

THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

Volume 2- Issue 1

PRICELESS

December 04 /January 05

Calladh bogaidh: Marshy Bay

By Bill Graham, Editor

By some accounts, this Gaelic phrase is said to be the derivation of the name of what is now Calabogie. Early documents list the place as Calaboga. In those days it referred to the lake and not the town. During the 1840s, at the time of early settlement in what would be Bagot and Blythfield Townships, Springtown was by far the most important community. It was only with the coming of the Kingstown and Pembroke (K & P) railway in the 1870s that the settlement, now known as Calabogie supplanted Springtown in importance.

According to Alfred Clarke, a long time resident of the area who wrote "A History of Calabogie" in the mid-1960s, Barryvale was first called Calabogie and the railway station at what is now Calabogie was called Madawaska. However, the Ottawa-Arnnprior and Parry Sound Railroad Company (OA and PS), which crossed the upper valley around Barry's Bay, also had a station named Madawaska, so the name of the station at Calabogie Lake was renamed Calabogie.

According to Mr. Clarke the derivation of the name Calabogie was from the Indian name for Sturgeon. The Sturgeon came up the river to spawn. They were not able to go above the high falls, about a mile from the lake, and so they congregated in the lake.

FIRST THERE WAS THE RIVER

The Madawaska River is fundamental to the history of Calabogie. Without it the whole area would have been settled much later. Some of the earliest commercial lumbering in Ontario took place along the Madawaska between 1860 and 1890. In addition to the demand for lumber by a growing population in Upper Canada, many of the tall white pine of the area became ship's masts in the British navy. The Madawaska River was one of the important water

routes to the remotely located stands of timber and a water highway for shipping the felled trees to market.

As early as the 1840s, the government was providing assistance to lumber companies by building slides and booms to facilitate log drives on the river. Dams were also constructed at Highland Chute, Mountain Chute, Calabogie and Arnnprior to assist operations. It was the damming of the Madawaska around Calabogie that created Calabogie Lake. The lake became a place where logs from the various drives were separated and stored before being floated down to the Ottawa River.

One of the first saw mills in Calabogie was built by a man named McFarlane. To quote Alfred Clarke from his history: "It was a water mill and had an upright saw that ran up and down. It was seven feet long, about eight inches wide and one-quarter inch thick. It had a spring pole attachment to help pull it up after the down stroke. Reports said that Mr. McFarlane would start the saw into a log and then harness his horses and plough for a couple of hours then go back and move the log for another board."

In the earliest days the village developed around the timber men from the sorting camps around the lake. Hotels were opened and a general store. According to Alfred Clarke, the first store was opened by Sam Dempsey and was located at Grasse Bay since all the supplies came up from Perth on a road that probably paralleled the current Highway 511.

THE RAILWAY CHANGED EVERYTHING

The K & P Railway, which was also known as the Kick & Push, reached Calabogie in the 1880s. The line was originally built to give local entrepreneurs access to outside markets for

Continued on page 3

A farewell to fall



MPAC Presents to GM Township Council

By Richard Copeland

The October 26th meeting of Council was preceded by a presentation to Council and the public by Sharon Talon-Goulet, Manager Customer Relations and Cecelia Buelow, Municipal Relations Representative of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). This meeting convened at the Calabogie Recreation Centre in anticipation of a large audience. While there was an audience larger than could be accommodated at the Council Chambers, there were fewer ratepayers in attendance than anticipated.

It was made clear to the audience that the presenters were there to give information about MPAC and its operation and not to debate any political aspects of the legislation that gives this corporation its somewhat dubious mandate. MPAC representatives justified their corporation's existence by the fact that their process is also used in every province in Canada and 128 other countries. It was also pointed out that the Ontario Government was looking for public input about MPAC and anyone with

something to say should direct it to our politicians in Queen's Park.

MPAC is a non-profit, non-share capital corporation funded by over 400 municipalities in the province. MPAC's annual budget is \$156M. Their legislated mandate is to value all properties in Ontario. MPAC has a board of directors consisting of eight municipal representatives, five taxpayer representatives and two provincial representatives.

MPAC lords over a total assessed property value of \$1.15 trillion for over 4.3 million properties. Their data base contains over 2.4 billion elements and they employ 1,500 people in 34 offices. For Greater Madawaska, MPAC oversees more than 3,888 properties with a total assessment value of \$312,821,304. Properties not taxed include churches, schools and interestingly the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), which is the largest property holder in Renfrew County

Continued on page 2

MPAC

Continued from page 1

and the issuer of permits for logging activities that beat up our local roads.

MPAC, by legislated direction from the provinces, administers the process of valuation and provides these estimations of value to the municipalities who set the mill rate against the appraised value and collect the taxes. There is also adjudication available through an 'Assessment Review Board' (ARB) to which valuations may be appealed. The ARB is independent of all other players in the process. If you disagree with your assessment you can first make a 'Request for Reconsideration' (RfR) by letter, and if still not satisfied, a formal appeal can be made for a fee. The onus is on the taxpayer to support his or her case with facts and figures before the ARB. MPAC will defend itself at the hearing, and other interested parties (like the municipality) may also participate. ARB decisions are final and binding. However, it is possible to request a board review and make an appeal into Divisional Court.

Taxpayers can review their own property and a limited number of other properties through the Internet at the MPAC website. A 42-page Guide to Property Assessment in Ontario Booklet is also available, though at a cost.

In addition to assessment, MPAC data are also used for the provincial triennial enumeration and the collection of information about school board choices, French language education rights, voter identification, municipal and school board planning purposes, jury duty lists and population reports.

The Calabogie meeting did give rise to a few questions. One attendee asked why he was restricted to the twelve similar properties he could search on the MPAC system for free and pointed out that it was in the individual's best financial interest to do whatever he could to raise the valuation of his neighbour's property. He implied that

MPAC activity produced behaviour similar to a 'turn-in-your-neighbour' promotion that smacks of social rights violations as seen in other less desirable political systems. For the most part the meeting was calm and the MPAC representatives spent additional time one-on-one with some of the audience.

The Highlander asked about the annual cost to the Greater Madawaska Township for the MPAC services and if there was any change in MPAC's operational expenses. The answers to these questions were not known but were promised to be made available. However, after two subsequent visits to the Township Office, these answers have still not been supplied.

With the facts now stated, this reporter would like to get on a soapbox for a minute and express some personal views about MPAC and their assessment process.

I came away from this meeting appreciating the position of the presenters and their professional delivery. But MPAC remains a problem to which taxpayers of Ontario need to pay attention. Its legislated existence does not make it either ethically or morally justifiable. Its broad application in Canada and in other countries does not make it right either. I can recall a slogan from the sixties: 'Eat sh-t, a billion flies can't be wrong.' The appropriation of an unfair process by numerous government bodies does not make taxation fairness any better, only worse. MPAC's data base of over 2.4 billion elements shouldn't make anyone feel secure about accuracy. And running these through a computer program doesn't improve things much. I believe long range weather and market economies are projected in a similar fashion.

Just to do a quick accuracy check, three of the Highlander volunteers did a quick information exchange on their MPAC experience. The first had recently purchased a property at a price

12% below its current assessment. The second found that his property description was over estimated by ten acres and the dwelling was described as having four bedrooms and one bathroom when in fact it had two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Having questioned MPAC on the mistake on acreage he was advised to check in with the County Registry, have his property redefined and show proof to MPAC. He was advised that it was the County's responsibility. The County said no, they are only the keeper of the records, and were not responsible for MPAC's bad records—Catch 22. The third volunteer had his assessment reduced by 15%, most likely because he didn't have hydro and the cost of bringing it in was very high. Why didn't MPAC know that! We didn't think this was a very good showing for a group of three. Remember folks there are 2.4 billion elements in this data – how are your data doing?

There is obvious word-smithing going on. As the spin goes, the assessed value is called "Current Value", which looks something like "Market Value". And

the definition of Current Value is: "the amount of money a property would realize if sold at arm's length by a willing seller to a willing buyer". This looks a lot like the definition of market value if you change "if" to "when". But Current Value isn't Market Value and that's all that can determine a price. It is a guess and has a very high probability of being wrong and therefore unjust.

We have a national and provincial taxation philosophy that has been predicated on the concept of the ability to pay. Why municipal taxation processes have never figured this out is a disturbing question. We now have a large corporation of 1,500 hundred people (wanna bet it doesn't grow?) looking for how to get valuations increased. The home in the bush becomes a tree farm, maple trees are sugar factories, ad nauseum. More disturbing is why the province, armed with the their knowledge of revenue generation by income taxation, would legislate this error-prone and costly mega corporation into existence.

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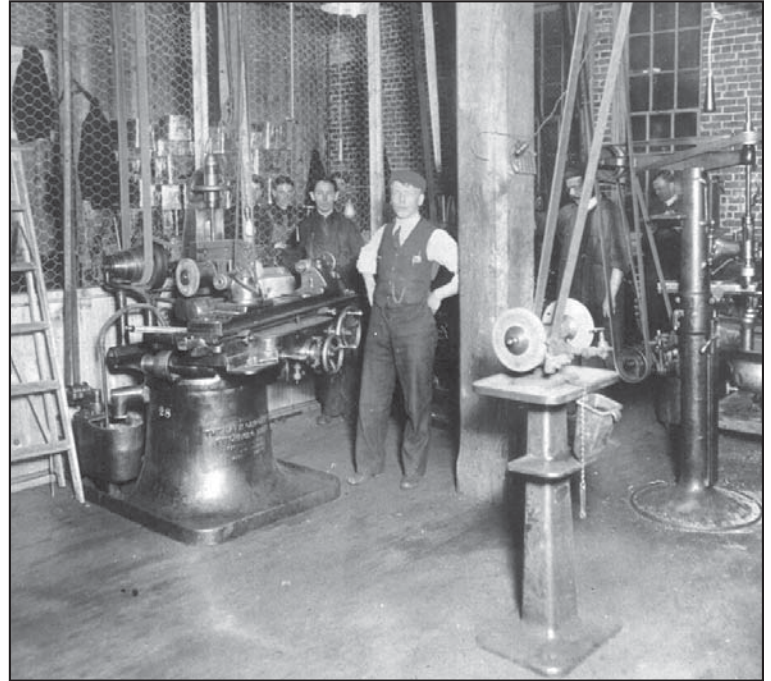
the local timber and mining products. It also provided access for people. In 1879 the K & P Railway only went as far as Lavant Township in Lanark County where the contractor who was supposed to bring the K & P to Calabogie had gone broke. A new contractor by the name of M.J. O'Brien, who had little money got bank loan and committed to building what was called the Renfrew Extension. The first section, which would bring the line across the Madawaska to Calabogie, was considered the most difficult part. Part of the challenge was building a causeway over Grasse Bay to accommodate the track. The causeway is still a permanent landmark in the area. In 1883 the K & P arrived in Calabogie and a year later in Renfrew.

Some years later M.J. O'Brien would again contribute to Calabogie by building a dam and power house for a factory he planned to build. The factory never did get built but O'Brien did supply Calabogie and Barryvale with electricity and also installed a telephone system. Few places in Renfrew County

had such amenities at this early date.

With the railroad came lumber and lathe mills, grist mills for grinding local grain, shingle makers, mining and the service industries to serve a growing work force. There was an iron ore mine in the area, but it soon shut down because of the ore's sulphur content. But then there was graphite from Black Donald Mines that carted to Calabogie and shipped out by rail.

The railroad also brought cottagers. In the early 1990s holidaying in the country had become fashionable. Today it is one of the mainstays of the local economy.



Top: Calabogie sawmill early 1900s
Left: M.J. O'Brien as a young man

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12 MONKEYS

Tales of Calabogie

By Alfred Clarke

Editor's note: *Alfred Clarke was born in 1880 and first came to Calabogie for school in 1887. He related his history of Calabogie to his nephew Peter Clarke as a centennial project in 1967. Tales of Calabogie draws from this history.*

Jas Brouton was buried in Hillcrest Cemetery and later was dug up by a couple of grave robbers. But they had made a mistake in the grave they wanted and so reburied him. They were seen by a young man passing the cemetery and he gave the alarm. There was a midnight train at that time from Renfrew to Kingston and the robbers took it. The police in Kingston were notified and met the train, but the men had left it along the line somewhere and they were not caught.

