

# THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

Volume 1 – Issue 2

FREE

March 2004

## Opposing views about the TRACK

By Bill Graham, Editor

On May 9, 2003, a group of local developers brought ideas about a business venture to Council at a public meeting. They were given approval in principle to pursue their venture to determine its viability and to determine whether it would meet the necessary requirements of various provincial government ministries. Without these 'permissions' nothing could go forward.

Unfortunately, the only residents in attendance at that May 9 Council meeting were council members and the applicants. It was not until early July that residents heard about the proposed Calabogie MotorSports Park. They were roused by a Stone Lake resident, who being in proximity to the proposed track was alarmed at the impact that track noise might have on her and her neighbours. Also, her vision of Calabogie did not include a motor sport track. She raised the alarm with a letter to the Renfrew Mercury and very soon the Concerned Citizens of Calabogie (CCC) was born.

Since then attendance at Council meetings has improved astronomically and



civic participation is not only high, but also passionate.

While many township residents have drawn their own conclusions about the Track issue, not all township residents live in Calabogie and the existence of a MotorSports Park will not affect them personally. No one has conducted a survey, so it's unknown what the majority opinion is on this issue. One certainly hears arguments for both sides of the issue with equal force and frequency.

*The Madawaska Highlander* will not editorialize with an opinion, which sup-

ports one side or the other. Rather, we think that our responsibility is to provide a forum and put the views of each side before the community.

We have done this with this issue of the paper. In the middle of the paper on pages 12 and 13 you will find a full page from the Concerned Citizens of Calabogie and from Calabogie MotorSports Park, which states their respective positions about the Track.

To ensure that you, the reader, get all of the information that you need to draw your own conclusions, we will offer both sides similar space, in the mid-May instalment of the paper, to respond to what is stated in this issue.

Will everything be resolved by mid-May? It appears not. At the most recent meeting of municipal council, a motion was passed to hold an initial public meeting about the Track and invite submissions from the public. This meeting will be held on Saturday May 1 at 10:00 a.m. at the Calabogie Community Centre. Anyone wishing to get on the agenda at the meeting must contact the municipal



office by April 28 at 4:00 p.m. to indicate their intention and a copy of their submission should be supplied prior to that date.

It should be noted that no decision concerning the Track will be taken at this meeting.

It is the hope of many residents who are witnessing this dispute that when a final decision is made and the dust has settled that everyone can remain on good terms.

More on pages 12-13

## Dealing with Outages

By Richard Copeland

The winter of 2003/04 has been kind. It had something for everyone: snow for the snowmobilers, cold for ice fishing, sunshine for other outdoor activities and low winds for the residents of Denbigh, Vennachar, Griffith and Matawatchan. The low winds have meant uninterrupted electrical power for residents. This contrasts with the autumn of 2003 when power outages were becoming the norm and local residents were up in arms.



Hydro One, that offspring of the large Ontario Hydro, met in December with their enraged customers at a Denbigh council meeting and residents were finally able to put a human face on the largely anonymous Hydro One.

In our December issue, we addressed the uniqueness of the electrical infrastruc-

ture that services the western extreme of the township. It is characterized by a 'pin wheel-like' line, which extends north from the Distribution Station at Mazinaw along Highway 41, circling Vennachar and Matawatchan and then closing the loop at Griffith. Two other legs flare outward; one toward Centen-

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## Volunteer Firefighters

By Bill Graham

One very early morning (4:15 a.m.) when I was on my way to work in Ottawa, I encountered swiftly moving flashing lights—in complete silence—coming out of Griffith and approaching me on the Matawatchan Road. It was two fire trucks from station #2 in Griffith on the way to a call. That encounter reinforced the idea that these volunteer firefighters are really always on call.



Sometimes firefighters rush from home or even work for a false alarm or for an alarm triggered by a small chimney fire that is easily dealt with, but on other occasions the fire is major, where homes are destroyed and lives are at risk. When they arrive on the scene of a major fire it can take all of their effort and possibly most of their day—or night, to contain it. It's at times like these when their

extensive training pays off. On average, our Fire Department responds to from 50 to 60 alarms a year. Station #1 in the Calabogie area, with its larger population, gets about 75% of the calls and Station #2 in Griffith gets the remaining 25%.

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# Volunteer Firefighters

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## Extensive training

At least as much time, or more, is spent on training as is spent on firefighting and emergency response. The Fire Department training program is based on the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) Firefighter Curriculum; supplemented with International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), Action Training Systems Inc., Delmar, MNR, and any other training manuals/videos/CDs that are available.

First Aid, CPR, defibrillator, oxygen therapy, and trauma management training occurs once a year and is administered by HeartSafe Emergency Medical Solutions of Ottawa under the direction of David Brisson (Regional Director of Education). CPR and defibrillator recertification occurs on a yearly basis, with First Aid recertification being done every two years. In the alternate years, First Aid review and the use of scenarios is completed in the place of recertification.

Firefighters are expected to commit at least 6 hours a month for training sessions, in addition to their attendance at regular meetings and response to actual calls.

In addition to training, firefighters are also required to be familiar with the equipment that they will be using and the area they will be responding in, be physically fit, self-motivated, disciplined, have good judgement and be team players, among other qualifications.

## Dedicated volunteers

These are dedicated volunteers; they certainly are not doing it for the money. The Fire Department is staffed entirely with "volunteer" firefighters. The firefighters are members of Station #1 in Calabogie or Station #2 in Griffith. The



number of members on the Fire Department ranges from 20-30. Most are men, but there are two women working with them as firefighters. Each firefighter receives a salary, paid 4x each year, based on \$12/hour for attendance at training sessions, incidents, and some additional duties (approved by the Fire Department Executive). Officers also receive an additional monthly salary for the position of responsibility they hold.

Firefighter is a general term because these volunteers are involved in more than fire scenes and emergency incidents. They are also involved in rescue operations, fire prevention and public educational programs, with an emphasis on school fire safety programs.

Emergency incidents can cover anything – brush fires, structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, snowmobile accidents, alarm activations, false alarms, and natural or man-made disasters. All incidents must be responded to with the same speed and professionalism. One such emergency was the tragic event at High Falls in June 2002. The Greater Madawaska Fire Department was the first to respond to that incident.

In rescue operations firefighters free trapped victims from a variety of situations, such as motor vehicle accidents, cave-ins, structure collapses, flood waters, chemical spills, and all kinds of unusual occurrences.

## Fire Department History

The Calabogie area has had a Fire Department since the late 1950s when, with the help of the Calabogie Lion's Club, a 1946 GMC pumper truck was purchased from the Marathon Fire Department for about \$5,000. This truck served the community for about 20 years, until 1976. Prior to this, Our Most Precious Blood Catholic Church had a pump that was used to fill cisterns for local residents. In the event of a fire, the pump was used by whoever was available at the time to

assist in the extinguishment of the fire. Equipment, Fire Department facilities and the number of volunteers have expanded over the years.

Today the Fire Department in Calabogie is Station #1 and the current apparatus it houses are:

- 1975 5-speed Thibault pumper, equipped with a 625 GPM Thibault pump and 500 gallon water tank (purchased new from Thibault in 1974 for \$65,000)
- 1978 International 10-speed tanker, capable of delivering about 1,800 gallons of water
- 1981 International 10-speed tanker with air brakes, capable of delivering about 2,000 gallons of water (former township plow truck)
- 1986 GMC 4X4 ¾-ton truck (former township plow truck)
- 1993 Ford F450 rescue truck (former RCMP command post).

For many years the former Township of Griffith and Matawatchan was without any fire protection other than an agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources for the extinguishments of bush fires. This changed in early 2001 when Station #2 opened its doors for operation. This second hall was a direct result of amalgamation, the resulting size of the newly formed township, and a need for 911 services in the area. The personnel were recruited late in 1999 and completed about a year of training before they started responding to actual calls.

The hall itself was an addition to the existing Department of Public Works garage at 25991 Highway #41 in Griffith. The apparatus this hall currently contains are:

- 1976 Thibault pumper (purchased from the CFB Petawawa Fire Department for about \$10,000), equipped with a 625 GPM Hale pump and 500 gallon tank

- 1986 Ford 10-speed tanker with air brakes (donated by Tom Carty), capable of delivering about 2,200 gallons of water.

The Greater Madawaska Fire Department is responsible for firefighting and emergency response for a geographic area in excess of 1,000 square miles and is always in need of firefighters. However, you need to have the right stuff. Firefighting can be dangerous and one needs to be a skilled and dedicated professional while being a volunteer. One also needs the support of family and one's employer to be effective. Firefighting is time consuming, physically demanding and can be ugly. It's not for everyone. However, if you are interested in volunteering you should contact:

- Fire Chief Chris Naismith at 752-0331
- Station Chief (Calabogie) Leonard Emon at 752-0219 or 752-2485 (message)
- Station Chief (Griffith) Gary Peters at 333-5523 or 333-1529 (message)

Our volunteer firefighters deserve a lot of credit and our gratitude for doing the essential job they do. If you have ever had the misfortune of needing their service you will know how thankful you are that they are there for you.

**Editor's note:** The May issue of The Madawaska Highlander will provide advice on open air burning for the spring and on the Community Emergency Management measures being undertaken by the municipality.

## DID YOU KNOW...

It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.

### STATION #1 (CALABOGIE)

Christopher Naismith	Chief
Leonard Emon	Station Chief
Gilles AuCoin	Captain
(Fire suppression/Communications)	
Earle Fraser	Captain
(Training/Equipment)	
Todd MacDonald	Captain
(Apparatus/Administration)	
Mike Allen	Firefighter
Marc Berniquez	Firefighter
Frank Brohart	Firefighter
Kevin Coupal	Firefighter
Charles Gay	Firefighter
Grenville Goodwin	Firefighter
Leon Mulvihill	Firefighter
David Ripmeester	Firefighter
Robin Wright	Firefighter
Dwayne Emon	Maintenance

### STATION #2 (GRIFFITH)

Gary Peters	Station Chief
Ken Birkett	Captain
(Training/Administration)	
Scott MacDonald	Captain
(Fire suppression/Communications)	
David Van Iderstine	Captain
(Apparatus/Equipment)	
Morgan Adams	Firefighter
Joshua Halliday	Firefighter
Sherry Halliday	Firefighter
Neal Heuvelmans	Firefighter
Terry Holtzhauer	Firefighter
Allan Pennock	Firefighter
Dwayne Pickering	Firefighter
Janice Roche	Firefighter
Paul Thomson	Firefighter
David Wagstaff	Firefighter
Mark Peters	Maintenance

# Dealing with Outages

Continued from page 1

nial Lake (up Centennial Lake Road) and the other that continues north from Griffith to Khartum where it ends. The feed from Mazinaw or Northbrook, further south, is the only source of power to the line; it is not a grid connection in the sense of multiple sources. This F1 feed is unique in that it is the only line in Ontario that transforms from 230KV to its 7.2KV transmission voltage.

## Meeting with Hydro One

At the Denbigh meeting, Hydro One came to address two issues: the industrial size generator placed at Griffith and then removed when it couldn't be made to work and the two long outages experienced by residents just prior to the meeting in December.

The presentation was led by Dave Robb, Superintendent, 'East Central Zone'. The generator as explained in the past issue of *The Madawaska Highlander* couldn't be made to work and high winds were the cause of the two long outages experienced by residents. Everyone there had already figured that out.

The people from the area had come for three major issues: some wanted to hear when and how they could expect reliable electrical service; some were look-

ing for compensation for devices (electronics and compressor equipment mostly) destroyed by the brownout levels of toxic voltages; and others were seeking a means to communicate directly with Hydro One when an outage occurred. The first two concerns were left unsatisfactorily resolved and for the third issue, residents were told to contact Hydro call-in centers and listen for information that Hydro provides through local radio stations. Residents were also told that municipal reeves have been issued a 1-800 number for direct communication with Hydro One.

Other information from the meeting included that Hydro One spent \$400K on F1 line maintenance in our area and that they thought it was a lot of money. For the thousand customers on the line, that would be about \$400 per year per customer, less than one would likely spend in a year on maintaining one's car. The call center is no longer local and it is difficult to communicate with it since the phone lines are often overloaded during a power failure and when your call does get through there are no local personnel with local knowledge to understand the situation. Call center staff were criticized for "treating us like dummies."

