

THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

LOCAL - HISTORICAL - ENVIRONMENTAL

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Prehistoric spring in the Ottawa Valley

By Ole Hendrickson

We're having an old-fashioned Ottawa Valley spring. Ice still covers the lakes, even though the fishing huts are long gone. Snow in the highlands, especially on north-facing slopes, is feeding the creeks and rivers and keeping them flowing strong.

That being said, spring isn't what it used to be. Imagine the Ottawa Valley eleven thousand years ago.

Waves lap against towering walls of glacial ice along the Champlain Sea. Melting ice forms rivers that carve the ice and discharge water and sediments. The booming sound of a huge chunk of glacier falling in the water punctuates the silence. This part of the Atlantic is narrow and shallow, generally a tranquil place, protected from wind and wave action. Curious whales venture in, dodging the drifting icebergs.

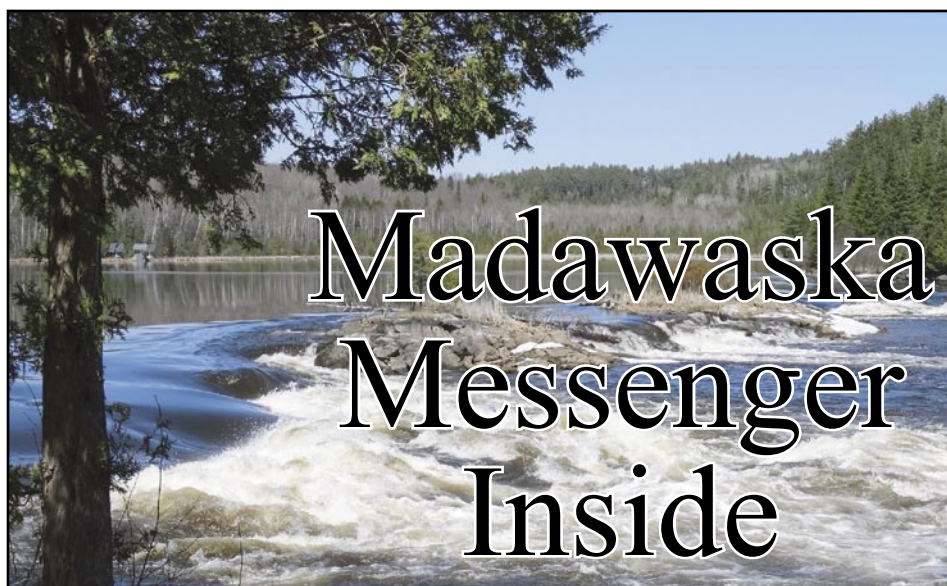
Thousands of years under the massive Laurentide ice sheet has compressed the land surface 150 meters downward, leaving extensive areas below sea level. As the ice retreats, the ocean flows in.

The oldest fossil seashells from the Champlain Sea era found near Ottawa and Pembroke have been dated at 12,000 and 11,000 years before present (BP), respectively, indicating when these parts of the Valley became covered by the sea. Fossils older than 10,800 BP are true marine species: until then, the western Champlain Sea was nearly as salty as the open Atlantic. Partial skeletons of five whale species – beluga, humpback, finback, harbour porpoise, and bowhead – have been found. A November 30, 1977 Renfrew Mercury article describes the discovery of bowhead whale bones in a gravel pit about 2 km west of White Lake. These were radiocarbon dated at 11,500 BP.

Before the complete disappearance of the glaciers, beyond the seashore freshwater lakes formed in the basins of Golden, Silver, Mink, and Calabogie Lakes; and in Lakes Dore and Clear. These early lakes were far larger than those we see today.

Glacial retreat in the Ottawa Valley was part of a global process. In North America and Eurasia, giant lakes

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Young moose near Eagle's Rest

photo: Steve Main

A portal to Matawatchan is open

By Bill Graham, Editor

The Village of Matawatchan and the surrounding area is now open to the world through the website: www.matawatchan.ca

Just twenty-one years ago the first World Wide Web page was published by CERN (Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire) in Switzerland and today anyone in the world with access to the Internet can now follow the happenings of a small village in Eastern Ontario.

The website was promised in the December 2012 Highlander for mid-February but the site did not materialize until April. The plan was to build the site on five of the institutional pillars of the community: St. Andrew's Church, The Matawatchan Hall, The Matawatchan Community Market, The

Madawaska Highlander and the burgeoning Matawatchan Cultural Centre. Each community organization cooperated by paying a small fee to pay for the building of the site and each group is responsible for providing new information to update their portion of the site. It really is a non-profit community effort.

The site would not be possible without someone with the expertise to build it. That person is our webmaster and relatively new Matawatchan resident Alyson George. She and her partner Ben Copeland moved into Matawatchan last summer. She has augmented my original vision by adding new elements like a Community Forum and a Tourism section for visitors to the area. With her participation the site is friendlier and more interactive than it might have been.

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DSL and Cell Service in the Highlands

Questions, Answers and More Questions

By Lois Thomson

DSL: On December 7, 2012 an announcement was made in Gananoque, Ontario, that the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) high-speed internet backbone was complete. This is exciting news if you are in an area that gets high-speed, but disappointing if you are not.

To see if you qualify for high-speed, go to http://www.bell.ca/Bell_Internet/Internet_access. Click the little plus sign beside "Verify the availability of services in your area" and enter your phone number or address. That's all very simple, but a few questions arise. Why do some homes in the area get DSL service and others don't? How is it that there's service in Camel Chute and Denbigh, but not in areas in between?

I posed those questions and a few more to communications people from Bell Aliant, the people who are building the infrastructure and to EORN, the group whose mission is to bring High-speed internet to everyone in Eastern Ontario. Both were very helpful. EORN, along with public and private partners, has done a commendable job of bringing affordable high-speed internet to a vast, sparsely populated area using an innovative approach that is first of its kind in the world. The Highlands area is particularly challenging because of its rugged terrain. We all did our best, but as of printing time some questions remain.

Here is what I know so far. EORN published a map and progress report in January, 2013, that shows which ar-

...eas have DSL service <http://www.eorn.ca/assess/uploads/EORNReportJan2013ENWeb.pdf>. On page 8, it shows the regions of the Highlands with DSL service. The light grey areas indicate where there is only satellite service available through Xplornet. I copied that map and added the locations of Griffith and Matawatchan. Neither of those towns have service, but the map shows that they do. I wonder why. I have also added a circle near Matawatchan to indicate an area that currently gets service. There is a Bell box at the intersection of Matawatchan Rd. and Centennial Lake Rd. that makes this possible. I find it odd that Camel Chute is served, but the Village of Matawatchan isn't. I have asked Lisa Severson at EORN to explain why the map doesn't reflect reality and what it would take to make it happen.

Xplornet is under contract to deliver high quality satellite service to Eastern Ontario. EORN wants to know about the quality of your satellite service. If you have any issues, call or email info@eorn.ca or ask for Anita Prosser at 613-925-7010 and she will take it up with Xplornet. They want to en-

sure that everyone in Eastern Ontario has access to high-speed. I spoke with Lisa Severson, Communications and Stakeholder Relations Officer, EORN and Jim Pine, CAO, Hastings County and co-lead for EORN about DSL and about some known issues in the area (flakey signal, no service available). They are doing testing and demonstrations in Eastern Ontario in May and June and are now considering doing one in Matawatchan.

An interesting thing is that Xplornet is obligated to release you from your contract with them with six months written notice and no penalty. This is only if DSL becomes available to you after you signed on. You must have signed on during the Ontario Rural Connections program (look for the EORN logo on your paperwork) and you must have at least 12 months left on your contract.

So, my hope is that the DSL lines go through Matawatchan and that there will be a note added to the line that would bring service into the village area. More on that later.

Cell: Unrelated to the EORN initiative, a 120 metre cell and data tower is planned to be constructed on Hwy 41 between Denbigh and Griffith. Through Norma Hughes and Albert Lee at Bell, I learned that this tower should provide cell and data (cellular high-speed) service to Griffith and Slate Falls. It's hard to predict the exact service area in the Highlands, but I'm guessing the signal could reach further, depending on the terrain. On the cell phone map taken from http://www.bell.ca/mobility/coverage_map. I added the approximate location of the new tower and some place names. The white area in the middle shows where there is currently no service. Another tower has been approved for somewhere on Lanark Rd. near Calabogie. Let's hope that these two towers will help close that circle.

Portal (Cont)

The benefits of this new communications vehicle for community are many: there is a new place to announce events; residents (both permanent and seasonal) will now have advance information about market vendors and lunches; there will be a permanent digital home for heritage information; back copies of the Highlander are now available online; there is now a place where residents can share photos and videos with others in the community; there will be a place where community painters and artisans can display their work; and there will be a bulletin board where residents can buy / sell / or announce. This is not an exhaustive list of benefits and who knows what else will evolve.

Parts of the site are not yet completed so check back from time to time to see what is new.

End

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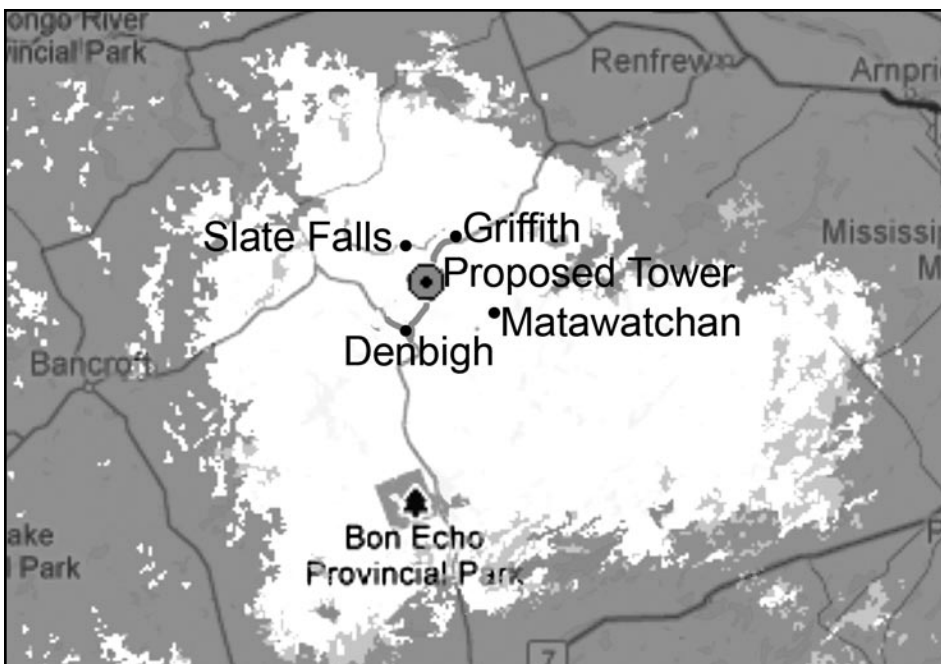
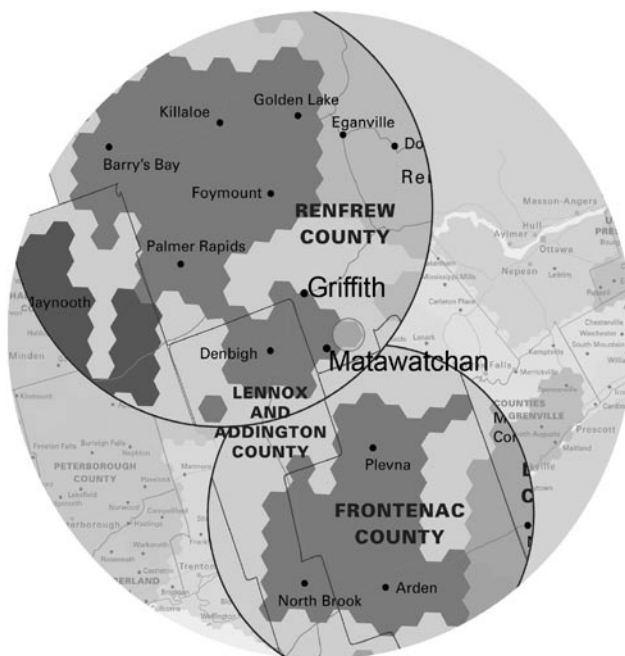
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Published in Matawatchan