Another mysterious death was that of a young part Indian girl, Lucy La Grave. Her parents had died and she came to Calabogie to live with her aunt and uncle. Her aunt and uncle had some family of their own and were not very able to support her but she helped out by working in the Village. She would do any kind of work she could get outside or in. She had worked as a housemaid for a family for some time and they thought a lot of her. One Sunday night they all went to church together and returned home. They had a light

lunch and retired. The man had to be in his office at 7 a.m. He got dressed and called the maid. But when she didn't appear he told his wife to go and see. Perhaps the maid was sick. She was worse than that she was dead. They called the Doctor and after he examined her, he said it was partly his fault. She had a sore foot and he had given her a liniment to rub on it and some medicine to take inwardly; she had taken the dose of liniment inwardly.

When the people from the Village gathered at the Cemetery, some of them noticed that there was a white handkerchief tied to the marker at Miss La Grave's grave. With the possibility that grave robbers had marked the grave, the girl's Uncle lifted her body and buried it beside his own house and tied his dog beside it. He broadcast that any prowler that was seen round would be shot without warning.

There were two cases of murder. In one case, an Indian woman who sold liquor to support herself, Mag Constant, was killed by two river men who called there, got drinking and quarrelled. One put the other out and the beaten man stood at the door with his club waiting for his chum to come out. But it was Mag who came out and he hit her on the

Another case of murder also involved two river men. They were camped at the head of the lake and held up by head

winds. So a boatload came down to the village for a few drinks: Two of the men had been quarrelling and one of them said they wouldn't both go back alive. The other man went to the store and forced the clerk, a young man, to sell him a revolver and ammunition. He went back to the hotel and shot his enemy. The wounded man lived three days. The case was called self defence. A couple of other cases could have been murder but were just put down as accidents. Suspicious to me.

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CALABOGIE, IN THE 'THIRTIES & FORTIES'

By Wes Bomhower

Writer's note: As told by my good neighbours, Tony Senack and his wife Thelma (Emon) Senack. Thelma was born on Emon Lane, just a bit south of Calabogie, close to County Road 511, originally known as the Lanark Road. Thelma's grandfather, Andrew Crawford, was section foreman on the K. & P. Railroad in those years, and lived in the next house on Mill Street to where Tony and Thelma now reside.

Mill Street, just a gravel trail back then, was called High Falls Road and was the main east-west thoroughfare in Calabogie, long before the bypass, County Road 508, was completed. There was a short stretch of wooden sidewalk running from Most Precious Blood Catholic Church, up past the old Town Hall, a distance of 400 yards or so.

On the waterfront, on Madawaska Street, there was Moran's Hotel, Legree's Hotel and another hotel, which would later become the Whippletree Shanty. This of course was also a gravel road, and was never ploughed in winter until sometime after the Second World War. In the late Thirties and early Forties, Tom Gorrah or maybe George Peddie would use a bulldozer to plough whatever streets or roads needed clearing for a funeral or other important events.

On December 8, 1938, (a day that stands out in Thelma's memory) apparently the roads were still passable by car to Renfrew. On that fateful day, her father, Roy Emon, was badly injured by a flywheel of a circular saw that shattered, breaking his jaw, all his teeth and one of his wrists. This happened on the Stones Lake Road, about three miles southeast of Calabogie. He was rushed, bleeding badly, by team and sleigh to the village. The parish priest, who had one of the first cars in town, drove Mr. Emon into the Renfrew Hospital.

There were five stores operating then, and all did a thriving business, especially on Saturday nights when they stayed open until 9 or ten p.m. Nor later. Boxes store, located in front of Willard McDermiad's on the waterfront and next to Moran's Hotel, was a general store, as was Braden's, now Sullivan's Apartments across from the old convent. Charboneau's Store specialized in meat products and was located on the Lanark Road, straight south of the Catholic Church.

Belanger's Store, on the same street, was located where the Village Bistro Restaurant now stands and Scully's Store was right beside the K. & P. Railroad, where Richard and 'Skippy' Hale, the librarian, now reside.

A little footnote here concerning

The Scully's who lived in the house, which also contained the store. 'Moe' (Glen) Mathews, who recently passed away, was just a young lad back then and he told us this story.

Apparently Mr. and Mrs. Scully did not get along well for some years and finally agreed to separate. However, times being what they were, money was scarce and Mrs. Scully had no other place to live, so she lived in part of the house, her husband in another part. Mr. Scully had never learned to cook and when mealtime came he would hear a little bell from his wife's part of the house and his dinner would be slid under the door separating them. Sounds rather unique,

but we doubt if it would work today.

The building where Sharon Ladouceur lives was a convent for the nuns who taught school and music right up to Grade 13 in St. Joseph's Separate School nearby. The Calabogie Public School, behind Steve Wimble's Village Bistro, had classes up to Grade 8 and some of the children then attended the Separate School rather than having to board in Renfrew. Remember, these were still horse and buggy days and if you went any distance out of the village, it would likely be by train. The old K. & P. carried a lot of passengers.

The United Church, on the waterfront, had its own sheds or stable for sheltering

the horses, when church functions were on, as did the Catholic Church.

Life was a lot slower and certainly much less stressful, but time marches on and there are some wonderful memories of Calabogie in the 'Thirties and Forties'.

Two Heroes, Two Anniversaries

By Garry Ferguson

October marked the 191st and the 192nd anniversaries of two of our most famous war heroes who were killed during the war to annex Canada (1812). It's safe to say that they are two of the important reasons why we didn't vote in the recent U. S. election.

On July 12, 1812, the U.S. began the war with a large but ill-fated invasion, by Brigadier-General Hull, taking possession of Sandwich and area. It was during a second invasion at Queenston Heights on October 13, 1812 however, that Major-General Isaac Brock was shot in the chest as he led a charge by Canadian militia.

The invading army was forced to

surrender, but the best British leader to ever set foot on these shores was lost to the defence of Canada. His body is buried under a memorial that towers over Queenston Heights.

One year later, on October 2, 1813 the great Shawnee war chief Tecumseh fell in a rearguard action at Moravian Town. This suicidal stand stopped a 3500-man contingent with mounted riflemen, part of the powerful invading U.S. Army of the Northwest, and allowed 246 of General Proctor's surviving men to make the safety of the Burlington Heights strongpoint.

His death brought an end to the dream of a pan-Indian confederacy that the tribes west of Mississippi hoped would halt the taking of their territories.

Tecumseh's Shawnee proved invaluable during those bleak and hopeless early years of the war when Canadian and British defenders were vastly outnumbered by well-equipped invaders. Though the British eventually sent troops to force an end to the war with retaliatory raids, those were the years when She was the only European country still standing against Napoleon and unable to send any significant help.

A stone memorial marks the site where Tecumseh fell near Thamesville, Ontario, but his men hid his body, it's said, because it had been horribly mutilated by the enemy. To this day, no one knows the location of Tecumseh's resting place.

CABA CORNER

By Carolyn Jakes

Relationships

This issue of CABA corner is focusing on relationships, the first, between the business and residential community and all the volunteer organizations in the area, and the second, between the business association and township council. A community where all groups support each other is a healthy community.

New Awards Program

All relationships need to be nurtured and encouraged to grow, whether they are between spouses, parent and child; or the business and residential community. One way we can strengthen our relationship is through feedback. CABA has just initiated a feedback process focusing on the importance of shared goals and mutual support which benefit everyone. This feedback will take the form of three awards presented

in 2005 for the following categories:

- Customer Service,
- Community Service and
- Business Front Presentation.

We encourage you to participate in this awards program. The more feedback we receive from the residential community, made up of you, our customers and clients, the better. Please fill in the ballot on this page 5.

CABA Working with Township Economic Development Committee

At the Township's November Economic Development Committee meeting, CABA's objectives were reviewed to see where CABA and the township committee may overlap unnecessarily and where a partnership could be beneficial.

The objective of promoting the strengths of the business community and the township to visitors and investors was seen as an opportunity for partnerships. As a start, CABA and the township agreed to share the costs of an ad in the 2005 Ottawa Valley Tourist Association Guide.

The CABA and Township websites were seen as another opportunity to work together. As economic development content is important to both sites, good planning and cooperation will ensure that content is not duplicated and that both organizations get maximum value for dollars spent.

The need for a second cell phone tower was discussed and this objective was removed from the CABA's objectives and assumed by Economic Development Committee.

Continued on next page

CABA Continued

Discussion of the CABA objective to protect and develop our natural assets included the following:

- CABA will now analyse the results of the 12 water tests of the Madawaska collected at both ends of the township in 2004.
- When the Eco-tourism and Adventure Tourism Report is received in January, from the students at Sir Sanford Fleming College, there will be recommendations which, no doubt, will present further opportunities for partnerships. We await the report with great enthusiasm.

Money Raised for Community Projects

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2004 golf tournament and bought or sold raffle tickets. In 2005, we must decide how to spend the \$6,900 for Barnet Park improvements raised through the 2004 golf tournament and the 2003 and 2004 raffles. An additional \$1,000, raised at the 2003 golf tournament, was sent to the County this year (\$500) as CABA's donation to bridge repairs in Calabogie for the use of hikers and snowmobilers and the other \$500, as mentioned above, to the Township for advertising in the County's tourist guide.

Since membership fees for CABA remain at only \$25, we need to fund raise to continue the financial support for community projects and, of course, we need the residential community to help us raise this money. This leads us back to the beginning of this CABA Corner message. Relationships are the key.

A community, where relationships are strong, and all groups work together, is a healthy community. CABA thanks you, the residents, and the members of all the community volunteer organizations, for working with us to achieve common goals.

New CABA Member

Welcome to CABA's newest member, George White, Mycologist and President of Residential and Industrial Fungal Detection Service Inc. in Griffith. Check out the CABA website, www.calabogie.org for more information.

David Lester, Real Estate Broker Calabogie and Area Special Homes and Lots 613-752-2882 or homes@calabogie.net



Priced @ \$129,900 Located in the Griffith area with deeded access to Centennial & Black Donald Lakes via the Madawaska River, a wonderful cozy home, with a field stone wood fireplace adds charm and warmth to this acre lot. 3 Bedrooms, computer room and windows galore. An attached garage/workshop adds to the functionality. The yard's large and the price is low, especially when you throw-in deeded access to the waterfront. Call us now ...



Located right on the waterfront near Griffith with over 235 feet of lovely level area, this 3 bedroom home is brand new and ready for your enjoyment. Priced @ \$199,900, you'll not find another "right on the water", brand new home, near this pricing. Deck, full basement, high and dry with a view from the living room and kitchen that lets you watch the kids playing at the shore, this one is just right. Get away from it all and have waterfront to boot. Come see us now



Right at the bridge, an investors dream or a reasonable priced starter home, with over 235 feet front on a lovely level lot, this 3 bedroom home is now ready for your enjoyment. Priced @ \$109,900, you'll not find another "near the water", 3 bedroom home, close to this pricing. A gorgeous view from the living room window of the Madawaska, with amenities close by and an ensuite bathroom plus 2 large storage areas with a new furnace, this is living at a reasonable cost with a large lot, at a price that's just right. Come see us now or call 613-752-2882

BUSINESS AWARDS - YOU VOTE!!!

Dear Readers:

Please help us acknowledge the businesses in our area who demonstrate outstanding business practices. Three awards will be presented at the May 9, 2005 CABA Annual Meeting at 7 pm at the Calabogie Community Centre. Guests are welcome to attend.

HOW: Residents complete the ballot below and send it to The Editor, Madawaska Highlander, by January 30, 2005.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD:

Any business in the Township of Greater Madawaska and Burnstown is eligible. (Not necessary to be CABA member.)

AWARD #1: Customer Service

- Provides friendly, courteous service.
- Demonstrates ethical

practices.

- Markets, advertises and communicates sales/service practices which reflect a true representation of what is being offered.
- Provides value for money and service excellence.

AWARD #2: Community Service

- Supports community initiatives through time, donations, sponsorships.
- Takes active part in community projects and organizations.

AWARD #3: Business Front Presentation

- Presents an outdoor business front which is neat, attractive and inviting.

BALLOT

I, _____ (name)

_____ (address)
_____ (phone number)

Nominate

(name of business) for Customer Service Award,

(name of business) for Community Service Award,

(name of business) for Business Front Presentation Award.

Signature _____
Date _____

Please send completed ballot & send by Jan. 30, 2005, to:

The Editor, Madawaska Highlander
1837 Frontenac Road
RR#3 Griffith
Matawatschan, Ontario
K0J 2R0

THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

Mind your manners

By Mary Joan Hale

Remember when your mother said, 'Mind your manners'? It seems that at times, we are so caught up in our work, personal interests or causes that we forget that warning. Maybe it is time we put the same constraints on ourselves as we do on children. Many of us were raised with 'Children should be seen and not heard'. Were we so restricted as youngsters that as adults we need to shoot from the hip no matter the consequences? What ever happened to 'look before you leap'; 'think before you speak'?

