broomley Archery-Tim Kauffeldt
Camouflage Ballcap from Broomley-Verner Hiderman
Camouflage Ballcap from Broomley Archery-Ann Keller
Black Carbon Express Hat from Broomley-Fred Burgess
Black Carbon Express Hat from Broomley-Darlene Godin
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Real Estate 101... Here's how it works

By David Lester, Real Estate Broker

Editor's note: David Lester owns a Real Estate Brokerage located in Calabogie.

Selling Brokerage

The first step in selling is normally calling a Real Estate Brokerage and asking an agent to visit your home so that you can get an idea of what price it might bring and whether it's worthwhile selling.

The agent comes around, views, measures and inspects, and then gives you a price range using comparables of the past sales (Sold), the ones that didn't sell (Expired) and the present ones that are your present competition (For Sale). They put this all together into a system that produces a price range that the agent thinks the home will sell for, in a normal market, based on previous history and valuations. It's a guesstimate based on what the market has done and the timeline, gut feelings and needs of the seller.

The home gets listed either exclusively or on a MLS. On MLS, it is placed onto the MLS (Multiple Listing System) computers; where there are many agents (1800 in Ottawa alone) who now know that your home is available for sale. In an exclusive listing, you're giving permission for only the company's clients to see the home. An exclusive listing can be cheaper in commission as there's usually less advertising, especially when the home is "in demand" and there are lots of available buyers linked to the Brokerage.

There is normally a commission (flat rate dollars or percentage ... Sellers choice) for the sale of your home based on the selling price. There are no set rates but the norm seems to range around a low of about 3 to 3.5% to a high of 6 to 7% depending on who is listing it and the Brokerage's policies. From inside that commission, normally an amount

of 2 to 3% (or even a flat fee—it's up to the seller) is set aside for the "buyer's agent" as an enticement. You can shop around to find different rates and scenarios for selling and you would be wise to do so, as they are varied and can be quite different.

When MLS buyers comes to buy your home, they are normally represented by either the listing agent or a buyer's agent. If by the listings agent, he/she will collect both sides of the commission for their efforts. That's called "dual agency" and there can be possible problems with the ability of the agent to represent both sides of the transaction, to the satisfaction of both parties. However, if both sides agree, it is allowed and happens but if the buyer or seller object, a choice on which party (buyer or seller) to represent must be made by the agent.

If the buyer is represented by a different agent than the listing agent, then the "buyer's agency" is the norm. That entails an agreement that the buyer's agent will help the buyer and the buyer will buy through that agent exclusively. The agent still gets paid from the funds set aside for the "buyer's side" by the seller.

A Buyer's Brokerage works differently

A buyer's brokerage (as we are) works from the principle of only representing the buyers in a transaction. The sellers can have other agents list their property on MLS and we normally try to bring the buyers to the table to sell the home. It eliminates the "dual agency" aspect and everyone knows from 'day one' where everyone stands. We have felt uncomfortable with dual agency transactions in the past, so that's why we have become a 'buyer's only' Brokerage.

When someone phones our office and asks us to visit them and give them an idea of what their home is worth, we do... with the understanding that we'll do a walkthrough of the home, show

them the comparables of sold / expired / for sale (just as above in a regular both sides brokerage) and discuss with them their options. Normally a price range is reached where they're happy and then...

We don't take their listing...

What we get instead is an agreement for 2-weeks that we can show their home to our customers/clients exclusively. If we bring a buyer to the table to purchase their home, we charge 2% of the price. If we don't find a buyer within the 2-weeks, we can arrange for another full service "both sides" brokerage to handle the MLS listing procedures and it goes onwards from there.

So who benefits?

