

# The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

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Free

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## Logging the Madawaska

By Carl Baily, as told to  
Elmer Strong

*I met Mr. Bailey purely by accident. I had travelled to Calabogie to interview Mr. Gordon Stoughton, who was operating a gasoline driven sawmill in the village at that time. I spotted Mr. Bailey in front of his house, just as I entered the village and I stopped to seek directions. I explained to him that my mission was to gather information on the early lumbering industry along the Madawaska River. He noted that he had spent nearly his whole lifetime working in logging shanties, in sawmills and on log drives throughout eastern and northern Ontario. He readily agreed to discuss his experiences. We sat on a grassy knoll in front of his house, beside the street and spent an enjoyable couple of hours recording his reminiscences about a life spent working in the timber industry. The following are the highlights from that conversation.*

One of the last drowning accidents during a log drive on the Madawaska River was when Barnett and Pottinger were taking their last drive down the river. A boat upset on the Colton Rapids and two men were drowned. They were LeClair and Webber. One of them got tangled in a rope they were using to lower the boat down to a jam on the upper rapids. I think it was LeClair who got tangled in the rope. They had to pull him back up through the rapids. The rope had a half hitch around his leg, Paddy Dillon broke his leg when the boat upset. There was one lad from around here who was in the boat and came out alive. It might have been Arthur Thomson from Matawatchan. Oh, there were all kinds of them that got drowned. The last drive through here was in 1922.

I worked in the camps for years and years. I mostly drove up north but my people were foremen on the Madawaska River. I worked up north - - in from Nicholson. I drove along Sturgeon Falls and them places - - along Lake Nipissing one time too. The compa-

nys were Ralston & Nicholson and the Gordon Lumber Company. Shawbridge Lumber Company was another one. Oh, there was all kinds of pulp companies too. There were saw logs in some places. Ross/Nicholson, it was all saw logs and Gordon Lumber Company too. This was long after the days of the square timber. The square timber went out years and years ago. The last of it was about 1900. The timber got not so good. For square timber they had to have nearly perfect timber. There was a lot of waste. Those that had too many knots were left right in the bush. They would never take it out. I bet they wish they had it now of days.

We would go in to the shanties in the fall. Now I will tell you, I went in with Austin & Nicholson once - - Oh Golly, pretty near thirty years ago, I guess. Went in the fall. This was what they called the dump camp. They did all their repairing there. They made all their sleighs and all their bunks and everything. Well, that was done with a broad axe there. But there were out camps too. They were not camboose but had old wooded bunks, you know, upper and lower. The upper bunks were hot as the devil and sometimes the lower bunks were too cold. There was lice too. They were dirty - - they cleaned the camps. Yes, you could get them body lice. I worked around there that fall, always friggin around by the day and then I went jobbin. We cut logs and skidded them. It was a pretty good place too. You don't often get it like that. We didn't have too far to skid and we could dump our skidways right into the water. Well when the snow got pretty deep we quit cutting. Then it was the big haul to get it out before the roads broke up. Hauling was really a busy time - - hauling night and day. It was on an iced road. Some horses were used to switch logs out but most of the hauling was done with a big Lynn tractor. They would hook on to a whole bunch

*continued on page 3*

## Rites of spring



Mike Graham collecting sap with his team

Photo: Bill Graham

## 2006 Census reveals dramatic change in population in Greater Madawaska

By Bill Graham

While the first data from the 2006 Census show moderate shifts in population during the past five years for most municipalities in Eastern Ontario, the Township of Greater Madawaska is bucking the trend with a 20.1% change between 2001 and 2006. The population rose from 2290 persons in 2001 to 2751 persons in 2006.

Surrounding municipalities did not even come close to matching this growth. For example, Lanark Highlands grew by 8%; North Frontenac by 5.7%; Addington Highlands (Denbigh) by 4.6% and McNab-Braeside (Burnstown) by 5.5%.

This pattern of growth was evident even before amalgamation in 2000, with the 1996 Census showing the former geographic townships Bagot and Blythfield having grown 11.4% since 1991;

Brougham growing 27.8% for the same period while Griffith-Matawatchan had grown only 5%. The trend continued in 2001 when Greater Madawaska registered a growth of 12.6% since the previous census in 1996.

Looking at Eastern Ontario on whole, five of the largest municipalities recorded population gains between 2001 and 2006.

However, only one, Hawkesbury, recorded an increase that approached the national average of 5.4%. The census enumerated 10,869 people in Hawkesbury, a 5.3% increase from 10,319.

To the west, the population of Pembroke rose 3.3% from 13,490 to 13,930. The census counted 14,651 people in Petawawa, up 1.8% from 14,398. At the same time, the population of Carleton Place increased 4.1% from 9,083 to 9,453.

*continued on page 2*

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## 2006 Census (cont.)

The population of the town of Mississippi Mills edged up 0.7% from 11,647 to 11,734. Within the town, the population of the urban area of Almonte declined 2.6% from 4,659 to 4,538.

Elsewhere, census counts showed slight variations for the most part during the five-year period. For example, the population of three of the most populous towns in the Ottawa Valley all slipped.

In Arnprior, the census enumerated 7,158 people, down a slight 0.5% from 7,192.

In Renfrew, the population slipped 1.2%, from 7,942 to 7,846. And in Perth, the count fell 1.6% from 6,003 to 5,907.

## Small hydro: Ancient technology for modern times

By Lynn Jones

“Hydropower is one of the oldest forms of alchemy, a way to convert falling water into wealth. Historically, that wealth has been measured in milled flour, sawed wood and pumped water. Today, the currency of choice is the kilowatt-hour”. ([www.globalwebsol.com/WaterAlchemy/](http://www.globalwebsol.com/WaterAlchemy/))

Perhaps it is this ‘alchemy’ that provides some of the fascination with water power for people like Mike Dupuis. Mike has been interested in hydro power for his whole life. He was born and raised on the Waba Creek near Arnprior, Ontario, where his family owned an old mill.

When Mike was a young lad he learned what he could about water power from his dad. He then went on to study the engineering behind the technology.

In 1987 Mike founded Canadian Hydro Components (CHC) in Almonte, near Ottawa, to promote renewable energy, especially low-impact hydro. The company designs and manufactures state-of-the-art hydroelectric turbines for customers all over the world. CHC turbines are especially designed for what is called ‘small hydro’, projects that generate anywhere from 50 kW (sufficient to provide for peak demand for about eight Canadian homes) to 15 MW (enough for about 2,400 homes).

Across the road from the CHC facility is the Almonte Upper Falls project. On display outside the old mill is a turbine from years gone by. In 1996, the old equipment was replaced with two new highly-efficient turbines manufactured by CHC that feed about 300 kW into the electrical grid with little envi-

**Rural Canada on a national level**  
Canada’s population in small towns and rural areas grew by 1.0% between 2001 and 2006. In 2006, just under 20% of Canadians (6.0 million people) were living in rural areas, that is, in areas located outside urban centres with a population of at least 10,000.

There are two types of rural areas: those close to urban centres, and those which are more remote. In rural areas close to urban centres, more than 30% of the labour force commutes to work in the urban centre.

In these rural areas, population growth between 2001 and 2006 (+4.7%) was close to the national average (+5.4%). Population growth in such locations is often associated with the presence of small towns that are easily accessible by highway from an urban centre.

ronmental damage and no pollution.

Canada has abundant water resources. Water power is the main source of electricity in Canada, representing nearly two-thirds of all electricity produced. Furthermore, Canada is the world leader in hydroelectricity production. (Natural Resources Canada [www.canren.gc.ca](http://www.canren.gc.ca))

Many would argue that water power is the world’s best renewable energy resource. It is relatively inexpensive and clean and gives a better return on investment than photovoltaic or wind systems. It is more reliable than wind and works at night, unlike the sun.

Perhaps that is why humans have been using it for thousands of years.

Water power installations require no fuel and release no heat or noxious gases. They tend to have long life-spans (over 100 years in some cases) with low costs for maintenance and operation. They can be over 90% efficient in converting the water power to electricity (as is the case with CHC turbines) and they can respond in seconds to changes in load demand.

There is significant potential for additional hydroelectricity production in Canada. Unfortunately, the practice of heavily subsidizing power

## Weather Postcast: Four Year Look

By Richard Copeland

Just when we were thinking the wood was holding out quite well, February set in. In our last postcast, this year was looking like the warmest winter of the past four, and each winter was getting subsequently warmer. Didn’t happen! February was the coldest in the past four, the only one to exceed 800 Degree Days (DD) by quite a spread. And March was the only one to exceed 600 DD, but not as large a spread as the February’s. The net result was this winter (October through March) was colder than last year, but not colder than the other past two winters.

All data	Greater Madawaska			Ontario		
	Ontario (Township)			(Province)		
Population and dwelling counts	Greater Madawaska, Township			Ontario		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Population in 2006	2,751			12,160,282†		
Population in 2001	2,290			11,410,046†		
2001 to 2006 population change (%)	20.1			6.6		
Total private dwellings	2,419			4,972,869		
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents	1,201			4,554,251		
Population density per square kilometre	2.7			13.4		
Land area (square km)	1,011.67			907,573.82		

In remote rural areas located farther from urban centres, the population remained nearly the same as in 2001 (-0.1%). These areas for example also lost population in the previous intercensal period. The lack of growth in such areas is often due to the fact that young adults move to metropoli-

tan areas to pursue their education or find a job. Because of its distance from the closest major job market in Ottawa, Greater Madawaska would be considered a remote rural area. Consequently, Greater Madawaska is also bucking the national trend with its phenomenal growth.

from other sources in Ontario has made the economics of water power development unattractive here. Hopefully this will change in the future. One step in the right direction was the recent announcement by the Ontario government that small power producers will be offered contracts to feed electricity into the provincial grid for a premium price. More information on this is available from the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association at [www.ontario-sea.org/](http://www.ontario-sea.org/).

Water power fits well with the decentralized model of electricity generation described in a previous Watershed Ways article. Decentralized energy has many advantages over the outdated, centralized model which is highly inefficient and concentrates power and economic activity in a few central locations. Hopefully in coming years, with water power playing an important role, we will see electricity generation spread widely over the province leading to a resurgence of healthy and vibrant local economies.

Watershed Ways is distributed by the Ottawa River Institute ([www.ot-tawariverinstitute.ca](http://www.ot-tawariverinstitute.ca)), a non-profit charitable organization supported by volunteers, local donors and a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. For more information call 613-333-5534.

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Because of its distance from the closest major job market in Ottawa, Greater Madawaska would be considered a remote rural area. Consequently, Greater Madawaska is also bucking the national trend with its phenomenal growth.

Source: Statistics Canada [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca) (Community Profiles and The Daily)

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## Logging (cont.)

of sleighs loads - - maybe seven or eight with a 100 logs to a load. They would pull them all right out on the ice road with this big tractor. But the horses were bringing them out to the main road. It had to be an ice road.

When we went in to the shanty in the fall, we stayed there until spring. Some fellows would go out at Christmas, maybe for a couple of days. But when you were in there -- Sunday, Monday and everyday. On the haul we would work from daylight to dark. I went tanking on the haul. You left when the stars were shining in the morning. You had them old torches on the tanks - - coal oil torches - - light them up in the morning. Loading gangs, they had torches too. They would have them on a stick in where they were loading. The torches were made of some kind of metal and there was coal oil in them. Then there was a great big kind of a wick went down in them. There was a hole on the bottom where you could put a stick on and then when you were working around you could stick them into the snow.

Oh, we had a pretty busy time during the haul. Usually during the spring there would be a coupla weeks that there wouldn't be much until the ice went out where your boom was, before you started the drive. Once you started the drive, you would be out maybe - - some outfits wouldn't be as big as this outfit. Sometimes your boom had over 10,000 logs. There was 250,000 logs on this one dump. It was jackpine and spruce. You would boom out 10,000 logs and you would just take a gas boat and go out and pull them right into the timber boom. Keep working them out until you got out to what they would call "cuttin off a bag", we used to call it. Get that out and then we would haul. If it was on a lake you would haul with an alligator. I worked on the alligators. All you do is get an anchor - - you hook on to your boom and go out about a couple of hundred yards and put your anchor down and then start your winch going and winch the boom up to it. Then go out and throw out again and winch it again. Oh, that was a cold bugger of a job in a cold day in the spring - - sitting there. Then once you got a bunch of logs and then there are chutes you have to go through - - narrows and places like that. You would seal off your boom there and there was always men there shoving them through - - shoving them and they would go down through this chute and maybe you would come out on to another lake. There would be a great big boom out there so once you get them through there, you have to cut off another bag down there. There was always a bunch of men coming and going.