We can be sympathetic. During the last storm before this meeting, Hydro One had 62 emergency calls and 51 men available. And we found they do have measures dictated by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). On emergencies they have 120 minutes to respond and a target measure of 80%. They scored 93%, so they do better than the target measure, and we congratulate them on that. However, I can think of no other industry with customer service measures so low. OEB

should be looking at far tougher measures.

## Forestry work might help

In short, we lose our power due to storms and line maintenance. The customers at the meeting attacked the brushing methods and criticized Hydro for insufficient clearing along the lines. Hydro responded that they needed 120-foot clearances and private property owners would not agree to that. They also advised that the seven year brushing cycle was changed to six years. A member of the audience pointed out that much of the land is Crown property and Hydro can cut on that. If Hydro did that 120-foot cutting on Crown land, the reduction of outages due to ice and wind would be directly reduced in proportion to that cutting activity. Further, we believe that Hydro would be advised to approach every private property owner for permission to clear. A 40% reduction in nearby trees would result directly in a 40% reduction in probable failures. We should get everything we can out of more forestry activity on the part of Hydro.

Any possibility of feeding from other locations was dismissed as too costly. Dave Robb roughly estimated that we are looking at 60 km and approximately \$10 million of cost – a lot of money. A solution, which provided grid supply of power to the area, would have to be a political one. Consequently Hydro One would do well to address the foresting issue since it is a non-political solution.

## How the customer can help

We, the customers, can improve power restoration time if we turn off appliances and heating loads that will be demanding power immediately upon power re-



Photo: Bill Graham  
Dave Robb of Hydro One

sumption. Unplug the fridge, freezer, air conditioner, furnace and water pump and leave on a small light to signal you that power is restored. This would greatly reduce Hydro's problem with cold load pick up during power resumption.

Maintenance is scheduled for the F1 line in Mazinaw this month. Upgrading the Mazinaw Distribution Station could take one month and the feed for our area will be coming from further south in Northbrook during this period. This could mean outages in March, but not necessarily. Be prepared for that. Without the political intervention to solve this problem, you are on your own.

In this issue we begin to address solutions. Not the 'water in the tub' and 'buy beans' stuff, but what you can do to supply yourself with electricity. To start we will return to the 'Delco' solution mentioned in the earlier article, by investigating the gas generator option. This article is published immediately below.

In the May issue we will explore battery and inverter backup, with a quick look into supporting those components with renewable forms of energy.

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## Dealing with Outages: The Generator Solution

By Richard Copeland

As I mentioned in my December article, back in the pre-electrification days of the 1950s in our area some residents used a 'Delco', which, was the predecessor of the modern gas generator. Gasoline powered and likely 25 cycle, folks wrestled them into running to supply themselves with limited power.

"What goes around comes around" and we are more and more frequently back to alternative power generation again. Our first recommendation to survive blackouts is a generator. Having an alternative source of electrical power is more critical today since we have been lulled into "living better electrically". Back in the nuclear days, the promise of Hydro suppliers was that electricity would be so cheap that a meter need not be installed at your home.

With convenience and promise in mind we find ourselves needing the stuff and are now burdened with energy demanding refrigerators, freezers, water pumps, furnaces, air conditioning, lighting and entertainment devices, ad nauseum. We need it and our supplier has demonstrated unreliability.

## The least expensive alternative

Gasoline generators are the least expensive of the types available, they are easy to move, gas is in good supply and if small enough, these generators are fairly easy to start. Prices vary broadly, ranging from \$700 to \$1800 for a variety of good units. There are also good diesel and propane units around, but the cost does increase for these devices. However, they do offer advantages such as less hassle with fueling on propane and

better efficiency with diesel (i.e. cheaper to operate). Most homes in our area should do fine with a generator in the 5 to 7.5KW range, but you should consider what you want to connect to it in terms of the energy demand—consider what you really need.

If you are powering a fridge, freezer, a motor (say for heating), a water pump and key lights and a TV, you should be fine in this range. Leave your electric stove off-line. If you are going to move the generator around (don't leave it exposed to the weather) you could consider a unit with wheels. Pull cord starting is not news to folks out here, but if you're tired of pulling that cord you can get electric start, which will add from \$200 to \$500 to the price. If you chose a gen-

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# Dealing with Outages: The Generator Solution

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erator at 7KW or over, you might consider electric start, they begin to be brutes to fire up at that size. A 7KW generator with electric start retails at \$1748.

In the cold of the winter, it is wise to store the generator in a warm place. When the engine oil freezes up you will likely pull the whole unit and not turn the engine. And with this new piece of equipment you will add maintenance to your list of chores for oil and filter changes. Don't forget to keep fuel on hand, gasoline pumps don't work during power outages unless the local outlet owner runs his own generator.

Now on the market are propane fueled generators, which turn on automatically on loss of electric power and off on confirmed power restoration. They are weather protected and install permanently outside the home. The units start at \$4278 for 10KW) and \$4754 for 12KW. The labour to install them is steep at about \$3300 and includes a mounting pad, permits, sub panels and initial burn in and adjustments. These generators would even look after things while you were away.

If you have a 'deep well' pump you will likely need a generator with 120/240Volt output. The well pump is one area of difficulty in that you need to change the wiring to allow the pump to be fed by generator power. And if you have central heating there is a similar issue in providing proper electrical connections. **Under no circumstances should you connect the generator to your load center in the house, either directly or by utilizing a stove or dryer outlet to provide a back-fed circuit.** This practice is in violation of the electrical code and more importantly your generator

voltage would leave your home through the hydro lines and be boosted to high voltage, potentially causing a serious injury or death to Hydro line workers. For your other home devices and appliances you will need to drag around extension cords and plug them in, and if that doesn't sound like fun, perhaps you should consider a better solution.

### A better solution

The better solution is a properly connected generator transfer panel, and if you are not an electrician you would be wise to hire one for this installation. The generator transfer panel allows one connection to the generator, which supplies electricity to an isolated section of your panel (or a sub panel), which feeds pre-selected critical loads in the home through its normal circuitry. The transfer panel and breakers should cost in the area of \$200 and installation labour will vary greatly depending on your situation. I have heard figures ranging from \$700 to \$1200 including all materials.

The transfer panel must conform to the Ontario Electric Code and coordinate with the grounding of the generator you connect to it. The ease of operation for this set up is well worth the effort. One cord to plug in and a pair of interlocked circuit breakers to operate and you're powered. Once power has been restored by Hydro, you can reverse the interlocked breakers and simply shut down the generator. The transfer panel scenario also looks after the tricky 240Volt devices by design. As an added bonus, having your critical loads off line at the time when Hydro workers are restoring power, eases the delays involved with cold load pick-up.

**Next in the series:** Batteries and inverters, and a peek at renewable energy.

# TESLA, Hydro and Posterity

By Doug Smith

With so much in the news lately about Hydro, I'd like to step back and reflect for a moment on where hydroelectricity came from. Who invented electricity? Not who experimented with it, but who brought it to humanity?

Normally the answer is Edison, which is wrong. Thomas Edison was a tinkerer compared to Tesla, Nikola Tesla, inventor of the polyphase alternating current system—the electrical power system today employed worldwide.

Tesla was a Serb who immigrated to New York in 1884 at the age of 27 and four years later presented his electrical system to the world. This system included not only the generation and distribution of electricity over long distances, but the motors, transformers, and other devices that put the electricity to practical use at the receiving end of the system. All this invented by a single man. He built the world's first hydroelectric plant in 1895 at Niagara Falls which made Buffalo the world's first city to have electric power that was generated miles away.

Reflecting on the importance of electricity compared to other inventions in developing human abilities, only one even comes close — fire. In order to find the inventor of fire we have to cheat a little and make him a god — Prometheus — the Greek god who stole fire from the other gods so it could benefit humans.

Now if your only competition for the Who's Given the Most to Humanity Award is a god, you would think at least a Nobel Prize would be forthcoming. But Tesla was a Serb in New York while

rumblings of a war with Germany were heard everywhere, and he had just shown America's greatest inventor to be a tinkerer. When World War 1 began with a Serb killing the Austrian emperor, Tesla was relegated to obscurity. No Serbs were going to be lionized in the good old US of A. The only people who paid any attention to Tesla for the remainder of his life were a few friends and the FBI.

As a footnote to this tale of virtue unrewarded, Tesla also invented radio, had his ideas stolen by Marconi (an Italian government agent), and not until 1943 did the US Supreme Court void Marconi's patent and uphold Tesla's, after all the patents involved had expired. Tesla died several months before the court's decision at the age of 86.

So the next time your hydro is down and you crank up the generator (Tesla) or light a candle (Prometheus), think of an old man feeding the pigeons from his Manhattan hotel room window, alone and unknown even though he brought humans electricity. Makes one reflect on what else he might have done if the world hadn't turned its back on him.

For more on Nikola Tesla see the PBS documentary "Tesla: Master of Lightning" in April or read "Tesla" by Margaret Cheney.

**Editor's note:** Doug Smith is a resident of New York who spends as much time as he can in the Griffith-Matawatchan area and was a loyal contributor to the earlier version of the Highlander.



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# GRIFFITH-MATAWATCHAN NEWS

By Garry Ferguson

## MATAWATCHAN HALL

The interior of the old hall is a lot brighter these days. Bored patrons should now feel much cheerier staring at those clean pine-covered walls rather than at the old paneling.

The Board (not to be confused with the above-mentioned bored) wishes to thank all the good local business folk who contributed to the success of the New Years Eve party through their generous donations. The event was well supplied with door and spot prizes provided by the following establishments: The Matawatchan Country Store, The Eagles Rest, Lacourse Building & Hardware Center, Rapid's End Country Store, Pine Valley Restaurant & Variety, Griffith Building Supplies Inc., J. Scott MacDonald Contracting, Leanne's Hair Styling, Swiss Inn Motel & Restaurant, Berndts Garage and 41 Stop Inc.

The Friday night euchre and dart bash seems to have accomplished the desired results: that is to help banish our collective winter blaahs and to pick up a few coins to pay the oil man. Though this activity will cease in the April, there is still a few weeks left for those wishing to get in on the action. Stay in touch for info regarding startup in the fall. Those interested in celebrating the return of our beloved black flies should keep an eye out for posters announcing the Hall's Black Fly Dance on May 22. There will be live music.

Though no soliciting will take place, local businesses may donate items or material for projects and to display

names or logos, as advertisement, on these items. In most cases, conception and promotion of such projects will be left to individual business owners. One exception will be the purchase and installation of a new flagpole. Though the Board is prepared to carry out this project, the names or logos of any donors will be placed on the base.

## THE FISH AND GAME CLUB

The George Kelly Memorial, this year, was awarded to Al Pennock for a pike of 21.5 pounds, Cliff Holleran for a pickerel of five pounds, Jacques Lalonde for a three-pound bass and Andy Lacourse for his four-pound trout. Since Cliff's winning of a trophy has become routine – he won a tournament with an 11-ounce minnow once – club officials are considering metal detectors to determine if there is a correlation between his winning ways and a scarcity of nuts and bolts at the Possum Lodge workshop during fishing season.

Winter activities include some feeding of Bambi this winter, the Ice Fishing Derby on Saturday, February 21 and a Watercraft Safety Course during the month of March. There will be a cost, for this course, to those over the age of 15 years.

The Club is 100 percent behind the Calabogie Fish and Game Club in its effort to have the ATV Act changed to allow the use of these vehicles on local roads in Greater Madawaska.

For information regarding the Club or its activities, contact President Karen Gaulin at 333 – 1206.

## HERE AND THERE - BUT NOT EVERYWHERE

It seems that most members of our clergy in this area have retired recently, will retire soon or will leave soon. Those inclined toward a bit of paranoia might think our deodorant is breaking down or they're giving up because of our wicked ways? Well, if that's the case, they're not admitting to it. Reverend Glenn Kaufeldt of Hill Top Tabernacle retired in January and Reverend Raymond Klatt, of Vennchar Free Methodist, is planning to do the same - soon. Tis a far better place to which Reverend Angela Corey of the Shutt, Denbigh and Matawatchan United Churches, is going – just ask any Blue Noser. She leaves for Nova Scotia in July. Reverend Joseph Legree, pastor at Our Lady of The Holy Rosary Church, plans to retire in August or September of 2005. By that time, Father Joe will have been ordained for 49 years.