We are constantly exposed to images of crowds protesting and marching. This is a good thing. I have marched for many reasons over the years. It is one of the wonderful privileges for which our veterans fought. We enjoy the right to protest and express ourselves. Sometimes in our zeal, we forget that we are not alone in our right to speak. Others may not agree with our opinions. It is not always easy to see the other side of an argument or cause. The veterans fought for the rights of all. How we present ourselves is as important as why we do so.

Highlander is one year old

With this issue The Madawaska Highlander is one year old. Having survived our first year of publication, it seems appropriate to say thank you to our readers, contributors and advertisers; to mention a few new developments and to give you a 'heads up' on what to expect in the coming year.

As we have said before, without our contributors and our advertisers there would be no paper. With this issue we have two new contributors. Melody Jones is now writing the 'Denbigh Checking In' column, which provides community reporting from Denbigh. She replaces Evelyn Inwood, who is retiring from the job after a year with the Madawaska Highlander and many years with the former incarnation of this paper. Thank you Evelyn for all of your hard work, writing your column and managing advertising from the Denbigh area. Our other new contributor is Heather Stickman, from Renfrew, who will be writing a column called 'Trail Talk', which is directed at the snowmobile community.

Community reporting is a very important part of what this paper does.

During a televised episode in Ottawa, I observed an angry protester spit on a Mountie. Politicians and leaders of organizations are called names and slandered. Those who disagree with us are shunned. In my own family, a disagreement between two brothers caused my great-grandfather to hitch up his horse and wagon and move here to the Valley. No one knows what caused the argument. They never spoke and the family was divided. Imagine, if they sat down civilly, my distant relatives might now be close ones.

Father Eugene O'Reilly gave a Mission here recently. He gave many examples of how we cannot heal without forgiveness. The Buddha says that the greatest cause of duka (suffering) is when we try to make others do as we wish. Sometimes this suffering can cause physical illness. We must learn to listen and understand. We tell our children that they cannot always have their own way and that with friendly discussions a compromise can always be reached.

Let us hope that the freedom won on the battlefields can be shared in the peace that we celebrate at Christmas.

We are well represented in this area in Griffith-Matawatchan and Denbigh, but have no dedicated reporting from Calabogie, Burnstown or from the Dacre-Mount St. Patrick area. If there is anyone interested in reporting for any of these areas, we would be very happy to have you on board.

Despite a necessary rise in our advertising rates, our advertisers have stayed with us. Being a free paper, advertisers are essential to the paper's existence. Our advertising base has been growing steadily and now extends into Renfrew. They know that the paper is read from cover to cover and that their message will get excellent exposure.

Our circulation has stabilized at between 2,000 and 2,500 copies per issue, depending on the season. The paper reaches every household in Greater Madawaska Township, Denbigh, Vennacher, Burnstown and beyond. With the subscription coupon that we recently introduced, we are mailing copies of the paper to towns outside our immediate area and even to the United States. Many of these subscribers are cottagers that

Looking Back...



Early Matawatchan in winter

Matawatchan New Years Eve Party

December 31
9:00 p.m to 2:00 a.m

Cash Bar (LCBO 19 yrs and over)
Hot and Cold Buffet
Professional Disk Jockey

Tickets: \$15 each or couple for \$25

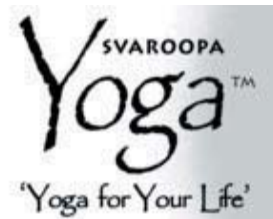
Contact Shari Holleran 333-1484 or
Gerry Adamson 333-5543

want to keep in touch with the area, but some are 'gift subscriptions' to family members that grew up here. Interestingly, some subscriptions are a straight gift of \$20 to support the paper.

In the last issue of the paper we featured an historical piece on Black Donald Mines, which was a huge success given the feedback that we received. We will continue the historical series with one on Calabogie, which is in this issue, followed by history articles on Griffith-Matawatchan, Dacre-Mount St. Patrick, Burnstown and Denbigh. We also plan stories on wood lot management, municipal waste management and concerns about drinking water and hydro just to mention a few.

Finally, thanks to our readers for the very positive feedback we have received about the paper.

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A Christmas Tale

By Garry Ferguson

Part 1 The Christmas Concert

With less than two weeks to go before Christmas, it appeared that we were about to have a bleaker Yuletide than any in the memory of even our oldest Bracken residents. Some people were angry. A few were embarrassed but because we were all related, in some way, most of us in the township were just sad. It was a hellish time for my classmates who'd started it all - especially with old Uncle Willy McCracken out to make their lives a lot more miserable than their parents already had.

Uncle Willy, who was really my father's uncle, had a face like a fist and was said to be the tightest man in all of Renfrew County. To say he was frugal would be like saying that the village drunk got a bit thirsty now and then.

"A wife," Willy said, "ain't nuthin' more'n another financial burden," so he had lived alone most of his life. When he grew too old and gaunt to run his sawmill, he came to stay with us.

Because of his stubborn, cross-grained nature, people feared him like frost-bite. Nobody in his family, except my mother and father, would put up with his tight-fisted ways. Duncan, my younger brother who couldn't be serious about anything, named him "Crow Bait." Willy, he said, was already dead; he just didn't know it. I tried to avoid the self-righteous old crank, especially when he'd spout off about laziness. Duncan and I were "lazy good-for-nothings," he claimed.

Dad, who still suffered from the effects of a whiff of poison gas he'd taken in France fifteen years earlier, tolerated Willy because he'd agreed to help by cleaning the stables and doing the milking for his keep. We soon noticed that he could strike terror into a poor beast by merely glancing at it - even the treacherous Jersey with the nervous hind foot.

In spite of his age, Willy still swung a lot of weight around Bracken because he'd served as either reeve or councillor from the days when he'd been a young man until the year he retired from "the lumbering." Besides that, people thought he was rich. What really stacked the odds against my friends though, was the fact that Willy was still a powerful school trustee.

"I wouldn't give a muskrat's turd four your playmates chances," Duncan told me. "I heard Pa tellin' Ma that the scrawny ole bugger runs that school board by browbeatin' all those other sucks. Sez most still owe'm money for lumber. He don't let them fur-

git. Worst of all though, Pa sez, he hates booze and them that drinks 'er."

The trouble started on the evening of the school Christmas concert after Berty Ross, Jimmy Mattson and I had gone to Johnny Granger's place for supper. Johnny's folks lived behind the family's Granger's General Store close to the schoolhouse. The four of us, who made up the entire eighth-year class, were the oldest of the twenty-five students in the one-room school so we were expected to be there early to help with last-minute preparations. Besides, we were all too excited to split up. This was the biggest night of the year for everyone in Bracken. Only the Second Coming could cause more excitement. During most years, folks still talked about the concert long after sap pans were stored and cattle were on the new grass.

We ate quickly, donned our mackinaws and stepped out into the frigid night air.

"Got sumpin' to show you," Johnny whispered. "It's in the school woodshed." After we'd waded, single file, through ankle-deep snow to the small building behind the school, he lit a match and moved some cedar kindling. "Two sports from Ottawa," he said, holding up a preserving jar filled with a dark liquid, "hunted with Pa - a few years back. Gave him a coupla bottles. One's rum and the other's rye, or somethin'. I took this from outa botha them."

"Ho-ly!" Berty Ross wheezed, sending a jet of condensation into the globe of light around the match as he thrust his little blonde head in front of us for a closer look. He must have been pretty impressed because he even forgot to use a few of his swear words. Berty was even smaller than I was but we hated to tangle with him because he could cut you down with his wicked mouth. His great-aunts, Mavis and Myrtle Ross, had already threatened to take him out of their wills if he didn't clean up his language.

"Won't the ole bugger notice?" Berty queried.

"Nah," Johnny scoffed. "Pa don't drink no more. Besides, I topped the bottles up with water. This stuff's got water in 'er too, eh, so's it can't hurt you. Here. Let's have a smash of 'er now."

The match flame died so I'm not sure whether Jimmy or Johnny took the first "smash." Though the two big lads were first cousins, they looked more like twin brothers with their matching broad faces and sandy curls. In the darkness, I couldn't tell them apart.

We all choked and sputtered but the others' stomachs were stronger than mine. With the concert on my mind, I was at the mercy of the butterflies in my

gut. They took an immediate dislike to the vile-tasting mixture and heaved it back up along with my supper. My friends didn't waste anymore on me.

The lads seemed normal for a while after we went into the warmth of the school. We ribbed each other about waiting for Santa and admired our fragrant evergreen decorations that had taken on a magical sheen under the weak glow from flames in wall-mounted oil lamps. The nervous banter, however, grew louder until our teacher whom we called Miss Droopy-Drawers - Miss Murray when within earshot of adults - intervened. She asked us to get ready for the nativity play - Berty to wrap himself in the Joseph costume his mother had sewn together and the cousins to don the colorful counterpanes that were to serve as bible-era shepherd robes. Unfortunately, she agreed to let them to use the woodshed as a dressing room.

As a curtain puller, I didn't have to dress in costume or make a fool of myself with my changing voice. I did, however, have to deal with the other curtain puller, Harold Bruce, from the seventh-year class. We faced each other on the front of our rough plank stage, three feet above the floor, and pulled two bed sheets pinned to slide along suspended stovepipe wire. The problem was that Harold could never seem to see the halfway mark where he was supposed to stop after we'd get the signal to "close curtains".

Berty's portly great-aunt Mavis, a retired schoolteacher who came every year to help by directing the choir, asked me to help move the pump organ. Because of her motherly leadership in most Bracken social activities, everyone in the community called her Aunt Mavis.

By the time Aunt Mavis was satisfied with the organ's location in the choir area between the end of the stage and the wall, my parents had arrived. They brought Uncle Willy who looked moth-eaten in his worn-out suit. As usual, he plunked his butt in the front row to get the most for his money though I'm pretty sure he deked in without paying the ten-cent admission.

Despite the distraction of having parents watching them, the fidgeting youngsters from the lower grades made it through their drills and recitations. At this point, Aunt Mavis's little choir, made up of students whose singing abilities made them too valuable to waste on acting parts, began its haunting rendition of "Silent Night" to signal the start of the pageant's first scene. We dimmed lamps near the stage and hauled the curtains back.

Continued on page 12



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Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

GRIFFITH / MATAWATCHAN NEWS

By Garry Ferguson

Volunteer Service Award Winner

There's an old adage maintaining that in any organization, "Twenty percent of the people do eighty percent of the work." Most of those people however, who can't seem to remember the word "no" (bless 'em all) whenever they're buttonholed to participate in some volunteer organization, are convinced that "Ten percent of the people do ninety percent of the work. Sadly, in too many cases the efforts of that ten percent are never formally recognized.

The Ontario Government makes an annual effort to rectify this by issuing "Certificates of Recognition" On Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2004, an Ontario Volunteer Service Award evening was held in Petawawa to honour a long list of deserving volunteers. Among those deserving citizens was Matawatchan's own Hazel Warren who received awards from Premier Dalton McGuinty and John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke.

In the belief that every aspect of Ontarian life is enhanced by the millions of volunteers from across the Province, the awards recognize volunteers for their years of service to an organization. Hazel was given her awards for 10 years of service with the Renfrew and Area Seniors' Home Support Inc. Like all community-minded celebrities who remember their roots, Hazel will be present at various local fall events to sign autographs.

Matawatchan Hall

The second attempt at an Annual General Meeting produced the desired results – enough butts warming chairs in

the hall to come up with a new Board of Directors and live bodies to serve on several support committees. The Old Hall will survive for at least another year. Doug Vasey is again President, Shari Holleran, Vice, Jackie Jenks, Treasurer, and Bill Graham, Secretary. Gerry Adamson and D.M. Jamie have signed on as Directors.

The fall dances were successes and the Euchre and Darts Soirees will be back on track, hopefully in December, when the board can get its mittens on a permanent liquor license.

Northbrook Legion Leads Remembrance

In a lead up to Remembrance Day, two Legionnaires, Jim Wright and Branch 328 President Cecil Hawley, drove up from Northbrook on Sunday, October 17 to place Canadian flags on the graves of all Armed Service members in the Denbigh, Vennachar, Glenfield and Matawatchan Cemeteries. Both were touched by Reid Thompson's crosses at the Matawatchan site.

On Remembrance Day, November 11, Legionnaires Hawley and Wright returned to organize a Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the cenotaph in Denbigh. Lt. Tim Trickey, Commanding Officer 640 Army Cadet Company, Cloyne, and four cadets formed an impressive flag party. Local citizens participated through the laying of wreathes and St Luke's United provided refreshments in the church basement after the ceremony.