Now taking a boom through the nar-



rows - - there is another thing. You gotta have extra timber just in the narrows. When you made a boom of logs that was maybe 10,000 in it, it was a big looking thing to go through this little narrows. You got to slip in your extra timber and go away in with a boat and haul them aside. You see, you got to have the amount of timber to narrow out the boom. You would pull them aside and then go away to the other side and pull and pull. You can get through a whole bunch of logs through a very narrow place. You couldn't usually use the alligator because the narrows were pretty narrow places - - you used gas boats. Sometimes you could winch the alligator right up on shore. There was a foreman there who winched a steam alligator across a portage. It was a great big alligator - - it could bull you in - - twin screws. You put down a bunch of birch corduroy and went out and got a snub away out and pulled himself up - - right over it. He said he done a lot of harm to the machine

In them narrow places, there were always a few logs that would get piled up and if nobody happens to be watching, too many of them get in there, one on top of the other. First thing it would build a kinda backwater behind there and it would be solid. You would see jams that were just as solid as that there road - - if too many got in on you. It was a problem then to try and break it up. You would get out sometimes and pick and pick. There was always the one log holding it - - the key log. Once that breaks loose, it will all start and go. We used a lot of dynamite on the saw logs, on a really bad jam. Down on the lake they had what was called a set of "jam dogs". Once you pick out and get down to the key log, it is really dangerous. The jam dogs were just a hook on a chain and maybe you have got a horse on the shore. There was usually a horse around. You just snub that on to your key log and give the darn thing a yank and away she would go. Oh, there is an awful pressure behind them when they start - - all that water backed up behind them.

They would take trees off the side of the shore and everything. If a man is out on it, it is too bad then. Many's a man doesn't get drowned- - he gets killed.

One accident we had was with a fellow by the name of Ray, who was killed on the jam. He come from Gaspé. They had it broke. They had picked off quite a long time. The key log was out there and they had moved it just a little bit. Apparently he moved it too much and it broke loose. Instead he should have gone and got the jam dogs down and hooked on to it. The other fellows - - there was Paul LaCelle and another - - they were out too but they cleared. It seemed to spread and he was down in a hole and Golly the whole outfit came piling right on top of him. He was like a limp rag- - about 100 yards down stream they found him. That was on the Windermere River for Nicholson.

There were some tents used during the drive and there were some shacks along the river. They were pretty poor affairs. Oh yes, they weren't too good. There used to be a lot of black snakes around. Different guys have told me from different drives that the snakes would be right in bed with them. You see, they come for anything warm. The food was always good. You know, it wasn't anything fancy but all kinds of beans, all kinds of potatoes, all kinds of pork and lots of beef stew and all kinds of pie and cake. Oh yes, there was lots of good food -- very best, you know - - substantial. In the shanties during the evenings, during our spare time, you always had to sharpen your axes. We played cards, things like that. We used to have pretty fair wrestling matches and stuff. If there were any ponds around, a person could skate and get out and have a little bit of fun sometimes on Sundays.

I never worked on the drives on the Madawaska but I have taken logs down it often. I used to work up here above on the Madawaska. There was a sawmill. We used to take out - - some springs we took down as high as 8,000 logs. We brought them down to the mill. The mill was above the Barrett Chute Hydro dam. We logged there for quite awhile.

In the old days there were a lot of accidents on the Madawaska. There was more men drowned on the Madawaska than I guess any river. An aunt

of mine saw six men drowned in one morning in the Chain Rapids up here - - a whole boat crew. Something happened and the boat turned over and they couldn't make it. When you get into that fast water, it is a tough problem. You often get caught in the backwater wells in the rapids.

Nearly all the old landmarks along the river are pretty near all gone now because of the Hydro dams. My people were all foremen on the Madawaska. There was Jim Bailey, Johnny Bailey and Richard Bailey. They were all foremen for different companies - - M.J. O'Brian, McLachlin, E.B. Eddy was one time working here years ago. They took timber out for pretty near them all. Also Barnett and Pottinger. It was in late years that Barnett and Pottinger were here. They were one of the last. Carswell & McCoy were also here. There was another outfit, Paddy & Pearl here too who took out timber. There was lots of timber years ago.

You know I believe that how most of those fellows got drowned - - there was so many that got drowned - - was with inadequate equipment. They also took more chances. In those days you could not be caught standing around. You had to be working, out on a jam and not taking proper precautions. There was always somebody getting drowned on a drive usually if it is a big drive. But you take - - that seems too many, you know, that was drowned here on this Madawaska. They are buried all along the Madawaska. There is a cemetery at nearly every rapids. I have seen them.

Calabogie was quite a place in the old days. It had three bars in the village. They would hit the bars and then there would be fights. There was a kinda code among them. If two good men wanted to fight they all got in a circle and they fought, just the two of them. If one man was going to get severely hurt, they stopped it. As long as a man was standing - - . As far as ganging up, these old fellows had a code among them. No, they wouldn't gang up. They would fight fair, man to man, you know. There was mass battles, you know but always - - . I guess that was why there never was too many hurt in fights. Oh, there was one man killed in the brawls too - - tramped down with the calks. Calks is an awful thing to get kicked with. That goes too in a rough and tumble fight. Oh yes, kicking was allowed, until the man said it was enough. Sometimes he wouldn't be able to say he had enough when he was getting it tough with the calked boots. As long as he was standing and fighting back - - he could always come back. It was rough enough too.

There has been a lot of history passed along that river.

*End*

# RUNNING ON ALL CYLINDERS

By Susan Veale, BSc.

Failing health is like an untuned motor in a car. The more you ignore it, the more it breaks down.

Unlike the car motor, the human body has one advantage, namely, the body strives to maintain homeostasis or balance. If the body falls into a dis-ease state, it will produce signs and symptoms to say, "I need help", as it tries to correct itself.

As a result of this need, the body will display five classifications of symptoms; with each stage of dis-ease causing more degeneration.

**1.ADJUSTMENT** – These symptoms are minor for the body. They usually disappear without intervention. This is the initial effort by the body to keep itself in homeostatic balance. Such symptoms include fever and headaches.

**2.DISCHARGE** – This is the body's attempt to rid itself of useless or noxious matter through secondary elimination channels. These include sneezing, coughing, skin eruptions or mucous discharge. Most of these symptoms can be easily treated with diet and natural remedies.

**3.ACCUMULATION** – This stage happens if the secondary elimination organs are unable to adequately rid themselves of toxins. This includes cysts, benign growths, excess weight, fatty deposits and stones. At this point, more in-depth attention must be given to the body.

**4.MALFUNCTION** - This occurs when accumulation short-circuits the chemistry of the body's electrical system. As a result, the organs and immune system work less efficiently. Conditions such as diabetes, early cancer, heart attacks or fibrillations, hepatitis or kidney failure example this stage.

**5.STRUCTURALCHANGE** – Eventually, the very shape of the organ or other body tissues begin to change shape, sometimes irreversibly. This includes such conditions as arthritis, cirrhosis, cataracts, and enlargement of the heart, ruptured appendix, late cancer and advanced arteriosclerosis.

The first two stages of classification are normal body reactions to pathogens such as virus, bacteria, mold, fungus or chemical toxins.

The last three stages represent more

stress on the body due to nutritional deficiencies.

In each stage, the body can begin recovery if the immune system is strong. One of the better ways to strengthen the immune system is through enhanced nutritional supplementation.

Before using any supplementation, it is advised to seek the advice of a qualified health practitioner.

(Susan Veale is a certified "Kinesiologist, Natural Health Practitioner and Student of Homeopathy". Susan is the co-founder of "Wellness Natural Health Centre". Susan may be reached at [info@mylysis.com](mailto:info@mylysis.com) or by calling 613.752.1540.)

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## Ottawa Valley Sudoku By Doug Bell

Level of difficulty: *Medium*  
answers on page 11

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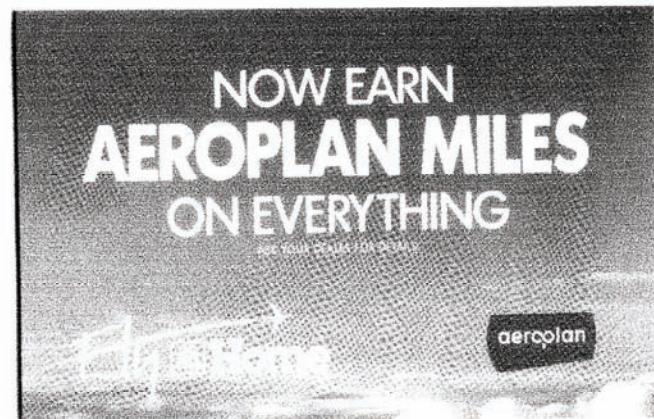
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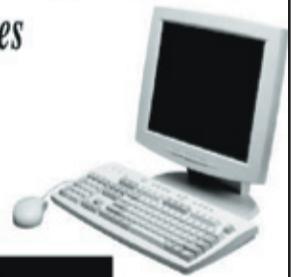
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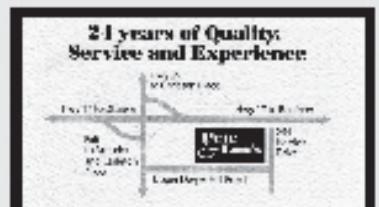


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# The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

*“read cover to cover”*

## Progress on the Matawatchan Community Market

As we approach the first Matawatchan Community Market day on June 16 this summer, seedlings for many of the vegetables to be sold are already several inches tall. Adam and Filipa Copeland, who will be the market's main supplier of produce, already have one greenhouse on the go and plan to erect another huge (1250 square foot) greenhouse in the next few weeks. Despite the dismal weather things are moving along nicely.

Three additional meetings have occurred since the last Highlander and many details about how the market will operate have been finalized. For example, Saturday market days at the Matawatchan Hall for 2007 will run from June 16 to October 13. The hours of operation will be 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rules for the market have been established and an organizational structure. Around 27 vendors have already been identified. To be a vendor one must have locally grown produce and / or locally made products to sell. The market Management Committee may at their discretion authorize outside products to be sold if the products are not available locally. (Locally means within 50 km). Space at the Hall for vendors will be allocated in 32 sq foot blocks at \$10 each market day. Booths may be shared. If a vendor commits to the whole season the charge is \$125 annually.

The product categories that have been identified as being appropri-

ate for the market are  
Agricultural: Products include, but are not limited to fruit & vegetables, plants, shrubs, honey, maple syrup, etc. Baking: includes breads, rolls, pies, muffins etc. Arts & Crafts: Must be hand-made by a local artisan. There will also be a food concession, which will be the only booth that will sell individual food items that can be consumed at the market. This will be run by the Market Association.

The Market Steering group, which is a subset of those who have attended meetings, has applied for a Renfrew County Local Initiatives Program grant, which we hope will be sponsored by the Township of Greater Madawaska on our behalf. Money from that grant will be used for signage, promotion, food items for the food concession and to pay a small salary to a 'market manager' and a 'concession manager' who will manage the work by directing the volunteer staff, by being a focal point for the vendors and by ensuring that set-up and take down is accomplished.

If the Township decides not to sponsor our application or if our application for a grant is not accepted by the County, we will proceed with plans anyway, though it will place a greater burden on volunteers. By mid-May when we publish the next Highlander we should know our situation. The next general meeting for the Matawatchan Community Market will be on Wednesday April 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Matawatchan Hall.

## Paving the Matawatchan Road

Who could have known that the construction season could have lasted until mid-January 2007 when completion of the first stage of the County portion (County Road 71) of the Matawatchan Road stopped before it was paved?

The pot holes are now as bad as they ever were and more than a few front end alignments were necessary for resident vehicles. I count my own car among these. After a period of rain the road became literally bone-jarring.