Starting in May, Roy Berndt will be free (a little freer) to pursue his hobbies – driving a tow-truck, fixing old engines and selling vehicles. Doesn't sound that different from what he's been doing for decades, does it? The engines however, are snorting, ancient one-lungers, older than most of us. At last count he had 13 in his collection, including the one-piston engine from an Ottawa Saw my grandfather bought around the end of WWII. There's also a 1929 Model A to be rebuilt – in case he gets a spare moment now and then. Though Roy will carry on with the dealership and towing, son Ken Berndt will take over the repair garage end of the business. I'd love to see the Model A when it's finished, but I'll pass on the old Ottawa.

Just seeing it brings on horrible flashbacks to Saturdays and school holidays spent contravening all the child-labour laws while wrestling slabs and poles to be cut on the darned thing.

The villagers of Matawatchan should know that the eyeball operation on one of their fellow citizens was so successful that she can see around corners. People as far away as Griffith should keep the shades drawn if they plan any hanky panky.

## THE NORTHERN LIGHTS SENIORS' CLUB

A rash of power outages prompted the Lights to form a committee to compile a list of seniors in the Matawatchan-Denbigh-Griffith area who may require assistance during an emergency. Five to six families or individuals were assigned to a volunteer pair that will carry out telephone checks and take further action when necessary. Carol Anne Kelly, who chaired the committee, was offered the full cooperation of Station Two Fire Chief Gary Peters and the assurance of all brigade facilities during a crisis. A "We Care Emergency List" has been distributed to the volunteers and to all seniors on the list.

The Club's monthly meetings and social activities are held alternately in Griffith and Matawatchan. Anyone – 50 years (that's half a century) and riper, may join by plunking down just 15 loonies for the year. That's the best bargain in town. For information contact Membership Chair Jackie Jenks at 333-1082.

## Denbigh Checking In !!!

By Evelyn Inwood

Several months have gone by and very quickly it seems. The weather has been going through many changes. It keeps everyone guessing as to what is coming in the next hour!!!! All houses have surely needed extra heat as the temperature drops to 40 degrees below zero. The oil and the wood have gone down steadily as we have tried to keep warm!!!

And how are the birds doing? Are you being visited by any of our 'feathered friends' who may need your help for food to keep alive through the long cold spells we are experiencing? If you like to see Red Polls, Blue Jays Chickadees, Grosbeaks or Woodpeckers, some seeds will need to be placed in feeders for them. An interesting fact about Red Polls—this tiny bird has a small pouch on one side of the esophagus, and when

it is extremely cold, it fills this pouch with unhusked seed, and then retreats to a warmer or less windy site to cough them up and eat them.

In December as I was doing dishes, a white bird landed on the peaked roof of our porch. I thought, "Oh what a beautiful dove"! I got my camera and took three photos, which I e-mailed to Jim Ferguson, (bird-man) for the Renfrew Mercury. He said he thought it was a 'partial albino pigeon.'

## NEWS FROM DENBIGH PUBLIC SCHOOL

On Tues. Jan. 27/04 the students and staff participated in their first school READ-A-THON and had a great day!

On February 9 at 9:00 a.m. students, parents and visitors attend Denbigh

Public School Speaking Competition. Winners move forward to the Legion Public Speaking Competition held at Northbrook Legion Hall Fri. Feb. 13/04.

On February 11, the Junior Class travel to Queen's University in Kingston to listen to a symphony and take part with a dance that they had prepared.

February 12— School Spirit Day — "Red and White". Spirit Days are days are like theme days, where students might, for example, dress in 'red and white' for that day.

On February 25— Denbigh Public School travel to North Addington Education Centre and take part in "Dan the music man" literacy program.

March 11— School Spirit Day - Clown

## NEWS FROM DENBIGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

### OPEN:

Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Thursday: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 12 noon

- New Monthly releases
- 60 new large print books
- Scholastic (text) books monthly
- Internet library sign-up, where students look up books while online
- Computers/Internet
- Reference books

**Coming soon:** two new computers and wheel chair access to the Library and its services.

# Greater Madawaska Literary Matters

By Mary-Joan Hale

In the basement of the Township building is a treasure that belongs to all citizens of Greater Madawaska. Take a trip in and see what you own. It's all yours! It's the Library.

Libraries are not just about books any more. There is, however, a good collection of fiction and non-fiction titles. If we do not have what you need, we have access to an interlibrary loan service. If you wish a quick read or the latest news on your hobby, try one of the magazines the Library carries.

Thanks to Community Access Program (CAP) grants from Industry Canada and from the Ministry of Culture of Ontario, we now have four on-line computers for public use. It is a high-speed connection due to an initiative between Bell Canada and Southern Ontario Library Services (SOLS). There is also an off-line station for word processing use. One of our volunteers, newly appointed Trustee John Allerton is giving a computer course on Monday afternoons until the end of April. Call in and add your name to the waiting list for future session.

Our Mission Statement commits us to 'literacy for all ages'. On Tuesday mornings the place rings with the sounds of children. A Pre-school program gives wee ones a head-start to reading and book appreciation. Every six weeks a public health nurse visits the program to give healthy hints to the children, meet with the parents, and weigh and check the infants.

During the summer, children can participate in a reading program sponsored

by the TD Bank. SOLS distributes the materials produced by the Toronto Public Library.

Thanks to a Trillium Grant for small libraries, we are commencing an Intergenerational approach to literacy. A new 'Snuggle-up-and-Read' area has been purchased so families can share books together. We hope to enrol senior volunteers to read to children. Through this grant, our collection is being enlarged with an emphasis on our wonderful Canadian authors of children's literature.

In the audio-visual department, we have books on tape for adults and children. For the visually impaired, we offer many titles from the CNIB. Soon many of the Munsch children's books will be available on video thanks to the Trillium grant.

### NEW ADDITIONS:

**Children:** *The greedy little gobbler* by Tony Ross; *Clothes* by Van Gool; *Things to make for Easter* by Eric Kenneway; *I can spell words with three letters* by Anna Nilsen.

**Parenting:** *Bad stuff in the news* by Marc Gellman.

**Youth:** *The stalker; Summer of change*—both by H.J. Lewis.

The Library Board hopes to offer remote services to patrons outside Calabogie in Wards 2 and 3. A citizens' committee is forming to investigate the options. Please call the library if you wish to participate in this group.

Come in to get your card and see our new automated system. There is no charge to join as long as you live in Greater Madawaska. Renewals can be made by telephone or email and we have a drop box outside for after hours.

**Library Board:** John Loten, Debbie Smaggus, Sally Schmidt, Gail McEvoy, John Allerton, and Isabel Kristijan (Council Representative).

CAO/Librarian: Mary-Joan Hale  
4984 Calabogie Road, Calabogie;  
Librarian: [mjhale@post.library.on.ca](mailto:mjhale@post.library.on.ca)  
Renewals [gmpl@post.library.on.ca](mailto:gmpl@post.library.on.ca)  
(613) 752-2317

## Have you read the news today?



## Diabetes Information Sessions

By Barbara Doyle

For those of us who have Diabetes 2, and are not Insulin-dependent, keeping to a good regime of diet and exercise sometimes falls by the wayside. Every now and then we need gentle reminders to put us back on the straight and narrow path. One way to do this is to attend the Information Sessions offered by the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA). They are located in Pembroke, at 22 Pembroke Street West. The sessions are directed by a nurse-practitioner and are very informative. You receive all the encouragement you need to test your blood sugars, follow your diet and all important, doing that exercise. The schedule for the spring sessions follows.

### March 9, 2004:

Diabetes & Male Sexuality, Dr. Scott Murray, Guest Speaker.  
7.00 pm CDA Meeting Room

### March 16, 2004:

Outreach TBA/Walk-in Consult with Nurse, 1:00 p.m.

### March 23, 2004:

Beachburg-Cobden Clinic

The telephone number for CDA, Pembroke is: 613-735-1605, if you want to check for further sessions. So if you want an outing to visit Pembroke, take a friend, have lunch and attend the session of your choice.

### GARBAGE DISPOSAL: WINTER HOURS

Winter hours for garbage disposal are in effect beginning November 1, 2003.)

#### Norway Lake Transfer Station

Only bagged household garbage and recyclables are accepted at the transfer station.

Sunday and Holiday Mondays	Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to Noon

#### Black Donald

Sunday and Holiday Mondays	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### Mount St. Patrick

Sunday and Holiday Mondays	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### Griffith

Sunday and Holiday Mondays	Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. to Noon

#### Matawatchan

Sunday and Holiday Mondays	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### Denbigh

Wednesday	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m.

#### MacAvoy

Wednesday	8:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Sunday	10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

#### Vennachar

Thursday	8:00a.m. to 12 noon
Saturday	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### RENEWAL

The Easter season comes upon us,  
As flowers begin to bloom.  
They fill the earth with gladness,  
As they drive away winter's gloom.

On trees which have lain dormant,  
Leaves burst forth once more.  
Dressing each tree in a garment  
As soft as green velour.

And I get a feeling deep inside,  
God's opening up a door.  
To show us why His son had died,  
To renew our faith once more!

### What are friends?

Friends are angels who lift us to our feet  
when our wings have trouble remembering  
how to fly!

(Thanks - Ruth Stanfel and Ruby Malcolm)

### DID YOU KNOW...

Eat well, stay fit, die anyway. (Just remember how lucky you were to get a free trip around the sun.)

Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.

# Embarrassing Moments

By Garry Ferguson

I'd like to believe that the jokers who pass around those decades-old myths recounting tales of extreme embarrassment have noble motives. These yarns may permit those of us who are masters of the *faux pas* to take comfort from the knowledge that no matter how much we make ourselves feel like dorks, it could've been worse. For instance, there's the one about a ringing telephone interrupting a couple that had ended up "playing house" while planning their upcoming wedding. The naked bride to-be, on a playful impulse, jumped on her naked beau's back as he descended the darkened stairs to answer the call. When they reached the living room, the lights went on as a room full of kith and kin hell bent on a Jack and Jill party yelled, "Surprise." A bladder-releasing predicament like that sure helps to make the rest of us feel pretty darned smug about our own occasional bits of discomfiture, doesn't it?

These worn folktales have now been resurrected on the Internet. Thanks to technology however, I don't have to be polite and suffer through another telling by someone claiming to know someone who knew someone who was there. I'm able to bail out whenever one appears on the monitor at the Ferguson spread. By the time I've punched the "delete" button however, it's usually too late. Those ugly little demons that serve as librarians for my private collection of humiliations, witnessed or suffered, are already trotting out reruns of scenes I'd rather forget.

Our embarrassing screw-ups never present us at our bright-eyed best, but when they descend upon us during public occasions demanding much decorum and formality, such as formal balls and church services, we frantically look for that proverbial hole in the floor. At one such ball in Bramalea, Ontario, a lady, whom I happen to know very well, se-

ately walked across the dance floor nodding and smiling at acquaintances as she returned to her table from the wash-room. Only when she went to sit down did she realize that she had paraded in front of half the city's population with the back of her skirt tucked into her panty hose. The fact that another woman later emerged to prance, like a model on the runway, across the floor with a streamer of bathroom tissue fluttering abaft didn't serve to make her feel a whole lot better.

My favorite booboo-at-the-ball story involved a friend of mine who, while at RCAF Station Chatham New Brunswick, found a country dance hall in a nearby settlement called Bartibog. The music, provided by a couple of lads beating up on an old guitar and an accordion, just wasn't Down East Music Awards material, but the people were friendly and there was an abundance of girls. On one particular evening he met a young lady with whom, it seemed, he shared a mutual attraction. After many dances during which they kept up a lively conversation, he noticed that she had begun to act strange, drag her feet and throw panic-stricken glances over her shoulders. Only when he began to notice those around him, did he realize that he was waltzing helter-skelter through a throng of grinning people - standing at attention. Even without the distraction of a pretty girl, he wouldn't have recognized the local rendition of our National Anthem. He beat a hasty retreat to his car and never returned to Bartibog.