Folks here in the communities of the circle are indebted to these dedicated people who exert considerable time and effort to not only enable us to pay tribute, but to perpetuate a cultural legacy for the children that we hope will someday lead such remembrances.



Remembrance Day in Denbigh

Local History Lesson

On October 5, Lynn McLaren and Yours Truly met, in Calabogie, with two students of Canada World Youth (CWY). The informal session was to assist in the compilation of local history, a project taken on by CWY. Using old photos as props for our anecdotes, we related the history of the Matawatchan area as passed along to us or as we remember it. Since they taped the conversation, we didn't make anything up - honest. Councillor Karin Lehnhardt, Reeve Isobel Kristijan and folks at the township office arranged the meeting with the two young women, Carly Jenkins of Alora, Ontario and Sara Toro of Honduras.

The students will be in the area until December 02, then will leave for Toronto. The group will take the next phase of the operation to sunny Honduras for most of the winter. Missing January and February in Canada may be hard to endure, but someone has to do these things.

Station Two

The 2000-gallon-capacity tanker truck donated to Station Two by Tom Carty has been restored and painted. Floyd Kauffeldt, of Floyd's Enterprises, completed the makeover on

the Ford 8000 right here in beautiful downtown Griffith. The last step in the process was the application of decals, which was carried out by TFC Sign and Graphics of Renfrew.

Don't forget to get a ten-dollar ticket for the Fire Department's fund-raising presentation of Cape Breton entertainer Gerry McDaniel at the Griffith Lions Hall on Saturday January 22, 2005.

Station Two Chief Garry Peters reminds residents to clean those chimneys (I think it has something to do with Santa's clothes) and to check all fire alarms before the heating season begins in earnest. Never, ever leave lit candles unattended. He and the fire fighters at Station Two wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

We Care List

With the approach of winter, the Northern Lights Seniors Club, of Griffith, Matawatchan, Vennachar, Denbigh and all points in between, is again dusting off its "We Care Emergency List."

Following "the great power outage," Carol Anne Kelly took on the task of compiling a list of those who may need assistance in case of such an emergency. Six couples from the club were each assigned telephone numbers of five households where seniors lived alone or that were located in isolated areas. A complete list was then distributed to everyone involved so that the "Care Couples" could contact those who might require assistance or visa versa.

Station Fire Chiefs Gary Peters (Griffith/Matawatchan) and Ken Bernt (Denbigh) have cooperated fully with the program and will, in a crisis, arrange for warm, generator-powered facilities, in the Griffith Lions Hall

Denbigh Checking In!

By Melody Jones

Editor's note: Evelyn Inwood, who wrote the Denbigh Checking In column during the past year, has passed her responsibility for community reporting on to Melody Jones. Thank you for all your hard work; for both writing and looking after Denbigh advertising accounts Evelyn, and welcome aboard Melody.

I want to thank you Evelyn, for your caring and professional manner, your attention to detail, your inclusion of the school news and for being a positive influence in our communities. Thank you too for suggesting I write again...

Hunting season saw an increase of activity within and around Addington Highlands. Hunter's Orange which was the fashion trend for the first two weeks of November will be put away until next season. I must admit to purchasing a Big Stitch hoodie of the same colour.

The winners of the Dale Keller Memorial Denbigh Buck and Doe Contest are as follows:

1st Place Buck - Curtis Grant,
2nd Place Buck - Brian Lees

1st Place Doe - Kandace Malcolm,
2nd Place Doe - Tanya Rosenblath,

Congratulations to all the winners. Special thanks to all the sponsors!

The students of Denbigh Public School are the big winners. A donation of \$1,000 from the Dale Keller Memorial Denbigh Buck and Doe Contest will be used towards the purchase of new library books and physical education equipment. The family and organizers from the students and staff also deserve a huge THANK YOU!

St. Luke's United Church reports a terrific turnout to their annual Hunter's Supper on November 05, 2004. The supper included six large turkeys complete with trimmings, dessert and coffee or tea, for only \$10 per adult.

As the Holiday Season approaches, we are reminded of others less fortunate than ourselves, especially the children—children who are suffering

due to war, natural disaster, poverty, illness or neglect. The students of Denbigh Public School filled fifteen shoe boxes with toys, writing materials, personal hygiene items, t-shirts; and the list goes on. Thank you to all the students and parents who participated in Operation Christmas Child!

The Addington Highlands Public Library receives new books monthly. Here is a list of hard cover Best Sellers coming in December:

Silver Bells - Luanne Rice
Whiteout - Ken Follett
Double Homicide - Jonathon and Faye Kellerman
Falling Awake - Janye Ann Krentz
Our Game - David Baldacci
Life Expectancy - Dean Koontz

GRIFFITH / MATAWATCHAN NEWS (continued)

and the Denbigh Fire Hall. In this, they have the full backing of their respective Fire Chiefs, Christopher Naismith of Greater Madawaska and Casey Cuddy of Addington Highlands.

Readers who are concerned about the safety of particular seniors, may call Carol Anne (333 5570) to ensure that they are included on the list.

Fish and Game Club (F & G)

Looks like there'll be a few full freezers around this year judging by the counts and the weights recorded. The F & G Buck and Doe contest was again a success with a whole mess of great gifts, like a couple chainsaws, won on the draw.

A 244-pound beauty took the Largest Buck prize for Bob Casselman while Lawrence Malcolm's 154-pound entry snagged Largest Doe honors. Ron Young, Harvey Clout and Steve Zahen split the Mystery Weight - 170 pounds - spoils. There's a rumor circulating that a certain bow-toting bigwig in the club is pushing for "Largest Buck Missed" and "Largest Doe Missed" categories next year - if he can come up with an unassailable means of determining the "largeness" of deer. His much-used method of guessing weight as they're standing on his toes or leaning against him cannot be accepted as dependable enough for official contests.

Remember to drop your fin (\$5.00) for one of the annual membership cards while they're still hot and watch for a newsletter in January that will contain details of the Annual General Meeting and the Fishing Derby. There'll be no banquet this year due to wear and tear on over-used, tired and bruised members of the executive.

President Karen Gaulin and the Club

Live the Dream - Josephine Cox
London Bridges - James Patterson
Red Leaves - Belva Plain

The Addington Highlands Public Library is open:

Tuesday	9:00 am to 11:00 am
Thursday	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am to 12 noon

Loads of new children's books are coming in December as well as paperback Best Sellers. If you would like more information, or to find out when the library is open over the Holiday Season, please call 333-1426.

May all the joys of the Season be yours now and through the New Year!

Executive wish to pass on to our readers "A very happy Christmas and a great new year in which you'll never have to lie about the one that got away."

Dale Keller Memorial Contest

This year's first-prize winners of the Dale Keller Memorial Denbigh Buck and Doe Contest were Curtis Grant for a buck of 251 pounds and Brian Lees for a doe of 129 pounds. Second-largest booty went to Candice Malcolm for a 221-pound buck and to Tanya Rosenblath for a 128-pound doe. All proceeds from this contest were contributed to the Denbigh Public School.

Concerts, Banquets, Shindigs and Brawls

Vennachar Free Methodist will stage a Sunday School Christmas concert on December 05 at 7p.m. in the church.

The St. Andrew's UCW, Matawatchan, will hold its noonday Christmas luncheon on December 07 at the Copeland spread.

A craft sale is planned for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on December 11 in the Griffith/Lions Hall. This event will take place only if there are sufficient participants to make it worthwhile.

Matawatchan's annual Christmas Tree Lighting is on again for 7 p.m. Saturday, December 11, across from the Country Store. After the lighting ceremony, Station Two Fire Brigade's Ladies' Auxiliary will stage a concert at the Matawatchan Hall, complete with a silent auction and Kris Kringle himself.

Hilltop Pentecostal will go with a Sunday school concert on December 12, at 6 p.m.

The Busy Bees Crafty Club will swarm for its Yuletide feast at noon on December 14 in the Matawatchan Hall.

We all know that Lions are party animals, so it's not surprising that the Denbigh-Griffith Pride has sponsored two this year. The Club's private bash, at the den, starts at 6 p.m. on December 18 and the annual Lions Children's Party begins at 1 p.m. on December 19 in the same spot.

The Northern Lights will celebrate the Season with a noon luncheon in the Matawatchan Hall on December 21. Guests may attend for the sum of six tnoonies and a loonie. Notice that this is noon (1200 hours) Eastern Standard Time, not noon (1100 hours) Matawatchan Standard Time.

At 9 p.m. on New Years Eve, (that's December 31 for those who don't keep a calendar handy) there will come to pass two New Years Dances in the community. One will be sponsored by the Denbigh Griffith Lions at its digs in Griffith

GREATER- MADAWASKA LITERARY MATTERS

By Mary Joan Hale

"My love is like a red, red rose." "All you need is love". The topic of love keeps poets and songwriters, past and present, inspired. Volunteers are a special kind of people who show their love in various ways. Whether as coaches, canvassers for charity or collecting for the Food Bank, for example, they make our world a better place. We are fortunate to have many of these good people in our township. They help in the library. They serve on the Board, and yes, they do it for free! They sing, read or act for Library fundraisers. They help with selling books. They advocate as 'Friends of the Library', volunteer on Canada Day patching sick teddies and help on many other occasions in so many other ways.

On October 21, 2004, during Ontario Public Library Week, we honoured them at a "Salute to Volunteers Tea" in the Council Chambers of the Township of Greater Madawaska. It was a small thank you for many hours of donated time. Through their efforts the library is able to function more efficiently and in these days of necessary fiscal restraint, they raise funds for extra, but needed, materials for the library.

Gail McEvoy, the secretary of the Board, and I attended a 'Volunteers Workshop' recently at the library in Petawawa. We will be putting into play many of the recruiting skills learned

and the other in the Matawatchan Hall.

Church Services

Christmas Eve observances will begin at St. Luke's United, in Denbigh, at 4 p.m. with a Special Service of carols and readings.

At 7 p.m. there will be a Christmas Eve Mass at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Griffith, a Candlelight Service at Vennachar Free Methodist, and a Carol Service at St. Andrew's United Church in Matawatchan.

St Joseph's in Esmonde will begin Mass at 9:30 p.m.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary will also celebrate a Christmas Day Mass at 11 a.m.

Best Wishes

The entire staff (snicker) here at the Griffith Matawatchan News desk (we wish) want to wish our readers "Best wishes for the Christmas Season and a very prosperous 2005." If you don't intend to be good over the holidays, then be careful.

there. If you would like to volunteer, we have several tasks that need doing, such as the circulation desk, joining the "Friends of the Library" or processing books. We need adults to act as 'Book Buddies' to read with young children. This will be very rewarding and will help struggling readers as well as help good readers improve. Parents who would like their children to participate, or any other adults, who wish to buddy, please call or visit the library to register. If it is one hour a week or irregularly according to your schedule, Melville Dewey needs you!

During the summer we hosted the TD Summer Reading Club. The children of the Club began writing a fairy tale, but ran out of time. We have some unicorns in distress and we need to rescue them! The children requested an after-school club to finish their story. Please call or visit to register for this Club, which will be resuming Monday November 22.

Reading is as natural to me as breathing and judging by the increase in library patrons, it appears that I'm not alone. Here are a few hints to tell you if you are a reader:

- If you keep a miner's headlamp on your bedside table, you might be a reader.
- If you are familiar with all of the ingredients in your shampoo, toothpaste and shaving cream, you might be a reader.
- If your physiotherapist or chiropractor has ever chastised you for going back to Chapters before your back is ready, you might be a reader.
- If you have ever stayed home from work for a family emergency or illness that involved the last few chapters of a book, you might be a reader.
- If you have any other clues to add, email or drop them in at the library. If you do, you are definitely a reader!

Coming events:

- Something very special: Watch for the announcement!
- After School Reading Club: November 22 (4:00-5:00)
- Pre-school Story time: Friday mornings at 9:30. Except, due to scheduling, it will be November 30, not December 3 for that week only!

Co-ordinates: (613) 752-2317.
mjhale@post.library.on.ca

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Community Calender

CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

GRIFFITH AND MATAWATCHAN (Carol Service) 4:00 p.m.
Minister: 333-2381

St. Andrew's United Church

Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Christmas Eve Carol Service 7:00 p.m..
Minister: 333-2381

Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Griffith: Saturday Mass 7:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Mass – 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Mass – 11:00 a.m.
St. Joseph's (Esmond) Christmas Eve Mass - 9:30 p.m.