End



Prehistoric spring (Cont)

formed along the edges of the retreating ice sheets. Some of these were dammed by the ice, and when the dams failed, gigantic floods carried immense amounts of water to the oceans. Glacial Lake Agassiz was North America's largest glacial lake, at times extending from Saskatchewan in the west to Quebec in the east. It formed originally in western Canada where glacial retreat began earliest, and then followed the northeast retreat of the Laurentide ice sheet for at least 5000 years. For a time, a separate large glacial lake, Lake Ojibway, spread along the ice margin in northern Ontario and Quebec.

James Teller of the University of Manitoba, the world's foremost expert on Lake Agassiz, created a major stir in international scientific circles with his 2010 paper showing that around 13,000 BP, Lake Agassiz drained northward through the Mackenzie Valley in a massive flood, adding so much cold fresh water to the oceans that their circulation shut down and Earth went into a little ice age (known as the "Younger Dryas") lasting about 1500 years.

Teller follows the subsequent history of Lake Agassiz in a paper presented at the 1986 Geological Association of Canada symposium in Ottawa. By 11,700 BP it had moved eastward, covering parts of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, northwestern Ontario, North Da-

kota, and northwestern Minnesota. At this time it discharged southward into the Mississippi River basin.

Around 10,800 BP, ice retreat in the North Bay area allowed a new eastward drainage channel to form. For the next 800 years glacial meltwater from Lake Agassiz flowed via the upper Great Lakes and the Petawawa and Ottawa Rivers into the Atlantic. Flow switched back south for 500 years, and then returned to the Ottawa (via the Mattawa River) between 9500 and 8500 BP. During its final 300 years, Lake Agassiz flowed into northern Ontario, joined glacial Lake Ojibway, and drained into the Ottawa from the north.

The retreating ice sheet had acted as a dam, preventing drainage of Lake Agassiz into Hudson Bay (which was well below the lake level). When this barrier was finally breached around 8200 BP a massive flood triggered another global cooling period of about 300 years.

Throughout its long history, irregular large floods from Lake Agassiz had transported sediment from western Canada into the Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys. Teller suggested that this contributed significantly to formation of Leda clays deposited in the Champlain Sea basin from Renfrew eastward. He observed that marine fossils dis-

appeared around 10,800 BP when the North Bay outlet opened, freshwater flooded into the Champlain Sea, and its salinity declined precipitously.

How big was the early Ottawa River? In 1983 Teller estimated its maximum flow volume at 200,000 m³/s (compared to 8,000 m³/s today) with an annual average of 50,000 m³/s. In today's terms, the early Ottawa River would be the second largest river in the world. At maximum flow it would rival the Amazon, with its annual average flow around 200,000m³/s.

By 9500 BP the retreat of the Champlain Sea was in full force. Former shoreline areas such as the Petawawa sands were exposed to erosional forces of floods, winds and rain. Terrestrial life appeared. Analyses of plant pollen preserved in bogs indicate that herbs and shrubs first occupied the newly exposed land. Pioneer trees were poplars, with their light, wind-blown seeds; followed by spruces, birch, and eventually pines.

The upper Great Lakes continued to discharge via the Ottawa River for thousands of years after the draining of Lake Agassiz. A 1987 USGS Bulletin, "Geological History of Glacial Lake Algonquin and the Upper Great

Lakes", explains that the land surface at the North Bay-Mattawa River outlet gradually rose ("isostatic rebound") after removal of the weight of the ice sheet. This raised the level of the Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, and Lake Huron basins until they overflowed and carved a new outlet into Lake Erie through the St. Clair River. The North Bay outlet was abandoned between 4000 and 4500 BP.

Flow volumes in the Ottawa River declined irregularly, in stages, throughout this period. Terraces along the river's edge (as at Petawawa Terraces Provincial Park) represent distinct periods of relatively steady flow in which the river eroded the glacial deposits along its banks. The highest terraces are the oldest.

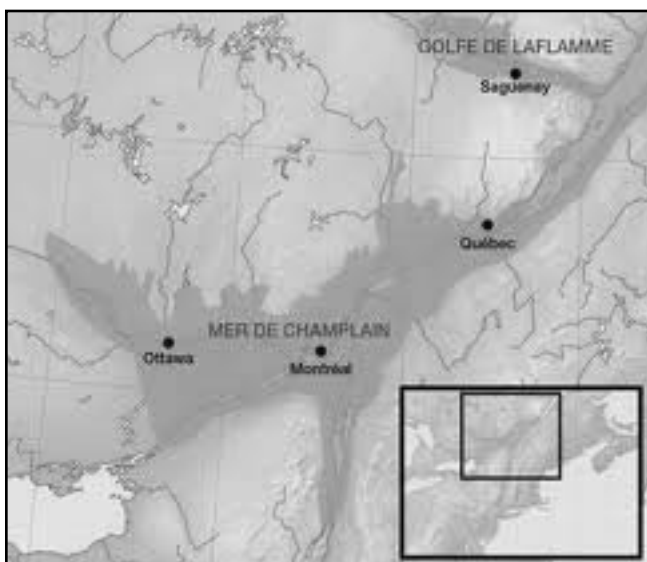
Each spring when the snow melts and rivers run full, we can recall the great retreat of the glaciers from the Ottawa Valley, many thousands of years ago.

Editor's note: Ole Hendrickson is an ecologist and biodiversity science expert. He is president of the Ottawa River Institute (www.ottawariverinstitute.ca), a non-profit organization based in Renfrew County that promotes sustainable communities and ecological integrity in the Ottawa River watershed.

End



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Bittersweet Gallery presents the Allure of AliA: 2nd annual event in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada

Once again Burnstown's Bittersweet Gallery owner Cheryl Babineau is planning to showcase the ever popular designs of Montreal designer Anne Marie Chagnon with a spring trunk show of her latest collection

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* 10 percent of Chagnon sales will go to support the cause.

called AliA. The gallery has represented the artist since its conception in year 2000 and boasts the largest collection of the jeweller's work outside of Quebec. The artist's work is quite remarkable in that every year she designs a completely new and dynamic collection that always evokes her distinctive style. The AliA collection will include some exclusive limited edition designs of Chagnon.

The "Allure of AliA" marks the 2nd event hosted by the gallery in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada and the Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope to help raise awareness of the foundation's goals and objectives.

At last year's event Cheryl created candles made by filling empty eggshells with soy and bees wax. The luminous eggs were so well received that they will again be given as an exclusive gift for those who donate, sponsor or purchase at the event. The egg contributes a befitting symbol of fertility, hope, love and the fragility of life.

Anne Marie Chagnon describes the inspiration for her latest work AliA:

"AliA for alliance, allied, rallied. Alliance of nature and humans. AliA life, a heart; a bud; a drop; the wind that stirs movement. Unifying the essence of man and woman, simple gestures that forge, that trace that sculpts the desire

to feel humanity in the materials. Ornaments that enliven awaken; sometimes defy the lines, like a pathway that conveys us to another perspective. A journey between reality and fantasy. AliA a new world, a contemporary and unexplored land, where recollections burst forth and flirt with the roaring twenties, art deco, and retro-European. Evoking a past that doggedly takes root in the present time. In the living."

Burnstown resident Denyse Campeau, National Director of Development for Ovarian Cancer Canada & National Capital Region Walk of Hope co-chair Lynn Griffiths will be on hand to answer questions and raise awareness of the foundation's goals and objectives. In the spirit of the event ste Funatic chef Gunnar Guckes of Grassy Bay Getaway, Calabogie will create delectable gourmet hors d'oeuvres for the occasion. There will also be a draw to win an exquisite Chagnon piece. The event will also showcase many new works of its stable of artists and will also introduce several exciting new ones.

Ovarian Cancer Canada - some alarming statistics:

Of the 2,600 women diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year in Canada, 70% will not survive five years. With

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Am I the Only One who's Mad as Hell?

By John Roxon

These are wacky times indeed. It's spring and time for some random thoughts about what is wrong-headed and just generally wrong in Canadian society today.

House prices are incredibly high – especially in urban areas, yet the economy is moribund – flat at best.

Our kids are taking university courses, which, for the most part there is no demand for, yet paying rates that have risen far above the inflation rate for the past decade at least.

People were hot (so to speak) on global warming for the past number of years, yet have fallen mysteriously silent over the past year or so.

Oil is still relatively high priced, yet due to technology and advanced drilling techniques, more and more oil is found to the point that some people are now saying that we will never run out! (Atlantic Monthly – May 2013)

Everywhere else, people just aren't sure what to do. Austerity was the big word that would ease the European Union's woes, until they discovered the importance of government spending to stimulate the economy in a downturn. Hell, no one else is spending! The main problem in the EU is that most member states have given up their right to print money. Fools.

In Toronto, the fight over transit and improving transportation systems to end the ever-increasing gridlock is endless. The Ontario government misallocates our funds on gas plants and Ornge, to name just two, yet want to increase taxes for transit.

A Trudeau is once again at the helm of the Liberals. Is there a Stanfield in the ranks for the PCs?

Our Conservative government seems to have lost over 3 billion dollars. No paperwork, nothing. Poof!

Our prison system dates back to the 18th century at least, yet this antiquated means of punishing ne'er-do-wells still persists in the 21st century.

Our health care is old and also sticking to ancient nostrums and beliefs. We stubbornly stick to the Canadian way even though the Canadian way is no longer efficient.

People are seriously considering electric cars, though in the long run, they would be disastrous to our environment.

People expect that news should be free, newspapers counter by installing pay walls. Meanwhile, advertising on media websites is anaemic to non-existent and no new readers exist for the old paper product.

The new democrats finally realize that no one wants to hear the socialist word, at a time when the socialist word may be more relevant than ever.

Ontario Liberals have made a left turn and a right – a zig zag actually. What's ideology when you want to cling to power?

The government of all stripes continue to torture Canadian business by buying from foreign companies even if the price is as little as a nickel in difference.