There is a reverence associated with those hallowed places where folks go to bend the knee that is absent in the places where they go to kick up their trotters. For this reason any incident which may be merely embarrassing at the ball is elevated to mortifying at the temple.

Whenever my own worst church gaffe comes to mind, I think of the Cape Breton comedy team, Hughie and Allen. They tell of the Sunday when Hughie, a Protestant, accompanied Allen, a Catholic, to mass. To avoid looking like a fool, Hughie imitated his friend through all the genuflecting, kneeling, standing and sitting. About halfway through the service Allen turned toward Hughie, sniffed the air and said, "Did you drop one?" "No," said Hughie. "Was I supposed to?"

My personal experience of this nature was more "up-front", and not at all funny—at least at the time. Three of my Airforce buddies and I rolled out of bed early on a beautiful Easter Sunday and headed down to the Protestant Chapel. Unfortunately the rest of the congregation had rolled out even earlier and had lain claim to the safe seats. We were forced to sit ringside – in the front pew. Even more unfortunate was the fact that Easter fell on a Sunday when the High Anglican form for service was used. Given the luxury of a rear seat, we still would have been hard pressed to keep up.

Somehow the congregation *knew* that it was supposed to lollygag in the seats for what *seemed* like an eternity after the choir had stood for the first hymn. We didn't.

Les, the friend who stood next to me, was one of those fellows who's long, shiny face and high forehead glowed in tones that alternated between that of an old radish and a blighted tomato whenever he became embarrassed. I'd swear that the insides of his rimless glasses fogged up during extreme cases. When I glanced sideways at my three ramrod-straight companions, I knew that something had spooked Les because he now glowed brighter and more colourful than the stained glass window beyond him.

Struggling to overcome some sort of jaw paralysis, he managed to croak, "We're the only ones standing."

Glances over our shoulders confirmed this, but we seemed to think as one in deciding to brazen it out by remaining upright until the rest joined us. Unlike the rest of us, Les was mercifully spared from smirks on choir members' faces, thanks to his fogged bifocals.

I still admire those Anglicans for their patience and tenacity. When it became evident that they were going to win the battle of nerves by remaining in their seats—for the whole morning if necessary—mass doubt set in. We sat down. Our tormenters stood up. You can bet that I sang small for the rest of that service and, as I recall, it took about a week for Les's normal pallor to return.

They say that misery loves company. If that's true then there's a chance that I've made some recently-mortified readers realize that they're not the only klutzes in the world. Like the characters circulating those tired urban myths, I may have stumbled onto a noble motive – but I don't think so. It's more likely that I just like to prattle on about such things.

### DID YOU KNOW...

Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.



Going to a church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.



By the time you can make the ends meet, they move the ends.

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# Dear Editor..

**Editor's note:** The Madawaska Highlander welcomes letters to the editor, but due to space constraints, we can not publish all the submissions we receive. All letters must include the author's name and phone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity, clarity and good taste. Please limit your letters ore-mails to 300 words or less. The one exception will be allowing Reeve Doyle to respond to Councillor Emon at equal length should he wish to do so.

I am writing this letter to clarify some misconceptions spoken to in the interview with Mr. Doyle in your last issue.

Mr. Doyle seemingly indicates Ward Three has not gotten a good deal financially and an equitable delivery of services from amalgamation and he notes the distance as a factor. I find this a remarkable statement given in his last term as Reeve of Griffith Matawatchan, Mr. Doyle was a strong proponent of amalgamating with the Town of Renfrew. At the time all three of the former municipalities which now comprise Greater Madawaska removed themselves from the discussions of amalgamation because of a concern as to the effectiveness of such an amalgamation and whether or not it was feasible and what exactly were going to be the benefits of joining with Renfrew to create a larger, far flung municipality with the seat of government one hour away. I should also note I believe at the time of amalgamation the tax rate for a majority of Ward Three residents was lower than the tax rate of the last year as a stand alone municipality. That's small comfort when we all pay more total taxes in year than we want to.

Mr. Doyle offered an opinion on the zoning bylaw which seemingly showed a lack of understanding of the process. The zoning bylaw was passed by the

outgoing council, partially as we had worked a long time on it and we had promised to have it completed as well the issues at the time rumoured to be appealed would not be settled in the short term, and we needed to get a document which made it easier to assist those who wanted to build or develop.

The three former municipalities came into amalgamation with differing development histories and as a result there was not consistency across the municipality with regards to set backs and types of development. To continue without a new comprehensive zoning bylaw would have likely resulted in a series of hodgepodge planning decisions which would have caused difficulty trying to justify why one person in a ward was unable to do work which was allowed in another ward. The zoning history was making it difficult for our staff as they were having to research some of the previous zonings prior to issuing building permits and there was a chance of error and liability. As well provincial policy changes and it is necessary to have municipal bylaws be as current as possible to reflect these changes.

With regards to the passing of the zoning bylaw, some of the people in the audience that night were not happy and others not there were happy. The zoning by-law is meant to be a fluid document which is amended as situations arise which need to be addressed. It does provide a level playing field for all parties. It is not a Renfrew County document; the County Planning staff developed it for the municipality after extensive consultation. Over 250 participants attended two public meetings and there were a further 250 plus requests for information and clarifications.

He also offered a comment on supporting the recreation facilities in Calabogie. What he forgot to mention was the municipality has operated the rink in Griffith and provided a grant to

assist with the operation of the DACA complex in Ward Two. He may not have known the municipality attempted to operate a summer day camp program in the Griffith area but it was discontinued when there were not enough children enrolled in it. I can assure you, we have made efforts and will continue to make efforts, to ensure we assist the community and offer programs equitably across the municipality.

I should also note since amalgamation Ward Three has had a surfacing treatment applied to a portion of the Airs Lake Road and a hill removed with ditching and culvert replacement on another section of it performed as well. The Hutson Lake Road has had a corner improved which was of concern. The Wolf Rapids Road was surfaced. The Cooper Hill Road was surfaced. The Milty Lake Road was widened and gravelled. The municipality also completed a brushing program in the area on road sides as well. All in all ward three has received a fair share of the roads budget for the past three years.

In other areas of operation the municipality installed a new furnace at the rink building in Griffith and assisted the fish and game club in installing a public boat launch. The fire department continues to acquire new skills and equipment.

This represents a considerable expenditure in ward three as it should as ward three is an equal partner to the other two wards in our new municipality. In the past, and I trust in the future decisions on expenditures, will be made on need and not on geography. I am concerned when seemingly careless statements based in part on not seeking the information are made.

Is the municipality in a position to rest on its laurels? No. It needs to continue to ensure the present services offered are available and at a level of delivery which is acceptable in all three wards.

Mr. Doyle noted he was in favour of area rating. If this is true he may want to advance the argument at the County and Provincial level which spends 60 - 70 % of your property tax dollar instead of sawing away at the poor cousin municipal portion which is about 30 % of the tax bill. As an example of area rating consider if everyone under 50 years of age was allowed to opt out of paying for the County Homes for the Aged portion of the levy, twenty years ago, where would the development of the system have ended up. Or would there even be a system.

Area rating is a convenient argument to get conversation moving but almost impossible to implement in a fashion which will ensure everybody pays a reasonable and accurate amount for the services they consume and only the services they consume. I would suggest it would be costly to implement and manage in a municipality as small as ours.

Zero balanced budgeting is a pronounced absence of thought and leadership. The City of Ottawa is now in crisis because they tried to fool the taxpayer by giving grants last year. By adopting this approach our municipality would be leaving a little present for the future as municipality infrastructure and equipment wore out. A reasonable budgeting process which includes planned savings and expenditures over a multi year time frame promotes stability and sound decision making. By jumping at every fad you quickly exhaust yourself and diminish the trust the community has in your ability to represent them and to spend their money with care and forethought.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the article and I apologise for the length.

**Peter Emon**  
Councillor, Ward One  
Greater Madawaska

## Classified Ads

**Editor's note:** Classified ads for The Madawaska Highlander are priced at \$5 for 25 words or less. Each additional word in an ad or announcement will be charged at \$0.20 per word.

Contact the Editor to place your ad for the next edition in mid-May.

**KELLY-PITTMAN**  
Norman Kelly of Matawatchan, Helene and Stewart Thomson of Orleans are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Cindy-Ann Kelly to Stephen Keith Pittman the son of the late Keith Pittman, Bev and Earl Spicer of Brockville. Wedding to take place October 2nd, 2004 in Brockville Ontario.

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brad.sharon@northcom.net

**SOUNDS OF MUSIC: COME ONE, COME ALL**  
St. Andrew's United Church, Matawatchan  
Saturday, March 20, 2004: 7:00 p.m.  
• An evening of inspirational music and an opportunity to sing along

with local talent  
• Light lunch after program  
• Freewill offering at door

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
To Julie and Cory  
On the birth of a baby girl  
JILLIAN ROSILEE,  
6 pounds 2 ounces  
FEBRUARY 10, 2004  
A little sister for Calieb and Connar

God Bless you all  
Love, your Family

# Griffith and Matawatchan area residents can now purchase alcoholic beverages locally

By Richard Copeland

After many years of long drives to Denbigh, Renfrew or Calabogie for a case of beer or a bottle of wine, Griffith and Matawatchan area residents now need go no further than Griffith for their purchases.

Judy Lacourse and John Lacourse opened their doors at the Lacourse Building and Hardware operation in Griffith on February 2<sup>nd</sup> as authorized agents for the LCBO and The Beer Store. They offer a selection of beer, wine, and liquors, but what will also please residents is that the Lacourse business will also act as a bottle return for The Beer Store. To better serve their alcohol purchasing customers, they are happy to make special orders for products not carried in their current inventory.

This is the third new business opened by the Lacourse group in the past 2½ years. Other businesses operating from this location include: Dixie Lee, Hunting and Fishing equipment and supplies, General Store, Building Supply, Building Contracting as well as an outlet for



Avery, Judy and John Lacourse

M&R Feeds for animal feeds and farm supplies.

Watch for an announcement of their official Grand Opening in the next *Madawaska Highlander*. These official opening festivities slated for May will combine both the LCBO/The Beer Store and Dixie Lee.

LCBO and The Beer Store hours are: Mon. to Sat.: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays: 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



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# CABA Corner

By Bill Graham

CABA is the Calabogie and Area Business Association and while the organization has existed in various forms for fifteen years, the revitalized association sporting the new name, has been operating for about three years. The new name reflects the growing interest of Greater Madawaska businesses to join forces, and not only those in Calabogie, but also businesses from Burnstown through to Griffith & Mattawatchan. CABA is currently being led by Carolyn Jakes who is co-owner of Knock on Wood Gallery.

This proactive group has a reputation for effecting positive changes in the municipality. These changes include assisting in the design of an economic development plan for Greater Madawaska, lobbying for cell phone and high speed Internet access within the municipality, development of a tourist brochure and website and improving area signage to help visitors find their way around for the benefit of member businesses, and residents.

As late as November 2002 there were 39 paid up business members. Today that number has climbed to 83, with the expectation that more will come on board. The core group of businesses evolved in Calabogie, it having the municipality's highest concentration of businesses. In 2003, Burnstown (outside the municipality of Greater Madawaska) joined the association and most recently businesses in Griffith and Matawatchan have been joining.

For a membership fee of \$25 for local businesses it is very good value. CABA meetings are an ideal format to keep abreast of what is going on in the municipality and a great venue for idea sharing. The Association supports community events, such as the Lions Club Christmas Parade and the Firefighters Canada Day Celebrations among others.

All businesses in our locale share common challenges, such as seasonal trade, local demographics, a limited work force and restricted communication services—all of which can have an impact on the health of local businesses. By joining the Association and working as a united force toward common goals the efforts of individual businesses are strengthened.

These first words concerning 'CABA Corner' are an introduction to the association. CABA Corner will be a regular column in *The Madawaska Highlander*. In the next issue of the paper, in mid-May, we will feature an index of CABA businesses and associate members, which will provide readers with a contact source for local services. In the following issue in early July, we hope to feature a colour spread, which features the works of local artists, many of whom are members of CABA.

