

The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

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Forgotten Places: Balaclava

By Garry Ferguson

My first memories of Balaclava, dating back more than six decades, are of a water-powered mill in full operation below a dam over which the bridge crossing Constant Creek was built. I do remember a village along the Scotch Bush Road but forgot about specific parts of it like the blacksmith shop, the thriving country store and the number of dwellings surrounding it.

Like me, modern-day ghost town hunters who have decided to designate what's left of the hamlet as a "ghost town," focus their attention on the decaying mill. This preoccupation with the unique old landmark, usually to the exclusion of the remainder of Balaclava, is perhaps understandable since the mill spawned a bustling community and became a source of employment for the folks of the area for over a hundred years. Unfortunately, changing times and circumstances have passed Balaclava by. The water-powered mill is locked and dark. "No Trespassing" signs discourage the bold who may ignore safety to satisfy their curiosity.

All those details that I had previously forgotten were brought back to me as I walked across the bridge and past old buildings with Don Fiebig on a pleasant May afternoon. Don is a third generation Balaclavian born and was raised a stone's throw from the mill. The passing of a few cars was all that interrupted his reminiscences relating to people long-gone and to gray, boarded-up buildings fighting a losing battle against weather and time. Although only in his sixties, Don remembers a time when at least 20 families lived in or near the village.

He mentioned that local children hiked to the one-room school at Dacre for their first eight years of education, but it seems that his most vivid memories of growing up in the area are centered around the mill. This too is understandable since such a beehive of activity would have been a fascinating place for any youngster. His

father trucked logs to it for 27 years and it was there that Don found his first job.

He tells how one sly old character, whose task was to draw away and pile the slab wood from the mill, would entice the young fellows, including Don, to help him unload and pile for five cents a load. He would then up the ante to 25 cents if they would help him for the afternoon. It's not clear how long he got away with this ruse since he never did pay up.

Because the building housing the saw, shingle and planer mills sits in a hollow, an elevated wooden tramway (now gone) was built to provide level passage between the high platform at the planer section on the south side of the building and a storage shed situated on higher ground. Lumber was drawn from the platform to the shed along this ten-foot-high plank road with a wagon and tractor. On a certain morning a new-hire, who'd been assigned to this task, decided to get an early start since it was his first day on the job. As Don was walking to work he heard yelling. The wagon, lumber and tractor had gone over the side and would have landed on the poor fellow if he had not fallen between two piles of boards. When his fellow workers rescued him, he went straight home and never returned. His career with Richards had lasted about half an hour.

The area around Balaclava was originally settled by squatters in the 1830's and was known as Brunswick Bush. The squatters probably came along the nearby Opeongo colonization road (now Highway 132) to Dacre and decided that the area would be a handy place in which to settle. The first of the three mills situated on that location along Constant Creek was built in 1856 - 57 by a man named Ferguson who obtained the water rights in 1854. This original version was used to saw logs and to card wool.

There's not much doubt as to where

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Early days at the Matawatchan Community Market (See page 7 for story)

Tax increase in Greater Madawaska not as severe as many fear

By Bill Graham

A headline in the Renfrew Mercury reporting a 16.7% increase in taxes for the Township of Greater Madawaska caused shock and anger among many ratepayers. The reaction is echoed in two letters to the editor in this issue of the Madawaska Highlander. However, the headline, which in part, is true, did not tell the whole story. Yes there was an increase of 16.7% in the municipality's taxes, but only to the 29% of the total tax bill that the municipality receives. In fact the increase to the total tax bill will be 5.1% if Renfrew County and the Province don't also increase taxes. On an assessment of \$100,000, this increase would translate to roughly \$50.

What many don't realize is that taxes went down in 2006 and that ratepayers are still paying less than they did in 2005. For example, on an assessment of \$150,000, taxes in 2005 were \$1,702.34, while in 2006 they were \$1,475.79. In 2007 taxes on this assessment will be \$1,563.62. These taxes are also considerably less than most

of the neighbouring municipalities. See the table on page 2 for the details on this.

It wasn't just the money that angered some ratepayers, but also where the money was being spent. The 2007 tax increase is being applied only to capital items; specifically, the purchase of a tandem truck, fire pumper, track shovel, tractor broom and development of Waste Site Transfer Stations

I asked Township administrator John Baird for details about these future purchases. He says that Council determined that capital infrastructure was a priority in 2007 as capital equipment infrastructure needs have not been addressed in recent years. Purchase of the various equipment items as part of the capital budget in 2007 is projected to result in a reduction of operating costs for the municipality. Some of these cost savings will be realized in 2007 however the biggest impact on operational savings

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Tax levy (Cont.)

will be realized commencing in 2008.

He justified the decision of Council about the capital expenditures, as follows:

-Purchase of track shovel will allow municipal staff to compact waste sites themselves, rather than contracting this service out. This is anticipated to reduce compacting costs in excess of \$20,000.00 per year. Additionally, the track shovel will provide municipal staff flexibility to conduct road work, eliminating the need to have outside contractors to do work such as ditching, construction etc.

-The tractor broom (\$13,000) will allow municipal staff to perform sweeping operations, saving the municipality contracting costs for this service

-The Fire Pumper is required due to the age of the existing fleet. Recommendations from the Ontario Fire Marshall (OFM) require that vehicles reaching 25 years of operation be replaced. Insurance companies require a similar replacement process. The municipality is working towards certification of the Fire Department under the OFM regulations, as certification will help reduce insurance costs for the municipality

Tax Levy Summary (Various Municipalities in Renfrew County)

Municipality	Assessment of \$150,000			Assessment of \$200,000		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Killaloe, Hagart and Richards	2,162.16	2,018.74	2,036.98	2,882.88	2,691.65	2,715.97
McNab/Braeside	1,696.28	1,559.78	1,588.04	2,261.71	2,079.71	2,117.38
Horton (Budget Pending)	1,917.66	1,760.17	1,798.31	2,556.88	2,346.89	2,397.75
Laurentian Valley	1,712.58	1,535.85	1,554.20	2,283.46	2,047.80	2,072.27
Town of Renfrew (Budget Pending)	2,560.38	2,319.84	2,363.54	3,413.84	3,093.11	3,151.39
Admaston/Bromley (Budget Pending)	1,734.50	1,627.55	1,673.81	2,312.67	2,170.06	2,231.75
Bonnechere Valley	2,298.02	2,134.95	2,240.56	3,064.03	2,846.60	2,987.46
Greater Madawaska	1,702.34	1,475.79	1,563.62	2,269.80	1,967.72	2,084.83

and home owners. Replacement of the pumper will reduce maintenance costs overall for the Fire Department.

-Purchase of the tandem truck will reduce operating costs of the municipality an estimated \$6,000 per year

The conversion of waste sites to transfer stations and the road work completed in 2006 also contributed to the increase.

The municipality received a COMRIF grant of \$1.2 million to assist in changing Waste Sites into transfer stations. The total costs for the project is estimated to be \$1.9 million. Municipal contribution for the project will be in the range of \$645,000. Construction on the waste sites will occur in 2008, with development work being done in 2007. The project must be completed by March 2009. As such, this project was a priority for Council in 2007 due to the requirement of addressing the diminishing capacity of the waste sites. Two of the current sites (Griffith, Matawatchan) will reach maximum capacity this year, and will have to be closed soon.

The 2007 capital budget also includes an amount to fund road work completed in 2006. Council determined in 2006 that road work completed would be funded over three years.

End

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Once again a community yard sale is being planned For Saturday August 4th in downtown Matawatchan. Plan now to bring a table and set up. All are welcome.

If you would like more information call 613-333-2798

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Balaclava (Cont.)

the inspiration came from when the early residents were faced with the task of selecting a name for the growing settlement. Britain was involved in the Crimean War in those days so names like Balaclava, (also Balaklava) Sebastopol and Raglan were well known. The name agreed upon obviously came from this source.

William Richards purchased the mill shortly after it was built. In 1915 however, fire destroyed what was then a combination sawmill and shingle mill and it had to be rebuilt. Eventually, William's son Harry took over the business. In June of 1935, fire again struck destroying the saw, shingle and an added planer operation. Also destroyed was a generator supplying electricity to light the mill, store, blacksmith shop and the Richardson residence. In 1936 the mill was again rebuilt as a three-story frame structure with dormer windows. When Harry died in 1938, his son William (Bill) was the third generation of the family to own the business. In 1957 Bill sold the entire operation to Dave and Beulah Dick who operated it as a successful business until 1968. Mr. Dick closed the mill doors when it became no longer economically feasible to produce lumber.

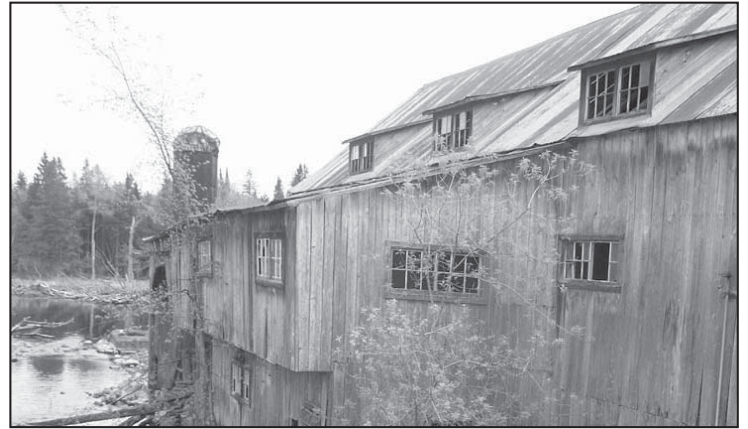


Don Fiebig believes that it was the first William who built the blacksmith shop and the store under the name "W.H. Richards And Son." Besides this, the family owned the large residence just to the north of the mill and huge acreage from the present-day Fiebig Road near Dacre through the village of Balaclava.