Ontario continues to torture small business owners and its own wine and beer industry by first decreeing cigarette packaging should be covered up and then by not allowing convenience stores and grocers to sell at least Canadian wines and Canadian micro-brewery products.

OHIP allocates 12 minutes per patient for the GPs in our community. This forces more and more people into much more expensive and time-wasting emergency rooms. It also means less compassionate care.

Party politics is still alive and very well and it's still (unbelievably) possible to be a politician as a life-long career (Hello, Bob Rae and numerous others). Shouldn't these terms all have a limit on them?

An Oligarchy exists in Canada's cell phone market. We still pay amongst the highest rates in the world. The CRTC's silence on this is telling. You could go to sub-Saharan Africa and find much cheaper rates than here – or the U.S, or Europe, or China, or Scandinavia, or... The Leafs are (were?) in the playoffs. Our life has become digitised, yet hackers have proven that they can break into and virtually wipe practically any network. The scary thing is, we don't even need a frustrated techie geek sitting in his basement to do the hacking. It could be something as innocuous as a tweet. Witness what happened to the markets recently over a tweet about an attack at the White House. Scary indeed, those are our retirement funds!

Interest rates have been low for quite a while now and will remain so for the foreseeable future. The low interest rates make it very hard to realize any growth in such traditional products as bonds, GICs and interest accounts. This amounts to our cash slowly losing its value. Combine this with such

fed moves as getting rid of the penny and you have the most insidious form of inflation – the slow erosion of capital. One that isn't measured per se yet wreaks havoc on all our long term savings.

Finally, one of the wackiest things is the whole notion of infrastructure spending that the government is trying to hoist on us. The transit imbroglio in Toronto is one aspect, but this affects roads, bridges and waterworks everywhere. Take Joe Average. He slogs to work each day on public roads and transit. He goes to work in order to put food on the table (which helps corporations) and to pay the government in the form of taxes. Yet the main beneficiaries of improved infrastructure – corporations – aren't asked to pay one plugged nickel. Of course the government can't be expected to allocate the funds they get from us more intelligently. So the entire onus is on poor Joe who finds his pay check getting smaller and smaller. Meanwhile, it's reported that corporations are sitting on trillions of dollars – unsure where to invest them in this flat lined economy. Couldn't something be worked out, such as a bond issue or a special corporate fee based on the number of employees they have

that use public roads to get to work? Naysayers will state that if you raise corporate rates or taxes, that the corporation will bail and head to cheaper lands and regions. This is short-sighted thinking. How good can it possibly be for business when gridlock and crumbling infrastructure makes it more and more difficult and stressful to get to work? There has to be new thinking in this regard.

It's time that everyone one of you reading this get mad as hell (to paraphrase Peter Finch's great character in "Network") and ask your local MPs and MPPs the tough questions. The government has to become more accountable and for that to ever happen, we have to redefine exactly what we want from our government—Big brother or a responsible administrator?

In future columns, I will examine some of these wacky notions in more detail and look into some ways in which to improve an outdated system.

End

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Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.
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Wes Bomhower:

April 26, 1929 - April 17, 2013

As many of you may know, after a very long fight with cancer, Wes Bomhower passed away on April 17. In a few days he would have been 84. A memorial service will be held June 15, 2013 at Calabogie United Church at 1 p.m. (1044 Madawaska in Calabogie).

Wes was a loyal contributor to the Madawaska Highlander from almost the very beginning. His first of many episodes in the 'Down on the First Concession' series was entitled "The Day I Made Five Dollars", which was published in March 2004. This was a mere two months after the Highlander was first in print. I remember the first "First Concession" that I received by mail from Wes. It was a thick envelope containing pages of text that were obviously created on a typewriter. The pages sported whiteout corrections or typewriter strikeouts, which made the pages difficult to recreate to a computer readable format using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software, but the stories were very good. They transported the reader back to an earlier time. Many of the stories also provided a window into Wes' youth since they were based on actual events. In all Wes wrote 42 'First Concession' stories.

He also wrote feature history articles on Calabogie, Tom Sharbot, Ashdad

and Barnet Cottage. When not writing stories he would also write and perform poetry and songs.

In 2010 the cancer was taking a grip on him and he didn't feel that he could maintain his house in Calabogie so he moved to Ottawa to be closer to his 'lady friend' Theresa and to the hospitals where he was getting treatments.

When the Highlander was resurrected in 2012, Wes was writing once again despite his illness, but this time he had moved from the typewriter to the computer. Actually it was to Theresa's computer. At this time he began a whole new series of articles entitled 'Up the Line'. These stories as you know described his work as a younger man working for Hydro One bringing electricity to far-flung parts of Ontario.

Wes was writing up to the very end. At one point he had to leave one hospice because he just wouldn't die. I like to think that the need to complete his stories kept him with us a little longer. While Wes may have left the planet, he has not left the Highlander. We will be publishing the remainder of his stories well into 2014.

We will all miss him.

Some details about the Highlands Observatory are revealed

By Bill Graham, Editor

A public meeting in Griffith on April 29 was intended to reveal more of the details about the Madawaska Highlands Observatory and to seek local feedback about the project. We did learn more and there certainly was feedback; not all of which was positive.

The presentation was led by Frank Roy, who is the project's visionary and CEO. Helping him was his business partner and CFO Greg Bell.

The proposed observatory will be located in Matawatchan Township close to the Village of Griffith and Highway 41. It is in one of the darkest areas of Ontario that has highway access to major population centres such as Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. The location on the west side of the Matawatchan Road is on what is currently Crown Land. It

will be set on a hill at an elevation of 450 metres looking down on the Madawaska River Valley.

What is promised is a world-class observatory, which upon completion will include a hotel with a 4 1/2 star restaurant and many amenities, an HD theatre, an outdoor amphitheatre, a visitor's centre and, of course, a variety of state-of-the-art telescopes. Some of the most powerful telescopes; a wide-field telescope and a one-metre f7 RC Nasmyth telescope will be used primarily for scientific purposes. Many other smaller (30 inch) telescopes will be available to visitors to the observatory.

What is also promised are local jobs, most of which are direct jobs; not spin-off jobs. If the project is realized this would be a huge benefit to the local economy and might even keep young families in the area. Combined with the jobs and the stimulus to local business is the prestige factor. As a world-class facility, it will be as big as or bigger than the Peaks or the Track in Calabo-

Looking back...



Last log drive on the Madawaska River circa 1930 Source: Garnet Wilkes

FUNDRAISING CONTINUES FOR SENIORS HOUSING

The Greater Madawaska Seniors Housing Corporation is still active and has had a winter of fundraising activities! After participating in the Festival of the Senses in October a group of volunteers sold at Christmas fairs in Matawatchan and Griffith in November and December. April brought us to Renfrew for a major flea market event at the Wing. The highlight of our activities was the Valentines dinner & dance held in Griffith in February.

The event sold out! The 50/50 draw and the silent auction sold out! The music of the Douglas Connection was great for dancing to old time tunes although the brave ones who participated in the square dancing do need a bit of practice!!!

We are now selling raffle tickets for a beautiful quilt generously donated by Val Barnes, Jackie Jenks and Lois Robbins. The tickets will be drawn on June 29th at 12:00 noon at the Matawatchan Hall.

Despite these rosy expectations not everyone is happy about the project. A minority of those attending the public meeting voiced concerns. One critic suggested that the expectations of the promoters were unrealistic. Others were worried about the impact that 80,000 annual visitors would have on the beleaguered Matawatchan Road and Highway 41. Still others were apprehensive about their traditional hunting areas and the effect of development

The biggest fundraising activity will be the opening of a second hand store in the old Township offices in Griffith. The store will open on May the 18th with a grand opening on June 1! The regular hours will be Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. On Tuesdays there will also be sessions of hands on crafts from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. We accept donations of good used items and clothes. Unfortunately we have no space for large furniture.

We would like to thank Carol Anne Kelly for leading this project and her group of volunteers for the work done to date as well as thank the Township for the use of the building.

Although the fund raising events are successful they are not making enough money to build housing. We are seeking generous donations, pledges and bequeaths from organizations, businesses and individuals. Tax receipts are available for donations over \$100.00. For information or to offer your pledges and donations please call Pat Holle- ran at (613)333-1229 or Bill Griffith at (613) 752-2201

continued on next page

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order

Observatory (Cont)

on the land. Most attending, however, seemed interested in hearing about the project and reserved their judgment. Most questions about the costs were deferred to an investors meeting at the Lion's Hall in Griffith on May 27 at 7 p.m. This will be an information meeting for accredited investors and not a public meeting. What we did learn was that the facility would cost between 15 and 20 million dollars; that there would

be some third party investment to build the hotel and that when established the facility would break even with 25,000 visitors per year. Development is always a tricky road to travel. On the one hand there will local jobs, more business taxes collected and hopefully increased local prosperity. On the other hand—things will never be the same as they are now.

End

Pickled Chicken String Band

Available to provide live music for festive occasions.

Contact Mike at 333-1449 or Pete at 318-8308



Mike Malcolm,
Joe Grant,
Pete Chess
& Mark Rowe
(Emmy-Sue Fraser absent)

Madawaska Highlander Voluntary Subscriptions

Many thanks go out to those who helped keep our local publication in print last year. As our production and distribution costs continue to rise we do look to our public for support. We have a small loyal group of advertisers that we depend on and are very thankful for their support.

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Addington Highlands News

By Christi Laundrie

Hello to all of you good folks who read our news. Yours truly hopes you have had a great Holiday season and have weathered the terribly icy winter. Once again, accolades for the Road Crews, who do such a great job maintaining our roads. Spring is here now with new promise, trees are budding and crocuses and daffodils are blooming.

Denbigh welcomes a new entrepreneur at 31 Central St. (old public school building), where the Lakelands Health Centre is also located. Joan McLeod has opened a French style coffee shop, the Blue Bench Bakery and Café, in one of the old classrooms. The blackboards, on which she lists her menus, add a nostalgic charm to the delightfully decorated tables and the eclectic collection of dishes, pictures, flowers, etc. A wonderfully relaxing atmosphere to enjoy a cup of coffee, tea, and/or sample one of her bakery delights. The Blue Bench also has soup, sandwiches, homemade bread, all served with a wide smile and down home hospitality. Doesn't get much better than that. Blue Bench will hold its Grand Opening on May 25th, 2013, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm with entertainment, and free bakery samples

Blue Bench is hosting a photo contest, with first, second and third place winners. All picture chasers and photo bugs are invited to bring in up to 2 framed photographs, no larger than 8½" x 11", depicting a spring theme to be displayed in the Café. Winners will be announced at the grand opening. With permission of the entrants, the pictures will be auctioned off and the proceeds donated to the Denbigh Food bank. So come one and all, dust off your cameras, and get shooting.

Sleuths of all ages attempted to discover the identity of a killer on the loose at the Denbigh Mardi Gras Murder Mystery Dinner at the Hall April 20. A fun filled evening with lots of laughs, and surprises popping up everywhere, and more suspects as the evening pro-

gressed. A hilarious whodunit, and hats off to all the actors for their outstanding performances. Yours truly really enjoyed the roast beef dinner, meat so tender, it melted in your mouth, along with all the fixings, and I was told, delicious dessert. (Yours truly doesn't eat sweets). First prize for best costume went to Bev Tucker. Thank you to Alice Madigan for a organizing a wonderful evening. Griswold and yours truly look forward to the next one.