As the 2007 construction season begins, with the second and longest sec-

tion of the road about to be rebuilt, many residents hope that the County will complete the 2006 season by first paving the section of road completed last year.

Many fear that in the interests of cost-saving the County will wait until the 2007 season is finished and then pave both sections. However, if the 2007 season ends abruptly because of the weather, where does that leave us?

There could be a bumpy road ahead.

*End*

## Looking back...



*Railroad tressel in Calabogie* Photo credit: *Harriet Everitt (Nee LeClair, Daughter of James and Anne LeClair)*

## Dear Editor,

Reflecting on Vimy Ridge I have been blessed with friends from around the world, many with military backgrounds. They've fought with the armies of many nations, in conflicts from West Africa to Central Europe to the Middle East. They've seen terrible and beautiful things... things that defy explanation. Without fail, these experiences have changed them – they're quieter, more aware. They're haunted by dreams and memories, and they're more appreciative of life having born witness to the realities of death. They know something – something that I will never know, as hard as I listen and as much as I want to understand.

Charles Adam Gregg was my great-great-uncle (see page 22). He died at Vimy Ridge on the 17th of April 1917, at the age of 20. When Charlie enlisted in the army in 1916, the world was very different - I cannot imagine what he was like, how he thought, what he dreamed or hoped or loved. I know little about him and the world has forgotten about him, save a few letters and medals. He joined the army and left to fight a war that no one understood. In an instant, the world must have become so small – the horrific capabilities of mankind standing in sharp contrast to his life in Vennachar. I often wonder how he felt, what he thought – but I'll never know. No one will.

When we speak of those who go to war, we often refer to "sacrifice". I wonder if Charlie imagined that he would never come home again. I wonder if he took a last look at the barn, at his mother...committing those images to memory. John Leslie Ball, a life-long friend and neighbour took the courageous journey with him. Letters home indicate that

they spent their last days together in the same trench. John lost his life at Vimy Ridge just a few days prior to Charlie's death. I will never know Charlie nor John. Those that did know them were robbed of their brother, son and friend. It has been said that more people died in conflict in the twentieth century than any other in history – a sad statistic of which none of us can be proud. Humankind did not achieve peace in Charlie's or John's lifetime, and it's unlikely that it will in mine. Throughout time, and throughout these conflicts, young men and women continue to join the military and fight our wars, and inevitably some will lose their lives in doing so.

It is essential that I, and all of us, remember Charlie and John and their historical and modern peers. While we may not agree with the politics or the spin, we owe it to them to remember and respect. Charlie and John's war ended nearly a century ago, but perhaps not much has changed – the sacrifice that they and their families made certainly has not. And so, I will remember. I will remember that they left Vennachar for the other side of the world, and were confronted with realities that they couldn't have imagined. I will remember that it was in this chaos that they died, and were laid to rest. I will remember for them that the world is capable of greatness, and I will hope that they didn't lose faith in this at Vimy Ridge. I will remember that the events of Vimy Ridge that devastated families and a community. More than anything, I will honour their memories and try to understand. Viewing them through the modern lens of friends that have endured these horrors makes it much easier, and infinitely more heart-breaking.

Melanie Rosenblath

# Taking out the garbage

By Bill Graham

With spring comes spring cleaning, that seasonal ritual, which with cleaning also includes moving unwanted stuff from your space to the dump. Knowing this a number of municipal and national programs take place in the spring.

In Greater Madawaska, the municipality gives residents two free weekends for disposing of items that are normally subject to a disposal (tipping) fee. Normally there is a cost for disposing of appliances and other large items. The only exception will be the disposal of tires where the regular fee will be collected. This year there will be pick-up. However, from May 19 to 21 and June 30, July 1 and 2, there will be no cost.

The Township of Greater Madawaska is giving residents two free weekends at the Black Donald, Griffith and Matawatchan sites for large item and large volume disposal without the normal disposal (tipping) fee. The only exception will be tires

where the normal disposal fee will apply. It should be noted that unlike other years there will be no pick-up. These free weekends are: May 19, 20 and 21 plus June 30, July 1 and 2.

Household hazardous waste is only accepted between May and August each year at Renfrew. Hazardous waste includes such items as household cleaners, used oil, old gas, paint, chemicals, pesticides, batteries, etc. The Household Hazardous Waste Depot is located at 376 Bruce Street in Renfrew. For hazardous waste to be accepted Greater Madawaska residents will need to show their Waste Site Ratepayer Identification Card.

Recycling for Greater Madawaska is now being handled by the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre located near Pembroke. Their state-of-the-art facility gives residents of Greater Madawaska the ability to recycle many more materials than we could previously. Some guidelines about what can be recycled and what can not are outlined in the adjacent boxes.

End

## CONTAINER RECYCLING - Material Accepted

- Aluminum Pop Cans
- Cardboard Cans (*with metal ends i.e. peanuts, Pringles*)
- Coffee Cup Lids
- Empty Aerosol and Paint Cans
- Milk &- Juice Cartons, Juice Boxes
- Non-Refundable Glass Bottles and Jars
- Plastic Food and Beverage Containers (*with #'s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7*)
- Plastic Bags
- Pop & Water Bottles
- Small Scrap Metal Items
- Steel Cans & Lids
- Styrofoam packing (*packing pellets are garbage*)
- Styrofoam Cups and Plates

### Requirements:

- Container recyclables must be deposited loose inside the transit station bins.
- Plastic grocery pages are acceptable with container recycling. Stuff all grocery bags inside a larger bag and tie.
- All containers recycling can be mixed but must be kept separate from paper recyclables.
- Refundable wine and spirit containers are acceptable in the container recycling but we encourage all residents to return these to the Beer Store for full refund.

## Landfill

### The following materials are examples of what should be put in the landfill section of the waste

- Broken window glass, mirrors, ceramics and dishes
- Styrofoam packing popcorn
- Feminine hygiene products and diapers
- Dog and cat food bags
- Cold ashes (must be in a combustible container-cardboard box or plastic bag)
- Toothpaste tubes
- Kitty litter and animal feces
- Chip bags and candy wrappers
- Furnace filters
- Cereal box liners and cookie bags
- Incandescent light bulbs
- Old shoes
- Empty oil containers
- Shrink wrap and Bubble wrap
- Vacuum cleaner bags

## PAPER RECYCLING - Material Accepted:

- Advertising Flyers (bond and glossy)
- Boxboard
- Clean, Corrugated Cardboard
- Computer Paper
- Egg Cartons
- Envelopes
- File Folders
- Greeting Cards
- Hard Cover Books (*covers and bindings removed*)
- Junk Mail
- Magazines
- Mixed Office Paper
- Newsprint
- Packing Paper
- Phone Books
- Shredded Paper (*in a clear plastic bag*)
- Soft Cover Books
- Wrapping Paper

### Requirements:

- Paper recyclables must be deposited loose inside the transfer station bins.
- Paper in plastic bags is not acceptable with the exception of shredded paper.
- Shredded paper can be in clear plastic bags or grocery bags.
- Paper must be kept as clean and dry as possible.
- All paper recycling can be mixed but must be kept separate from container recyclables
- Cardboard boxes should be flattened



### FREE WASTE SITE DAYS

Township of Greater Madawaska residents are entitled to two free weekends at the Black Donald, Griffith and Matawatchan waste sites.

**RATEPAYER IDENTIFICATION CARDS ARE REQUIRED**

**Tires are subject to the regular disposal fee.**

There is no charge for other items brought to the waste sites on  
**May 19, 20 & 21, 2007**

AND

**June 30, July 1 & 2, 2007.**

Any questions contact the Public Works Garage at 613-752-2214



### PITCH - IN WEEK

April 23 - 29, 2007

*Operation Clean Sweep*

Do your part to clean up a shore line, a road side, a public park, your neighborhood..

Specially marked garbage bags will be available in your community.

Please do your part for a successful Operation Clean Sweep in the Township of Greater Madawaska.

# Griffith Matawatchan News`

By Garry Ferguson

## Denbigh Griffith Lions

The Denbigh Griffith Lions Club (DGLC) has once again shouldered a huge undertaking for the good of the greater community. Our readers will remember the \$25,000 pledged – and delivered over five years – to the Renfrew Victoria Hospital. It took a lot of scraping to come up with that kind of scratch in a sparsely-populated area like ours. But, they were up to the task and are about to do an encore. The DGLC has pledged \$25,000 over five years to Hospice Renfrew's efforts to build a six-bed residential hospice for end-of-life care this summer. It will be located on Albert St. in Renfrew and is expected to, each year, serve 70 to 100 families dealing with life-threatening or terminal illness requiring end-of-life care.

On March 14, 2007, Erwood Reynolds, President DGLC, presented the first \$5,000 cheque to Marge Turpin, Project Coordinator for the planned hospice. Also attending the presentation and dinner along with the Lions' delegation was Greater Madawaska Ward Three Councillor Karin Lehnhardt.

## Denbigh Checking In

By Angela Bright

\*Condolences to Bob & Alf Laidler and his sister Cathy Barr on the loss of brother George Laidler on September 25, 2006. George was a former resident of Denbigh until moving to Vernon, British Columbia. The family also mourns the loss of Harold Barr on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, 2007, in Carlton Place and the loss of nephew Art Wilson of Barrie on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at the age of fifty. May God be with you.

\*The Denbigh Recreation Committee had a splendid day on Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> for the Winter Family Fun Day! With a bit of snow in the air, it helped to set the atmosphere for fun in the fresh air. The day was very well attended with 26 children coming out to enjoy games and races. Much to their surprise, they were rewarded with ribbons and loonies! The canteen served up chili, hot dogs, hot chocolate and other snacks. Thanks to Curtis Grant Sr. for organizing the mixed broom ball game – all ages were on the ice for a good round of competition. A great day with thanks to all those who volunteered their time in organizing and giving a hand where they could!

\*The Denbigh Poker Run and Dance had a wonderful turn out on Satur-

The new addition to the Griffith Lions Hall houses a large and much-needed storage space, an enlarged foyer/coatroom and a new serving area behind a high bar which should provide some protection for bar-keeps always in danger of being mobbed by over-eager thirsty patrons. The DGLC members, who did such a professional job, stated that they are thankful for the local help that supplemented their efforts and for the items donated to complete the task.

The Sightfirst II Committee, consisting of Lions Ruby Malcolm and Gail Holtzhauer are attempting to come up with ways to raise finances to meet commitments. Sightfirst II is a five-year project that the Lions International has taken on to improve the eyesight of people in third world countries.

The Daffodil Tea on March 31 raised a record amount of coin (\$725.00) to be contributed to the fight against cancer. Music, by 16 musicians, sweets and tea served up by ladies who are cancer survivors, kept a large crowd in the hall until well after the scheduled end of the event.

Thanks to the good neighbours who took their dogs in, the Easter Bunny

day March 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 101 registered snowmobiles and four wheelers for the run! Riders came from as far as Napanee to participate! Everyone was kept well fed with hotdogs and chilli served at the rink canteen. Thank you to all the local businesses, and a few from Cloyne, who supplied prizes for the draw. All proceeds from the Poker Run went to the Denbigh Recreation Committee, and the committee would like to thank Curtis Grant Jr., Loretta & Curtis Grant Sr. and family for organizing the day! Well done!

\*The Addington Highlands Library - Denbigh Branch welcomes everyone to stop by and check out the new best sellers, large print, non-fiction, children's and young adult material, as well as the selection of audio on hand. Just a few new DVDs are Stranger than Fiction, Wonders of the World-Imax Collection, and Canadian Geographic Kids Volumes 1-4. Take advantage of the high speed internet and computer usage. And not to be missed are the monthly children's programs! On Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup>, Movie and Pizza Night will be held from 5:30 to 7:30. Rebecca Lloyd will again be running the T.D. Summer Reading Program weekly during July and August, so keep watching here for the

was able to arrive at the Children's Easter Party unharmed - resplendent in a new just-for-Easter fur outfit - to wow the large group of children with his wares. Unfortunately for style-conscious readers, our mole in the Pride didn't think to check for a designer label on the new fur togs.