There are important developments, encouraged by CABA, such as the previously mentioned initiatives of signs, cell phones and economic development that will merit full articles. CABA news, local events sponsored by CABA and maybe profiles of local business ventures will be featured in future issues.

With such a talented, diverse membership I expect there will be many authors of CABA Corner.

Visit the CABA website (currently being revamped) at: [www.calabogie.org](http://www.calabogie.org)

### DID YOU KNOW...

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.



## SWISS INN

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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.  
 Good Friday (April 9) will be announced  
 Rev. Angela Cory 333-2381

#### Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church

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

#### Hilltop Tabernacle

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

### DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

**Vennachar Free Methodist Church**  
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Good Friday (April 9) 10:30 a.m.  
 Easter (April 11) 11:00 a.m.

#### St. Luke's United Church

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School 10:00 p.m.  
 Palm Sunday (April 4) 10:00 a.m.

#### Drop In

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to noon  
 Rev. Angela Cory 333-2381

#### St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.  
 Easter (April 11) 9:30 a.m.

#### The New Apostolic Church

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
 Wednesday 8:00 p.m.  
 Good Friday (April 9) 10:30 a.m.  
 Easter (April 11) 10:30 a.m.

### CALABOGIE

**Calabogie Bible Fellowship – Congregational Church**

Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m.

- Prayer & Praise (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)
- The Lord's Supper & praise (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)
- Healing Ministry (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)
- Palm Sunday (April 4) 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday (April 9) 10:00 a.m.
- Easter Sunday (April 11) 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday (Bible Study) 7:00 p.m.

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church  
 Calabogie - Saturday Mass – 5:00 p.m.  
 Calabogie – Sunday – 10:30 a.m.

## CHURCH EVENTS

#### The New Apostolic Church – Denbigh

- Pancake Breakfast: to be announced
- contact Yorck Linder – 333-2951

#### St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Denbigh

- World Week of Prayer, Wednesday April 28 at 7:00 p.m.

#### St. Andrews United Church - Matawatchan

– Ham Dinner  
 April 24 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
 - The St. Andrews United Church Women's Group will be sponsoring dinners, bake sales, flea markets etc. to raise money for the summer camp facility at Golden Lake and for the Millennium Garden / Coffee Club.

#### Vennachar Free Methodist Church

- Retirement Dinner for Pastor Raymond Klatt & Marjorie Klatt  
 Saturday May 1 5:30 p.m.  
 Clar-Mill Township Hall – Plevna

#### Calabogie Bible Fellowship – Congregational Church

- Lenten Series Bible Study  
 Wednesday evenings 7:00 p.m. – Feb. 25 to April 7

Contact Bill Graham 333-1694 or Richard Copeland 333-1551 to place items in future issues of the paper.

### DID YOU KNOW...

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### Matawatchan Hall

- Darts and Euchre Friday night 7:00 p.m.
- Spaghetti Dinner (March 13) 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Pancake Brunch April 4, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Fish Fry – May 8, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

#### Griffith-Matawatchan Fish & Game

Water Craft Safety Course – in May  
 Under 16 years – Free  
 16 years or over - \$50  
 Call Al Pennock – 333-2390

#### Hunter Safety & Firearms Course

April 30, Call Karen Gaulin – 333-1206

#### Bird House Building

Saturday April 24 at the Hollerans (Matawatchan)

#### Busy Bees Craft Club

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

#### "Northern Lights" Seniors

Meet the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. alternating between Griffith and Matawatchan. For information con-

tact Lois Robbins at 333-1082. **All Seniors Welcome**

#### Community Bus Service

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

#### Fellowship Luncheon

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

#### Diners Club

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

### HEALTH CARE

#### Renfrew Senior's Home support Care Clinic

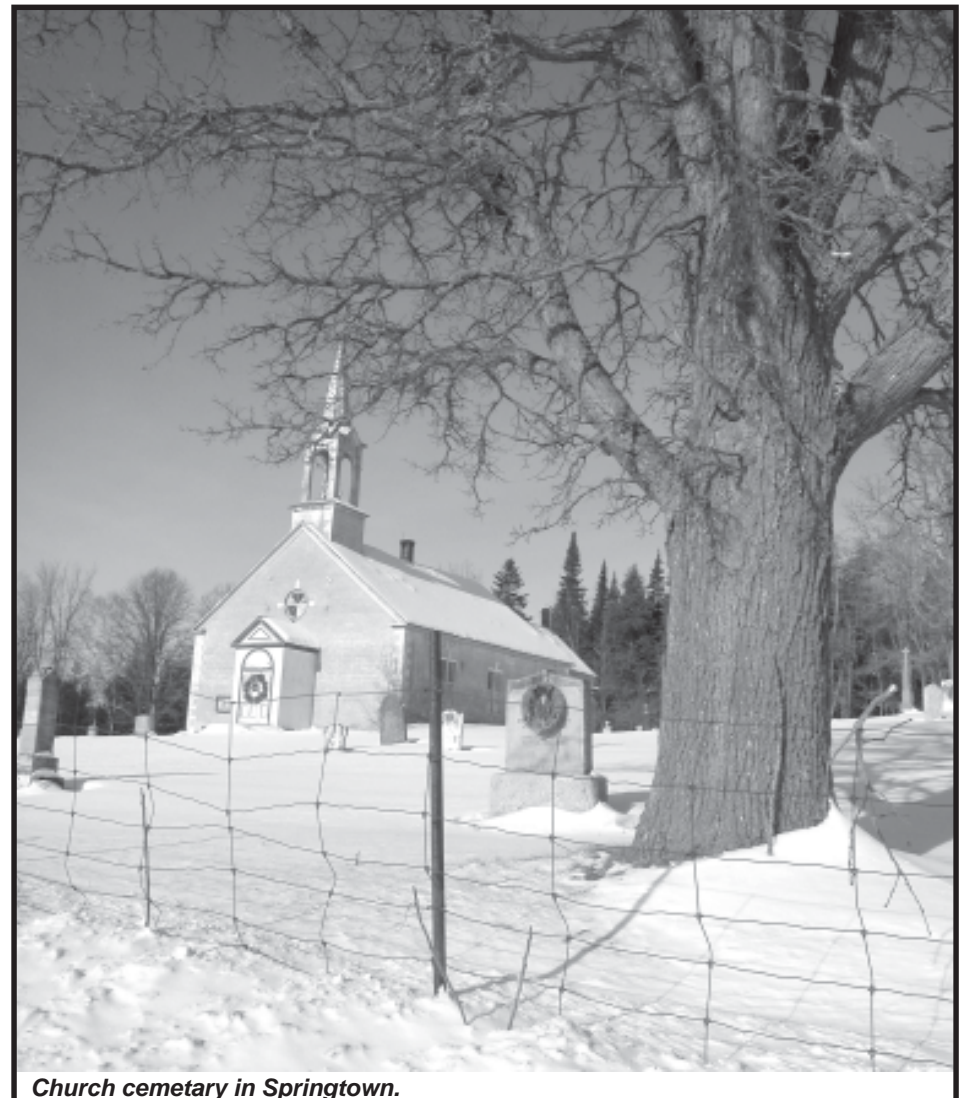
Every Tuesday by a VON. Call for an appointment. 613-432-7691.

#### Paramed Health Care Services Foot Care Clinic/Denbigh

Call 333-2308 for an appointment

#### Community Joys and Concerns

- Sympathy
- Alice Rosein and family
  - Marlene and Eric Jr. Keller and family



Church cemetery in Springtown.

# A Community opposed to proposed MotorSports Race Track

By Jack Ledger, Acting Chairperson, Calabogie Concerned Citizens

The Calabogie area is a community with a rich natural environment that includes wildlife, forests and waterways, all of which accommodate activities such as fishing, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, camping and the day-to-day leisure of its visitors and both permanent and seasonal residents. Further complementing these activities are a golf course, ski hill, and many food and accommodation facilities. These are the attractions that lured the many residents and visitors who came to the area in good faith to work and to play. And now, **without any re-zoning approvals**, developers have essentially completed construction of a motor sport racetrack on a plateau overlooking the Madawaska River, Calabogie Lake and Stone's Lake, and part of which is over the tree line.

This was done without general public knowledge and without any input from the community. *If this proposed motor racetrack is such a great thing for the community, why did it have to proceed under the cover of secrecy, only to be revealed months after planning and construction had already begun?* With the track close to completion and already being marketed and promoted, the application for re-zoning was submitted to the Township in August, 2003, without any of the studies required to support such a development. With the installation of our

Photo by Loui Massicotte



newly elected municipal council, both opponents and proponents of the track are now having the opportunity to present their cases to council in a manner fair and transparent to both sides.

## WHY THE OPPOSITION?

First, it should be pointed out that many who oppose this racetrack are themselves business people, developers and even motor sport race enthusiasts. They too understand the unjustifiable hardship this racetrack would bring to the 200-plus property owners in the immediate surrounding area, not to mention those who would bear the impact of disturbing racetrack noise several kilometres away. Further annoyance, as evidenced in other racetrack communities, would be the "revved-up" traffic on all incoming and outgoing Township roads.

The County Official Plan is an unbiased document that states that 'new uses'

must be compatible and integrated into the existing fabric of the community. Clearly, racetrack noise will **not** enhance or mesh with the existing fabric of this peaceful rural, yet very vibrant and active, community. While enjoying the outdoors, residents and visitors want to take pleasure in barbecues, conversations and nature—they do not want the unrelenting roar of car and motorcycle engines down-shifting and up-shifting, or the squeal of tires at each of over one dozen corners. Track operators have indicated that car testing or racing events will take place 8-hours a day for 7-days a week, April to October.

Further consequences of this racetrack will be air and land pollution and the

disruption of wildlife on land where many have enjoyed the observation and study of animals, birds, waterfowl and other fauna in their natural setting. The area where the track is located also forms a watershed to Calabogie Lake and the Madawaska River. The track is surrounded by wetlands and any environmental spillage would leak into groundwater and waterways. These are only a few of many examples that demonstrate that the racetrack would not conform to the Official Plan.

## THE NOISE FACTOR

Contrary to the picture being painted by track supporters, there will be plenty of noise. The history at other tracks—including those that involved the same U.S.-based track planner—such as Mont Tremblant, BeaveRun (Pa), Barber Motorsports, and other track developments, like the one at St. Thomas, Ontario, provide current evidence of com-

munities devastated by false promises and quality of life shattered by unacceptable noise levels.

We are told that noise levels from the proposed Calabogie racetrack are intended to meet the Ministry of the Environment's (M.O.E.) Guidelines. However, there are no specific M.O.E. Guidelines for motor sport racetracks. True motor sport noise levels can only be accurately assessed by live tests at other racetracks. This was not undertaken in the study prepared by the track developer's noise consultant. It should also be noted that in the track's noise study, noise transmission measurements were only taken from three reception points, and areas such as Norway Lake, Spruce

environment, as in a football stadium. Fans drive to the park and enjoy their food and refreshments on site before, during and after racing. While lucrative track usage fees and concession revenues accrue to the track operators, little spillover falls to the rest of the economy as the majority of spectators and enthusiasts leave the area after the races and go home.

As with other tracks involving this same track planner, **later phases** of the track development are expected to have campground accommodation, restaurants, gas service, and other on-site concession facilities located on track property, which will be in direct competition to those businesses that may be supporting the track now. One simply has to look at the full development plan for this track, existing tracks or other similarly planned racetracks.

## PROPERTY VALUES

The true and serious negative economic losses, however, are borne by the rest of the community. These losses will severely limit usual spending and investment. In St. Thomas, Ontario, an appeal court up-held an earlier decision and reduced property value assessments for all appellants across the board by 40% due to track noise and other contaminants. In BeaveRun, Pa., property owners were awarded reduced prop-

erty value assessments of 25% to 41% to reflect a drastic drop in property values resulting from the track operations there. The impact on the economy of multi-millions of dollars in lost personal property values, as well as lost property tax revenues to the Township, would unquestionably have a domino effect on the economy of the entire Township and beyond.