Don tells of a time when his grandfather, who worked as millwright and blacksmith for the three generations of Richards, considered building a house a good distance away down the Scotch Bush Road. (County Road 513) Harry Richards persuaded him to build near the village by giving him an acre and a half of land to build on so that he could walk to work. The Fiebig homestead still stands along Sammon Road north of the hamlet. Mr. Richards also made sure that each of his workers received eight cord of eight-foot-long slab wood for winter fuel.

During the fifties, I heard a tale from a Balaclava lad who, with a few buddies, had been spear fishing along the creek near the mill during the spring pickerel run. He launched into a bout of cursing

at one of his companions for shining a bright light in his face until he discovered that the companion was really a game warden. I asked Don about these nocturnal fishing activities and though he didn't divulge anything personal, he mentioned that the wardens would often hide in the mill to nab unsuspecting culprits. He also told me of a deep hole in the creek, down stream of the mill near the round tower that was the sawdust



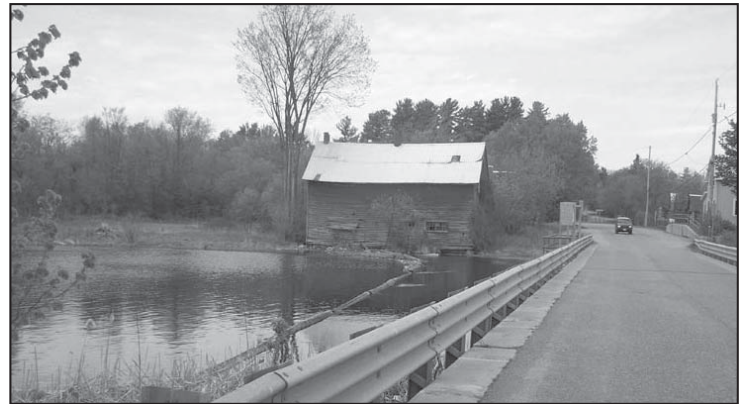
From dam, north side of sawmill. Sawdust incinerator in background.

incinerator, where pickerel gathered. On noon-time breaks men would sometimes surround this hole while someone closed of the water at the dam thus trapping the fish. Bags of fresh pickerel were then shared among the workers.

son Arthur now owns the property.

Those modern-day ghost town hunters who dubbed Balaclava a "ghost town," use that designation for communities in a state of abandonment or partial abandonment. Though the mill, store, blacksmith shop, boathouse and the

In a 1985 article, written by Gerald



Present-day road over dam. Millpond at left, blacksmith shop in background

Tracey for The Eganville Leader, Mr. Dick stated that he had approached the Federal Government in the hopes that the mill could be preserved as a museum exhibit, perhaps in a planned Timbertown theme park, even at its location in Balaclava. Twenty years have passed since that time. Another site was chosen for the park and, with the exception of the house that has been sold, Mr. Dick's

storage barn may stand deserted, the hamlet is still a beautiful and peaceful place to live for residents who probably snicker at the "ghost town" moniker. There are several new and modernized homes in the area including the Richardson and Fiebig homesteads.

Having the world of commerce pass you by isn't always a bad thing.

End



General store circa. late 1950's. From left Dave and Beulah Dick, Red Fiebig



General Store, present state

Good Carbon – Bad Carbon

By Floris Wood

An overabundance of CO₂ in the atmosphere causes the greenhouse effect that causes global warming. CO₂ allows the heat from the sun to enter the atmosphere and warm the earth, but CO₂ does not allow the excess heat to be reflected out into space, much in the same way a greenhouse catches and stores the sun's heat. Since carbon in the earth is the foundation for life on earth we need the carbon to stay in the biomass of the earth and not have it floating around in the atmosphere. Therefore the earth must maintain a balance of some carbon in the air in the form of CO₂ to help keep the earth warm and lots of it in the biomass in the form of vegetation to maintain living matter. This process of converting airborne CO₂ to earth bound carbon is called carbon sequestration. Any area on earth capable of converting is referred to as a carbon sink.

Recently scientists have given us the alarming news, as if we already did not have enough to worry about, that the part of the southern oceans that have served in the past as a carbon sink has become saturated with carbon much sooner than expected.

Put away your worry beads for awhile because this article is about hope. I hope

we can save the earth and even improve its ability to sustain human life. Barring that, I hope that even after Earth's ability to sustain human life is destroyed, other plants and animals will survive and the earth will recover enough that perhaps humans, or something like us (but smarter), will evolve again.

After reading about the scientific investigations into large patches of earth in Brazil where jungle forests were removed by humans and turned into incredibly fertile soil, my interest was peaked. But one can read many, shall we say "crack pot", ideas about how to save the planet so one must always read on with suspicion and no small amount of incredulity. But, in this case, I am convinced that the discovery of this Terra Preta de Indio (Indian Dark Earth) and the investigations that followed offer us some real hope.

In 1870, James Orton, a geologist and explorer from Vassar College first described in his book, The Andes and the Amazon, an area of "black and very fertile" soil in the Amazon region of South America. In 1879, Canadians Charles Hartt and Herbert H Smith also wrote about it. Since then many more areas of black earth have been discovered in the Amazon area of Bra-

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GREATER MADAWASKA LITERARY MATTERS

By Mary-Joan Hale


By the time you read this, the summer solstice will have passed. Four years ago, we were in Wales on that day. We entered a Neolithic burial mound. It was oriented so that at the solstice, the sun would pass through at noon. Some modern day Druids had placed Welsh cakes, fruit and flowers earlier in the day. This year we visited the remains of early Celtic villages on Anglesey at Holyhead. The site has been partially excavated and as you hike up the mountain, more remains can be seen through the heather. One of the excavations revealed a farm with house and out buildings distinctly different from the earlier village lower down the mountain. In 2000 we were at Holyhead when the heather was in full bloom. A carpet of yellow pink and white covered the hills. It was breath taking. It was just beginning this visit as we hiked up the South stack of Holyhead. From the summit, where a Roman lighthouse and outpost once stood, we could see the coast of Ireland across the sea and the hills and valleys all around. On this isle called Mona by the Romans, the Druids were slaughtered. One could almost hear the cries of our ancestors as the wind circled around us.

We visited two castles in North Wales. We toured Beaumaris, but we stayed at Gwydir Castle, Llangwrst. It is a fourteenth century Tudor castle. The owners were 26 and 29 when they purchased the crumbling ruin. With dreams, research, love of the place and each other, it is now habitable. A small portion is let as a B&B to help support the continuous upkeep and restoration. We had an apartment to ourselves and could explore the many rooms, halls, the priest hole, old water closet and beautiful grounds to our heart's content. In the morning the raucous cries of the many peacocks roused us from our slumber in the massive four-poster bed in the same room occupied by King George V and Queen Mary in 1899 on a visit as the Duke and Duchess of York. We went down to breakfast in a panelled dining room complete with a table set upon velvet draperies and white linen. With a fire in the hearth and the single brass candle lit to set the scene, a lovely young Polish girl served us our meal.

There are many tales to tell of our visit to that magical mystic land, but we leave it as an introduction to our TD Summer program to be offered in the library once again. The theme is 'Lost Worlds'. We will explore the Celts, the ancestors of many Valley folk. The Romans who conquered Britain


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Literary (Cont.)


and left their aqueducts, amphitheatres, baths and walls will be explored and the children will learn a smattering of Latin. We will journey through other ancient peoples and places, in literature and crafts. The program is a drop-in free experience for children 6 – 12. Call the library to register. The Pre-school Storytyme will continue all summer on Tuesday afternoons. The weekday for the TD sessions is yet to be determined. Please check the website for further details.

The Budget has been set, so we must tighten our belts. With the cost of insurance, heat, electricity and telephone ever rising, sadly the book budget shrinks annually. What irony!! Fortunately through donations of books, memorials and grants, we have been able to add to the collection. However, these funds cannot be used for operations and are tied to specific projects. Without the CAP grant from Industry Canada (computer equipment and software), the Trillium Grants from the provincial government, Connectivity grant (high speed Internet), the support of our local clubs and patrons, we could not provide the services we do. We are fortunate to have a wonderful volunteer Board of Trustees and regular dedicated volunteers who give freely of their time. Needless-to-say, the Outreach to Wards 2 and 3 could not continue without the kind storeown-

ers and Gary Guillmet who makes our deliveries to them. Unfortunately, we ask that unless you have one or two recently published books, you hold on to boxes for a while. We have done a good weeding and will be having a Book Sale all summer. Browse for bargains.

We will be adding several new search tools through Knowledge Ontario. You will have on-line access to many journals, papers and periodicals as well as improved research capability. Watch the website for details.

We are pleased to report that our statistics are growing like the grass and flowers. We welcome the many new patrons who have joined the library since January. To the newcomers who get their cards before the shovel hits the lot or have unpacked their boxes, thank you for appreciating literacy and the value of our wee institution. To all the folks in Wards 2 and 3 who have joined our Outreach Service, we will continue to provide the materials you want and need. Spread the word to friends and family. While you are at it, send a note to our Trustees (Chairman, John Allerton) and all of the members of Council thanking them for a library that has been here since 1978. A community that values its library values literacy and the cultural development of its people. One that does not is, as an ancient Greek once said, 'If ignorance is bliss, then 'tis folly to be wise'.