Denbigh Recreation wishes to announce the continuation of Music in the Hall, this month combined with the first Annual Spring Fling Tea at the Denbigh Community Centre on Sunday May 12, at 1 pm. Bring your mom, girlfriend, friend, neighbour or anyone else you can. Contact Paul 333-2776, Mike or Ruby 333-1449, and for the tea call Gail 333-2224.

Kaffee Klatsch is still on every Friday morning at Stop 41, where Dave and Bev serve great coffee. Old friends meet there to chat and socialize. And Stop 41 still has the best Western Sandwich in Ontario.

'Tops' meets every Tuesday morning in the basement of the Community Centre, with coffee afterwards at the Blue Bench.

Events like the ones posted above are what make Denbigh such a great place to live, folks, and yours truly is happy to be among all of you.

Denbigh regrets the passing of two of our citizens. June Pringle misses her husband Frank Senior, and the Youmans family are mourning Dennis. May our thoughts and prayers sustain them at this time of sadness.

If anyone has news or items of interest they wish for me to put in the paper, please call me at 333-2376. If I am not in, it takes 9 rings for the answering machine, then leave me a message.

Yours truly, Christi Laundrie N.E.W.S (what you need to know from North, East, West and South)



The Blue Bench interior

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Behind the tunes

By Pete Chess

Bluegrass

The music we call "bluegrass" today is a distinct sub genre of what is commonly referred to as "country" music. Its origins date back to the 18th century immigrants that settled the Appalachian region of what is now the United States of America and brought with them the musical traditions of their homelands. These early settlers were primarily English, Scots and Irish. The English and Scots carried a strong tradition of balladeering, which were essentially unaccompanied narratives that were created to depict the everyday lives of the common folk. They would be laments of lost love, interpersonal tensions in families or communities, unwanted changes that would have made a difficult life even more so or any of the myriad hardships and challenges facing them on this new frontier. The Irish also carried their ballads with them as well as the traditional dance music of reels and jigs accompanied for the most part by a fiddle. This music was played at celebratory events, for the most part, such as weddings, births, harvest time etc., providing an opportunity for folks to dance the traditional forms of stepdance, which became known as buckdancing, flatfooting, or clogging.

Over the course of time, the narratives became wedded to the uptempo dance music of the fiddle and a unique Appalachian style, sometimes known as "old time" music evolved. What really began to set this music apart from other "country" music was the combination of instruments and the vocal harmony structure.. Unlike mainstream country music, this then called "hillbilly" music, traditionally used acoustic stringed instruments. They were the mandolin, guitar, fiddle, upright or string bass, banjo and sometimes a resonator guitar, known as a dobro. Harmonica would also be used occasionally. This instrumentation originated in the early rural dance bands and is the basis on which the earliest "bluegrass" bands were formed. The banjo, unlike the other instruments, was not imported to America by Europeans but by black slaves from Africa. As white people became introduced to the bluesy sound of the banjo they began to adopt it and created their own styles to use with their newly evolving country music. The new styles of picking the banjo influenced the direction of country music, eventually becoming a cornerstone of "traditional" bluegrass bands worldwide.

The guitar is now most commonly played with a style known as "flatpick-

continued on page 11

Community Calendar

CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

GRIFFITH AND MATAWATCHAN

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

Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.

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

DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

Vennachar Free Methodist Church
424 Matawatchan Road 613-333-2318
Sunday Worship 10am
Sunday worship will return to 11 a.m. starting on Sunday, September 9th.

St. Luke's United Church
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

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

The New Apostolic Church
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays 8:00 p.m.

Burnstown

St. Andrew's United Church
Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

CALABOGIE

The Calabogie Bible Fellowship Congregational Church
The Mill Street Chapel at 538 Mill St.,
Regular service – Sundays 10:30 a.m.
Information: 613-752-2201

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church
504 Mill St., Rev. Father Pat Blake
Sundays 10:30 a.m.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
Mount St. Patrick
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Calabogie St. Andrews United Church
1044 Madawaska Dr. (on the waterfront)
Church Services Sunday Mornings at 8:45 a.m. Communion
1st Sunday of every month.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Calabogie

Pre-school Program: Storytime is held every Thursday from 10am to 11am at the Library. It is aimed at children from 0-6.

Calabogie Seniors' Dinner & Meeting, last Thursday of each month, 5 pm Community Hall. from Oct. to April. Barnet Park from May to Sept. All seniors 55+ welcome. 752-2853

Calabogie Women's Institute meets usually second Thursday monthly, 7:30 pm. at CalabogieHome Support Office next to Pinky's Bar & Grill at 5056 Calabogie Rd.; April meeting is 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm including pizza dinner. New members welcome. 613-752-2598

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

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

The Calabogie and Area Ministerial Food Bank
538 Mill Street,
2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month 9:00 am to 10:00 a.m.
For emergency situations, please call 752-2201

Griffith & Matawatchan

Matawatchan Market Plant Sale
Saturday May 18 – 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Matawatchan Hall
Bedding plants, preserves, baking
Lunch will be served

Ham & Scalloped Potato Supper at St. Andrew's United Church
Saturday May 18 – 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Annual Matawatchan Hall Spring Clean-up
Thursday May 16 – 10 a.m. to noon
Bring your yard cleaning tools

Anniversary Service at Matawatchan Community Cemetery
June 23rd at 3:00 p.m.

Matawatchan Picnic Organization Meeting
May 21 at 7 p.m. at Matawatchan Hall
Everyone is welcome

Denbigh – Griffith Lion's Club Bingo Monster Bingo Dec. 11 @ 7:30 pm

The Pickled Chicken String Band
Every Monday from 5 pm to 7 pm
At the Pine Valley in Griffith

Bert's Music Jam
Every Thursdays 5 to 7:30 p.m.
Pine Valley Restaurant

Fellowship Lunch at noon
Denbigh – Griffith Lion's Club
Every third Wednesday of each month

Northern Lights Seniors
Meet the third Wednesday of each month
Follows luncheon at 1:00 p.m.
General Wellness assessment by local Paramedics available at each lunch.
Diabetes Outreach Program every 3 months

Contact Lois Robbins at 333-1082.
All Seniors Welcome **Euchre** -first & third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Lions Hall. Jan.– June

Denbigh

Music in the Park
Every second Sunday 1 to 3 pm
at the Denbigh Heritage Park

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

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

HEALTH CARE

continued on page 11

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Madawaska Highlands Observatory Investor Information Session

Monday, May 27th

RSVP only



Thank you to all of you who took the time to come out to our public information session on April 29. We appreciate your strong show of support for the Madawaska Highlands Observatory project – the most innovative and significant venture in the region!

Accredited investors* are welcome to join us on **May 27th at 7PM** to learn more about this extremely unique investment opportunity. MHO is built on strong business fundamentals that will have a pivotal and generational impact on the region in terms of job creation and economic prosperity. This information session is designed for individuals who may want to take a stake in the company. Our April 29th presentation was designed to give a general perspective on the project and its potential impact and benefits to the region.

The state-of-the-art facility, its world-class offering and its mission are deeply educational, with K12** and tourism as its mainstays. It is designed to harmoniously fit in with the natural beauty and environment of the Madawaska Highlands and is located in this region due to its incredibly dark night skies, the most southerly place in Canada where this is possible.

The project has broad based community support across township and county lines with multiple endorsements.

Monday, May 27th, 7pm
Lions Club Hall in Griffith
25991 Hwy 41

Please contact us for reservations: mho@madawaskahighlandsobservatory.com
www.madawaskahighlandsobservatory.com

* To find out if you qualify as an accredited investor, please see the definition at the Ontario Securities Commission web site <http://www.osc.gov.on.ca/en/21943.htm>
** K12 is shorthand for elementary to grade 12 school education

The Healing Tree

By Robbie Anderman

WILD PLUM (Prunus Nigra, Prunus Americana)

The two Northern native plums bear names telling of their home turf. Canada Plum (Prunus Nigra) has the more northerly range and blacker bark, while the American plum (Prunus americana) has a range going much further south into the United states.

Both are small trees 20 to 30 feet tall, up to 10 inches in diameter, that often spread into a thicket by root sprouts and that have pronounced thorns, very snowy, fragrant flowers and an edible fruit with astringent skin.

The inner bark of these wild plums has been made into a decoction effective as a mouth- sore gargle and as a disinfectant wash.

The bark of the root can also be used to cure mouth canker sores. Scraped and mashed, fresh or dried and made into a decoction, the root bark has been used to heal “broken breast(?)”. It has also been mixed with wild cherry root bark and brewed into a decoction that’s good for driving intestinal worms.

At home we enjoy the Canada plums for their nearly intoxicating fragrance in spring and their bi-annual harvest of fruit. I often cut them in half, extract the pit, and chew the pulp off the astringent skin. We usually try to dry some, cut in half for winter and for a snack on summer camping trips.

Both wild plums have naturally spawned multiple varieties with varying sizes and qualities of fruit, usually suitable for jams, pies and so on. They can also be used as “root stock” for grafting on store- type varieties with better tasting fruits.

End

Bluegrass (Cont)

ing”, unlike the style of seminal bluegrass guitarist, Lester Flatt, who used a thumb and finger pick. Banjo players often use the finger picking style made popular by Earl Scruggs. (more on these two giants of bluegrass in a later article). The distinguishing vocal feature of bluegrass is the harmony, calling for two, three or four parts, in a style described, very aptly, as the “high and lonesome sound”. The ordering and layering of these harmonies is called “stacking”. A standard stack has a baritone at the bottom, the lead vocal in the middle singing the melody, and a tenor on the top. These of course can be altered to accommodate various vocal ranges of the singers. For instance, a female vocalist or a true bass singer singing the lead and the others finding a comfortable space to stack their harmonies. There are infinite variations but all these variants are simply following a pattern existing from the early days of the genre. With the advent of radio and amplification there developed a tradition of the entire band crowding around one microphone and stepping up to deliver an instrumental break then stepping back and allowing the next musician to step up and be heard. The same could happen with the vocals when all would step a bit closer for the harmonies. This was a difference from traditional country music where the lead parts were normally played by only one instrument throughout the course of the song.

As the bluegrass sound spread to urban areas, listening to it for its own sake increased, especially after the advent of audio recording. People would only hear it played live at a dance or other social gatherings prior to this time. In 1948 what would come

to be known as bluegrass emerged as a genre within the post war country/ western music industry, a time now seen as the golden era of “traditional bluegrass”. From its earliest days, bluegrass had been recorded and performed by both amateurs and professionals alike, but it was the touring professionals who set the direction of the style and raised the bar on virtuosity.

Originally categorized by the music industry as “folk music”, later changed to “hillbilly music” and then placed under the “country and western” heading for radio air play, it wasn’t until the 1960’s that the music was rediscovered by a new generation of “folkies”. The originators and most popular band at the time were Bill Munroe and his “Blue Grass Boys”, so named after Bill’s home state of Kentucky. This new wave of fans were responsible for hanging the “Bluegrass” handle to the music in honor of this seminal group of musicians and the legendary Bill Monroe was hence known as “The Father of Bluegrass”

Author’s note....In subsequent articles I will delve into the early history of Bill Munroe and his cast of stellar musicians that created this musical phenomenon that is heard around the world to this day...still vibrant, still evolving and resonating with the spirit of the people.