- #1 our buyers, because they get to see the newest homes available before they hit the regular MLS market and we offer a special cash-back of \$1000 if they buy through us...
- #2 the sellers, because if the house does sell, then they get a much lower commission charged... and the sellers again, because after the 2-week period, we give them a report on what our buyers thought of their property and its condition, pricing and other problems they saw or thought they saw. The seller can then make appropriate adjustments so they can sell their home quickly if they go to the normal MLS route or even wish to sell it themselves as a 'For Sale by Owner' (FSBO).
- #3 we benefit because we don't represent the seller in dual agency, so there's no conflict involved, and we get to sleep well at night and still give excellent VIP service to our buyer clients.

How's the market in Calabogie and area doing?

FOR SALE, as of June 2, 2004:

HOMES	Available*	Water Front
BBB	20	8
Griffith	4	2
White Lake	3	3

LOTS	Available*	Water Front
BBB	37	2
Griffith	2	0
White Lake	6	2

BUSINESS	Available*	Water Front
BBB	5	0
Griffith	2	0
White Lake	0	0

For the area of Calabogie (MLS district code 542-BBB Bagot, Blythfield & Brougham); Griffith (MLS district code 562-Centennial Lake and west towards Griffith); White Lake (MLS district code 917-Darling Township)

***Totals include the waterfront properties.**



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Raccoon: he scratches with his hands (Part 1)

Continued from page 18

all to the raccoon population. Their omnivorous diet, ability to find dens in a great variety of situations, and their intelligence make them at home nearly anywhere. Raccoon babies, called kits, are uniquely equipped with the ability to quickly learn from their parents and to easily adapt to conditions their parents had never encountered. Compared to other animals raccoon intelligence falls below monkeys and above dogs.

Although raccoons are usually fairly solitary and territorial for mating purposes they tend to be very social in other respects. At a good food source, like a restaurant garbage bin, you might find as many as 10 raccoons peacefully eating side by side. Most will be related to each other but some might be complete strangers. In an area where food is plentiful the size of a family territory can be as small an area a half a mile in diameter. However, where food is scarce a range of 6 miles is not unusual. Raccoons are heavy travelers, covering as much as 15 miles in one night's foraging. Denning together in small groups of 4-8 related adults is also common. Territory tends to be shared by families until succeeding generations expand.



Artwork by Sonya Morglan

Population control of raccoons is no less cruel than for other species. In northern climates the early mating season, which begins in February, is a disadvantage to raccoons. Kits, usually born in May, are less than a year old when they begin to mate. In the north, where February is the heart of winter, many kits freeze to death on their first attempt at mating.

Any night time driver in the Madawaska Valley can attest to the raccoon's lack of automobile traffic savvy. Their loyalty to family members makes them

more susceptible to encounters with vehicles because they will stay near an injured or dead relative at the cost of their own lives.