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The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

“read cover to cover”

Market Day in Matawatchan

By Bill Graham

Market day finally arrived in Matawatchan on June 16. The organizing group had been working toward this day since February 17 when the first public meeting took place. It was worth the work given the excellent attendance (well over a hundred visitors) and the very positive feedback that was received.

This success is despite being turned down for funding by the Renfrew County Local Initiatives (Community) Program. This funding was destined for the creation of two local part-time jobs (Market Manager and Food Concession Manager). Now the full weight for a continuing and successful market is on the backs of market organizers and community volunteers. However, the real key to a successful summer of market days is the patronage of market goers and an increase in the number of vendors. It's one of those “chicken and egg” situations since the more vendors the more market goers and the more market goers the more vendors.

Like all things that are in their infancy, it was a small start with only nine vendors, but the variety of items for sale was, none the less, impressive. Yes, there was local produce being sold by four vendors in the form of salad greens, radishes, young spinach, green onions and fresh herbs. It was about what you could expect from your own garden if you had an early start. To supplement salad making, greenhouse grown tomatoes and cucumbers were brought in by one vendor from Pembroke.

Also on sale were baked goods, which sold out, hand crafted wooden planters, wild food preserves, teas from Golden Lake, maple syrup, honey, weaving, jewellery, gourmet seasonings and mixes plus flea market items. It was an eclectic mix. As the growing season progresses there will be many more fresh vegetables available. In the coming weeks we expect to have additional vendors. We know that we will have one vendor selling custom-made rustic furniture and another selling pottery.

We have also received our first review. Angela Bright, who writes the Denbigh Checking In column for the Highlander, also reports to the Frontenac News for the Denbigh area. She is sending the following review to that newspaper:

“I just got off the phone with a lady who had a rave review of the Ma-

tawatchan Farmers Market. Opening day was last Saturday and the organizers and vendors have put together a good assortment of items. Are you ready for this? Fruits and vegetables, plants, herbs, maple syrup and maple products, homemade scones and other delicious baked goods, jewellery, soaps, jam, jellies, and woodwork were all on display and quite frankly, it made me sorry that I was not able to be there! And just when my “informant” was satisfied with her purchases and about to leave for home, someone announced chilli would be served for lunch, with a side salad of local greens, a roll, and rhubarb crisp for the finale! Sounds to me like a good day of food, fun, and an apparent meet and greet. I will have to make a visit and you can too, every Saturday at the Matawatchan Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.”

While there was no actual fruit for sale at the June 16 market day, there was the opportunity to sign up and order Niagara sweet cherries for pick-up at the Matawatchan Market on July 14. The Market organizing group has arranged to have cherries brought up from the Niagara area if there is sufficient interest. We need to have orders for 50 baskets to get a favourable price—thus the need for advance orders. The cherries come in 12 quart baskets, which we are told amounts to roughly 15 pounds, for a cost of \$22. To take advantage of this it is necessary to visit the Market and place an order.

You may recall that something similar happened last summer, as published in the Highlander, when similar sized baskets of peaches were brought to Matawatchan. Peaches and perhaps other non-local fruit will be available from the Market as they come into season.

As Angela also mentioned in her review, food was front and centre during market day. The availability of refreshments begins at 8:00 a.m. when vendors can partake of fresh organic coffee, teas, juices and baked goods such as croissants, scones, sweet buns and the like. When market goers arrive the same breakfast snacks are available to them. At around 11:00 a.m. lunch is served. On opening day this was a meat or vegetable chilli served with a salad of locally grown greens, buns and a rhubarb crisp. Last market day on June 23 it was a choice of beef or vegetarian barley soup, cheese and tomato or chicken sandwiches

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Looking back...



The boys of Black Donald

Thanks to Patrick Ganbutt

Dear Editor,
16.7% TAX INCREASE
FOR SHAME! FOR SHAME!

Welcome to amalgamation and its promises of greater efficiencies and cost savings.

A guarantee of four years in office has gone to the heads of elected representatives in the Township of Greater Madawaska.

Apparently there is a need this year for \$182,000 to begin payments, on a credit plan, for \$900,000 in equipment and other capital items. This announcement is in line with the dramatically increased fees and levies, in addition to new fees and charges, which have been the hallmark of this new “GREATER” Township. What will we face in coming years?

Mayor Hazel McCallion has been budgeting and managing the affairs of the city of Mississauga for more than 25

Dear Editor:

Can you tell me how the townships of Greater Madawaska can justify a 16.7 per cent tax increase at a time when most municipalities and politicians across Canada are trying to keep the tax increase to a minimum - preferably at 0 per cent -- without any feedback from their constituents?

Apparently our township is boasting about the greatest number of new construction and permits in Renfrew County.

Fees and charges have increased drastically. Are their taxes and fees not included - they should count for something.

For the quality and quantity of services we are receiving, especially in Matawatchan and Griffith; which seems to be the back end of Renfrew County and the Greater Madawaska, can you really justify this increase?

Is this really what amalgamation is all about? What about staffing and costs to run the machinery? We had one person in Matawatchan and Griffith who did a great job until this amalgamation took place.

years, debt free and with minimal tax increases. Mayor Larry O'Brian of Ottawa is pursuing the “Zero means Zero” tax option. There should be some lessons there for those people who have been entrusted with managing the tax dollars of Greater Madawaska taxpayers.

This is taxpayer dollars they are spending and taxpayer debt and credit charges they are incurring for this year and for years to come. In other words this is our money.

If elected representatives of the Township of “GREATER” Madawaska can't see their way to manage township affairs with a modicum of common sense, then they should consider tendering their resignation.

What are they thinking?

Sincerely,
J.P. De Grandmont Matawatchan

Now, between the lack of response time, road care and guardrails, I have to stop and think when I leave for work at 5 a.m. just what I'm going to face and how safe I'll be, or how many times I'll have to call into work due to road conditions (for a Renfrew court job).

I never had to worry much before (thanks Donny).

What is this, the Canadian way - sit back, shut your mouths, keep your wallets open and let them put it to you?

Is this the new version of the commercial 'Hands in your pocket' or are we, as a community, going to stand together, and say we've had enough.

Let's stick together. I do not think there are any of us who can say we will be guaranteed a 16.7 per cent increase in our wages. We will be lucky to get three per cent.

This isn't including the cost of gas, food or hydro.

Come on, Give us a break.
Let's all stand up and be heard
Janet Kelly Matawatchan

Heating and cooling with earth energy

by Lynn Jones

“Over two thirds of the energy needed to heat and cool your home is available right beneath your feet.” Natural Resources Canada’s Canadian Renewable Energy Network (CANREN www.canren.gc.ca)

Even more surprising is the fact that the technology to heat and cool buildings with earth energy is well-developed and already in use in over 30,000 houses and commercial buildings across Canada! The technology is also referred to as “ground-source heat pumps” and “geothermal heating”, although the latter term is usually reserved for technology that captures steam or hot water in the Earth’s crust for heating and electricity generation.

The main component of an earth energy heating system is a long, closed, buried loop of polyethylene pipe filled with water or glycol. The fluid in the pipe absorbs heat from the ground around the pipe. The warmed fluid then returns to the building, where a heat exchanger transfers the heat from the fluid into warm air or water. A compressor upgrades the heat and then the warmed air or water is circulated throughout the building through ducts or radiators.

Electricity is used to operate the circulation pump and the heat pump. This electrical energy is the extra third (not covered in the opening statement) that must be supplied, to move heat from the ground into the home.

It is also possible to transfer heat from water in wells or lakes using an “open system”. In such a system, water is pumped from a deep well, lake or aquifer. As in the closed loop system, the water then passes through a heat pump that transfers the heat from the water into warm air or water and a compressor upgrades the heat prior to circulation throughout the building. The cooled water is returned to the original source.

One of the early adopters of earth energy heating in the Ottawa Valley, Peter Saffery has always been interested in energy efficiency. Using his professional expertise in the plumbing and heating business, he installed a geothermal system at his home in Micksburg back in 1988. He believes that ground source heating is an optimal technology for this region. Not only does it save money, but it greatly reduces greenhouse gas emissions associated with heating and cooling.

According to Peter, earth energy systems are highly efficient. They pro-

vide heating, cooling and domestic hot water for about one-third of the cost of heating a home with electricity. The cost to install a geothermal heating system can vary a great deal depending on the type of system, size of house, and other factors. The average cost for a 1200 square-foot home is in the neighbourhood of \$8,000.

The CANREN website offers considerable information of how geothermal systems work. The earth around our homes holds a lot of energy. A meter or two below the surface, the ground is about the same temperature as the average air temperature. In the prairies, that’s about 5-6° C. In southern Ontario it’s about 10° C, and on the East or West coast, about 11-12° C.

The sun provides this heat to the earth. Its energy warms the earth directly, but also indirectly. Its heat evaporates water from the lakes and streams, which eventually falls back to earth and filters into the ground. A few metres of surface soil insulate the earth and ground water below. The warm earth and ground water below the surface thus provide a free, renewable source of energy.

A simple flick of a switch is all that is needed for the heat pump to operate in reverse to cool a home by transferring the heat out of the house, where the cooler ground absorbs the excess heat. The City of Toronto has a deep water cooling project which takes cold water from deep in Lake Ontario and uses it to cool office buildings in the summer.

The buried circulation loops of a geothermal heating system can be horizontal or vertical. They are generally made out of high density polyethylene and are expected to last 50 years or more. It is important to note that when they do need replacing, polyethylene is likely to be very expensive as it made from oil which is likely to be scarce and expensive 50 years from now. So while this technology is very efficient and attractive at present, it may not be sustainable in the long term (alas, like so many things about our present ways of living).