Calendar (Cont) End

FOOTCARE CLINICS
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Bogie Beat

By Skippy Hale

On April 23, 2013, 13 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation at Most Precious Blood Roman Catholic Church in Calabogie. Gayle Blenkhorn and I joyfully prepared them for this special event during five sessions at the church. Through discussions, they learned about the symbols of Baptism that signified their initiation as Christians. Confirmation is also a Sacrament of Initiation. On Sundays during their preparation, they carried these symbols in the Entrance Procession: A jug of water and bowl; cruet of oil to represent the Oil of Chrism used at their Baptism and to be used at Confirmation; Clothing to represent the garment worn at Baptism; their Baptismal candle representing the Light of Christ. There will be one more session when they will discuss how they can reflect their new role as Christians by volunteering in many ways.

Contact me with local news and events: (613) 752-9944 or bogiebeat@gmail.com



Names in picture Left to right

Front row: Jenna Gorra, Bianca Brydges, Cambren Tymchuk, Sydney Smith, Rachel Powell, Jessica Stafford. Middle row: Cody Macken, Braeden Macken, Lucas Moran Top Row: Jordan Gorra, Brett Clouthier, Father Pat Blake, Bishop Michael Mulhall, Zack Moran, Bailey Smith
Photo by Tricia Stafford

All out War at the Black Donald Dance Hall

By Howard Popkie,

After the dance was over every man in town had their share to drink and it was time to settle old grudges.

I was a school boy and watched at a distance.

Two men were fighting among the cars with my brother Reuben. My cousin Lloyd Skriptchuik came to the rescue with his guitar on his back held by a strap across his chest.

He grabbed a handful of shirt worn by one of the men that was on Reuben and held him over the hood of the car.

Lloyd raised his fist high over his head and with the word "bastard", hit the man had enough to put him out of the fight.

Reuben and the other man were in the middle of the road and Reuben hit him so hard that he was out cold lying on his back knocked right out of his two shoes.

My Dad asked one of the men he knew, "Did you get a swat at anyone?" Verdean Wagner said to his brother Art, "You hit me out there in the dark and I have a good mind to give you yours right now.

The man that Reuben hit was still out cold on the road and my Grandfather John Stubinski went down to Wilson's Store to use his phone to call the police in Renfrew.

Grandpa shouted as loud as he could over the phone because he thought he had to shout all the way to Renfrew over the phone.

End

The Healing Tree

By Robbie Anderman

APPLE (Malus)

Many, many are the hours I've enjoyed climbing apple trees, pruning their orange brown limbs, picking their fruit, appreciating the strength of their branches, and admiring their wondrous mix of beauty and tenacity for life. While pruning in the early spring, I nibble the sweetish bark off small pruned twigs in such quantities that I occasionally forget about being hungry for lunch.

I'm not at all surprised that my favourite bark is considered a tonic. It is also said to promote free perspiration (keeps me warm on chilly days), to help break fevers, and to be a diuretic and a laxative.

Apple bark has also been found useful for gravel in the bladder, for dysentery, suppressed menstruation, nausea, insect stings, mad dog bites, toothache and more.

Pectin, found abundantly in crab apples, is used popularly to set fruit in jams and jellies. It is probably the pec-

tin that helps in cases of diarrhea, as in these two recipes: 1. Pulp the fruit scald with hot (not boiling) water, take in 1/2 cup doses 3 times daily, lightly sweetened with honey. 2. Steep summer apple parings in boiled milk and drink 1/2 cupful warm every hour until relieved.

The crab apple is also considered to be a tonic and cleansing to the system and to be anti-scabies. Its strained sweetened juice makes a fine jelly on its tag own.

A French doctor found that the bacillus of typhoid fever cannot live long in apple juice, and therefore recommends that doubtful drinking water be mixed with cider.

People who smoke their meats and fish recommend apple wood as a smoke wood. Commonly, one inch branches are chipped and the pieces and powder are placed on the coals so their aroma adds its flavour to the food.

The Seneca and Meskwaki people have even found medicinal uses for the root bark of the wild apple tree. These were as remedies for tuberculosis, malaria and smallpox and as a tonic. End

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Griffith Matawatchan News

By Garry Ferguson

I was surprised to learn that there's going to be another gathering place for GM'ers. A new *Nu 2 U Shop* opens May 18 in the old township office building near the hall in Griffith. A wide variety of good, like-new, gently-used treasures will be available to thrifty shoppers at bargain-basement prices. Regular business hours will be from 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays. A "Grand Opening" will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on June 1 with "Light Refreshments." The lunch alone should attract us locals like flies to you-know-what. The posters also invite anyone to join the staff for hands-on (sorry, no feet) crafts from 1 to 2 p.m.

The store is the brainchild of those hard-working (for nearly five years) members of Greater Madawaska Seniors Housing Corporation who have not yet had any government largess bestowed upon them, so have had to be creative in order just to raise operating funds. All proceeds will go to the Corporation, so be generous. Let the folks behind the counter know that you appreciate their efforts just in case you too – with a little bit of luck – might someday become a senior.

Donations of good, used (as in gently-used) items are needed. For drop-off times contact Carol Anne Kelly at 613 333 5570 or Pat Holleran at 613 333 1229.

For the past three summers, the original Matawatchan Picnic, sponsored by St. Andrew's United Church, has been downsized to a mini laid-back version held on the grounds of St. Andrew's. Thanks to the enthusiasm of folks serving on the committee for a Ma-

tawatchan Cultural Centre, it could be restored this year, on June 29, 2113, to its former Canada-Day glory and returned to the environs of the Matawatchan Hall. Local organizations will be notified asking them to kick in with ideas and/or assistance. If you are an individual who wishes to be part of what sounds like an exciting project, just pick up the phone and dial 613 333 1352. If you've dialed correctly, you'll be talking to Juliette LeGal and within minutes be caught up in her enthusiasm. If you're a computer geek who thinks telephones are passé, try juniperhillsfarm@gmail.com.

I didn't understand why anyone would place high powered telescopes up on a hill where there was nary a window into which to peek; so I went to the well-attended, Observatory Information meeting on Monday evening, April 29, in the Griffith Hall. Turns out they just want to look at the stars. Two of the lads from the Madawaska Highlands Observatory Project made a presentation designed to inform the local population of their plans for the project to be located near Griffith.

Another meeting, planned for 7 p.m. at the hall on May 27, 2013, is billed as an Investor Information Session – RSVP only. I'm pretty sure I'll never get the opportunity to RSVP, so I guess that \$10 held back from the grocery money will have to, instead, be invested in munchies for the Stanley Cup playoffs.

The annual Matawatchan Hall Pancake Brunch, held for the first time on a Saturday, was a success in that all costs were covered and all who attended enjoyed a great ol' feed. By chance, the timing coincided with a more solemn event, a funeral, in the

community so the turnout was low in comparison to other years. Thanks to Daryl Thomson, Joe MacPherson and Bernard & Susan Nobleair for providing the syrup. As mentioned above, the Hall grounds will be the venue for the resurgence of the Matawatchan Picnic but rumours are that the new version will not feature Matawatchan boiled beef stew. Without the Sweet Cap roll-your-own ashes, chewing tobacco juice and the odd splash of cheap Four Aces porch-climber spilled into the mixture, it would be difficult to duplicate the stews of our childhood memories anyway. Monitor www.matawatchan.ca for details.

Bill Graham would like folks to know that a cleanup of the Hall grounds is scheduled for May 16, 10 a.m. The board needs all the help they can get so grab some gardening tools and come on out. Just to fill in time between his other community oriented tasks, (he lost count several years ago) Bill has also taken over the role of contact person for anyone wanting to rent the Hall or Hall grounds. He can be contacted at 613 333 1694 or billgraham@xplornet.ca.

Though the regular Market season at the Hall begins on June 29, a preseason Spring Has Sprung Plant Sale will take

continued on page 17

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A LITERARY TREATMENT OF EXCESS REGULATION

By Roma Standefer

Starting in 1997 with the election of the Labour Government led by Tony Blair, the British appear to have been inundated with a plethora of new government regulations touching almost every aspect of their lives. This has included regulations relating to the provision of basic services by grocery stores, gas stations, post offices, and pubs, as well as in other areas such as child care, education, health, recycling and garbage collection, smoking, littering, and even the popular leisure pursuit of the upper classes, fox hunting.

This spate of laws and regulations in Great Britain has been well documented in three recent books, "How to Label a Goat" (2006) by Ross Clark, "Whose Side Are They On?" (2009) by Allan Pearce, and "Bad Laws" (2010) by Philip Johnston. These are rather scary books to read, and describe a society more like the one in Orwell's "1984" than the relaxed and comfortable country I lived in for three years in the late 60s when I was working on my doctorate at Oxford. The authors of these books describe the "silly rules and regulations that are strangling Britain," refer to current legislation and regulations as "petty rules, health and safety lunacies, and madcap laws," and

state that "big brother government is ruining Britain."

One writer, Jeff Randell, in a review of Johnston's "Bad Laws," stated bluntly that ever since 1997 (at that time, a period of 13 years), "...a war has been waged on British liberties, traditions and even religious conviction." He considers Johnston to have set out, "with wit and style, the full horror of what has occurred."

Given the scale of this massive change in British life, it would be surprising if it were not reflected in contemporary literature, given the extent to which writers tend to write about what is going on in their own lives and the societies in which they live. While I don't read as much English literature as I used to and have probably missed some significant literary descriptions of the impact of recent regulations on fictional characters and places, I do regularly read British mysteries. A particularly favorite series is one by M.C. Beaton that features Agatha Raisin, a delightfully quirky middle-aged sleuth who retires from a London career in public relations to go and live in the small Cotswold village of Carsely. Agatha is too energetic to stay retired, however, even though she could easily afford not

to work. At an early point in the series, which is so popular it now numbers 23 books, Agatha decides to open her own detective agency.

Agatha loves her small village, her friends, and her life in Carsely. Therefore, anything that threatens change to that way of life, or that upsets her Carsely friends and neighbours, is also profoundly upsetting to her. Into this serene country setting enters a health and safety inspector in Beaton's "Busy Body" (2010). This inspector becomes a serious threat to the economy, traditional values, and cultural practices of Agatha's beloved Carsely.

In the early pages of "Busy Body," (a term which refers, of course, to the health and safety inspector), Agatha returns to Carsely from a trip abroad, on a night shortly before Christmas. She notices right away that the lighted Christmas tree that had always been placed on top of the church tower is not there. Then she notices that there is no Christmas tree in the village green either. Next, worst of all, she sees that there are no cheery Christmas lights strung across the main street, the way they usually were at this time of year. It doesn't take long for Agatha to find out that there was "only one man behind the darkness." This was John Sunday, "an officer with the Health and Safety Board," based in the local Mircester office.