For further information please see our website at [www.savecalabogie.com](http://www.savecalabogie.com)



Hedge, Calabogie Estates, Calabogie Lake and Burnstown were not evaluated. These locations are within the one to ten kilometer range of anticipated track noise transmission, which will reverberate even louder and farther over bodies of water such as Stone's Lake, Calabogie Lake and the Madawaska River.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

The economic benefits of the development are being promoted with suggestions of money pouring into the community and feeding the cash registers of the local businesses. Yet information from other track communities indicates only minor economic benefits may accrue to a hopeful, but miniscule, number of businesses and employ only a few part-time staff. For this, 99% percent of the remaining property owners and residents get handed a "life sentence".

A racetrack is generally a self-contained

# Updating our community about Calabogie MotorSports Park

By Chris Fleming, Calabogie MotorSports Park

There is a lot of misinformation floating around about our proposal for creating Calabogie MotorSports Park and I welcome the opportunity to put the facts before readers of the Madawaska Highlander. I want to assure everyone that I would not support any project that was detrimental to this community. My family has lived here for generations and I love and respect the beauty and diverse nature of the Calabogie area as much as any resident.

## THE PROJECT

We plan to develop a 5 km. road course on lands locally known as the Algoma Gravel Pit, located off a seasonal Township Road, terminating at the gravel pit. Calabogie MotorSports Park (CMP) will be available for rental by individuals, driver training schools, corporations, Essential Services Driver Training and car clubs wishing to learn and enjoy an ultimate driving experience in a safe, insured, environment.

## THE PLANNING PROCESS

We introduced our idea to the County and Township almost one year ago. This initiated the planning process. Ontario's Planning Act encourages all developers to "consult approval authorities at the beginning of the planning process, prior to submitting a planning application, to discuss and clarify what information is needed for a complete application".

We will require a zoning amendment to a portion of the lands from 'Aggregate Extractive Industrial' to 'Rural Exception'. Only 275 acres are to be rezoned out of the 1,200 acres purchased by CMP. The licensed gravel pit operation will continue to function.

On May 9, 2003 Township unanimously passed a motion to allow us to continue with the planning process. This took place at a public council meeting, but few residents were in attendance.

In May of last year, physical and technical research began on the property to confirm the viability of the project.

- Where could the course route be placed?
- What rock and other impositions exist?
- Would it be cost prohibitive?
- Will its location/setbacks successfully mitigate any potential noise, etc?

Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) needed time for site visits to address their requirements. We communicated with the Ministry of Environment (MOE) to receive their comments. We commissioned the world's foremost track designer to draft a layout. It took several months of work to reach a point

where these questions as well as questions from the public could be answered.

## PROJECT WORK

We carried out preliminary work (within all applicable regulations) on our land to establish the sub-grades of the road. This then allowed engineers to conduct a proper, comprehensive sound study—required by the County Planner and necessary to assist the Township with the decision making process, and to ensure compliance with provincial noise requirements.

Concurrently, information from various Ministries was obtained to incorporate into the site plan. We undertook drainage, traffic and sound studies, MOE dialogue, planning reports, and MNR approvals to properly assess and professionally answer questions.

We finally had adequate information to hold an open house in October 2003 which allowed residents to view our proposal. We were asked to dispel the misinformation and rumor being circulated by the *Concerned Citizens of Calabogie* (CCC) within their "Save Calabogie" campaign. Throughout the summer various information sessions were held for interested community groups. We also hosted a public forum and information meeting at the Calabogie Community Center to present actual facts and address questions.

By many accounts, people who attended our open house and meeting realized CMP was going to be a first class facility and would be an excellent, valuable addition to Calabogie in many ways.

## SITE PLAN

A comprehensive visual site plan and timeline package is available at the Municipal Office. If you have an opportunity to look at this, you will find the 5 km. road course sits on 275 acres in the middle of 1,200 acres owned by CMP.

An additional 2,400 acres of vacant, fully treed land surrounds this yet again - ideal for sound mitigation and setbacks from residents; the closest being 2 km. away from the center of the road course.

In addition, you will find on the plan, buildings for administration offices, training schools, lockers & showers, vehicle storage & maintenance. What you **will not** find is night lighting, tow-

ers with loudspeakers, grandstands or large spectator parking areas.

Once this final site plan and associated agreements are approved by County and Township we **must** adhere to them. Any future changes will be subject to a completely new planning process.

## NOISE, TRAFFIC AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A professional sound study has concluded that CMP will operate within the strict noise requirements set forth by the Ministry of Environment for Class II rural areas (along Hwy 508 and Hwy 511) and Class III rural areas. Stone's Lake carries the strictest Class III designation. These standards are among the most stringent in North America. Any activity on the road course must meet these criteria—this is not optional.



Left to right: Marc Steenbakkers, Rick Fleming, Debora Giffin, Larry O'Brien, John Hamilton, Chris Fleming, Alan Wilson and Bruce Gregory

Under the Noise Management Plan (NMP), vehicle inspections by both the Car Club Officials and CMP will ensure adherence. Vehicles that do not comply will **not be allowed to run**.

County has indicated they have no issues regarding increased traffic since less traffic will visit CMP than currently visits the Highlands Golf Course and substantially less than Calabogie Peaks during the winter.

After considering the site, the Ministry of Environment advised they had no concerns.

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS

CMP will not only initially create approximately 30 full and part-time jobs at the site—for maintenance, administration, emergency response, track observers—but will also create demand for services at other establishments. An example would be the Porsche Club Driver Education Program. Attendees and family will require lodging, food and gas with the non-participating family members engaging in other experiences.

It is worth noting Renfrew County has identified Business Retention and Expansion as a problem within the County. CMP will be introducing an entirely new activity to the area and an entirely new customer base. The influx of new tourists and their economic support will add to our community's economy and growth of services and businesses available to all. Traditionally, customers will be middle to high income level, with

disposable income to invest in recreational and retirement property. We fully anticipate a climb in property demand and values.

Also, the proposed park would generate \$65,000+ annually in tax revenue; this would firmly put it in the top three commercial ratepayers in the whole municipality

## SAFETY

Calabogie MotorSports is required to provide emergency response on site, with a fully qualified, paramedic team with ambulance equipment. These services are typically put into use only 2% of the time. Although positioned at our site they could be available to respond to serious local emergency situations. A fire truck will be on site at all times.

## WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Calabogie MotorSports has submitted all requested engineered studies and reports to the Township. The Township's Peer Reviews are done and CMP's reps are presently addressing their comments. At its February 14th meeting Council voted to commission a socio-economic impact study. We are currently awaiting a date for the public hearing, necessary for the zoning change. After the public meeting, Council will vote on our application for the requested rezoning and amendment in the gravel pit area.

## THANK YOU

The enormous support of community residents and businesses has been indicated by many, many letters, emails and phone calls. Thank you for that support.

Council and County Planner welcome your thoughts and input (PO Box 180, Calabogie). In closing, we would like to say, historically, a small number of very vocal individuals have aggressively fought change, progress, growth and advancements made in Calabogie through the years, including not only development of Calabogie Peaks, Highlands Golf Club and Calabogie Lodge but also subdivision developments. This continues today.

If space allowed, we would have elaborated on just how different CMP would be from other facilities we've been unduly compared with, such as Tremblant and BeaveRun.

We welcome your calls at 752-1252.



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# The world of MPAC / municipal taxing and your property values

By David Lester

"If they think it's worth that, maybe they should come and buy it from me"

Those were the words spoken to me the other day from an unsettled soul about the latest valuation from MPAC. Of course it's frustrating when the powers to be pronounce and there's not any real answer to what seems unfair. Let's take a second and examine what's actually happening in the world of MPAC / municipal taxing and your property values.

Back in the mid to late 90's, some wise people in Toronto figured that the fairest way to tax people was that those who had the most money should pay the most and that if you had an expensive home, you should pay more than the guy who had a less expensive home (or maybe just because you could afford it?). That was a political point of view that led to the creation of MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) as an enterprise. The idea was that an independent body would be out there looking at sales etc. and match that data with computer statistical methods (means, standard deviations, variances etc.) and come up with a way of valuating properties and then the township could assess everyone a "proportional" share of the taxes based on your ability to pay, or at least the "style and level" of your residence.

## DOES IT WORK?

Yes, it brought more consistency ... and No ....

In the Glebe area of Ottawa (an older downtownish area), there were many older folks who had lived in their homes over many years who had to sell because the "Yuppies" found their area suited their lifestyle and forced prices upwards by wanting to move in (called "Demand"). That demand led to higher valuations and then taxes and those poor old folks on pensions found themselves living in homes that they couldn't afford, tax wise. Their income had not changed at all, but their "net worth if you sold this house today" had increased and their realty taxes were being based on that "if you sold today" value. They started losing their homes because they could no longer afford to live in such an expensive area and their taxes were going through the roof through no fault of their own. They were richer on paper only and paying more actual dollars because of it.

## IT'S HERE TO STAY

Put aside the thought of whether the whole process is right or not and let's look at it from the point of view that it's here to stay (at least for now) and what does it mean to us.

If my neighbour and I are going to pay an equal percentage of a tax dollar, then we should be living in the same "value" of home. That's only fair. The township says they need \$100 total in taxes, there are only 2 of us to pay and we live in identical homes so we each should pay \$50 taxes. If there are 20 homes and they're all equal, each of us should pay \$5. That, in principal, is the essence of the way it works. MPAC says who's equal to who and the township sets the rate charged to each household.

## THE MPAC VALUE

Clear as mud, right. That "MPAC value" is not really the value that you could receive from selling your home, as there are just too many variables when selling a home, like a buyer or seller market, competition from other homes for sale, demand levels, etc., and what a buyer will pay for it or can afford.

That "MPAC value" is just a way of expressing equality between peoples ability to pay in the "system". It could be colours if you wanted, as in all "yellows" will pay an equal amount in taxes and all "reds" will pay a lesser amount. Call it what you will, it's not really what your home is worth but a comparison tool or level.

So, since we should pay our "fair share", how do we make sure that the "comparison values" of our homes equal our neighbours? MPAC uses home sales and computer programs / models to value homes in comparison within neighbourhoods. What if there are no sales to compare to immediately around us? With the computer models, they can (they say) propose a value using the data available on a wider homogeneous area. An umbrella if you want to think of it that way. Of course, there's a lot of room to be wrong under that umbrella (especially if it's a big umbrella) and if you disagree with that value under the umbrella, you can go before the ARB (Assessment Review Board) and they have the final decision about who's right.

Next issue of the Madawaska Highlander... What goes on at an ARB hearing and how can you win (or at least have a fighting chance) and what might a township do (Hint ... can you say "lower the mill rate?") .... Till next time All the Best, David Lester, Real Estate Broker, Calabogie.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

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# ViewPoint: MPAC Impact

By Richard Copeland

*If you drive a car, I'll tax the street  
If you try to sit, I'll tax your seat  
If you get to cold, I'll tax the heat  
If you take a walk, I'll tax your feet.*  
George Harrison

Most of our taxation policies have one thing in common—Clarity. The amount of money you owe can be accurately determined based on rules and an understood monetary value. You can make choices, since the tax is understood before you make your purchase. Arguments regarding the “why’s” and “what’s” that have put a tax in place aside (and there is much room for debate here), at least you can agree on a number.

But there is one form of taxation that can best be described as well, a guess. That would be your property taxes. The Municipal Property Tax Corporation (MPAC), which was set up by our previous Ontario government boasted the forward thinking of common sense. MPAC is a not-for-profit corporation funded by Ontario municipalities. Renfrew County will pay MPAC \$1,147,206 for services in 2004. This price for services is an increase of 3.5% over the prior year. MPAC states they have the “responsibility to ensure your assessed value is accurate.” And that their “job is to classify your property and assess its value, not to determine your property taxes.”

## NEW WAYS TO INCREASE PROPERTY TAXES

MPAC’s last price increase *predictably* exceeds inflation (1.58% : 2003/2002) and MPAC must find new ways to increase property tax collected in order to fuel its growth, and innovative revenue generation schemes have already begun. Valuing properties for trees is one example. In this case, a property owner with a plantation of pines will see his assessment increase because the pines will have wood value. The owner may have them for their natural beauty, while they also absorb greenhouse gases and the property owner may never see one red cent of revenue from that stand of trees. The obvious taxation solution for the property owner would be to clear cut back to a pasture. Maple trees are to be assessed for their maple syrup value. The country tradition of working for pennies per hour will also disappear as sugar maples get a one time conversion to firewood. Our forests will disappear faster under this insanity than it would from a vicious fire. Trailer Parks are to be assessed for trailers on site. Park owners already pay taxes on the income derived from this activity. Watch this wilderness vacation activity fade away next.