Watershed Ways is distributed by the Ottawa River Institute (www.ottawariverinstitute.ca), a non-profit charitable organization supported by volunteers, local donors and a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. For more information call 613-333-5534. There is no charge for membership in the Ottawa River Institute. We welcome new members who share our vision (www.ottawariverinstitute.ca/vision.htm) Join on-line at www.ottawariverinstitute.ca/become-a-member.htm

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

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

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Griffith/Matawatchan News

By Garry Ferguson

Things are happening at the Matawatchan Hall. The 125th annual Matawatchan Picnic will be held there on Saturday June 30th 2007. Don't miss it. You can start the festivities at noon by gorging on a traditional old-time dinner of baked beans and stew. If that takes up the whole two-hour dinner period, you can finish just in time to watch the afternoon musical show that starts at 2 p.m. One of the things that won't be happening this Canada Day is the dance. Not enough interest last year.

The Matawatchan Market got off to a good start under the trees behind the hall on Saturday June 16. There were nine vendors plus a grub station that served up great coffee. The considerable number of folks who turned out had a good time browsing, shopping and socializing. By all indications the reaction was enthusiastic and expectations for the summer are truly positive.

On August 19, 2007, the Heritage Old Time Country Music Association will be back with one of its jamborees. Watch The Madawaska Highlander for information.

Thanks to Sheila and Bob Pickering, who donated an industrial model scrub pail and squeegee, the old floor will take on a new shine. No need now to scrape and scrub with a coffee can and a discarded chamber pail.

The Denbigh Griffith Lions (DGL's) will be at the Matawatchan Picnic again this year with a bingo tent, cold drinks, hot dogs and hamburgers. The burgers and dogs will be on tap all afternoon in case anyone gets an attack of the growlies after expending too much energy on a two-hour dinner. Too bad they won't have their new cookbook ready for the event. They'll be on sale (\$10.00) in August and should dispel the myth that Lions eat only raw meat.

It's fortunate for the Lions that they have taken on a few new hands lately because they'll be busier than a one-armed wallpaper hanger for the next while. On Saturday July 7, 2007, they'll host a Community Yard Sale at the DGL Hall in Griffith. If you're a would-be vendor, call Dianne (613 333 1094) and for ten bucks she'll reserve you a table. From 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday July 14, 2007, the Tacky Tourist Party - complete with cash bar - will be the social highlight of the day at the hall. Should be fun - especially if you're inclined toward the tacky side, but after the bar opens no one will notice. By the way, those soon-to-be, work-worn recruits are Marlene Babishaw, Helen Pulse and Sue Huffcutt.

The Tabbies may have fun but their ultimate goals are of a serious nature. One of the causes that they support is Camp Trillium. Camp Trillium is free for child cancer victims and their families. Anyone wishing information about this project may call Rowena at

613 333 5159. Another admirable project is the annual \$500.00 DLG Bursary to a deserving, local high school student moving on to post-secondary education. The winner this year was Paige MacPherson of Matawatchan who will pursue studies at Queens University in Kingston. It came as a pleasant surprise when the Fish and Game Club donated \$1000.00 to help finance these causes. For those who've procrastinated about signing organ donor cards, procrastinate no more. Though the DGL's don't collect the parts - yet, they'll be glad to provide you with a card to advise someone who will.

Don't forget that the bingo is still on every week. You could be as lucky as Evelyn Laronde who recently walked off with a \$500.00 jackpot. The dates the next month are: June 26, July 10 and 24.

The Fish and Game Club is still alive and kicking. The club came away from the May 19th meeting with a shiny new set of executives. The President's chair goes to Al Pennock, the V.P.s to Wes Holmes and Pete Bourdon will look after the funds. Committee members are Paul Gaulin, Donny Rouse, Pete Fischer and Dave Felder.

The new crew intends to steer the same course that the club has taken since its inception. Fishing derbies, pig roasts and all the other fun things as well as the many worthwhile conservation programs will remain on the calendar. At the general meeting, the members decided to donate \$1000.00 each to the Matawatchan Hall and the Denbigh Griffith Lions Club.

A newsletter will be published in the next few weeks. In the meantime all inquiries may be directed to the President, Al Pennock at 613 333 2390.

Dump Dude Gary (DDG) asked that we pass along the new list of recyclable items in this column. On checking back however, I found that our editor, co-publisher, gentleman farmer and man about town, Bill Graham had already published a comprehensive list only three publications (including this one) ago. Hope you kept your copy. If not, Gary may have handouts detailing the information. DDG wishes a safe and happy summer for all his customers and reminds them "not to forget to remember" the three R's.

During the month of April this year, the entire Greater Madawaska Fire Station Two Fire Brigade upgraded its first aid skills to a higher level by completing the sixteen-hour Standard First Aid Course at the Lions Hall. Members are now better trained to handle adult and child CPR, heart attacks, diabetes, poisoning and numerous types of injuries. The course was taught by the Casualty Care First Aid Company.

The crew responded to an all-night call-out on June 7, 2007 when tornado-like weather brought down trees on power lines along the Green Lake Road. The brigade is ensuring that it is well prepared for such emergencies by obtaining new bush packs and through intense training in the techniques of pumper operation and brush fire suppression.

End

Denbigh Checking In

By Angela Bright

*The Denbigh chapter of TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) has changed the time and place for weekly meetings. You can weigh in at St. Luke's United Church basement at 12:45pm and stay for the meeting which begins at 1:15pm. Anyone with pounds to lose who needs support and encouragement is welcome to join! For information call Mary at 613 333 2791 or check the website at tops.org.

*Half a dozen children came out Thursday May 17th to the Denbigh Public Library to listen to the story, "Night School", by Loris Lesynski, read by Rebecca. When the story was finished, everyone headed to the craft table to put together wind chimes, using margarine container lids for the top and metal juice can lids as the sound makers - a neat recycled treasure. The kids decorated them with beads, paint, stickers and some colourful string. Then on June 2nd the library was the site for the annual Book, Bake & Yard sale! Everyone was scurrying to pick up some hot deals and good eats. Thank you to all who donated items and also to those who came out to support the library.

*It was a very warm evening on May 24th, but the heat did not stop people from turning out to hear Eduard Klassen in concert at Vennachar Free Methodist Church. It is uncertain which is more impressive and inspiring - the talent Eduard has or his life story, growing up as the eldest of six brothers in the jungles of Paraguay and realizing God's will for his life. He plays a Paraguayan harp, handmade by a tribe from the jungle. The hymns Eduard played filled the church sanctuary and beyond. If you have an opportunity to see him perform, do not miss it. Also as a reminder, VFMC will change the time for Sunday morning worship to 10 a.m., beginning July 1st, with Sunday School ending for the season and resuming in September.

*The Spring Social at the Denbigh Hall on Saturday May 26th was a great time! Entertainment for the evening included duets, solos, and instrumental. Holly and Katie Buls started the evening off by singing two numbers, followed by their dad, Eric Buls who also wowed the crowd with a couple songs. Next up were Jan and Greg Roche who also sang, and entertained with keyboard and guitar. Ginger Miller played some

beautiful pieces on the fiddle, including a waltz. Paul Charron closed the evening with his vocal/guitar combination. Accompanying the singers and musicians throughout was Paul Isaacs, and Gary Malcolm took on the duties of emcee. There was toe tapping, humming and even some bouncing up and down from a couple of little jammers.

The silent auction & quarter tables were well stocked with lots of gadgets and trinkets to bid on, not to mention a bake table with an array of sweet treats. Special thanks to the performers who put on a wonderful show, those who donated items, and of course the organizers and those giving of their time and to everyone who came out to enjoy the evening. Denbigh Recreation did a great job making it a real 'all ages' event, including a colouring contest, gumball guess, and sucker tree for the kids. The next event will be a concert on Saturday June 30th, by Bill White and White Pine who will be performing at the Denbigh Hall at 7pm. They are bringing bluegrass and bluegrass gospel to the stage, and have won numerous awards for their talent. Tickets for the evening are only \$10 per person, so get them while you can! To reserve yours,

call Janice at 613-333-2797. Have you heard what the Denbigh Recreation Committee has planned for Canada Day? Decorate your bike, dress in your best red and white costume and you may win a prize for showing off your colours. There will be face painting, games, races, and a fish pond. The grand finale for the day will be a game of baseball Children vs. Parents.

What a fun way to celebrate our great country!

End

Notice to Chimo Park Residents

Gary Buglar has built two boxes to hold copies of the Madawaska Highlander. One box is on Chimo Road South and the other on Chimo Road North. You can now pick up the most recent Highlander close to the cottage. Watch for Gary's beautifully crafted paper boxes midway down each road.

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Dispatches from the South Seas

By Rick and Jane Baxter

Easter weekend, Rick and I headed up to the north east coast of New Caledonia with our destination being Hienghen, about a five and a half hour drive. We had to drive up the west coast for a couple of hours before we got to the road which crosses the mountains to the other side. The west coast is a pleasant drive but nothing spectacular until you get into the mountains where it is really very beautiful. There were many scenic spots along the way and we stopped at most of them, just taking our time. Once we got to the east coast the vegetation drastically changed. It is very lush and tropical. I have attached a picture of some of the hibiscus that were growing at the side of the road. We stayed at the only better resort in the area, Club Med, which consisted of small bungalows on the edge of the ocean. We skidded into the bungalow on gecko poop but other than that, they were clean and comfortable. It was strange to see deer roaming around the Club Med property and I was hoping venison wasn't on the menu.