When the church vicar and his two helpers were raising the Christmas tree on top of the church tower, they were told to stop by Sunday who declared that the tree "was a danger to the public" because it "could fall off the tower" and might "kill someone." The vicar and his helpers told the man to go away and put the tree up anyway. That, regrettably, was not the end of the matter, however, because two days later a letter to the Vicar arrived from the Health and Safety Board stating that if the tree wasn't taken down, he would be charged and forced to go to court.

The village's council was also informed that they could not use ladders to put up strings of lights on the main street. This could only be done with a cherry picker operated by two trained workers, (whose training would cost 1200 pounds). Wages for the workers would also have to be paid and the village would have to pay rent for the cherry picker. In addition, the fitting for every light had to go through a special "pull test" requiring more expensive equipment, to see if it was strong enough to be used. As these costs were prohibitive for a small village that had relied on unpaid volunteers to put up their Christmas lights, no lights appeared that December.

Sunday also informed the outraged Vicar that he was going to put red tape around the gravestones in the church

continued on page 23



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Silent Spring Revisited

By Ole Hendrickson

Imagine a world in which the most widely used agricultural pesticides indiscriminately killed nearly all insects, including butterflies, beetles and moths.

Suppose that these pesticides were highly soluble in water and readily migrated into soil, where they killed decomposer organisms that maintain soil fertility, such as springtails and earthworms.

Further suppose that these pesticides persisted in the environment and contaminated streams and lakes, killing larvae of mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies and other key components of the aquatic food chain.

And further suppose that populations of birds, bats, salamanders, frogs, fish, and other animals that feed on insects were crashing in catastrophic fashion.

These are facts. This is the world we live in today.

The pesticides in question are called neonicotinoids. They interfere with nerve impulse transmission in insects and other animals, leading to strong muscle contractions, neuromuscular destruction and death.

These powerful nerve poisons, chemically related to the nicotine found in tobacco, have relatively low direct toxicity to humans and other vertebrate animals.

The German chemical giant Bayer introduced neonicotinoids in the mid-1990s to replace pesticides that are more toxic to vertebrates. Their mode of action is unique. They are systemic pesticides. After being used to coat a plant seed, neonicotinoids spread throughout the plant as it grows. All plant components – leaves, flowers, pollen, nectar, etc. – become toxic.

Neonicotinoids are used on corn, wheat, canola, soybeans, barley, and over 40 fruits and vegetables (tomatoes, broccoli, lettuce, eggplant, potatoes, strawberries, raspberries, apples, etc.). They are used on trees, lawns, and ornamental gardens. They are used as seed coatings, sprayed on foliage, and injected into furrows in the soil.

Although neonicotinoids are not fat soluble and do not “bio-magnify” in the food chain, they are persistent. They remain attached to nerve cells for prolonged periods. They accumulate in soil and water. Concerns are mounting that neonicotinoids have turned vast portions of North America and Europe into dead zones for insects and for the birds, bats, frogs, etc. that feed on them.

Neonicotinoids also kill beneficial insect predators that keep pests under control.

Spraying elms in Central Park, New York triggered a major spider mite outbreak. It killed all the insects that fed on the mites, but not the mites themselves.

Evidence is strong that neonicotinoids are a leading cause of colony collapse disorder in honeybees. Native bees are also affected. One of Canada’s formerly most abundant bumblebees is now endangered. Neonicotinoids threaten the roughly one third of our food supply that comes from insect pollinated crops. Crops with insect-free leaves are worthless if flowers that would become fruits and vegetables are left unpollinated.

Bayer’s profits from neonicotinoids exceeded \$1 billion in 2010. It has supported dozens of studies trying to show their safety. The U.S. EPA recently recognized that some of these studies were badly designed and called for additional research. Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency followed suit.

University of Guelph researchers conducted one of the flawed studies. They put beehives in canola fields planted with neonicotinoid coated seeds, and in fields planted with uncoated seeds. But the fields were too close together, and bees in the “control” fields were foraging in the treated fields.

The European Food Safety Agency issued a report earlier this year confirming the risks of neonicotinoid pesticides to bees. On February 25, 2013 the European Parliament voted on a 2-year ban on use of the three major neonicotinoid pesticides - clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid on crops attractive to bees, including sunflower, canola and corn. The ban would also prohibit sale and use of seeds coated with the three pesticides.

In North America, the neonicotinoid debate is playing out behind the scenes in regulatory agencies, with limited public awareness of this issue. As government officials wait for results of more studies, spraying continues, and populations of birds, bees, frogs, fish, and other animals continue to decline.

Ole Hendrickson is a forest ecologist and current president of the Ottawa River Institute a non-profit charitable organization based in the Ottawa Valley.

End

*A man who carries a
cat by the tail learns
something he can
learn in no other way.*

Mark Twain

Rural Vignettes

By Antonia Chatson

My Remarkable Mother

I was constantly amazed at the things my mother knew and what she could do. It was she who knew how to light the fire and keep it going. It was she who drove Uriah around the fields with the trailer on behind with both of us picking up windfalls and left-overs from old rail fences. We would bring this back and pile it on the wood pile behind the house. My father was an axe man but my mother preferred sawing the wood into stove lengths, so my father made her a beautiful saw horse to use. I myself preferred the axe like my father. It was my mother who knew what lamps to purchase at the auction sales we went to, how to fill them - not quite full - to thread the wick through the wick holder and to trim them in a nice semi-circle so that the flames would not break the shades. It was she and I who washed the shades every morning, refilled the lamps and trimmed the wicks. It was my mother who constructed the rail fence around our private 20 acres of land and it was she who re-pointed the stone on the outside of the farmhouse. My father was the carpenter who made the shutters for the downstairs windows, the wood-box for the kitchen, constructed the privy and made me a lovely swing and teeter-totter.

As my mother grew up living in the country in Pennsylvania, where my grandfather was a country doctor, these things she learned from her mother. Apart from the practical matters that she learned at an early age and put to good use late on, her upbringing was rather questionable. Her father was one of three brothers. His name was Clinton and the other two brothers were Mate and Albert. Their mother was a domineering woman who pushed her sons to excel in their education and lives. My grandfather went through to be a doctor, then he took the medical boards for his brother Albert. Albert, who was considered to be a doctor of lesser quality than his brother, (wonder why) settled down nicely in Washington D.C. and enjoyed a thriving medical practice, while Clinton remained in the country. Although he had patients, they were not of the monied variety, so he was seldom paid in cash for his services. My mother recounted that during the winter, food was scarce, but during the summer he was paid in kind by farmers and poorer workers so they lived well on corn, tomatoes and other garden produce. My grandmother would pick wild berries and make a roly-poly with them. My mother described this as a dough, rolled out, on which the berries and some sugar were spread. It would then be rolled up and baked. In later years, either my grandfather's patients dried up or maybe he

did, and it was recounted that he spent more time playing cards with a group of other like-minded men, rather than doctoring.

But he had a plan. During the Prohibition years in the States, he and some buddies (perhaps those fine card-playing friends) dabbled in contraband. I am not sure whether they manufactured illegal booze or whether they got it smuggled in then sold it on the black market. I guess it was more stimulating than diagnosing the poverty-stricken masses.

One night he was out making an emergency call past the town of Butler. My mother must have been sleeping with my grandmother while he was away, for she recalls waking up to find him standing at the foot of my grandmother's bed, talking to her in a very agitated manner. Apparently he had planned to return via Butler, but before he got there he was warned by one of his friends that there had been a blockage placed on the road on which he would have been traveling, just waiting to nab him. He had returned home with the horse and buggy via a circuitous route. But, he said that he would have to leave immediately and go to Canada, for the excise men were on his trail. He gave instruction to my grandmothers to sell the house and contents, dig up the jars of money that he had hidden in the cellar (news to her) and take my mother and Victor, her younger brother, only three at the time and join him in Toronto. So, in 1923 they left the U.S. My grandfather got a job as a pharmacist's assistant and they lived there for about the next ten years or so, when they, with Victor, returned to the U.S., leaving my mother in Toronto where she was attending Art College.

When I was younger and into my teens, I remember visiting my grandmother where she was living in Whitesburg, a tiny little place, where she and my grandfather had lived until he died in the forties sometime. There was a room off to one side of the house where he had his office. It was just as he had left it, with the large oak desk in the middle of the room, his big oak chair behind it, and two consulting chairs in front of it. To one side was a bookcase of medical books and on the back wall there was a glass fronted cabinet in which he kept his instruments of torture. Oh, to have had the foresight to have asked my grandmother for some keepsakes. I remember my mother telling of a mother who had come running into this office saying that her little girl had had her finger cut off in a lawnmower. I still wonder how this could have happened but I guess it did. My grandfather tore out of the office with the woman to the scene of the accident and commanded all who were standing around gawking at the little girl crying her heart out - "Look for the finger!". They all

scrabbled around in the grass until it was found. My grandfather grabbed the little girl and the finger, ran back to his office, sewed the finger back on - and it took and she regained the use of her finger.

I also remember visiting Aunt Pearl (actually she would have been my great aunt) who was Mate's wife. She was an old lady who lived by herself, trying to survive on the pittance that the government gave her, to which they referred as a pension. As well as that, seniors were given large quantities of powdered milk, which would dissolve in nothing. I knew that she stock-piled it for she always gave us lots to take home with us. I am wondering why they allowed it through customs!! I am not sure what my mother did with it, for it would be difficult to determine for which food category it would qualify. Seniors also qualified for as much orange juice as they could consume. So yes, you've guessed it, when we visited Aunt Pearl, our diet was mainly a liquid one!

Aunt Pearl was a rough but kind hearted woman. She had led a rough life, being the wife of Mate, as well as having her son commit suicide and a daughter born with arthritis so bad that she could not move. She took care of Florabelle until she died at the age of 28. Like all women from the hills, she had a

high pitched drawl for a voice and she was not afraid of voicing her opinion on any subject. When Great Grandma Young was older, it was decided that she would live in turns with each of the boys and their families. As well as being ambitious in her younger years, she also possessed a rather cunning streak. She loved to tell stories about her other two daughters-in-laws, while she was with the one, then move on to another and repeat the process. As a result there was a lot of animosity amongst the 'girls'.

As time went on the girls became suspicious and decided to get together and talk it over. They soon discovered their mother-in-law's game and they unanimously decided that she was going crazy. In her high-pitched shriek, Aunt Pearl concluded, "She ain't no crazier than she's ever been, she just can't hide it no more". Later, when the old lady had passed away, the girls once again assembled themselves together to discuss funeral arrangements. They were wondering what flowers they would plant on her gravesite. With her usual perspicacity, Aunt Pearl suggested "snapdragons"! To which my grandmother replied, "How silly of me, I should have thought of that".

Yes, all things considered, my mother turned out pretty well.

End

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G/M News (Cont)

place on Saturday, May 18. There'll be baked goods, bedding plants, new maple syrup, preserves and flea market items for sale. A food concession in the morning and lunch at 11 a.m. will keep shoppers well nourished. You may remember from a few words ago that the Nu 2 U Shop opens in Griffith on that same date. Also - well advertised on bulletins at local retailers - on the 18th there will be a Ham Supper (5 p.m.) at the Matawatchan United Church and the Ruckus on the Rink, (7:30 p.m.) so plan carefully in order to catch all four events. May I suggest a mild sedative for those, who like me, could be overwhelmed by that much excitement in one day.