## WHAT IF THEY TAXED ROCKS

My home is built on top of the Canadian Shield and my fields are full of the

greatest bumper crop of rocks you ever saw. They would look good in a landscaping sales business in Southern Ontario at nine cents a pound. However, I would have to sell my home for the multi billion dollar tax assessment derived from my rock inventory.

Other external effects are taking place. A northern Ontario homeowner has had her home reassessed from \$80K to \$40K. It’s good in that she pays less tax but IMPAC has also destroyed her net worth. Despite this, their foolish estimates are getting more and more official approval. A corporation focused on its own well being has no place in providing a government function focused on the social good.

To place a corporation in this function was a fundamental error. We have witnessed the debunking of the corporate efficiency myth at both ends of the observable scale – from Enron or Bre-X on the corporate side to Home Care and electrical privatization on the government side. Alleged fraud is in the news on the Federal Government level with both government and private corporations providing the means to enhance personal wealth at the expense of the public purse. A corporation focused on its own well being has no place in providing a government function focused on the social good. The goals for social services are too far different from the singular goal of gaining revenues.

## DETERMINING FAIR MARKET VALUE

To claim MPAC can determine fair market value is another fundamental error. It can not do that. Only the market can. As far back as 1776, Adam Smith published his major economic work “The Wealth of Nations”, which set in place the basics of commerce, which have guided us to this day. Smith states “The actual price at which any commodity is commonly sold is called its market price.” Market price requires a sale (I would add an arms length transaction) to be understood. What MPAC is doing is guessing amid high tech computing and expertise, blinding us with the ‘science’ of it.

MPAC people actually believe they can do a better job of evaluation than the market! You are paying your tax bill based on a guess. For MPAC to state they do not determine your payable tax also requires debunking. Your tax bill is directly proportional to their assessment, and as such it is a major determinant in establishing the amount of tax payable. Thus a corporation having questionable operating principals, reporting to the Provincial government, supplying fictitious assessments to a county greatly influences your final tax determination,

which is done at the township level.

## WHAT AN UGLY MESS

You can request re-assessment from MPAC but beyond that what they say is law and you are left to deal with it. Some might call it extortion!

What MPAC is doing is guessing amid high tech computing and expertise, blinding us with the ‘science’ of it.

The old system had its problems and attempting to correct them was a task worth undertaking. The new system however has taken what was marginally unfair to the extreme. The driving number—your assessment—is a fiction. There is no basis in this program for taxation on the ability to pay. External forces moving the value of one’s property upward does not provide income

from which to pay the resulting increase in taxes. This scheme will ultimately put more low-wage and fixed income earners out of their homes than one could imagine in the previous system. Watch your forests disappear and businesses fold. Taxation now without justification. How can this happen? Why are we not constitutionally protected from this? Where are the morals and ethics gone from our governments?

Put the determination of services, costs and taxation back into the hands of the cities and townships. We can muddle through and restore the meaning of common sense.

*Editor’s note:* The views expressed here are the author’s and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Madawaska Highlander*.

# Out on the First Concession

By Wes Bomhower

## THE DAY WE MADE FIVE DOLLARS

Spring came fairly early that year out on the First Concession, as did Easter. Those were the days when school closed down for a week at Easter, beginning usually on Good Friday and the holiday was a welcome change.

My older brother was in the army, which left Dad and me to make maple syrup, and of course sugar being rationed, we could certainly make a few dollars on the syrup and maple sugar that we produced. Even though the war was improving the economy, we were still feeling the after effects of the Great Depression.

Our sugar camp was down the road about a mile from our buildings and Dad had stayed at the evaporator pans to boil an excess of sap gathered that afternoon. “Take the team and sleigh home Wes, and help your mother and sister with the evening chores and come back with one of the horses to pick me up later. We’ll have some syrup made by that time.”

The big Clydesdales jogged along and I sang to myself, keeping time with the jingling sleigh bells and daydreamed about having a guitar to strum on. There was a beauty in Eaton’s catalogue, priced at \$18.95.

My reverie was cut short by the sight of a car stuck in the mud and snow, 50 feet off the road. An extremely agitated and overweight man was standing nearby cursing his misfortune. Turned out he was a wealthy man from the city looking for a good location for his thousand or so bee hives for the next summer.

“Could you give me a pull out of this mess lad? Your team look quite capable and I’ll make it worth your while.”

With visions of fifty cents or perhaps a dollar forthcoming, the team was soon unhooked from the sleigh and with the aid of a logging chain the big Clydesdales soon had the oversized man’s car back on the road again. He thanked me and as he drove away shoved something into my hand, which on closer inspection was a crumpled up five dollar bill!

Well, the chores certainly got done in record time that evening and I was still stepping mighty high when we picked Dad up later at the sugar bush. Dad refused to take any of the money, though he probably had little or nothing in his wallet. “You and the gig team earned it son. Just give the horses a little extra oats and spend your money wisely”, was his response.

Wisely or not, the five dollars went towards my first guitar, purchased out of the Eaton’s catalogue.

How times have changed, especially the value of currency.

*Editor’s note:* Out on the First Concession will be a series of mostly true stories from the 1930s and 1940s as told by Calabogie resident Wes Bomhower. *The Day we Made Five Dollars* is the first story in this series.

# A night on the ice in Calabogie

By Mary-Joan Hale

Living in southwestern Ontario for thirty years, I missed the Ottawa Valley winters. Tonight I truly came home. On the ice of the community rink with the wind in my face, I was awash with memories of winters gone by. Plus ca change, plus la meme chose. It is a different rink in a different place, but the ambiance remains the same.

A group of mothers are standing by the rink catching up on the latest news in the village. Fathers and mothers are skating together or with wee ones. Children are learning to skate the old-fashioned way unencumbered by loads of heavy equipment. They wobble and glide along, their cheeks rosy and glowing with the pride of making it all along the boards and out into the centre without a fall. A young lad pulls a toddler in a sleigh across the ice.

The air echoes with the squeals of girls in a long train weaving about as another calls out to the boy who has taken her hat. The scrape of the blades on ice makes a sound as Canadian as the sizzle of back bacon on the grill. The boards creak and bang as the skaters run into

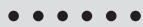
them...a good way to stop...Sleds swish down the hills beside the rink.

Sue and Carlos, the attendants, brave the cold and wind late at night to scrape the snow and flood the rink so we can have fun. To them we owe a debt of gratitude. One of the moms said that it is such a great community gathering place, seeing the same people year after year and watching the children grow up and then bringing their own children.

The five-minute warning comes. It's time for peewee hockey. Off with the skates and home to a mug of cocoa beside the wood stove in a home built by a homesteader. It just doesn't get any better.

### DID YOU KNOW...

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.



If you lend someone \$20, and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

## TOWNSHIP OF GREATER MADAWASKA

### Initial Public Meeting Concerning the Rezoning Application by Calabogie MotorSports Park

Saturday May 1, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

Calabogie Community Centre

Anyone wishing to make a submission and be on the agenda for this meeting must contact the Township Office by April 28 at 4:00 p.m. to indicate their intention and provide their submission prior to that date.

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# Council Notes

By Bill Graham

If anything characterizes the difference between council meetings during 2003 and 2004 it is the huge increase in public participation and passion. In the early months of 2003 you would have been hard pressed to find any resident attending regular (public) council meetings. But, when knowledge about the Calabogie MotorSports Park submission slipped by public notice last May, local residents learned a hard lesson. Now council meetings are very well attended.

The Track, as it is generally called and the Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw have accounted for most of the public participation, but other important matters have also been on the agenda. Reporting on everything that has occurred at council meetings to date during 2004 will be impossible and it is more information than you probably want to know. Residents who do want to know everything that has transpired can pick up paper copies of the minutes of each meeting from the Municipality Office and by mid-summer all minutes should be available from the Township of Greater Madawaska website when it has been constructed. Tenders to website developers to bid on the contract are slated for early March.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation has been particularly high and spirited on the issue of the Track. Debates break out spontaneously and Reeve Doyle has needed to restrain participants in order to be able to cover the other agenda items. Representing Calabogie MotorSports, Chris Fleming has introduced various studies to Council to illustrate the compliance of their business venture to the requirements of County and Provincial authorities. These included, among others, peer reviews, a noise study and studies on drainage, environment and traffic. In early January, Reeve Doyle proposed that Calabogie MotorSports make public the binder of information that they supplied to Council. Also available for public scrutiny at the Township Office are the many letters in support for both sides of this issue.

Reeve Doyle made a motion for yet another study during the February 14 Council meeting asking for a socio-economic impact study, which split Council and passed only because Doyle had the deciding vote. At the following meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> he admitted that he was going to "eat crow" and rescind his earlier motion. In the intervening two weeks he had consulted experts at the University of Toronto and had been told that such a study would be expensive and inconclusive. His motion to rescind was passed with only one dissenter.

Representing the other side of the Track issue, Jack Ledger of the Concerned Citizens of Calabogie and Ken Timmins representing the Stone Lake Property Association have made submissions to Council in support of the opposing view on the Track. The Track issue has been kept in the public view at each Council meeting this year. A final position paper from Track opponents is expected very soon.

The Track wasn't the only subject of public concern. At the February 14 meeting of Council, residents Mrs. Enright and Mr. Watts expressed concerns that Reeve Doyle was not representing the Township at the Renfrew County level. Their concern stemmed from an article in the Renfrew Mercury, which stated that Reeve Doyle asked Councillor Emon to take his place at these meetings. Subsequently Renfrew County Council stated that the township reeve must be the representative. According to Doyle the Mercury article was based on an overheard conversation and not a motion by Council. Reeve Doyle stated categorically that yes he would be attending County meetings; that he had only missed one meeting and that he had the full minutes and financial reports from that meeting.

More recently, at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council, a large delegation of residents with property on Constant Creek (Dacre) wanted Council to take a second look at the Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw, which was passed by the last Council. Acting on behalf of residents was Jack Kelly of the Renfrew County Land Owners Association. The number of people in attendance necessitated the move from council chamber at the Township Office to the Calabogie Community Centre. They wanted the ANSI zoning designation for their properties rescinded.

Reeve Doyle pointed out that the bylaw only acts as a trigger for Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) approval should the residents want to make changes to the property. He stated that he would not change what another council had approved. This sparked fierce debate about what could be done legally and what could not.

While he would not rescind the bylaw, Reeve Doyle sympathized and promised to bring the weight of Council to the MNR with a motion that asked the ministry to visit individual land owners and discuss their particular situation before the zoning bylaw was submitted to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

## COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Citizen committees chaired by council-

lors have been active in 2004. These committees include:

- The Recreation Committee (chaired by Councillor Isobel Kristijan)
- The Waste Management Committee (chaired by Councillor Isobel Kristijan)
- The Fire Committee (chaired by Councillor Karin Lehnhardt)
- The Emergency Management Committee (chaired by Councillor Karin Lehnhardt)
- The Roads Committee (chaired by Councillor Don Mercer)
- The Property Committee (chaired by Councillor Peter Emon)

## THE RECREATION COMMITTEE

The aims and objectives of the committee are:

- to utilize the resources currently available in the Township, such as skiing, golf, snowmobiling, fishing, etc, and to develop other activities, such as cross-country skiing, soccer and hiking.
- to develop recreation activities for the Calabogie area
- to bring the whole Township together through recreation, and
- to development a long term vision and plan.

The Calabogie Winter Carnival in February was a big success, and the committee is now organizing sports activities for children and youth, with March Break in mind, and exploring the development of multi-use trails.

In early January, Recreation Committee member Brent Fillator reported that picnic tables and clean fill had been donated for the development of a public area at Barnett Cottage on land on Calabogie Lake that had been willed to the Township as a public place. Mr. Fillator feels that there should be a public place where youth can meet and have a place to swim. That is his hope for the future. Despite all of the shoreline in Calabogie, much of it is in private hands and therefore is not accessible.