Hilltop Tabernacle

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

DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

Vennachar Free Methodist Church

Sunday School ?:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship ?:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve – Candle Light Service – 7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's United Church

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

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

The New Apostolic Church

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

CALABOGIE

The Calabogie Bible Fellowship Congregational Church

The Mill Street Chapel at 538 Mill St.,
Pastor: Bill Griffiths
Nov. 28, Sun. at 7:00 p.m. Advent Prayer & Praise Service
Dec. 5th & 12th Sun. at 7:00 p.m. Advent Prayer & Praise Services
Dec. 19th Sun. at 7:00 p.m. A Service of Lessons & Carols
Dec. 24th Fri. at 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of the Lord's Supper

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church

504 Mill St., Rev. Father Pat Blake
Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11 & 18th Sat. at 5:00 p.m. (Advent Services & Mass)

Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 & 19th Sun. at 10:30 p.m. (Advent Services & Mass)
Dec. 24th Fri. at 6:00 p.m. A Family Mass with Pageant
Dec. 25th Sat. at 10:30 a.m. Traditional Parish Mass

St. Andrews United Church

1044 Madawaska Dr. (on the waterfront)
Rev. Don Anderson
Nov. 28th & Dec. 5, 12 & 19th Sunday at 8:45 a.m.
Advent Services with Christmas Music
Dec. 24th: Friday at 7:00 p.m. A Family Christmas Eve Communion Service

Calabogie St. Andrews United Church

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

CHURCH EVENTS

St. Andrew's United Church – Matawatchan

UCW Christmas Luncheon – Dec. 7 at noon at the Copeland's – 4084 Matawatchan Rd.

Vennachar Free Methodist Church -

Sunday School Concert – Dec. 5 at 7:00 pm at the church

Hilltop Pentecostal Tabernacle

Sunday School Concert – Dec. 12 at 6:00 pm

St. Luke's United Church, Denbigh

Exercise Group - Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.

The New Apostolic Church, Denbigh

The New Apostolic Church in Denbigh invites all visitors to our area and all interested to join us for our Sunday morning services. Come enjoy our choir. They sing several selections before service which begins at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday evening services at 8:00 pm

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Calabogie

Bogie Lights, Heritage Point, Calabogie, 6 pm
Dec. 4, 2004 Lighting of trees, carols and refreshments 752-0652 (Seniors' Club 971)

Lion's Club Christmas Bingo,

Calabogie Community Centre,
Dec. 8, 2004, 7:15 pm, 752-0234

Matawatchan Hall

Matawatchan Annual Christmas Tree Lighting – 7:00 p.m. – Across from the Country Store

Christmas Concert – after the Tree Lighting at the Matawatchan Hall – sponsored by the Station Two Fire Brigade's Ladies' Auxiliary, with a silent auction and Santa Claus.

New Years Eve Dance – Dec. 31 – 9:00 pm (Matawatchan Hall) – LCBO 19 yrs and older, DJ, Buffet - \$10 admission

Griffith

Craft Sale - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on December 11 in the Griffith/Lions Hall.

This event will take place only if there are sufficient participants to make it worthwhile.

Lion's Club - Lions Children's Party begins at 1 p.m. on December 19

New Years Eve Dance – Dec. 31 – Lion's Hall in Griffith

Busy Bees Craft Club

Yuletide luncheon - at noon on December 14 at the Matawatchan Hall.

"Northern Lights" Seniors

Christmas Luncheon – noon on Dec. 21 – Matawatchan Hall - Meet the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. alternating between Griffith and Matawatchan. For information contact Lois Robbins at

333-1082. All Seniors Welcome

Community Bus Service

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

Fellowship Luncheon

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

Diners Club

Dinners are held the first Monday of the month at the Denbigh Community Hall at 12 noon. Full Course Meal

\$5.00. Contact Lynn McNicolle at 333-5586 for information.

HEALTH CARE

Paramed Health Care Services Foot Care Clinic/Denbigh

Call 333-5559, Muriel Burgess, for an appointment

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

A Chrīmas Tale

Continued from page 7

Two hulking shepherds, easily recognized by their size as Johnny and Jimmy though no one knew which was which, swung long shepherd's crooks at the only star in their sky - a candle in a tin can suspended from the ceiling.

A blonde angel appeared through a slit in a dark curtain at the rear of the stage and the choir let the strains of the carol die away. There was a soft glow around the angel while light from the swinging star rippled across her pretty face and white robe. A murmur went up from the audience. The beautiful messenger impressed everyone it seemed, except the shepherds.

When they'd lost interest in the star, one of them hooked a paper sheep I'd spent hours making and tried his darndest to break its neck. It appeared, however, that the other would finally show some respect. He sank to his knees before the angel. I wanted to applaud this touching addition until he crawled toward her on his elbows and grabbed for her leg.

The startled angel squealed and leaped sideways revealing the source of her glow - a grinning boy holding an old buggy lantern. We drew the curtains to frantic whispers from Miss Murray.

Aunt Mavis's choir drowned out most of the angry hisses from backstage and gave everyone time to get ready for the next scene. It began with Berty Ross, as Joseph, using his walking staff to pound several gaping holes in the front of our white-washed, paper inn. The small window opened and a bearded face emerged.

"There is no room in the inn," a young voice yelled from behind the beard.

The answer was slurred but no one was left in doubt as to where the innkeeper was supposed to shove his room. Joseph said he'd sooner sleep in the dam' barn anyway.

After the first two lines of "Away In a Manger", sang in two-part harmony, the next scene got under way. Though I'd seen the rehearsals in the harsh glare of day, the beauty of the words and music in this setting of soft shadows made me swallow hard. I missed the cue and was late in exposing my side of the stage. A kneeling Mary, cloaked in blue, and a swaying Joseph stared into a low manger from which straw spilled. Lanterns bathed this re-enactment of the age-old manger scene with a subdued light. In spite of the reek of burning coal oil and my empty stomach's snit over the heat in the stuffy room, I could almost imagine that I'd been carried back in time to that night in Bethlehem. Even the tin can and candle, now suspended over the open stable, seemed to have taken on the characteristics of a real star.

In the darkened background, the two shepherds skulked among a variety of paper animals. My abused sheep could be recognized by its twisted neck.

The only perceptible movement was under the front of Berty's Joseph robe. At a level even with his crotch, the robe began to protrude. Berty seemed to take no notice. He clung desperately to the walking staff, swayed like a sapling in a wind and stared at the manger.

The protrusion shrunk then grew again to an even greater length. As I peered into the dim background, I saw that one of the cousin shepherds had raised the rear of Berty's robe with the tip of his shepherd's crook and was pushing the shaft between his legs.

At this point the other shepherd cousin joined in. Whatever he did with his crook though, made Berty scream "Shit," loud enough to raise a cloud of bat dung in the old attic. His pelvic thrust threw him off balance and he fell over Mary, finishing off the sheep with the twisted neck just as the choir began, "We Three Kings" and three Wise Men entered from the right.

Spurred on by Miss Murray's tearful cries to "Close the curtains," Harold and I threw ourselves into the task. When Harold passed the halfway mark, I yelled "Whoa", which usually worked, but Miss Murray had panicked him and Harold was out of control. When he hit me head-on, well inside my territory, the bone-bruising body check caused him to lose his balance. In spite of a desperate effort to recover, as he flailed his way along the edge of the stage performing what seemed to be a high-speed version of the Highland Fling, he went over the end toward the choir.

Aunt Mavis, who was frantically pumping the old organ, turned her head just in time to look down Harold's throat as he sailed, spread-eagled like a shrieking flying squirrel, toward her. I don't think Harold even jarred her but as he floundered around looking for his glasses, she fainted and slid from the organ stool to join him on the floor.

Everyone in the audience sprang to their feet. They jabbered and milled around, craning their necks to see what was happening at the front.

Uncle Willy, with his watery eyes narrowed to slits, glared at Miss Murray and snarled something about delinquents. He rubbed his hooked nose, and beckoned to a few other trustees who happened to be near him. I knew that he'd be full of righteous wrath and, as a self appointed spokesman for the school board, out to make trouble. He considered frivolous behavior - especially from young people - the work of the devil and drunkenness a hanging offence.

By the time Santa, who'd evidently been waiting in the porch for his cue, had rushed in and passed out the small gifts piled under our Christmas tree, the news had spread. Uncle Willy McCracken had bullied Miss Murray and the majority of trustees into going along with his demands for retribution. My three friends would be expelled for the shame they'd brought upon the school system. It was to be made official at the first board meeting of the new year.

As people put their coats on and Miss Murray cried over the ruined concert, Berty's little blonde head emerged silently from behind the curtains and hung over the edge of the stage. He managed



Matawatchesan School

to spatter at least ten people, including Santa Claus, when he threw up.

PART II

AWAY IN A COW BYRE

The Sunday school concert, that was to be held in our church on the following Friday, had only a dozen children to work with. That seemed like pretty small potatoes compared to the one at the public school.

Aunt Mavis Ross, who seemed to have recovered from her ordeal, happened to be our Sunday school superintendent. As a teacher, she had learned to like the boring works of long-dead and rotted-away writers. Unfortunately, she got the notion that others might also be interested in such tomfoolery and made us stage one of her own one-act plays based on some forgettable old tale. The story was about a ghost, named Jacob, coming back to haunt his business partner in life, a greedy old tightwad named Ebenezer. The story was pretty unbelievable because this old lad, Ebenezer, hated everything about Christmas. Our minister's approval for "something just a little different from the traditional material" was assured by including a clear warning about the torment awaiting those who, like Jacob, forget their Christian principles.

Aunt Mavis considered Duncan talented because he could change his voice to mimic anyone in Bracken, so she made him both narrator and ghost in her play. I was cast as the tightwad. Aunt Mavis pictured him as a cackling old fool, so my cracking voice

didn't matter. Because of his laziness

though, Duncan was having trouble getting around to learning his lines.

"You'll make out awright on the narratin' part," I said to him as we carried wood from the shed into Mother's overheated kitchen on Wednesday afternoon. "You git to hide behind a friggin' curtain and read to everybody about what a horse's arse I am. It's your ghost part that's worryin' me. You gotta -"

"I'd say you're more like a horse's turd," he grinned.

"Okay! I roared. "That's it! I'm not havin' you make a complete fool outa me. You fart around an' get that ghost stuff all mixed up. So it's out to the stable tonight - after supper - for some practice - or I'll break yore friggin' neck." I didn't want our parents see the play before the concert.

Duncan was still grinning as he thrust his round, freckled face close to my ear. "You know, Davey," he whispered. "You smell like a horse's turd too." He ran outside and held the door closed.

"Dunck," I screamed. He detested being called Dunck. "Dunck, Dunck, you friggin' redheaded Dunck." He envied my dark hair. I knew it.

For our rehearsal, we used a large clean area, at the rear of the cow stable, where hay landed when we pitched it down from the barn above. Warmed by the animals and filled with a scent of cured timothy, it was comfortable.

"Hope Dad doesn't find out we got his battery light out here," I said after we'd put our costumes on over our coats and breeks. "He'd tramp our guts out for usin' up his battery."

"Don't tell 'm," Duncan snorted. "Well? Do I look like a ghost?"

"Yah! Friggin' scary," I said as I caught him in the glare of the light. A black cushion cover, in which eye-holes had been cut, was pulled over his head to create the illusion of a dark hole where a face should be. Over this, an old bed sheet hung, like a flowing, hooded cloak, from the top of his head to his gumboots. He'd tied a piece of rusty logging chain around his ankle so that it rattled when he moved.

"Let's get started," I said switching off the light and settling on a pile of hay. A blast of cold air against my back made me jerk my head around to look over my shoulder. A tall figure, silhouetted against a lantern's weak glow, stood in the doorway.

"Ole Crow Bait's comin' to clean the stable," Duncan mumbled. "If he hadna spent all afternoon out stirrin' up crap, he'da done it before dark."

The scrape of a shovel and the plop of manure landing in the wheelbarrow told us that Uncle Willy had immediately gone to work. I turned back toward Duncan.

"Okay," I said impatiently. "I'm not sittin' here all night - Dunck. So get goin', eh."

"What th' hell . . ."

"Dam'," I snarled as I glanced over my shoulder again. "What's he mumblin' about?"

Willy's mutter was followed by a dull thwack, a soft moan then a softer splat.

"Talkin' to his holy self again," Duncan dismissed the intrusion. "Probly got a fart stuck crosswise. Now, gimme that thing."

He switched the light on and held it under the sheet. Like Mother's frosted glass angel with a candle burning in its base, he glowed in the darkness as light filtered out through the sheet from top to bottom. His face though, still looked like a black hole.

"Yooooou," he began slowly in a high wavering voice as he pointed his free ghostly arm at me. "Yooooo squeezein', sneezein', wennchinn', crrutchinn', coverless oole sonufabitch." His voice climbed in pitch and volume as he warmed to the part. "Unless you straighten up, you dried-up hunka hen turd, and give away money an' all that, I'm gonna haaaunt you till yooou shit yourself." He pawed the floor with his chained foot, like a bull about to charge.