We took a trip north of Hienghen to the next town of Pouebo. It was a really picturesque drive with cliffs dropping right into the ocean and lots of waterfalls - long streams of white water cascading down near 90 degree mountain sides.. Unfortunately, the weath-

er was overcast and rainy at times so we weren't able to take the hike to the top of Tao Falls which is supposed to be great. Seventeen miles north of Hienghen you have to take a ferry to cross the Ouaime River. Apparently, a bridge will never be built there because legend has it a giant reptile lives up the river and a bridge would block his way to the sea. Oh, and the giant is part shark - hmmm. For sure there are sharks in the river so you never see anyone swimming in it but the giant reptile part is a stretch. Consequently, this ferry runs 24 hours a day and is just pulled across the river by a steel cable. There is a gasoline powered motor on each side of the ferry. The motor drives a propeller, each facing the opposite direction - one for going one way, the other for the return trip. As the barge approaches the opposite side of the river, the operator starts the second motor and its propeller, facing the opposite direction acts as a brake as the barge reaches the shore. Very ingenious, but simple, and the fellow who operates the ferry is anything but friendly but I guess if you do that every day, you would be grumpy too.

One of the really interesting features of Hienghen are the rock formations. There are massive black, limestone rocks jutting out of the ground and they look razor sharp at the top. It was hard to get a good photo of these but they were

amazing. Also from one of the look-out points we could see the "Brooding Hen" and the "Sphinx" rocks protruding from the water. These are famous landmarks of Hienghen and there's lots of superstitions surrounding them.

Because of the inclement weather we cut our weekend short a day and headed back over the mountains towards home on Easter Sunday.

Mid April Rick had a conference to attend in Christchurch, New Zealand and I tagged along. Christchurch is a lovely little city - easy to get around and very, very British. The Avon River meanders through the city and the streets have names like, Worcestershire, Durham, Wellington, King, etc. The conference organizers took everyone out on a day trip to a town called Akaroa. It was a great drive through flat sheep farmlands and then into mountainous terrain near the coast. When we reached Akaroa, we boarded a catamaran and headed out of the bay towards the ocean. There was a wicked south wind and we were glad we had taken along our fleece jackets - some of the island people were not so lucky and nearly froze as this wind comes straight from the Antarctic. The boat ride was very interesting and we saw seals along the shore but when we got to the mouth of the bay the captain of the boat felt there was too great a risk for universal sea sickness to go any

further as it was getting rough. From Akaroa we headed back but stopped at a lovely vineyard on the way and had a great meal of Akaroa salmon and New Zealand lamb in front of a roaring fire which was very welcome after the boat ride. The owner of the place was a very friendly fellow and we all left there with bottles of some of New Zealand's finest pinot noir. After the three day conference we headed back to Auckland and had a day shopping before catching the plane back "home" to Noumea.

The apartment we have been living in for the past year has been sold and we are moving into a bungalow on May 16th. We don't have an ocean view with the new place but it is less than a block from one of Noumea's best beaches and it's a ten minute walk for Rick to go to work. It's only a few months old so it's clean and new and it has its own little garden which I'm especially looking forward to. We get paid home leave in August so we are starting to plan that trip. Lot's to look forward to.

That's it from our end. The French election results were of great interest here with the French locals supporting Sarkozy and the indigenous people supporting Royal. Rick was interviewed in French on the local TV station and asked what he thought of the result. He said it's time for France to rejoin the international community.

End

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Carbon (Cont)

zils and many articles have been written about them. Although interest in the dark earth lagged in North America after the initial discoveries, in Germany several professors kept writing and teaching about the phenomena. But the question they studied mostly was whether or not these large patches of dark earth resulted from human activity or the forces of nature (not to imply that man is not a part of nature).

What convinced most scientists that these areas were created by human activity was that, mixed into the soil of every patch of dark earth discovered were shards of broken pottery. Carbon dating of these pottery shards showed that the carbon came into existence as long ago as 450 B.C. Although, they concede, the carbon still in the pottery now might have been around a long time before it was made into pottery. But subsequent studies may show that not to be the case.

In the 1980s and 1990s American scientists became more interested in the dark earth of Brazil. An international and multi-disciplined team of scientists, including Cornell's Johannes Lehmann and University of Wisconsin's William Woods, set out to study the dark earth. The results of these studies have generated many books, articles and symposia. One such conference will be held July 8-12, 2007 in Kingston, Ontario. It is

called: Conference on GREENHOUSE GASES Mitigation and Utilization.

Although it is still not known exactly how ancient native farmers created so many square hectares of this highly fertile soil it is suspected they used a method known as "slash and char" as opposed to "slash and burn".

With "slash and burn" jungle trees are burned in the open air. The released CO₂ goes into the atmosphere adding to the greenhouse effect and, consequently, global warming. Ashes are left, adding to the Ph level of the soil with phosphates and potash. These nutrients cause the soil to be rich for a couple of years, but, especially in tropical areas, the heavy rains eventually leach these nutrients deep into the soil or erode them away into streams and rivers.

Using "slash and char" jungle trees are cut down, piled into mounds or dumped into large pits, and covered with straw and dirt, and then the wood is then set on fire. The oxygen starved fire burns slowly and at a relatively low heat. This results in an incomplete combustion. Since the carbon in the trees requires high temperatures to burn, it remains in the mound or pit in the form of charcoal (almost pure carbon) instead of turning into CO₂ and going up into the atmosphere in smoke. The retained carbon from one tree weighs about half as much as the original tree. This charcoal is spread

across the fields and worked into the existing soil. Shards of pottery are thrown into the mix (not such a "crack pot" idea since these larger chunks of durable materials improves aeration).

The concept of making charcoal is simple enough. The covered mound allows for very little oxygen to get into the fire and very little combustible gas to get out. When the fire is started the burning wood gives off combustible gases but, instead of creating clouds of smoke and flame, the gases are recycled back into the fire and burned. In an open fire the rapidly rising heat causes a wind vortex of smoke made up primarily of the combustible gases. But these gases are carried up away from the fire so quickly they do not get a chance to burn off. The carbon in the trees is converted to CO₂ and goes up with the smoke. Some breweries and people who operate charcoal forges put wood into a closed vat, light a fire under the vat and "cook" the wood until it starts giving off combustible gases. The gases are then directed by pipes in the top of the vat then into the fire below the vat to help fuel the fire. When all the combustible gases are cook off, the fire goes out and the vat contains charcoal.

Scientists now have the job of figuring out why carbon is such a great stabilizer of soil and why it enriches the soil, making it incredibly fertile for many crops. What they know so far is that carbon leaches and erodes

at a very slow rate. In addition, when mixed with native soil it acts as a bonding agent to stabilize the soil so it too leaches and erodes at a much slower rate. Second, carbon promotes the growth of microscopic flora and fauna that are beneficial to plant life. When fertilized with natural compost the composted nutrients are retained longer and better benefit the growing plants.

Carbon absorbs and retains moisture and when saturated with water the runoff is much cleaner and less likely to despoil the surrounding watershed. In this way carbon rich soil acts as a carbon sink, keeping carbon in the biomass and out of the atmosphere.

Some claims to the benefits of carbon rich soil need a lot of testing before I am convinced of their reality. For example, an article in the reputable magazine *Science* quotes a Brazilian farmer as saying, "... Since I moved to my current home and farm on Terra Preta, I have not been sick anymore as before. Also my family is now much healthier." But I am convinced of many other benefits of carbon rich soils.

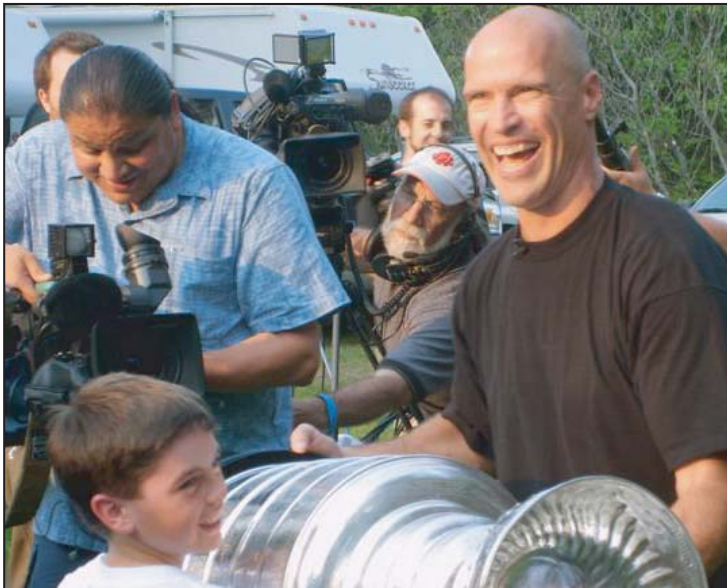
The worldwide research promoted by the interest in Terra Preta de Indio has resulted in new energy technologies, such as in Japan, where scientists are testing the use of the heat generated by low temperature, smokeless, char-

continud on page 21

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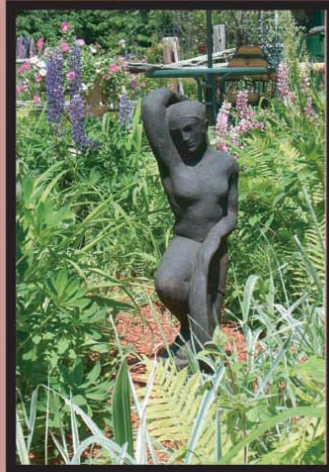
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Community Calendar

CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

GRIFFITH AND MATAWATCHAN

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

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

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

DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

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

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

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

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

CALABOGIE

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Calabogie

The Lakers' Canada Day Pancake Breakfast
Calabogie Community Hall
July 1, 8 to 11 am

Canada Day Strawberry Social,
St. Andrew's United Church
July 1, 2 to 3 pm, 613-752-2598