According to President Barry Dicks, the Denbigh Griffith Lions Club has again planned a frantic year in its efforts to create a better community. The Daffodil Tea, on the 28th of April, was, as always, a success, with great music

and great food. Most importantly, ALL proceeds went to the Canadian Cancer Society.

A familiar lineup of events is planned for the summer starting with the semi annual Toll Road in Griffith and Denbigh from noon until 7 p.m. on May 17, 2013. Hopefully the blackflies will be in full stride by then. It just wouldn't seem like a spring toll road without a little bloodletting. Another toll road will take place, same times, same places, on August 30, 2013. Also scheduled for August - 24th from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. - is the annual Show and Shine.

The Lions who volunteer to put on that great noon-day Fellowship Luncheon every third Wednesday of the month asked me to thank all who make the effort to attend. Actually it is all of us taking advantage of this generous gesture who should be thanking that group of selfless folk who never fail to come up with a different and delightful lunch. They also remind patrons that

the lunches will be suspended through July and August.

Ongoing for the summer will be the sale of Lions 50/50 tickets and ongoing forever, the 7 p.m., twice monthly bingo. The winning 50/50 ticket will be drawn on August 31 at the End-of-Summer Dance in Snider's Tent and Trailer Park. Bingo dates for the next month are May 28 and June 11.

By all accounts, the G & M Fish and Game Club's Annual Ice Fishing Derby exceeded any in recent memory, both on the ice and in the hall. They even had an ice hut away to give away. Winning that would be enough to make you choke on your chili. The membership count is now at 165: there are churches,

continued on page 20



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Up The Line

By Wes Bomhower

Lingham Flats

North and east from Madoc is a stretch of country as flat as Canada's western prairies and has been known for years as 'Lingham Flats'. Our camp was situated on these flats and the tower lines seemed to march on for miles so endlessly at the same height. I was out of the kitchen once more and grounding for Jack Rankin & Jimmy Larocque as they clamped in and festooned the sky wire and our foreman was 'Slim' Maki.

We had a lines technician around most of the time who inspected our work for quality and generally made up a list of anything that appeared not up to par or perhaps unsafe. We referred to this list as the 'poop list' and about every two weeks our crew would set a day aside to correct anything we could for the technician, and of course he was usually there to guide us. He went on holidays, however, just after our move to the flats, but left a copy of the 'poop list' in the office in his own handwrit-

ing and the handwriting left a lot to be desired. We managed to decipher most of it and corrected everything on the list except for one item between towers 589 and 590. On the 'poop list', it looked like "strand near conductor" which made no sense whatsoever, but we began looking for broken strands on all wires in that certain span. After observing the conductors and sky wires through binoculars off and on for more than an hour, and finding nothing amiss, we were at our wit's end.

Just about then a farmer came driving up with tractor and wagon and stopped for a moment. "I'll be getting that straw stack out from under your new wire there sometime today I hope", he said innocently, and suddenly our problem was solved! He had thrashed grain recently and had blown the straw into a large pile underneath one of the conductors. The technician, doing his job, had thought the straw pile was too close, so he wrote it up on the 'poop list'.... However, (straw) looked like (strand) in his hard to decipher handwriting Oh well, you win some, you lose some I guess.

We were sagging a few miles of conductor near camp and Jim Fraser, one of the linemen, asked me to bring a

couple of wooden slats used for sagging part way up the tower. I obliged him and as I descended the tower again, about six feet from the ground, some small brush was obstructing my way and so I just jumped the rest of the way..... Alas, there were some little stumps from previous brush cutting and my left foot landed directly on one of them. My ankle went over with an audible 'crack' and there I was lying in a painful heap, thinking my ankle was broken.

We were just outside of camp and Jim Fraser called out to Sam Van Norman who was crossing the yard to come help me. Sam was an older man, an ex-line-man who could turn his hand to most anything and at the present time he was filling in for the bull cook, (maintenance man) who was on holidays. Sam had a deep, gravelly voice and he growled his sympathy as he helped me to my feet, then assisted me to my bunk in my own building, removed my boot and sock and probed the ankle delicately with knowing fingers. "Don't think it's broken, lad," he rumbled," but it surely is swelling quickly. It's a bad sprain or strain for sure and we'll find something cold to put on it".

A short time later, big Isaac Hicks came over from the office to see how I was and I knew there was something else on his mind besides my ankle. He asked if I wanted a doctor and I said no, unless the ankle was definitely broken. (I had a fear of doctors in those days.) Big Isaac was deep in thought for a moment, then he asked. "Wes, if you are able to hobble around a bit in a few days, would you be willing to go to the next camp at Fernleigh with Sam Van Norman?" The stringing crew of 18 men or so will be there and Sam will be cooking temporarily until the rest of us work our way in that direction. If you feel able, you can be Sam's helper in the kitchen and that way you will not lose any wages. Think about it and let me know".

I decided that was the way to go and old Sam and I got along famously, my ankle improving a bit each day as I hobbled around on my home made crutch. Within three weeks the rest of the crew had moved into the Fernleigh camp, my ankle was more or less back to normal and I was working outside again.

The tower line was almost completed through to Ottawa, but there were some connections to be made at various locations and big power outages would be coming up soon. Slim's crew would be dealing with most of these outages and we would be billeted at the closest hotels along the way. Trucks were loaded with plenty of gear and we set forth early one morning for the first job near Havelock where we were to make 'dead ends' out of standard towers to

raise the conductors for more ground clearance. We would be staying at the Norwood Hotel for a few nights apparently.

Those were the days!

Wes Bomhower

Loneliness & Pain

*Dang it, dang it, I say gol dang it
And I say a lot worse than that too,
But the good Lord knows my pain in
the night*

Yes, He knows what I go through...

*But it's not the pain, it's the
loneliness*

*At half past three in the morn,
I push the anti-pain box business
To ease where the cancer has torn.*

*Then I think of the wonderful life
I've had,*

*And the people along the way.
People who made me feel so glad,
Oh! Those memorable yesterdays.*

*And finally sleep will overcome
As the anti-pain kicks in,
And the loneliness is on the run,
That's how we always win!!*

Written by Wes Bomhower on 25
January, 2013
at The Elizabeth Bruyere Hospice,
Ottawa, Ontario

Wesley Bomhower

April 26, 1929 -

April 17, 2013


Has passed away following a
lengthy battle with cancer.

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A memorable year for Greater Madawaska Public Library

by Sharon Shalla

I must say that it's good to be back writing another article for the Highlander! As many of you already know, the community lost a dear friend, Wes Bomhower, recently. Wes was also a great supporter of the library and will be remembered for his poems, stories, and sense of humour. When I interviewed Wes at his residence back in January 2012, he sat back comfortably in his rocking chair and spoke fondly of the people and places of Calabogie, especially Barnet Park, where he enjoyed many good times. I have included a photo of that interview with this article. The interview entitled "Reminiscing with Wes Bomhower" is available on the library's website under Local History, but I'll provide a link here which will take you directly to the interview as well as the collection of Wes's songs, stories and music <http://vitacollections.ca/GreaterMadawaska/search>

His complete CD is available for your listening pleasure including favourites such as the *Norton Deer Hunt*, *Moonlight on Bogie Lake*, and *Tom Sharbot*. Now, getting down to library business, summer and fall 2013 are shaping up to be memorable times. We are celebrating our 35th anniversary this year and are busy planning events. One of the highlights already confirmed is a Puppet Show on July 18th at the Calabogie Community Centre from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The shows are geared to ages 3-10, but everyone is welcome - who doesn't enjoy puppets! ! Two shows will be featured back-to-back: "Lisasaurus Rex" and "Simon Says." Admission is free...so make plans now to round up a group. We're also close to confirming a parrot show featuring parrots that talk, sing and play games. Watch our website and Facebook page for more details.

I'm also very pleased to announce that our entire library catalogue is searchable through our website. Just access our website <http://www.townshipof-greatermadawaska.com/library/> and then scroll down the page to the word Catalogue. Click on it and you will be taken directly to our database. You can search by author, title, subject and keyword. Happy searching from the comfort of your own home!

New Additions to the Collection Books

Mudwoman by Joyce Carol Oates
Love is Murder by Sandra Brown

Complete Dog Care: how to keep your dog healthy and happy by Dorling Kindersley

Great Britain (travel guide) by Eyewitness Travel

Leonard Maltin's 2013 Movie Guide: The modern era

Longarm and the Deadly Restitution by Evans Tabor

The First Prophet by Kay Hooper
All She Ever Wanted by Rosalind Noonan

DVDs

The Far Country – 2 DVD set; The Aviator; and The Grey

Magazines

Canadian Family Annual Food Issue

Zoomer Magazine Special Issue: Smart Money Strategies

Canadian Gardening 100+ Best Gardening Ideas

Consumer Reports Buying Guide 2013

If you don't already have a membership at our library, please drop by to register. We are located on the lower level of the Municipal Building on Calabogie Road. Membership is free to all residents and taxpayers of Greater Madawaska Township.

We are open Tuesday: 1 – 7 p.m., and

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The Black Donald Graves

By Howard Popkie

Long ago the river drivers came down Mountain Chute driving the square timber to market.

A man was drowned in the rapids and was buried at the end of the Mountain Chute Dam on the Black Donald side of the river. When I was a kid I saw his grave. It was a little log cabin wall of cedar logs used as a fence around the grave.

At the end of the rapids is Mud Lake where another grave site used to be.

When I was three or four years old I lived in the Village of Black Donald and I was at a funeral just up the road at the Leclair farm. Mr. Leclair was dead upon the table in his house and I played with the kids under the table.

His coffin was driven through town on a wagon pulled by a team of horses to the Catholic Church and then buried in the grave yard beside the grave of Mr. Stone.

Then Helen Ostifachuck died soon after she was born. I was about six years old and was used as one of the pall bearers. I helped carry the little white coffin into the church and then to the grave site.

No one died at Black Donald after that until after I left town then Mrs. Leclair was laid to rest beside Mr. Leclair's grave site.

When the Hydro was building the Mountain Chute Dam my brother Reuben got the job to move the graves to Calabogie to their new resting place.

May they all finally Rest in Peace.

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Many other services are available. I have my own tools and I am available immediately for full-time or part-time work. I charge \$20 per hour. References are available.

Cathie Cooper
1776 Frontenac Rd. Matawatchan
613-333-1201
cathiecooper@hotmail.com

G/M News (Cont)

I'm sure, that would sin just to know its secret.

Too bad for Dave VanInderstine that "catch and release" rules were in effect. The six-pound-nine-ounce lake trout that won him \$250 loonies for the largest fish of the day would have made some great eating. Ryan Foy and Mike Warren shared second with a two-pound-nine ounce pike while the Mystery Weight and third prize went to Justin Wright for a (more in my catch range) one pound nine ounce perch.