## THE WASTE COMMITTEE

The aims and objectives of this committee are:

- to educate the public on recycling using resident children as the focus
- to promote public input for the development of a 25-year Waste Management Plan, and
- to encourage people to be part of the solution.

Committee members have been exchanging ideas and visiting other waste

management facilities to see how other communities deal with the issue. Soon the issue of waste management will move into the public participation phase. On March 13, consultants for the committee (Lakefield) will brief Council on their recommendations. Soon after, public meetings will be held to develop a 25-year Waste Management Plan. Public input will be essential for the success of this venture.

## FIRE COMMITTEE

Three major issues are commanding the attention of Fire Committee members. They are, communications between the distant fire stations serving the township, acquiring the money to upgrade aging equipment and fire trucks, and the installation of dry wells to supply a water source for firefighters.

To improve communications a tower is necessary and the committee looked into purchasing or leasing space on Kenelly Mountain. There are two located there; an old MNR tower and a new one, which is used by the police. Improved radio communications within the township would benefit both the fire department and the roads department. At the February 28<sup>th</sup> Council meeting it was reported that obtaining space on the new tower was impossible since the tower was being used by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). Inquiries into using the older tower are proceeding.

The Fire Committee has managed to eliminate \$7,000 in expenses by cutting a portion of its insurance coverage and by cutting some of its vehicle expenses. The fire department is lean and is in need of new equipment and a new fire truck for Station 1. The current truck is 30-years old and the age of fire trucks serving a community will have an impact on the insurance premiums paid by residents. A fire truck is an expensive investment and can cost up to \$250,000 for a new vehicle.

The committee's plan for dry well water supplies for firefighters includes the installation of 8 to 10 of these across the township by the end of 2006. Two will be installed in 2004. They are located at Heritage Point in Calabogie and at the Griffith MTO Park at the bridge on Highway 41 at Griffith. A third installation at the Centennial Lake boat launch (MNR) has been stalled by issues of water level. Water levels at this site can drop as much as 17 feet when Ontario Power Generation (OPG) lowers the water level.

In the next *Council Notes* (May) we will report on Council activities on a meeting by meeting basis and will cover the activities of the remaining committees.

# Weather Postcast – Matawatchan

By Richard Copeland

My small weather station in Matawatchan measures and records temperatures, wind speed and direction plus heating degree days. I have assembled a quick review of January and February 2004 (a postcast), with some comparisons to the last quarter of 2003.

Temperature Deg C (Day/Time)

	High	Low	Mean Degree Days	Heat
Oct 03	25.1 (9/3:00p)	-3.6 (20/2:30p)	6.2	362.1
Nov 03	16.4 (1/2:00a)	-12.2 (9/2:30p)	1.4	505.4
Dec 03	7.4 (29/11:30a)	-19.4 (5/12:30p)	-4.9	725.7
Jan 04	6.5 (3/1:30p)	-33.5 (14/12:30p)	-14.9	1029.8
Feb 04	13.9 (29/11:15a)	-30.9 (15/2:30p)	-6.3	714.0

The Degree Days (DD) measure is used to relate each day's temperature to the demand for fuel to heat buildings. To calculate DD, add the high and low temperature for the day and divide by 2 for the average. If the number (in Fahrenheit) is below 65F (18C) subtract it from 65 to find the number of heating DD.

If your back was sore in January or your hand tired from writing cheques for fuel, there was good cause. January was cold—42% colder than December and 11% colder than the 15-year average DD recorded for Renfrew.

Wind Speed in km/h (Day/Time) & Direction

	High	Direction	Average	Dominant
Oct	71.0 (15/12:30a)	NW	8.9	WSW
Nov	82.3 (13/1:45a)	NNW	10.3	WSW
Dec	66.0 (1/1:30a)	WNW	9.5	WNW
Jan	77.2 (22/11:00a)	NW	11.9	NW
Feb	66.0 (13/12:45p)	WSW	10.4	WSW

Wind gusts in the last quarter of 2003 were more frequent and of a longer duration than winds in January and February, partly explaining why we have had consistent electrical supply.

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# WILD BOB & NED THE KNIFE

Come listen you old timers and you would be scrappers too,  
I'll tell you of a fight one night in 1882  
Between two husky shanty men, (and one would lose his life).  
One was Wild Fighting Rob, the other Ned the Knife.

Now how they got these handles is anybody's guess,  
But both were known as scrappers and neither one would rest  
Until the fight was over and the better man had won.  
Now on with this bold narrative; perhaps 'twill be song.

'Twas in wee Calabogie and the river drive was on.  
MacLauchlin's crews and J.R. Rooth's competing all along  
The Madawaska River and the shanty boys were rife  
For liquor and some action ere they went to home and wife.

A headwind started blowing up the lake that fateful day  
And all work was suspended till the wind would die away.  
Some gathered at the tavern, their thirst was great you see,  
From winter in the shanties where the strongest drink was tea.

Wild Bob was fancy, he was quick and he was tough  
And he challenged Ned the Knife that day when both had drank enough.  
They went outside the tavern; there they slugged it toe to toe,  
Neither giving any quarter as they struck some mighty blows.

Bob held his own awhile but Nod soon wore him down  
With his solid barehand fisticuffs, the best in 'Bogie town.  
He loosed a looping right hand, caught Bob below the ear,  
And with a curse the challenger would fall upon his rear.

We thought the fight was over but Bob would find a gun.  
Went looking for big Ned and said, "I'll fix that no good son".  
But Ned the Knife got wind of it, he bought a gun as well  
And made his way back down the street to famous Jake's hotel.

Wild Bob saw him coming, raised his gun as though to shoot,  
But Ned the Knife was quicker, pulled a pistol from his boot  
And fired a hot, a fatal wound would bring Bob to the ground.  
A mighty hush then fell upon us shanty boys around.

Then someone cried, "Let's hang him, go find a rope, we'll deal  
With Ned the Knife, the murderer". It all seemed so unreal.  
But Ned had many friends around and they would find a boat,  
Would spirit him across the lake ere others found a rope.

They hid him in a farmhouse till the lynching mob calmed down.  
Next day the wind abated and the shanty boys left town  
To drive the logs down river. Ned the Knife was taken in  
To custody in Renfrew to await his trial then.

Self defence was proven and acquittal he would be,  
But Ned the Knife was ne'er the same, ne'er fought again you see  
With fists or guns or anything and many were the days  
He spent up in the grave yard attending Wild Bob's grave.

Wes Bomhower, June 2002

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<b>Combination #1</b> (pepperoni, green peppers, mushroom)	<b>\$ 8.95</b>	<b>\$11.95</b>	<b>\$14.95</b>
<b>Combination #2</b> (pepperoni, green peppers)	<b>\$ 7.95</b>	<b>\$10.95</b>	<b>\$13.95</b>
<b>Combination #3</b> (pepperoni, mushrooms, bacon)	<b>\$ 8.95</b>	<b>\$11.95</b>	<b>\$14.95</b>
<b>Meats Lovers</b> (pepperoni, bacon, ham, sausage, ground beef, roast beef)	<b>\$10.95</b>	<b>\$13.95</b>	<b>\$16.95</b>
<b>Hawaiian</b> (ham, pineapple, bacon)	<b>\$ 8.95</b>	<b>\$11.95</b>	<b>\$14.95</b>
<b>Vegetarian</b> (mushrooms, green peppers, olives, onions, tomatoes)	<b>\$10.95</b>	<b>\$13.95</b>	<b>\$16.95</b>
<b>Garden Special</b> (mushrooms, green peppers, olives, onions, tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, celery)	<b>\$12.95</b>	<b>\$15.95</b>	<b>\$18.95</b>

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## The Desert

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Infinite blue set jagged, with mountainous shades of brown and grey  
Windswept dust and crystal sand;  
howl through canyons, where plateaus loom  
Where once was the life of a riverbed;  
ancient mud lies cracked and dead  
Sun bake these bones, and drain these glands,  
drink the blood from these scorched sands  
For rambling lizards and cactus flowers;  
can breeze through the scourge of your arid hours

D. Vasey

### DID YOU KNOW...

Alf each household in Canada replaced one standard 60W light bulb with a 20W compact florescent \$73M in energy cost would be saved. Even better, 400 tonnes of greenhouse would be prevented - equivalent to taking 66,000 cars off the road for one year.



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**Excerpts from a few of the many letters received by Council & CMP**

"After careful consideration and unbiased review of the facts of the proposed Motorsports Park being constructed in my area, I have decided to back this endeavor 100%." *E. Martin*

"After having toured the Motorsport site and also having attended the presentations offered, I've come to the conclusion this project is what this community needs." *D. Legault*

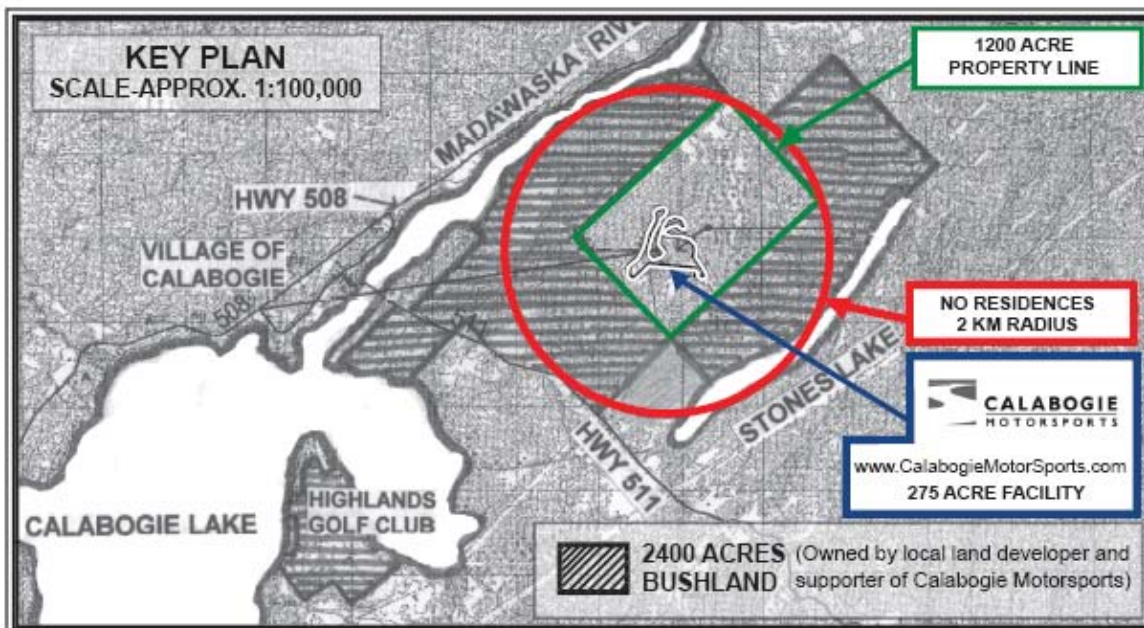
"I can only see good coming from the development of this facility. It's unfortunate that a few people spreading misinformation can cause so much dissension in a community." *M. Watts*

"We like the progressive nature we see happening in Calabogie." *F. Davidson*

"Our family just moved to Emon Lane near the track...We feel it will compliment and enhance the benefits of living in this Township." *W. Mullen*

"Like our sport, we believe the race track will have a positive impact on this community." *President, Calabogie Snowmobile Club*

"I am writing to ask that you support this new recreational venue in our community as a welcome addition to the many activities available to residents and visitors to our area." *G. Reed*



"As a concerned resident I want and support this newest commercial addition to our community as it introduces a new, fresh and vibrant addition to our area; something to keep our youth interested in Calabogie." *J. Leclaire*

As owners of land adjacent to this property we were interested to find out what impact the project might have on us.... The site they have chosen and the controls which will be in place will make this development a very positive addition to the area. *L. Stewart*

"All I ask is for council to use only facts on which to base their decision. As one person stated at the meeting, the silent majority has to be heard." *G. AuCoin*

"I feel the developers of the track have been very forthcoming and open about the facility and have done a great deal to inform everybody about the project." *Concerned Citizen*