Dance to Benefit Hospice Renfrew All proceeds from the Countrymen's Reunion and CD Release Party at the Armouries in Renfrew on Saturday April 21, 2007, will go to the Renfrew Hospice project. This includes profit from CD sales. A donation at the door will get you a light lunch and a toe-tapping, four-hour program beginning at 8 p.m. The doors will open at 7 p.m.

The Hospice, described above, will certainly benefit the long-in-the-tooth around Matawatchan and Griffith as well as those down-in-the-valley folks. So, put on the glad rags, lace up the stomping shoes and come on out for a great cause.

## The Matawatchan Hall

Hockey Night in Matawatchan will continue to be a Saturday evening highlight in the old hall over the few weeks. What could be better than good company, a good game, surround sound and a large screen? An Ottawa sweep perhaps? The bar opens at 6:30 p.m.

dates to be announced. The hours for the Denbigh Branch are Monday 4 p.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday 9 a.m.-11 a.m., Thursday 4 p.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m.-Noon. For any questions or additional information you can reach the friendly library staff at 613-333-1426 or [denbighl@hotmail.com](mailto:denbighl@hotmail.com). You can also keep up to date by visiting the website [www.addingtonhighlandspubliclibrary.ca](http://www.addingtonhighlandspubliclibrary.ca). \*Vennachar Free Methodist Church held a Leadership training course February 24 and 25, opening on the Friday night with a pot luck dinner. There were 23 people in attendance over the course of the sessions. The title was, "If you want to walk on water, you must get out of the boat". Everyone left on Saturday feeling encouraged and refreshed, and challenged to remove the barriers that hinder us from fully trusting God.

\*The Vennachar Free Methodist WMI ladies gathered on Monday March 5<sup>th</sup> for their monthly meeting. Donna Carr opened with prayer, followed by three hymns sung by all and accompanied by Tony Chatson on piano. Business items discussed were the upcoming May banquet and the Spring Cleaning of the church, dates for both to be announced. A quiz was then given by Tony that

The Heritage Old Time Country Music Association (HOTCMA) will return to the Matawatchan Hall again on August 19, 2007. A house band will make music and be on hand to back up those who bring along their talents and sign up to perform.

HOTCMA members and musicians who staged the first HOTCMA Jamboree in the township last August, have made this Matawatchaner/Griffithite proud by repeatedly remarking on the welcome received and the warmth shown by the capacity crowd that gathered.

The Hall got a boost on the balance sheet this past month through a donation of supplies from Gail and Steve Main (Eagle's Rest). If there's anything that gladdens the hearts of those hard-working board members, (hint, hint) it's donations. The bigger donation, the gladder the hearts.

End

## Clarification

In our Christmas 2006 issue of the Highlander while reporting on election results we stated the following: Candidates Marie Buscomb and Chantal Coupal shared the remaining 686 votes. We have been asked to state the specifics of those 686 votes. Marie Buscomb received 485 votes and Chantal Coupal 201 votes.

had been prepared by Sheila Matthews. Bev Snider lead the devotion time with a message about finding our true purpose in life and how we will be remembered after we have gone on; how much time will we have spent doing God's work? Lillian White read a poem reflecting the challenge given by Bev. Closing prayer was lead by Jessie Oldford. A lovely lunch was served by Lillian White and Sheila Matthews.

\*Be sure to mark Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for this upcoming event. Eduard Klassen will be performing at Vennachar Free Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. He is a professional Paraguayan Harpist. This is Eduard's second visit, though it has been a few years since he was last here. There will be a free will offering and CDs will be available as well. Invite your friends and family to attend!

\*Spring has sprung when the sap starts to run, and the rich, black mud in the bush grabs hold. How many times when we were younger did we "walk out of our boots" leaving one stand behind and then try to get it back without getting the sock foot gooey in the mud! It's a great time of year!

End

# YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND A COMMUNITY MEETING

Ontario Power Generation's Ottawa/St. Lawrence Plant Group would like to invite you to attend our annual community meeting to discuss how our operations affect water levels and flows in the lower reaches of the Ottawa and Madawaska River.

Agenda topics and presentations also include information on water levels and flows, an overview of recent developments at OPG and a general public safety update.

**The meeting will be held at the location and time listed below. Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions. OPG representatives will be available to answer questions and discuss individual interests and concerns. We look forward to seeing you there.**

**TUESDAY, MAY 8  
LOWER MADAWASKA AND LOWER  
OTTAWA RIVER MEETING**  
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Arnprior  
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# Joe Mufferaw, legend of the Valley

**Editor's note:** *Joseph Montferrand is an historical figure who has become a true legend of the Ottawa Valley. He ranged up and down the Ottawa River and tributaries such as the Madawaska River. There are local legends about him from Montreal to Ottawa (Bytown) to Calabogie. His name became anglicized into Joe Mufferaw and many other variations in spelling. Many believe that his character was adapted and adopted by American folklorists into Paul Bunyan. But long before there was any Paul Bunyan, there was Joe Montferrand.*

*This biographical sketch of Joe Montferrand will introduce a series that will follow the legend and tell some of the tall tales of Joe Mufferaw, as he is known in the Ottawa Valley. Look for Tall Tales by Bernie Bedore next month*

*The material for this biography is drawn largely from Joan Finnigan's Giants of Canada's Ottawa Valley and from the Dictionary of Canadian Biography (DCB) Online*

Joseph Montferrand, belonged to the third generation of Montferrands in Canada. His grandfather, a soldier in the troops of the Chevalier de Lévis\*, had settled at Montreal after the conquest of New France and opened a fencing salon. Powerfully built and renowned for strength, the Montferrands acquired a certain fame in the working class districts of Montreal, whose people made a fetish of physical skill and strength.

At 16, Montferrand had almost reached his full height. Six feet four inches tall, he had a clear complexion, blue eyes, and fair hair, and did not look at all like a ruffian. His contemporaries seem to have been struck by the regularity of his features and his distinguished bearing. It was not so much his physical strength as his agility and liteness that were impressive. By trade he was a carter. Around 1818 he established himself as the cock of the Faubourg Saint-Laurent by thrashing three hooligans who were terrorizing the neighbourhood. At the same period, before a crowd of boxing enthusiasts on the Champ de Mars, he took on an English boxer who had declared himself champion and had challenged him. With one punch he knocked him out. In 1820 or 1821, on his way through Kingston, Upper Canada, where his work as a carter had taken him, he beat a mulatto boxing instructor who was greatly admired by the garrison. These two exploits brought him fame. People began to say that Jos Montferrand

“struck like the kick of a horse,” and that he “used his leg like a whip.”

In 1827 he became an employee of Joseph Moore, who was exploiting the pine forests of the Rivière du Nord, in Lower Canada. Subsequently he worked for Baxter Bowman, a lumberman with camps on the upper Ottawa River. In turn foreman, crib guide, and trusted agent of his employers, Montferrand lived a logger's adventurous life for 30 years. In the autumn he would leave Montreal with his men to proceed to the upper Ottawa, stopping at all the many taverns along the route. For months on end the men were busy felling trees, getting up at dawn and slaving away until nightfall. In spring the woodcutters became “raftsmen.” Then the logs were driven down towards the lower Ottawa, where they were collected into cribs to be steered with the currents as far as the port of Quebec. The men lingered at Montreal and Quebec, where they were always ready to show off their strength and skill, and when the occasion arose to hire out their talents to the organizers of elections.

Montferrand enjoyed this roving life, which led him to spend part of his time in the “tough spots” of Lower Canada: the lumber camps, ports, and taverns, where the law of the strongest prevailed and where the fighters of each ethnic group valiantly defended the honour of their race. Because he was the strongest and quickest, Montferrand was king. But king though he was, he constantly had to defend his crown. On more than one occasion he had to take up a challenge or extricate himself from an ambush. His adventurous life was studded with exploits in which skill, speed, and strength were of prime importance. In 1828, on the Quai de La Reine at Quebec, Montferrand is said to have beaten a champion of the Royal Navy in the presence of a large crowd. The following year, on the oak bridge leading from Hull to Bytown (Ottawa), he managed, according to legend, to rout a band of “Shiners” 150 strong. During the violent by-election of May 1832 at Montreal, he put to flight a band of braggarts who were threatening his friend Antoine Voyer; the latter, with one blow of his fist, had instantly killed an adversary whom Montferrand had once thrashed. In 1847, again at Montreal, he defeated a man by the name of Moore who was an American boxing champion. But later there were fewer such exploits.

Well before his death, Montferrand was enshrined in a legend that was to embellish his life and magnify his exploits. The hero of this legend had two destinies, one given him by the

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oral tradition of folklore, the other by writers. The Montferrand of tradition owes a lot to our innate need for the fanciful and the marvellous, but it is virtually certain that many of this hero's feats were designed to increase the self-esteem of the community and to exorcize popular fears. Heroes are for small groups what self-images can be for individuals.

Joan Finnigan in her book *Giants of Canada's Ottawa Valley* provides an excellent description of the circumstances of the time and place where Joe Mon-

terrand found himself a major player:

“From 1820 to about 1850, when the lumbering business was escalating toward a peak, the Ottawa Valley might be very well described as a battlefield and, for a large part of that period, as dominated by Joseph Montferrand. The lumber barons held the rights to timber stands all over Ontario and Quebec. Indeed some, like the Barnets and the Booths, held cutting rights as far away as British

*continued on next page*

## Joe Mufferaw (Cont.)

Columbia. On the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa, and along some of their tributaries, were scattered the villages and towns where the lumbermen had their homes. They returned to them after their winter's work and life, not only of celibacy, but usually of total abstinence as well. When the lumbermen came out of the woods in the spring, the settlements, big or small, reeled from the impact. Too long contained, pent-up and frustrated, the men went wild, spending their money, looking for girls, drinking and feasting, dancing, settling old quarrels and seeking revenge.

In the springtime in the Ottawa Valley, in small centres like Pakenham or Eganville, Mattawa or Fort Coulonge, it was said that a fight fan couldn't run fast enough to cover all the battles going on. Not only were shantymen settling individual differences and grudges, but strong company identification and rivalry led to gang fights: the Gillies gang against the Bowman and McGill crew; the Booth boys against the Gilmour bunch. There was little law in the land, no policemen to call, little recourse at the courts. The right of the strongest prevailed, as in any pioneer frontier. And the Ottawa Valley was a frontier of a unique kind—a forest frontier. Unlike the western frontier, which called for fast, ingenious, hardy, gun-slinging men who could ride and cow-punch on an hour's sleep a night, the forest frontier needed huge muscled men who could wield a broadaxe, coax a team up a mountain and load timbers weighing tons. Their battles, therefore, were the battles of Titans."

In the Ottawa and Madawaska Valleys, Joe Montferrand's name became anglicized into Joe Mufferaw in the many stories that are part of oral tradition of the area.

In a taped interview in 1979, the late Carl Bailey of Calabogie, a third generation shantymen who could remember stories his grandfather had told him, recalled the tales he had heard of Big Joe Mufferaw. "Joe Mufferaw, he was just a legend. There really was a big Frenchman, a fightin' man named Montferrand but he wasn't near the man the legends cracked him up to be. One time Montferrand was camped below Calabogie at the McIntyre Place. The men were often out in tents there, camping during the drive. Black snakes would get in them and everything—well, anyway, there was this fighter at Calabogie and he heard that Mufferaw was camped below him and he went down this night and woke him up and said, 'I hear you're the best man in this country. How would you like to try me? So Mufferaw got up and they went at it. And after awhile



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the fighter from Calabogie yells out. 'Hold on a minute. I think I woke up the wrong Frenchman!' That's a true story. And I heard another time he went down to Ottawa with a load of square timber and they brought out a big Negro for to beat Mufferaw. They brought him out on a chain. And they said that Mufferaw jumped him and kicked him on the head and killed the Negro ... Oh, that's the way they fought! Anything goes. Gouge, kick, bite, anyway that they could win."