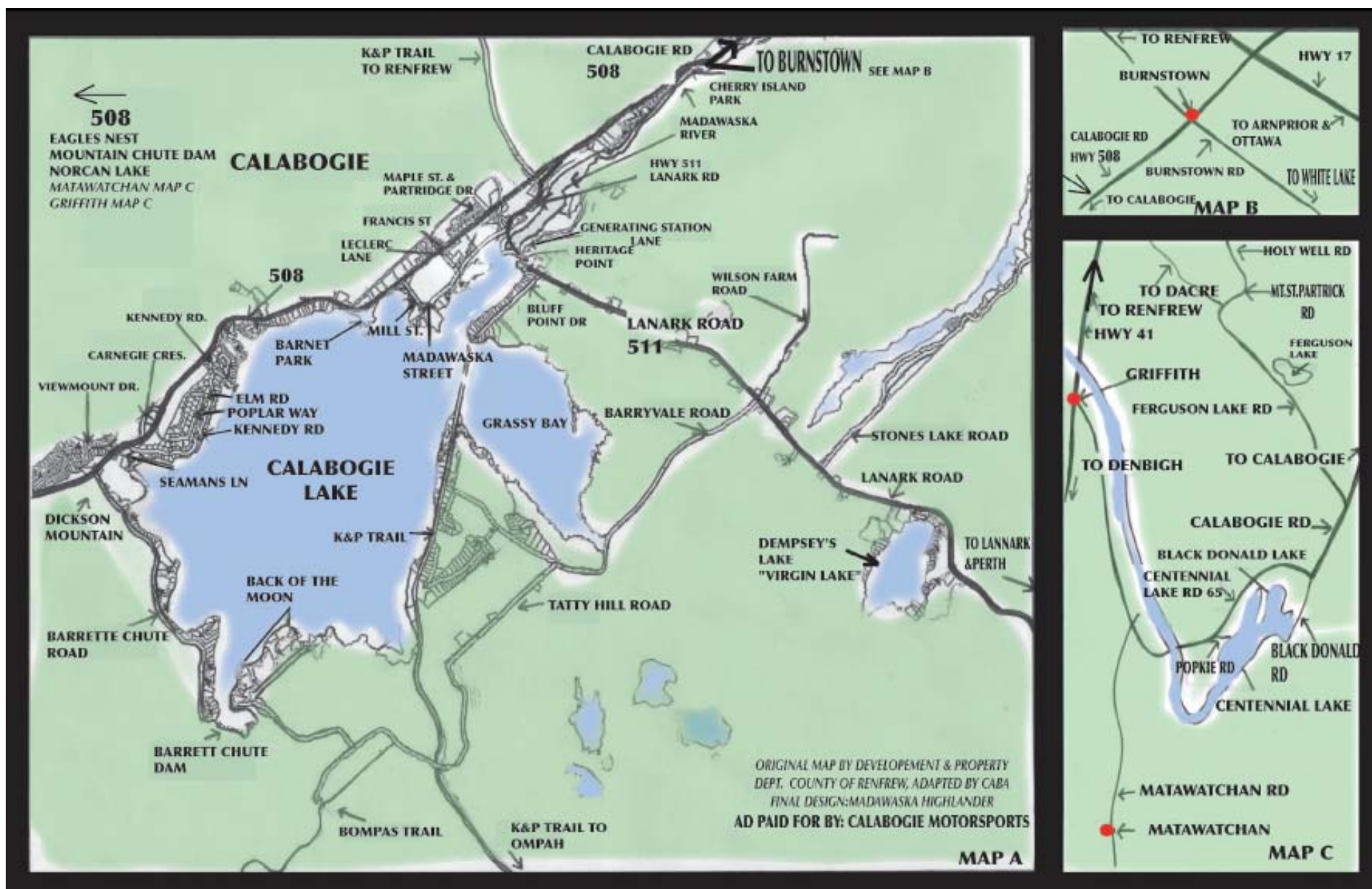
NOTORIOUS REPOSITORIES OF DISEASE

Overcrowding in this species takes its toll through rapid spreading of disease. Unfortunately for the raccoon and neighbouring humans, raccoons are the notorious repositories of disease. Most diseases remain dormant in their bodies until they are weakened by malnutrition caused by overcrowding. Canine distemper kills more raccoons than any other disease. Weakness from malnutrition also makes baby raccoons susceptible to freezing and predators. The average life expectancy of live-born raccoons is very low, but if they survive the first two years, they will likely live to as long as 16 years.

Rabies is another killer of raccoons and a chief concern for humans in their relationship with raccoons. Some communities have tried, with some success; to inoculate their raccoons against rabies by setting out vaccinated bait food. Humans need to be constantly aware that raccoons spread rabies via their saliva. Sick animals should be reported to authorities. It is not always easy to tell if a raccoon has rabies because not all rabid raccoons act aggressively, some are quite placid. They might even be too friendly, in a dazed fashion. Common sense will usually help to distinguish between a mother raccoon aggressively protecting her young family and a raccoon infected with rabies. But if you do sight a raccoon acting aggressively for no apparent reason, you should report it. Animals suspected of having rabies must be killed for testing.

This could be your Ad!

Think about it...





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