Canada Day in the Village of Calabogie
July 1, 4 pm, lakeside
Activities, food, entertainment, fireworks

Calabogie Challenge Cup,
Barnet Park
(swim, row, canoe, bike, run)
July 21, individual or team of 5
Pre-registration at Township Office,
613-752-2222

Kripalu Yoga Classes
Calabogie Peaks
Call: Lou Bennett 613-432-3170

Calabogie Arts and Crafts Tea and Sale
Community Hall
August 4, 10:00 to 3:00 pm. 613-752-0072

Calabogie Womens' Institute
meets the second Thursday of each month, 7:30 pm;
Contact Marjorie Watts at 613-752-2598 for info; new members welcome

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

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

Beavers and Cubs
(boys & girls, ages 5 to 10)
Pre-registration sale price \$110 ending June 30
Regular price after June 30 \$125
Forms at Township Office or from Michelle 613-752-0543
September start date

Calabogie Seniors: Pot luck dinner and meeting – the last Thursday of each month – Community Hall begins at 4:00 p.m. – All seniors 55+ are welcome

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

Griffith & Matawatchan

Matawatchan Summer (Canada Day) Picnic
Saturday June 30 – Matawatchan Hall
Beef Stew lunch at noon (\$10)
Live music (2:00 – 4:00 pm)
There will be children's games, displays, refreshments

United Church Women serve the meal and Denbigh Griffith Lions Club will operate a refreshment booth.
- Bring your own lawn chair

Matawatchan Community Market
Every Saturday morning
June 16 to October 13
9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Matawatchan Hall

Fish & Game Club - Kid's Fishing Derby - July 14
Holleran's Hideaway 9 a.m. -1 p.m.

Fish & Game Club Boat Launch Cleanup Boat launch
July 21
Griffith Boat launch - 10 a.m.

Summer Barbeque
July 21 - 4-7 p.m.
Matawatchan Hall

Matawatchan Community Cemetery Annual Memorial Service
Sunday August 12 at 2:00 pm
Matawatchan Cemetery
In case of rain: St. Andrews Church

Community Yard Sale
Saturday July 7
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Griffith Lions Hall

Tacky Tourist Party
Saturday July 14
8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Griffith Lions Hall
Cash bar

Lion's Club Bingo
Every second Tuesday at 7:30 pm
June 26; July 10; July 24
Community Centre, Griffith, 613- 333-5523

Sylvia's Foot Care
Every six weeks
July 11 – 9:30 a.m.
St. Andrews Church (Matawatchan)
Call Annabell Marshal 333-1752

"Northern Lights" Seniors
Meet the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. alternating between Griffith

continued on page 21

Local Resident Graduates from Yoga Program

Lou Bennett was awarded a 500 hour yoga teacher certification from the Nirvana School of Yoga in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico, March 11, 2007. Lou has been practicing yoga and the healing arts as a Certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher, Reflexologist and Thai Yoga Therapist in the Renfrew area for the past 10 years. Lou believes in creative healing through body, mind and emotions, using yoga as medicine.

Lou Bennett has a special interest in Kripalu Yoga and teaches yoga in Calabogie and with Renfrew Parks and Recreation. Kripalu Yoga is a

conscious practice of physical yoga postures, breathing exercises and relaxation techniques for integrating body, mind and spirit. The 500 hour Kripalu Teacher Training provides Lou Bennett with a solid foundation in the technical skills needed to teach yoga safely and effectively.

Dvarshi Steven Hartman, Director of Professional Training at Kripalu Center, says, "Graduates of the program are in great demand for their in-depth knowledge, clear instruction, intuitive insights into each student's needs, and their ability to guide stu-

dents to the experience of knowing the Self, that is the true essence of yoga."

The curriculum included Advanced Asana & Pranayama, restorative, prenatal, yoga dance, teaching the deeper practice, partner yoga, yoga for depression, yoga for seniors, chakra studies, yoga philosophy, anatomy and physiology. Kripalu Yoga teacher training conforms to the national standards of the Yoga Alliance.

End



Fishing with Jim

By Jim Weatherall



This year's Pickerel opening was a great success and they are still biting well. There are a lot of small ones, but also some nice 18inches, and a few over the 20inches minimum in Calabogie Lake.

I have been out four times at Barrett Chute and landed about 100 Pickerel and had 4 over 20 inches and one at 22 inches—all on jig heads and minnows. With the strong current we used ½ oz. stand up jigs and still had trouble getting to the bottom. We didn't get fish unless we were on the bottom, and most of the fish we caught were in about 30 feet of water.

In talking to some Trout fishermen, I was told the Trout have stopped biting in Battery Lake, but some fellows (no names please) say they are still getting them on worms, just off the bottom. They use a worm blower or a floating jig head.

For you Bass fishermen, the 2007 regulations for Bass opening has changed from the last Saturday in June to the 4th Saturday which is June 23rd. This is province wide.

Golden Lake and the Bonnechere River have been reopened for Pickerel (Walleye) fishing. Limits for the Pickerel are - Sports License: 2 and must be greater than 50cm in length (19.7 inches); Conservation License: 1 and must be greater than 50 cm.

Anyone fishing in the Ottawa River (Quebec side) should be aware that there is a total ban on the use of minnows within the Quebec part of the river when fishing for any species.

Calabogie Fish & Game Club is hosting a Bass Derby on July 7, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Barnett Cottage. You can register at the Barnett Cottage on the day of the derby or pre-register at Jim's Bait & Tackle, 12600 Lanark Rd., Calabogie up to 5:00 p.m. on July 6th. Entry fees are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for juniors. Prizes are: Adults - \$200 for the biggest Bass and Junior is \$100 for the biggest Bass. For more information please call Brian at 613-752-0453. This derby coincides with the "Free Fishing Weekend" and does not require a fishing license for those who are Canadian residents. We hope to see you out at this Derby to support the club.

Have a good one and catch the big one.

The Importance of Detoxification

By Susan Veal

Today, we live in the most polluted environment in the earth's known history. We are continually inhaling and assimilating residues from petrochemicals, plastics and pesticides that occupy cell receptor sites and block hormone utilization. Consider the following statistics:

- 1,600% increase in birth defects since 1980
- 250% increase in breast cancer since 1980
- 59% decrease in male sperm count since 1940
- 500% increase in cancer mortality since 1900
- 400% increase in heart disease since 1900

While no process or modality can guarantee the prevention of these conditions, it is logical to assume that an ongoing detoxification program - the act of minimizing toxic accumulations in the body - will reduce the incidence of chronic degenerative disease and improve overall quality of life. In a recent article entitled The Pollution Within (National Geographic October 2006 pgs 117-143) David Ewing Duncan explores the toxic load our bodies are exposed to just living on this planet.

Independent scientific research has shown one safe non intrusive and non insensitive way to detoxify the body is through ionize cleansing. By converting AC electricity to low power DC electricity, the current flows through

a patented array electrode system that sits in the footbath. The electricity and the metal combine to split the water molecule into H⁺ and OH⁻ ions. These ions travel through the body, neutralize oppositely charged particles and through powerful osmotic pressure pull those neutralized particles out of the body through the feet back into the water. As the feet contain approximately 5000 entry - exit points, the foot bath is a practical solution for detoxifying children, adults, seniors, disabled or handicapped people.

After a 30 minute session

Various colors and debris material in the water indicate which cellular areas of the body are detoxifying. For example, brown indicates detoxifying from the liver, tobacco and cellular debris. Orange indicates detoxifying from the joints. Ten different color patterns have been identified representing various toxic debris and cellular areas. The Ion Cleanse process is not intended to treat, cure, prevent or diagnose any disease or ailment however, the application is now being used in various health centers by both natural and allopathic practitioners. Detoxifying the body has been a familiar modality in many ancient healing traditions, including Ayurvedic, Chinese and Native American. Clients of our health centre report improved comfort through regular cleansing. Ongoing and periodic detoxification combined with a healthy lifestyle and proper nutritional supplementation is essential for good health. To learn more, call Susan Veale at the Wellness Natural Health Centre in Calabogie ON 1-613-752-1540 or send mail to info@mylysis.com.

End



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WOLF ON THE TAIL

By Wes Bomhower

It was Saturday morning and Wilma and I were pumping water from the old wooden hand pump just outside the back kitchen door. It squeaked a lot as we filled our pails, so we failed to hear the distant voice calling to us from a couple of fields away until after we quit pumping. "Bomhower, Bomhower," an older woman's voice was calling, and we realized it was Rachel Harris, one of our neighbours up the road whose husband, 'Picky' John, had been confined to his bed for some weeks now with a strange malady.

Wilma cupped her hands around her mouth and shouted. "What do you want Mrs. Harris"? We could hear a bit of cussing from Rachel, then the words loud and clear. "Are all you people deaf down there? Where is your father"? We ran in the house to fetch Dad who was just finishing his breakfast. Rachel shouted to him, "Bomhower, can you come up right away and fetch Sarah Lauber? My John has taken a bad turn and we sure as hell can not afford a doctor".

"I'll be along in five minutes", Dad shouted back to her and went to hitch up one of the horses to the milk wagon. Dad said I could come along, but I had to keep my eyes open and my mouth closed. The latter was very difficult for me, being only nine years old, but I would do anything just to tag along with Dad.

We stopped to pick up Sarah Lauber, a small, dark complexioned woman who could neither read nor write, but she excelled at treating sick domestic animals and people too sometimes. There was no money in those years for doctors or veterinarians, so Sarah was in great demand at calving time or

even when a baby was born, for that matter, and her price was right.