Today Joe Mufferaw stories are in the public domain and anyone with a penchant for composing tall tales can use him as their heroic character. Arnprior author Bernie Bedore began composing tall tales featuring Joe Mufferaw during the 1950s and by the early 1960s began publishing these stories. He has three books of whimsical tales of Joe Mufferaw to his credit. Over the next few months, we will publish a few of these tales.

answers

5	9	7	3	1	8	4	6	2
8	6	2	9	4	5	3	7	1
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9	5	4	7	2	1	8	3	6
2	7	8	4	3	6	1	9	5

## LORDY, LORDY LOOK WHO'S 40

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# “Here, Kitty, Kitty, Kitty”

By Floris Wood

**Editor’s note:** *The author’s title derives from the daily call made by his neighbour John Richardson on Centennial Lake Road as he calls his cat, expecting something more domestic than a Canada Lynx.*

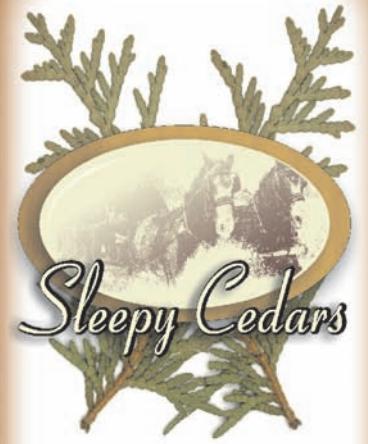
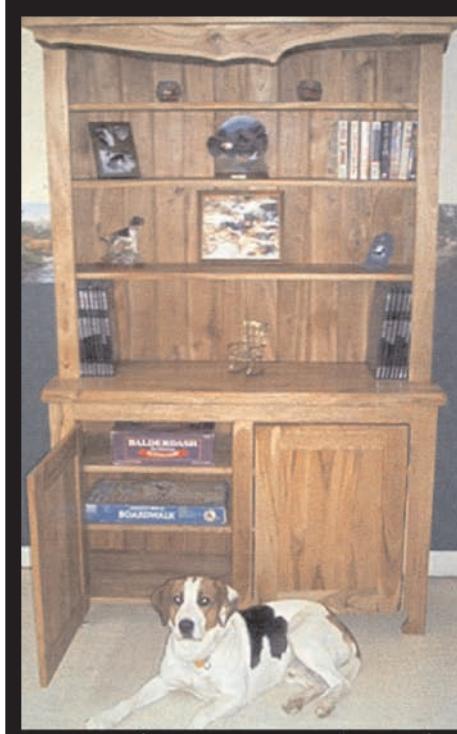
The solitary Canadian lynx, alone in a vast Canadian forest, eschews even his own kind, of either gender. A search for a collective noun for a group of lynx produced nothing, quite possibly because they are almost

enter into the equation. To date they know that there exists a cycle of approximately 8.6 years in which populations of the Canadian lynx and the Snowshoe hares peak and wane. The length of the cycle varies very little throughout the lynx’s vast range. Other factors studied range from ovulation cycles in each species, sun spots (which have a cycle approximating the 8.6 years), global warming, weather, migration, diseases, etc. So far, nothing works. Scientists speculate that a multitude of still little understood factors cause the cycle.



never found in unrelated groups. Except for the breeding season, the Canadian lynx’s thoughts tend to focus on the Snowshoe hare, which makes up more than 75% of the lynx’ diet. If the lynx had his way the Snowshoe hare might serve as his only food, were there enough of them. But the lynx will supplement his diet with an easy meal of fresh carrion, rodents, birds and even fish. In any given area the population size and survival of the Canadian lynx closely parallels that of the Snowshoe hare. The fates of these two animals so closely correlate that scientists have a field day figuring out what factors, besides the normal predator/prey relationship,

Canadian lynx are unique among the lynx family members in their taste for Snowshoe hares. Other species, which include the Iberian lynx and the Eurasian or Siberian lynx, have a much more varied diet. The Canadian lynx’ closest relative, the Eurasian lynx, has a preference for Roe deer, but not anywhere near as single-mindedly as the Canadian lynx’s craving for hares. These two species of lynx so much resemble each other that some scientists once believed they were actually the same species, even though the Canadian lynx, the largest of the North American lynx, is only half the size of the Eurasian. Modern DNA analysis techniques reveal



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a more distant relationship. One may have descended from the other a couple of ice ages ago, but not recently.

The Madawaska Valley is at the very southern edge of the Canadian lynx range. Sightings here are fairly rare since these animals stay well into the bush and away from humans. The Madawaska Valley lies on the northern edge of bobcat range and bobcats and lynx are fre-

quently and justifiably mistaken for each other. Canadian lynx and bobcats do not mix well because of the competition for Snowshoe hares and the bobcats’ difficulty in negotiating the deep snow. What’s more, they don’t like each other very much.

When hunting their ability to focus on a hare is legendary. They go where a scent track takes them and when

*continued on page 15*

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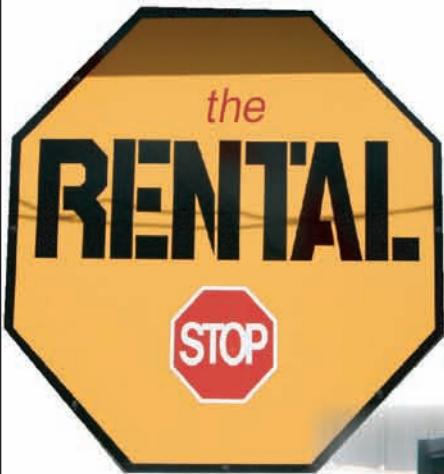


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# Community Calendar

## CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

### Griffith and Matawatchan

**St. Andrew's United Church**  
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.

**Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church**  
Griffith: Sat. Mass 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.

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

### Denbigh and Vennachar

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

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

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

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

### Calabogie

**The Calabogie Bible Fellowship Congregational Church**  
The Mill Street Chapel at 538 Mill St.,  
Regular service – Sundays 10:30 a.m.  
Bible study: Wed. at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Calabogie

**Calabogie Arts and Crafts Assoc.,**  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (if holiday, then  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday), 10:00am – 1:00 pm,  
Community Hall, prospective members  
welcome (\$12 per year), 752-0072

**Lion's Club Bingo**  
every Wed., 7:15 pm,  
Calabogie Community Centre, 752-  
0234

**Calabogie Seniors:** Pot luck dinner  
and meeting – the last Thursday of each  
month – Community Hall begins at 4:00  
p.m. followed by dinner and meeting.

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

**Scouts (boys and girls 5 to 10 years)**  
**Info for parents and fun for kids**  
Calabogie Community Hall  
April 24 – 7 to 8 pm  
Parents must be in attendance  
For info call Michelle Smith  
At 752- 0543

**Family Bingo Fundraiser**  
St. Joseph's Catholic School  
April 27 – 7pm  
For info call 752-2808

### Griffith & Matawatchan

**Ham Supper - St. Andrew's Church**  
May 5 - - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Fish Fry: Matawatchan Hall**  
May 12 -- 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Black Fly Dance: Matawatchan Hall**  
May 19 - - 8:30 p.m.  
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**Lion's Club Bingo**  
Every second Tuesday at 7:30 pm  
Nov. 14, Nov. 28 and Dec, 2  
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**"Northern Lights" Seniors**  
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and Matawatchan. For information  
contact Lois Robbins at 333-1082. All  
Seniors Welcome

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

**Fellowship Luncheon**  
These meals are held the first  
Wednesday of each month at noon.  
Contact Pat Holleran 333-1229  
or Lois Robbins at 333-1082

### Denbigh

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

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

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# Dispatches from the South Seas

By Rick and Jane Baxter

It's been quite awhile since we sent out our last newsletter, but that is due to the fact that things slow down here from mid-December to the end of February, as it is summer holiday time and most people are on vacation. Because of where we are located – on an island in the Pacific and a long way from the continents – people tend to take extended holidays, five to six weeks at a time. But March is like September at home in Canada where everything gets back to normal and we get back into our routines. Rick's first assignment of the new year was five days at an executive retreat in Fiji at the lovely, five-star Shangri-la resort, home for two days and then off to Tuvalu, a country with some interesting features.

Tuvalu is located north of Fiji just south of the equator and just west of the International Date Line. The country of Tuvalu is a cluster of nine groups of islands, each group being made up of a series of coral atolls rising out of the Pacific. An atoll is a land form in the middle of the ocean generally made up of sand and coral. These atolls generally form a circle around a lagoon. The water depth in the lagoon varies from very deep to shallow - the

## Lynx (cont.)

they sense the presence of a hare they wait very patiently for it to appear, at which time they pounce, very cat-like. They are not good distance pursuers but their quickness and ambushing skills make them very effective hunters of, what else, hares. After catching their prey they will drag it off to a secluded place to eat it, if where they catch it is not secluded enough. After sating themselves on the prey they might bury any remaining meat in the snow or under leaves for a snack later on. Although they are good tree climbers I can find no evidence that they carry their prey into trees to eat it. As one MNR-verified story on the Internet attests to, the lynx' power of concentration while hunting will occasionally bring a lynx right into a human settlement if that is where the hare takes him.

These territorial mammals mark their space with urine, feces and anal gland secretions. Males have a fairly large territory while females have smaller ones. Males allow several females, with whom they breed, to share their territory. These females' territories might overlap, since they are not as aggressive as the males in defending them. During the mating season, which occurs from January through March, the males emit a loud wailing cry ending in a deep moan. The females respond with a

shallow areas being where one sees the typical turquoise/blue water colours. The country of Tuvalu is one of the world's smallest and most isolated independent nations. Rick was staying on the Funafuti group of atolls. Funafuti is the capital of Tuvalu. The main atoll of the Funafuti group is Fongofale, which includes the main town of Vaiaku, where the government offices are located. Fongofale contains about 5,000 persons out of the total population of 9,000 in all of Tuvalu. Rick stayed at the Filamona Lodge right next to the "international" airport. Fongofale is about eight kilometers long and its width varies from 100 metres to about 30 metres. Just remembering the names is a day's work.

Garbage disposal is a real issue, as it is on most small islands. Anything edible is feed to the pigs, which are kept in pens away from the main community. The runway was built by the Americans during WWII, and to do so, they took fill from other parts of the atoll. However, the result was huge craters in the landscape which now serve as dumps for any remaining garbage. Residences are often found very close to these areas.

The temperature is fairly consistent at 30-35 degrees day and night. As the only fresh water (other than imported bottled water for drinking) available

siren like wail, replete with a nice vibrato. Their first date is also their last one for the season and by mutual consent they part amicably until this time next year. The male repeats this process with the other females in his territory. Some females have territories that might overlap two male territories but she mates with only one. About two months later she has a litter of from two to five kits. By this time early summer has arrived. There is some speculation among scientists that the number of ova she produces may be predetermined by the abundance or scarcity of food (hares). Less speculative is the fact that a scarcity of hares will affect the health and survivability of the kits.

A month after their birth the kits will eat meat and soon after will accompany the mother on hunting trips. During this time the mother and kits may hunt as a team, driving hares toward other lynx waiting in ambush. The family stays together all year until the mother's suitor drives off the kits in the next winter mating season. A few siblings might travel together for a while until they become sexually mature, which, for the females happens at about 21 months old and for males, at about 33 months old. They may continue to hunt as a team while they travel together. Eventually they will want to estab-

lish their own territories in preparation for the next breeding season. The study of lynx behaviour is difficult because of their timidity and elusiveness. Population studies are especially difficult because of the remoteness of their habitat. They live all across the northern region of Canada with isolated small populations in the U. S. Rockies and New England. Small populations of lynx sometimes remain isolated long enough to take on different coloration and eating habits. Three members of the Felidae (cat) family make their home in Canada, the Canadian lynx, bobcats and Cougars. Cougars can be found in western Canada from the Yukon to the U. S. border. Bobcats are found all across Canada, but in the southern zones. The Canadian lynx lives in the northern realms of Canada. Since catching a Snowshoe hare requires some of the advantages that Snowshoe hares possess, we can expect Canadian lynx to share some of these characteristics, and they do. Like a hare, the lynx has long legs and very large, furry feet, enabling them to stay on top of deep snow. Just as Moose, with their long front legs, having a backward sloping profile, the lynx, whose hind legs are a little longer than the front, sometimes has

comes from rain water and, as Tuvalu was experiencing a drought while he was there, showers were quick. The shower stall only has one tap-cold- with close to zero water pressure. Fortunately, guests were provided with a 20 litre bucket of water with an accompanying empty plastic ice cream container. This allowed you to scoop up the water and pour it over your body. One of the good things, besides the friendliness of everyone, is the air conditioner was working in the bedroom, so he could at least sleep at night. However, the air conditioner vented into the bathroom which was about 45 degrees in the morning. Fortunately, after two days there was rain, which meant they could get a few drops of water out of the shower and they could flush the toilet. This was a far cry from the Shangri La resort he was at the week before and I was so glad I decided not to accompany Rick on this trip!