"You made that up you idiot," I growled, finally loosing my patience. "The ghost doesn't say . . ."

An utterance, lower than a wail, rising at the end like a question, came from behind me. It reminded me of an involuntary cry from someone who's been doused with a pail of iced water.

I jumped up as Duncan shone the light on Willy. He stood capless, chest against the stone wall, arms extended, fingers clutching at the mortared cracks as though trying to climb out of a well. His head was turned sideways as he looked at us over his shoulder, his eyes wide, mouth gaping enough for us to see gums glisten in the light beam. The sparse, gray hair was matted and there was a large dark smudge in the middle of his forehead. As we stared, he slid onto the floor.

We dropped our costumes and warily approached the still figure. "Do you - ah - think he's dea - dead or somethin'?" Duncan's voice quivered.

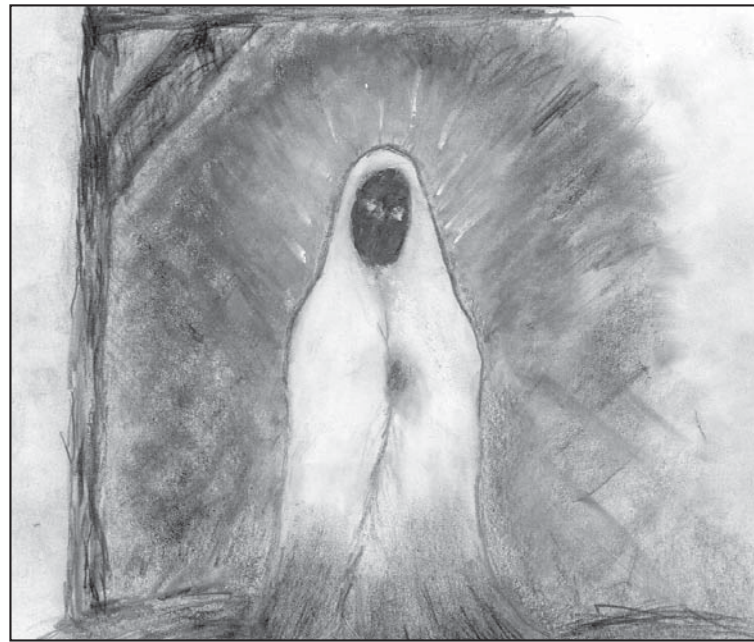
I took the light. "Ah - I dunno," I stammered. I moved Willy's head with my foot. "Look!" I yelled. "On his forehead. Is that a hoof mark? I'll bet . . . Oh damn!" He swallowed his teeth. Quick. The lantern."

Duncan dashed to the front of the stable and grabbed the lantern from where it hung. "Hey! Over here," he yelled as he returned. "His teeth. On the floor b'hint the Jersey."

"We'll get'm later," I croaked. "The wheelbarr. We'll wheel him - to the house. Dad'll . . . He'll know what't do."

A penetrating north wind and two tumblers into the snow had revived Willy by the time we'd wheeled him to the house, but his babbling scared us. It didn't even sound as though it came from him.

Dad stripped away layers of Willy's dung-covered clothes then sat him by the kitchen stove. Even without the clothes, he stunk enough to mask the smell of Mother's baking bread. Soapy water erased the hoof print, but a red welt remained.



The ghost pawed the floor with his chain, like a bull about to charge.

Dad finally persuaded him to settle down and talk slowly. He'd been distracted, he said, by a noise - like voices - and forgot to look out for the Jersey's hind foot. The blow hadn't been that hard. He'd been stunned but was able to crawl away. In this disorientated state he'd forced himself to stand and that was when he'd seen something - maybe a - ghost.

"It wasturble, turbule, turbule," herepeated again and again. "A corker altogether."

Nobody could remember a time when Willy was afraid of anything, so I think his fear unnerved Dad. The laugh seemed forced and he tried a little too hard to convince Willy that the blow from the cow's foot had him light-headed.

"Nope! Nono, Tom my boy. On my dear mother's grave." Willy seemed to be on the verge of hysteria. "I

swear, without a worduva lie. Oh, I was a little addled awright. But just as wide-awake as you. It was devilish. Called me ungodly names, eh. Don't mind exactly what though. P'inted at me, by Judas. Threatened me, even. But I'll say no more. You think I'm crazy, eh. I'm not, y' know. Yaah. Turble! Awful! But I'll say no more, eh. My lips're sealed."

"Hmm," Dad murmured. He wrinkled his wind-burned forehead. "Youse little buggers ain't bin up to something, have you?"

"Naaaw," I scoffed, trying to muster up the right amount of indignation. "We went to help. Throw down some hay maybe. And there he was - out cold."

Willy was true to his word. His lips quivered for the rest of the evening but they were sealed. He

store to "set things right" and offer a big spruce Christmas tree he'd cut on our farm. While he was there he paid off a grocery bill owed by an injured lumberjack who couldn't work. Mr. Granger let it slip that this was done only after he had agreed to give Willy four cans of sardines and knock ten percent off the bill for prompt payment.

Willy then went to see the families of the other two he'd wanted expelled. Both encounters, according to my friends, were a little tense at first but when, in each case, he presented two cans of sardines and admitted to being "a mite hasty about them damn' fine young lads," he was welcomed - and fed.

As I feared, Duncan made fools of us. He forgot what Jacob's ghost was supposed to say but the concert was a roaring success overall because everyone was in a good mood. The ill feeling, which had caused a blight on the festive season, had evaporated. When the folks sang "Joy To The World," it was with feeling. When they said "Merry Christmas," their eyes shone. Everyone, especially the families of my three friends, treated Uncle Willy like royalty. He lapped it up. More people saw his teeth that night than in all the years since he'd bought them. Once he found that smiles cost nothing, he aimed them in all directions - except at Duncan and me. He stopped talking to us after he saw the ghost play.

Everthing turned out quite well except that Berty's great-aunts cut him out of their wills, Jimmy's Battson's parents took him out of school to work on the farm and Johnny Granger split wood every Saturday until Easter.

Continued on page 16



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never spoke of the ghost again - but Duncan did. Each time he repeated Willy's account of the haunting, the little troublemakers swore that the cow had developed a permanent limp after kicking the old turd's hard head.

When Willy gave Mother a worn five-dollar bill, after breakfast the next morning, she was so surprised she forgot to thank him.

"To buy some store-boughten things for the Christmas dinner," he said. The welt had taken on several shades of purple but he seemed healthy enough when he harnessed his horse to a cutter, put a bucksaw in the back and drove off through a snow squall.

He, apparently, talked each trustee out of what he'd already bullied him into. The task couldn't have been too difficult because each claimed credit for talking some sense into Willy. In a few hours he was at Granger's

Fishers

By Floris Wood

The long, grizzled coat of the fisher gives it a bulkier look than most other martins, all members of the weasel (Mustelidae) family. The colour of its coat ranges from black through dark brown to dark gray, depending on age, gender and heredity. It tends to become lighter toward the front and some have a white chest patch. The fisher is incredibly agile and by twisting his body around hares helps immobilizes them while he strikes at their necks. He is easily misidentified as an American martin or even a mink or weasel but he appears larger than the rest of these fellow weasel family members and is more likely to be found in trees or in the deep forest.

The fisher does not eat fish, but he has an ill-advised predilection for porcupine meat and not just as the martin's meal of last resort, but as a much sought after delicacy. The martin is the only predator of porcupines and he has developed an effective porcupine killing technique. He attacks porcupines only from the front, harassing the face, which contains no quills. The porcupine desperately tries to turn his back to the lightning fast fisher and will eventually make the mistake of lifting its head up too high. One quick, strong bite to the underside of the throat will prove fatal to the porcupine.

Porcupines will often add to their defences by climbing a couple feet up a tree, presenting only its quill filled back and lashing quilled tail to its opponent on the ground. The fisher, a far better climber, will ascend the other side of the tree and, like a squirrel, descend the tree upside down from above the porcupine using its usual face to face attack strategy. The fisher has been known to lose such a battle, but rarely. He will feed on a porcupine carcass for several days and the porcupine's fat will last the fisher for over a month.

In pursuit of other ground prey such as hares, mice and chipmunks, the fisher uses his keen intelligence and knowledge of its prey's habits to surprise them and in their confusion, dispatch them quickly with a well placed bite. He sel-



Young fisher kit

dom chases or stalks his prey. In search of signs of prey the fisher will zigzag in its bouncing gait around the forest floor, stopping occasionally to analyze a scent. While engaged in this kind of foraging the fisher may appear to a human to be clownishly playful. But it is deadly serious business for the fisher.

There have been unsubstantiated reports of fishers killing small fawns but generally they avoid adult animals larger than them. Their reputation for fierceness may be a bit exaggerated by the fact that they try very hard to create mass confusion for its prey by attacking fast and ferociously. They generally avoid confrontations with other adult members of the weasel family except in fights over territory. Carrion meat as well as berries and lichens supply some of the fisher's diet. Martins, unlike their cousins the otters, are not dependent upon bodies of water for their food source or travel. They are generalists in their eating habits and research on fishers reveals no ability to dive for food or even wade for shallow water food. Although a frog in the forest is a tasty treat.

The most serious predator of the fisher is the bobcat, which is also in competition with the

fisher for many of the same foods.

Fishers spend much of their time in trees, with a preference for older spruce forests, which provide many hollow logs for safe sleeping quarters and heavy continuous canopy where he can prey on birds, squirrels, chipmunks and other tree-dwelling animals. These environmental requirements make the whole width of Canada a fine place for fishers to live. The Madawaska Valley is on the southern rim of the fisher's range. Although fishers live here in the Valley a human can live here a lifetime and never see a fisher unless they spend a great deal of time in the deep bush. Recently Doris Van Woezik, while on her way to Renfrew, reported seeing a female fisher and her kits crossing the road.

Male fishers are 24 inches to 30 inches long and weigh up to 18 pounds; about the size of a red fox. Female fishers are about half the size of males. Typical of their martin heritage is their long body and short legs, giving them a loping gait as they run on the ground. Martins, unlike their cousins the otters, are not dependent upon bodies of water for their food source or travel. Hares are another favourite food but they will settle for almost any small animal un-

fortunate enough to cross their paths.

Fishers are very solitary animals, not even staying with a mate after the mating period. The male is very territorial and is a fierce defender of his large territory. In search of a territory of his own a young fisher may travel a long distance very quickly. One researcher noted a fisher traveled 160 Km during one summer searching for his own domain. A young fisher may have to learn some severe lessons about trespassing on his way to finding a home of his own.

The female's eleven month gestation period is one of the longest in the animal kingdom. She mates again within ten days of delivering kits and is pregnant while raising her current brood. In fact, she is pregnant most of her life! However, like most members of the species Mustelidae, female fishers have delayed implantation. The embryos remain very tiny until two months before deliver when they become full fledged foetuses.

Speculation about the name "fisher" ranges from confusing them with their water dependent cousins to the Dutch immigrants mistaking this critter for the European polecat which they called a "fitch" or "fitchet." Their Latin name is *Martes Pennanti* in recognition of its martin lineage and its preference for mixed forests that contain some coniferous trees. It thrives best in a habitat where conifers and hardwood forests merge. It is seldom found in solely hardwood forests or in areas that have been recently logged over. As new undergrowth returns to logged out areas the fisher is likely to return as long as conifers are present.

Reintroduction of fishers to recovering isolated areas in the Adirondacks of New York and the Appalachians seems to have been successful. That success has also benefited us. The fisher's fur is highly prized by trappers, and by 1950 trapping and habitat destruction had eliminated it everywhere in southern Ontario south of the French River, except for Algonquin Park. Now, they're back, and everyone assumed they had expanded out of the park, but no. They came from Adirondack Park.

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



to our readers and advertisers

from the folks at the Madawaska Highlander



Greater Madawaska Township FD Station #2's tanker has a new look! It was repaired, had more storage space added and was freshly painted to match the pumper, thanks to Floyd Kauffeldt of Griffith. The lettering and decals were also added by TFC Signs in Renfrew.



Chris Fleming, Carl Nichols and Rick Fleming with a Calabogie buck. By all accounts it was successful hunt in Greater Madawaska.

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A Christmas Tale

Conclusion

Everyone, especially the families of my three friends, treated Uncle Willy like royalty. He lapped it up. More people saw his teeth that night than in all the years since he'd bought them. Once he found that smiles cost nothing, he aimed them in all directions - except at Duncan and me. He stopped talking to us after he saw the ghost play.