A Firearms and Hunter's Safety Course lined up for May 10 – 12th was present-

ed at the Matawatchan United Church. For anyone with a rugged outdoors type of mother, the \$245.75 cost of the course might not have been too steep for a Mother's Day (check back on your calendar) gift. The first eight signed up junior members (16 and under) of member families had the cost covered by the club. A cleanup at Bradley Lake - evidently a new name tacked onto some old familiar lake - is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday June 15th and the Kids Fishing Derby will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 13.

Those wishing information regarding events or on any aspect of the Club may

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Denbigh Mardi Gras Murder Mystery Dinner at the Hall: The Players



Queens Jubilee Medal recipients & presenters from Greater Madawaska: L to R: Mayor Peter Emon, Pat Holleran, Ken Birkett, Mary Charboneau & MPP John Yakabuski

contact Brian or Sandy Sutcliffe at 613 333 9564. Dave VanInderstine, at 613 333 1136, is the authority on the Deer Feed Plot Program and is standing by to take questions and give advice.

A belated "Happy Mother's Day" to all you mothers wherever you are. I hope your offspring let you know how appreciated you are and made you a queen for a day – even if they didn't think to treat you to a \$245.75 firearms course.

End

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To: Griffith, Matawatchan, Denbigh & Vennachar Community organizations & individuals

A group of people dedicated to reviving the history and the culture of the area are committed to organizing some form of annual event at the Matawatchan Hall on the Canada Day long weekend. Continuing in the spirit of our ancestors, we want to create a fun event that celebrates our collective heritage, Canada, life in the Highlands, and summer itself. By pooling the resources of our four, small and interconnected communities, we can create a memorable event with less stress on each individual or volunteer group.

one volunteer organization to handle, so the last Matawatchan picnic was held four years ago. Last year the Matawatchan Hall with the Matawatchan Market board organized a Canada day celebration. It was very successful. We can build on this experience and make it bigger and better.

Let's do this together for the benefit of all.

Please join us on Thursday May 21 at 7:00 pm at the Matawatchan Hall to share your experience and ideas to make this celebration happen.

At this stage, ideas have been kicked around for food, programming & entertainment, but there is no set program. We need your help to develop some ideas and offer more of your own. The meeting is open to everyone and attending it will not commit you or your organization to any work, so please join us! The whole point is to make it easier to carry on or create new tradition of a great annual celebration.

For many decades Churches in the area held annual picnics on the Canada Day long weekend at the Matawatchan Hall. These were well attended by the area's population and were a time to reunite families and visit with old neighbours and friends. It became too much for any

If you would like further information, please call me at (613) 333-1352 Juliette LeGal on behalf of the Matawatchan Cultural Centre

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**Anniversary Service
at Matawatchan
Community Cemetery
June 23rd at 3:00 p.m.**

Do you know the difference between education and experience? Education is when you read the fine print; experience is what you get when you don't.

Pete Seeger

Grass and Forest Fires

Each year in Ontario, dozens of rural residents and cottagers damage forest lands and lose valuable buildings to fires that could have been prevented. Nearly one third of these fires are caused by careless burning - over 200 fires per year.

If a forest fire results because you have used fire improperly, you could be held responsible for the costs of putting out the fire and for any property damage that occurs.

Every person who starts a fire is responsible to ensure it is out. Remember, coals can smoulder for hours and hot embers and sparks can be blown by the wind, easily setting fire to dry grass or twigs. Where possible, dispose of used charcoal or ashes in a pit. Drown hot coals thoroughly, then cover them with sand or gravel.

Don't even consider burning without consulting your local township and/or fire department.



Support of Ovarian Cancer (Cont)

vague symptoms and no early detection test, ovarian cancer is Canada's most fatal women's cancer. Tragically, it takes the lives of too many of our mothers, sisters and daughters each year, devastating families in its wake.

A recent survey of Canadian researchers in the field of ovarian cancer concluded that \$10 million is needed to make significant strides towards a reliable early screening test, improved treatments, and enhancing the quality of life for women living with this disease. Yet a recent study by Charity Intelligence Canada shows that only 2.1% of Canadian donations for cancer are directed at ovarian cancer.

Research is the only means to overcoming ovarian cancer, but we also need to continue supporting women living with the disease and their families, as well as providing education and awareness for the general public and health care professionals.

Unlike so many other causes, the work of Ovarian Cancer Canada is not duplicated by any other group - their work to overcome ovarian cancer and the attention they are now giving to the other gynecological cancers, is unique in Canada.

Together we can give hope to women living with ovarian cancer, hope to their families and loved ones, and hope to all the women in Canada who could potentially face this devastating disease. Together we can dedicate ourselves to the prevention and elimination of ovarian cancer.

Cheryl plans to form a team for mini 2.5 and 5k walks that incorporate the use of the labyrinth that is cut into in the lawn at Bittersweet. The rural setting and meditative pattern of the labyrinth will provide a unique and intimate environment for such a walk. She is inviting interested walkers to join her team or create a team of their own to raise awareness and fundraise by registering to walking the Labyrinth on Leckie Lane. With enough interest or sponsors the mini walk could evolve to become the Burnstown/Ottawa Valley Region Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope. If you are interested, contact Cheryl by email at bittersweetartandcraft@gmail.com.

As incentives all walk participants names will be entered in a draw to win door prizes donated by gallery artists and members of the community.

Furthermore sculptor Richard Gill will donate a relief sculpture for the leading participant who raises the most funds. (Richard lost both his mother and sister to the disease) The walk will take place in the labyrinth on Leckie Lane on Sunday, Sept. 8 coinciding with the

National Capital Walk of Hope in Ottawa.

To register go to the website <http://www.ovariancanada.org> where more details of the walk and the labyrinth will appear as plans evolve. You will also see updates www.burnstown.ca/bittersweet/events.

In the meantime The Allure of AliA opens at Bittersweet Fine Craft and Art on June 1, 11am to 5pm at 5 Leckie Lane in Burnstown. The labyrinth that day will also be open to visitors to explore as a walking site. For more details call 613-432-5254 day or 613-433-9990.

Thank you

THANK you to everyone for the beautiful gifts received this Christmas. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Looking forward to serving you in 2013.

**Jason Dellaire & helper
Postal carrier**

TO MEMBERS OF THE GRIFFITH MATAWACHAN & CALABOGIE FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Thank you for your professionalism & expediency in putting out the grass fire on our property on Tuesday April 23.

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REGULATION (Cont)

cemetery because these could fall on someone and injure them. It was, after all, the inspector asserted, "his job to ensure safety."

Not content with committing these travesties, Sunday found many other things in the village that he didn't like, or insisted were unsafe, including wooden shelves in the village shop (that had been there for more than a hundred years), and were now considered to be so dangerous they had to be replaced because a customer could get a splinter if they happened to run their hands along a shelf. The inspector even had the temerity to tell local children that they couldn't play with toy money, which he considered to be "counterfeit" because it didn't have the

Queen's face on it. The connection between play money and health and safety issues would be a mystery to many, unless they explained it in terms of someone who had an overwhelming belief in his right to bully anyone he wanted to by this point.

The Health and Safety Board officer had been equally obnoxious at a nearby village, Odley Cruesis, so obnoxious that their Ladies Society called for a joint meeting with the Carsley Ladies Society to discuss what they could do to stop his nonsense. Odley Cruesis had an equally long list of grievances against the inspector:

1. Sunday angered the vicar of the village church by telling him that candles couldn't be burned in the church any more on the grounds that they could "fall over and burn someone."

2. A woman whose dog had "fouled the village green" when she had taken him for a walk was charged and fined by Sunday.

3. A village woman who supplemented her meager pension by making children's toys for sale in local markets was told by Sunday that her toys were unsafe and shouldn't be sold, thereby ruining her small business.

4. Two neighbouring couples who had a friendly competition with one another to see who could put up the most lights and garish Christmas decorations on their houses were told by the inspector that they had to stop.

5. A woman who opened up her Tudor manor for tours twice a week in the summer was told by the inspector that the steps in front of the main door of her manor could not be used by the disabled. He ordered her to put in a large metal ramp that extended well into the driveway, even though it would spoil the traditional look and charm of the building. It did no good when the owner pointed out that the odd visitor in a wheelchair who had come to see the manor before were easily wheeled backward up the steps, which were quite shallow, to get to the main floor of the house.

6. The inspector had told the residents of Odley Cruesis that they could only burn non-smoking coal in their fireplaces and stoves. Many were shivering in the cold weather because smoking coal was the only type they had, being easier to find and less expensive than non-smoking coal.

The ladies gather for their joint meeting in Odley Cruesis because they can't take any more of this interference. One woman defiantly throws smoking coal on to the fireplace rather than put up with being cold. During the meeting, however, the inspector appears outside the window of the drawing room in which they are meeting. At first they think he is spying on them but soon they see that he has fallen against the glass and is holding up bloodied hands that leave marks on the panes of glass as he slowly sinks to the ground, dead, having been stabbed by a murderer. Agatha Raisin, is, of course, hired by one of the characters (who is a murder suspect because she threatened to kill Sunday), to see if Agatha can find out

who the murderer is. In talking to a colleague in her detective agency later about the case, Agatha states that it will be hard to find the murderer because the inspector had made "so many enemies" in the communities that he visited. Another character states, "He offended so many people, I can't imagine where you should start." A number of characters, including one of the vicars, had been heard to threaten to kill the inspector because they were so angry about being told to stop doing things they had been doing without interference for many years.

In what may perhaps be a warning to future government inspectors who run rampant over people's traditional practices and businesses, the murderer was an aggrieved villager and the inspector was murdered because he had forbidden something that the murderer had been doing for years.

Before the murderer is caught, however, there are many asides in "Busy Body" about what is going wrong with Britain today. One woman, who was a smoker, complained bitterly about the ban on smoking and how that had closed down the local pub – as well as many others throughout the country. She also complained about the fact that because smoking is not allowed on airplanes, the air is no longer changed and passengers are slowly being poisoned by fumes leaking from the plane's engines. She ends her tirade with the cry that she hates "this politically correct nanny state."

So do many others, and I expect there will be many more descriptions of this nanny state in novels and mysteries written by British writers in the future. I am so glad I lived in Great Britain when I did. I don't think I would enjoy living in the Britain of today. Although many in Canada feel we have too many regulations, and we certainly do, they have not reached the extremes that they have in Great Britain. We should take this as a warning and do what we can to encourage the federal government and provincial government to continue the admirable steps they have taken recently to reduce regulations and keep only those that are truly essential for public health and safety.

Note by documentary film maker Mary Sheridan: Dr. Standefer's research was done for Highland Village Productions. Our documentary films address these problems in the Heritage Highlands Village Region. End

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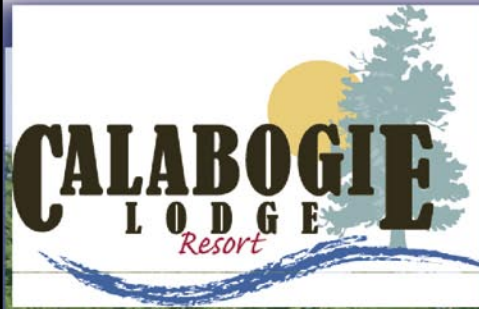
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