The one airstrip receives two flights per week from Suva in Fiji - one on Monday at noon and one on Thursday at noon. As the arrival and departure are the highlight of the week, many of the inhabitants show up to greet newcomers, say farewell to those escaping, sell their handicrafts or just hang out because there is nothing else to do. The plane is a noisy, dual engine, propeller driven Convair that holds about 50 passengers. There are

no lights on the runway and the plane usually leaves by 13:00. To load and unload the baggage, a pick-up truck drives over to the plane. The rest of the time, the airstrip is used for soccer matches-it can accommodate about 6 separate games at one time, volley ball games on the sides, and for just strolling along at night. One has to be careful however, because many people sleep on the runway to catch a bit of a breeze, avoid mosquitoes and try to keep cool.

The highest natural point above sea level in Tuvalu is about 5 metres. It is predicted that within a century, the rising ocean levels will cover these atolls and they will cease to exist. That being said, Tuvalu's population density is more than 400 persons per square km, which is one of the highest in the South Pacific. There is very little soil in Tuvalu so even growing your own veggies is a struggle. Locals claim that the only fruit grown in Tuvalu are bananas but Rick never saw any. There are lots of coconuts of course. As he was fearful of catching scurvy, he bought an apple in the Fusi, "supermarket" for .90 cents. Needless to say, there are no ATM's, commercial banks or credit card usage-just cash. One is advised to bring enough money (Australian \$ are used) to pay for food, accommodation and anything else one might need.

*continued on page 19*

a slightly forward sloping profile. Although this slope is often hard to detect because they are often found in a crouch. These long hind legs make the lynx a great leaper, often catching birds and hares in mid flight.

Their long legs and short body contrast them nicely to their shorter legged, longer bodied cousins, bobcats. The bobcat is also more likely to have distinctive markings such as streaks and spots while the lynx, whose coat hairs are tipped with white, will have any markings obscured by the frosted effect of the white tips. The lynx's coat is likely to be longer than that of the bobcat. The bobcat's coat will range from a buffy orange to almost grey, while the lynx's coat is more uniformly frosted light brown or grey. The lynx's tail is very short and nearly always black at the tip while bobcats longer tail will sport a couple stripes and only the top of the tail's tip will show black. The lynx' face is short and wide topped with triangular ears tufted with long black hairs. A long ruff hangs off his jowls and sometimes encircles his face.

For some aboriginal cultures the lynx has become a symbol of grace in solitude, "a secret-keeper, guardian, guide, listener, manifestation of

*continued on page 23*

# Mother Earth – Old News

By Richard Copeland

In the early 1970s James Lovelock made a statement that rocked his career and at the same time endeared him to much of humanity. Highly regarded in the fields of biology and chemistry, Lovelock turned down postdoctoral offers from Harvard, spent a couple of decades at the National Institute for Medical Research in London, was awarded England's highest scientific honour – fellowship of the Royal Society of London - and then, focused on his life's preoccupation in atmospheric chemistry. He retreated to England's countryside to invent things and to rely upon his intuitive nature to do so. The result was the 30 or so patents that he was issued for analytical and control devices—the first of which was the Electron Capture Detector (EDC); still the most sensitive means to test for atmospheric chemicals. The ECD detects chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and is able to monitor the level of the CFC pollutants causing ozone depletion.

Lovelock would, in retrospect, wish he had worded his defining statement a bit differently, but his intuition and simulations of the global climate supported his fateful hypothesis. In Daisyworld, a computer simulation, which is a hypothetical world orbiting a sun whose temperature is slowly increasing in the simulation, Lovelock began populating the earth with two or three varieties of daisies and by increasing solar output he discovered that the global temperature would rise, as most of us would expect, but, as only Lovelock expected, it would level out and step up repeatedly once the daisy populations altered in numbers and altered the reflection or absorption of sun-

light. As the complexity of his 'Daisyworld' was altered through the introduction of rabbits and foxes, more change could be seen with the overall implication being that the world attempts to find its own equilibrium. Too many life forms added into his mix eventually led to chaotic behaviour in the experiments, but the tendency toward earthly equilibrium, or balance, would become a focus for science. Lovelock made his defining statement in 1972: "Life, or the biosphere, regulates or maintains the climate and the atmospheric composition at an optimum, for itself." He called it the Gaia Hypothesis.

The scientific community attacked. Focused on the 'for itself' phrase, scientists world wide criticized Lovelock for implying a world that served its own purpose. New-Agers would embrace the idea, and many others of varying convictions would embrace the humanization of the Earth Mother and the comforts she affords. But the basis upon which the science lies, that the earth attempts to regulate toward some kind of normalcy, would become one the greatest issues to face mankind – global warming and climate change. From where we sit with this today, we humans have upset the composition of the atmosphere with unnatural or unusually produced carbon, and the earth is now responding to compensate, perhaps in chaotic ways. In other words, Mother Earth is sick and we are the disease.

There are a wide variety of perspectives on climate change, from various platforms of science, belief, politics and special interest groups—a calamity of chaos in itself.

We have allowed science to compartmentalize into many discreet protect-

ed territories that may respond with indignation whenever issues cross their sacred scientific borders. Lovelock would be proven correct in his assumption that inanimate materials play an interactive role with life forms in our earth systems. Getting the biologist, chemist and the geologist on the same page has been difficult at best.

Beliefs are hardened into place at very early ages among humans and attempting to raise a new consciousness within us is more than a generation-long undertaking. Our politicians, ever seeking election and power, will tell us what we want to hear to get our vote, not what we need to hear to take action.

Special interest groups have muddied the waters, the most damaging of these uniting around corporate needs for greed, funded by big oil and tobacco in establishing propaganda campaigns through complex networks of foundations, institutes and eco-friendly sounding organizations, many sharing their personnel as well as their information. The alarm signal for many of these interest group obstacles is the term 'sound science', which they bandy about as a euphemism for what they supposedly do. Do we have time to deal with the human inertia built into these social and economic constructs?

Probably not. In terms of the science, we have globally, for the first time, reached a major international consensus in agreeing on the science of the problem, and this agreement extends also among nations. But the science is tricky and potentially fraught with error, the current potential error imbalance falling decidedly on not correctly forecasting the speed at which change will take place.

Temperature rise, for example, is happening faster than initially thought. The forecasting errors are not in our favour.

The most widely used and accepted methodology for studying past climates is ice core drilling in the Arctic. These cores are able to provide us with chemical information from which we can determine, with reasonable accuracy, the scope of the effects of climate change from eras long past. Fifty-five million years ago, we know, for example, that the Arctic Ocean was a warm bath at 24 Deg C, the sea was acidic, ocean currents stopped or changed course, 75% of the Columbian and Venezuelan rain forests were dead and the globe was ravaged by fierce storms and cyclones. Temperatures within large continents rose about 5 Deg C at this time. Two hundred and fifty-one million years ago fossil records seem to have disappeared. The reefs died, sharks, excluding small ones, disappeared and plant life was nearly extinguished along with four footed mammals. Oxygen almost disappeared too, and 90% of the earth's species were wiped out. The temperature rose between 6 and 8 Deg C. The case for natural causes has its place indeed and is widely accepted as a cause for global warming. What the past records can provide us with is the kinds of potential outcomes we can expect from definable increments in temperature. But the complexity in the earth systems is not revealed in terms of when exactly a mechanism is triggered that could accelerate carbon production. It is these uncontrollable carbon producers and other complex global mechanisms, which are tied to climate, that we have to be concerned with as we try to figure out at what point the carbon emissions we can control

*continued on page 18*



### Township Council Meetings for May 2007

<b>May 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Standing Committee Meetings</b> (Council Chambers– Calabogie)	
	Finance & Administration	9:00 AM
	Environmental Management	11:15 AM
	Public Works	12:30 PM
	Planning & Economic Development	2:30 PM
	Public Services	4:30 PM
<b>May 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Committee of the Whole Council</b> (DACA Centre)	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b> (Council Chambers – Calabogie)	<b>4:00 PM</b>

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## Cottage Corner

# An Idyllic Negligence

By John Roxon

To me, April has always meant renewal. There's the cottage insurance, the car insurance and various magazines that have to be dealt with. It usually follows that the bank account goes through a sort of renewal as well, with April's numbers being much, much smaller than March's.

The cottage is long over due for a renewal project as well. The winter snows cover my negligence in this regard very nicely. February's utopia of a nice, clean wilderness setting is replaced by April's reality of a yard strewn with broken tree branches, leaves from the fall of 2005, cracked garden planters, a twisted, rusted bicycle and a gummed up lawn mower.

Even the trees are longing for some pruning and trimming as they are now resembling a bushman's unwashed, matted hair. We have one old basswood, which once, no doubt, stood tall and proud but is now more akin to a multi-storey apartment complex for chipmunks. I once peered into one of the many holes in the tree to see a chipmunk casually relaxing on a chair made of rotting tree pulp while easily sipping on a bottle of nut beer. He looked at me as if to say, back off or the nuts he'll be cracking wouldn't be from a tree. I immediately backed off.

This basswood has for years been leaning very precariously towards the roof of the cottage. Each year seems to bring this massive monolith another half-inch or so closer to crashing through the ceiling into our bedroom.

A couple of years ago I asked a local handyman, whose name escapes me now, to help me cut down that tree. He gave me a stare as if I just suggested cooking and eating his trusty hunting hound. "Why would you want to do that?" he asked me as he pounded on the trunk of the tree. The sound that resonated reminded me that the name of the tree should be more like the musical instrument than the fish. "Oh, I don't know," I replied, "something to do with the fact that a forty foot tree is leaning right over the spot where I put my head for the night". He muttered something about having to check into chains and tractors and workers' compensation insurance and walked away. I never heard from him again.

Even though basswood is fairly light, there is something deeply discon-

cerning about trying to sleep during a gusty, stormy night, with a forty-plus foot tree planted in loose, sandy soil looming overhead. I even briefly entertained the thought of downing it myself, but decided I had grown rather fond of my head, toes and torso so that idea was quickly dashed. So once again I will embark on the quest to sink the basswood.

There is also a tall maple, much thinner than the basswood but at least as heavy, standing on the other side of the cottage poised to fall right where my wife puts her head to sleep at night. That is to say it will fall precisely 14 inches from where the basswood would land. I think we will let the stately maple stand, though, as the leaves look so pretty in the fall (as I keep reminding my wife).

But trees threatening like the sword of Damocles are not my only negligence. We have our very own "forest of the dead pines", which I swear I notice growing year after year. I actually refer to them as our very own hairless albinos as they always maintain the same dull shade of grey and their branches are forever needleless. Still, they seem at least 8 inches taller than 5 years ago.

I try to tell my wife that we have a rare species of pine, one not pictured in our Audubon Society book on trees, which must be preserved. She gives me one of those rare looks, that only a wife could give to her loving husband, that says, "I wish I married Robert". "They're dead - will you please get rid of them?" is her only refrain to my pleading for the hairless, albino tree's salvation.

If I don't notice any growth, they will be gone for sure - next year.

A lot of negligence goes into making a cottage work properly and to enhance the cottage-going experience. As I survey the property, I also notice the shed which is slowly toppling from years of heavy snow sitting on the improperly braced roof. Every year I have to plane the trusses down a bit so I can swing the door open. I know, I know, why not just plane the top of the door? Or, God forbid, brace the shed properly?

My hand will be forced in both cases of the toppling shed and the basswood apartment complex. But until then, I think I will relax, open a cold beer and watch over a wonderfully idyllic property—even one suffering from my negligence.

End

## Mother Earth (Cont.)

will open this Pandora's Box. There is proof that we humans are putting vast amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere with our human activity. Our carbon production can be likened to playing Russian roulette, except all the chambers are loaded and the trigger is slow. As we put out more carbon we are squeezing the trigger, and at some point the gun fires and a potentially devastating killing mechanism is launched. The scientific community tries to figure out the contents of each chamber, how slow is that trigger and how can we stop its squeeze.