We arrived at the Harris farm and Rachel ushered us into 'Picky John's bedroom where the man lay, eyes wide open and staring at a certain spot on the ceiling. "Been like that since four o'clock this mornin'", Rachel remarked, looking at Sarah Lauber for her opinion on John's condition. Sarah sat on the edge of the bed, fingers drumming noisily on a bedside table, but she said nothing for the moment. She had seen this very same malady in bovine herds throughout the area, mostly in young cattle, but what was the name of the disease, she asked herself. Damn, I must be getting old or something.

Her fingers suddenly stopped their drumming and she stood up, a gleam in her eyes. "Wolf on t'tail, that's what it be Rachel, and if you have some snow on t'mounting house plants, we have a sure cure for John" she exclaimed. Rachel looked a bit dubious but Sarah went on to explain how the cure worked. "When animals have disease, wolf on t' tail, I be cutting tere tail open and putting course salt on t' wound, then sow t' wound back up. John not having a tail as such, we make a poultice of snow on t' mounting plants an put it on his behind". Sounded simple enough to hear her tell it, and Rachel went to gather some snow on the mountain plants from a window box.

Sarah Lauber then turned to Dad and I. "Ellis, you and Wes find a small piece of cedar or pine in t' woodshed and split it into wee bits to hold John's mout' open so he don't bite his tongue off when we put t' hot poultice on his behind". It was Dad's turn to look dubious but we went out to the woodshed anyway and manufactured some small bits of cedar with the axe to hold John's mouth open.

Township of Greater Madawaska Canada Day Celebrations Sunday July 1st, 2007



Pancake Breakfast by the Calabogie Lakers

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Calabogie Community Hall - 574 Mill Street

Interesting booths and fun activities along Madawaska Street (waterfront) in Calabogie beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Live Band "Rukkyus"
Lion's Club Beer Garden
Lion's Club Bingo
Minnow Races
Face Painting

Scavenger Hunt
Games of Chance / Raffles
Mother Goose
Food Booths
Home Support 50/50 Draw

Strawberry Social - St. Andrew's United Church @ 2:00 p.m.

Booth space available along Madawaska Street.

Free of charge to Township residents/businesses and all non profit groups.

All other individuals/organizations will be subject to a fee.

To register please contact Marie Buscomb at 613-752-2576.

Lakefront Fireworks Display Beginning at 9:45 p.m.

Donations accepted at the gates to help defray the cost of the fireworks.

NO DOGS, NO SKATEBOARDS, NO BICYCLES PERMITTED

RAIN DATE JULY 2nd, 2007

We were just coming back into the house when a shrill cry came from the bedroom. "Rachel, Ra-a-achel, come here"! We all went racing into the bedroom and there was 'Picky' John sitting upright in bed, a confused expression on his face. Rachel ran to him, hugging him and showering him with kisses.

nothing. "Damn him", she thought, "I never got to use my snow on t' mounting poultice, and I know it would have done t' trick. Oh well, they be others up t' road who be needing me soon". And she consoled herself thinking about the calves which would soon be born to most of the neighbour's cattle on the First Concession.

Sarah Lauber stood in the bedroom doorway looking very glum saving

Times indeed have changed.

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The Local Yokel

By April Cappel

Business makes the world go 'round! Most of us are well aware of that fact. But how many of us really know where some of the world's most important decisions are actually made? Not in high powered board rooms, superior courts, or even, I dare say, in the House of Commons. No, most important decisions that are made which affect our everyday lives happen right under our noses! They can be found transpiring in restaurants, spa's and the most common place of all..... Coffee Shops!

Coffee—now there is a ritual in itself! We start the morning with it, wait in horrific traffic lines to get it, and take numerous breaks throughout the day to have it! Even if we prefer a different type of beverage, the phrase "Coffee Break" is still typically used.

Those of us who are genuine coffee addicts, typically have a favourite "haunt". For some of us, this might be the daily "Timmy's" fix, that we will patiently wait in drive through line ups for while we look for spare change that has fallen into the cracks and crevices of our vehicles while we slowly make our way to the counter to get that morning "Kick Start".

Well, over the past few weeks, I have been travelling around the County meeting business owners, hanging posters and talking about "Buy Local". I have been amazed to find that there is a substantial number of incredible Coffee Shops in each and every town.

Deep River has "The Bean Post". Renfrew has the "Taste Emporium". Arnprior has "Bonnie Jane's Scones".

Wilno has the "Red Canoe Café". Cobden has "17 West". Burnstown, "The Blackbird Café", and the list goes on!

However, at present, I have been frequenting two locations that I am becoming increasingly fond of. Café Ole is situated in downtown Pembroke, just after the bridge, on Pembroke St. W. Walking into this charming place

for the first time, I wasn't sure what to expect. I had heard it was a good place to stop. What I found would give any Starbucks or Second Cup a run for their money! Funky music, a relaxed atmosphere, albums on the wall (large number of 80's, instantly appealing!), and then there, on the counter two Gibson Guitars on display!!

continued on page 18

WANTED



We are looking for an enthusiastic, community minded volunteer that is interested in helping out with a county wide "Buy Local" campaign.

Great for computer savvy retirees!

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For more information, contact **613-732-1492** or buy_local@nrtco.net

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The Local Yokel (Cont.)

My eyes quickly ran to the menu, and, not only could I have a Latte, or Capuccino made with soy milk, but, I also could have a Chai Latte! Heavenly! As a vegetarian, I have learned to expect limitation when looking at a smaller menu, but I was pleasantly surprised to find I had a number of choices for lunch as well. I can't begin to describe that melty chocolate, sinful thing I had for dessert! My Word!

I had an opportunity to talk with Christine Tomka, the owner of Café Ole. She quickly pointed out the local products she had available on her shelves. One of these products was a local honey from "Round Lake Honey Centre", which Christine also uses in her preparations.

I was also excited to learn of her plan

to bring in local musicians on Friday evenings. Christine is hoping the idea will catch on, and perhaps turn into a partnership with other Café's across the County that might be interested in developing a "Music Circle" of sorts.

The second location I have been enjoying is the "Recess Café" in Renfrew.

The Recess Café is located at 210 Lochiel St. right across from the Renfrew Wellness Center. Owned by Ruth Goodfellow, who is a phenomenal cook by the way, the Café has been growing yearly, and developing into quite an interesting place to stop in!

If you are a fan of the Renfrew Artists Guild, this is a great place to browse through their work too. And, if you are feeling a little artistic yourself, I am sure you will enjoy, like I do, the chalk board table tops beside the fireplace, where you can doodle 'til your hearts content!

Ruth also has a great menu selection that varies day to day. However, her coffee and baking are worth a quick stop by!

If you would like more information on Café Ole, please call Christine at 613.732.2137.

If you would like more information on the Recess Café, please call Ruth at 613.432.4222.

If you have any comments or questions for your "Local Yokel", please email me at buy_local@nrto.net ! *End*

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ORI Head Office Moves to Matawatchan

By Bill Graham

ORI (Ottawa River Institute), during its fifth annual meeting decided to move its official headquarters from Pembroke to Matawatchan. The decision to move their headquarters to the small village of Matawatchan at the home of Richard and Audrey Copeland might seem unlikely, but in fact, a third of the executive live in Matawatchan. In addition to the Copelands, Joanne Murray and Ken Birkett also hold executive positions.

ORI's mission is to foster sustainable communities and ecological integrity in the Ottawa River Watershed. By sustainable communities they mean communities that live in harmony with their supporting ecosystems, using carefully only those resources that the ecosystem can replace, and producing only those wastes that the ecosystem is capable of recycling. Ecological integrity is defined by ORI as follows: "An ecosystem has integrity when it has its native components (plants, animals and other organisms) and processes (such as growth and reproduction) intact.

ORI's focus is the Ottawa River watershed, which includes the Madawaska, Bonnechere, Mississippi, Rideau, Gatineau, French and many other smaller rivers, creeks and streams. It encompasses most of Eastern Ontario. The approximately 100

members of ORI are also concentrated in Eastern Ontario, with the majority located in Renfrew County.

Through environmental and sustainable living projects funded partly by Trillium grants, ORI strives to educate and increase public understanding about the environment in general and the Ottawa River watershed in particular—the river itself and the flora and fauna that it contains. By extension, ORI promotes sustainable living in a time when we must decrease the size of the huge footprint our way of life puts on the environment.

By way of example, in January 2005, the Ottawa River Institute's Sustainable Energy Committee began exploring the questions "What might sustainable energy mean for the Ottawa Valley?", and "How might the Ottawa River Institute help to facilitate a transition to sustainable energy?" In this exploration we focused mainly on Renfrew County as a representative political unit in the Ottawa Valley.

Their exploration was done using committee discussions, interviews and profiles of energy innovators, consultations with energy experts and municipal councils and individuals, networking with the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association, a community forum on wind energy, internet research, and review of resource materials on

sustainable energy. Each of these were described in a report (Sustainable Energy for the Ottawa Valley), along with preliminary conclusions, ORI's views on priority shifts that could make Ottawa Valley communities more sustainable in terms of energy use, and possible ways that the Ottawa River Institute could help facilitate these shifts.

At the other end of the scale, ORI has several projects oriented to children and the development of their appreciation and awareness about the natural world they live in. In one recent project an art appreciation session for 35 home-schooled children and their parents was piloted in June 2006. The educational components were planned and delivered by ORI Director John Almstedt and National Gallery of Canada docent Ron Williams. Ron led a wonderful informative discussion on a series of large reproductions of famous paintings from the gallery including some from the Ottawa River watershed. John led the students through a tutorial on landscape sketching. The session was very well-received and will form the basis for future sessions for elementary school students from around the Valley.

In addition, a Nature-Spirit session for young children was held in April. This session involved a small group of children aged 6 - 10 in outdoor nature appreciation activities.