Everything turned out quite well except that Berty's great-aunts cut him out of their wills, Jimmy's Battson's parents took him out of school to work on the farm and Johnny Granger split wood every Saturday until Easter. Dad made Duncan and me clean the cow stable for a month. When we asked for a reason he snickered and said, "Because I figger you jist might get a look at that there ghost."

Uncle Willy, unlike the old lad in Aunt Mavis's play, pretended to be more generous because he'd become addicted to the good will directed toward him during his brief attempt at kindness. He gave to a few causes, but it wasn't a lot and was always by cheque. This ensured that half the people in the Madawaska Valley would know about it within hours because the sit-about's would see his cheque being cashed at Granger's store.

The general opinion among those who sat around the box stove in the store during cold winter evenings that year was that any change in Willy McCracken had to be an improvement. Instead of trying to "figger out what only the Lord and his angels understand", they'd simply repeat one of Willy's favorite platitudes: "Let us be grateful for small blessings - everyone."

Hydro One gets an 'A'

Hydro One proceeded with its fall maintenance of the Mazinaw Distribution Station which powers the F1 line, servicing, Vennachar, Denbigh, Griffith and Matawatchan. Last year, this maintenance was fraught with power outages caused by the maintenance and also extremely high winds. In the words of Dan Robinson, First Line Manager - Bancroft Lines: "uneventful things went as planned and the weather co-operated."

Good work Hydro folks. Graded 'A'

Weather postcast for Matawatchan

How does the start of the 2004 winter compare to last year? Many of us believe we are using less wood. The following data are from a small weather station in Matawatchan. Wind speeds are in kmh and temperatures are Deg, Celcius (C). A Degree Day (DD) is a measure of home heating requirements based on temperature differentials. To calculate a DD, add the high & low temperature for the day and divide by 2 for the average. If that number (in Fahrenheit) is below 65F (18C) subtract it from 65 to find the number of heating DD for the day. The November figures are up to and including the 24th day of both months. October is a complete month. The dominant wind direction in all months was WSW.

	Oct 03	Oct 04	Nov 03	Nov 04
Hi Temp	25.1	24.0	16.4	14.8
Low Temp	-3.6	-5.3	-12.2	-9.4
DD	362.1	334.9	389.5	393.1
Wind Hi	70.8	69.2	82.1	62.8
Wind Avg.	8.9	8.9	10.3	8.9

October 2004 was in fact a bit warmer based on temperature differences in the DD totals while the Novembers have been very similar. But the wind (remember the Hydro outages) was much stronger in November 2003 and that cold air driven through all the cracks we forgot to caulk or seal would increase the heating load, while the DD wouldn't account for that. Likely we have used less wood this season.

Madawaska Millworks

By Bill Graham

With Madawaska Millworks, manufacturing has returned to Calabogie after an absence of many years. This new manufacturing operation, like many of those in the past, is a wood product. The product is a handcrafted barrel sauna, which combines local wood, the skills of a cooper (barrel maker) and an ingenious application.

A few years ago, Rob Peever, who is a cabinet maker by trade, became interested in barrel making and had the idea of making an over-sized barrel from cedar and using it as a sauna for himself and his wife Nathalie. It was to be a self-contained unit fired by a small electric stove that could reside in the back yard.

The project was a complete success and while Rob and Nathalie enjoyed the pleasures of the sauna, people

around Calabogie began to take notice. Soon people were knocking on his door and offering to invest money. Rob and Nathalie found the team they wanted to work with in Tama McCartney, Chris Fleming and Jennifer Steenbakker and formed Madawaska Millworks, which is purportedly the only company in Canada making authentically constructed barrel saunas. They are calling their sauna 'The Firkin Sauna'.

The barrels, which are eight feet long and seven feet high, are constructed from local Eastern White Cedar, which is specially cut and kiln dried to a moisture content of seven percent. The cedar staves are then steamed, hand milled with an arc and bevel and held together with iron hoops. No nails or glue is used and the barrel is so tight that it could hold liquids. The advantage in a sauna is that the steam produced by the stove stays in the sauna.

Each sauna takes about 40 hours to construct and includes a cedar cradle as a foundation for the barrel, two cedar benches, a drain, an electric heater, a light and a cedar bucket and ladle. A barrel sauna can be customized to include a wood heater instead of electric and custom doors and windows, which are crafted by local artisans Mark Thomas of Knock on Wood Gallery and Amber Gorra of Precious Glass Studio, to mention just a few custom options.

Madawaska Millworks currently employs four people, including Rob and Nathalie, but with the growing demand for their product there could be twelve people employed by the not too distant future. Local employment and the spin offs to local artisans means a big plus for Calabogie.

The growing success of Madawaska Millworks is signalled by the fact that

they already need a larger space for their manufacturing operation. Anyone with a large garage or warehouse space in the Calabogie area that is available for rent should contact the company.

The growing demand has a lot to do with the promotion of the product by Chris Fleming. He introduced the Firkin Sauna at the Calabogie Art Show as a local product launch and then in a provincial launch at the Cottage Life Trade Show in Toronto this fall and had instant sales and a lot of interest from resellers. While we were talking to Rob and Nathalie, a barrel sauna was awaiting transport to the Muskokas where it was to be put on a barge and floated to an island cottage. More recently Chris was promoting the sauna at the Grey Cup festivities in Ottawa as their national product launch.

Continued on page 17

Ottawa Vally Crossword

Editor's note: This first 'Ottawa Valley Crossword' to be published in the Madawaska Highlander, has a Christmas theme. 'Ottawa Valley Crossword' is a creation of Doug Bell. Doug is a retired Hydro worker who travelled the Ottawa Valley extensively in this capacity. His family cottage is on Black Donald Lake.

He describes himself as an avid crossworder, who is working on an 'Ottawa Valley Crossword' book of forty or so puzzles. To quote Doug: "It is difficult to find Canadian content in crosswords although some improvement has come of late. Rather than complain about this condition I am trying to improve this, albeit in my small way, to produce crosswords solely of Canadian content."

Beginning with this issue, we will be publishing a crossword puzzle with each issue. Doug looks forward to reader comments and especially content ideas so that I can expand the scope of these crosswords. You can contact Doug Bell at 613-836-4422 or via email at ovccrosswords@rogers.com

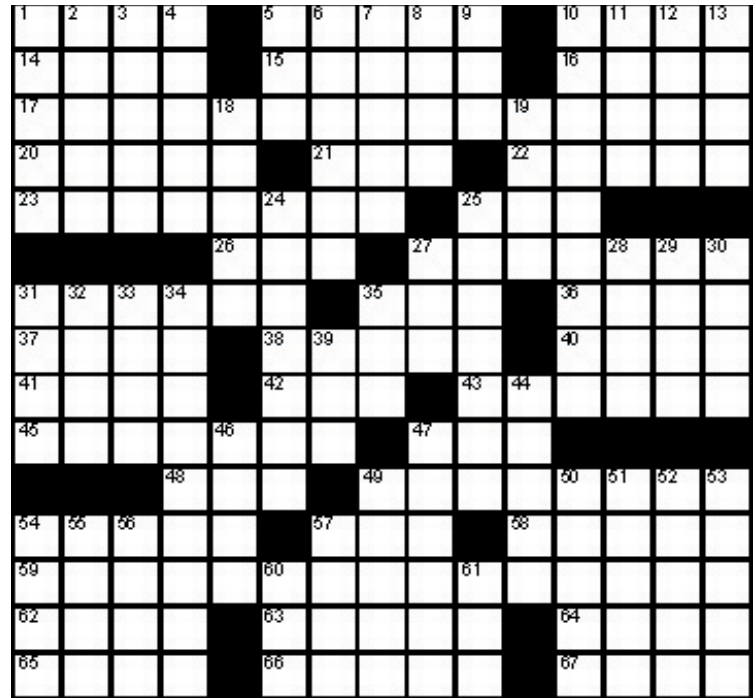
Across

- 1. Caboose position
- 5. Optimum hydro generation site
- 10. Small casks
- 14. Altar area
- 15. Anti-social one
- 16. Woody's boy
- 17. "Keep in touch"
- 20. Oil-well firefighter Red ___
- 21. Ballot marks
- 22. "___ get it"
- 23. Certain illegal voter
- 25. Recipe amount
- 26. '___ a ___' (face to face)
- 27. Soon
- 31. "He scratches with his hands", (Algon.), (e.g.)
- 35. Egg: Comb. form
- 36. Inventor's "step one"
- 37. Religious image (Var.)
- 38. Dried orchid tubers
- 40. Home for future fliers
- 41. Drawn tight
- 42. Geezerhood

- 43. Forsyth's "The ___ File"
- 45. Some pavements
- 47. Actress MacGraw
- 48. Elevated railroads
- 49. Santa's Arctic helpers
- 54. Biblical country
- 57. Bern's waterway
- 58. Taken for ___
- 59. Olde name of Burnstown
- 62. Oka River city
- 63. Caused by
- 64. Cutlet meat
- 65. Atta ___!
- 66. Egyptian dry measure
- 67. Makes a boo-boo

Down

- 1. Burghoff on M*A*S*H
- 2. Lyric poem
- 3. In ___ (instantly)
- 4. Fix laces again
- 5. Key, in Cannes
- 6. Put-ons
- 7. Auto racer Al
- 8. Asian occasions



Answers found on page

- 9. Bobble the ball
- 10. Tracks between Kingston and Renfrew
- 11. Hence
- 12. Small valley
- 13. Classify
- 18. Code name for "B"
- 19. Comfortable in Paris
- 24. Christmas tree wrappings
- 25. City in Libya
- 27. Night before
- 28. Lyrical literature
- 29. Capone nemesis
- 30. Nurse shark
- 31. Singer from Cape Breton
- 32. Aliases: (abbr.)
- 33. Takeover attempt
- 34. Sharp
- 35. Found before "MacDonald"
- 39. Key near ctrl.
- 44. Coin of Yugoslavia
- 46. There ought to be ___
- 47. Supply with oxygen
- 49. Did a lawn job?
- 50. Hit from the tee
- 51. Downy duck
- 52. Dummy Charlie's voice
- 53. Barn dances
- 54. Fog and smoke
- 55. Mata, the spy
- 56. Hesse's river
- 57. Assyrian god
- 60. Nabokov novel
- 61. Duck for apples

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Trail Talk

By Heather Stitchman

Well folks it's that time of year again. Bill Graham has graciously invited me to publish my Trail Talk article in the TheMadawaskaHighlanderthis season.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Heather Stitchman; better known as the "Snowmobile Lady and author of Trail Talk, a snowmobile article published over the past few years in the Eganville Leader and Renfrew newspapers. I try to inform all of us snowmobilers about trail conditions, what's new on the trail or just plain snowmobile talk. Sit back and enjoy.

Well my knees are sore already this year, praying for snow! The past few winters have been no so great for snowmobiling. Now, let me remind you, the early fee is \$180 before December 1st and after that it's \$230. You can purchase your pass at Eagle's Rest in Matawatchan or at the Pine Valley Restaurant in Griffith. It's a great Christmas gift for someone!

The trails in your area are second to none! I am always anxious to pass on information about lodging/ accommodation, restaurants etc. along

the trails. In your area, the Eagle's Rest has an apartment that sleeps ten. The total weekend cost is \$150 but you must bring your own sleeping bag. You can prepare your own food in the kitchenette. Pine Valley is also one of the best places to stop to eat and catch up on the trail news. The restaurant is centrally located in Griffith and hosts many events. Lumberman's Pass in Dacre is a great place for homemade food and you can get your gas from John Limlaw at Mill Valley. If you need snacks, he has that too, along with fishing equipment and worms.

If you venture north, Mike at the Mattawa Golf and Ski Resort will welcome your company. Accommodations and restaurant facilities are quite comfortable and well within your budget—trust me, I've been there many times. Call them at 1-800-762-2339. Pembroke's Best Western is a good place to stay with Irving's across the road on the B trail with gas and food. The RAP tour will be wonderful this year. I plan to take part in going "Around Algonquin Park".

Finally, let's talk Trail Talk! The high rates of insurance are threatening our sport! I urge each and every one of you to keep faithful to your local club, that works so hard and whose

members dedicate their time year after year to make our trails such a pleasure to ride. Buy your passes early and contact your club to help out. The volunteers naturally get tired and often discouraged with such little help and yet, they seem to come through year after year for us. Think about putting some fun back into the trails. Organize an event with your club such as a family breakfast day, poker run, murder mystery on the trail, scavenger trail hunt, survivor's trail event depicting the TV show Survivor with some goofy stuff going on or a couple's run! Come on, am I the only weird and adventurous snowmobiler around?