Belief and politics intermingle. The politician caters to whatever the electorate believes or to what he or she pays attention. We Canadians are vigorously criticized for not meeting our Kyoto goals. Australia and the USA have not bothered to sign up. The shame in Kyoto is its lack of teeth; the sham in it is in its unrealistically low targets. That is so because the targets are political decisions, not scientific ones. We Canadians feel okay; we emit only 3% of the global carbon dioxide. But we emit 19.05 tonnes per person, slightly short of the USA and Australia. China, many say, needs to be controlled. After decades of criticism for communism, this nation is finally signalling that it wants to be more like the West. China emits 2.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person. Now we don't want them to be like the west, for emulation of our

lifestyle will likely destroy the atmosphere. If Africa becomes more like us, the Ethiopians will increase their CO2 emissions from 0.06 tonnes to match whatever our ever-expanding emissions number becomes in the future. The targets and controls need to address fair play for all nations.

It is understood that a 2 Degrees Centigrade rise over our pre-industrial period is the point where our major ecosystems begin to collapse. At 2 Degrees Centigrade that which absorbs CO2 will convert and emit CO2 and we have a runaway situation. When this takes place drought, crop failure, disease and extreme weather will become the norm. Uncontrollable emissions are projected to happen at CO2 atmospheric levels of 440 parts per million (ppm) We have currently increased global temperatures by 0.06DegC and CO2 from 280 ppm to 380 ppm, most of the increase in the last 50 years. The math on limiting CO2 to below 440 ppm indicates that we need to cut global emissions by 90%. The political solutions and the science are too far apart!

What does James Lovelock have to say about it? He says it's too late. Others are more optimistic, even at the 90% reduction level. We need to see sensible and concrete action. Likely I won't see these impacts reach unbearable proportions, but this summer when my coming 5<sup>th</sup> grandchild looks me in the eye I will have to ponder how I can influence his or her future.

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# GREATER MADAWASKA

## LITERARY MATTERS

By Mary Joan Hale,

We had a rainy Christmas, so I guess it is only natural, the way this past season has gone that Easter should have snow. Guess the Easter bonnet will have to wait a while. The buds were starting to open in January and the daffodils were poking out of the soil. My daily trek about the garden has been somewhat disappointing, but if I were a seed, a bud or a bulb, I'd wait until Mother Nature was certain that spring is really and truly here!

Want to get a head start on the garden? We have many books on planting, designing and landscaping. You also can choose from our gardening and house magazines. Check online or come for a visit to browse. Folks in Wards 2 and 3, the new manuals are in the satellite venues. You may also make use of our 6 high-speed terminals to research your gardening questions.

Thanks to Terri McDonald and our volunteers, we have added scores of new titles with items to suit all ages and interests. Two new magazines are available for loan: Le Chainon, which is a franco-ontarian publication to aid family research. It is full of hints, some genealogies, and addresses and URLs. It is in French, so you may need a French-English dictionary. We have one in the Reference section for use in the library.

I truly believe in the expression, "If you build it they will come." When I decided to start a Pre-school story time, I was told that it would never

work; that no one would come. My stubborn Irish roots did not allow me to listen to the naysayers. My first kids are now in grades one to six. Some of the wee ones starting school were not even born and later began visits in their mother's arms. Younger siblings of the earlier classes are now enrolled and our newest member is five months old. It is so cool to see them in their baby chairs, starting with the finger plays, looking at the storybooks and as they grow, gradually joining in Circle time. I do hope more parents visit us with their little ones. It is a drop-in program on Tuesdays from 2:00 to 2:45/3:00. Parents may sit in on the group and leave when and if the children are ready. It is very relaxed. Children participate when they are ready and feel comfortable. We read, do finger plays, sing, act out the stories, learn our ABCs, numbers and colours (to name a couple of things) and do crafts. Most of all, we make new friends and have fun!

Just think how many inventions, symphonies, works of art and ideas would not exist if everyone took the attitude that 'it won't work'; 'we tried it before and it failed'; 'no one is interested'. Ugh! It drives me crazy! Live a little. Jump out of the box and try something new. Dare to dream and do your bit to make our world a happier place.

Dump Cards can be laminated at the library for \$2.00.

Check the website for the new DVD titles.

*End*

## Dispatches (cont.)

Rick was in Tuvalu with a colleague from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to give a course on project management. When the course was offered, it was known that ABS would provide refreshments throughout the two week course and that a certificate would be given out at the end of the course. The number of people who expressed interest in the course rose significantly when this information was given out. When it was clarified that there would be only tea, coffee and biscuits for the tea/ "coffee" breaks, there was considerable disenchantment amongst the participants. Since everyone and their uncle was signing up for the course, it had to be narrowed down to only people who could immediately use the project management training. Most of the people had little idea as to what project management was, so it was finally narrowed down to a class of 15, even though 18 showed up each day.

On the weekend, Rick and his colleague rented a boat to take them to one of the outer atolls for some snorkelling. They snorkelled and swam which was refreshing and the colour of the water was incredibly clear and blue. The next day, Commonwealth day and a statutory holiday, they rented motorbikes to go exploring and had a great time. Since the speed limit on the island is 20 kmph, they felt it would be pretty safe. I think the speed limit is set low because if you got up to 50 kmph, you would be off the atoll!

When Rick was in Tuvalu, I went sailing for the day with friends here in Nouvea. The captain of the boat

took us to the edge of the coral reef and it was calm enough that we could stop and have a snorkel there. The reef extends the entire length of New Caledonia and is second in size to the Great Barrier Reef. I couldn't get too far away from the boat because I didn't have any flippers and there was quite a current but the rest of the group were able to go further afield. The snorkelling was good, the colour of the water was incredible and everyone was doing their own thing. I had to climb on board to adjust my mask when I saw one of our friends swimming like mad back to the boat, with a bit of blood trailing behind her from a cut foot from the coral. She was in a panic because she was just snorkelling around a huge growth of coral, when who should be swimming around the same coral but, a shark and here she was with a cut foot. I asked her how big the shark was and she just sputtered, "bloody big" so with those two words, I climbed into the boat and made myself comfortable on the deck. Once everyone returned to the boat, others said they saw the shark too and I was astounded at how calm they were. As you have probably already guessed, I come from a long line of cowards! After the snorkelling, we went to a small island to swim, explore and picnic. It was a really idyllic day and I was sorry Rick missed it.

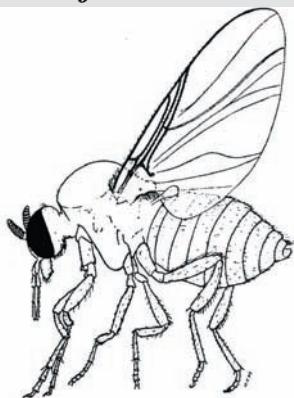
Next adventure is we drive for six hours up to the north part of New Caledonia for Easter Weekend to spend some time at the "Club Med" in Hienghene and then to Christchurch, New Zealand in mid-April for a census conference.

*End*

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# Fishing with Jim

By Jim Weatherall



The winter ice fishing season was over faster than it started. The season on Calabogie Lake is usually 12-14 weeks long and this year we only were able to get in 5 – 6 weeks, but overall, it still was a good season. A few larger Pickerel were taken this year, one of which Leonard Emon brought in, weighing in at 6 pounds, and was 26 inches in length. Well done Leonard!

The Jamie Wright Memorial Fishing Derby, sponsored by the Calabogie Fish & Game Club was held on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> and was a great success.

There were 11 fish entered by adults – 10 Pike and 1 Pickerel. Junior fishermen entered 144 Perch.

Overall winners this year were as follows:

- First Pike – Kyle Gilmore - \$50.00
- First Pickerel – Brady Donohue - \$50.00
- Seniors: 1<sup>st</sup> - Best Fish – Josh Pennock – Northern Pike - \$500.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Biggest Fish – Craig Sackmann – Northern Pike – 6.15 lb. – \$125.00

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Garnet Norton – Northern Pike – 4.53 lb. – \$75.00
  - Juniors: 1<sup>st</sup> – Bailey Smith – Perch – 7.2 oz. - \$50.00
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Caitlyn Strudwick – Perch – 7.04 oz. - \$30.00
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Drianna Day and Alex Ploughman tied with a Perch weighing 5.76 oz. - \$25.00 each.
- Most fish entered by a Junior fisherman won Darren Greer a trophy.

The Calabogie Fish and Game Club will be sponsoring Boating, Hunting and Turkey courses for Juniors this year. For more information please call CF&G President Brian Moran at 613-752-0453.

Pickerel (Walleye) and Pike open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May, which is the 19<sup>th</sup> (The Saturday of the long weekend). If the new regulations are out, make sure you read the size limits and catch limits of the Pickerel on the lakes you where you are fishing. There are big changes being made to the Pickerel sizes and the quantity you may keep for 2007. Should they not be available to fishermen until after the opening, you may use the 2005/06 regulation as a guideline.

Hope to see you out on the water this summer with the “big one”. Be safe and have fun.

# Out on the First Concession

By Wes Bomhower

## SPOT # 2 AND DAD'S PET PIG

**Foreword:** *We've already told in a previous issue of a dog named Spot which saved my Uncle Albert's life, but was gored to death by a bull himself as a result. This is the story of Spot # 2, a dog Uncle Albert purchased the following year; probably an offspring of Spot #1, for there was a resemblance, but this younger dog, though long in the legs and quite a scrapper, lacked the tenacious disposition of his sire.*

I was almost six years old that spring and the snow was taking its own good time to melt, making for pretty good sleighing as Dad gathered the equipment from the old shed near the barn for tapping our maple bush. There were evaporator pans to clean up and load on the sleighs, sap buckets to separate and inspect for leaks and taps or spiles to check out. I probably wasn't helping much but I THOUGHT I was.

Dad kept a brood sow and she produced a litter of 14 piglets early the previous September. It seemed she only had 13 operating teats for them to nurse on, so one little fellow, (the smallest one) always got left out. He would have died from starvation, so Dad separated him from the others and rigged up a bottle and nipple to feed the little guy on cow's milk. He did well on the cow's milk and cereal grains but was still only about two thirds the size of his siblings when they reached market weight and were sold. Dad called him 'Pet pig' because the little animal followed Dad everywhere around the outbuildings and farmyard. As the sun warmed in spring, Pet Pig's favorite spot was in the doorway of the horse stable, which had a southern exposure.

Pet pig got along quite well with our collie dog but was suspicious of other dogs and refused to let any of them into what he considered his territory. Uncle Albert and Spot # 2 were soon to discover Pet pig's aggressive behavior.

We heard the jingle of sleigh bells and Uncle Albert swung his team of greys into the barnyard followed closely by Spot # 2. This big yellowish spotted dog could lick any canine species within a ten mile radius, according to Uncle Albert, and he did look quite able as he stepped around now on his toe nails, sniffing both ends of our collie. They seemed satisfied with each other and Spot went trotting over to smell around the manure heap near the horse stable. He failed to notice two beady eyes appraising him from the stable .

There was a sudden rush of hooved feet and wham! Spot was on his back, long legs flailing in the air as Pet Pig stomped and bit at the dog's underbelly and Spot yelped in terror as he tried to see through the straw and manure just what had hit him. The racket continued for a full half minute and Uncle Albert came running over just as Spot managed to scramble to his feet. Without a backward glance, the dog was a streak going out the gateway and down the road home, the pig standing with feet apart, a belligerent expression on his face.

“Come back here you long geared yella bastard,” Uncle Albert cried, but to no avail, Spot had enough surprises for one day. Dad was doubled over in laughter, then straightened up to taunt Uncle Albert. “Didn't you say that dog could lick anything, or was that some other dog you were referring to?” “Well, he's not used to fighting with pigs,” Uncle Albert grumbled, then he changed subject.

How times have changed!

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## Announcement

**Isabella Grace Kelly (right), 3 lbs 8oz, born December 26/06 to proud parents Ellen Boldt and Jody Kelly and her cousin Zander Merik Henri Pittman (left), 7lbs 15 oz, born March 7, 2007 to proud parents Cindy Pittman (Kelly), Stephen Pittman and Big Sister Jorja!**



# The Local Yokel

By April Cappel

There are many items produced throughout Renfrew County that are unique, interesting and worthy of noting.