The Ottawa River Institute is a valued source of articles about sustainable living and the environment for the Highlander. Over the last few years we have reprinted many of the "watershed ways" articles that reside on the ORI website: www.ottawariverinstitute.ca Renfrew County is lucky to have such a group working in the background for our collective benefit.

End

Market Day (Cont)

and Boston cream pie for dessert.

The June 30 market day (Canada Day weekend) will finish a little earlier than usual since the 125th annual Matawatchan Picnic will begin their activities around noon on the same grounds. However, a lunch will be served, but by the United Church Women (UCW) of Matawatchan. On the following Saturday market day (July 7), market organizers are planning an official grand opening, which will feature special guests, musical entertainment and more. It will be a grand day.

We expect the Matawatchan Market to grow as more local produce becomes available and, with school soon out, as more cottagers are spending time at their seasonal residences. Keep in touch with market activities by reading the Highlander.

End

Cottage Corner

By John Roxon

The cottage is not a place for advanced technology. I discovered this the hard way while checking email and Instant Messaging my wife about the usual urgent family matters like where is my grey sweatshirt, I left some leftover pasta in the fridge - did you see it and our checking account is \$500 less than it should be - that sort of thing.

Allow me to back track. For years we came up to the cottage and really roughed it. Especially in winter. No running water, no electricity, no cell phones - everything brought in by bucket or sled.

Gradually and because as humans we always want to push forward - many times when we shouldn't - we brought in marine batteries and inverters for power. This led to solar electricity and even more batteries. This led to a TV, which led to satellite TV which led to an old laptop which led to satellite internet, which led to bringing a newer, faster laptop up with us, which led to more time in front of a flashing screen and less time in nature. It was always easily justified. The TV was justified by reasoning that our son would like to watch an hour or so while we were making dinner - after all, he would have spent all day outside. The computer was justified by saying the cottage was a great place to do some serious thinking and writing for pleasure and the occasional work related document could be produced. Satellite TV of course was justified because, well because our son has already seen all the videos and besides, how many old VHS tapes can you really have up there anyway? Of course with satellite Inter-

net we can spend more time at the cottage and not feel guilty about missing work. And now, full circle, here I am typing this story while sitting outside at the cottage listening to the birds in the trees and the chipmunks race through last year's leaves. Hey, but at least I can now spend a full week at a time - as long as I'm tethered electronically to the gadgets. Isn't this what the courts are doing more and more of? Don't they call it house arrest? Don't the convicted have to stay close to home with an electronic bracelet on their ankle? What's the difference? At least they don't have to stare at the headache inducing flicker for hours on end. Yes, progress. And yes, its this progress that specifically caused me troubles.

When attempting to Instant Message my wife about my clean underwear, another message popped up from a Stephanie. Wave was all it said. This is interesting, I thought. Not being familiar with Instant Messaging at all, I responded. Apparently, I found out too late, that when setting up IM, you can do so privately or publicly. If you do so publicly, then anyone out there in cyber-land can see that you're on line. Stephanie could sense that there was an incredible dashing and charming fellow on IM and decided to say hello. For the record, I have no idea who she is. Well, except for the fact that she's from Southern Taiwan, rides horses and writes poetry. Oh and has a brother named Jian, a father who works for some government service, a stay at home mom and her favourite flower is the daisy - but I digress. In any case, knowing that my wife, Julie was coming up a couple of days after me, I decided to leave the old laptop at the cottage. So Julie's at the cottage and decided to send me a message about what I can do with my underwear. Not having different user accounts on the

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laptop, Julie was instantly privy to my accidental dalliances with an unknown named Stephanie from Taiwan. What ensued wasn't pretty and that's another good reason technology should be left at home, or left altogether. Many people in their computer correspondences use emoticons - those little smiley face characters - and they send them as smiles, and winks and nudges. I can tell you now that there are emoticons that I had no idea existed. Ugly ones that wield rolling pins and throw up and

kick in the sensitive areas and convey beyond doubt the true feelings of the person pushing the buttons. I defended myself the best I could. I pointed out that I have no control over who contacts me. I pointed out that this sort of thing is bound to happen from time to time when married to someone as dashing and charming as I. I reminded her where my true love lie and I promised her endless flowers, moonlit walks and to go with her to speak with the teachers

continued on page 22

Look who's reading the Highlander



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Township Council Meetings for July 2007

July 5th	Standing Committee Meetings (Council Chambers - Calabogie)	
	Finance & Administration	9:00 AM
	Environmental Management	11:15 AM
	Public Works	12:30 PM
	Planning & Economic Development	2:30 PM
	Public Services	4:30 PM
July 12th	Committee of the Whole	4:00 PM
	(DACA Hall)	
July 19th	Council Meeting	4:00 PM
	(Council Chambers - Calabogie)	

**** Please note that council does not meet during the month of August ****

Carbon (Cont.)

coal making fires to create energy for public consumption then using the charcoal for improving soil conditions.

Debate over global warming (or "climate change" as some politicians like to call it) rages on while Lake Chad dries up to one tenth of its 1960s level and glaciers retreat. The scientific community looks on in amazement as politicians pay a small group of other scientists to deny that human activity contributes significantly to global warming (enough money will convince some scientists to deny the earth is round. Greed works). These politicians blame anti-business scientists and media for manipulating the data that shows the relationship between increased human activity and increased output of greenhouse gases (primarily CO₂) and global warming. Nobody challenges the view that climate change is normal, we all have heard of the Ice Ages that Earth has experienced in the past. But most of us know a duck when we see and hear one.

The earth does not have to be lost. Are we smart enough to deserve it?

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Community calendar (Cont.)

and Matawatchan. For information contact Lois Robbins at 333-1082. All Seniors Welcome.

Community Bus Service

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

Fellowship Luncheon

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

Denbigh

Diners Club

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

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

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Cottage corner (Cont)

at our son's school. Even the promise of backrubs and foot rubs barely softened the vitriol in her tone. I won't go into precisely what Julie said she would do to me and Stephanie if this sort of thing continued. I couldn't possible say as uttering death threats is illegal in most provinces as far as I know. But I got the message. If anyone attempts to contact me while on IM, I am to log out immediately. Meanwhile, I haven't heard a peep from Stephanie in some time now. I imagine there's no language barrier to emoticons sent to Taiwan.

For the three people out there who actually read Cottage Corner, I now have an email address. It's cottagecorner@xplornet.com. I would love to hear from you. Wheth-

those rare instances in which I'm actually lucid, I may just respond.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for the many acts of kindness at the time of the passing of my father Roy Holtzhauer.

Your love and support was deeply appreciated.

Terry and Gail

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Understanding Real Estate: Real Estate Authorities and Commissions

By David Lester,

When it comes to the real estate industry there seems to be a misunderstanding by many of who represents who and how the commissions are arrived at. This short article will examine and explain the process and perhaps shed some light on the relationship the sales agents have in the sales process and how commissions are arrived at.

First, all MLS (Multiple Listing System) realtors, who are real estate salespersons, work at a real estate company called a Brokerage. The agents are not usually employees, but are rather considered "independent contractors". They have their own offices (either rented at the brokerage or at their own home) and have monthly costs associated with their MLS board fees, which are paid to the Provincial and Local Boards. These fees help fund the MLS system on the Internet, which is an important advertising platform for the industry.

There is a person called the "Broker of Record" and he/she is the main contact for the public within the Brokerage and is the person in charge of the office within the preset rules created by the Real Estate Council of Ontario (RECO). Any listing taken by the sales representative is taken under the Brokerage name. The Brokerage owns the listing, not the sales representative

Sales representatives spend their own money to take the necessary courses to obtain their licence and must do an apprenticeship of two years within a brokerage before being allowed to be tested to obtain a "broker" level licence and able to run a "brokerage". Since brokers are considered independent contractors, they work for themselves under the brokerage umbrella, so to speak. The "Broker of Record" controls the brokerage activities on a day to day basis.

Sales representatives can charge whatever the market will bear for the pricing of the commission that they ask for listing a home and placing it onto an exclusive or MLS system.

It is not necessary to use the MLS system if you don't wish. There are occasions where an "exclusive listing" might make more sense in the selling of your home. There are situations where the more exposure that the MLS system might bring may be beneficial. There may be some where an "Exclusive" listing may make more sense (for example, there's already a buyer in the wings) and you might get a lower commission rate. It's all negotiable

There is no set amount. Let me repeat,

there is nothing in stone about commissions. I've seen it range from about 1.75% to over 24% of the selling price. Of course, you can also arrange for a flat number (\$3000 for instance) but the sales representative cannot chose to do both at the same time (RECO Rule). It's one or the other, commission on the sale price or a straight number. The agents can charge whatever the market will bear for their services. There are strict rules that must be followed to assure consumers that they are being handled at the most professional level possible.

A buyer can come from the signs that are placed on the front lawn, the MLS listings on the Internet (<http://www.mls.ca>) or from specialized 'Buyer Agent Brokerages' (like us at Valley VIP). We represent buyers to avoid dual representation of the seller and the buyer at the same time. We can assist MLS / Exclusive and FSBO situations because we have the buyers they need. Other brokerages and their representatives do both listings and buyers at the same time, we chose not to.

If the public feels uncomfortable, although RECO is available at any time, the usual first step would be to have a discussion with the 'Broker of Record' at the brokerage. If the client is not satisfied at that level, it can be moved to RECO level. RECO has very effective powers. They truly are the watchdog and ombudsman for the real estate industry in Ontario.

Editor's note: David Lester is the Broker of Record for Valley VIP Real Estate Services Ltd. located in Calabogie.

End






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