WIN, WIN, WIN!

Hey, congratulations to me...I just bought a new sled! One of the Ottawa Senators, Curtis Leschison owned it and only put 358 miles on it. She's a beautiful Red XC Special. The only thing is I don't know what to name her. Any suggestions? Please e-mail me at I with your suggestions. I will pick a lucky winner and will let you know who it is. The prize will be some local dining

As well, I invite you to e-mail me and let me know the funniest thing (in good taste) that's happened to you on the trail. I promise to publish

a few of them in my upcoming articles. Share your story with us and win! Let's put some life back in our trail system! Pray for snow! Until next time, see ya on the trails and don't forget...do the snow dance!

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VALLEY HERITAGE RADIO

By Garry Ferguson

Thanks to the efforts of Vic Garbutt, Project Manager Heritage Radio, and a group of very determined people, the CRTC has approved a broadcast license application for the not-for-profit, community-owned CJHR 98.7 FM. It took 20 months of hard slogging to round up the support signatures, letters and the loonies required to get the project off the ground. The Board of Directors however, will have to scrounge around for, at least, another \$300,000 to get up and percolating.

With a 14,000-Watt punch, the station, to be located in the Renfrew-Arnprior area, should reach all corners of *The Madawaska Highlander's* readership area with its 'Heritage and Community' format—even Griffith and Matawatchan. (Those little VHF radio sine waves cut right across the bush like the crows do)

Though the format will feature fiddle, middle-of-the-road country and ethnic music, one of the main objectives of the station will be to gather, protect, promote and broadcast the heritage music of the Ottawa Valley in particular and Canadian music in general. Regularly-scheduled news, agricultural, and other programs of interest to the community will also be standard fare.

Though all help – of any sort - and all donations are welcomed, a \$100 bill will get you 'Founding Donor' status. Those who feel that they can't afford to part with a little currency of the realm from the pay envelope, pension cheque or pogy may help the project in other ways. For instance, you could donate or loan old records, tapes, CD's or recordings – especially if they have historical or heritage value to the Valley.

Those wishing to support this unique and vital project may contact Vic Garbutt at 613-623-8935 or at: radioproject39@hotmail.com.

Madawaska Millworks (continued)

Firkin Sauna at the Calabogie Art Show as a local product launch and then in a provincial launch at the Cottage Life Trade Show in Toronto this fall and had instant sales and a lot of interest from resellers. While we were talking to Rob and Nathalie, a barrel sauna was awaiting transport to the Muskokas where it was to be put on a barge and floated to an island cottage. More recently Chris was promoting the sauna at the Grey Cup festivities in Ottawa as their national product launch.

For those who can afford it, a sauna is a real luxury. If you have ever had

a sauna you know how fantastic you feel afterward. In addition, there are real health benefits, for example, a sauna:

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It's nice to see another employer in Calabogie, especially one involved in manufacturing. It harkens back to the much earlier days when wood products, such as world class shingle were manufactured here, rather than our local wood being sent elsewhere for fabrication.

If you want to learn more, visit their website at: www.madawaskamillworks.com



Valley Heritage Radio Committee

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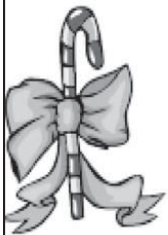
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Out on the First Concession

Christmas 1935

By Wes Bomhower

Uncle Albert was a tall lanky red head, my father's older brother, who farmed down the next road from us. He was everybody's friend, though not a church going man, and he seldom dressed up unless it was a special occasion. Mostly it was overalls, rubber boots and a chew of tobacco.

Leonard Jubert was a stockily built French Canadian from the village, a devout Roman Catholic with what seemed like a perpetual smile on his face. He was barely five feet tall but he dressed well for church and was always seen at Mass on Sunday morning. He never missed Mass on Christmas Eve when the bells would toll at midnight.

Neither of these men was given to drinking, but it was Christmas, and Lord knows they could use a little cheer in those dark Depression days. Wine was cheap and Leonard brought a large bottle out to the farm to treat Uncle Albert early Christmas Eve. Uncle Albert had some home-made wine, so they sampled freely of both for awhile, and passed the time playing checkers.

Finally they put the checker board away and got down to some serious drinking.

"You're all dressed up, Leonard me boy," said Uncle Albert as though he had just noticed. "What is the occasion besides drinking these excellent Christmas spirits?" Leonard considered this a rather touchy subject, so he replied cautiously. "Midnight Mass. You know my friend; it would do you a world of good to come to Mass with me, it being Christmas Eve and all that:

"I've never been in a Roman Catholic Church", said Uncle Albert pensively. "What's it like?" "Well we sing and pray, Father MacDonnell preaches a sermon and generally we have good Christian fellowship" stated Leonard, and then added quickly, "Just like you and me visiting here tonight". That seemed to appeal to Uncle Albert and by eleven forty five on the big mantel clock Leonard had convinced him that church was the place to be on Christmas Eve.

There wasn't time for Uncle Albert to shave or change from his rubber boots and overalls, so they struck off down the road to the village,

both men ~ quite a wide swath.

The service had begun before they reached St. Mary's Holy Roman Catholic Church and of course the church was packed. They entered the main door and Uncle Albert was overcome with the glory of it all. He paused for a moment to take it all in and try to understand what Father MacDonnell was saying in Latin, not noticing that Leonard had genuflected in front of him. Without taking his eyes off the priest, Uncle Albert began to walk ahead to find a seat, and went head over heels on top of Leonard who was still down on one knee. What a mess of long legs, rubber boots and overalls and poor Leonard underneath it all. Uncle Albert came down hard, his false teeth went flying under the pews and he scrambled to find them.

Needless to say, that was Uncle Albert's first and last visit to St. Mary's Holy Roman Catholic Church and Leonard never invited him again either.

How times have changed.

Classifieds

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HAMS ON THE MOUNTAIN

By Doug Smith

This fall, at the invitation of the Champlain Regional Repeater Association (CRRA), I attended the rebuilding of a local radio institution; the station (VE3STP) at the top of Kennelley's Mountain in the St. Patrick range between Calabogie and Renfrew. The association members had completely replaced the old station. The new one stood proudly atop the peak of this 1,450 foot mountain with its antenna tower extending another sixty feet above the ground. From the top of the tower, an observer can see about ten lakes and the Gatineau Hills north of Ottawa; a distance of about 110 kilometers.

The CRRA is a group of amateur radio operators from the Ottawa Valley who have kept the station operating automatically 24/7 since May 3, 1969. Their purpose as repeated on the introduction to the nightly network get-together is to provide reliable amateur radio communications throughout the Ottawa Valley, with the top priorities being for emergency and public service uses.

In order to rebuild, they first had to get a building, as the old one had become weakened by 35-years of service. Seeking a more substantial "shack" for the new equipment, this enterprising group found a steel signal shed belonging to the Ottawa Valley Railway and brought it by truck from North Bay, painted and serviced it to accommodate the new equipment and then transferred it by a smaller truck up the mountain. The old "shack" was taken away to be used as a dog house.

When I arrived, the hilltop was covered



with vehicles with open trunks and open doors displaying a variety of open tool boxes. Seven men averaging about 65-years of age were installing and connecting equipment to cables in the new shack and filling in trenches that had been dug out to remove cables and power lines from the old setup. They worked very quietly, the only sounds being the occasional hacking of a shovel into gravelly soil, their low measured voices and the wind in the surrounding trees. The calm and quiet of this work site contrasted sharply with others I had known. The quiet was ironic when I think that they were building an installation that would allow voices to communicate throughout the Ottawa Valley from Ottawa to Petawawa; from southern Quebec to Kingston.


At 3:41 in the afternoon the first test of the equipment was successfully completed with a conversation between President Steve VE3KEG from Calabogie and Vice President Randy VE3RKB from Renfrew. Congratulations to all members of

the CRRA whose ages range from fourteen to ninety-four with an eighty year span of experience in amateur radio. Their generous work in the communication arts and sciences is a tribute to what can be accomplished by a group of volunteers with a sense of purpose and tradition.

After my return from Kennelley's Mountain, I received a message from Ross Duncan (VE3BTN), a neighbour on Centennial Lake. To provide a testimonial to the usefulness of the ham radio station I had recently departed, I quote from Ross' message: "As you know we do not have any form of telephone service at our location (Black Mountain Rd.). The nearest pay phone is 4 km away. Amateur radio is our way of keeping in touch with the world through the Mini Net and periodic contacts on VE3STP throughout the day."

Thanks Ross and hams throughout the Ottawa Valley for making this a better and safer place to live.


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Crossword answers

REAR	CHUTE	KEGS			
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DONT	BEAST	RANGER			
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The Wisdom of a Child

By D. Vasey

Running on moss through forests deep
no wind, no sky, no sentinel in sight
screaming and laughing, in serene twilight
The air is silent to the ear
yet the spirit of youth is crystal clear
Dinner bell ringing in a carefree mind,
running down in the valley to jump in the dump
running through mud, and swinging from oak
walking on rail, and hiding in bush
stealing lilacs, and stoning the crow
limping through meadows with pebbles in shoes
scaling steep hills just for the climb
watching the sunset; with no value on time
screaming and laughing with all their might
echoing softly, as minds drift into the night
and tomorrow, is always, tomorrow

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&
A Happy New Year

Council notes

By Bill Graham

Not everyone in the Township seems to be aware that a noise bylaw passed by Council in November applies to the whole of Greater Madawaska and not just Calabogie. This is one of two contentious bylaws passed since publication of the last Highlander. The other was the final reading of the bylaw concerning Calabogie MotorSports' zoning application. The two bylaws have become tied together because the main concern of the opponents of the Track is, of course, noise.

The noise bylaw was drafted to address the concerns of some Calabogie citizens about noise that might emanate from the MotorSport track facility when it becomes operational. Many residents, including those from both sides of the track issue, were against a general noise bylaw. There were issues about over regulation and enforcement; while others wanted the noise issue specific to the Track, covered by a licensing agreement. However, the advice to Council from Township Solicitor Peter Mirsky and Planner Jim Hutton was that a general bylaw was less discriminatory since it didn't just target one local business.

That said, fully one third of the 15-page bylaw document concerns the Track specifically. Residents should not think that they will be regulated as if they were living in Kanata. The bylaw is loosely written as "unusual noise, likely to disturb." Here is the critical text: "No person shall make or permit any unusual noise likely to disturb the inhabitants of the township. For the purposes of this section a noise is unusual if it is a noise which would not reasonably be anticipated. Where this by-law sets a specific noise limit for a specific type of activity, the specific noise limit shall apply to that activity."

The hours specific to the bylaw are: between 2100 hours of one day and 0600 hours of the next day. In addition, "no person shall operate or cause to be operated any construction equipment in connection with the construction of any building, structure or highway before 0900 hours on any Sunday, statutory or public holiday."

For example, running a chain saw or a wood splitter is not unusual in our municipality, but doing it at 3:00 in the morning would be. There are exceptions, like church

bells, alarms, agricultural machinery, snowplough and provisions for special events, which have been applied for in advance.

The Council meeting of October 26 concluded a lot of business. In addition to the noise bylaw stated above, the zoning bylaw for Calabogie MotorSport Park passed its third reading and the 'Site Plan Control Agreement' between the Township and TrackCorp Canada was passed. The 'Site Plan Control Agreement' passed unanimously, but the rezoning bylaw, while passed, was opposed by Council Mercer.

Some very unhappy people left this meeting. Holly Goodyear, a 'Calabogie Concerned Citizen' on leaving warned those remaining in Calabogie Community Hall that "this is the day that Calabogie changed."

Of course a lot of business transpired besides the Track issues and the noise bylaw. For example, the 'Township Emergency Plan' was completed after many months of hard work and submitted to County and the Province. After approvals have been received, a local bylaw will be enacted to give it the

force of law. The Highlander will be attending what is called a 'table-top' demonstration using the Emergency Plan in early December and will report back to you in the next issue of paper.

Good progress has been made in the installation of dry wells for the Fire Department during the year. The Heritage Point site and the Griffith Park site have been completed. Apparently two more sites are planned for next year. Councillor Parker inquired about a dry well for his ward in Brougham. He is concerned about the drop of water levels on Centennial Lake during the winter and the availability of water in case of a fire.

Finally, good news from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment—the compliance dates for 'Drinking Water System Regulation 170' have been extended. Small municipality non-residential systems have been extended from July 1, 2005 till December 31, 2006. For non-municipality year-round residential systems the new date is now July 1, 2006 and for non-municipality seasonal residential systems the new date is December 31, 2006.

Look whose reading the Highlander



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