This time of year, many of us are gearing up to enjoy the labours of our local maple syrup producers, like Sextons and Bonenbergs. This is just one of the aspects of our unique production abilities, which are truly specific to our region.

Another, for example, is Superior Electric in Pembroke. They are the only manufacturer of small appliances, like kettles, irons, blenders, etc. in North America. This local plant specializes in the production of electric kettles. The only two retail outlets Superior Electric are sure retail their products locally are Wal-Mart and Home Hardware.

There is also Cool Hemp frozen deserts. This is a fascinating product that is produced at Centreside Dairy in Renfrew, from hemp now grown in Douglas. The company is owned and operated in the Killaloe area.

The product that has really captured my interest this week, and is the focus of this article, is the Algonquin Tea Company. This is a product that is available in most areas from Eganville, Killaloe and Barry's Bay, to Pembroke, Renfrew and Arnprior. You can also find it through the Ontario Natural Food Co-op.

Imagine a product whose production process involved paddling up the Madawaska River on a beautiful, sun shiny day. With each stroke of the paddle the sun mixes with the water creating a rich, beautiful gold color that washes over the paddle.

Before the sun becomes too intense, you venture to a secluded area to tenderly hand harvest specific leaves from a specific plant, while maintaining the plant's sustainability. You then bring home and produce a quality tea that you know people are not only going to enjoy drinking, but that will also be preserving everything you believed in, all the while helping people to become healthier?

This is the choice Algonquin Tea Co. owners, Kim Elkington and Steven Martyn have made to produce a truly gourmet product that has just celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And, this is just part of the process required to produce this superior, quality product.

These production choices have resulted in the birth of six different teas. Each one has a distinct per-

sonality and energy all of its own. I can't begin to describe adequately, how amazing it is to consume one of these products, with the knowledge of just how much time, energy and thought goes into its production! How many items in our day-to-day lives, prepared by someone else, are created this way?

The Algonquin Tea Company is based in the Southern Algonquin Bio-region. A good portion of their ethically "consensually" wild crafted herbs are harvested in Whitney, but what is not, is harvested from their 200 acre Certified Organic Farm in Golden Lake. It is also interesting to note, that each ingredient, even if produced on the farm, is naturally found in the local habitat.

Their main marketing and packaging office is located in Eganville. (A great place to stop in and visit for a cup of tea!)

Of the six teas, the three most popular are the Peace Tea, Awakening and Sweetfern Tonic. Each tea is designed to be perfectly safe, even if consumed in high quantities, during pregnancy. You can find a more detailed description of each tea on Algonquin Tea Company's website, [www.algonquintea.com](http://www.algonquintea.com).

Aside from exercising production practices that support deep felt ethical beliefs, as well as a set of new standards for commercial harvesting, the Algonquin Tea Company also offers several workshops over the course of the year. Topics covered range from "Primitive Living" and "Sustainable Building and Technologies" to "Food Culture and Medicine Making".

The tea company is also looking for harvesters interested in working with them for coming harvest season. If you are interested in helping, working or ordering this product for yourself, or a retail outlet, please call 1-800-292-6671.

This product and its production practices are truly epitomize the importance of "Buy Local". Not only by offering up a very marketable product affordable to each household across the county, but by respecting and conserving the local environment in the process.

So, to the Algonquin Tea Company I give the "Buy Local Salute!" Congratulations on ten years of achievement, and I wish you many more!

If you would like your "Buy Local Merchant Support" poster, or have any ideas for your "Local Yokel", please call April @ 613.732.1492, or email me at: [buy\\_local@nrtco.net](mailto:buy_local@nrtco.net)

End



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# Vimy – The Ninetieth Anniversary

By Garry Ferguson

It has usually been the custom of The Madawaska Highlander – and its predecessor The Highlander - to note the anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge each spring. This year however, we have been inundated through print, radio and television with the ninetieth anniversary coverage of this bloodiest of all Canadian battles. Because of the huge amount of information disseminated, we decided to expand on our previous articles to, hopefully, provide some background for readers with only a passing interest in military history.

Canadians might well draw a comparison between our present situation where a country of 32 million is mourning the death of 53 soldiers, lost over a five-year period in a professionally conducted military campaign, and the sheer madness of World War I. In the third year of that bloodbath, a Canada of only eight million souls suffered a loss of nearly 4000 men in one battle alone.

With a spring blizzard blowing in their faces, men of the four divisions of the Canadian Corps in France crawled from their trenches on the morning of Easter Monday, April



Charles Adam Greg of Vennachar

09, 1917 to attempt what neither the French nor British could do in more than two and a half years of fighting. The mission was to seize the best-defended German stronghold on the Western Front – a high-ground known as Vimy Ridge. Victory would depend on months of training and preparation employing fresh, innovative tactics based on a civilian-style common sense and logic strange to the atrophied British, French and German military minds of the time.

Two hundred thousand men had been killed in previous attempts to take ridge. The French alone had lost 150,000 men and said it couldn't be done. The British High Command, ever disdainful of an army of civilians best used as canon fodder, was highly

skeptical. It was too much to believe that these "Colonials" from a nation with no military tradition could score the first Imperial victory in the thirty-two-month-old war. To his credit, however, General Arthur Curry's British superior officer, Lieutenant-General Sir Julian Byng, backed the Canadian General's plan of attack.

General Curry and his staff had conceived and carried out an incredibly ambitious training plan. Refinements were made to almost every facet of the old military tactics to be utilized and many new ones were added. Nearly 30,000 men at Shilo, Manitoba were put through rigorous training to employ these new tactics under battle conditions.

Vimy became the first "electronic" battle with squadrons of aircraft – 17 airmen were killed - fitted with cameras and teletype transmitters to relay information regarding troop placements and gun batteries.

Ten thousand troops dug miles of subterranean tunnels concealing virtual villages in order to get close to the ridge with men and material. They even tunneled under enemy positions to blow them up. A mixed bag of Canadian railway men made up the Canadian Corps Light Railway Company that built a terminus and 20 miles of railroad to haul ammo and material forward from dark to dawn. To

provide planking for tram sleepers, plank roads and tunnel supports, ex-lumberjacks set up sawmills, cut trees and turned out one hundred thousand board feet of planking per week.

Smaller more maneuverable platoons made up of soldiers who, with the aid of a detailed model of the ridge, had memorized every feature of the terrain, every trench and target. These platoons advanced in one-hundred-yard dashes under a refined version of the creeping barrage that had previously killed more friend than foe. They were backed by a "fifth line of defense," a mop-up line of men who protected their backs so that surviving Germans in the over-run trenches could not rise up to attack from the rear. The position of artillery muzzle flashes were now determined by triangulation, a technique previously sneered at by British High Command. At least seven different means of communications were incorporated, each backing up the other during the confusion of battle.

This was all preceded by the biggest bombardment in previous history. It is said that, not since the Krakatoa eruption in 1883, had human ears ever been assaulted with the intensity of sound produced by that barrage. It could be heard in London England. At 5:30 a.m. the attack began along a four-mile front. In 30 minutes the

*continued on next page*

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# Calabogie work horses

By Bill Graham

On a sunny afternoon in late March, Leah and Star took me and local entrepreneur Mike Graham for a tour of Mike's sugar bush. Star, Leah and Leah's sister Chloe are black Percheron mares and are central to Mike's newest business venture in Calabogie. The business is Sleepy Cedars and his horses are a part of that business.



The Percheron is a breed of the heavy draft horse, developed in and deriving its name from the district in France where it was raised; an area referred to as "Le Perche".

The Percheron possesses great muscular development combined with style and action. They are known throughout the world as the breed characterized by a long, aggressive, smooth, and true stride that shows determination and willingness. The height of Percherons varies from about 16 hands to in excess of 18 hands and ranges in weight from 1600 pounds, up to in excess of 2400 pounds.

This horse is noted for its equable temperament, its intelligence, ease of handling and willingness to work. It is an elegant heavy horse. Despite their great size, Percherons are active, showy and easy movers. Their stride is not as choppy as that of other heavy horses. Their action is stylish, long, free and comparatively low.

Mike is in his third year now with horses. He bought the first two from Jack Nolan of Dacre and then added the third a little later. One horse was trained but the other two not. His farrier, Greg Eady of Cobden, not only kept his horses hooves in good order

but was also a huge help with advice in training his horses. Mike also needed some training since working with horses was entirely new to him. For example, it took many hours, constantly referring to diagrams to learn how to properly harness these big horses.

With a series of commands like go, stop, back and over, we made our way through the sugar bush by wagon picking up sap that sunny afternoon. It was great watching these big animals work.

In addition to picking up sap, Mike uses his mares to erect timber frames in construction work and to skid logs from the bush. For those in the Calabogie area who want to log their bush in an ecological way, Mike and his mares are available to work. His other business with his horses is providing wagon rides in summer and sleigh rides in winter in the Calabogie area. That is one half of the Sleepy Cedars business, with the other half being the making of rustic furniture. While Mike is concentrating on the Sleepy Cedar venture, he is still available to do custom timber-frame construction. *End*

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### Vimy (cont)

first German line had been captured and by 7 a.m. the First Canadian Division had reached the crest. By noon most of the ridge had been taken. Over four days, the Germans were not only cleared from the ridge, but from the area and had pulled back from Vimy. The fortress was an allied strong point for the rest of the war.

Out of the 40,000 men that carried the initial assault, 3598 were killed and 7,004 were wounded. Though a terrible cost to a nation only 50 years old, it was slight compared to the military standards of that time. Newspapers across Canada, the USA and Britain – with the exception of The Times refusing to mention any but British troops and their part in the stalled overall struggle along the Western Front. – were gener-

### Lynx (cont.)

spiritual force and controlled power." Western culture sees the lynx as a symbol of sight and insightfulness. In Medieval times it was thought that the lynx could see through walls or, more symbolically, could see into our minds. A person who is very intuitive might be thought of as having lynx-like qualities.

In an amazing picture I saw on the internet a lynx had launched itself off a log toward what looked like a grouse in flight. He must have been

ous in their praise of the Canadian Army. France hailed the victory as "Canada's Easter gift to France." In Canada, a myth that "Vimy" was the point at which the nation became of age was born. With the exception of France however, the rest of the world soon forgot this briefest of battles in the grand scheme of a futile war.

In 1922, the French government presented 250 acres at the highest point on the ridge to Canada, in perpetuity, as a memorial park. At this spot there now stands a huge marble monument on which is inscribed 11000 names – a mere fraction of the Canada's overall war losses – recognizing missing soldiers whose bodies had never been found and would never lay beneath the crosses, row on row. Included among the names are those of many who fell there at Vimy 90 years ago this month.

*End*  
 two metres off the ground, stretched out like an arrow. One paw, reaching out slightly higher than the other, had snagged the bird and was bringing it down. The magnificent athletic ability of this creature symbolized for me the determination of one animal to survive and thrive in a world nearly equally determined to eradicate it. Sharing the earth with such creatures is a privilege we must work with great determination to earn, so we can continue to enjoy them. If you are ever as privileged as to see a lynx in the wild you have been given a wonderful gift.

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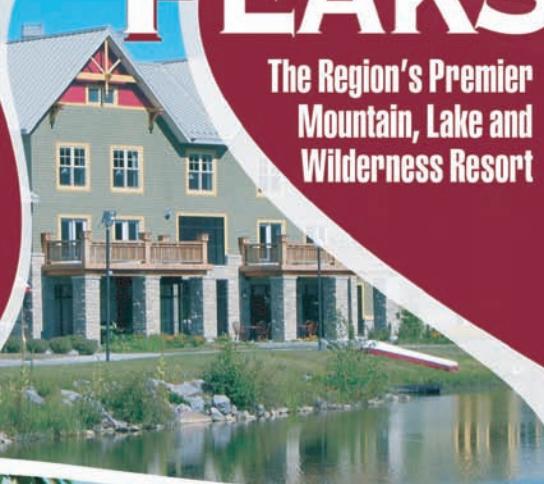
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